Andrew Garton

Filmmaker, Writer, Creative Producer

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About

Andrew Garton
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Andrew is a freelance filmmaker, creative producer, musician and communications media advisor with over thirty years industry experience. With an emphasis on collaboration, Andrew thrives within multidisciplinary production environments bringing a broad range of skills to projects that have seen him work across Australia, Southeast Asia, Indo-China, South Asia and Central Europe.

Andrew was a co-creator of Pegasus Networks, the earliest community focused national internet provider in Australia. Pegasus went online in 1989. In 1995 he co-founded the artist-led production house, Toy Satellite producing cutting edge online interactives for museums and creative research initiatives in Austria, South Korea and Taiwan. In 2001 Andrew produced the opening of the Taipei International Arts Festival in collaboration with Taiwanese artists, touring the completed work, Undercurrents, throughout Australia. Undercurrents focused on the shared social, environmental and cultural concerns of both groups of artists. A series of commissions followed including works for the Australian Centre for the Moving Image, Fringe Fashion, Melbourne International Film Festival, MAAP, Ars Electronica, KunstRadio, the Australian Broadcasting Corporation and a two-year artists residency at the Dunmoochin Foundation regional Victoria. Many of these works focused on empathy building through diverse screen culture practices.

Andrew has produced numerous public events collaborating with media makers and producers on such wide-ranging topics as creative commons licensing for screen producers (Arts Law Week), collaborative book and place-making for authors, mixed media arts production with asylum seekers exploring connections to their homelands (Bamiyarra), the history of psychedelic lighting design in Melbourne (The Light Show) and more recently crafting performance installations on the cosmology of the last forest dwellers of Sarawak (Tong Tana) and podcasting. His 2018 podcast series, Right to Know, was commissioned by the Association for Progressive Communications.

In 2012 Andrew returned to filmmaking, writing and directing and set-up Secession Films in regional Victoria. In 2015 he began work on his first feature film, *Ocean in a Drop - broadband impacts rural India*, with the New Delhi based Digital Empowerment Foundation. *Ocean in a Drop* was launched at the Chennai International Film Festival in 2017 with the support of the Australian High Commission, India. His first book, *Right to Know - India's Internet Avant-Garde*, was published by the Digital Empowerment Foundation and the Australia India Institute.

Andrew's new feature, *Forged from Fire - the making of the Blacksmiths' Tree* was launched in February 2019 to coincide with Black Saturday memorial events in Victoria, Australia.

Select works

Forged from Fire / Writer, Director, Producer

2012 - 2019, MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA

An artisan response to the catastrophic Black Saturday fires of 2009 - the making of the Blacksmiths' Tree. In post-production, launching February 2019. For more info see forgedfromfirefilm.com

The Archivists / Director of Photography, Editor, Composer

2018, MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA

In collaboration with Ausdance Victoria a community art dance work. The video production documented in part performances commissioned by the City of Whittlesea.

Stupendous - Dancing with Parkinson's / Co-Director, Editor

2018, MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA

Dance as therapy is explored in this short film about a small group of people living with Parkinsons' who prepare for a 30-second performance. Commissioned by Katrina Rank and Paris Wages.

This Choir Sings Carols / Writer, Director, Producer

2015 - 2018, MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA

A film about a multi-faith, intergenerational choir that only sings songs about Christmas. Produced in collaboration with First Impressions Youth Theatre. Commissioned by the City of Whittlesea and completed with the support of the Australian Cultural Fund.

Right to Know / Author, Podcast Producer

2017, INDIA

A personal account of the changes the internet has brought to the lives of India's rural and tribal woman, children and community workers. An accompanying podcast series draws on these encounters too. Forwards by Anriette Esterhuysen and Mishi Choudhary. Published by the Digital Empowerment Foundation and the Australia India Institute.
ISBN 978-81-933164-2-9

Ocean in a Drop / Writer, Director, Producer

2015– 2017, INDIA

Feature documentary on the impact broadband is having on rural and tribal communities in India. In collaboration with the Digital Empowerment Foundation and Inomy Media in association with the Internet Society, Australia India Institute and the Association for Progressive Communications. The film premiered at the Chennai International Film Festival, 18 December 2017.

Bamiyarra Not so Still(s) / Creative Producer

2012, MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA

Photo essays, two-channel video projection, 4 micro-docs in collaboration with young people who have refugee backgrounds. Also known as Homelands, the project was supported by the City of Melbourne, Swinburne University and the Cultural Development Network. Exhibited at the Walker St Gallery, Dandenong, Victoria, 2013, Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre, NSW, 2013, Signal Gallery, Melbourne, 2012.

Employment

Lecturer in Media & Communications / Faculty of Health, Arts & Design, Swinburne University

2018 - 2020 - MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA

Lead lecturer teaching four post-graduate units; Video Production & Practice, Advanced Video Production & Practice, Multiplatform Production & Practice and Media Ecology. Classes involve hands-on production, lectures and tutoring in both theory and practice.

Freelance Creative Producer, Media Arts Mentor, Installation Artist, Videographer / City of Whittlesea

2013 - 2018 - MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA

As a freelance arts professional contributing and/or producing works for Into the Light, The Superheros of Barry Road, This Choir Sings Carols, Knowing YouKnowing Me and numerous projects around the Blacksmiths' Tree.

Creative Producer / City of Melbourne and Cultural Development Network

2011 - 2013 - MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA

Bamiyarra media arts installation developed through mentorship and workshops connecting young Hazara from refugee backgrounds with their homelands and separated communities. Final works installed and exhibited at Signal (Melbourne), Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre (NSW) and Walker St Gallery (Dandenong).

Operations Manager / EngageMedia

2009 - 2011 - MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA/JAKARTA, INDONESIA

Managing day-to-day operations of the Jakarta and Melbourne based NGO which included revising governance manuals, preparation of funding proposals and reporting, coordination of staff, management and board meetings, liaison with funders and supporters. During this period Andrew revised EngageMedia's policies and procedures and introduced a new board of directors ensuring compliance with Victorian (Australia) law.

Programme Director / OPEN CHANNEL

2005 - 2007 - MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA

Collaborating with the Board Andrew assisted in the migration of Open Channel's operations from Fitzroy to Docklands which involved re-establishing the organisation as a leader in film and video training, mentorships and industry attachments. He created new initiatives that merged new media within Open Channel's training portfolio, re-established hands-on production training with Melbourne's Channel 31 and produced the re-launch of the organisation in 2007. Andrew had also expanded the scope of their Framed public lecture series.

Creative Director / Toy Satellite

1995 - 2005 - MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA

During this period Andrew was subcontracted to work as project and network coordinator for ABC's coverage of the Pacific Islander Arts Festival and commissions for ACMI's public programs. Other commissions included design and production of the opening performance for the 2001 Taipei International Arts Festival and numerous radio documentary dramas for ORF/KunstRadio, Austria.

Project Officer / Pegasus Networks

1990 - 1995 - BYRON BAY/BRISBANE/MELBOURNE., AUSTRALIA

Coordinating and often initiating the earliest email connectivity projects

in Southeast Asia and the Pacific Islands. Included researching remote access options for development workers in Indo China, South Asia and Southeast Asia.

Associations and Memberships

Adjunct Industry Fellow / Media and Communication, Swinburne University of Technology
2016 - Present, MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA

Associate Member / Association for Progressive Communications
2016 - Present, INTERNATIONAL

Visiting Fellow / Digital Empowerment Foundation
2015 - NEW DELHI, INDIA

Secretary, Board Member / Association for Progressive Communications
2009 - 2014, INTERNATIONAL

Qualifications

Graduate Certificate in Education and Learning / Swinburne University
Currently studying, two years part-time.

Master of Arts / Animation and Interactive Media, RMIT University
Graduated 2001

References

John Smithies / Director, Cultural Development Network
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Mahony Kiely / Coordinator, Community Development
City of Whittlesea
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Paul Wilson / Executive Director, APNIC
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Websites and Social

Portfolio and Blog

andrewgarton.com

Researcher Profile, Swinburne University

Secession Films

secessionfilms.com

Social Media

Twitter / @andrewgarton62

Instagram / @andrewgarton

LinkedIn / linkedin.com/in/andrew-garton/