

Midnight Court Film Society

TEN CANOES

Friday 7th March - 8.30pm

MacNamara's Bar, Scarriff

Directed by: Rolf de Heer

Australia 2006, 91mins, Cert: CLUB

It is the distant past, tribal times. Ten men go out onto the swamp to collect the eggs of 'gumang', the magpie goose. Dayindi, a young warrior (played by Jamie Gulpilil, son of the great Aboriginal actor David Gulpilil), covets one of the wives of his older brother. To teach him the proper way, he is told a story from the mythical past - a wild and comic tale of illicit love, kidnapping, sorcery, bungling mayhem and revenge gone wrong.

Set in the remote Arafura Swamp region of north-eastern Australia, and made entirely in indigenous Australian languages - one hundred and fifty spears, ten canoes, three wives... trouble.

'Bout time to tell you a story, eh? Then I'll tell you one of ours...

It is longtime ago. It is our time, before you other mob came from cross the ocean... longtime before then. The rains been good and ten of the men go on the swamp, to hunt the eggs of gumang, the magpie goose. One of the men, the young fella, has a wrong love, so the old man tell him a story...a story of the ancient ones, them wild and crazy ancestors who come after the spirit time, after the flood that covered the whole land...

It's a good story, this story I'm gonna be tellin' you 'bout the ancient ones. There's more wrong love in this story, and plenty spears too, and plenty wives...too many wives if you ask me...a beautiful young one and a bit of a jealous one and the older wise one and even more wives than that.

And there's plenty happens in this story...there's a stranger comes and one of them wives goes missin' and there's a man with a belly big as a mountain. There's sorcery and magic too, and a wrong spear in the wrong body, and more spears and bad spirits. And even that's not everything that's happening in this story.

Ahh, you gotta see this story of mine cause it'll make you laugh, even if you're not a blackfella. Might cry a bit too eh? But then you laugh some more...cause this story is a big true story of my people. True thing.

Admision: Euro7

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