



AIATSIS
AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF
ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT
ISLANDER STUDIES

Interim

Finding aid

PERKINS_R001

Collection title

Quest for Country

Guide to the moving image recordings from the production of

Quest for Country

by

Rachel Perkins, 1993

ACCESS

Availability of copies

Further information is available on the 'Ordering Collection Items' web page. Alternatively, contact the Access Unit by email to arrange an appointment to view the recordings or to order copies.

Restrictions on viewing

The collection is open for viewing on the AIATSIS premises.

Restrictions on use

“Quest for Country” is the opening episode of a thirteen half hour documentary series called “From Spirit to Spirit”. The international co-production was commissioned by SBS and screened in Canada, New Zealand and Scandinavia. The three Australian episodes “Quest for Country”, “From the Bush” and “Mungo Lady” were produced by Rachel Perkins for Blackfella Films. Copyright in all materials associated with these three episodes have been donated to AIATSIS as part of a Cultural Gift under the Taxation Incentives for the Arts Scheme.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

1993

Date:

“Quest for Country” collection material

Extent:

Audio: 4 DAT tapes

Moving Image:

9 Digital Betacams SP

2 16mm original negatives

Production history

The Rachel Perkins Collection 2008 was donated to AIATSIS under the Cultural Gifts Program on 30 June 2007 and was endorsed by the Chair of the Committee on Taxation Incentives for the Arts at its meeting of 26 June 2008.

The works and materials included in the Rachel Perkins Collection 2008 are projects which Rachel Perkins has been directly involved in spanning the last 19 years. The materials include complete programs, rushes comprising film, video and sound, costume items and props, multiple drafts of scripts, diaries, press materials and stills. They also include non-broadcast oral history video interviews, filmed with key Elders of the Arrernte people, some of whom are members of Rachel Perkins' direct family.

The Rachel Perkins Collection 2008 also includes Rachel Perkins' papers relating to the development of the Indigenous film industry over the last ten years including the National Indigenous Media Association, the formation of Indigenous Screen Australia and the National Indigenous Television Service. Additional screen works are included, that do not directly relate to Perkins' work, which have

been collected by her from the Indigenous industry locally, on a range of formats. These were deposited as they are relevant to the development of the Indigenous screen sector.

“From Spirit to Spirit” was an international co-production recognising the Indigenous peoples of Australia, Sweden, Canada and New Zealand. The series was commissioned by SBS and drew together Indigenous film makers from around the world to produce a collaborative work to commemorate the International Year for the World's Indigenous Peoples. The documentaries focus on common themes relevant to the people of First Nations to celebrate the survival of the “spirit” of Indigenous people, and provided an opportunity to hear Indigenous people speak out through the audiovisual art of television.

“Quest for Country” is the premier episode of the “From Spirit to Spirit” series. It documents the spiritual catharsis of one Aboriginal man from an urban environment to the undulating plains of the outback. He returns to the country of his people, where family bonds are strong and maintained. The program is a montage of both bleak and awesome images which reveal the devastation of the impact of colonisation on traditional lands. The coming of the white man and the past is recalled through the recollections of local Aboriginal elders. The different cultural values of both white and black are explored and the inevitable collision of the two groups is presented. An Indigenous view of white society is also examined. Written and directed by Michael Riley (deceased).

“Quest for Country” was shot on 16mm and super 8 film and telecined onto Digital Betacam. This collection includes the original film reels of the rushes and the Betacam telecine transfers.

RELATED MATERIAL

Important: before you click on any links in this section, please read our sensitivity message.

Production documentation also donated includes:

Camera report sheets, footage calculations and export scripts.

All documentation relating to any episode in the “From Spirit to Spirit” series can be found with the Perkins_R008 collection.

For a complete listing of related material held by AIATSIS, consult the Institute's Mura® online catalogue at <http://aiatsis.gov.au/collections/using-collection/search-collection>. To conduct a search of available audiovisual finding aids, please click [here](#).

ARCHIVIST'S NOTE

This finding aid was compiled from information provided by Rachel Perkins. Detailed item descriptions, featuring timing points, are not yet available as the collection has not been auditioned by AIATSIS staff.

ITEM LIST

<i>Registration number</i>	<i>AIATSIS item number</i>	<i>Description</i>
R00600_1	V09397_1	Quest for Country - Super 8 Telecine - Maude's 90 th Birthday Moree (Dig BetacamSP)
R00600_2	V09397_2	Quest for Country - Super 8 Telecine - Maude's 90 th Birthday Moree (Dig BetacamSP)
R00600_3	V09397_3	Quest for Country - Sound from DAT - Maude's 90 th Birthday Moree (Dig BetacamSP)
R00600_4	V09397_4	Quest for Country - 16mm Telecine Rushes Rolls 3 (Dig BetacamSP)
R00600_5	V09397_5	Quest for Country - 16mm Telecine Rushes Rolls 1-4 (Dig BetacamSP)
R00600_6	V09397_6	Quest for Country - 16mm Telecine Rushes Rolls 5-7 (Dig BetacamSP)
R00600_7	V09397_7	Quest for Country - 16mm Telecine Rushes Rolls 6-7 (Dig BetacamSP)
R00600_8	V09397_8	Quest for Country - 16mm Telecine Rushes Rolls 11-15 (Dig BetacamSP)
R00600_9	V09397_9	Quest for Country - 16mm Telecine Rushes Rolls 16,17,19 (Dig BetacamSP)
R00600_14	FC00842_1	Quest for Country - No. 44 Roll No. 9 (16mm original negative)
R00600_15	FC00842_2	Quest for Country - No. 43 Roll No. 10 (16mm original negative)