The Archaeology of Film: 
Towards the construction of a historical framework 
for early Indigenous Australian films 

Whilst considerable scholarly work is currently being conducted on contemporary Indigenous cinema, the era prior to 1970 has been largely neglected. This symposium, centred on the work of Alec Morgan, will reveal and analyse some of the surprising archival discoveries uncovered during the process of researching and building a historical framework.

Friday 14 August 2015

2.00pm Screening of Lousy Little Sixpence (directed by Alec Morgan, 1983), a seminal documentary that first revealed the forced removal of Indigenous children from their families and communities.

3.00pm Alec Morgan Q&A moderated by Tom Murray.

3.30–4.00pm Alec Morgan will outline his current research fellowship project that aims to lay the foundations for the construction of a historical context for early Indigenous films and will explore a possible methodological approach that includes the complexities inherent in such a task. During his talk, he will screen some of his visual archaeology findings unearthed in the vaults of our national archives and elsewhere.

4.00pm Drinks.

Dr Alec Morgan is a Macquarie University Research Fellow in the Department of Media, Music, Communication and Cultural Studies, specialising in Australian Indigenous film history. He is also a multi-award winning documentary filmmaker.

Dr Tom Murray is a filmmaker, and an ARC Discovery Early Career Researcher in the Department of Media, Music, Communication and Cultural Studies.

Room 189, Building Y3A

Free, but RSVPs by 10 August essential: cmh@mq.edu.au