The chapters presented in this Reader, drawing on recent works, explore and analyse dynamic subject matter such as family, moral values, cultural hybridity, Asian-Australian dialogues, gender and racial stereotypes, the representations of Australianness, Indigenous Australia, imagery and motifs, the variety of Australian national symbols, mythologies, traditions, representation or development of outback or suburban and metropolitan spaces in Australian cinema and culture. For a better understanding of the breadth and depth of Australia and its culture, the papers selected in this book also examine the exhibition of the Australian artist’s aesthetic experimentation in the various faces of the Australian film industry, and the development and evolution of Australian film theory as part of the institutions of film studies and scholarly practices, using historical, archaeological and textual approaches for a wide variety of primary sources to discuss the trends of cinema and cultural consumption in Australia. In the area of purview, here, are not just commercial Australian films but also developments in new media, shorts, digital, art and documentary cinema in the broad context of globalization and international co-production.

— Amit Sarwal and Reema Sarwal, Introduction

Amit and Reema Sarwal are astute editors. They have gathered with care an interlocking collection of well chosen and persuasively researched studies of key aspects of Australian cinema and culture in this Reader. They will enlighten and enrich Indian students of acting, theatre, film and media studies, cultural studies and colonial and post-colonial history. The coverage is comprehensive.

Many issues are canvassed, addressed and analysed: the major continuities and discontinuities in Australian cinema since its beginnings; its fundamental themes, subject matter, narrative forms ambiguities and ironies; the singular achievements and bitter disappointments—both nationally and internationally; and its interwoven textures of place, landscape, mystery, class, nationality and identity. Overseas influences and involvement are explored as well as the dominant genres that emerged in the early twentieth century in a burst of creativity in the Silent Era—bush-ranging, pioneering, broad bush comedy, the convict past, wars and turgid sentimental melodrama. Also given serious consideration are the changing depictions in feature film of Indigenous people and recent hosannas to multiculturalism, anti-racism, reconciliation, globalisation and the need for social justice without becoming preachy or oversimplified.

For the Indian student, an in-depth appreciation of a different culture will emerge about a foreign land where people are as enthusiastic about feature films as entertainment as Indian people still are.

— John Ramsland, Foreword

**Australian Cinema and Cultural Studies Reader**

**CREATIVE NATION**

Edited by

Amit Sarwal
Reema Sarwal

ISBN No. 81-902282-0-X
(hb)

Total Pages: LII + 600
Dimensions: 5.5" X 8.5"

Price: US$ 45.00

(If you send us your printed Order Form along with the Demand Draft or Cheque drawn in favour of Sports and Spiritual Science Publications payable at New Delhi):

Name________________________________________

Designation & Institution_______________________________________

Address________________________________________________________

Ph. No._________________________FAX___________________________

E-mail__________________________________________________________

No. of Copies__(___)Discount Availed__% Type____Amount_____

Demand Draft/Cheque No.____________________ Drawn on__________

Date_________ Place________________Signature______________
# CONTENTS

## CINEMA STUDIES

### Frameworks and Forms
1. Mapping Film Studies in Australia: Institutions, Personnel and Critical Positions  
   **Noel King, Constantine Verevis and Deane Williams**  
   1
2. Settings, Subjects and Stories: Creating Australian Cinema  
   **Ben Goldsmith**  
   13
3. Dynamic Communities: Contemporary Australian Movies  
   **Robert S. Watson**  
   27
4. Unlike Mainstream: Towards a Definition of the Australian Art Film  
   **D. Bruno Starrs**  
   54
5. A Form of Cultural Expression: Documentary Film in the “Creative Nation”  
   **Peter Hughes**  
   73
6. Poetry in Motion: The Short Film Form in Australia  
   **Lisa French**  
   83
7. Possibilities and Pitfalls: Low-Budget Digital Cinema in Australia  
   **Adrian Martin**  
   99

### Analysing Genres
8. Film and National Mythology: The Anzac Legend in Australian Films  
   **Daniel Reaynald**  
   111
9. Shot in Australia, Written Just About Everywhere: Australian Science Fiction and Fantasy Films and TV Series  
   **Sean Munceff**  
   121
10. White Stories/Black Magic: Australian Horror Films of the Aboriginal  
    **Alan McKee**  
    136
11. Larrikin Ocean and Decent Blokes: The National Type in Australian Film Comedy  
    **Felicity Collins**  
    154
12. A Strange Time Machine: The Tracker, Black and White and Rabbit-Proof Fence  
    **Jane Lydon**  
    166

### Theoretical Positions
13. The Murderous State: The Naturalisation of Violence and Exclusion in the Films of Neoliberal Australia  
    **Jon Stratton**  
    180
14. In Search of the New Man: Masculinity in Recent Australian Film and Television  
    **Warwick Mules**  
    202
15. Asian-Australian Cinema, Asian Australian Modernity  
    **Audrey Yue**  
    217
16. Theorising the Hybridity of “Australianness” in Australian Cinema  
    **Rama Venkatasawmy**  
    233
17. Perception, Convention, Expectation and Transformation: Representations of Aborigines in Australian Texts  
    **Vijay Mishra**  
    253

## CULTURAL STUDIES

### Structures and Contexts
18. Theory, Story, History: Australian Cultural Studies  
    **John Frow**  
    281
19. The Cultural Studies “Fever” in Australia  
    **Chris Healy**  
    302
20. Asianising Australia: Notes Toward a Critical Transnationalism in Cultural Studies  
    **Ien Ang and Jon Stratton**  
    314

### Theory and Practice
    **Katherine Bode**  
    337
22. The Queer(y)ing of Australian Public Culture Discourse: Activism, Rights Discourse, and Survival Strategies  
    **Baden Oxford**  
    358
    **Clay Djubal**  
    405

### Locating the Popular
25. In the Name of Popular Culture: Seriousness and Unseriousness in the Study of Mass Art  
    **Adrian Martin**  
    423
26. Suburbs and Serenades: The Location of Australian Cultural Identities Through Popular Film Music  
    **Adam Trainer**  
    436
27. A Subculture “Comin’ Upper”: Australian Hip Hop’s Multicultural Literacies  
    **Tony Mitchell**  
    449
    **Liz Reed**  
    468
29. Outside the Hollow Log: The Didjeridu, Globalisation and Socio-economic Contestation in Arnhem Land  
    **Aaron Corn**  
    489

### Afterword
30. Cultural Studies in an Old Country  
    **Stephen Muecke**  
    505

## Contributors
31. **Bibliography**  
    516
32. **Filmography**  
    568
33. **Musicography**  
    589