

Toni Houston

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PROFESSIONAL/TRAINING

Ongoing:

CREATIVE DIRECTOR – Toni Houston Media & Project Life Story

Multi media production company specializing in social documentary, natural history and privately commissioned life stories.

2019:

SCRIPTWRITER & ASSOCIATE PRODUCER – Wildest Places

12 x 1 hr documentary series on various geographical locations around the world. Produced by Brisbane-based TV production company WildBear Entertainment, for international distributor Back Catalogue Distribution Limited, Gloucester. Executive Producer: Veronica Fury. Series Producer: Sky Kinninmont.

2017 – 2019:

WRITER, EDITOR & PRODUCER – Ocean Ark Alliance & Plankton Productions

Collaboration with Emmy award-winning marine cinematographer and producer David Hannan. Various project development for Ocean Ark Alliance, Protect Malpelo initiative & Coral Sea Dreaming Ocean Channel.

<http://www.oceanarkalliance.org.au>

<http://www.protectmalpelo.org>

<http://www.coralseadreaming.com>

2017:

DIRECTOR, PRODUCER, EDITOR & CAMERA – Compass, ABC TV

27min version of feature documentary Being Change, as acquisition commissioned by ABC's primetime program Compass. Series producer: Jessica Douglas-Henry. Airdate: May 6, 2017. Viewership = 170,000+ metro centres (Syd, Melb, Bris, Adelaide, Perth) and 5,000+ Iview plays. <http://www.abc.net.au/compass/s4656289.htm>

CO-PRODUCER & CAMERA – Australian Story, ABC TV

Special NAIDOC episode – The Peacemaker – featuring the life story of Uncle Ossie Cruse, notable Yuin Aboriginal elder of Eden, NSW. Culmination of three years independent filming, commissioned by ABC's premiere bio-pic program. Co-producer: Kent Gordon. Series producer: Deb Masters. Airdate: July 3, 2017. Viewership = 600,000+ metro centres (Syd, Melb, Bris, Adelaide, Perth) and 8,000+ Iview plays.

<http://www.abc.net.au/austory/content/2017/s4680646.htm>

2016:

DIRECTOR, PRODUCER, EDITOR & CAMERA – Being Change

71min feature documentary chronicling the life, work and legacy of Australian conservationist, philanthropist and visionary Alexandra Seddon. Cinema premiere at The Picture Show Man, Merimbula NSW, in Nov 2016. Touring and festivals 2016/2017 including US and Canada.

JOURNALIST (part-time) – Eden Magnet Newspaper, Fairfax Regional Press

Feature, news, community and entertainment writing, including special editions. Awarded 'Best Local News Reporting', 2016 Country Press NSW Inc.

2013:

CINEMATOGRAPHER/EDITOR - PRICE'S CAFE EXHIBITION

Multi-media exhibition commissioned by South East Arts. Featured in the 2013 Eurobodalla "River of Art" festival and Eden Whale Festival, and toured nationally.

CINEMATOGRAPHER/EDITOR – The Garden Project

Multi camera coverage and DVD production/sales of a contemporary theatre production by fLiNG Physical Theatre, Bega, involving 150 performers.

COPY-WRITER - OCEAN ARK ALLIANCE

Web based affiliation of ocean conservationists and filmmakers. Producer: David Hannan.

2012:

WRITER/RESEARCHER - Sapphire Coast Tourism

"Cultural Heritage Project" chronicling 'iconic' marine stories of the Sapphire Coast, for tourism and web publication. Project officers: Gordon Beattie & Jenny Robb (Sapphire Coast Marine Discovery Centre).

JOURNALIST (casual) - Merimbula News Weekly

Rural Press weekly newspaper for the Merimbula/Pambula/Tura region of the Bega Valley Shire.

CINEMATOGRAPHER/EDITOR - fLiNG Youth Festival show

Shoot and edit of various fLiNG theatrical performances for the Australian and Singapore Youth Festivals. Director/choreographer: Lee Pemberton

2011:

EDITOR - fLiNG 10 Anniversary Commemorative Show

Edit of archival material for retrospective work covering 10 years of theatre production, released as a 1 hr multi-media show. Commissioned by South East Arts/Andrew Gray.
Director/choreographer: Lee Pemberton

2009/2010:

DIRECTOR/EDITOR/WRITER - "AQUA"

Theatrical multi-media project re Great Barrier Reef. Endorsed by the Australian Marine Conservation Society, the World Wildlife Fund, and the Honorable Dr Mike Kelly (Minister of Parliament). A short preview edition (24 mins) was accepted to screen during the United Nations COP15 Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen, Dec 2009 - the only Australian event included in the Official Cultural Program. Prior to COP15 it premiered in Australia at Canberra's Parliament House, on the eve of the ETS announcement in Nov 2009. In attendance was press and public, as well as various MPs including Senator Bob Brown. Extensive publicity incl' ABC TV national news and ABC radio stations nationwide. In March 2010 a local launch at the Picture Show Man Cinema (Merimbula, NSW) necessitated 3 matinees attended by over 500 school children, plus an evening show. Also invited as main billing for the Milton Environmental Festival, Sept 2010. Producer: Bettina Richter.

2009:

SCRIPT WRITER - "CORAL SEA DREAMING - Awaken"

High Definition remake of the multi award winning "Coral Sea Dreaming", the original of which was the highest grossing underwater film in Australian history. 7 years in the making, featuring the marine library of Emmy Award winner, David Hannan. US distribution: Speciality Studios.
Producer/cinematographer: David Hannan.

2008/09:

SCRIPT WRITER/EDITOR - "UNDERWATER EDENS"

Two episodes of a six part series produced by the Smithsonian Channel, USA.
Winner, "Best Series", International Wildlife Film Festival, USA (2010). Also Merit Awards for Educational Value, Ecosystem, Underwater Cinematography & Animal Behaviour. Executive Producer: Nathaniel Scripture

DIRECTOR/CINEMATOGRAPHER/EDITOR - "MELT"

Cinematic display for release of jazz album "MELT", for live multi-media performances and retail sale. Stock footage from my video library with Nat Geo LEX. Singer/songwriter: Corinne Gibbons.

2005:

DIRECTOR/EDITOR/WRITER/NARRATOR - "ANTARCTICA DREAMING"

The first High Definition, feature length film about Antarctica. Produced by David Hannan Productions and Pro-Cam Australia. USA distribution for home-DVD market.

2004:

WRITER/CINEMATOGRAPHER/EDITOR/PRODUCER/NARRATOR:

Corporate DVD commissioned by the luxury jet travel company, TCS Expeditions. Filming conducted over 3 week journey entitled "Empires & Explorers", in various locations including Bhutan, India, Mali, Zambia, Namibia, Maldives and Canary Islands.

2001 – 2005:

VIDEO CHRONICLER – NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC LINDBLAD EXPLORER

Filming, writing, narrating, editing, sound recording and fully producing 45-60 min docos every 7-10 days, chronicling worldwide ship-based eco-tourist expeditions.

1998:

DIRECTOR - "ATLANTA'S CHILD"

1 hr documentary special, pre-sold to "World Around Us", Channel 7, Australia. Producers: G. Steer & T. Dalton (Wild Visuals). International TV distribution.

2nd UNIT DIRECTOR & RESEARCHER - ABC NATURAL HISTORY UNIT

4 x 1 hr ABC Natural History special TV series, "Eye of the Storm". Executive Producer: Dione Gilmour

1997:

ASSOCIATE PRODUCER & RESEARCHER - "GOOD MEDICINE"

Prime-time TV series chronicling cutting-edge medical and cosmetic procedures. Hosted by Simon Reeve. Nine Network, Australia. Executive Producer: Dan Meehan.

WRITER/SEGMENT PRODUCER - "REAL TV"

Prime-time TV series, Nine Network, Australia. Executive Producer: Peter Meakin

1996:

SEGMENT PRODUCER/PRESENTER - "WORLD OF WATER"

Surfing & marine TV series, Ten Network, Australia. FOXTEL release to 110 countries worldwide.

1995:

SCRIPT WRITER - "EYE ON THE REEF"

Natural History documentary special. Presales to Nova PBS, USA, Channel 7. Producers: David Hannan & Sunburnt Pictures. Director: Tina Dalton.

HEAD RESEARCHER - "THE ADVENTURES OF THE QUEST"

13 x 1 hr TV series, developed in association with Beyond International & Discovery Channel USA. Producers: Andrew Wight & Michael Caulfield. Director: Liz Wight.

1994:

RESEARCHER - "UNDERWATER DISCOVERIES"

4 x 1 hr underwater natural-history/adventure documentary series. Produced by Beyond International. Released: USA & Europe Discovery Channels and TCN9, Australia. Involved solo 4 wk research assignment to Cuba during 'Special Period'. Producers: Andrew Wight & Michael Caulfield. Director: Liz Wight.

1993:

RESEARCHER - "THE AUSTRALIAN GEOGRAPHIC TV SHOW"

13 x 1 hr magazine style TV series, co-produced by Dick Smith. Pre-sales to Channel 7 (prime-time). Main researcher for Dick Smith. Series cancelled before going to air.

1990:

RESEARCHER & CAMERA ASSISTANT: DAVID HANNAN PRODUCTIONS

Emmy award winning natural-history documentary company, Townsville, Australia. Extensive research & filming trips throughout the Great Barrier Reef and Coral Sea.

EDUCATION

1999

MA DOCUMENTARY - The Australian Film Television & Radio School, AUS.

Pre-eminent Aus' film & TV school. Director/writer/producer of various works. Major production - "Making Sense" - screened in various festivals & 2001 finalist in the Australian Film Institute "ATOM" Awards (Best Short-Form Documentary category), and winner of the NSW Australian Cinematography Society (ACS) award.

1997

DIPLOMA (Freelance Journalism) - Australian College of Journalism, AUS.

1993

SCREENWRITERS COURSE - The National Film & Television School, UK.

One of 12 selected from worldwide applications. Youngest successful applicant. Intensive short course for the development of a feature length fiction screenplay, and British TV/film industry experience.

1992

WRITING SPECIALISATION - The Victorian College of the Arts, AUS.

Only writer accepted. First year of a 3 year diploma course, deferred to attend interview at the National Film & Television School, UK.

1991

GRAD' DIPLOMA (Film/TV) - The Swinburne Institute of Technology, AUS.

Youngest successful applicant. Writing, producing, directing and editing of 4 fictional dramas of various lengths. Major production - "Fall from Grace" - screened at the State Film Centre, nominated "Best Director".

1988

Higher school (Yr 12) certificate: Narrabundah College, ACT, AUS.

Year 12 Graduation Certificate. Tertiary Entrance Score: 715 (top 2.4% in state)

PUBLICATIONS/AWARDS

2014

"PRIDE" – official inclusion in the Longlist (top 389 stories from 1,560 submitted), Fish Short Story Prize, Ireland. High profile, international short story competition.

HARDCOPY Manuscript Development Program

One of 30 writers nationwide offered a place in the high profile "Hardcopy" manuscript development program, run by the ACT Writers Centre, for novel Ship Shaped.

2013

"CHECK OUT" – Highly Commended, Peter Cowan Writer's Festival.

2011

"JETTY'S STORY", From the Heart - publication by the Animal Welfare League, NSW.

2008

Varuna/HarperCollins Manuscript Development Scheme (Ship Shaped = novel)

Shortlisted to the top 18 Australian writers for consideration by HarperCollins.

2004

"THE IGNITION", RAWnerVE - Poetry publication, Canada.

"SUNDAY EVENING", Lynx - Poetry publication, NZ.

"CRYSTALS", Stylus - Poetry publication, Australia/NZ.

2003

"Finding the Face of the Seattle Writing Scene" - Newswrite, NSW Writer's Association.

1999

"WHITE RABBIT" - 2nd Prize, Animalia Literary Awards, Australia.

1998

"THE LOST CITY" - 1st Prize, 1998 Nature Writing Competition, Australia.

1997

"THE ART OF TRACKING" - Terre Sauvage (France) & Teva Hadvarim (Israel).

1995/96

Various feature sections, Readers Digest Animal Encyclopedia

1995

"CUBA - BENEATH THE SURFACE", Sportdiving Magazine (Oct edition)

1992

"GLASSHOUSES", The Australian Writers Journal (Mandurah, WA)

"GODS OF GAS", Imago Literary Magazine (Brisbane, Qld)

1988

"GRACE", The Canberra Times - 1st Prize: Short Story Comp', Senior School's Section

"THE COVER", Redoubt - Produced by the Canberra College of Advanced Education

"CHALK", Redoubt - Produced by the Canberra College of Advanced Education

"THE BRIDGE", The Art of the Story – ABC/ABA Anthology

1987

"THE VICTIM", The Canberra Times - 1st Prize: Short Story Comp', S S's section

"THE BRIDGE", The Canberra Times - James McCusker Award: same competition

ADDITIONAL COURSES/QUALIFICATIONS

September-October '98 - "The Writer's Journey"

Intensive 8 wk short story development course, Bondi Writer's Studio.

September-October '97 - "Script-Writing Course"

Charles Sturt/TCN9 initiative. 80+ applicants, 15 positions. Formal lectures and script development in various disciplines incl' info-tainment, News & Current Affairs.

October-November 1997 - "Breakthrough Writing"

Intensive 10 wk short story development course, Bondi Writer's Studio.

July-December 1997 - French Intermediate

Institute of Languages, The University of NSW (casual)

March-November '96 - University Preparation Course: Philosophy

Centre of Continuing Education, Sydney University (casual)

June '96 - Full time Pre-Sea Course, deck-hand qualification

Northern Beaches College of Tafe, Brookvale Campus

ADDITIONAL SKILLS

Editor (Final Cut Pro), cinematographer (HDV), production assistant, voice over, stills photographer, touch typist, environmental researcher and campaigner (marine), copy writer, Advanced Scuba Diver (NAUI) and Rescue Diver (PADI), fire breathing.

REFEREES

DAVID HANNAN – Ocean Ark Alliance/Plankton Productions: Ph: + 61 (0) 409 233 868

BEN SMYTH - Editor, Fairfax Regional Press. +61 2 64 921177

TREY BYUS - Chief of Staff, Nat' Geo' Lindblad Expeditions USA. Ph: +1 206 403 1553