

# Don Featherstone

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## Resumé

Don has produced, written and/or directed over forty highly regarded documentaries across many genres including history, music and arts, science, sports and social/cultural. His films include; 'Kokoda', 'The One Percenters' - the Milperra biker shootout, 'The Beach' - beach culture in Australia, 'The Maitland Wonder' - boxer Les Darcy, 'An Imaginary Life' - David Malouf and the seminal TV Drama 'Babakuieria'.

Stylistic innovation and high production values are the hallmarks of his work. These qualities have resulted in many of his films winning major international awards including; Best Documentary Hot Docs, Banff Rockie, Chicago Gold Hugo, Chicago Gold Plaque, Best Arts Documentary San Francisco, Special Jury Prize San Francisco, U.N. Media Peace Prize, three New York Silver Awards, 'Outstanding Achievement Award' IECF Hi-def Festival Tokyo, a BAFTA nomination and an International Emmy nomination.

His work is well known internationally having screened on networks including; BBC, ITV, CBC, Ovation USA, WNET, Canal 22 Mexico, ZDF, Bravo USA, BskyB, UK Performing Arts, RAI, NHK, RTE, LA Sept, YLE Finland, SVT Sweden, DRS Germany, TEVEL Israel, NOS Netherlands, Iran Broadcasting Corp., TV2 Iceland, HRT Croatia, Rep. Of Kazakstan TV, Cablehogar Argentina, Vargas Panama, POLTEL Poland, Czech TV, Tele Madrid Spain, ETV South Africa etc etc..

He is an accomplished writer of both treatments and narration scripts and an adept interviewer whose subjects range from the man in the street to celebrities including Will Smith, Meryl Streep, Baz Luhrmann and Geoffrey Rush.

Don, who is a graduate of the Swinburne Film & TV School has also made films on staff for the BBC's documentaries department, London Weekend Television's current affairs department and the prestigious arts series 'The South Bank Show'.

## Awards

- 2002 Winner 'Outstanding Achievement Award' IECF Hi-def Festival Tokyo (The Beach)
- 1998 Winner Best International Documentary, 'Hot Docs' Festival in Toronto (David Malouf)  
Winner Best Arts Documentary San Francisco Film & TV Festival (David Malouf)  
Finalist Festival International du Film sur l'Art- Montreal (David Malouf)  
Winner 'Best Original Score in a documentary' Aust. Composers Guild (David Malouf)
- 1997 Finalist Banff International TV Festival (David Malouf)  
Finalist Greater Union Dendy Awards (David Malouf)  
Finalist New York Film & TV Festival (David Malouf)  
Finalist Festival International du Film sur l'Art-Montreal (Ross Edwards)
- 1996 Finalist Banff International TV Festival (Ross Edwards)  
Finalist IMZ Dance Screen Festival (Meryl Tankard)  
Winner Grand Prix Video Dance Paris (Meryl Tankard)

- 1995 Winner 'Best film' Dance on Camera Film Festival New York (Meryl Tankard)
- 1994 Nominated 'Best documentary' AFI Awards (Robyn Archer)
- 1993 Winner Festival International du Film sur l'Art-Montreal (Les Murray)
- 1992 Nominated 'Awgies Award' (Les Murray)
- 1991 Winner 'Gold Plaque Award' Chicago Film Festival (Les Murray)  
Finalist New York Film & TV Festival (Les Murray)  
Nominated U.N. Media Peace Prize (Billy Tea and Goulash)
- 1990 Nominated for an 'International Emmy' New York (Robert Helpmann)  
Winner 'Gold Hugo Award' Chicago Film Festival (Brett Whiteley)  
Winner 'Best Arts documentary' Banff Television Festival (Brett Whiteley)  
Nominated 'Best documentary' AFI Awards (Brett Whiteley)
- 1989 Nominated 'Best documentary' AFI Awards (Graeme Murphy)  
Selected for competition Banff Television Festival (Tom Keneally)
- 1988 Winner 'Best Documentary' ATOM Awards (Peter Carey)
- 1986 Winner U.N. Media Peace Prize (BabaKuieria)  
Finalist New York Film & TV Festival (Arthur Boyd)
- 1985 Winner 'Special Jury Prize' San Francisco Film Festival (Ed McBain)  
Winner 'Silver Award' New York Film & TV Festival (Ed McBain)
- 1983 Nominated BAFTA Award (David Hockney)  
Winner 'Silver Award' New York Film & TV Festival (John LeCarré)
- 1982 Winner 'Silver Award' New York Film & TV Festival (King Cone)

### Chronology

#### 2010

'The Corrick's

(writer)

1x55 documentary about the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century film pioneer family of Vaudeville performers.  
(in development)

#### 2009

'Kokoda'

(Writer/Director)

2x55 minute documentary series about the WW2 battle of the Kokoda track.  
Featherstone Productions/Pericles Films/ABCTV

#### 2007-2008

Industry Liaison Officer australianscreen online website

AFC/NFSA

#### 2006

'Here Comes Charlie'

(Financing)

(Co-Producer)

1x84 minute documentary about modern day incarnations of Charlie Chaplin  
Presales to ZDF/Artsworld UK/Ovation Aus

'4'

(Consultant Producer)

1x55 minute documentary about Vivaldi's 4 Seasons  
SBS pre-sale, ITVS presale (Currently in post production)

**2005****'The One Percenters'**

(Writer/Director)

A 55 min super 16mm documentary following 'Moulin Rouge' producer Martin Brown as he attempts to make a movie about the Milperra Bikie Massacre

Martin Brown Films. Screened ABC TV and internationally

**Consultant Project Manager**

Australian Film Commission

**2004****'Vietnam Symphony'**

(Line Producer)

A 55 min documentary about the odyssey of the Hanoi Conservatory of Music during the Vietnam war.

Film Australia/SBS

**'The Real Mary Poppins'**

(Line Producer - Australia)

Endemol/LWT

**2003****'The Adventure of English'**

(Line Producer)

Coordinated Australian shoot for second episode of this major series

Granada Television

**2002****'Australia Revealed'**

(Director/Writer)

The Becker Group/Discovery

**2001****'Sydney Revealed'**

(Director/writer)

The Becker Group/Discovery

**2000****'The Beach'**

(Director/Co-Producer/Co-writer)

A one hour documentary exploring the depiction of the beach in the arts.

ABC TV/RM Associates/NHK/Featherstone Productions (Hi Definition 16:9)

**'It happened on Holiday'**

(Director/Writer)

Network 10

**1999****'American Journeys'**

(Director/Writer)

Beyond Productions/Discovery

**1998****'I Witness'**

(Producer/Director/Writer)

A one hour documentary profiling the war artist George Gittoes.

ABC TV/Featherstone Productions

**'Art Zone'**

(Director/Writer)

Five fifteen minute films documenting the act of creating an art work.

Film Australia/ABC TV

**'The Maitland Wonder'**

(Director)

A 60 min. documentary about the boxer Les Darcy

Anthony Buckley Productions/ABC TV pre-sale

**1997****'The Edge Of The World'**

(Producer)

A 60 min. profile of the author Tim Winton

Film Australia/ABC TV pre-sale

**1996/97****'David Malouf'**

(Producer/Director/Writer)

60 min documentary profile of Australia's finest living author

Film Australia/R.M. Assoc./ABC TV pre-sale

**1996****'Young Australian Of The Year'**

(Producer/Director/Writer)

60 min documentary profiling the seven contenders for the award

Network 10

**1995****'Life Force'**

(Producer/Director/Writer)

A 60 min documentary about the composer Ross Edwards

Featherstone Productions/SBS TV pre-sale

**'Wrestling with the Angel'**

(Producer/Director)

A one hour documentary about the author Blanche d'Alpuget

Featherstone Productions/SBS TV pre-sale

**1994****'Creative Spirits III'**

A three part series of profiles

'The Black Swan' - Choreographer Meryl Tankard (Producer)

'Tall Tales but True' - Playwright David Williamson(Producer/Director)

'Smart's Labyrinth' - Painter Jeffrey Smart (Producer)

Featherstone Productions/ABC TV pre-sale

**1993****'The A-Z of Classical Ballet'**

(Director)

Teaching video

The Australian Ballet

**'Creative Spirits II'**

A four part series of profiles

'Bon Bons & Roses for Dorothy' - playwright Dorothy Hewett (Producer)

'Lighting Fires' - painter Tim Storrier (Producer)

'Lowering the Tone' - performer Robyn Archer (Producer/Director)

'Dead Quick' - writer Peter Corris (Producer)

Featherstone Productions/ABC TV pre-sale

**1992****'Masterpiece'**

(Producer/Director)

A four part series of profiles

'Right Said Fred' - Film maker Fred Schepisi

'Make it New' - sculptor Robert Klippel

'Oondamaroo' - actor Ernie Dingo

'Celebration of the Senses' - writer Eric Rolls

Featherstone Productions/SBS TV commission

**'Fast Forward Exposed'**

(Director)

The making of Fast Forward

Network Seven/Artist Services

**1991****'The Daylight Moon'**

(Producer/Director/Writer)

A one hour profile of the poet Les Murray

Featherstone Productions/ABC TV & LWT pre-sales

**Hindsight****'Billy Tea and Goulash'**

(Director)

A film about the various cultures in Mt. Isa

ABC TV Documentary

**1990****'Tales Of Helpmann'**

(Producer/Director)

A one hour profile of Sir Robert Helpmann

Primetime TV/Featherstone Productions ABC TV & LWT pre-sales

**1989****'Creative Spirits I'**

A six part series of profiles

'Difficult Pleasure' - painter Brett Whiteley (Producer/Director)

'The Wizard from Oz' - jazz virtuoso James Morrison (Producer)

'Astonish Me' - choreographer Graeme Murphy (Producer)

'God or Politics' - Tom Keneally in Eritrea (Producer/Director)

'The Peoples Diva' - opera singer Joan Carden (Producer)

'There's No Time' - composer Peter Sculthorpe (Producer)

Featherstone Productions/ABC TV/LWT pre-sales

**1988****'Dreamtime Machinetime'**

(Producer/Director)

A documentary about Aboriginal literature and art  
 Featherstone Productions/ABC TV/LWT pre-sales

**'Slow Boat From Surabaya'**

(Director)

Documentary series ABC TV/Philip Emanuel Productions

**1987****'Aussies'**

(Director)

Documentary series ABC TV/Philip Emanuel Productions

**1986****'Heal or Hoax'**

(Producer/Director)

A documentary about alternative medicine Ch Seven

**'Beautiful Lies'**

(Producer/Director)

A profile of the writer Peter Carey  
 Featherstone Productions BBCTV/ABCTV pre-sale

**'Babakiueria'**

(Director)

ABC TV Drama

A satire in which the European invasion of Australia is reversed.

**1985****'Countrywide'**

(ABC TV contract Reporter)

**'The Science of Winning'**

(Director)

A film about Sports Science  
 Film Australia commission ABC pre-sale

**'Figures In The Landscape'**

(Producer/Director)

A profile of the painter Arthur Boyd  
 Featherstone Productions ABC TV & LWT pre-sale

**1982-5**

Producer/Director & Studio Director 'The South Bank Show' LWT

'Ed Mc Bain' - Author

'Alan Bleasdale' - Playwright

'Jack Lemmon' - Actor

'John Le Carré' - Writer

'Msislav Rostropovich' - Cellist

'Barry Flanagan' - Sculptor

'Barry Tuckwell' - Musician

'David Hockney' - Painter

'Ivo Pogorelich' - Pianist

'Gospel at Colonus'  
 'Robert Lowell' - Poet  
 'E.R. Gomberich' - The eyes in art  
 'The Arditti String Quartet'  
 'Kipling'  
 'Arts Review of the Year' - Live studio event

**1979 - 1982**

Film & Studio Director  
 'The London Programme' Current Affairs LWT  
 'Erté'  
 A thirty minute documentary about the French costume and set designer.  
 Director/Writer)  
 Southern Television (Tony Palmer Series Producer)

**1978 - 1979**

Film & Studio Director, News and Childrens Programmes  
 BBC TV South

**1977**

'Food For Thought' (10 min. short)  
 BBC TV Documentaries Shepherds Bush  
 (Director/Writer)

**1975 -1977**

Assistant Film Editor  
 BBC TV

**1972-1974**

Assistant film editor & editor TV commercials  
 The Film House Melbourne

**1972**

'Honeysuckle Hill'  
 (Writer/Producer/Director)

**1968-1972**

Swinburne Film & TV school