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[Manuscript Finding Aid index](#)

Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies

MS 5115

Rachel Perkins; *Radiance*

1993 – 2004

CONTENTS

| | |
|---|----|
| COLLECTION SUMMARY | 2 |
| Access conditions for this collection | 3 |
| COLLECTION OVERVIEW | 3 |
| SERIES DESCRIPTION..... | 6 |
| Series 1 Radiance production..... | 6 |
| Series 2 Post-production | 8 |
| Series 3 National Indigenous Media Association of Australia, 1995-2004 | 9 |
| Subseries 3/1 National Indigenous Media Association of Australia Archive | 10 |
| Subseries 3/2 National Indigenous Feature Fund (NIFF) | 11 |
| Series 4 National and International Indigenous Film Initiatives, 1991-2001..... | 12 |
| BOX LIST | 14 |

COLLECTION SUMMARY

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Creator: | Rachel Perkins |
| Title: | Rachel Perkins; <i>Radiance</i> |
| Collection no: | MS 5115 |
| Date range: | 1993 – 2004 |
| Extent: | 1 metre (5 boxes) |
| Repository: | Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies |

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[Back to top](#)

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Items from this collection should be cited as [Title or description of manuscript item], Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, [Collection number and title].

For example:

MS 5115/2/3 Radiance Shooting Script, Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, MS 5115 Rachel Perkins; 'Radiance'.

[Back to top](#)

COLLECTION OVERVIEW

Scope and contents note

This collection records the production of the film *Radiance*, produced by Ned Lander and Andrew Myer and directed by Perkins; and her involvement in initiatives to establish

Indigenous film-making in Australia. Documents within it span the period 1993-2004, with the bulk of the records covering 1995-1998.

Formats include faxes, text, polaroid colour photographs, black and white photographic prints, newspaper clippings, flyers and brochures.

Documents are manuscripts, original text and photocopies.

Provenance

The collection was donated to the AIATSIS Collection by Rachel Perkins on 30 March 2007, under the Cultural Gifts Program.

Material separated from the collection

Footage in this Collection is held at PERKINS_R001: V09274_1-10 and PERKINS_R001 (FC00835_1-42).

Related material

For a complete list of works by Rachel Perkins held by AIATSIS and for other related material consult [Mura®](#), the AIATSIS catalogue.

For access to Audiovisual material contact [Collections](#).

Archivist's note

Abbreviations used in this finding aid:

| | |
|--------|--|
| AFC | Australian Film Commission |
| AFI | Australian Film Industry |
| AFTRS | Australian Film Television and Radio School |
| ATSIC | Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission |
| CAAMA | Central Australian Aboriginal Media Association |
| Co-Pro | Co-Productions |
| ISA | Indigenous Screen Australia |
| NIMAA | National Indigenous Media Association of Australia |
| SBS | Special Broadcasting Service |
| SBSI | Special Broadcasting Service Independent |
| SAFC | South Australia Film Corporation |

[Back to top](#)

ADMINISTRATIVE and BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Radiance is a low budget film shot in 1997. It had an Australia wide commercial release through United Pictures.

Adapted from Louis Nowra's stage play of the same name, *Radiance* was the third feature to be directed by, and first to be shot by, Indigenous Australians. It was screened on SBS and was nominated for seven Australian Film Industry Awards. Deborah Mailman won the AFI Award for Best Actress for her role in *Radiance*, the first time an Indigenous actor won it. The film won the Audience Favourite at Melbourne, Sydney and Canberra film festivals. International screenings included the London and Toronto festivals.

Radiance tells the story of three young Aboriginal women who return home for their mother's funeral to the north Queensland coast where they grew up. Occurring over twenty-four hours, the complications of the past are somewhat unraveled.

A number of unique features combined to make this film significant in Australian cinema history: its focus on Indigenous people as characters rather than social problems, positive critical reception, positive public reception, a commercial release for an Indigenous content film, and Indigenous creative control. It was included in *Australian Best 100 Films*, published to mark fifty years of Australian cinema.

Radiance established Deborah Mailman's career and consolidated Rachel Perkins, who directed the film, in a new career direction.

Rachel Perkins, an Arrernte and Kalkadoon woman, is the daughter of Eileen and Charlie Perkins, and granddaughter of Hetty Perkins. At the age of 18, she undertook a traineeship at the Central Australian Aboriginal Media Association, learning the technical aspects of film-making and the collaborative nature of storytelling in Central Australian communities. Feeling a responsibility to empower others and be the means for Indigenous people to speak, she became Executive Producer at SBS Television, generating programming for the Aboriginal Film Unit. She founded Blackfella Films in 1992, to counter the passive portrayals of Indigenous culture in textbooks and scripts written by non-Indigenous people; it would do this by producing culturally significant stories, told by and with Indigenous media practitioners.

Wanting to move into drama production, Rachel studied at the Australian Film Television and Radio School, graduating in 1995, while also working at the ABC as Executive Producer of the Indigenous Programs Unit. *Radiance* was her first feature film, tackling issues such as the Stolen Generation, racism, rape and adoption.

Other feature films she has directed since are *Jasper Jones*, *One Night the Moon* and *Bran Nue Dae*. She has continued to work in television, documentaries and the web, directing and/or writing and producing *Mabo*, episodes of *Redfern Now*, *Black Panther Women* and the *First Australians* series. From this work Rachel has won multiple awards.

Her commitment to creating or facilitating screen content that challenges conventional historical accounts means Rachel has also participated in implementing national training

strategies, the establishment of National Indigenous Television and the Message Sticks Indigenous Film Festival. She has also sat on the boards of the Australian Film Commission, the NSW Film and Television Office and the Australian Film Television and Radio School, the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Studies Foundation and currently (2017) the AIATSIS Council.

References: 'Perkins, Rachel', (2014) *The Encyclopedia of Women & Leadership in Twentieth-Century Australia*,
<http://www.womenaustralia.info/leaders/biogs/WLE0277b.htm> [accessed 7 March 2017]

Rachel Perkins: Managing Director/Director/Writer, Blackfella Films,
<http://blackfellafilms.com.au/about/> [accessed 7 March 2017]

Rachel Perkins, (2017) Wikipedia,
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rachel_Perkins [accessed 7 March 2017]

Australian Film Television and Radio School,
<http://www.aftrs.edu.au/history/graduates-by-year/1995/rachel-perkins>
[Accessed 11 April 2017]

[Back to top](#)

SERIES DESCRIPTION

Series 1 Radiance production

- MS 5115/1 This series records the development of the Radiance film script and parts of the shooting process.
- MS 5115/1/2 originally included five floppy disks. The contents of these floppy disks have been digitised and are available on request.
- MS 5115/1/8 Pts 1-4 were originally contained in a lever arch folder. The content has been re-housed according to the dividers in the original folder; the parts have been named according to the original names on the dividers.
- MS 5115/1/10 Parts 1 & 2 were originally contained in a lever folder; the contents have been artificially split for re-housing

Items

- MS 5115/1/1 Radiance, First draft 1996
- MS 5115/1/2 Play scripts and production documents
- Play scripts x2, published by Currency Press in association with Belvoir Street Theatre Sydney
 - Floppy disk 1: Progress reports and scripts

MS 5115 Rachel Perkins; 'Radiance'

- Floppy disk 2: Call Sheets and blank forms
- Floppy disk 3: AFC; Ally B/UP; AVM; Budget; Cast; Crew
- Floppy disk 4: Distribution; Film Finances; FTO; General; Legal; Locations; Previous buds; Publicity; RAD schedules; SBSI
- Floppy disk 5: Scripts/Louis; Showtime; Teresea IBM stuff; Title for Radiance; Travel

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| MS 5115/1/3 | Rachel's working draft, screenplay Mar 1997 |
| MS 5115/1/4 | Draft script 24 Apr 1997 |
| MS 5115/1/5 | Screen play working draft 11Sep 1996; Interim second draft screenplay 1997 |
| MS 5115/1/6 | Rough third draft 6 May 1997; draft script 10 May 1997 |
| MS 5115/1/7 | Draft script 28 May 1997 |
| MS 5115/1/8 Pt 1 | Marked scripts; Director's script notes and correspondence [This item was transferred from a lever arch file labelled 'Marked scripts; Director's script notes'. Many of the documents are printed on paper which has already been used; the verso often contains material relating to Radiance but not to the material on the recto.] |
| MS 5115/1/8 Pt 2 | Continuity Marked Script 1 |
| MS 5115/1/8 Pt 3 | Rachel Perkins Marked Script 2 |
| MS 5115/1/8 Pt 4 | Script Amendments and Timed Continuity Post production script [The script amendments are on pink, blue and yellow pages] |
| MS 5115/1/9 | Shooting script 7 Jun 1997 |
| MS 5115/1/10 Pt 1 | Marked up shooting script, 7 Jul 1997-15 Aug 1997, pp. 1-39 [pages missing; includes two polaroids retrieved from the front sleeve of the original folder and polaroids pasted to the verso of pages] |
| MS 5115/1/10 Pt 2 | Marked up shooting script, 7 Jul 1997-15 Aug 1997, pp. 40-82 |
| MS 5115/1/11 | Rachel's Production Notebook 1 |
| MS 5115/1/12 | Rachel's Production Notebook 2 |
| MS 5115/1/13 | Costume Sketches, some with swatches attached; polaroids of wardrobe tests, some annotated; photocopies of period source images [This item was transferred in four sections from a ring binder] |
| MS 5115/1/14 | Administrative paper work [The contents of this item were transferred from a lever arch file] Documents include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Distribution terms• Rushes• Call Sheet, Days 1-21 |

- Lab Report, negative report sheets, 3 Jul 1997-14 Aug 1997
- Timings
[This section also includes faxes between Eclipse Films and Atlab Australia]

[Back to top](#)

Series 2 Post-production

MS 5115/2 This series records the promotional campaign for Radiance and the attention it gained at national and international festivals and among audiences.

Many of the newspaper clippings are duplicated throughout the series.

Items

- MS 5115/2/1 Radiance Press Kit
- Photocopies of newspaper clippings from *Metro Magazine*, *Herald-Sun*, *The Australian*, *Good Weekend*, *The Sunday Mail*, *The Sydney Morning Herald*, *The Weekend Australian*, *The Sunday Age*, *The Courier Mail*, *The Daily Telegraph*, *Encore*, *Urban Cine File*, *Who Weekly*, *TV Week*, *Bundaberg News*, *The Australian Magazine*, *Country News*, *The Coastal Rag*, the Ansett in-flight magazine, and other unidentified publications
- MS 5115/2/2 Publicity, 1997
- Promotional pamphlets x 2, *Australian Film Catalogue* [1997], *Beyond Films*, *Cannes Diary 1998*
 - Newspaper clippings from *The Sydney Morning Herald*, *Koorie Mail*, and other unidentified newspapers
- MS 5115/2/3 Publicity 1998, Part 1
- Documents include:
- Clippings and photocopies of clippings from newspapers and other publications
- Publications include *The Sydney Morning Herald*, *The Weekend Australian*, *The Australian*, *The Daily Telegraph*, *The Sunday Mail*, *Variety*, *Moving Pictures*, *Encore*, *Isis Town and Country/Kolan Recorder*, *The Sun-Herald*, *The Sunday Age*, *Panorama* and *The Sunday Telegraph*
- Copies of correspondence, media releases or other publicity material as well as newspaper clippings

MS 5115 Rachel Perkins; 'Radiance'

- Two black and white photographs, one of the cast autographed by Deborah Mailman, Trish Moreton-Thomas and Rachel Maza; one of Rachel Perkins and a crew member during production

MS 5115/2/4

Publicity 1998, Part 2

- Clippings and photocopies of clippings from newspapers and other publications.

Publications include *The Sun-Herald*, *The Sydney Morning Herald*, *Sydney Morning Herald Metro*, *The Daily Telegraph*, *Elle*, *Harper's Bazaar*, *Screen Director*, *Filmink*, *Encore*, *The Australian*

- Print and television press generated at the Cannes Film Festival 1998; photocopies
- Publicity report for the Toronto Film Festival; photocopies

MS 5115/2/5

Publicity 1988, Part 3

Documents include:

- Radiance flyer
- The 45th Sydney Film Festival Audience Vote and Audience Survey
- The 45th Sydney film Festival screening certificate for Radiance
- Promotions campaigns for South Australia, Western Australia, Queensland and Melbourne
- Clippings and photocopies of clippings from newspapers and other publications.
Publications include *The Sunday Age*, *Who Weekly*, *The Sydney Morning Herald*, *The Sun-Herald*, *The Sunday Telegraph*, *Screen International*, *The Australian*, *The Weekend Australian*, *Country News*, *The Coastal Rag*, and *The Age*

MS 5115/2/6

Radiance Promotional Campaign Final Report, November 1988

[Back to top](#)

Series 3 National Indigenous Media Association of Australia, 1995-2004

MS 5115/3

Rachel Perkins was closely involved in the National Indigenous Media Association from 1995-2004. The items in this series document the effort the NIMAA put into obtaining funding for a National Indigenous Feature Film Fund during this period; and the links made between Australian and New Zealand Indigenous film makers.

In 2003, the NIMAA was replaced by the Australian Indigenous Communications Association.

Subseries 3/1 National Indigenous Media Association of Australia Archive

MS 5115/3/1 The name of this subseries comes from the label on the lever arch file originally containing the following documents. The bulk of the items in this subseries date from 1994-1998.

Items

- MS 5115/3/1/1 NIMAA Archive, Minutes Finance Policy, Part 1, 1995-1998
- List of submissions made by the NIMAA (n.d.)
 - Correspondence, minutes and meeting papers of NIMAA, including the NIMAA Film and Television Committee, Jun 1997-Sep 1998.
- MS 5115/3/1/2 NIMAA Archive, Minutes Finance Policy Part 2, 1995-1999
- Film, TV and Video Committee minutes and reports, 1995-1997
 - NIMAA Financial statements 1998, 1999
 - National Indigenous Documentary Funds 1-3 financial statements, 1996-1998
 - Copy of correspondence from Department of Communications and the Arts to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission regarding the 1998 Review of Indigenous Media
 - Indigenous Film and Television Production Sector Development and Production Strategy Towards 2000, October 1995
 - National Indigenous Media Association of Australia submission to the Inquiry into the Future Use of the Sixth Television Channel
 - Copy of Australian Film Commission correspondence regarding the NIMAA Submission – Sustaining and Developing a Unique Australian Screen Culture, 3 Apr 1996
 - Copy of Australian Film Commission correspondence regarding political correctness, 15 Apr 1996
- MS 5115/3/1/3 NIMMA Archive, Minutes Finance Policy Part 3, 1995-1999
- Documents include
- NIMAA Strategic Analysis [1999]
 - NIMAA Executive Workshop 27-28 Oct 1998
 - Film & Television/Culture Organisation Proposal [n.d.]
 - Correspondence regarding the Discussion Paper – Inquiry into the Future Use of the Sixth Television Channel, 22 Oct 1996, 25 Oct 1996

MS 5115 Rachel Perkins; 'Radiance'

- Correspondence, press releases and a NIMAA submission regarding the Australian Broadcasting Authority's Proposed Australian Content Variations, 23 Oct 1996
- Correspondence and NIMAA submissions regarding Sustaining and Developing a Unique Australian Screen Culture
- Copies of Australian Film Commission correspondence regarding the Indigenous Film/TV Production sector Development and Production Strategy – Towards 2000
- NIMAA AGM Minutes and papers 10 Nov 1995
Includes minutes of Film and Television Working Party 13 Nov 1995
- NIMAA Executive Meeting 6 Mar 1997
- Report of, and papers from Screen Culture Sector Summit 11-12 Oct 1995

MS 5115/3/1/4 Copy of Final Report: Executive Summary and Recommendations, Promoting Aboriginal Involvement in the Film and Video Industry, with cover letter from Mrs S A McPherson to Anne Bassar, SBS [n.d.]

[Back to top](#)

Subseries 3/2 National Indigenous Feature Fund (NIFF)

MS5115/3/2 This subseries documents the NIMAA's efforts to obtain funding for the NIFF; items include applications for funding and related correspondence.

Items

MS 5115/3/2/1 NIFF Part 1, 1998-2004
[This item was originally housed in an arch lever folder; the documents have been retained in the folder's original order]

Documents include:

- Submissions to ATSIC for funding a National Indigenous Feature Fund and related correspondence, 1999/2000, 2003/2004
- Correspondence with the Australian Film Commission, Dec 1998-Jun 1999
- Correspondence with SBSI, Nov 1998-August 2000

MS 5115/3/2/2 NIFF Part 2, 1997-2000

Documents include:

- 'States' and 'NIMAA'; correspondence with the New South Wales Film and Television Office, Screen West, South Australia Film

MS 5115 Rachel Perkins; 'Radiance'

Corporation and Film Victoria regarding the Indigenous Feature Fund, Nov-Dec 1998

- 'Finance'; correspondence regarding the development of a business plan for National Indigenous Feature Fund; budgets for a National Indigenous Feature Film Series, 1997-2000

MS 5115/3/2/3

NIFF Part 3, 1999-2001

Documents include:

- Funding applications to ATSIC and related correspondence: Indigenous Screen Australia 1999/2000; National Indigenous Feature Film Fund 2000/2001
- Correspondence with AFTRS regarding the IFF
- Development of the NIFF: submission planning documents, budgets, correspondence, script for 'Have a Baby Honey', © Priscilla Collins; funding guidelines from the AFC, 1999

MS 5115/3/2/4

NIFF Part 4, 1998-2001

Documents include:

- Correspondence with Maori film-makers, Aug-Oct 1998
- Correspondence and meeting papers for Queensland Indigenous Film & Television teleconferences, Feb-Apr 1997; draft ISA submission to Pacific Film and Television Commission for The 1st National Indigenous Film Conference & Festival, 2000
- Correspondence with South Australia Film Corporation 1998-2001, copy of Whyallin Media and Multi Arts Group 1997 submission to SAFC
- Media release from Warlpiri Media Association about National Indigenous Television Service test transmissions; correspondence re Walungurru Video Festival 1998

MS 5115/3/2/5

A Guide to Non-English & Aboriginal Broadcasting in Australia, 1993

[Back to top](#)

Series 4 National and International Indigenous Film Initiatives, 1991-2001

MS 5115/4

This series comprises mainly festival information, newsletters. The 1990 CAAMA Employment and Talking Strong Project is also included.

Items

MS 5115/4/1

CAAMA Employment and Talking Strong Project Records

MS 5115 Rachel Perkins; 'Radiance'

| | |
|-------------|---|
| MS 5115/4/2 | Festival de cinema des minorities, 25 Aug-1 Sep 1991, Press Book |
| MS 5115/4/3 | Third National Australian Documentary conference 1993, Indigenous program |
| MS 5115/4/4 | Das Haus der Kulture der Welt, Konzeption, Arbeitsweise und Resonanz [1993] |
| MS 5115/4/5 | New Zealand Co-Pro's Maori Programming |
| MS 5115/4/6 | Indigenous film industry brochures, newsletters and pamphlets <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Te Waka Toi, December 1993• SBS, 1990, 'The Greater Perspective; a guideline for the production of film and television on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders• Filmbühne am Steinplatz, Museum für Volkerkunde, 1993, "Film Festival Aboriginality '93"• Dept of Foreign Affairs and Trade, 1992, 'Cultural Focus, Cultural futures: a festival of film and television on indigenous [sic] Australians' |
| MS 5115/4/7 | Indigenous Drama Initiative 1995, handbills and posters [This item is held in Map Plan Cabinet 7] |
| MS 5115/4/8 | Yeperenye Federation Festival, 8-9 Sep 2001 |
| MS 5115/4/9 | National Geographic all roads film project, Oct 22-24 2004 |

[Back to top](#)

BOX LIST

| Series | Items | Box |
|---------------|--------------|--------------------|
| 1 | 1-7 Pt 1 | 1 |
| | 7 Pt 2-10 | 2 |
| | 11-14 | 3 |
| 2 | 1-3 | 3 |
| | 4-6 | 4 |
| 3/1 | 1-3 | 4 |
| 3/1 | 4 | 5 |
| 3/2 | 1-5 | 5 |
| 4 | 1 | 5 |
| | 2-6, 8-9 | 6 |
| | 7 | Map Plan Cabinet 7 |

Finding aid compiled by F Blackburn, April 2017,

updated by F Blackburn, February 2018

[Collections](#)

[Catalogue](#)

[Manuscript finding aid index](#)

[Back to top](#)