

The Crew

ROLF DE HEER (Writer/Director/Producer)

Born in Holland, Rolf de Heer migrated to Australia with his family in 1959. From eighteen, he spent seven years working at the Australian Broadcasting Corporation. In 1977, he was granted entry into Australia's prestigious Film Television and Radio School, completing the three-year course with Diplomas in Production and Directing. Since then, de Heer has become one of Australia's leading filmmakers.



De Heer's first film, the children's feature *TAIL OF A TIGER* (1984), attracted both critical and commercial success and played at the Berlin Kinderfest. *INCIDENT AT RAVEN'S GATE* (1987) was an atmospheric science fiction mystery thriller, followed by *DINGO* (1990) a musical odyssey that travelled from outback Western Australia to the streets of Paris starring Colin Friels and jazz legend Miles Davis in his only film role.

BAD BOY BUBBY (1993) marked de Heer's first collaboration with Italian producer Domenico Procacci. It won the Grand Special Jury Prize and the International Film Critics Prize at the 1993 Venice Film Festival, as well as four Australian Film Institute Awards. De Heer spent the next two years working on *EPSILON* (1995) which made extensive use of motion control cinematography. During a break in filming, *THE QUIET ROOM* was shot. The story of a family breakdown as seen through the eyes of a child, *THE QUIET ROOM* was selected for Official Competition in the 1996 Cannes International Film Festival.

In 1997 de Heer directed *DANCE ME TO MY SONG*, selected for Official Competition at the 1998 Cannes Film Festival. In 1999, de Heer spent three months in the jungles of French Guyana shooting *THE OLD MAN WHO READ LOVE STORIES* starring Richard Dreyfuss and Hugo Weaving. De Heer's next film, *THE TRACKER*, was shot on location in the rugged Gammon Ranges in outback Australia and debuted to standing ovations at the 2002 Adelaide Festival of Arts and in Official Competition at the 2002 Venice International Film Festival. The film won, among others, the Special Jury Prize at the 2002 Valladolid International Film Festival. In Australia it won Best Film at both the 2002 Circle of Film Critics Awards and the 2002 IF (people's) Awards.

ALEXANDRA'S PROJECT was selected to participate in Official Competition at the prestigious Berlin International Film Festival in 2003 and went on to screen at numerous international festivals including Puchon, Edinburgh, Telluride, Toronto and Montreal.

TEN CANOES is de Heer's eleventh feature.

PETER DJIGIRR (Co-director & Canoeist)

Djigirr is a key member of the Arafura Swamp people. He was born in 1963 in the country around Djilpin Gorge.



He is known as the “crocodile man” and is regarded as the local expert on catching crocodiles and locating their eggs for harvest on the Swamp each year.

Djigirr’s assistance as co-director was vital during the shoot. He was involved extensively in casting, locations and logistics, and was a key liaison between the Yolgnu community and balanda crew.

SUE MURRAY (Executive Producer)

Sue Murray has worked in the Australian film industry since 1977 when she joined the Australian Film Institute as manager of the annual Australian Film Awards and film programmer. Murray moved to Sydney in 1981 and joined the Australian Film Commission [AFC], where she worked in research and policy before becoming Director of Marketing in 1987. This position involved the promotion of Australian cinema internationally and the provision of marketing advice to Australian filmmakers.

On leaving the AFC in 1998, she became Acquisition Consultant for US distributor Fine Line Features, sourcing projects and completed films from Australia and New Zealand. When this arrangement finished in June 2001, she consulted to the New Zealand Film Commission and Australian film agencies prior to setting up Fandango Australia in February 2002 with fellow directors Domenico Procacci, Rolf de Heer, Richard Lowenstein and Bryce Menzies. As Executive Director she is involved in development, financing and marketing of Fandango Australia projects and is co-producer on ALEXANDRA'S PROJECT, and executive producer on Alkinos Tsilimidos' TOM WHITE.

JULIE RYAN (Producer)

After briefly working as an assistant in a film publicity company, Julie Ryan entered the Australian film industry in 1996 when she worked as production secretary with Rolf de Heer on THE SOUND OF ONE HAND CLAPPING.

She joined Vertigo Productions as production manager on de Heer's feature film DANCE ME TO MY SONG, which was selected for Cannes in 1998. She then produced the award winning SBS documentary, HEATHER ROSE GOES TO CANNES.

In 1999, Ryan spent three months in the jungles of French Guyana co-producing her first feature film, THE OLD MAN WHO READ LOVE STORIES, starring Richard Dreyfuss and Hugo Weaving. The film was nominated for Best Film at the 2005 Film Critics Circle of Australia Awards, Australian Film Institute Awards and the IF Awards.

Ryan's next feature with de Heer, THE TRACKER, was shot entirely on location in the rugged Northern Flinders Ranges and premiered to critical acclaim at the Adelaide Festival of Arts and at the Venice International Film Festival in 2002. The film also won Best Film at the 2002 Film Critics Circle and IF Awards, and received a Best Film nomination from the AFI Awards.

ALEXANDRA'S PROJECT, her third consecutive feature as producer with de Heer, was selected for official competition at the Berlin Film Festival. It was also nominated for Best Film at the Film Critics and AFI Awards in 2003.

DOMENICO PROCACCI (Executive Producer)

Domenico Procacci attended the Gaumont School of Cinema in Rome from 1981 to 1984, concentrating his studies mainly on film direction and script writing. Producing came about almost by accident, when in 1987 a group of young Italian filmmakers, including Procacci, decided to make a low budget feature. One of them had to produce it, and the resulting collaboration, *IL GRANDE BLEK* was both a critical and commercial success. A new career as a producer was born for Procacci.

Since that time he has produced over 40 Italian films, including the internationally successful *LASTAZIONE (THE STATION)*, directed by Sergio Rubini (1989), *LA CORSA DELL'INNOCENTE (FLIGHT OF THE INNOCENT)* directed by Carlo Carlei (1992) and produced with Franco Cristaldi, two films with pop singer Luciano Ligabue, *RADIOFRECCIA* (1998) and *DA ZERO A DIECI (2002) (FROM ZERO TO TEN)*, the highly successful *L'ULTIMO BACIO (2001) (THE LAST KISS)* and *RICORDATI DI ME (2003) (REMEMBER ME)* directed by Gabriele Muccino, Matteo Garrone's *L'IMBALSAMATORE (2002) (THE EMBALMER)* and *PRIMO AMORE (2004) (FIRST LOVE)* and Paolo Sorrentino's *LA CONSEQUENZA D'AMORE (2004) (THE CONSEQUENCES OF LOVE)*. His films have been in competition at Cannes, Venice and Berlin.

In 1993 Procacci produced his first non-Italian film, *BAD BOY BUBBY*, directed by Rolf de Heer. The creative harmony and resultant success of this project led Procacci to produce a further four films with de Heer including the Cannes entries *THE QUIET ROOM* (1996) and *DANCE ME TO MY SONG* (1998), the Venice 2002 competition entry *THE TRACKER*, and Berlin competition entry *ALEXANDRA'S PROJECT*.

Procacci has also co-produced a number of European films including: Milcho Manchevski's *DUST* (2001) with Chris Auty and Vesna Jovanoka; Pan Nalin's *SAMSARA* (2002) with Karl Baumgartner and Christoph Friedel; and Emanuele Crialesse's Critics Week prize winner at Cannes 2002, *RESPIRO*, with Anne-Dominique Toussaint of Films des Tournelles, France.

The Australian connection was expanded in 2001 when Procacci produced Richard Lowenstein's *HE DIED WITH A FELAFEL IN HIS HAND* and the formation of Fandango Australia in early 2002. Procacci also set up his own distribution company in 2001, with recent successes including Ray Lawrence's *LANTANA*, *SAMSARA* and *SPIDER*. He also runs a book publishing division that published the latest novel by Alessandro Baricco.

BRYCE MENZIES (Executive Producer)

Bryce Menzies is a partner at Marshalls & Dent, solicitors in Melbourne. Prior to merging his film and entertainment law practice with Marshalls & Dent, he used to head the film and entertainment law practice at Roth Warren, solicitors in Melbourne. He holds the degree of Bachelor of Jurisprudence and Bachelor of Laws from Monash University. Menzies has enormous experience in all aspects in the Australian film industry extending beyond the practice of law into deal making and film financing.

Menzies advises some of Australia's best known and successful feature film, television and documentary producers. He has acted as executive producer, producer, as well as legal adviser on many well known films including *MALCOLM*, *THE BIG STEAL*, *DEATH IN BRUNSWICK*, *PROOF*, *THE MAGISTRATE*, *STARK*, *COSI*, *MURIEL'S WEDDING*, *CRACKERS*, *TWO HANDS* and *COLLISION COURSE: THE CROCODILE HUNTER*. In addition to acting for local producers, Menzies represents major international film companies in their negotiations with Australian filmmakers. Menzies also represents musicians and composers in both the record industry and film industry together with writers and directors. In the multimedia industry, Menzies advises computer games companies and internet content developers.

BELINDA SCOTT (Associate Producer)

Belinda Scott holds a BA majoring in Anthropology, a Graduate Diploma of Pacific and Aboriginal Studies and a Graduate Diploma of Art History & Curatorship. She has been involved with the artists of Ramingining since she first moved to that remote community in 1989. Previous to that Scott was a Research Anthropologist with the Darwin Office of the Northern Land, commencing there in 1985. Scott was fortunate to work with some of the great bark painters Paddy Dhatangu, George Milpururru, Jimmy Wululu and Philip Gudthaykudthay during her work for the Art Centre in Ramingining from 1989 until 1993. Patiently listening to stories over endless cups of tea, Scott learned much from these master painters. Now in her second sojourn to Ramingining, Gudthaykudthay is the only remaining painter of that generation.

Over the years Scott has travelled many times with artists. In 1991 she organised the opening celebrations for the newly established Bula'bula Art Centre. Over the years her research has contributed to a number of exhibition catalogues and other publications. In 1988 Scott travelled on The Anti-Bicentenary Bus Convoy from Darwin to Sydney. A short stint as a travel writer in 2001 saw Scott write the NSW Chapter in the Lonely Planet guide to Indigenous Australia. In 2003 she accompanied David Gulpilil to the USA on two occasions. One trip involved speaking about art from Ramingining and curating an exhibition, the other was as his minder for the New York premiere of THE TRACKER.

In 2003, Scott curated Out of the Dilly Bag, Bula'bula Arts first major exhibition in seven years. From Rolf de Heer's first visit to Ramingining in 2003, Scott became an integral associate of TEN CANOES.

NILS ERIK NIELSEN (Associate Producer)

Nils Erik Nielsen joined Vertigo Productions as financial controller and company secretary in 1998. He worked as Australian accountant on THE OLD MAN WHO READ LOVE STORIES, and associate producer on THE TRACKER, ALEXANDRA'S PROJECT and TEN CANOES.

IAN JONES, ACS (Director of Photography)

Ian Jones has worked extensively in Australia and internationally and is highly regarded for his stylish cinematography, including his exceptional steadicam work.

In 2000, Jones worked as 2nd unit director / Director of Photography on Rabbit Proof Fence with director Phillip Noyce. Jones has also worked with Noyce on CLEAR AND PRESENT DANGER as well as operating on such notable feature films as THE RUSSIA HOUSE for Fred Schepisi, BORN ON THE FOURTH OF JULY for Oliver Stone and Baz Luhrman's STRICTLY BALLROOM.

THE TRACKER is Jones's third feature film with Rolf de Heer having worked with him on both DINGO (1990) and BAD BOY BUBBY (1993).

In 2002, he won Best Cinematography for THE TRACKER at the Film Critics Circle Awards, and was nominated for both the 2002 AFI Awards and the 2002 IF Awards. In 2003 he also shot de Heer's ALEXANDRA'S PROJECT.

TEN CANOES is Jones's fifth feature film with director de Heer.

TANIA NEHME (Film Editor)

An editor since 1986, Tania Nehme edited numerous documentaries, commercials and short dramas before she cut her first feature, EPSILON, for Rolf de Heer in 1995.

A graduate of the Australian Film Television & Radio School, Nehme was nominated for an Australian Film Institute [AFI] Award for Best Editor in 1991 for her work on the short drama ONCE IN A TIME.

Working as both picture and sound editor, THE TRACKER was the fifth feature Nehme has cut with de Heer, earning her Best Editor nominations at both the 2002 AFI Awards and the 2002 Film Critics Circle Awards.

Nehme also edited, DANCE ME TO MY SONG, THE SOUND OF ONE HAND CLAPPING and THE QUIET ROOM.

Apart from feature films, Nehme edited the Barron Television children's series CHUCK FINN, the SBS Australia documentary KUMARANGK 5214 and the Australian Film Commission funded short feature THE 13th HOUSE.

Nehme worked on her sixth feature collaboration with Rolf de Heer, ALEXANDRA'S PROJECT, which resulted in nominations for Best Editing for Film Critic's Circle and AFI awards in 2003.

As well as film editing nominations, Nehme also received nominations for an IF and AFI Award as part of the sound team for THE TRACKER (2002) and ALEXANDRA'S PROJECT (2003).

In 2004, Nehme won Best Editor at the IF Awards for THE OLD MAN WHO READ LOVE STORIES. In that year, she also received nominations for Best Editing at the Film Critic's Circle and AFI Awards.

BEVERLEY FREEMAN (Art Director)

Beverley Freeman has worked as a production designer, art director, costume designer and make-up and hair supervisor on films and TV commercials in Australia, America, England and Germany for over two decades. Her feature credits include BLACK & WHITE, starring Robert Carlyle and Kerry Fox, EBBTIDE, THE LIFE OF HARRY DARE and HEAVEN'S BURNING.

TEN CANOES is Freeman's seventh film with de Heer following ALEXANDRA'S PROJECT, THE TRACKER, DANCE ME TO MY SONG, THE QUIET ROOM, EPSILON and BAD BOY BUBBY.

Freeman is well regarded in the film industry for being able to achieve extremely high production values on relatively low budgets. Her ability to multi-skill and work quickly on set makes her a valuable member of the Vertigo team.

JAMES CURRIE (Sound Designer)

James Currie has worked in the film industry for nearly three decades as location recordist, sound editor, mixer and sound designer. He has worked on seven films with Rolf de Heer including TEN CANOES, ALEXANDRA'S PROJECT, THE TRACKER, THE OLD MAN WHO READ LOVE STORIES, BAD BOY BUBBY, INCIDENT AT RAVENS GATE and DINGO for which he won an AFI award for Best Sound Track in 1991.

Sound designer on 26 productions, he has also worked extensively with filmmaker Paul Cox on films such as LUST AND REVENGE, FATHER DAMIEN, the recently released THE DIARIES OF VASLAV NIJINSKY and INNOCENCE, for which he won the IF Award for Best Sound Track. He also won an AFI Award for Best Sound Track for THE LIGHTHORSEMEN, and the Golden Clapper Award for Artistic and Technical Excellence at the 1993 Venice Film Festival for BAD BOY BUBBY.

James Currie was instrumental in developing the binaural sound system used on BAD BOY BUBBY, and is highly regarded within the Australian film industry for working on productions that test the boundaries of cinema sound.

TOM HEUZENROEDER (Sound Designer)

After gaining work experience on the set of Rolf de Heer's BAD BOY BUBBY, Tom Heuzenroeder has worked as a sound editor and composer since 1995, starting in radio, theatre and television. In the last six or so years, he has worked almost full time in the film industry, working again with Rolf de Heer, and Sound Designer James Currie, on THE OLD MAN WHO READ LOVE STORIES, THE TRACKER, and most recently TEN CANOES, where he worked in collaboration with James Currie on the sound design and sound editing.

Tom was also the sound effects editor on Greg McLean's WOLF CREEK, for which he was nominated for an IF Award and an AFI award. Other films he has worked on include LIKE MINDS (Gregory Read), THE 13TH HOUSE (Shane McNeil) and MODERN LOVE (Alex Frayne).