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ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT
ISLANDER STUDIES

Audition Sheet

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TITLE	First time tragedy, second time farce
ACCESSION NUMBER	FC00016_3
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; Francis Williams; HRH Prince of Wales
PLACE	Sydney map area (NSW SI56-05)
LANGUAGE/GROUP	Eora / Iora people (S61) (NSW SI56-05)
SERIES (if applicable)	
TECHNICAL NOTES	Sound quality sometimes poor
REPRODUCTION NOTES	1 videocassette (Digital Betacam); PM07807_3
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.
00:28	Start of Part A. The Bararraga Mimi Dancers perform at the Bicentenary First Fleet re-enactment in 1988.
02:02	Unidentified people dressed in period costume standing near boats, as part of a re-enactment of colonisation. Voiceover begins at 02:44, explaining the belief that the unfamiliar-looking British people were ghosts.

04:22	The Prince of Wales, Prince Phillip, begins his Bicentennial speech commemorating the modern history of Australia starting with the arrival of the Non-Indigenous colonists.
04:54	Indigenous activist Gary Foley with unidentified Indigenous people talking about the re-enactment. Gary finds the re-enactment offensive as it celebrates the stealing of land from Indigenous people.
06:34	Dr Johnathan King developed an interest in Australian history after visiting the grave of Phillip Gidley King, Governor of NSW, which led to the Bicentenary First Fleet Project. Jonathan stumbled across the journals of Phillip Gidley King and conceived the idea of recreating the voyage of the First Fleet in 1988.
06:15	Title screen: "All facts and personages of great importance in world history occur as it were twice: the first time as tragedy, the second time as farce."
07:11	Jonathan King's plan was to use the Bicentenary First Fleet re-enactment as a history lesson out of classrooms and onto the streets.
07:17	Unidentified Indigenous and Non-Indigenous protestors hold a demonstration against the re-enactment.
08:00	Scene of sailing ship coming into port. An unidentified narrator says that Captain Cook was responsible for the premeditated genocide of the Indigenous people of Australia, and that opportunities to redress what has been done to the Indigenous people and halt the perpetuation of lies, have not been taken.
09:12	An unidentified Indigenous woman discusses the absence of a treaty between Indigenous people and the colonists 200 years ago.
09:48	Celebration of the nation was the official catchphrase for the re-enactment. This nationalism is shaped by important historical events such as: the original penal settlements; the Federation of the states in 1901 and the Battle of Gallipoli in 1916.
11:11	Footage of the 1988 re-enactment of the launching of the First Fleet in Portsmouth, England. This footage is interspersed with vox pops in Australia. Unidentified narrator says that the re-enactment is of an event that never occurred, as George 3 rd was never present at the launch in 1788. Royal events were turned into mass shows especially under Prince Albert, as nations are about a homogenous mass of people united by a deep sense of comradeship.
17:16	Unidentified narrator explains that the culture of nationalism has certain symbols, eg. the cenotaph and the tomb of the unknown soldier. Interspersed with footage of military planes flying, figurines of soldiers, and Queen Elizabeth II on a British warship at the 1988 re-enactment of the launching of the First Fleet. "In the act of reclaiming its colonial past, Britain salutes itself."
19:42	Footage of sailing ships. Voice over by Gary Foley, "When the Indigenous Australians realised what was happening with the invasion, the Medicine Man said the supports that were holding up the sky began to rot." Unidentified Indigenous woman talks.
22:47	Footage of Millie Ingram discussing the fact that Indigenous Australians have the highest leprosy rate in the world and conditions for health have not improved.
23:35	An unidentified Indigenous woman reflects on the special relationship of Indigenous people to the land compared with Non-Indigenous land management practices.
24:00	An unidentified Indigenous male speaker asserts that the Government runs counter to the Indigenous values of community and tends to work against those community concepts. Footage of ice cream truck.
24:35	Sunset and darkened silhouettes of ships and attendees of the 1988 re-enactment. "Europe now lives at such a mad reckless pace that she is running headlong into the abyss. We would do well to keep away from it."
25:24	End of Part A, fading voice-over: "By pretending that everything is OK ..."

