

GENERAL FACT SHEET FOR "Samson & Delilah"

Original Program Title: Samson & Delilah

Alternate Title (if any):

Director Warwick Thornton

PRODUCTION

Year 2009

Country of production Australia

Countries of co-production

Released date in the production country Not released yet

Production company Scarlett Pictures & CAAMA Productions

Producer Kath Shelper
Assistant Prd

Coproduction company

Coproducer

CAST & CREW

Cast	Samson	Rowan McNamara
	Delilah	Marissa Gibson
	Nana	Mitjili Gibson
	Gonzo	Scott Thornton

Screenplay Warwick Thornton

Director of Photography Warwick Thornton

Editor Roland Gallois

Music Various tracks & some composing Warwick Thornton

Production Designer Daran Fulham

Sound editing Liam Egan

Costume Designer Heather Wallace

PREVIOUS FESTIVALS

Festival selections

Prizes awarded

Language of Original Version: Warlpiri & English

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Color _Main & End Titles Over Black

Are there any scenes within film with text on image? Yes, English subtitled on one negative, but one negative no subtitles

Shot on Film or Digital? 35mm film

Has Digital Internegative been created? Yes

Have jpeg 2000 files suitable for digital prints been created? Yes

Number of Reels:_ 6 Length of Film in Feet or metres: 9540 feet
Length of each Reel in metres TBC

35 mm?

Running Time in Minutes: 101 mins Film Stock Used (Kodak, etc.): Kodak

Original shooting Aspect Ratio: 1:1.85 Theatrical aspect screening ratio: 1:1.85

Sound systems on final prints

Dolby Digital 5.1

CATALOGUE INFO

Director's biography:

Warwick Thornton

Writer/Director/Cinematographer

Warwick has written and directed several short dramas, the last being *Nana*, which won the Crystal Bear award for Best Short Film in the Generation Kplus at the 2008 Berlin International Film Festival. *Nana* screened on opening night of the 2007 Sydney Film Festival and Warwick was awarded the Emerging Filmmaker Award at the Melbourne International Film Festival, the Inside Film (IF) Award for Best Short Film (by public vote) and Best Australian Film at Flickerfest Short Film Festival in Sydney.

His previous short drama, half-hour *Green Bush*, won Best Short in the Panorama section at the Berlin International Film Festival 2005. *Green Bush* also won a Dendy Award in it's section and the Rouben Mamoulian Award (best overall) at the Sydney Film Festival and an Inside Film (IF) Award. It premiered at Sundance Film Festival.

Warwick's previous shorts, *Mimi* in 2002 and *Payback* in 1996, have screened extensively at festivals in Australia and overseas, including Telluride, and on SBS Television. Warwick has also directed a number of documentaries.

Warwick's career started as a cameraman in 1990 and he graduated from the Australian Film, Television and Radio School in 1997 with a BA in Cinematography. He has an extensive body of work as a cinematographer including the feature film *Radiance*.

Nana (2007)

Crystal Bear, Kplus Generation, Berlin International Film Festival, 2008
Best Australian Film, Flickerfest Film Festival, Australia, 2008
Best Short Film, Inside Film (IF) Awards, Australia, 2007
Emerging Filmmaker Award, Melbourne Film Festival, 2007
Opening Night, Sydney Film Festival, 2007

Green Bush (2005)

Best Short Film, Panorama, Berlin International Film Festival 2005
Official Selection, Sundance Film Festival 2005
Special Mention, Jury Prize, AFI Fest 05, LA, 2005
Best Fiction Over 15 Minutes, Dendy Awards, Sydney Film Festival, 2005
Rouben Mamoulian Award (overall winner), Dendy Awards, Sydney Film Festival, 2005
Best Short Film, (Inside Film) IF Awards, Australia, 2005
Audience Award, National Geographic All Roads Film Festival, Los Angeles, 2005
Best Short Film, Bend Film Festival, Oregon, 2005
Special Jury Prize, DaKINO International Film Festival, Romania, 2005
Best Director, Flickerfest Film Festival, Australia, 2006
Jury Prize, Best Short, RiverRun International Film Festival USA, 2006

Synopsis

Short Synopsis

Samson and Delilah's world is small – an isolated community in the Central Australian desert. When tragedy strikes they turn their backs on home and embark on a journey of survival. Lost, unwanted and alone they discover that life isn't always fair, but love never judges.

Long Synopsis

Samson and Delilah live in an isolated world – a remote Aboriginal community in the Australian desert. In amongst a tiny collection of houses, everything here happens in a cycle. Day in and day out – nothing changes, everything stays the same and no one seems to care.

Except for Samson, a cheeky 15 year-old who yearns for the horizon. Even though boredom set in long ago, Samson attempts to occupy himself with his offbeat humour.

Unable to express his desire for something more, Samson's private escape comes in a tin – he's a petrol sniffer. When a violent eruption takes place at home Samson breaks the cycle and his journey begins.

Sixteen year-old Delilah is the sole carer of her artist grandmother, who fancies the hopeless Samson for her son-in-law. When Nana passes away Delilah is held responsible and the traditional punishment is harsh. Battered and bruised, an unlikely young man comes to Delilah's rescue. Samson.

In a stolen car with no food, money or idea where they are headed they turn their backs on the community and head towards the desert horizon. The next day, out of petrol, they walk into the closest town.

The two teenagers soon discover that life outside the community can be cruel. Though hungry and rejected Samson and Delilah fall in love. It is all they have. It is real.

Delilah searches for a way to improve their situation and begins to paint. She tries desperately to sell her work, but no one is buying. In frustration she pushes her work at potential buyers aware of their discomfort, aware of them not wanting her. Samson tags along, the tin a constant companion.

Exhausted and belittled Delilah also falls prey to Samson's demon.

By accident the two young lovers are forcibly separated and Delilah starts a journey of her own – a journey to a better place. As Samson slowly self-destructs alone and under the bridge, Delilah's love guides him home.

Brief comment of the director on the film:

warwick thornton

On the film :

Everybody owns a reason for being. In everybody's journey through life there is the good fight. *Samson & Delilah* is my reason for being. It is my good fight.

Storytelling has been a way of life for my people over thousands of generations, from singing stories under the stars to celluloid on the screen. The medium has changed but the reasons for telling our stories have not.

I believe that this is a story I needed to tell. You have to believe in your stories and trust that an audience will take the journey with you and your characters.

The audience's journey through the darkness makes the light brighter at the end. Samson and Delilah's unconventional love is that light. Their challenges and struggles are inspired by what I see every day as I journey through my own life here in Central Australia. It is real.

On the method :

A sensitive film such as *Samson & Delilah* could quite easily die in the madness of conventional filmmaking: The crews, the trucks, the process.

So we decided to take a different approach. One we know works. A small crew, no trucks, just the bare minimums. A crew chosen for their hearts, not their CVs.

The two characters are played by first time, untrained actors – but they have a life long experience as community kids. They know the lives that Samson and Delilah live and they were able to draw on that reality.

The camera and design reinforce this reality: hand held, raw, real. No grips, no gaffers, no cranes, no tracks, not too many lights. I shot the film myself to have nothing between me and the actors, except the beautiful 35mm Panavision camera.