

# BAZ LUHRMANN'S *Australia* REVIEWED



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**An interdisciplinary conference on history, film and popular culture**  
**Monday 7 December – Tuesday 8 December 2009**  
**National Museum of Australia**

## FINAL PROGRAM

### MONDAY 7 DECEMBER 2009

9.00am

**Conference Registration**

9.15am

**Conference Welcome**

Louise Douglas, Assistant Director, Audience, Programs and Partnerships Division,  
 National Museum of Australia  
 Visions Theatre

9.30am

**Keynote Address**

Professor Meaghan Morris  
 Chair Professor of Cultural Studies, Lingnan University (Hong Kong) and Professor of  
 Gender and Cultural Studies, University of Sydney  
 'Transnational Glamour, National Allure: on preferring Baz Luhrmann to Zhang Yimou'  
 Visions Theatre

10.30am

**Morning Tea**

11.00 –  
12.30pm

**1A. AUSTRALIA AND THE STOLEN  
GENERATIONS, Visions**

**1B. AUSTRALIA: REVISIONS AND  
REVISIONISM, Studio**

Chair: Dr Victoria Haskins (Newcastle)

Chair: A/Prof Felicity Collins (La Trobe)

Prof Ann McGrath (ANU): Parenting  
 Aboriginal Children: the Good, the Bad  
 and the Beautiful

Prof Theodore F. Sheckels (Randolph-  
 Macon, US): Australia, American Style:  
 Baz Luhrmann's Revision of the Australia  
 Implicit in the Films of the 1970s and  
 1980s

Dr Catherine Kevin (Flinders): Solving the  
 'problem' of the motherless indigenous  
 child in *Jedda* and *Australia*: the white  
 maternal in the Australian epic before  
 and after *Bringing Them Home*

Prof John Docker (Sydney): Thoughts on  
 Massacres, Actual, Surrogate, and  
 Averted

Dr Ann Genovese (Melbourne): *Australia*  
 and Myth Making: Law's Stories of the  
 Stolen Generations

Dr Catherine Simpson (Macquarie): Re-  
 invigorating Landscape Cinema in  
 Australia, after Mabo

12.30pm		Lunch	
1.15 - 2.45pm	<b>2A. AUSTRALIA'S INTERNATIONAL RECEPTION, Visions</b>	<b>2B. ILLEGITIMACY AND ABORIGINAL SOVEREIGNTY IN AUSTRALIA, Studio</b>	
	Chair: Dr Ned Curthoys (ANU)	Chair: Ms Vicki Grieves (Sydney)	
	Dr Lars Jensen (Roskilde, Denmark): Performing nation, performing difference: <i>Australia</i> and Luhrmann's multicultural vision	Dr John Morton (La Trobe): Redeeming the Bastard Child: Exploring Legitimacy in <i>Australia</i>	
	Ms Yoko Harada (Wollongong): <i>Australia</i> – An “Anti-Japanese” Movie? Australia in the Japanese Consciousness	Mr Philip Morrissey (Melbourne): Other Eyes: The half-caste in Luhrmann's <i>Australia</i>	
	Dr Oliver Haag (Vienna, Austria): <i>Australia</i> and <i>Rabbit Proof Fence</i> in German Cinema: a comparative study	Dr Cath Ellis (Huddersfield, UK): Exposing the Diffused Racism of <i>Australia</i> and <i>Rabbit-Proof Fence</i>	
2.45pm		Afternoon Tea	
3.15 - 5.15pm	<b>3A. PERFORMING MELODRAMA, Visions</b>	<b>3Bi. GOING WALKABOUT AND GETTING LOST, Studio</b>	
	Chair: Dr John Docker (Sydney)	Chair: A/Prof Barbara Baird (Flinders)	
	Ms Johanna Simmons (Melbourne): The Spectacularisation of the Repressed in Australian History	Prof Stephen Papson (St Lawrence, US): Discursive Walkabout	
	Dr Monique Rooney (ANU): Performing Melodrama: from <i>Australia's</i> Nullah to <i>Chant's</i> Jimmie Blacksmith	Dr Ruth Balint (UNSW): Australia Gets Lost and Goes Missing: Baz's Tourism Australia ad	
	Mr Nick Heydon (Sydney): A Melodramatic, Epic Tornado: Viewing Baz Luhrmann's <i>Australia</i> from <i>Written on the Wind</i> to <i>Gone with the Wind</i>	<b>3Bii. AFTER AUSTRALIA: ACTORS AND MEDIA, Studio</b>	
	Dr Laleen Jayamanne (Sydney): The Drover's Wives and Camp Couture: Baz Luhrmann's Preposterous National Epic	Chair: A/Prof Barbara Baird (Flinders)	
		Dr Zora Simic (UNSW): The Fall Girl: Nicole Kidman, <i>Australia</i> and Australians	
		Dr Alice Healy (UniSA): 'You're going to be famous all over the world': Aboriginal actors in Australian films	
5.15 – 6.15pm	<b>Conference Reception</b> Friends Lounge, NMA		
6.30 – 7.30pm	<b>Book Launch</b> Ann Curthoys and Ann McGrath's <b><i>How to write history that people want to read (UNSW Press, 2009)</i></b> <b>Launched by Professor Mark McKenna (Sydney)</b> Foyer, Hedley Bull Bldg, cnr Liversidge St and Garran Rd, ANU (approx 15 mins walk)		

## TUESDAY 8 DECEMBER

9.00am

### Conference Registration

9.15 –  
10.45am

#### 4A. SOUND, VOICE AND DIALOGUE, Visions

Chair: Ms Leah Lui-Chivizhe (Sydney)

Mr Damian Candusso & Ms Jen Thompson (CSU): Aural semiotics: how sound shapes our understanding of the land and indigenous identity in Baz Luhrmann's *Australia*

Dr D. Bruno Starrs (independent scholar): Voice and the Indigenous Australian in Baz Luhrmann's *Australia*

Ms Charon Freebody (La Trobe): Dialogues of War in Baz Luhrmann's *Australia*

#### 4B. AUSTRALIA AND THE QUESTION OF HISTORICAL TRUTH, Studio

Chair: Dr Peter Stanley (NMA)

Mr Tim Smith (Melbourne): Several Grains of Truth

Dr Noah Riseman (ACU): Subjects, Soldiers, or Allies? Perspectives on Yolngu Involvement in the Second World War

Dr Melissa Boyde (Wollongong): 'Mrs Boss! We gotta get those fat cheeky bullocks into that big bloody metal ship!': Live export as romantic backdrop in Baz Luhrmann's *Australia*

10.45am

### Morning Tea

11.15-  
12.45pm

#### 5A. REMOTE HISTORIES AND PLACES, Visions

Chair: Prof Ann McGrath (ANU)

Dr Julia Martínez (Wollongong): Imagining 1930s Darwin: *Australia* and a forgotten Asian past

Dr Jane Lydon (Monash): Domesticating the North: Elsie Masson and utopian outbacks

Dr Robyn Mayes & Prof Barbara Pini (Curtin): *Australia* and the negotiation of contemporary ruralities

#### 5B. AUSTRALIA'S CINEMATIC LANDSCAPES, Studio

Chair: Dr Fran Edmonds (Melbourne)

Dr Jane Stadler & Dr Peta Mitchell (Queensland): The Land of Oz: Journeys through the Cinematic Landscape of Australia

A/Prof Jane Mills (CSU): Mapping *Australia*: cinematic cartographies of location, dislocation and bilocation

Dr Sonia Tascón (RMIT): Australia's land, landscape and 'identity': replacing or reproducing the 'old'?

12.45 –  
1.30pm

### Lunch

1.30-  
3.00pm

**6A. LOVE AND NATIONAL VIRTUE IN  
AUSTRALIA, Visions**

Chair: Dr Hsu-Ming Teo (Macquarie)

Dr Sarah Pinto (Monash): 'I sing you to me': love, history and nation in *Australia*

Dr Odette Kelada (Melbourne): Love is a Battlefield: Inversions of Historic Narratives in the White Imaginary

Dr Shino Konishi (ANU): Redeeming Aboriginal Masculinity: King George and paternal love in *Australia*

**6B. IMAGINING AUSTRALIA'S BRIGHTER  
FUTURES, Studio**

Chair: Dr Jane Carey (Monash)

A/Prof Yunyu Yang (Nantong, China): The pursuit of interracial and intercultural harmony in *Australia*

Mr Dean Ashenden (independent scholar), *Australia, The Overlanders*, and images of Australia

Dr Liz Conor (Melbourne): The 'Creamy', the 'Piccaninny', Racialised Childhood and Future Race: intersections between Baz Lurhmann's *Australia* and Xavier Herbert's *Poor Fellow My Country* and *Capricornia*

3.00pm

Afternoon tea

3.30 –

**Closing Plenary and General Discussion**

4.30pm

Prof Lynette Russell (Monash) and Prof Ann Curthoys (Sydney)  
Visions Theatre