

Ben Chessell

Writer/Director

Ben recently completed shooting *The Great* (created by Oscar Nominee, Tony McNamara) produced by MRC Studios for Hulu/STAN. Prior to *The Great*, he also directed the critically acclaimed and BAFTA Nominated, *Giri/Haji*, produced by Sister Pictures for BBC/Netflix.



After studying Ecology and Medieval History at Melbourne University, Ben graduated from the Victorian College of the Arts in 2001. Palace Films released his acclaimed graduation film, *The Only Person In The World* theatrically in Australia. Ben was a finalist at the 2002 Dendy Awards, and was nominated for an AFI award, as well as screening at over 20 x festivals (including Telluride and Melbourne International Film Festival, MIFF 2004). Ben went on to make the AFC

funded shorts and wrote and directed a telemovie for SBSi, *The Heartbreak Tour*. The screenplay was the first to be nominated for the Melbourne Prize for Literature.

A finalist in the Kudos/Red Planet Pictures Screenwriting Prize in 2011 and Ben's first US credit as a director was the first season of *Camp* for Matchbox and NBC Universal.

Ben has directed many episodes of Australia television including; *Dance Academy* (ABC TV/ZDF Germany), *RUSH* seasons 3 & 4 and the acclaimed *Offspring* seasons 3 & 4. Ben was also the series director for seasons 2 & 3 of *The Family Law* for Matchbox / NBC Universal and for *Doctor Doctor* for Easy Tiger/Nine Network. In addition to directing, Ben has also written many episodes on these shows.

In addition to his television credits, Ben co-wrote and directed his first feature film, *Sucker* (co-written with Lawrence Leung) which premiered at MIFF 2015. *Sucker* had its North American premiere at the St Lawrence International Film Festival, winning the Best Narrative Feature Award.

Ben is currently in post production on *Surviving Summer* for Netflix in Australia, where he was set up director on this new YA series. He will soon commence set up on *Deadloch*, a new series for Amazon.

Agents

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Credits

In Development

Production	Company	Notes
DIRTY OLD TOWN	Producer: Tait Brady	Writer/Director Feature Film
THE CENTURY	Headstrong	Writer Television Series
JERUSALEM		Writer Television Series
WRITING RAIN	Producer: Louise Smith	Writer/Director Produced by Louise Smith Feature Film * Winner Australian Writer's Guild, Best Unproduced Screenplay, 2009

Television

Production	Company	Notes
DEADLOCH 2023	Amazon Studios for Amazon Prime Video / Guesswork Television / OK Great Productions	Lead/Set-up director.
DOCTOR WHO S14 2023		Director, block four.
SURVIVING SUMMER 2021	Netflix	Lead director.
THE GREAT 2020	MRC Studios	Director. 2 episodes.
GIRI HAJI 2019	Sister Pictures / BBC One / Netflix	Director.
THE FAMILY LAW 2017	Matchbox Pictures / SBS	Director. 10 episodes.
DOCTOR DOCTOR 2017 - 2018	Easy Tiger Productions	Director. Eps 209, 210, 309, 310.
OFFSPRING 2017	Southern Star / Network Ten	Director 60min comedy/drama (episodes 705 and 706)
CAMP 2013	Matchbox, Berman Braun, NBC Universal	Director (episodes 104 and 105)

Production	Company	Notes
OFFSPRING 2013	John Edwards & Imogen Banks. Southern Star / Network Ten	60min comedy/drama Director (episodes 406 and 407)
OFFSPRING 2012	Producers: John Edwards & Imogen Banks. Southern Star / Network Ten	60min comedy/drama Director (episodes 310 and 311) Writer (Episode 308)
RUSH 2011	Producers: John Edwards & Mimi Butler. Southern Star / Network Ten	45min police drama Director (episodes 405 and 411) Writer (episode 404)
RESCUE SPECIAL OPS 2010	Producer: Sarah Smith & Julie McGauran. Southern Star / Channel Nine	Director (episodes 311 and 312)
RUSH 2010	Producers: John Edwards & Mimi Butler. Southern Star / Network Ten	Director (episodes 307 and 322)
DANCE ACADEMY 2009	Producer: Joanna Werner. ACTF / ABC TV	Director (episodes 121 and 122)
ELEPHANT PRINCESS (Series) 2007	Prod: Jonathan M Shiff. ACTF and Network Ten	Director's Attachment with Roger Hodgman
MARX AND VENUS - THE COUNCIL 2007	SBS Television	Writer (episode 110)

Film

Production	Company	Notes
SUCKER 2015	Producer: Jason Byrne & Robyn Kershaw	Director and Co-Writer (with Lawrence Leung) Feature Film * Nominated for Best Adapted Screenplay at the Australian Writers Guild Awards
LITTLE DEATHS 2008		Director (segment "Good Vibrations"). 35mm, 80mins Produced by Jason Byrne * Winner Digi SPAA award, 2008
THE HEARTBREAK TOUR 2005	SBSi/Australian Film Commission	Short Feature Writer/Director 35mm/HD, 52 mins * Shortlisted for the Melbourne Prize for Literature Writing Award, 2006

Short Films

Production	Company	Notes
A FAMILIAR LULLABY 2004	Kulturregion Hannover / Nordmedia	Director 35mm, 15mins Written by Lally Katz
AFTERTHOUGHT 2002		Writer/Director 35mm, 2mins
HEARTWORM 2003	Australian Film Commission	Writer/Director. Produced by Joanna Werner * Screened as part of Accelerator Program at Melbourne International Film Festival, 2004 * Screened at Los Angeles Short Film Festival, 2004 * Screened at Austin Film Festival, 2004 * Screened at Exground Film Festival, Germany, 2005 * Screened at Flickerfest, Sydney, 2005 * Screened at Shorts Film Festival, Adelaide, 2005 * Screened at Prague Short Film Festival, 2005
IS GOD A DJ? 2001		Writer/Director Betacam, 5mins. * Screened at Commonwealth Film Festival, Manchester, 2002 * Screened at Jaffas Down the Aisle Film Festival, 2003
LOOKER 2001		Writer/Director 16mm, 1 min * Screened at Commonwealth Film Festival, Manchester, 2002 * Screened at Jaffas Down the Aisle Film Festival, 2003

Production	Company	Notes
THE ONLY PERSON IN THE WORLD 2001		Writer/Director 16mm, 13mins Distributed in Australia and New Zealand Cinemas with Italian for Beginners by Palace Films * Winner Best Short Film at Australian Circle of Film Critics, 2002 * Finalist - Dendy Awards at Sydney Film Festival, 2002 * Screened at Telluride Film Festival, Film Makers of Tomorrow, 2002 * Screened at St. Tropez Film Festival, 2002 * Screened at Ghent Film Festival, Belgium, 2002 * Screened at Hawaii International Film Festival, 2002 * Winner Jury Prize at Exposures Film Festival, 2002 * Screened at Flickerfest, Sydney, 2003 * Screened at St. Kilda Film Festival, 2003
