

A close-up photograph of a person's open palm holding a small, red, translucent, and irregularly shaped object. The object has a wavy, organic form, possibly resembling a piece of jelly or a small, dried leaf. The background is a lush green lawn with dappled sunlight filtering through the grass. The overall tone is natural and contemplative.

# mixed bag

a short film **by Imogen Thomas**



One line **Synopsis:**

# mixed bag

Travelling from the city, a woman finds herself having to stop in a remote country town only to be confronted by her own racial prejudices.

Paragraph **Synopsis:**

**Mixed Bag** is about Brigid, a city woman who ventures out to the remote western regions of NSW to witness the birth of her grandchild. It is on the last leg of her journey that distraction and fatigue set in, which results in her car hitting a kangaroo. This leaves Brigid no choice other than to pull into Brewarrina, the next country town. While her car is being repaired she takes relief from the summer heat by visiting the local public pool. Brigid's relief is short lived when her money apparently is missing. She instantly suspects Gemma, a young aboriginal girl, but she has no proof. This assumption is later proven to be wrong, leaving her embarrassed and reflective about her poor behaviour. The incident also rouses a new awareness in Brigid and this is evident in how she later relates with people when she is leaving the town.





## Director's **Statement**

In late 2003, I was employed by the non-profit organization BighArt to travel to the regional community of Brewarrina to document indigenous Australian women's stories. It was a unique and, at times, confronting experience to see first hand the effects that isolation, long-term drought, neglect and limited employment prospects have on a community. And yet, what was very apparent to me was the resilience and strength of these women who had to manage the many social problems that came with those conditions. This and subsequent visits to the area made a huge impact on me, and become the motivation for my recent short film **Mixed Bag** and feature film script entitled *The Emu Runner*, which is in development.

From listening to the women's stories which incorporated the vivid memories of the past, the concerns of the day and the hopes of the future; what surfaced time and time again was the appalling accounts of racial discrimination. The sense of outrage became the fuel for the story of **Mixed Bag**. From the onset of the scripts development it was vital to seek out the guidance of the community. The script was developed in consultation with Frayne Barker, the Director of The Gainmara Birrilee Preschool and an indigenous member of the Brewarrina community.

**Mixed Bag** is a story that explores the subtle manifestations of racial stereotyping and prejudice that exists in our everyday lives. It is a story that I hope will foster awareness for a better understanding and tolerance between non-indigenous and indigenous Australians.

**Imogen Thomas**





**Imogen Thomas:**  
**Writer/Director/Producer**

Imogen Thomas gained her film training through the MFA Film Program at New York University. In 1998 Imogen was awarded the prestigious South Australian Premier's Award for Emerging Artist of Year. This afforded her the opportunity to undertake studies at New York University. She also has a BA Honors degree, in Drama, from Flinders University, in South Australia. It was here that Imogen began making short films, many of which, have been screened at festivals and have received awards. At this time she also embarked on a career in set and costume design for the theatre, designing celebrated productions for Belvoir St Theatre, The Adelaide Theatre Festival and Magpie2. At the end of 2001 Imogen returned to Australia to pursue her writing and directing. She has also been involved with projects that have taken her into remote communities in Australia. Brewarrina, in western NSW, was the inspiration for her most recent short film **Mixed Bag** and her feature film script *The Emu Runner*, which is in development.





**Anna Howard: Cinematographer**

Anna Howard ACS started in the Australian film industry in 1981. After studying cinematography at North Sydney TAFE, she began working as a camera assistant for a variety of Australian cinematographers. In 1996 Anna started shooting her own projects and established herself as a highly sought after cinematographer in her own right. She is well known for her ability to work with actors and her subtle lighting, which has caught the attention of many lauded directors, such as Ray Lawrence. In the last ten years Anna has been worked on many commercials and television and film projects, winning awards for her lighting and images. In 2003 she won the Gold Award from the Australian Cinematographer's Society for the Telemovie *Marking Time* (directed by Cherie Nowlan). The feature film *Hey Hey It's Esther Blueburger*, which Anna shot on location in South Australia under Cathy Randall's direction, was recently screened at the 2008 Berlin Film Festival.

**Gabriella Muir: Editor**

Gabriella Muir has been working in the film industry for the past twelve years in Australia and New Zealand. Starting out as an assistant at the Tait Gallery in 1995, Gabriella established herself as a freelance editor in 2000, editing television commercials with directors, which include Perry Bradley, Peter Cudlipp, Samantha Lang, Steve Saussey, Justin Kurzel, Kriv Stenders and Brenden Young. In 2005 Gabriella edited her first Feature *Blacktown* directed by Kriv Stenders (voted the audience choice at the 2005 Sydney Film Festival and nominated for the IF Glenfiddich Independent Spirit Award), and also worked on the acclaimed *The Silence* ABC drama directed by Cate Shortland. She has also served on the craft judging panels for the Australian Television Awards. In 2006 Gabriella completed her second feature *Boxing Day*, continuing her creative partnership with Kriv Stenders. The film was commissioned by and opened the Adelaide Film Festival and has received substantial critical acclaim.



## Lissa Coote: Production Designer

Lissa Coote's work as a production designer has been prodigious. Her work has received much acclaim and in 1978 she was awarded an A.F.I. for best production design for *Newsfront* (directed by Phillip Noyce). She also received A.F.I. nominations for her design work in *F.J. Holden* (directed by Michael Thornhill), and *Fatty Finn* (directed by Maurice Murphy). Lissa has also enjoyed a strong creative collaboration with the director Stephen MacLean on *Around the World in 80 Ways* as the production designer, and on *Starstuck* as the decorator. In conjunction with her extensive body of film work Lissa has also worked as a decorator in television; some of her credits include Kennedy Miller's 12 hour mini-series *Bodyline* and *Dirtwater Dynasty*, as well as the 12 hour mini-series *The Last Bastion* written by David Williamson and *The Last Frontier* starring Linda Evans and Jack Thompson.

## Adrian Medhurst: Sound Design

Adrian Medhurst studied audio at the School of Audio Engineering in 1997-1998. In 1999 he gained work experience with foley artist John Simpson through the South Australian Film Corporation, which lead to a full time foley position working with John on such films as *The Bank*, *Charlotte Gray* and *The Nugget*. In 2003 Adrian became a freelance foley artist in his own right, and gained foley credits on *Lord of the Rings: Return of the King*, *Thunderbirds*, *10 Canoes* and *Kenny*. Over the last few years he has branched into other areas of post sound, with both FX editing and mixing becoming a focus. He was the FX editor on Scott Hicks' documentary *Glass: a portrait of Philip in 12 parts*. Adrian has mixed many short films for Flinders University and the Media Resource Center in Adelaide. He also assisted on the mixes of *Razzle Dazzle*, *Disgrace* and *Dr.Plonk*. Based at the South Australian Film Corporation, Adrian is planning to continue working in audio post for some time.





## Jodie **Fried: Costume Designer**

Jodie Fried graduated from the NIDA design course in 1998 and since then has worked internationally in both theatre and film. Jodie's credits include *Romulus My Father* (directed by Richard Roxburgh, with Jodie receiving an AFI nomination award for Best Costume Design), *Candy* (directed by Neil Armfield) and *Caterpillar Wish* (written and directed by Sandra Sciberras). Jodie also designed the short film *Love This Time* (directed by Rhys Graham). In 2004 Jodie designed the costumes for the short feature *Jewboy* (directed by Tony Krawitz) and was assistant costume designer on *Little Fish* (directed by Rowan Woods). Jodie's theatre costume credits include Royal Shakespeare Company's *Midnight's Children*, *Eternity Man* (Almeida Theatre, London), *Tense Dave & Arcade* for Chunky Move Dance Company, *12th Night*, *Gulpilil*, *Aliwa*, *Three Penny Opera* and *8 Page* for Company B Belvoir. Jodie also designs television commercials; some of her credits include *Henry*, *James Boags* and *Xbox*. In 2008, Jodie will be designing the costumes for *Balibo*, a feature film directed by Rob Connolly.

## Mark **Walton: Music**

Mark Walton OAM is a highly respected and popular figure in the Australian and New Zealand music scene and widely acknowledged as a leading clarinet and saxophone performer, inspiring teacher and charismatic musician. After nearly 20 years at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, Mark now shares his time, musical talents and energy between Australia and New Zealand. He travels continuously, building strong community music programmes in regional and outback Australia, while at the same time he is the Musical Director of the Christchurch School of Music in New Zealand and a consultant to the University of Auckland. Mark has written over 200 music publications, recorded many albums and in recent times has become a popular composer. In 2005 Mark was awarded the Order of Australia medal for his contribution to Music Education in Australia.



# Credits

## Cast in order of appearance

<b>Brigid</b>	Arna-Maria Winchester
<b>Male Hitchhiker</b>	Shaun Turnbull
<b>Mechanic</b>	Phillip O'Connor
<b>Pool Attendant</b>	Robert Wright
<b>Gemma</b>	Brooke Rose
<b>Sister In Car</b>	Samantha Gordon
<b>Driver Of Car</b>	Natasha Gordon
<b>Female Hitchhiker</b>	Mary Waites
<b>Children Hitching Lift</b>	Katrina Cochrane
	Clint Hardy
	Tessa Jackson

## Swimming pool extras

Anjilenah Bennett, Jacob Bloomfield, Merieka Boney, Amelia Cochrane, Bianca Cochrane, Louise Dennis, Ivy Dwyer, Derek Eyre, Bindy Frail, Casey Frail, Annalyce Gordon, Ernest Gordon, Edward Gordon, Kaytlyn Gordon, Marti Gordon, Jasmin Gordon, Peta-Maree Gordon, Rhiannon Gordon, Wynona Gordon, Ian Hammond, Jeanette Hammond, Stevee Hammond, Nathan Johnson, Ethan Johnson, Iesha McHughes, Tahli McHughes, Bede Mumbulla, Tamika Nicholls, Brianna Rose, Samantha Simpson, Matthew Simpson, Edward Simpson, Timmy Trapman, Nikita Williams, Warrick Williams, Brenton Wright

## Mentors

Ivy Dwyer, Bindy Frail, Marti Gordon, Peta-Maree Gordon, Samantha Gordon, Madeline Mannix, Bobbie-Sue Wright

## Crew

<b>Writer/Producer/Director</b>	Imogen Thomas
<b>Executive Producer</b>	Victor Evatt
<b>Associate Producer</b>	Anna Howard
<b>Consulting Producer</b>	Antonia Barnard
<b>Cinematographer</b>	Anna Howard ACS
<b>Production Designer</b>	Lissa Coote
<b>Costume Designer</b>	Jodie Fried
<b>Editor</b>	Gabriella Muir
<b>Sound Designer</b>	Adrian Medhurst
<b>Music</b>	Mark Walton
<b>Script Consultant</b>	Jeremy Johnson
<b>First Assistant Director</b>	Naomi Enfield
<b>Production Assistant</b>	Christey Jones
<b>Underwater Cinematographer</b>	George Evatt
<b>Camera Assistant</b>	Paul Shakeshaft
<b>Grip</b>	Greg Tidman
<b>Gaffer</b>	Stephen Gray
<b>Stills Photographer</b>	Phillip Quirk
<b>Stand by Props</b>	Malcolm Gregory
<b>Costume Assistant</b>	Tiffany Daro
<b>Sound Recordist</b>	Nathan Codner
<b>Caterer</b>	Lisa Maude
<b>Animal Handler</b>	Derek Tatterstall
<b>Graphic Designer</b>	Leanne Barnett
<b>Smoke Operator</b>	Jim Bullard



Brigid: **Arna-Maria Winchester**

Gemma: **Brooke Rose**

Male Hitchhiker: **Shaun Turnbull**

Mechanic: **Phillip O'Connor**

Pool Attendant: **Robert Wright**

Female Hitchhiker: **Mary Waites**

Students of the **Brewarrina Central School**





# Cast

Brigid: **Arna-Maria Winchester**

Arna-Maria Winchester's illustrious career in film, television and theatre spans over three decades. Following in the footsteps of her mother, Joan Winchester, who was also an actress and drama teacher. Arna-Maria's choices of roles are rich and diverse. Some of her film credits include *Chain Reaction* (directed by Ian Barry), *Pandemonium* (directed by Haydn Keenan) and *Initiation* (directed by Michael Pearce). During the 80s she featured in a number of acclaimed television mini series, such as the Kennedy/Miller production *Dirtwater Dynasty* and *1915* directed by Di Drew and Chris Thomson. In addition she also worked on the television movie *Coda*, which was written and directed by Craig Lahiff. Arna-Maria also regularly featured in many 1970s television shows, such as *Boney*, *Homicide*, *Spyforce*, *Matlock Police* and *Division Four*. Her more recent television appearances were on *H<sup>2</sup>O Just Add Water*, *All Saints* and *The Lost World*.

Gemma: **Brooke Rose**

Brooke is a primary school student at the Brewarrina Central School.

Male **Hitchhiker: Shaun Turnbull**

Shaun is a student at the Brewarrina Central School.

Mechanic: **Phillip O'Connor**

Phillip or as he likes to call himself "Ocker " is the local Brewarrina mechanic.

Pool **Attendant: Robert Wright**

Robert is a teacher's aid at the Brewarrina Central School.

Female **Hitchhiker: Mary Waites**

Mary is a Family Support Worker at Ourgunya, a women's shelter in Brewarrina.

Students of  
**the Brewarrina Central School**

All the children that participated in the film are students of the Brewarrina Central School.

