

# Toni Houston

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## PROFESSIONAL/TRAINING

Present

**CONTENT PRODUCER & EDITOR – Ocean Ark Alliance**

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

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

<http://www.protectmalpelo.org>

<http://www.coralseadreaming.com>

**CREATIVE DIRECTOR – Toni Houston Media & Project Life Story**

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

2017

**CO-PRODUCER & CAMERA – Australian Story, ABC TV**

Special NAIDOC week 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>

**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>

2016

**DIRECTOR, PRODUCER, EDITOR & CAMERA – Being Change**

71min feature documentary about the life, work and legacy of Australian conservationist, philanthropist and visionary, Alexandra Seddon. Cinema premiere at The Picture Show Man, Merimbula NSW, November 2016. Touring & festivals 2016/2017.

**JOURNALIST – Fairfax Media**

Permanent Part-Time journalist Eden Magnet Newspaper, Fairfax media. Also casual engagement for Merimbula News Weekly and Bega District News, writing and photographing for special editions, features, news and social events.

<http://www.edenmagnet.com.au>

2014/15

**PRODUCER, DIRECTOR & EDITOR – Project Life Story**

Various privately commissioned life-story documentaries, for private use.

2013

**CINEMATOGRAPHER & EDITOR – Price's Café Exhibition**

Commissioned by South East Arts, this multi media exhibition re-creates Price's Cafe, which operated in Moruya from the 1950s to 1980s. Particular focus was its unique patronage of local Aboriginal people, at a time of widespread racial discrimination. The exhibition 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](http://www.flingphysicaltheatre.com.au), Bega, involving 150 performers.

**COPYWRITER – Ocean Ark Alliance**

Web based affiliation of ocean conservationists and filmmakers. Producer: David Hannan. <http://www.oceanarkalliance.org.au/>

2012

**WRITER & RESEARCHER - Sapphire Coast Tourism**

Commissioned as part of a regional Cultural Heritage Project to research/write 'iconic' stories about the marine ecosystem of the Sapphire Coast, for tourism and web publication. Project officers: Gordon Beattie and Jenny Robb. The material can be viewed on the Sapphire Coast Tourism site under Meeting of the Waters:

<http://www.sapphirecoast.com.au/tales-trails/meeting-of-the-waters/>

**JOURNALIST (casual) - Merimbula News Weekly**

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

**EDITOR (part time) - Plankton Productions**

Marine & polar vision for international corporate sales. Producer: David Hannan

**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 to accompany live dance performance featuring physical theatre company 'fLing'. A 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

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.  
Producer: Bettina Richter.  
<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2009-11-24/politicians-get-sneak-peek-at-climate-change-doco/1154312>  
<http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/breakfast/aqua-film-picked-for-unprogram/3081838>

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/editor: 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

2008/09

**DIRECTOR, CINEMATOGRAPHER & EDITOR – Melt**

45 mins screen time edited to 10 songs for DVD/CD release of jazz album Melt, for live multi-media performances and retail sale. Footage is drawn from my library as cinematographer with Lindblad Expeditions. Singer/songwriter: Corinne Gibbons.  
<http://www.corinnegibbons.com/>

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, with 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. Locations include Antarctica, Arctic, Med, Galapagos, Atlantic, British Isles & Baja.  
<http://www.expeditions.com>

1998

**DIRECTOR – Atlanta's Child**

1 hour documentary special, pre-sold to World Around Us, Channel 7, Australia. Chronicling the life of a young girl raised on a yacht, footage spanning 16 years. 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**

TV series, Ten Network, Australia. FOXTEL release to 110 countries worldwide. Feature stories on ocean-related issues, conservation orgs' and sports – from the anti-whaling efforts of Greenpeace through to surfing legend Taj Burrows.

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.

**DELEGATE – Edinburgh International Film Festival**

Edinburgh, England. Selected to represent the National Film & Television School, UK.

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  
Pre-eminent Australian film & TV school. Director/writer/producer of various works.  
Major production - Making Sense – screened in various festivals and was a 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

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) - 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

HARDCOPY Manuscript Development Program

One of 30 writers nation wide, offered a place in the high profile Hardcopy  
Manuscript Development Program, run by the ACT Writers Centre, for novel Ship  
Shaped. <http://www.tonihoustonmedia.com/hardcopy.pdf>

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

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 & Premier), voice over, stills photographer, touch typist, environmental researcher and campaigner (marine), copywriter, Advanced Scuba Diver (NAUI) and Rescue Diver (PADI), fire breathing, mother of two.

## REFEREES

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