



**MADMAN**



## **HIGH GROUND**

DIRECTED BY **STEPHEN JOHNSON**

RELEASE DATE **TBC**

RUNNING TIME **1 HOUR 45 MINS**

RATED **TBC**

**MADMAN ENTERTAINMENT PUBLICITY CONTACT:**

Harriet Dixon-Smith - [harriet@nixco.com.au](mailto:harriet@nixco.com.au)

Lydia Debus - [lydia@madman.com.au](mailto:lydia@madman.com.au)

<https://www.madmanfilms.com.au>

## **TAGLINE**

In a bid to save the last of his family, Gutjuk, a young Aboriginal man teams up with ex-soldier Travis to track down Baywara, the most dangerous warrior in the Territory, his Uncle.

## **SYNOPSIS**

Northern Territory, Australia 1919.

The Great War is over, the men have returned home. Many return to their normal lives in the cities in the south, others are drawn to the vast open spaces of the North. A sparsely populated wild frontier.

They hunt buffalo, they hunt crocodile, and those that can join the overstretched Police service. Travis and Ambrose are two such men. A former sniper, Travis has seen the very worst of humanity and the only thing that keeps him on track is his code of honour, tested to its limit when a botched police operation results in the massacre of an Indigenous tribe.

Travis saves a terrified young boy named Gutjuk from the massacre. He takes him to the safety of a Christian mission but unable to deal with the ensuing cover up, Travis leaves his police outpost and disappears into the bush.

Twelve years later, 18-year-old Gutjuk hears news of the 'wild mob' – a renegade group of Indigenous warriors causing havoc along the frontier attacking and burning cattle stations, killing settlers. It's said their leader is Gutjuk's uncle, Baywara thought to be a survivor of the massacre.

Ambrose finds Travis and brings him back to the mission to clear up the mess and Travis enlists Gutjuk to help him track down the Wild Mob.

As Travis and Gutjuk journey through the outback they begin to earn each other's trust but are betrayed by Ambrose who is coming after them, hunting them. When Travis and Gutjuk are with the Wild Mob Ambrose and his men attack, and Wild Mob are decimated, but not before Gutjuk learns that Travis is the man responsible for the massacre of his family.

Gutjuk now leads what's left of the mob and determined on revenge he heads back to the mission intent on burning the place down and taking Travis' life.

## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

At the heart of HIGH GROUND is the tragic story of Frontier encounters and the missed opportunity between two cultures. HIGH GROUND was conceived as a story that would challenge accepted notions of Australia's settlement. Faced with the myth of terra nullius the aim with the film is to present a different perspective on how this country was formed. It explores themes of identity and culture and the attempts that were made to preserve and progress culture in the face of an overwhelming threat.

HIGH GROUND is a story with mythic proportions, with complexity and no easy answers. This story presents the view that there really is no such thing as 'settlement' it's all about conquest and HIGH GROUND exposes the shameful truth of Australia's history. Rather than dramatizing a single historical event HIGH GROUND draws on stories from a variety of locations, a fiction to illustrate a deeper truth.

HIGH GROUND is a human drama, instilled with a strong sense of hope. It's a story of fear, treachery, heroism, sacrifice, freedom and love, misguided beliefs, an unequal struggle for power, and grief. But above all it is a story about redemption and the finding of one's roots.

My aim has been to entertain and immerse an audience in an environment teeming with unexpected threats, and to take them on a ride through an aspect of Australia's history that is under-represented, hopefully encouraging them to rethink the Australian story.

## ABOUT THE CAST

### **Simon Baker, as Travis**

Australian actor and director Simon Baker is known to audiences around the world for his performances in film and television. His film credits include the 1997 Academy award winning film *L.A. Confidential*, *The Devil Wear Prada* and *Margin Call*. Baker won international acclaim in the television series *The Mentalist* which played in over 130 countries and garnered him best actor nominations for the Screen Actors Guild (SAG), Emmy, and Golden Globe awards.

His award-winning directorial debut *BREATH*, the film adaptation of Tim Winton's best-selling novel, screened at multiple international film festivals. It won Baker Best Director at Australia's DGA awards and received 9 AACTA (Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts) nominations. Baker himself received 4 nominations; Best Film, Best Director, Best Adapted Screenplay, and won for Best Supporting Actor. *BREATH* also received nominations across all categories at the 2019 Film Critics Circle of Australia Awards, winning Best Screenplay, Best Cinematography, Best Editing and Best Supporting Actor for Baker.

He was invited to join the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences in 2012, and in 2013 Baker was honoured with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame for his contribution to the entertainment industry. He has been involved with a number of charity organisations, including RUOK?, WEAVE and the Australian Marine Conservation Society. He currently resides in Australia with his wife Rebecca Rigg and their children.

### **Jacob Junior Nayinggul, as Gutjuk**

Jacob Junior's father passed away early in his life and he was raised by his uncles, the strong Nayinggul family. His grandfather, the late great Jacob Nayinggul was a powerful leader of his family and his community.

HIGH GROUND is Jacob's first on screen role.

Jacob lives and works as a ranger in the Gunbalanya Community in East Arnhem Land and his Uncle Alfred Nayinggul is an executive producer on HIGH GROUND having negotiated permissions for filming on protected Aboriginal country.

The Nayinggul family are heavily involved in the repatriation of artifacts and human remains, to their ancestral homes, to enable the past to be re-settled.

When you work with Jacob, you work with his family and community, and the history of his clan, this is a powerful aspect of working in collaboration with First Nations Indigenous Australians.

HIGH GROUND is filmed, in part, on Nayinggul country and this is an important dimension to working with Jacob.

### **Jack Thompson, as Moran**

One of Australia's most loved and respected actors, Jack Thompson has appeared in numerous Australian and American films including the classic SUNDAY TOO FAR AWAY (1975), THE CHANT OF JIMMY BLACKSMITH (1978), BREAKER MORANT (1980), - which won him and Australian Film Institute award for Best Actor in a leading role, and an award for Best Supporting Actor at the Cannes International Film Festival, THE MAN FROM SNOWY RIVER (1982), MERRY CHRISTMAS MR. LAWRENCE (1983), THE SUM OF US (1994), MIDNIGHT IN THE GARDEN OF GOOD AND EVIL (1997), THE GOOD GERMAN (2006), LEATHERHEADS (2007), AUSTRALIA, MAO'S LAST DANCER (2008), DON'T BE AFRAID OF THE DARK (2009) and THE GREAT GATSBY (2012).

In 1994, Jack Thompson was awarded the Raymond Longford award by the Australian Film Institute for his outstanding contribution to Australian cinema, and in 2009 was awarded the Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers (SMPTE) Lifetime Achievement Award for services to Australian Film and Television.

### **Callan Mulvey, as Ambrose**

Callan Mulvey is one of Australia's leading actors. Callan is best known for his leading roles in the television series *Rush*, *Bikie Wars: Brothers in Arms*, and *Underbelly*, as well as Darren Ashton's feature film *Thunderstruck*. Callan first graced Australian screens in the hugely successful series *Heartbreak High*, as well as *Head Start* and *McLeod's Daughters*.

Callan, now firmly established internationally, made his American film debut in Katherine Bigelow's *Zero Dark Thirty*. His additional film credits include Scyllias in *300: Rise of an Empire*, Captain America: *The Winter Soldier*, he was part of an all-star ensemble cast for the critically acclaimed film *The Turning*, as well as starring opposite Katie Holmes in *Miss Meadows*, and opposite Sullivan Stapleton, Simon Pegg

and Teresa Palmer in Kriv Stenders' crime thriller *Kill Me Three Times*. Callan recently played Lord John Comyn in David Mackenzie's *Outlaw King*. In 2019, Callan will star opposite Eva Green, Marton Csokas, and Eve Hewson, in BBC/Working Title mini-series *The Luminaries*.

### **Witiyana Marika, as Dharrpa**

Producer/Actor Witiyana Marika who plays Grandfather Dharrpa is a Yolngu man, a senior member of the Rirratjingu Clan based in Yirrkala, North East Arnhem Land, a ceremonial leader and teacher for his clan and community. Witiyana is from the Marika family, his father is the late Rirratjingu Clan leader Roy Dadaynga Marika (MBE).

Extraordinarily, with Witiyana playing the important role of Grandfather Dharrpa his family gave permission for a very sacred 'dilly bag' to be utilised by his character. Recognition of this in the HIGH GROUND credits reads:

Giving thanks to landowners Mawalan Marika, Mathaman Marika, Milirrpum Marika, Dhungala Marika and Dadaynga 'Roy' Marika, for allowing use of the Title Deed of the Madayin system the sacred Dhulma Mulka, memorial of Dhurryurrngu Marika

Witiyana is a co-founder of the band Yothu Yindi alongside the late Dr M Yunupingu to whom there is a dedication in the HIGH GROUND closing credits. Yothu Yindi, formed in the early 1990's are most famous for 'Treaty' with music video made by HIGH GROUND Director/Producer Stephen Maxwell Johnson. The band toured the world in their heyday and are still performing in the iteration of the Yothu Yindi Project.

Treaty was the first rock song in an Indigenous Australian language to gain widespread attention and became Australia's unofficial anthem for the reconciliation movement: "Now two rivers run their course, separated for so long. I'm dreaming of a brighter day when the waters will be one." Composed in collaboration with Paul Kelly and Midnight Oil, Treaty protested the lack of action taken by then Prime Minister Bob Hawke's on his 1988 promise of a treaty with Indigenous Australia. In December 2012 Witiyana Marika and Yothu Yindi were inducted into Australia's ARIA Hall of Fame.

### **Esmerelda Marimowa, as Gulwirri**

This is Esmerelda's first on-screen role. Esmerelda lives at Cannon Hill, protected Aboriginal country under the jurisdiction of Australia's iconic Kakadu National Park. Special permission for HIGH GROUND to be filmed, in part, in and around Cannon Hill was negotiated with Cannon Hill Traditional Owner Jonathan Nadji.

Esmerelda felt a great responsibility while filming HIGH GROUND to represent her people and her community with strength and integrity, especially speaking on-screen in Kunwinggu, the language of her people.

### **Aaron Pedersen, as Walter**

Aaron Pedersen recent shows include Foxtel's *A Place to Call Home*, *Blue Murder 2: Killer Cop* for the Seven Network, Stephen McCallum's *1%* and Damien Power's *Killing Ground* which premiered at the 2016 Melbourne International Film Festival and screened at the 2017 Sundance Film Festival. Aaron starred in Ivan Sen's *Goldstone*, which opened the 2016 Sydney Film Festival and premiered at the 2016 Toronto International Film Festival. Aaron received a Film Critics Circle of Australia Award for Best Actor for his role in the film. He also appeared the *Jack Irish* miniseries and Stephen Pages' *Spear* which had its world premiere at the 2015 Toronto International Film Festival.

Aaron transitioned into acting, after initially training as a journalist at the ABC. Through his work on *Wildside*, *Water Rate*, *MDA*, *Territorians*, *Grassroots*, *Queen of Hearts*, *Black Jack*, *East West 101* and *The Secret Life of Us*, Aaron has been able to champion the changing on-screen representation of Indigenous people in Australia.

Aaron Pedersen was the lead in Ivan Sen's feature *Mystery Road*. He was also an Associate Producer. *Mystery Road*. premiered at a Special Presentation at the 2013 Toronto International Film Festival. Aaron received the Australian Film Critics Association, Film Critics Circle of Australia and Rolling Stone Australia Award for Best Actor for his role in the film. His other film credits include Chris Fitchett's *The Fear of Darkness*, Warwick Thornton's *The Darkside*, Suri Krishnamma's *Bad Karma* with Ray Liotta and Dominic Purcell, *Dead Heart*, *Saturday Night*, *Grange*, *Unfinished Business*, *Mimi*, and *Mirror Images*.

### **Caren Pistorius, as Claire**

Caren appeared in *Gloria Bell*, a reimagining of Sebastian Lelio's 2013 film of the same name, starring opposite Julianne Moore, *Mortal Engines* directed by Christian Rivers, and *Cargo* which premiered at the 2017 Adelaide Film Festival. Her other film credits include Mick Jackson's feature film *Denial*, which premiered at 2017 Toronto Film Festival, John Maclean's feature *Slow West* opposite Michael Fassbender, which premiered at the 2015 Sundance Film Festival and Derek Cianfrance's *Light Between Ocean's*. She made her feature film debut in *The Most Fun You Have Dying*.

Caren's television credits include *Wake in Fright* for Network Ten, the popular drama series *Offspring*, the critically acclaimed *Redfern Now*, *Paper Giants 2: Magazine Wars*, *The Blue Rose*, and the Disney series, *Legend of the Seeker*. Caren received a Silver Logie Award nomination for Most Popular New Talent and a Graham Kennedy Award nomination for Most Outstanding Newcomer at the 2014 Logie Awards. Caren Pistorius starred opposite Russell Crowe in the 2020 feature film *Unhinged*.

### **Ryan Corr, as Father Braddock**

Ryan Corr's latest acting work includes key roles in Stan Original Series *The Commons*, Channel Ten's *The Secrets She Keeps* (Lingo Pictures) and SBS original drama *Hungry Ghosts*. Ryan recently played the lead role in Maziar Lahooti's debut feature film *Below*, opposite Anthony LaPaglia, which premiered at the 2019 Melbourne International Film Festival.

He played Rudi in Bruce Beresford's period drama *Ladies in Black*, based on Madeleine St John's 1993 best-selling Australian novel 'The Women in Black'. For his portrayal of this well-loved role, Ryan received a Best Supporting Actor nomination at the 2019 Australian Film Critics Awards and starred in Stan's gripping six-part drama, *Bloom*. Ryan was nominated for a 2018 AACTA Award for his lead role in

*1%* (renamed *Outlaws*), which premiered in the Discovery section of the Toronto International Film Festival. Other recent features include *Mary Magdalene*, from renowned director Garth Davis.

His portrayal of Tim Conigrave in Neil Armfield's adaptation of the book  *Holding the Man*  earned him nominations for Best Actor at the 2016 AACTA Awards and Australia's Film Critics' Circle Awards. Previous film credits include the award-winning *Hacksaw Ridge*, from director Mel Gibson; *The Water Diviner*, under the direction of Russell Crowe; *Ali's Wedding* and *A Few Less Men*.

## **ABOUT THE CAST PRODUCER NOTES**

### **The Film**

HIGH GROUND is a gripping period drama set during Australia's resistance wars in a glorious primordial landscape, driven by a narrative where the hunter becomes hunted. It takes us inside a remote and exotic world at a time of transition between the ancient and the new.

### **Financing & Distribution**

HIGH GROUND was financed by investments from Screen Australia, Film Victoria, the Northern Territory Government via Screen Territory, Fulcrum Media Finance and private investment.

Our Australian distributor is Madman Entertainment and international Sales Agent is Playtime. Samuel Goldwyn has purchased the North American rights.

### **The Production Process**

HIGH GROUND had a highly experienced team to undertake a complex outback production in remote Aboriginal country teaming with crocodiles. HIGH GROUND delivers beautiful and epic landscape at its very best. Key locations are the stone and floodplain country around the East Alligator River near Gunbalanya (Oenpelli) where we built our period sets amongst the horses, buffaloes, cattle, snakes and crocodiles, and the glorious Cannon Hill and Gunlom Falls in World Heritage listed Kakadu National Park. Director Stephen Maxwell Johnson spent his formative years living in the Northern Territory where traditional Aboriginal culture and language are still strong. Stephen has long standing close ties with the Yolgnu and Bininj Aboriginal communities in Arnhem Land and Kakadu National Park and has worked extensively throughout the region.

Producer and actor Witiyana Marika is a respected Rirratjingu (Yolngu) ceremonial leader. Witiyana was also Senior Cultural Advisor on the film, negotiating the nuanced and complex cultural elements and relationships between the different Indigenous clans who came together to work on different lands. Cannon Hill Traditional Owner Jonathan Nadji (son of the late Big Bill Neidjie) and Arnhem Land Traditional Owner Alfred Nayinggul (son of the late Jacob Nayinggul), Traditional Owners Ryan Barrowei and Bessie Coleman of the Jawoyn are all Executive Producers. It is important to note also, that Stephen and Witiyana worked closely with their friend the late Dr M. Yunupingu on the script and the evolution of the project. Dr M. Yunupingu (Australian of the Year 1992) and Witiyana Marika were co-founders of the breakout Indigenous rock band Youth Yindi, most famous for their song Treaty, the film clip for

which was created by Stephen. The sound design for HIGH GROUND includes traditional songs from Yolngu singers including Witiyana Marika and his son Yirmal Marika.

All Traditional Owners of the land on which HIGH GROUND was filmed gave their blessing for the film and provided unprecedented access to country. On request of the Jawoyn the Kakadu National Park management closed tourist access to one of its key attractions the stunning Gunlom Falls for the filming of key scenes. Many local Aboriginal people worked on the film in front of and behind the camera.

Producers Maggie Miles, David Jowsey and Greer Simpkin between them have extensive experience in remote and outback feature film production. They have won many Australian and international awards for their films, which have all premiered at A-List international Film Festivals.

HIGH GROUND invokes the resistance wars on Australia's outback frontier some 100 years ago. It leaves us with hope for First Nations people in Australia and the emergence of a contemporary Australian identity. In the words of esteemed Gumatj (Yolngu) leader Galarrwuy Yunupingu, (Australian of the Year 1979) brother of the late Dr M Yunupingu:

**Full Statement by Galarrwuy Yunupingu**

"HIGH GROUND is a both-ways film, First Nations and Balanda. It depicts a time of trouble in Australia; it honours our old heroes, reminds us of the past and the truth of our joint history in the country.

I hope that this film can play an important role in Australia's national conversation towards a First Nations Voice enshrined in the Constitution so that all our children will walk in both-worlds, never forgetting the past."

Galarrwuy Yunupingu AM Gumatj Leader

**Short Statement by Galarrwuy Yunupingu**

"HIGH GROUND depicts a time of trouble in Australia; it honours our old heroes, reminds us of the past and the truth of our joint history in the country."

Galarrwuy Yunupingu AM Gumatj Leader

The production received support from many Indigenous organisations including the Gunbalanya community, Kakadu Board of Management, Djabulukgu Association, Northern Land Council, Indigenous Land & Sea Corporation, Rirratjingu Association, Gumatj Association, Miwatj Employment and Participation, Yolngu Business Enterprises and the town of Jabiru where our crew and cast stayed during production.

Postproduction was undertaken by Soundfirm Melbourne, in Victoria.



## THE FILMMAKERS

### Stephen Maxwell Johnson – DIRECTOR/PRODUCER

Stephen grew up in the Bahamas, Africa and the Northern Territory of Australia. He began his film and television career at Channel 9 as a trainee cameraman and has worked on mainstream drama, news and current affairs shows. He went to acting school in London for a while and then headed back to the Northern Territory intent on making his first movie. He established a production house and narrow cast television station in Darwin and directed, produced, and photographed drama, documentaries, TV commercials, animation, and rock clips all over the Australia's Northern Territory and in many remote Indigenous communities. Stephen's most notable achievements are his multi award winning rock clips for the band Yothu Yindi, an AFI award for best Children's drama *Out There* (Series Director), an AFI nomination for best direction in television and his first movie which he directed, executive produced and script edited *Yolngu Boy*. HIGH GROUND has been 20 years in the making.

### Witiyana Marika – PRODUCER/SENIOR CULTURAL ADVISOR/ACTOR

Kindly refer to biographical information on page 5, cast.

### Chris Anastasiades - SCREENWRITER

Chris Anastasiades graduated from the Victorian College of The Arts. Since then he has written for *Acropolis Now*, *GP*, *Round The Twist*, *Little Elvis Jones*, *H2O*, *Jar Dwellers SOS* and many other television shows. He also wrote the feature film *Yolngu Boy* for which he was nominated for Best Original Screenplay by the AFI, and co-wrote *Wogboy* with Nick Giannopoulos. Chris teaches screenwriting at RMIT and was the writer of HIGH GROUND.

### Maggie Miles - PRODUCER

Maggie was co-director of Burrundi Pictures based out of Darwin in Australia's Northern Territory, a co-producing entity on Stephen Maxwell Johnson's debut feature *Yolngu Boy* which played at Telluride in 2000. After relocating to Melbourne Maggie produced Jonathan auf der Heide's debut *Van Diemen's Land*, which premiered at the Adelaide Film Festival and Edinburgh Int. Film Festival and received a Special Mention at Sitges, 2009. Alongside Robert Connolly, Maggie produced *The Turning* with a eighteen amazing directors including Warwick Thornton, Robert Connolly, Tony Ayres, Claire McCarthy, Stephen Page, Shaun Gladwell, Mia Wasikowska, Simon Stone, David Wenham and Justin Kurzel which had Melbourne Int. Film Festival and Berlinale Gala Screenings in 2014 and received a 2013 nomination for the APSA Best Film.

With Robert Connolly and Liz Kearney, Maggie produced Robert's *Paper Planes*, which had a Kids Gala at Melbourne Int. Film Festival, and screened at numerous festivals including Toronto Int. Film Festival and Busan Int. Film Festival 2014. *Paper Planes* was the Opening Film for the Generation Kplus, Berlinale 2015, and won the inaugural CinefestOz Film Prize 2014. With Mark Patterson, Maggie produced the late Paul Cox's *Force Of Destiny*, Opening Night film of the Melbourne Int. Film Festival 2015. Maggie was the Asia Pacific Screen Awards Academy Children's Film Fund recipient 2015 for her first screenplay Stanley V's *The Hairyman*, a project with author Boori Monty Pryor. Maggie produced and directed the documentary *Dare To Be Different* including a special version for ABC Compass 2015. Maggie was co-writer/impact producer on the Good Pitch documentary *Guilty* which premiered at the Adelaide Film

Festival 2017, other screenings include the World Congress for Abolition of the Death Penalty at the European Parliament. *Guilty* won the ATOM Award for Best Docudrama 2018 and the inaugural Dili International Film Festival, Best Documentary.

#### **David Jowsey – PRODUCER**

In 2009, David Jowsey formed BUNYA Productions with award winning filmmaker Ivan Sen. BUNYA Productions is an independent production company based in Sydney and the Gold Coast. David produced *Toomelah* by Ivan Sen, which was selected for the Cannes Film Festival 2011 in Un Certain Regard. David also produced the 2011 Sundance selected feature film *Mad Bastards* by Brendan Fletcher and *Satellite Boy* by Catriona McKenzie which premiered at the 2012 Toronto Film Festival and had its European premiere in the Generation section at Berlin. David then produced Ivan Sen's next feature *Mystery Road* which received a Special Presentation at the 2013 Toronto Festival.

In 2015 David produced *Jasper Jones* based on the bestselling novel and directed by Rachel Perkins, as well as Ivan Sen's *Goldstone* which premiered at the 2016 Toronto Festival "Platform" Section. David produced *Sweet Country* directed by Warwick Thornton, which won the Special Jury Prize at the 2017 Venice Film Festival and the Platform Prize at the 2017 Toronto Film Festival. In 2018 David Jowsey produced the multi award winning TV series *Mystery Road*. David is currently producing a second series of *Mystery Road*, as well as the features *Loveland* by Ivan Sen and *The Drover's Wife* by Leah Purcell

#### **Greer Simpkin – PRODUCER**

Greer Simpkin is a film and television producer, working with the Australian production company Bunya Productions.

Greer produced the feature film *Sweet Country*, directed by Warwick Thornton, which won the special jury prize at the 2017 Venice Film Festival, the Platform Prize at TIFF, 6 AACTA awards and the 2017 Asia Pacific Screen Award for best film. She produced Ivan Sen's feature film *Goldstone* starring Aaron Pedersen, Jacki Weaver and Cheng Pei Pei and was an Executive Producer on Rachel Perkins' *Jasper Jones* starring Toni Collette and Hugo Weaving.

Greer is a Producer on a number of upcoming feature films; Ivan Sen's *Loveland*, Stephen Johnson's *HIGH GROUND* and Leah Purcell's *The Drover's Wife* the Legend of Molly Johnson.

Greer produced the award-winning television drama series *Mystery Road*, directed by Rachel Perkins and starring Aaron Pedersen and Judy Davis. *Mystery Road* won 5 AACTA awards and the 2018 Logie award for Most Popular Drama. The second series of *Mystery Road* directed by Warwick Thornton and Wayne Blair, starring Sofia Helin and Aaron Pedersen premiered in the 2020 Berlinale Series section.

Greer produced the feature documentary *Sanctuary* which received a Jury Special Mention and an Audience Award at the 2019 Sydney Film Festival as well *The Troublesome Priest* for the ABC, the VR film *Every King Tide* for SBS and the drama/doc series *Blue Water Empire* for the ABC. She is currently producing the feature documentary *The Leadership* (one of 6 Good Pitch Australia finalists in 2016). Prior to joining Bunya Productions Greer held editorial and production roles at the ABC (Australia) and Channel 4 (UK).

## HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS

Andrew Commis – Director of Photography

Ross Wallace – Production Designer

Jill Bilcock - Lead Editor

## The Filmmakers

Stephen Maxwell Johnson - Director

Chris Anastasiades - Writer

David Jowsey, Maggie Miles, Witiyana Marika, Greer Simpkin  
and Stephen Maxwell Johnson - Producers

Andrew Commis A.C.S - Cinematographer

Jill Bilcock - Lead Editor

Ross Wallace - Production Designer

Erin Roche - Costume Designer

Marie Kealy - Hair and Make Up Designer

Mark Boskell - First Assistant Director

Nick Emond A.S.S.G. - Sound Recordist

Jim and Tom Willoughby - Horse Supervisors

Chris Goodes -Sound Designer

## Key Cast:

Jacob Junior Nayinggul ..... Gutjuk

Simon Baker ..... Travis

Callan Mulvey ..... Ambrose

Jack Thompson ..... Moran

Witiyana Marika.....Grandfather Dharrpa

Aaron Pedersen ..... Walter

Caren Pistorious .....Claire

Esmerelda Marimowa..... Gulwirri

Ryan Corr ..... Father Braddock

Sean Mununggurr..... Baywara

PRODUCTION COMPANIES: Maxo Studios - Bunya Productions - Savage Films

FINANCIERS: Screen Australia - Film Victoria - Screen Territory - Fulcrum Media Finance - Media Super  
- Sunjive – Private Investment