Newcastle Region library invites you to a special film screening and discussion

Join us to celebrate NAIDOC Week at this free screening of the 2015 CinefestOz award-winning documentary Putuparri and the Rainmakers, directed by Nicole Ma. Following the screening there will be a panel discussion about Indigenous films and filmmaking hosted by Newcastle City Council Aboriginal Development Officer, Nathan Brennan, with guest speakers Paul Elliott (Director of Photography) and Grant Leigh Saunders (Owner and Creative Director of Sonic Nomad).

Set against the backdrop of this long fight for ownership of traditional lands, Putuparri and the Rainmakers is an emotional, visually breathtaking story of love, hope and the survival of Aboriginal law and culture against all odds.

Director Nicole Ma spent more than a decade documenting Putuparri’s journey, travelling with him and his family on numerous occasions to Kurtal, in the Great Sandy Desert of Western Australia. Tom ‘Putuparri’ Lawford is a man caught between two worlds, torn between his life in the modern world of Fitzroy Crossing and his destiny as a cultural leader of his people. Tom battles with all the temptations of Western society at the same time as he reconnects with his ancestral lands, learns about his traditional culture and shoulders his responsibility to pass this knowledge onto the next generation.

Paul Elliott is a Writer, Director, Cinematographer and editor. Paul was Director of Photography on Putuparri and the Rainmakers. He completed six years of film studies at Swinburne (VCA) and AFTRS in 1981, specialising in directing, editing, sound and cinematography. He founded the production companies Blast Furnace and Light Corporation, creating award-winning documentaries, music video, television commercials, feature films and multimedia in Australia and around the world.

Grant Leigh Saunders is the Owner and Creative Director of Sonic Nomad, based in Newcastle. From 2007-2011 Saunders produced over twenty TV half-hour documentaries, as well as a slate of music videos and mini doco intertitles for the Indigenous program, Message Stick on ABC TV. Saunders graduated from the Australian Film TV and Radio School with an MA(Honours) in Film and TV Documentary in 2006 and since has managed to win a number of awards for his efforts including Best Achievement in Indigenous Filmmaking at St Kilda Film Festival in 2007 for his debut student film B.L.A.C.K., and most recently the 2011 Out There and Deadly emerging Indigenous filmmakers fund provided by Metro Screen. His recent work includes a TV comedy pilot/online mini-series called Whiteblackatcha and Black Santa.

Bookings Essential