



# Songlines on Screen 2015

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**“This country holds our story forever like an archive. Travelling through country, the songs reveal themselves. They are embedded in country.”**

Francis Jupurrurla Kelly (November 2013)



# Songlines on Screen

The *Songlines on Screen* initiative proudly presents 10 short films from the remote regions of Western, Northern and Central Australia. These films represent Aboriginal people's ongoing connection to land and culture as told throughout time by the way of creation songs.

A special collaboration between Screen Australia and NITV, the funding initiative has provided a vital opportunity for the recording of Indigenous songlines which have incorporated the full spectrum of storytelling including dance, song, art, body painting and sites of significance. Continued support towards the practising and sharing of songlines on country will ensure the wellbeing of both the country and its people.



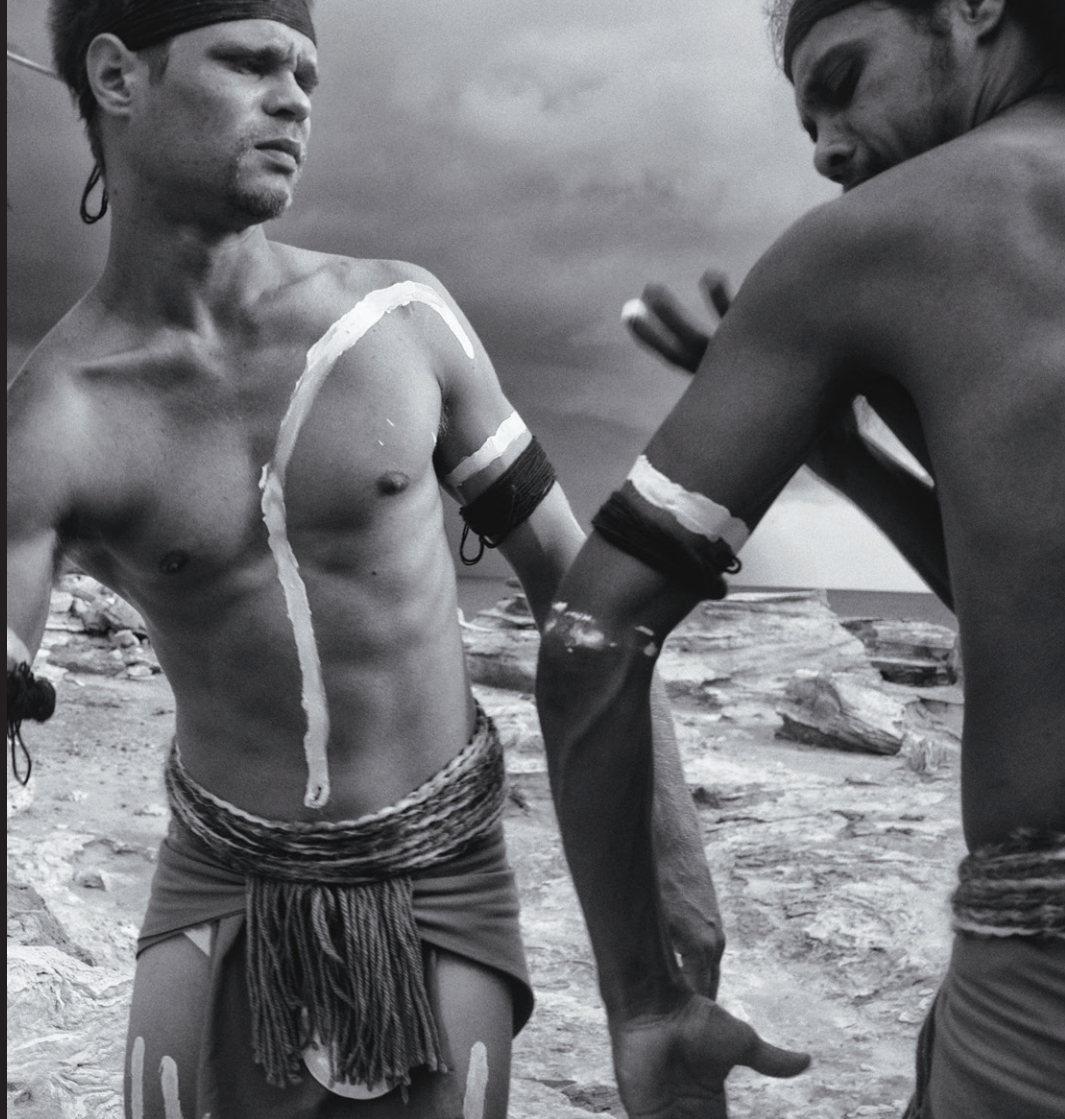
*Songlines are a library of information. They are many things: a road map, a bible, our history. The examples and stories in songlines guide the way we live and give us our unique cultural identities. But our culture and history is an oral one and if it is not talked about it is forgotten. In order for our culture to survive it must move from oral to documented. To record these songlines to film is a natural progression. We must use any devices at our disposal to keep our traditions alive. The songs that the old people sing and pass along, they are about the country and the sacred places where songs belong.*



**Cornel Ozies**  
(D: *Footprints*), April 2015

Songline custodian Brian Bin Saaban is a Djugun man born in Broome. He went through Law in Broome in 1990.

Custodian Roy Wiggan (b 1930, Sunday Island) has lived in Broome for over 50 years and is a senior Bardi man who is the custodian of traditional stories and songs of his people. He is the only member of his community entitled to make new ilma; rare hand-held ceremonial objects allowing Bardi people to learn and access their stories, law and songs.



# FOOTPRINTS

It's 2014 and a group of young Aboriginal men from a tribe on the verge of losing their songlines have just discovered that a law boss from a neighbouring tribe knows some of their cultural songs and dances. They have not been performed for more than 50 years and it was thought they had been lost forever. The songs and dances were given to the men's tribe, the Djugun tribe, by their creator during the Buguragarri (the Dreamtime).

**10 mins**

**Director** Cornel Ozies

**Producer** Eloise Schnierer

**Exec Producer** Eileen Torres

**Songline Custodians** Brian Bin Saaban,  
Roy Wiggan

**Production Company** Wawili Pitjas

**Broadcaster** NITV

**SALES**

Eileen Torres

[eptorres@iinet.net.au](mailto:eptorres@iinet.net.au)



## Wawili Pitjas

Wawili Pitjas Enterprise is a 100% Indigenous owned film production company from Broome, WA and was founded by sisters Eileen and Mitch Torres. Wawili Pitjas is committed to the development and support of sovereign people in the media arena, and nurturing new talent in the fields of media business and multimedia.

We are the Goolarabooloo people, of the West Kimberley Coast – Sundown – Saltwater – Law and Culture. Our Law, Northern Tradition, spreads across Bardi Jawi Karrijarri country. Our Naji ancestors, spiritual beings, manifested themselves here at Dabberdabbergun, Bilingurr and Nunnungurugun. These are the places where they made their journey and creative entry into the Song Cycles, and our people made the first sound and their creative process started.





# NAJI

Naji is a story from the Bugarregarre time, the dreamtime. The spirit beings came out of the ocean and woke up the silent, barren land as they moved from Dabberdabbergun in the West to the land of the rising sun, creating life and importantly, water, as they travel. This creation story comes to life through the use of re-enactments as Richard Hunter, an elder of the Goolarabooloo people recounts the steps of his first people.

## **9 mins**

**Director** Kimberley West

**Producer** Jodie Bell

**Production Company** Ramu Productions

[www.ramufilms.com](http://www.ramufilms.com)

**Broadcaster** NITV

## **SALES**

Ramu Productions

[jodie.bell@gme.com.au](mailto:jodie.bell@gme.com.au)



## **Ramu Productions**

Ramu Productions was established in 2010 and is the production arm of the Broome Aboriginal Media Association and Goolarri Media Enterprises. "Ramu" is a Yawuru word meaning "stories in the sand". Ramu have produced both documentaries and short films, including *Telling Our Story*, *In the Air*, *Characters of Broome* and *Maap Mordak*. Ramu is committed to fostering emerging Indigenous media practitioners, developing their skills and telling their stories in their own way.

Songline custodian Mark Moora was born at Kiyarr in the Great Sandy Desert of Western Australia. He grew up in Old Balgo (Wirrimanu Community) where he attended the Pallottine Mission School for five years. Mark wanted to record the Tjawa Tjawa songline in order to reconnect his people to their country and hold this story strong for future generations.



# TJAWA TJAWA

Tjawa Tjawa songline follows a group of women in search of husbands. Travelling from Roebourne all the way to Kiwikurra in the Great Sandy Desert to the south of Balgo. A long journey with many stories along the way about how the women came to their end, only to come alive again and continue to travel the lands.

**12 mins**

**Director** Mark Moora

**Producer** Neil Turner

**Songline Custodian** Mark Moora

**Production Company** Pilbara and Kimberley  
Aboriginal Media

[www.pakam.com.au](http://www.pakam.com.au)

**Broadcaster** NITV

## **SALES**

Pilbara and Kimberley Aboriginal Media

[neil.turner@gme.com.au](mailto:neil.turner@gme.com.au)



## **Pilbara and Kimberley Aboriginal Media (PAKAM)**

PAKAM supports remote community Indigenous media producers and broadcasters in the north of Western Australia. PAKAM is a major contributor of Indigenous community television programming for direct to home satellite transmission in regional Australia. The PAKAM Radio Network shares local programs and provides FM radio services to 18 remote communities in the Pilbara and Kimberley regions.



Granny Sheba Dignari is the custodian of the Goorrandalng story and song as the most senior Miriwoong person from Wiram country, which straddles the Western Australia and Northern Territory border. The Goorrandalng hill is situated in Wiram country within the Keep River National Park. Children learn about stories for country through the brolga song, Goorrandalng.



# GOORRANDALNG: BROLGA DREAMING

*Goorrandalng* is a song and a story. The Goorrandalng song is about brolgas. It's from Granny Sheba Dignari's mother and is sung all the time for country, keeping it strong. Goorrandalng is also the name of the dreaming place, at Keep River National Park in the Northern Territory, where women can go to become pregnant. In the Goorrandalng dreamtime story, women went to the special place and turned into brolgas.

**10 mins**

**Director** Ju Ju Wilson

**Producer** Robyn Marais

**Songline Custodian** Granny Sheba Dignari

**Production Company** Bigapitja

**Broadcaster** NITV

**SALES**

Bigapitja

kootji@hotmail.com



## Bigapitja

Bigapitja, a Darwin-based production company, tells stories about Indigenous peoples and organisations all around the top end and beyond.

Bulun Milkarri is a women's songline of the Djambarrpuynu Clan Nation of North East Arnhem Land and connects a number of different clan groups under the one law, and ancestral homelands. This law is sung by Djambarrpuynu Yothu Yindi women, custodians from communities of Galiwinku, Ramingining, Milingimbi, Gapuwiyak, Yirrkala and homelands like Ban'thula on Elcho Island.





# BULUNU MILKARRI

One woman's journey to learn an endangered songline from remote Arnhem Land that explores cycles of death, life, rain, tears and the replenishment and abundance of land, sea and spirit, and the quest to ensure this ancient songline is practiced for generations to come.

## **25 mins**

**Director** Sylvia Nulpinditj

**Producers** Gaia Osborne,  
Keith Djinyini Dhamarrandji

**Production Company** Aboriginal Resource and  
Development Services  
[www.ards.com.au](http://www.ards.com.au)

**Broadcaster** NITV

## **SALES**

Aboriginal Resource and Development Services  
[gaia.osborne@ards.com.au](mailto:gaia.osborne@ards.com.au)



## **Aboriginal Resource and Development Services (ARDS)**

ARDS is an Indigenous community development organisation with a 40-year history of cultural maintenance initiatives in film, audio and radio, working with and for the Yolngu Clan Nations of North East Arnhem Land. We strive to empower Yolngu People working through language, culture and worldview and bring greater understanding between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.

Songline custodian Keith Lapulung Dhamarrandji is a Djambarrpuyngu clan nation senior leader. His dialect is Dhuwal Djambarrpuyngu, the most common dialect of Yolngu Matha speaking people of North-East Arnhem Land, and he is a fluent English speaker. Keith is an outspoken advocate for Indigenous rights and is the founder and director of the Gattjirrk Festival and chairman of the Gattjirrk Yolngu Aboriginal Corporation.



# WURRAY

Yolngu song men trace the epic dreamtime story of their great nomadic warrior, Wurray, across the wilderness of North East Arnhem Land.

**12 mins**

**Director** Keith Lapulung Dhamarrandji

**Producer** Paul Williams

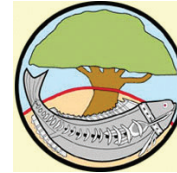
**Songline Custodian** Keith Lapulung  
Dhamarrandji

**Production Company** Sutton Grange Films,  
Milingimbi Art and Culture Aboriginal Corporation  
[www.sgfilms.com.au](http://www.sgfilms.com.au)

**Broadcaster** NITV

## SALES

Sutton Grange Films  
[info@sgfilms.com.au](mailto:info@sgfilms.com.au)



suttongrangefilms

## Sutton Grange Films, Milingimbi Art and Culture Aboriginal Corporation (MACAC)

Milingimbi is an island community just off the coast of Arnhem Land. A number of different clan groups exist among the tiny population, including surrounding homelands. There is a long tradition of creative and cultural works – bark paintings, carvings and weavings amongst the most traditional. Many of Milingimbi's artists are represented in collections locally and internationally. MACAC represent these artists. Songlines on Screen: *Wurray* is their first film production.



Wardbukkarra is a traditional story from the Bininj people of central western Arnhem Land. The main custodians of this songline are Ross and Stuart Guymala and the story is based on the area around their homeland Manmoyi.





# WARDBUKKARRA

The story of the creation of the first people of Western Arnhem Land and the battle between good and evil resulting in the songs and stories handed down today.

**12 mins**

**Director** Terrah Guymala

**Exec Producer** Mark Grose

**Songline Custodians** Ross Guymala,  
Stuart Guymala

**Production Company** Manmoyi Music,  
Skinnyfish Music

[www.skinnyfishmusic.com.au](http://www.skinnyfishmusic.com.au)

**Broadcaster** NITV

**SALES**

Manmoyi Music

[info@skinnyfishmusic.com.au](mailto:info@skinnyfishmusic.com.au)



**Manmoyi Music Pty Ltd**

## **Manmoyi Music, Skinnyfish Music**

Manmoyi and Skinnyfish Music is a Darwin-based company which records and promotes the work of Indigenous musicians. The fundamental philosophy behind this business is to empower Indigenous Australians to generate and pursue their own creative and economic activity.

The Ngapa songline refers to water and to the Warlpiri, which is extremely important as their country is the desert. The Ngapa Jukurrpa is a series of rain creation songs that travel across Central Australia.



# NGAPA JUKURRPA: WATER DREAMING

The Ngapa Jukurrpa is a series of rain creation songs that travel across Central Australia. The Ngapa spirit gathers as cloud and is a warrior, building strength. It moves west across the Ngalikirlangu landforms and into the Tanami Desert. It passes over the water dreaming site of Juka Juka where Warlpiri rain makers perform using pearl shells from Broome. After a long journey, the story keeps heading north to Arnhem Land.

## **22 mins**

**Co-director** Steven Jampijinpa Patrick

**Writers** Francis Jupurrula Kelly, Steven Jampijinpa Patrick

**Producer** Jeff Bruer

**Exec Producer** Michael Taylor

**Production Company** PAW Media & Communications

[www.pawmedia.com.au](http://www.pawmedia.com.au)

**Broadcaster** NITV

## **SALES**

PAW Media & Communications  
[michael@pawmedia.com.au](mailto:michael@pawmedia.com.au)



## **PAW Media & Communications**

PAW Media & Communications is a not-for-profit organisation incorporated under the *NT Associations Act*. Established in 1983 as Warlpiri Media Association, we took on the trading name PAW Media & Communications in 2006 to reflect our services to other language groups in the Tanami region. We are one of eight Remote Indigenous Media Organisations (RIMOs) in Australia.



Senior Alyawarre lawman and songline custodian, Donald Kemarre Thompson, known as Crookhat, has lived forever on his homelands. Crookhat is still fit at 74 and continues to hunt porcupine, kangaroo and lizard. He only travels to Alice Springs for land council business and rare hospital visits. The section of the Dingo songline Crookhat and his five brothers are responsible for is one of the most culturally significant to cross the Barkly Tableland.



# DESERT DINGO

Five senior Alywarre lawmen journey from their community of Ali Curung (Land of the Dogs) across 450kms of semi-arid plane and range country to perform ceremonies at three significant sites where the narrative of an important Dingo songline plays out.

**26 mins**

**Director** David Tranter

**Producer** Nicolas Lee

**Songline Custodian** Donald Kemarre Thompson (Crookhat)

**Production Company** CAAMA Productions  
[www.caama.com.au](http://www.caama.com.au)

**Broadcaster** NITV

**SALES**

CAAMA Productions  
[ep.productions@caama.com.au](mailto:ep.productions@caama.com.au)



## CAAMA Productions

Established in 1980, CAAMA Productions was the first Indigenous group to be allocated a broadcasting licence. Based in Alice Springs, CAAMA are involved in radio, music and film production. CAAMA's focus is on providing culturally relevant content and promoting Indigenous culture, while generating training, employment and income generation. CAAMA produces media that engenders pride in Indigenous culture, while informing the wider community of the richness and diversity of Indigenous peoples.

Songline custodian David Mundraby, Elder of the Mandingalbay Yidinji clan from Far North Queensland is a Teacher's Aide at the Yarrabah State School and holder of the songline of his clan. The songline stretches from the North of Queensland down to the land of the Mandingalbay Yidinji, which lies between Yarrabah and Cairns.



# DAMARI AND GUYALA: A STORY OF TWO BROTHERS

Before the whiteman arrived, two brothers Damari and Guyala, made their way down the east coast of Australia. They came seeking shelter and food after a long journey from the North and made a stopover near the land of the Mandingalbay Yidinji tribe of the Cairns area. The story of betrayal, lies and loyalty is told in the language of the Mandingalbay Yidinji elder David Mundraby.

**10 mins**

**Directors** Ben Southwell, Marley Sharpe

**Producer** Ian Ludwick

**Songline Custodian** David Mundraby

**Production Company** Turn Dog Quick Films

[www.turndogquickfilms.com](http://www.turndogquickfilms.com)

**Broadcaster** NITV

**SALES**

Turn Dog Quick Films

[turndogquickfilms@hotmail.com](mailto:turndogquickfilms@hotmail.com)



## Turn Dog Quick Films

Turn Dog Quick Films is 100% Indigenous owned and operated and is looking to delve into the feature film market in 2015.



**“It was only one songline, but it’s  
saved forever and a day.”**

Ian Ludwick (April 2015)

## **SCREEN AUSTRALIA INDIGENOUS DEPARTMENT**

**Penny Smallacombe** – Head of Indigenous

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