

FIRST NATIONS GRADUATION

EVENT PROGRAM
2024



AFTRS

Australian Film Television
and Radio School

Acknowledgement of Country

- The Australian Film Television and Radio School acknowledges the Traditional Custodians, the Bidjigal and Gadigal peoples of the Eora Nation, on whose unceded lands we meet, work, study, learn and teach. We pay our respects to Elders and Knowledge Holders past and present and extend our respect to all Aboriginal and Zenadth Kes (Torres Strait) Nations, who continue to occupy unceded ancestral, traditional, living lands that are now collectively known as Australia.
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Schedule

- 6:00 PM **SMOKING CEREMONY AND DANCING**
Gawura Cultural Immersions
- 6:30 PM **WELCOME TO COUNTRY**
Aunty Rhonda Dixon Grovenor,
Gadigal Bidjigal Yuin, AFTRS Elder in Residence
- 6:45 PM **KEYNOTE**
Genevieve Grieves, Worimi, Co-Founder GARUWA
- 7:00 PM **ALUMNI ADDRESS**
Skye Leon, Yangkaal/Worimi, BAS 2021 Graduate
- 7:10 PM **STUDENT TRAILER**
- 7:15 PM **GRADUATES PRESENTED WITH STOLES**
- 7:30 PM **CLOSING PERFORMANCE**
Award-winning musician Bumpy, Noongar, WAT Artists
- 7:50 PM **CEREMONY CONCLUDES**
Guests to enjoy drinks and canapes in foyer
Students works available to view in Studio 3
- 9:00 PM **EVENT CLOSE**

Guest Speakers
and Performers

Gawura Cultural Immersions
Aunty Rhonda Dixon Grovenor
Genevieve Grieves
Skye Leon
Bumpy

Graduates

NICOLE HUTTON LEWIS

GARAWA



BACHELOR OF ARTS SCREEN:
PRODUCTION

WWW.NICOLEHUTTONLEWIS.COM
NICOLEHUTTONLEWIS@GMAIL.COM

Nicole is a proud Garawa woman, emerging screenwriter and Australian Directors Guild winning director. Born and raised in regional Queensland and the Northern Territory, Nicole's background is in grassroots organising and political campaigning which is where she found her love of storytelling and filmmaking.

Nicole loves to direct First Nations narrative content and has a unique passion for telling stories for women and girls.



BRITTNEY MORRIS

WIRADJURI, DUNGHUTTI & WONNARUA



BACHELOR OF ARTS SCREEN:
PRODUCTION

[@BRITTNEYMORRISS](https://www.instagram.com/BRITTNEYMORRISS)
BRITTNEY.MORRIS320@GMAIL.COM

Brittney is a proud Wiradjuri, Dunghutti, Wonnarua woman who grew up on Darug Country. She is an emerging filmmaker who is passionate about creating and telling Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stories.

Brittney is dedicated to working with and elevating the voices of mob and other marginalised groups.



KEELAN BETTS

NGUNNAWAL



BACHELOR OF ARTS SCREEN:
PRODUCTION
KEELANBETTSMEDIA@GMAIL.COM

Since completing his studies at AFTRS Keelan has been keeping busy working on various projects - mostly sticking to his strengths in AD-ing but has been fortunate enough to work on a couple large offshore features filmed right here in Sydney.

He plans to continue to develop his storytelling abilities in and around the Greater Sydney Area.

EJ GARRETT

DARUMBAL & WULLI WULLI



MASTER OF ARTS SCREEN:
BUSINESS
WWW.EJGARRETT.AU
@EJGARRETT1
EJ@EJGARRETT.AU

EJ Garrett is a film maker who has produced, directed and written content for broadcast, on-line and community. EJ currently owns and operates EJ Garrett Pty Ltd and produces First Nations content with strong narratives, with a community focus.



MARGARET ROSS

DUNGHUTTI & GUMBAYNGGIRR



MASTER OF ARTS SCREEN:
BUSINESS

MARGARET.E.P.ROSS@GMAIL.COM

Margaret is an International Emmy Award-winning Executive Producer of Scripted and Factual content. With 15 years in screen and broadcast media, she is highly experienced in development, editorial guidance, and audience engagement.

Margaret is passionate about advancing First Nations and diverse voices in Australian screen culture, and crafts compelling stories and pathways for emerging creatives.



APRIL HOWARD

ABORIGINAL



MASTER OF ARTS SCREEN:
BUSINESS

WWW.ROLLINGBALL.COM.AU

APRIL@ROLLINGBALL.COM.AU

April is a Producer, Director and founding partner of Rollingball Productions who grew up on Dja Dja Wurrung Country. April began her career on screen as an actor in television then studied and worked in business and journalism before co-founding Rollingball in 2009.

Among other social impact projects, April produced the short film *Catching Dragonflies* and is currently developing a slate of short and long format independent work.



TOP: WE JUST LIVE HERE, BRITTNEY MORRIS
MIDDLE LEFT: DON'T MESS WITH THE FUNGI, KEELAN BETTS
BOTTOM LEFT: THE GUIDE TO FIRST NATION'S ASTRONOMY,
BRITTNEY MORRIS & NICOLE HUTTON LEWIS
BOTTOM RIGHT: HYDRAULIC, NICOLE HUTTON LEWIS



Fire Journey

CARA HICKEY-FREEMAN
WONNARUA AND WIRADJURI



This artwork depicts the banksia, most of which need fire for the pods to release the seeds; though fire burns through the land, in the ashes, growth is found. This symbolises the end of one journey is the start of another. The yellow centre piece symbolises student journeys as they come from all different nations, coming into AFTRS and then making their journey out into the industry and back to Community. Red symbolizes the fire and the pathways it makes on the land, underneath this showing the circles representing the renewal of the seeds, the beginning of a new journey.

Across the artwork, we see how students have grown during their time at AFTRS, and how they will continue to grow as they leave AFTRS and enter the next phase of their careers.

About



- AFTRS is the national screen and broadcast school – the only Australian education institution to consistently make The Hollywood Reporter’s prestigious annual list of the top film schools in the world. We empower Australian talent to shape and share their stories by delivering world-leading future-focused education, research and training.

AFTRS First Nations supports and identifies pathways for talented First Nations storytellers. With a long and proud history of providing deep learning in film literacy and the broadcast industries enabling our storytellers to be authorities of their craft, AFTRS is a national and global leader in education and training.

IMAGE: PAW MEDIA

VIDEOMAKING 101 INTENSIVE IN YUENDUMU

- **AFTRS**
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