



A PROJECT BY
BIG hART

HOW DO WE GET TO SPACE?

THE STORY OF THE LOVE PUNKS AND SATELLITE SISTERS

A DOCUMENTARY PRESS KIT



MEDIA CONTACT

Yolande Norris

Producer – Content and Communications
Big hART
M +61 438 545 291
E yolande@bighart.org

Chynna Campbell

Director / Editor
Big hART
PO Box 237
ROEBOURNE WA 6718
AUSTRALIA
M +61 457 599 192
E chynna@fatjunkie.com

PRODUCER AND PROJECT CONTACT

Laura Harris

Producer
Big hART
PO Box 237
ROEBOURNE WA 6718
AUSTRALIA
M +61 400 870 704
E laura@bighart.org

DOCUMENTARY DETAILS

Title

How do we get to Space? : The Story of the Love Punks and Satellite Sisters

Duration

27.03 mins

Year of Production

2014

KEY LINKS

www.neomadcomic.com

www.yijalayala.bighart.org

www.bighart.org



Satellite Sisters photo shoot



Love Punks and Satellite Sisters on NEOMAD 3 set

SYNOPSIS

ONE LINE

From deep in the Pilbara desert of Western Australia comes an unlikely group of 11-year olds who are creating the world's first Aboriginal sci-fi interactive comic book, NEOMAD.

ONE PARAGRAPH

Deep in the Pilbara desert of Western Australia, an unlikely group of 11-year olds create the world's first Aboriginal interactive comic book, NEOMAD. *How do we get to Space?* captures the arguments, pranks, computer wizardry, and grand fantastical vision as the young artists battle to transform themselves into the heroes of their own epic sci-fi adventure - meet the real Love Punks and Satellite Sisters from Roebourne!

ONE PAGE

Something is happening in one of the hottest and most remote places of the world...

In the small Aboriginal community of Ieramagadu (Roebourne), Western Australia, an unlikely group of 11-year olds wearing found objects, wacky hats and face paint create the world's first Aboriginal interactive comic book, NEOMAD - a three-part futuristic fantasy starring the creators themselves as their alter egos the Love Punks and Satellite Sisters.

In the real world, the Love Punks and Satellite Sisters are seen as troublemakers; problem kids with too much energy and nothing to do. But when arts and social change company Big hART come to town, the kids seize the opportunity to collaborate and show the world who they really are. The Love Punks and Satellite Sisters find new ways to tell stories and express themselves. Despite the sweltering heat of the desert sun and broken air conditioners, the Love Punks and Satellite Sisters create live action films and master Photoshop, surpassing the expectations of their community and taking them from their small town to the neon lights of South Korea's Bucheon International Comics Festival.

How do we get to Space? captures the arguments, pranks, computer wizardry, and the grand fantastical vision as the young artists battle to create themselves as the heroes of their own epic adventure - meet the real Love Punks and Satellite Sisters from Roebourne!



Love Punks on set with rocket booster

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

When you're working with a crew of over 40 kids, it's hard to capture all the action. Like when Ashton (aka Birdman) - who could barely read when we started - was practicing his lines while hanging upside down from a tree, then later his older sisters had tears in their eyes when they saw him read lines from the script - because they couldn't read themselves. He read the lines so well and with so much personality and pride that he's now regarded as one of the favourite characters of the NEOMAD story. All the younger kids idolize him and instead of letting it go to his head, he turned around and recruited his nephew, Jackson, as Baby Birdman. A thoughtful little gesture that influenced all the veteran Love Punks and Satellite Sisters to recruit their little brothers and sisters into the NEOMAD family.

It's this kind of all-inclusive creativity and sense of community that made me feel very at home in Roebourne for three years. We can't play favourites because we want all the young people to experience these little uplifting moments that help to shape their personalities and give them the confidence to give things a go. And when you see Baby Birdman having a meeting with his little friends about their own characters, it quickly gets very exciting and infectious and before you know it you're racing around with a camera, trying not to miss a beat.

When we projected the NEOMAD comic and films at the local oval, the families of all the kids came out. As each of the kids appeared on the screen, the oval broke out in pockets of laughter. Mothers, fathers and grandparents beamed with pride and the kids giggled and blushed.

When you come from a town with a terrible reputation, it's hard to shake that and not be painted with the same stick. Roebourne has been subject to some of the most embarrassing chapters of Australia's history - brutal racism, slavery, displacement and stolen generations. These are the sad and unfortunately common stories in the Australian media.

One of my first impressions of Roebourne was not a sad story. It was watching the kids play football. It was so hot they threw their t-shirts aside. Little piles of t-shirts everywhere, and when the game was over, each kid picked up the nearest one. One tall kid got the small t-shirt, exposing some midriff. The idea of material possession was irrelevant and that was refreshing. These smaller nuances are what make the town of Roebourne a loveable place. These are the moments I wanted to capture and share with the world.

BACKGROUND

ROEBOURNE

The town of Roebourne (or Ieramagadu as it is known by the traditional owners, the Ngarluma people) sits in the West Pilbara region of Western Australia. From the late 19th century to the 1960s, Ieramagadu was the largest settlement between Darwin and Perth, created by an extended period of mining of resources such as gold, copper, tin and iron ore in the area. Prior to the 1960's, the population of Ieramagadu was predominately Caucasian. Today, Ieramagadu is home to approximately 1000 people, mostly Aboriginal. The predominant language groups include Ngarluma, Yindjibarndi and Banjima.

As with many Aboriginal communities in Australia, Ieramagadu faces many social challenges including low school attendance rates, drug and alcohol abuse and high incarceration rates. It might seem an unlikely place to find a wealth of innovative arts activity, but since 2010, Big hART's Yijala Yala Project has been working to harness the creative capacity of the community.

NEOMAD

Created with the young people of Roebourne as a part of the Yijala Yala Project, NEOMAD is a futuristic fantasy about the world's oldest continuing culture. Set over three episodes, NEOMAD follows the story of the Love Punks and Satellite Sisters, young heroes who watch over country and speed through a digitised desert full of spy bots, magic crystals, fallen rocket boosters and mysterious petroglyphs.

NEOMAD is set around Murujuga (the Burrup Peninsula), which is home to approximately one million petroglyphs (etched rock art), some of which are over 30,000 years old. These ancient carvings are markings of food sources, ceremonial sites and spirituality. NEOMAD is one way the thousands of years of cultural heritage associated with Murujuga are now being interpreted using contemporary tools as part of the Yijala Yala Project.

NEOMAD was created with award-winning illustrator and interactive designer SUTU (Stuart Campbell) in collaboration with over 40 young people in the Ieramagadu community. These young people, aged between 7 and 14, star in the comic as the Love Punks and the Satellite Sisters and assisted with character creation, script writing, Photoshop, dialogue and live film segments.

Originally developed as a three-episode interactive comic for iPad NEOMAD is now also available as a series of books published by Gestalt Comics, Australia's premier graphic novel publishing house.



After school digital workshops

YIJALA YALA PROJECT

Yijala Yala Project is a long-term, multi-platform arts project based in Ieramagadu focused on telling the story of the community's culture, history and future in a range of media: theatre, film, games, iPad applications and music. The project seeks to highlight cultural heritage as living, continually evolving and in the here and now, rather than of the past, and works with community members to create content and develop skills that assist in communicating their cultural heritage to a wide audience.

Through arts and digital media skill development and content creation, it explores the inter-connection between past, present and future, young people and older generations, ancient and modern culture and how critical they all are to the heritage of the 'now'. The name Yijala Yala was chosen to reflect the focus of the project: Yijala means 'now' in Ngarluma; Yala means 'now' in Yindjibarndi – the two dominant Aboriginal languages spoken in Ieramagadu.

BIG hART

Big hART is Australia's leading arts and social change organisation. It brings artist and communities together on projects that inspire positive change through arts. Guided by the principle, 'it's harder to hurt someone if you know their story', Big hART works with individuals and communities on projects that traverse three platforms: community development, art of excellence and social policy.

Since 1992, Big hART has worked in over 43 communities with more than 7500 individuals, producing 14 nationally and internationally touring theatre works, six feature length films and a range of other art works.

QUOTES FROM FILM

The rocket booster came from space over there where one of the aliens pressed the wrong button...
Eric Wedge aka General EJ and Max Coppin aka Supamaxie

I'm a good kid now, a movie star!
Maverick Eaton aka Garuwarra

If you want it quicker and neater, you gotta link the layer.
Nathaniel Edwins aka Future Smash

Photoshop is wicked!
Layla Walker, Satellite Sister

When someone comes along and actually tells you your son is good at something...it lifts you.
Denise Smith, Banjima woman and guardian of Love Punks Garuwarra and Born Ready

To actually be involved with the children...that was really exciting for me to be a part of that.
Allery Sandy, Yindjibarndi Elder and grandmother of Love Punks Baldhead and Supamaxie



BIG hART TEAM



CHYNNA CAMPBELL
DIRECTOR / EDITOR

Since May 2011, Chynna has been working with Big hART on the Yijala Yala Project as a documentary filmmaker and producer of the kids workshop program. Chynna has made a series of short films that document the kids' involvement in the Yijala Yala Project. These short films form part of the extras section in the NEOMAD interactive comic and have been screened at Melbourne's Federation Square, the New Media Film Festival in LA, Melbourne's Writer's Festival and Karratha's Red Earth Arts Festival. These films have also been broadcasted by ICTV. Chynna has also shot additional footage for an ABC Artscape documentary and exhibited her short film, *Urani*, at the Ilulissat Art Museum in Greenland. *How do we get to Space?* is Chynna's first half-hour documentary.



STUART THORNE
SOUND MIX / ORIGINAL MUSIC

With over 20 years experience, Stuart is an award-winning sound recordist, composer, sound designer, musician and DJ working in commercial and experimental time based arts, particularly in co-operation with filmmakers and visual artists. Stuart has worked on a range of projects for clients such as ABC, SBS, MTV and the National Portrait Gallery. Stuart is the Sound Designer on a number of Yijala Yala products including the Love Punks online video game, NEOMAD and the Pilbara digital storybook anthology.



DEBRA MYERS
PRODUCER

As the Creative Producer of Big hART's Yijala Yala Project, Debra has produced NEOMAD iPad applications, short films and printed comic books, Hipbone Sticking Out (nationally touring theatre production) and the Pilbara digital storybook anthology. Debra has lived and worked in Roebourne on the Yijala Yala Project since its inception in July 2010. Prior to her work with Big hART, Debra worked in the Indigenous arts sector for five years, including producing several events and exhibitions as the Manager of Ernabella Arts and working for the Adelaide Festival.



ELSPETH BLUNT
PRODUCER

Elspeth's recent producing roles include Associate Producer of NEOMAD, Hipbone Sticking Out and the Pilbara digital storybook anthology. Prior to relocating to Roebourne two years ago to work with Big hART, Elspeth produced projects, events, short films and performances in Alice Springs for the Alice Desert Festival and InCite Youth Arts. Elspeth holds a BA Communication: Theatre/Media and has furthered her theatre studies in Thailand with Makhampom, in Canada with Headlines Theatre and in Australia at NIDA. In 2011, Elspeth underwent a theatre producing mentorship in the Central Australian Producers Program.

CREDITS

Featuring the Love Punks, Satellite Sisters and friends

Alison Lockyer
Allery Sandy
Amanda Edwins
Ashton Munda
Autulies Jenkins
Brooke Boney
Brenton Wedge
Brodie Tahī Tahī
Charlotte Hicks
Chenea Smith
Claude Bobby
Claude Eaton

Coden Smith
Corbyn Munda
Corey Willis
Dallas Fredericks
Dannette Wilson
David Churnside
David Walker
Denise Smith
Deshawn Roberts
Dequarne Roberts
Eric Wedge
Ezekiel Williams

Geoff Togo
Jacinta Coppin
Jack Cheedy
Jackson Warrie
Jahmal Munda
James Wally
Jarried Ashburton
Jaxon Aubrey
Jesper Hayes
Jordan Coppin
Kerwin Snook
Kuarn Smirke

Latrell Moody
Layla Walker
Laurissa Bobby
Lester Darby
Maverick Eaton
Max Coppin
Mervin Warrie
Morgan Lockyer
Nathaniel Edwins
Nelson Coppin
Qualin Edgar
Quanis Edgar

Stuart Thorne
Relic Stream
Richard Simmonds
Robert Kelly
Rochelle Wally
Rodella Jacobs
Shaeola Toby
Shakaya Warrie
Shamese Lee
Sidney Eaton
Stuart Campbell
Stuart Dale

Susan Edwins
Dr Tom Calma
Tonina Smith
Tootsie Daniel
Troydan Long
Violet Coppin
Vynka Parker
Wah Cheung
Wally Snook
William Eaton
Wimiya Woodley
Woedin Wilson

Director Chynna Campbell

Producers Debra Myers and Elspeth Blunt

Editor Chynna Campbell

Sound Mix Stuart Thorne

Line Producer Chynna Campbell

Original Music Stuart Thorne

Animation Stuart Campbell

Graphic Design Wah Cheung

Co-producers Alex Kelly and Sophia Marinos

Big hART Artistic Director Scott Rankin

Camera Chynna Campbell

Additional Cameras Benjamin Ducroz, Sera Davies and Stuart Campbell

Sound Recording Dudley Billing, Michael Prior, Sera Davies, Stuart Thorne and Wah Cheung

Songs

In Your Arms

Written and performed by Roy Evans
Courtesy of Roy Evan

Beautiful Life

Written by Boratto/Villanova (True Music/Mushroom Music)
Performed by Gui Boratto
Courtesy of KOMPAKT

Special thanks to

Aileen Sandy, Alanna Proud, Allery Sandy, Amanda Edwins, Beth Smith, Chloe Seung-Hyun Jeong, Cho Cleary, Denise Smith, Diana Malcolm, Joanne Willis, Jocelyn Black, Kane Guy, Kasey Cheedy, Majhid Heath, Mariaa Randall, Marshall Smith, Charlie Nelson Coppin, Pauline McNally, Reg Sambo, Richard Eaton, Senator Rachel Siewert, Sonya Wilson, Susan Edwins, Susie Skinner, Dr Tom Calma, Tootsie Daniel, Troy Eaton, Tyson Mowarin and the Ieramagadu Community.

Project Sponsor



Pluto LNG

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with Tokyo Gas and Kansai Electric



Australian Government

The Yijala Yala Project is sponsored by Woodside-operated Pluto LNG through its Conservation Agreement with the Australian Government.

Project Partners



Rangers of the Murujuga Land
and Sea Country Management Unit

Duchon international
comics festival