

Bio – Janet Merewether

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education :

- 2008 **UTS (University of Technology Sydney) – Doctor of Creative Arts DCA**
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences – Media Arts Production
Subject : Innovation in Design and Performance in Hybrid Documentary
- 1988-91 **AFTRS (Australian Film Television and Radio School) BA**
Majoring in Production Design and Directing.
- 1989 **ECOLE SUPERIEURE DES ARTS ET TECHNIQUES, Paris.**
Theatre and Film Production Design.
- 1984-86 **SYDNEY UNIVERSITY (SYDNEY COLLEGE OF THE ARTS) BA**
Majoring in Printmaking, Photomedia and Digital Design.

writer / director / producer - film, documentary & digital media :

- 2022 **O-LYM-PIC – Football Dreams**
HD Feature Documentary - Writer/Director/Producer/Cinematographer
85mins (Screen Culture Pty Limited)
- 2016 **Reindeer in my Saami Heart**
HD Feature Documentary 70mins (Screen Culture Pty Limited) Writer/Director/Producer
Screen Australia
Margaret Mead Film Festival, New York, Nordic Lights Film Festival, Seattle, Arizona Film Festival ,
Tucson, Dungog Film Festival, Ozdox, AFTRS , NSW HSC English curriculum prescribed text.
Theatrical release - Scandinavian Film Festival (Palace Cinemas) Melb, Syd, Canb, Brisbane
AWARDS
NOMINATION - Best Australian Documentary - ATOM awards
NOMINATION - Best Indigenous Resource - ATOM awards
NOMINATION - Best Documentary Script – AWG AWGIE awards
NOMINATION - Margaret Mead Filmmaker award
- 2007 **Maverick Mother**
HD 52mins Hybrid Documentary Writer/Director/Producer/Co-cinematographer
SBSi / FFC / NSWFTO
Taiwan Int'l Documentary Festival TIDF 2008, Int'l Women's Film Festival In Seoul (IWFFIS) 2009, Beldocs
Documentary Festival Belgrade Serbia April 2009, Women Make Waves Taipei 2009, WOW festival 2008,
Dungog Film Festival Australia 2009, Mamapalooza festival 2012.
Broadcast – SBS
AWARDS
WINNER – Audience Award – TIDF Taiwan Int'l Documentary Festival 2008
WINNER – Jury Special Mention – Documentary under 60 minutes
TIDF Taiwan Int'l Documentary Festival 2008
WINNER Best Australian Documentary - ATOM awards 2008

WINNER Best Documentary - Human Interest - ATOM awards 2008
NOMINATION - Best Directing – Documentary – Aust. Directors’ Guild Awards
NOMINATION - Best Editing Documentary – Aust. Screen Editors’ Awards 2008

2005

Jabe Babe – A Heightened Life

HD 52mins Colour & B/W Hybrid Documentary Writer/Director/Producer/Co-cinematographer
SBSi / AFC / New South Wales Film and Television Office
Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane International Film Festivals, Munich Int’l
Film Festival, Boston Underground Film Festival, London Australian Film Festival, Barbican, Input
International Public Television Festival Taipei 2006, DOK Leipzig 2006, Sheffield Int’l Documentary festival
2006, Taiwan Int’l Documentary festival 2006.

Broadcast and Sales – SBS TV and ARTE/ZDF in France/Germany

AWARDS

WINNER – Merit Award – TIDF Taiwan Int’l Documentary Festival 2006

WINNER – AFI Award for Best Directing in Documentary 2005

WINNER – IF Discovery Award for Best Australian Documentary 2005

NOMINATIONS for FCCA (Film Critics’ Circle of Aust) Best Documentary 2005,

AFI Award for Outstanding Craft – Production Design,

AFI Award for Best Australian Documentary 2005.

2004

Palermo - 'History' Standing Still

Video/16mm 11mins B/W Experimental Short **Writer/Director/Editor/Cinematographer**
Brisbane International Film Festival, Melbourne International Film Festival,
New York Film Festival 2004, FIPA Biarritz France 2005, Adelaide Film Festival 2005, Hong Kong
International Film Festival 2005, Tampere Int’l Short Film Festival Finland 2005, EMAF Germany 2005.

Broadcast – ABC Television Australia

AWARDS

WINNER - Dendy Award (General) 2004 Sydney Film Festival

NOMINATION for Atom Award (Best Experimental) 2004

NOMINATION for AFI Award (Best Editing In A Non Feature) 2004

NOMINATION for FCCA Award (Best Australian Short Film) 2004

2004

Knit-Face

Digital Video 30secs **Producer/Director/Animator/Digital design/Editor**

Short video commissioned by ACMI/SBSi as part of the ARTV series.

Australian Culture Now 2004 exhibition at ACMI/National Gallery of Victoria

Selected for exhibition at Ivan Dougherty Gallery April 2005 – ‘Face Value - Video Portraiture from the Pacific’,
‘Heaven On Earth – *Dream On*’ – Hazelhurst Gallery Sydney, 2006, National Portrait Gallery Wellington New
Zealand.

2003

Short Before the Movie

16mm/35mm/Digital Beta 5.5 mins colour mono/Dolby SR Experimental

Producer/Director/Animator/Editor

AWARDS

NOMINATION : Best Experimental Production - 2003 ATOM Awards

EMAF Germany - Internationaler Experimentalfilm Workshop touring program

New Directors New Films – MoMA NY

2001

Contemporary Case Studies

35mm 14 mins colour Dolby Stereo SR Experimental Fiction

Writer/Producer/Director/Rostrum Camera/Editor FTO / Go Girl Productions

Broadcast sales: SBS Television, Sundance Channel USA, RTP Portugal, TVE Spain

COLLECTIONS: National Lending Library Collection

EMAF Germany - Internationaler Experimentalfilm Workshop touring program

International Premiere - New York Film Festival 2001

AWARDS

HIGHLY COMMENDED - Dendy Awards, Sydney Film Festival 2001

WINNER - Platinum Remi Award, Experimental Comedy, Worldfest-Houston, Texas.

**NOMINATION – ATOM (Australian Teachers of Media) Awards - Best Short Film and
Best Experimental Production 2002**

- 1998 **Cheap Blonde**
 16mm (& Beta SP) 5 mins Go Girl Productions Experimental / Media Art
Writer/Director/Editor/Camera/Producer
Broadcast sales : SBS TV
 COLLECTIONS: National Lending Library Collection
 EMAF Germany - Internationaler Experimentalfilm Workshop touring program
AWARDS
WINNER - HONOURABLE MENTION : Ann Arbor Festival USA 1999
- 1996 **Ezi-Babe**
 Interactive Animation
Designer/Director/Animation/Programmer
 Matinaze AGNSW 1995, Melbourne Fringe Festival, 1995, WOW Festival 1995, Experimenta Melbourne 1996, Techné Perth 1996, European Media Arts Festival 1997
- 1995 **Alicia**
 4 mins Digital animation
Director / Designer - SBS 'Babble On' program
 Broadcast sales on SBS TV Babble On, Chicago Int'l.Children's Film/Video Festival 1996
- 1993 **Surplus Government Asset**
 24 mins Documentary essay on the culture and architecture of the Sydney Showground site.
Writer/Director/Producer/Co-cinematographer.
 Aust. Documentary Conference, Sydney 1993, St Kilda Film Festival 1993 – Selected for opening night, Brisbane International Film Festival, 1994
- 1989 **Body Is Dirt & Dipsomania**
 Music videos for Sydney band The Plug Uglies
Director/Designer
 Broadcast - Rage - ABC TV

screenings and presentations include :

Scandinavian Film Festival (Palace Cinemas), Margaret Mead Film Festival, New York, Nordic Lights Film Festival, Seattle, Arizona Film Festival, Tucson, Dungog Film Festival, Ozdox, AFTRS, International Women's Film Festival in Seoul (IWFFIS 2009) (festival guest and panel presentations 2003, 2009)
 Taiwan International Documentary Festival (festival guest 2006, 2008)
 Sheffield International Documentary Festival (festival guest 2006)
 World Congress of Science and Factual Producers, Manchester 2006 (panel presentation)
 Australian Screen Directors' Association (ASDA) Conference 2005 (panel presentation)
 Ozdox Australian Documentary Forum 2005 (panel presentation)
 Berlin Kinematek (presenter and curator of Australian film program)
 Tampere Short Film Festival Finland (presenter and curator of Australian film program)
 Boston University Cinematheque (presenter and curator of Australian film program)
 New York Film Festival 2001 & 2004 (festival guest 2001)
 New Directors New Films – Museum of Modern Art MoMA New York (festival guest 2003)
Other screenings of films in prominent international festivals include:
 London Australian Film Festival, Barbican Theatre London.
 DOK Leipzig Germany, Munich International Film Festival
 Input International Public Television Festival (Taiwan, Canada, Brazil),

design :

Titles design on films including *The Boys, City Loop, The Diplomat, Two Bob Mermaid*
 Production design on films and television including Season 1 – ABC TV *Redesign my Brain*
 Rostrum animation camera on numerous films including *Better Get a Lawyer* by The Cruel Sea

book chapter publication :

Merewether, J. 2003, 'F*ck the Mainstream - Let's Make Art - Women and Experimental Screen Arts in Australia', Chapter in L. French (ed.) *Womenvision – Women and the Moving Image in Australia*, Damned Publishing, Melbourne.

peer reviewed academic journal articles include :

Merewether, J. 2015, "Shaping The Documentary Subject: Writing and visualizing the documentary and media art script" in *JOS Journal of Screenwriting* 6.1, Intellect, pp.89-113

Merewether, J. 2012, "Autobiographical and historical representations of maternal embodiment and the single mother in the hybrid documentary *Maverick Mother*." Expanding Documentary 2011: VIIIth Biennial Conference, Auckland: Vol.1, No. 2, December 2011: Editorial and Peer-Reviewed Papers. Refereed abstracts: G. Peters (ed.) ISSN: 2253-1467. Peer reviewed conference papers: G. Peters (ed.) ISSN: 2253-1475 (digital), pp. 150-161.
<http://www.aut.ac.nz/study-at-aut/study-areas/communications/profile/research/expanding-documentary/conference-proceedings>

Merewether, J. 2011, "Filming Non-Normative Embodiment: Power, Sexuality and Genetic Difference in *Jabe Babe – A Heightened Life*, a Documentary about a Dominatrix with Marfan Syndrome" *Somatechnics* 1.2, Edinburgh University Press, pp. 334-356.

Merewether, J. 2010, "*Maverick Mother – From Social Pariah to Social Progressive*" *Hecate* 36, 1 & 2 University of Queensland, Brisbane, pp. 101-118.

Merewether, J. 2009, "Shaping The Real: Directorial imagination and the visualisation of evidence in the hybrid documentary", *SCAN- Online journal of media arts and culture*, Vol. 6 Number 3, December 2009, Macquarie University, Sydney.
http://scan.net.au/scan/journal/display.php?journal_id=144

academic positions Include :

2018-present **University of Sydney** – Research Associate – Dept. History, SOPHI
2018 **Western Sydney University** – Media academic – Television Production 2
2008-20 **BU - Boston University** (Sydney Campus) - Guest Lecturer, (Documentary and Australian Independent Cinema), Australian Cinema Studies.
2015 **UWS Foundations of Media**
2014 **UNSW Art & Design** Time Based Art
2013 **Sydney College of the Arts – University of Sydney** – Time Based Arts
2011-12 **Macquarie University** - Lecturer – Screen Production, Faculty of Arts, Media.
2004-2010 **Macquarie University** – Faculty of Arts – Department of Media Music & Cultural Studies – Lecturer - Screen Production
1999 - 2006 **UWS - University of Western Sydney** - School of Communication Arts. Lecturer – Directing & video production, Broadcast Design, Photomedia, Screen Media Theory, Honours & PhD Examiner
1997-2002 **AFTRS** - Digital Media Department and Design Department - Short Course Designer and Lecturer / Motion graphics & Film Titles Design.
1993-96 **AFTRS Australian Film TV & Radio School** - Lecturer - Design Department.

Specialist areas: International Documentary, Australian Documentary, Australian Cinema, Experimental Film and Media Art, Documentary Production, Screen Design.

industry participation includes :

- 2012 Awards judge – ADG Australian Directors' Guild Awards, Feature Documentary category
2010 Co-Organiser of the ADG/Ozdox forum 'Australian Documentaries Online' AFTRS
2010 ADG Awards judge – Australian Directors' Guild Awards – Documentary category

retrospective collections, screenings and exhibitions :

- 2022 **Archiving Australian Media Arts**, Swinburne University, research by academics including Leonie Cooper, inclusion of *Ezi-Babe*
- 2021 NFSA National Film and Sound Archive, **Feminist Films Curated Collection**, Inclusion of *Cheap Blonde* in collection of key Australian Feminist Films selected by Kate Matthews.
- 2017 **Red Green Blue: A History of Australian Video Art**
Griffith University Gallery, Brisbane, Queensland, curators Perkins, M and Wilson A., inclusion of *Tourette's Tics* in RED – Everything is Political collection and exhibition
- 2017 **Hazelhurst Regional Gallery**, Sydney, *Reindeer in my Saami Heart* screening, Q&A
- 2016 **Femflix – Feminist Screen Culture from the 90s**, *Cheap Blonde* included in exhibition and retrospective curated by Dr Jacqueline Millner, Jane Schneider and Deborah Szapiro, Sydney College of the Arts Gallery, The University of Sydney
- 2015 **Scanlines – Four Decades of Australian New Media Art** curated by DLux Media Arts, *Short before the Movie* included in 2014-2016 touring exhibitions at:
Artspace McKay Qld, Tamworth Regional Gallery NSW, Western Plains Cultural Centre NSW, Kickarts Cairns Qld, Riddoch Art Gallery SA, Logan Art Gallery Qld, Burnie Regional Gallery Tasmania, Toowoomba Regional Art Gallery, Qld, Deakin University Art Gallery Victoria, Orange Regional Art Gallery NSW, Lake Macquarie City Art Gallery NSW, Grace Cossington Smith Gallery Sydney.
- 2003 **Women Make Waves Festival Taipei** - Screening of eight short film/videos by Janet Merewether from 1992-2003. Janet also gave a paper at festival's academic conference, on the subject of women film directors in Australia.
- 2002 **Berlin – Eye For Idea Program 2 – Janet Merewether**
A programme of Janet Merewether's experimental films and video art. Berlin Kinemathek, Arsenal Cinema, Potsdamer Platz, March 26, 2002.
(PRESENTED BY: FREUNDE DER DEUTSCHEN KINEMATHEK, BERLIN).
- 2001 **Boston Cinematheque USA** - Retrospective of films by Janet Merewether
- 1993 **Animated Moments** - Sydney Intermedia Network's curated programme of the short works of Janet Merewether and Kathy Smith - Chauvel Cinema