



AFI Screen Bibliographies

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Cecil Holmes (1921-1994)

Holmes began his filmmaking career as a newsreel editor and then director with the New Zealand National Film Unit. He migrated to Australia in 1949 and worked with John Heyer on a documentary for the Shell Film Unit.

In Australia, Holmes established himself both as a documentary maker and feature film director. His features include *Captain Thunderbolt* (1952) and the critically acclaimed *Three in One* (1957). During the sixties, Holmes made several ethnographic documentaries in Papua New Guinea and Central Australia and later worked as a documentary director with the Australian Commonwealth Film Unit

A lifelong political activist, Holmes also began a distribution company in the fifties, New Dawn Films, which specialised in films from the Soviet Union. Holmes' left-wing sympathies are evident in both his fiction and non-fiction films and often stood in the way of his gaining support from Australian exhibitors.

Bibliography

compiled by Serena Paul

Australian cinema studies student, RMIT Department of Communication Studies, 1997

AVAILABILITY

Items asterisked (*) in this bibliography are available in the AFI Library located at:
49 Eastern Road, South Melbourne VIC 3205.

Check our website for entry fees and opening hours @ <http://www.afi.org.au>

Researchers unable to visit the library may obtain copies of individual items from the AFI via inter-library loan through your own library (our inter-library loan symbol is VAFI). Inter-library loan vouchers cost your department \$13.20 per article. Books are available for inter-library loan in Australia and outside of metropolitan Melbourne only.

Alternatively, we can process requests for asterisked items through our Document Delivery service. Charges vary depending on the number of articles requested. For further details contact Aysen Mustafa, AFI Research Services at research@afi.org.au or call +613 9695 7218.

Journal Articles and Books

*BARDEN Richard and Ken Berryman: "A symphony for busy clapperboards 1957-1975" **Cinema in Australia a documentary history** Ina Bertrand (ed) Kensington, NSW: New South Wales University Press, 1989, p.252-254

*BERRYMAN Ken: "Obituaries, Cecil Holmes 1921-94" **Cinema papers** No. 102, December 1994, p.19-21

*BROWN Max: "Cecil Holmes' Three in One" **Meanjin** March 1957, p.61-62

*GIBSON Ross: "On the back of beyond" interview with Tom O'Regan, Brian Shoemith and Albert Moran **Continuum** Vol. 1 No. 1, 1987, p.3

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*HOLMES Cecil: "Unmade Australian Films" Overland, April 1957 (excerpt printed in ***Cinema in Australia a documentary history** Ina Bertrand (ed) Kensington, NSW: New South Wales University Press, 1989, p.33-34)

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- *SABINE James (ed. for the Australian Film Institute): **A century of Australian cinema** Port Melbourne: William Heineman Australia, 1995, p.ix,135
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- *STEWART John: **An encyclopaedia of Australian film** Port Melbourne: Reed Books, 1984, p.278
- *WILLIAMS Deane: "All that is left. The early life and works of Cecil Holmes" **Metro** No.100, Summer 1994/5, p.36-39
- *WILLIAMS Deane: "Holmes, Cecil" in The Oxford Companion to Australian film, editors: Brian McFarlane, Geoff Mayer, Ina Bertrand. Melbourne: Oxford University Press, 1999, p. 215.

Newspaper articles and reviews

- * Australian 31/08/1994 "Director focused on underdog" p.83
- * Sydney Morning Herald 25/8/1994 "Film-maker, writer and polemicist"
- * Examiner, Launceston 26/7/1986 "Holmes reflects on and adventurous life"
- * National Times 18-24/4/1986 "The very image of a film maker"
- * National Daily 17/6/1974 "Frontier Melodrama"
- * Age 21/1/1971 "Heaven forbid that they become like us"

* News-Report,30/3/1949 "The full story of the Holmes letter, Why was it written? Who took it? When? and what happened next?" p.4-5

Three in One (Australia, Cecil Holmes, 1956)

* Monthly Film Bulletin Vol.24 No.280, May 1957, p.57

*Kinematograph Weekly No. 2588, March 21 1957, p.29

*Daily Film Renter No. 7341, March 18 1957, p.3

*Today's Cinema Vol. 88 No. 7735, March 15, 1957, p.6

The Killing of Angel Street (Australia, Donald Crombie, 1981)

*Motion Picture Product Digest v.10 n.21, April 13, 1983 p.82

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*Variety, November 4, 1981 p.22

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Audio-visual

Cecil Holmes interviewed by Allan Hogan (June 23, 1978)
AFTRS open program

Cecil Holmes [Oral history interview] (1980 22 mins)
Cecil Holmes interviewed by Graham Shirley

Additions or corrections to this bibliography are welcome.
Please email changes to Aysen Mustafa at research@afi.org.au

Cecil Holmes - filmography

Selected films and videos by or about **Cecil Holmes** available through Australian national film and video collections.

In 1998, the New Zealand Film Festival celebrating the centenary of locally made films included several films by Cecil Holmes. Some of the films screened belonged to the New Zealand Film Archive

National Film & Video Lending Collection (NFVLC)

Australian organisations are eligible to borrow from the National Film & Video Lending Service at the ACMI Lending service.

Click on the Collections button at <http://www.acmi.net.au/>

For bookings phone: (03) 9929 7044

Email: access@acmi.net.au

Films by Cecil Holmes (available @ NFVLC)

Captain Thunderbolt (1955 69 mins 16mm)
(Director)

Faces in the sun (1964 33 mins 16mm)
(Director)

Gentle strangers (1972 58 mins 16mm)
(Writer/Director)

I, the Aboriginal (1960 56 mins 16mm)
(Writer/Director)

Return to the dreaming (1973 50 mins VHS)
(Director)

Three in one (1956 89 mins 16mm/VHS)
(Producer/Director)

Words for freedom (1959 19 mins 16mm)
(Director/DOP)

ScreenSound Australia (SSA)

The following titles have access copies which can be viewed at ScreenSound Australia in Canberra or at any state office or access centre. For further information on Screensound Australia go to: <http://www.screensound.gov.au> and click on Collections.

Email: enquiries@screensound.gov.au

Phone: 02 6248 2000

Fax: 02 6248 2222

Films by Cecil Holmes (available @ SSA)

Bitter rice (1989 60 mins)
(Producer)

Captain Thunderbolt (1955 69 mins)
(Director)

The Coaster (1961)
(Director)

Gentle strangers (1972 58 mins)
(Writer/Director)

I, the Aboriginal (1960 56 mins)
(Writer/Director)

The Islanders (1968)
(Director)

Style of champions: the Australian crawl (1970)
(Director)

Three in one (1956 89 mins)
(Producer/Director)

Words for freedom (1959 19 mins)
(Director/DOP)

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Updated: 3 April 2002