

## **Richard Bradley – Film Producer**

Richard Bradley is an Australian film producer working through his company Richard Bradley Productions which was established in 1981.

### **Early life:**

Richard Bradley was born in 1949 and grew up in North Sydney. After leaving school in 1964 he joined the Sydney Morning Herald as a copyboy and then moved onto Shipping Newspapers where he completed his apprenticeship as a compositor in 1970. During this time he became more interested in film production.

### **Early film career:**

In the early 1970s the film industry was starting to re-emerge in Australia. At this stage Bradley was working for major printing and packaging companies. He used his wages to finance three short films *Strange Days* (1972), *Women* (1973) and *Cassandra* (1974) which enjoyed good television exposure on the Channel 7 music program *Sounds*. Although the newly formed Filmmakers Co-op accepted these films into their library, they became disliked within the organization with some leading members wanting him banned.

He used his films as a show reel and this enabled him to work in the industry fulltime mainly at APA Studios where he studied optical film effects and editing. This followed by time at Ross Wood Productions then Warwick and Fortune Advertising. He produced and financed another short film *Kaleidoscope* (1974) and was commissioned to produce music clips which included *Seabreeze* (1975) that went on to commercial success. In the late 1970s, he produced a surfing lifestyle documentary and a short film *The Golden Section* (1978) funded by The Australian Film Commission, which he later admitted was a great idea that he failed to exploit properly.

### **Middle film career:**

His first feature film, *Southern Crossing* (1980) gained international acclaim and featured jazz greats Dave Brubeck and Herbie Mann. This film enabled him to gain regular documentary work with The NSW Government Documentary Division. They commissioned him to Produce and direct seven successful documentary productions for organizations such as Corrective Services where he produced groundbreaking documentaries on the prison system including *Lifestyle/AIDS* (1987), *Department of Planning – Housing for All* (1992), *Flemington Markets*, *Liverpool Hospital* and *Bicentennial Park* throughout the 1980s and the early 1990s. It was during this time he started to niche market into specific areas and in fundraising he produced the award winning docudrama for the *Flying Doctors An Hour and a Half from Anywhere* (1989). This film opened the door to producing over sixty productions which included TV specials, documentaries and commercials. His work covered all areas including *The Australian Ballet – National Living Treasure* (1991), *Shakespeare Globe Centre*, *WIRES*, *Mission Australia* TV docudrama - *Prisoners of Poverty* (1989), *Red Cross*, *PCYC*, *Quota*, *Institute for Deaf and Blind*, *Heart Research*, *Guide Dogs* and many others. This work also enabled him to use popular media personalities as presenters including Alan Jones, Richie Benaud, Eric Walters, Sandra Sully, John Williamson, Richard Morecroft, Ita Buttrose, Anne Fulwood, Penny Cook and Chris Bath.

He also secured a co-production with Fuji TV as Australian producer on the comedy adventure *The Hitchhiker* (1992) which was based on a short story by Roald Dahl and screened extensively in Japan.

He also managed to get development investment for number of feature film projects including Alien Hunter, which was to be produced with Brian Rosen, Remember Me, My Love which was to be part of a Mills and Boon Romance series of eleven novels by Valerie Parv financed by Channel Ten, and The Maze starring Rod Steiger with director Howard Rubie, to be produced by Bradley and Jim Henry through John Lamb's Australian World Entertainment and Channel 9 in Adelaide. However none of these projects reached production stage.

### **Later film career:**

His first attempt to make the controversial bikie movie, Brothers At War, which had distribution and presales through UIP and Channel 7, also failed to reach production so he put the project on the shelf while he looked around for other niche markets which he found through sporting history documentaries. In 1998 work started on a series of Rugby League historical documentaries The Mighty Bears 6-part series (completed 2005), The Mighty Eels 4 part series (completed 2006) and The Mighty Bulldogs 4-part series (completed 2010). All 14 documentaries enjoyed critical and commercial success. He later said this was the most enjoyable ten year period in his film making career. During this time he produced a documentary Miracle at the Healing Ministry that sold DVDs around the world and re-released Southern Crossing on DVD.

In 2008 he met up with South Australian producer Wayne Groom and, with financial investment from the South Australian Film Corporation, they brought back Brothers At War with director Peter Andrikidis, Paramount Pictures and Arclight Films on board. However the project was rejected for production funding by Screen Australia and a major controversy erupted when it was revealed a conflict of interest could have taken place. Although later declared in favour of Screen Australia, it caused industry outrage after it was publicized in IF Magazine and grey areas still remain over the ruling.

He returned to scriptwriting in 2007 recently completing four feature length screenplays as a package under the title of Travelers Tales. In 2010 work commenced on a series of three cricket documentaries Bankstown – a History of Cricket which included the stories of leading players Mark Waugh and former Australian captain Steve Waugh.