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AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF  
ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT  
ISLANDER STUDIES

## **Audition Sheet**

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<b>TITLE</b>	<b>First time tragedy, second time farce</b>
ACCESSION NUMBER	FC00016_2
COLLECTION NAME	COUNTER_001
DEPOSITOR	Counter Productions
PRODUCTION YEAR	1989
CREDITS (if applicable)	Music, Steve Skaith; editor, Jane Madsen; writers, producers, directors, John Cumming, Jane Madsen and James Swinson; Narrators, Robyn Archer, Bart Willoughby
PERFORMERS/SPEAKERS	Norman Fisher; Lance Dixon; Gerry Lomas; Dr Jonathan King; Francis Williams; Robbie Thorpe; Millie Ingram; Marie Bennett; Mac Silva; Ding Li; Dr Andrew Theophanous; Alf Bamblett; Sonia Sedmark; Roberto Malara; Bararraga Mimi Dancers; Yothu Yindi; the Prince of Wales; Gary Foley; Bob Hawke; Charles Harris; Galarrwuy Yunupingu; Robyn Archer; Bart Willoughby; Richard Dooley; Mathew Green; Claire Madsen; Peter Marz
PLACE	Sydney map area (NSW SI56-05)
LANGUAGE/GROUP	Eora / Iora people (S61) (NSW SI56-05)
SERIES (if applicable)	
TECHNICAL NOTES	
REPRODUCTION NOTES	1 videocassette (Digital Betacam); PM07807_2
ORIGINAL VERSION	1 film reel (16 mm.); sound, colour
TOTAL DURATION	25 min.
GRANT NUMBER (if applicable)	
NOTES	

**WARNING: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are warned that this material may contain images and voices of deceased persons.**

**Brief abstract:** Filmed in Britain and Australia, this theatrical history lesson follows the official celebrations from the re-enacted voyage of the First Fleet up to the 1988 bicentennial celebration; it raises questions about history, culture and nationalism.

**Important timing points:**

00:00	AIATSIS slate information.
00:31	Start of Part B.
00:34	Footage of women walking past tents as part of the Bicentenary First Fleet re-enactment, then manning a Cocoa-Cola tent where they sell posters of the Endeavour. Commentary about individualism in Australia, contrasted with footage of people attending the celebrations.
02:06	Prime Minister Bob Hawke speech as a voiceover accompanying footage of the

	Bicentenary First Fleet Re-enactment: “It is true that all these things go on to shape the Australian character ...”
02:25	An unidentified couple discusses the spectacle of the Bicentenary First Fleet re-enactment and what they want to see.
03:10	Bob Hawke voiceover: “My fellow Australians, who is an Australian?” Shot of unidentified man wearing a white ghost mask.
03:20	Arguments between demonstrators and actors involved in the re-enactments. Interspersed with footage of unidentified people wearing white masks.
05:13	Discusses the role of Irish people in the context of early settlement and how colonisation imported to Australia the pre-existing conflicts and divisions in British society. Footage of unidentified people wearing white masks.
06:25	Discussion of multiculturalism and identity, and attitudes towards migrants in Australia. Footage of people near boats.
07:05	Ding Li tells the story of a Chinese general in the Ming dynasty who captured Taiwan back from the Dutch. If this event happened ten years later it is likely that Australia might have been part of another country. Footage of Chinatown in a major city in Australia, and Chinese New Year celebrations.
08:16	Robyn Archer discusses British Colonialism and its effects on Chinese migrant communities in Australia.
10:38	On the Greek National day 1988, Helen Hassoura reflects on the position of Greek migrant communities in Australia, compared with those still in Greece.
11:48	Andrew speaks about great resistance to equality for Greek Australians by segments of the wider Australian population.
12:12	Andrew speaks about the lack of representation of ethnic communities in the Australian parliament.
13:48	At a May Day march trade unions fly banners indicating their support for Indigenous land rights.
16:17	Initially, there was a proposal to accept a grant of eighty thousand dollars from the Australian Bicentennial Authority for an Italian cultural artistic community project. A Federazione Italiana Lavortori (FIL) representative and an unidentified colleague explain why the FIL withdrew from the re-enactment, the strong belief that their work with the Indigenous people would be put in jeopardy because the re-enactment was so offensive to Indigenous people.
18:18	Marie Bennett and Mac Silva talk about John Pat, cruelly beaten to death by police in Western Australia. They play a song for all the Indigenous people incarcerated in Malabar, Parramatta Gaol and Silverwater Prisons who are Redfern Radio listeners. The subject of Indigenous deaths in custody is talked about.
18:56	On 27 January 1988 the Muirhead Royal Commission was established to inquire into the incarceration of Indigenous people and deaths in custody.
18:59	Indigenous demonstrators form a procession with black coffins as part of a protest about deaths in custody.
19:12	Indigenous demonstrators release balloons to help people to remember those Indigenous people still inside prisons who face the ongoing threat to their lives and safety in the prison system.
21:44	Robert Walker died in custody in Freemantle Gaol in 1984. Recital of the poem ‘Solitary Confinement’ by Indigenous poet Robert Walker.
23:14	End of poem.
23:26	End of Part B.