



Biscuit Dust

Press Kit

SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA - JANUARY 2021 - 13 MINS - ENGLISH

L BLOCK

production house

Samantha Camilleri

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Arianna Levy

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We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the Maneroo on which we film today, the Ngarigu People and recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and culture. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.



Biscuit Dust

L BLOCK PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS A PORTRAIT FILMS PRODUCTION "BISCUIT DUST"
MUSIC BY ROBERT HART EDITED BY DEANNA DEVI CINEMATOGRAPHER JAIME VIVES MORENO
PRODUCED BY ARIANNA LEVY SAMANTHA CAMILLERI SCREENPLAY BY SAMANTHA CAMILLERI
DIRECTED BY COOPER LINDSAY



'Biscuit Dust' Trailer

Key Art

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TAGLINE

Five generations. Family. Dust.

LOGLINE

Addy and Andrew are confronted with the revelations of their father's inner battles and the uncertain future of their fifth generation sheep station.

SHORT SYNOPSIS

BISCUIT DUST follows the story of Addy and Andrew Gella and their families drought stricken sheep station in outback Australia. In a world of family conflict, financial woe and dried up dreams, Addy and Andrew navigate through the difficult decisions of what to do after their father's unspoken struggle with mental health.

'Biscuit Dust' sheds light on ambiguous grief for what was, what's left and what now through raw moments of truth, fragility and the testing beauty of Australia.



biscuit /'bɪskɪt/

a small baked unleavened cake, typically crisp, flat, dry and sweet.

dust /dʌst/

fine, dry powder consisting of tiny particles of earth or waste matter lying on the ground or on surfaces or carried in the air.

biscuit dust

the land was their

baked biscuit.

for six generations.

their sweet dream.

until

the

earth

turned

and

became...

dreams and hopes.

carried away without care

in

the

dust.

driest

Australian

air.

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Cast and Crew

Written by: Samantha Camilleri
Script Editor: Cooper Lindsay
Producers: Arianna Levy and
Samantha Camilleri
Director of Photography: Jaime Vives
Sound Recordist/Editor: Deanna Devi
Boom Operator: Caleb Fodda
Production Manager: Caleb Fodda
Composer/Sound Designer and
Editor: Robert Hart
Colourist: Casey Huskins



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Title: 'Biscuit Dust'
Running Time: 13.3 minutes
Shooting Format: RED
Screening Format: ProRes/H.264
Aspect Ratio: 2.35:1
Sound: STEREO
Country of Production: Australia
Year: 2021
Language: English
Website: [IMDb - Biscuit Dust](#)
Production Company:
L Block production house
Arianna Levy | Samantha Camilleri
0437 986 489 | 0425 204 744
ariannnalevy@gmail.com | samanthakdcamilleri@gmail.com

Specifications

Director's Bio Cooper Lindsay



For Cooper Lindsay there's nothing more exciting than coming up with a great idea. That one concept that finally takes shape after hours of scribbling on a whiteboard and banging your head against a wall. Being able to then bring that to life is one of his greatest pleasures.

Cooper is an Australian filmmaker and director based in Sydney, Australia. After graduating from the University of Sydney with a degree in marketing, Cooper decided to follow his passion and studied filmmaking at SAE – a more natural fit for his knack for visual storytelling. He has spent the last few years producing, writing, directing and editing as a freelancer, with large crews and alongside the Portrait Films team. Cooper's credits include *Something Fishy* (2019), *Joyful* (2020) and *Boys Will Be Boys* (2020).

Directing 'Biscuit Dust' enabled me to tackle subject matter far more important and relevant than anything I've directed before. I felt humbled to have the opportunity to take on a concept that held such real world weight. A big part of my vision for the short was to use the sparse Australian landscape to illustrate both the incredible beauty and the overwhelming sense of isolation. Fortunately, through the incredible work of our Producers, we had the opportunity to shoot in a phenomenal location and meet some of the most generous and kind people I have ever met.

I wanted to explore depression and suicide in remote communities through the lens of affected family members, where people often grapple with their own guilt, but also conflicting moments of resentment. I wanted the pace of the film to reflect the agonising passage of time, where - in this setting - all one can do is overthink. I also wanted to examine the struggle of loved ones in trying to answer the question, "what now?"



Director's Statement

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Key Creatives



ARIANNA LEVY/PRODUCER

Born in Western Sydney, any chance Arianna has, you can find her outdoors. Currently studying Media Arts and Production at the University of Technology Sydney, Arianna has learnt from industry professionals gaining an insight into what it takes to produce quality content. With knowledge and ambition, her love of story-telling and filmmaking has led her to her current News Channel producing role at the ABC. In her spare time she loves to surf, compete in triathlons and go camping.

SAMANTHA CAMILLERI / PRODUCER AND WRITER

Sydney based storyteller, Samantha has always moved within professions that demand a level of creativity. Having completed a double major in English Literature and Theatre Studies at the University of Notre Dame Australia and then Secondary Education at the Australian Catholic University, Samantha knew her creative writing studies would find their place in her creative career. Primarily an actor, Samantha has taught as a secondary teacher where she has directed, written and led guided writing for numerous devised theatre pieces and productions. This is Samantha's debut role as an industry producer and writer. Samantha is a proud Equity member.

JAIME VIVES / CINEMATOGRAPHER

Jaime Vives is a cinematographer based in Sydney, Australia. Nature, surfing and traveling have been his greatest inspirations ever since the beginning of his filmmaking journey. Although Jaime has done several ads for multiple companies, music videos and events, what he loves most about filmmaking is embracing different cinematography techniques, defined by the story and its narrative.

DEANNA DEVI / SOUND RECORDIST AND EDITOR

Born and raised in Malaysia, Deanna is a true citizen of the world. She has studied the craft of filmmaking in multiple countries and has a religious dedication to self-improvement. She worked in one of the biggest post-production houses in Sydney and offers an expert eye on every project she is a part of. Deanna's attention to detail and hunt for the perfect cut means that she will never walk away from an edit until she feels it has realised its full potential.





CALEB RODDA / PRODUCTION MANAGER

Whether it's with a cold beer in hand at the pub, or on a film set with 20 talented team members, all Caleb really cares about is telling a good story. With a strong background in directing and producing video content, Caleb has an expert grasp of creative video production. He will walk with you every step of the way to make sure your story gets to be heard by as many people as possible.

ROBERT HART / COMPOSER/SOUND DESIGNER AND EDITOR

Based in the rural city of Orange, Australia, Robert composes and produces music and audio for films and video games. Having in the industry for two decades, Robert found his niche in the media industry during his university days about five years ago. His composition works range from minimalist, atmospheric arrangements to full-scale orchestral and electronic scores. Robert strives to blend the pallets of live instrumentations and the digital realm together, in a marriage of textural harmony. He loves working with directors, producers and all individuals who play a part in post and pre-production stages. The collaborative feeling of a big project is part of what drives Robert to continue working in this ever-growing industry.

CASEY HUKINS / COLOURIST

Casey is a colourist with a passion for film. She has worked on a variety of projects in the past ranging from music videos to documentary's. Casey enjoys working with other creatives and achieving the best result in her work.

INTRODUCING SAMANTHA CAMILLERI as ADDY GELLA

Samantha is a Sydney, Australia based stage and screen actor, as well as a voiceover artist and teacher. She is a UNDA, Screenwise Australia and Atlantic Acting School (NYC) graduate. Theatre credits include Nell Gwynn (Castle Hill Players), Broken (TheatreTravels), Wanted - One Body, The Vagina Monologues, Perfect Wedding (Castle Hill Players), The Velveteen Rabbit (Tilkin Dilkin Studio) and Steel Magnolias (Castle Hill Players). Screen credits include Something Fishy (Portrait Films) Deadly Women (Beyond Productions) and Sunshine (RKPix); a recipient of the highly coveted Screen Australia Gender Matters funding. Samantha is a proud Equity member and is represented by Williams Management.

INTRODUCING JACE FLEMING as ANDREW GELLA

Jace is an Australian actor based in Sydney. He has been acting since the age of 5, training with the likes of Tom McSweeney, Les Chantery and Sandra Lee Paterson. His most notable screen credits include Dora and the Lost City of Gold (Paramount Pictures) and The Family Law (Matchbox Pictures/SBS Australia). He is represented by BMEG in Australia and Brave Artists Management in Los Angeles.



INTRODUCING STEPHEN SNARS as HENRY GELLA (voice-over)

Stephen Snars is a Sydney, Australia based actor and director who began acting in 2002 and has since been in 30 major stage productions. He has undertaken training at NIDA, Darlo Drama and elsewhere for acting, accents, stage combat and camera work.

Film credits include, “Underbelly: Badness” (2008), “Deadly Women” (CI) alongside short films, “Seven Stages” and “Biscuit Dust” (2021). Stephen has also appeared in TV and web commercials, most recently for Koala Furniture. Major stage credits include, Norman in “On Golden Pond” (Hunters Hill Theatre 2011), the Don in “Don Quixote” and Bob in “Things I Know To Be True” (Pavilion Theatre 2013 and 2021) and Hastings in “Black Coffee” (Pymble Players 2015). Directorial credits include, “Leading Ladies” (2019), “Boeing Boeing” (2016) and “Bell Book and Candle” (2009) at the Pavilion Theatre, Castle Hill. Stephen works as a dentist and has been President of the Castle Hill Players for the last 10 years.

Stephen is represented by Voom Management.



Q & A with the Writer and Producers

What was your inspiration for the film?

ARIANNA and SAMANTHA: An autumn tree and a red canoe. A photo captured by a friend of an autumn tree and a red canoe sparked our interest to collaborate initially. As autumn left and winter came, it moved from a short set in the south of America to the Australian story we have today. This move was sparked from a casual phone call to the director and it was then we knew this story belonged at home and rewrote the first draft.

Why is it important to tell this story now?

ARIANNA and SAMANTHA: The drought affects genuine, hardworking Aussies. We read statistics, we see the cracks of the earth in the media, we feel and hear the stories...the pleas for help. We wanted to explore this grappling truth as there are very stories on the matter. The drought has not ended therefore the conversations about our heaviest affected industries shouldn't either. Alongside the drought, we wanted to capture the further hardship for some Australian farmers via the recent bushfires felt around the world.

What do you hope this short film will achieve?

ARIANNA and SAMANTHA: Through storytelling, we honestly hope 'Biscuit Dust' will help support the work many organisations are already doing to aid isolated farmers doing it tough. We hope it will continue to keep the dialogue afloat about the impacts of drought, in particular mental health and financial hardship the majority of farmers face. From all the stories we've read, heard and from growing up on a farm, farmers don't ask for handouts until the going gets bloody tough. We hope our film continues to ignite a fierce supportive light and shed recognition on the plight endured by our country brothers and sisters. We hope audiences will acknowledge how without farmers and their sacrifice, Australian produce would be utterly extinguished.



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Why is it important to tell this story now?

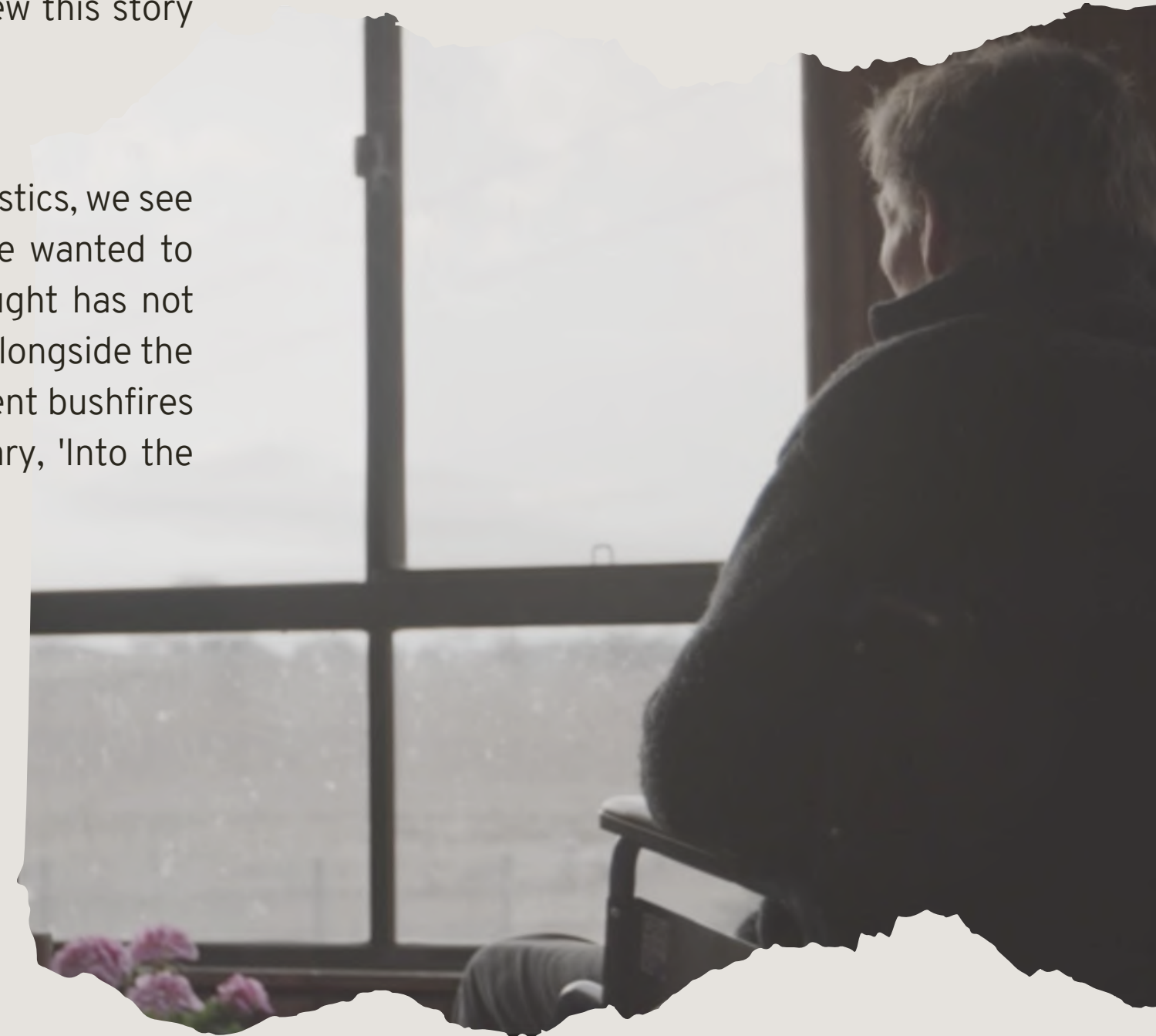
ARIANNA and SAMANTHA: The drought affects genuine, hardworking Aussies. We read statistics, we see the cracks of the earth in the media, we feel and hear the stories...the pleas for help. We wanted to explore this grappling truth as there are very few films highlighting the matter. The drought has not ended therefore the conversations about our heaviest affected industries shouldn't either. Alongside the drought, we wanted to capture the further hardship for some Australian farmers via the recent bushfires felt around the world. This though was captured more accurately in our short documentary, 'Into the Monaro'.

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How would describe the essence of the film and its characters?

Fragility. Brutal honesty. Love. The beauty and the beasts that surface from our Australian landscape.



Special Thanks

ALEX MITCHELL

For sharing a photo of a tree and a red canoe that sparked this entire journey. Thank you.

BRIAN MITCHELL

For your open heart in sharing your home from the beginning of this journey. Thank you.

CHARLES BILLEH

For being a constant support from the first draft and advocate within the industry. Thank you.

CRAIG AND CAROLINE / 5 WILLOWS FARMSTAY

For your kindness, support and generosity of sharing your knowledge of local farmers, your skills as a photographer and your story. Thank you.

DANNY BARTON

For raising your hand to support our project from the very beginning. Thank you.

GAIL NEUSS

For extending support of our project, demonstrating kindness and inclusion for all. Thank you.

JACE FLEMING

For raising your hand to support our project from the very beginning. Thank you.

ROBERT HART

For your patience and creative genius. You captured the heart and soul of our vision through your lyrical creativity and skill. Thank you.

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Special Thanks

KEL HAYNES

For your generosity in aiding in the very beginning of our journey to create our story. Thank you.

CASEY HUKINS

For your beautiful talent and generous time in supporting new filmmakers and capturing allowing our vision to shine. Thank you.

MICHEAL GARDNER

For your generosity of time in helping create our debut project from the very beginning. Thank you.

PORTRAIT FILMS

To Cooper, Caleb, Deanna and Jaime. For believing in our project from the start and seeing the potential it had in the world of Australian stories. Thank you for your honesty, calm nature, creative skills and genuine kindness. We are forever grateful for your yes. Thank you.

RUSS HAYLOCK

Our eyes and ears of the Monaro Region. I'm not sure how this project would have happened without you. Thank you for being our supportive guide from the moment we called you. For the on-going emails you consistently answered. We are forever grateful for your constant willingness and kindness to help us create an authentic story. Thank you.

WENDY / WARREEN FARMSTAY

For your kindness and generosity in supporting our project, sharing your story and aiding in finding the right location for our short film. Thank you.



AND FINALLY...OUR FAMILIES

Without your constant support, this dream to story tell would never be possible. Thank you for your everlasting love, generosity of time and openness to read draft after draft for this project and others. Thank you, always.