

WELCOME TO COUNTRY

nah...GAMMON



SCREEN QUEENSLAND PRESENTS A BACON FACTORY FILMS AND BENT3LAND PRODUCTION

ALEC DOOMADGEE JOEL PIERCE WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY DEAN GIBSON

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY MARK BROADBENT PRODUCTION DESIGNER RHIANNA MALEZER MUSIC BY TANE MATHESON & JEFF MOULTON

EDITED BY CHARLOTTE CUTTING PRODUCER MARKETING & DISTRIBUTION KYLIE PASCOE PRODUCED BY HELEN MORRISON



BENT3LAND PRODUCTIONS

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PRESS KIT

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY DEAN GIBSON
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BILLING BLOCK

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TECHNICAL

Country of Production	AUSTRALIA
Year of Production	2016
Running Time	00:09:37
Ratio	2:35:1
Language	ENGLISH
Release date	2017

WELCOME TO COUNTRY



THE STORY

SHORT SYNOPSIS

When a hot shot public servant is sent to a remote Aboriginal community to prepare for the Prime Minister's visit, he quickly learns the true meaning of Welcome to Country.

EXTENDED SYNOPSIS

Tony is a hot shot public servant deeply embedded in the Canberran way of life. Sent to the remote Aboriginal community of Gammon, his mission is to prepare the town for a visit by the Prime Minister, and to reveal the government's "brilliant plan" guaranteed to fix the Aboriginal Communities problem once and for all.

Upon arriving in the community, he is greeted by the straight shooting indomitable Mayor Neville and unveils his plan to hold auditions to find the best Welcome to Country act.

Unaware of the cultural faux pas he is committing, the auditions go ahead, bringing to light the best and the funniest elements of the community.



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WRITER & DIRECTOR | DEAN GIBSON

Dean Gibson is an Aboriginal filmmaker with more than 10 year's experience in creating, writing, directing, editing and producing. His work has screened on ABC3, ABC1, SBS and NITV and includes children's television, documentary and drama. He established Bacon Factory Films in 2013.

Much of Dean's broadcast highlights in the children's television space include directing two Sesame Street film *Five Kangaroos*, featuring Jessica Mauboy, and *The Recyclables* which have both screened to audiences all over the world. He also created and co-directed the children's TV series *Handball Heroes*, which screened on ABC3.

In the documentary space, Dean co-directed the 50-minute feature documentary *A War of Hope*, which screened on NITV on ANZAC Day. He also created and directed the 50-minute ABC documentary, *From the Ashes*, following the Australian Indigenous cricket team as they toured the UK and discovered the history of Aboriginal cricket in Australia. Dean also co-created and ran a program for emerging Indigenous filmmakers in 2014, called *The Production Line*, as part of his passion for helping others to have opportunities in the industry. He is a creative, passionate and experienced filmmaker, who believes in the power of stories waiting to be told.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

The idea of bureaucracy meeting an Aboriginal community face to face is a concept I have thought about for many years. Through anecdotal accounts and personally witnessing the 'gap' between life in a city to a remote or regional community I have amassed so many stories. So to drop a staunch bureaucrat in a remote community to spar with a tough Mayor was where it started. I always wanted to package it in a comedy with heart so that it would reach broader audiences and some of the stories are so outrageous they hardly seem plausible so comedy is the answer. The good thing if it becomes a TV series we will never run out of episode ideas!

~ DEAN GIBSON, 2016

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PRODUCER | HELEN MORRISON

Helen, Producer at Bent3Land Productions was born in the UK but raised in Queensland. In the last 10 years, Helen Morrison has produced or production managed over 60 hours of broadcast television. Helen has produced content for broadcast on ABC1, ABC2, ABC3, NITV and even Sesame Street *The Recyclables*. She has also produced two short documentaries for the International Jamie's (Oliver) Ministry of Food in Cherbourg and Mossman Gorge, Queensland for The Good Foundation.

In 2014 Helen co-created The Production Line with Dean Gibson a mentoring and filmmaking program for emerging Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander screen storytellers. Screen Queensland and Screen Australia as part of their Early Career Screen Program funded the Initiative.

Helen has a slate of projects in development, from feature films, documentaries to television series.

PRODUCER'S STATEMENT

Welcome to Country has been in my mind for over eight years when Dean Gibson mentioned he had an idea for Canberrian bureaucrats experiencing life in an Aboriginal community. The vision to make a comedy based on eyewitness accounts and anecdotes from Dean's ten year experience in regional and remote communities always felt like a compelling idea. The creation of a short film that neatly paints the sense of community and what connection to country means in a comedic package was our goal. To have the support of the Cherbourg Community made the film career authentic and true to loveable and wonderful characters we have met along our film journey. To have produced the short film of just one of those cringe worthy experiences and breaking down the barriers between city and country, us and them, bureaucracy and real life is just the beginning.

~ HELEN MORRISON, 2016

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DOP | MARK BROADBENT

A full member of the ACS (Australian Cinematography Society), Mark Broadbent is a freelance cinematographer and photographer based in Brisbane. Mark has worked on a large number of projects across the entire spectrum of cinematography and photography and has successfully combined the two doing various Behind The Scenes stills for several film and television projects including the Australian feature film "Crooked Business" and the US television pilot "Conspiracy Hunters".

His credits vary from small, low-budget projects through to feature films and the projects he has worked on have taken him all over the world. Mark's personable manner, down-to-earth approach and can-do attitude have enamoured him with cast and crew alike.

COMPOSERS | TANE MATHESON AND JEFF MOULTON

Tane Matheson and Jeff Moulton are both experienced composers and producers who have collaborated on many creative projects based on a shared love of everything music and sound.

With over 20 years experience and a passion for film soundtracks and storytelling, we firmly believe that high quality sound design and a compelling musical score are crucial factors in delivering a professional finish to any project.

We are both multi-instrumentalists with extensive experience in many different aspects audio production, including but not limited to - original music composition, SFX editing, sound design, Foley, sound & music mixing, and dialogue/sound editing. We enjoy working on projects in any of these capacities.

From songwriting and production to recording and mixing, we work to take any project from concept to completion and always focus on delivering the best quality audio in a professional and timely manner.

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EDITOR | CHARLOTTE CUTTING

As an editor, Charlotte has had a widely varied career working on documentaries; short films; corporate videos; installation and performance visuals. She has worked with filmmakers, artists, arts organisations and corporate production companies.

She has edited short films that have screened both nationally and internationally and has edited two broadcast documentaries for the ABC - 6ft Hick: notes from the underground (2009) and ABBA: Bang A Boomerang (2012) that had over a million viewers tune in to watch when it went to air in 2013. She has also worked on a number of short docs for SBS / STUDIO.

She has a passion for real life stories and exploring the human face of the subjects she is working with.

PRODUCTION MANAGER | TARA WARDROP

Tara Wardrop is a QLD based Production Manager specialising in documentary TV and feature films. She has worked on films such as, The Burning Season, Show me The Magic, Rise of The Eco Warrior and many more. Her most recent projects include Season 4 of Colour Theory for NITV, Dancing the Light for ABC and the short film Welcome to Country.

PRODUCER MARKETING & DISTRIBUTION | KYLIE PASCOE

With over 20 years' experience in both film and television marketing, Kylie Pascoe has a passion for ensuring filmmakers think big picture when it comes to creating their films. Following the popular US model of Producer Marketing and Distribution (PMD), Kylie is a film marketing specialist that applies the marketing skills traditionally brought in at distribution, to the development phase of a film. A collaborator in your project from the very beginning Kylie helps build quality, effective and relevant film assets.

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MAYOR NEVILLE | ALEC DOOMADGEE

Alec Doomadgee is a descendant of Waanyi, Garawa and Gangalidda tribes from the Aboriginal community of Doomadgee in the Gulf of Carpentaria QLD. He was born and raised on the Waanyi/Garawa Land Trust with his extended family.

After many years as a radio announcer, including as part of the National Indigenous Radio Service Sydney Olympics broadcast in 2000, Alec decided to follow his dream to become an actor. Since then, he has starred in numerous television and film productions, notably opposite Leah Purcell in the award-winning drama series *Redfern Now* on the ABC.

Alec conceptualised his first feature film *Zach's Ceremony* over a decade ago and released the film in 2016.

TONY ANDERSON | JOEL PIERCE

Joel Pierce completed his Bachelor of Arts majoring in Drama at the University of Pretoria (South Africa) and landed a lead role in a soap EGOLI where he performed in over 300 episodes before crossing the Atlantic to work in Australia. Soon after working on the accent he appeared in several episodes of SEA PATROL and MONARCH COVE plus the acclaimed telemovie SCHAPELLE and most recently he has completed shooting Neighbours and the tele movie Hoges. His career highlight to date is working with Oscar-nominated director Roland Joffé in THE LOVERS.

Joel's diverse upbringing was the inspiration for following a career in acting and has allowed him to comfortably play a variety of roles, from darker characters to corporate giants.

"Joining the team for *Welcome To Country* was an experience I embraced and will always remember for the cultural richness and awareness that it added to life. Although a fun experience, the powerful underlying message of the show has left its mark..." - Joel Pierce

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AUNTY ALICE | ROXANNE MCDONALD

Roxanne was born in Roma, Western Queensland and moved to Brisbane when she was six years old. Her language groups are Darambal (Rockhampton), her Grandfather's country on her mother's side, Wangan & Jagalingou (Clermont) her Grandmother's country on her mother's side and Mandandanjii (Roma), her Grandmother's country on her father's side.

She has been performing for over 30 years across a huge variety of platforms and genres from theatre, dance, radio, feature films, short films and her latest a virtual reality project. She has been described as Queensland Queen of the theatre and is well respected by the arts community.

"I love my career because I meet so many like minded people and I learn so much from them, about myself and the industry." - Aunty Rox.

AUNTY ESTELLE | PAULA NAZARSKI

Paula Nazarski is a Ngugi Woman from North Stradbroke Island. She is an esteemed actor and writer who frequently works with Queensland Theatre Company. She has written, performed and toured in theatre shows all around Queensland. Paula is passionate about the arts and the role of storytelling in the contemporary world.

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SHOOTING LOCATION

THE COMMUNITY OF CHERBOURG

The history of Cherbourg is one of Aboriginal people being forcibly removed and brought from all over Queensland and Northern New South Wales to this newly formed government reserve. Under the Aborigines Protection Act of 1897 the settlement then called Barambah, was gazetted and established in 1904. In 1932, the name Barambah was then changed to Cherbourg due to a nearby property called "Barambah Station" which caused confusion in mail delivery.

Located 375km north west of Brisbane, Cherbourg covers 3,130 hectares DOGIT land and is within Wakka Wakka tribal boundaries and bordering onto Gubbi Gubbi (Kabi Kabi) territory to the east. The population is approximately 2000, however, as a result of the relocation of indigenous people under past government policies, residents of Cherbourg have connections to many other tribal groups throughout Queensland.

Since the mid to late 1960's, Cherbourg has always had an elected Aboriginal Council and it wasn't until the late 1980's, when changes took place and Cherbourg developed from being a welfare institution to a community. With the initiation of the Deed Of Grant InTrust (DOGIT), legislation was passed in 1982 and 1984 and Cherbourg started managing its own affairs.

This welcoming community was the perfect location for the film and the community was extremely supportive of the production.

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PRODUCTION CREDITS

Mayor Neville Tony Anderson Aunty Alice Aunty Estelle	CAST ALEC DOOMADGEE JOEL PIERCE ROXANNE MCDONALD PAULA NAZARSKI
Gammon community	UNCLE LAURENCE BOND UNCLE STEVEN DUKER HART JOHNNY 'BART' COBBO CHRISTINA WATSON PATRICK WATSON MASON WATSON CLANCY GARRETT
Written and Directed by Produced by	CREW DEAN GIBSON HELEN MORRISON
Director of Photography Editor Composers Production Designer Production Manager	MARK BROADBENT CHARLOTTE CUTTING TANE MATHESON AND JEFF MOULTON RHIANNA MALEZER TARA WARDROP
1st Assistant Director 2nd Assistant Director	PETER MCLENNAN HANNAH FITZPATRICK
Production Sound Recorder Gaffer	ALICIA EAMES JONO VOYCE
1 st Assistant Cameraman 2 nd Assistant Cameraman	DOMINIC BURJAK DARWIN FRAME
Sound Design	TANE MATHESON AND JEFF MOULTON
Producer of Marketing and Distribution	KYLIE PASCOE
Art Department	EMILY PEACH CHAD POLINSKI
Unit Manager Local Liaison	VANESSA GIBSON MATTHEW MALONE
Post Production Supervisor Colourist Sound Mix Online Editor	SALLY WORTLEY JUSTIN MCDONALD MICHAEL THOMAS CHRISTIAN ALCOCK

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