

Acclaimed musician **Archie Roach** and Port Augusta’s **Dusty Feet Mob** dance group are the focus of **Dusty Feet Mob – This Story’s True**, a new short documentary to share healing stories of the Stolen Generations.

Dusty Feet Mob – This Story’s True was created by Aboriginal community members in Port Augusta, in collaboration with award-winning production company Change Media, through an initiative of the South Australian Film Corporation (SAFC), Country Arts SA and the City of Port Augusta.

From the sand hills of Port Augusta to the bustling streets of Adelaide, Dusty Feet Mob’s young Aboriginal performers dance their way into the hearts and minds of their enraptured audiences, using the power of song and dance to help heal the pain of the past. As they prepare to perform their signature dance to Archie Roach’s iconic song ‘Took the Children Away’, the dancers and their dedicated supporters offer creative, intergenerational and deeply emotional insights into the story of the Stolen Generations, determined to carry on Uncle Archie’s legacy – the past will not be forgotten.

For **Archie Roach**, it’s the children carrying on the legacy of healing that makes him especially proud and grateful. Archie said: “In our First People’s culture we have story, song and dance. The story of the Stolen Generations is the story we hear and take in with our minds and the song enters our spirit. But dance helps us to move and weave that story and song through our body.

Dusty Feet Mob help us heal holistically; through our mind - the story; through our spirit - the song and through our body – the dance.”

Dusty Feet Mob are more than just an Aboriginal dance group, they are a community that nurtures strength, confidence and dignity, their work offering connections for both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people to grow in acceptance, understanding and empathy together.

**Dusty Feet Mob – This Story’s True** is one of two documentaries, alongside **The Mulka Man**, created through the Port Augusta Emerging Film Development Program, a series of development and production workshops for emerging Aboriginal screen creatives held from July to October in 2019, funded and presented by the SAFC through its Aboriginal Screen Strategy, along with Country Arts SA with support from the City of Port Augusta, delivered by Change Media with additional support from the Australia Council for the Arts.

SAFC Associate Executive, Production and Development Nara Wilson, who facilitated the program, said: “Through the SAFC’s regular workshops and initiatives over the last few years, Port Augusta has become a real hub of activity in SA for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander filmmakers, with practitioners coming from all over the state to learn new skills and develop their craft. We are proud to highlight Indigenous voices, and facilitate Indigenous storytelling through these programs.”

SAFC CEO Kate Croser said: “These documentaries not only show what incredible emerging screen talent there is in South Australia’s Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, but they highlight the importance of the SAFC’s Aboriginal Screen Strategy in developing and supporting Indigenous screen practitioners, and bringing their stories and voices to the fore. I congratulate the filmmakers on their success.”

**PREVIEW VIDEO :** <https://tallstoreez.com/project/2019/dusty-feet-mob>

**IMAGES:** <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/oudmpujqng09ou0/AAAKIG9EFbX-psChlotZecoMa?dl=0>

**MEDIA CONTACT:** Carl Kuddell, 0407 811 733, [carl@tallstoreez.com](mailto:carl@tallstoreez.com)

ELECTRONIC PRESS KIT



Dusty Feet Mob dancers with Archie Roach at Mii Pudanthi festival. Screenshot from video. ©2020 Change Media

**Title:** Dusty Feet Mob - This Story’s True

**Production Company:** Tallstoreez Productionz Pty Ltd t/as Change Media

**Duration:** 9’35

**Project website:** <https://tallstoreez.com/project/2019/dusty-feet-mob>

**Tag line:** The Dusty Feet Mob dancers tell healing stories of the Stolen Generation, featuring Archie Roach’s famous song ‘Took the Children Away.’

**Short Synopsis:**

From the sand hills of Port Augusta to the bustling streets of Adelaide, Dusty Feet Mob’s young Aboriginal performers dance their way into the hearts and minds of their enraptured audiences, using the power of song and dance to tell stories of the Stolen Generation and help heal the pain of the past. As they prepare to perform their signature song, Archie Roach’s ‘Took the Children Away,’ the dancers and their dedicated supporters offer creative, intergenerational and deeply emotional insights into the story of the Stolen Generation, determined to carry on Uncle Archie’s legacy – the past will not be forgotten.

**Half-page Synopsis:**

From the sand hills of Port Augusta to the bustling streets of Adelaide, Dusty Feet Mob’s young Aboriginal performers dance their way into the hearts and minds of their enraptured audiences, using the power of song and dance to tell stories of the Stolen Generation and help heal the pain of the past.

Dusty Feet Mob are more than just an Aboriginal dance group. They are a community that nurtures strength, confidence and dignity. They are a community that builds connection to culture, community and country. They know that storytelling through dance and song is their culture, it’s a powerful way of entering into past hurts and injustices experienced by Aboriginal families in a way that allows both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people to grow in acceptance, understanding and empathy together.

An essential make-up of the group is the strong support provided by parents, grandparents and the Port Augusta Community, who take seriously the role of passing knowledge and stories down to the

younger generations. Dusty Feet Mob is a powerful expression of the old and the new: Young people are not just "the leaders of tomorrow", they are leaders of today. Dusty Feet Mob provides opportunities for young people to learn about themselves and develop leadership skills for life.

As they prepare to perform their signature song, Archie Roach’s ‘Took the Children Away,’ the dancers and their dedicated supporters offer creative, intergenerational and deeply emotional insights into the story of the Stolen Generation, determined to carry on Uncle Archie’s legacy – the past will not be forgotten.

The project has been produced during a series of Change Media digital literacy community workshops funded by the Port Augusta City through a Regional Arts Fund, Country Arts SA and the SA Film Corporation grants for an Aboriginal screen initiative, with additional support from the Australia Council for the Arts through Change Media’s What Privilege initiative 2019.



Dusty Feet Mob dancers in Port Augusta’s sand hills. Photo: Carl Kuddell ©2020 Change Media

**Paul Tanner, Co-Director’s bio and statement:**

Paul Tanner is a proud Arabana man from up near Kati Thanda (Lake Eyre) in the north. He is the Manager of Dusty Feet Mob and lives in Port Augusta, South Australia.

His primary vision for the documentary '*Dusty Feet Mob - This Story's True*' was to carry on Uncle Archie Roach's legacy as a member of the Stolen Generation.

It was also to showcase Dusty Feet Mob youth 'Storytelling' through Contemporary Song & Dance. Storytelling in this way has and still remains a vital part of our culture, the dancers understand why they are doing the dance and its significance to all Stolen Generation Descendants.

Dusty Feet Mob's journey started with Uncle Archie’s song '*Took the Children Away*' and because 'This Story's True', Paul feels proud and satisfied to have played a small part in the development of this film for now and into the future for all.

**Johanis Lyons-Reid, Co-Director bio:**

Johanis Lyons-Reid is an award-winning photographer and filmmaker from Adelaide, South Australia. Johanis has worked in multiple roles in the filmmaking process, including as a director, cinematographer and editor. He has worked on television commercials, documentaries for ABC, and shot freelance for various agencies and channels including SBS and Vice. Johanis' directorial debut married his love of screen and arts in short documentaries that followed Ngarrindjeri Elders and their traditional arts practice (*Everything is Connected*, ABC iView 2016. Winner best Australian Non-Fiction at the Melbourne Webfest 2016). The second season of these short documentaries (*Speaking for Sea Country*, ABC iView 2018) won silver at the Australian Cinematographer's Society Awards 2017. Hi recent work included *The Loop* (2019) for SBS OnDemand.

**Jen Lyons-Reid & Carl Kuddell, Producers:**

Artistic director Jen Lyons-Reid and producer Carl Kuddell are Tallstoreez Productionz/Change Media's co-founders and lead artists. Since 2002 they have explored multi-disciplinary arts practice across media, community and experimental arts, to address social justice, environmental and human rights issues. They live and work on Ngarrindjeri country on the South Australian South Coast, and run Change Media, a nationally acclaimed, multi-award-winning media arts initiative. They have written, produced and directed several hours of TV, with four factual series for SBS and ABC, several internationally acclaimed human rights documentaries and many short films in collaboration with communities, support services and local governments. Their work has been exhibited globally in festivals and art events, including the Adelaide Festival of Ideas, International Melbourne WebFest, Seoul Human Rights FF, Transmediale Berlin, International Human Rights Watch FF New York + London, Light in Winter Melbourne, Adelaide Fringe, Melbourne Underground FF, Adelaide FF and TarraWarra Biennale. Their media work is distributed globally.



On location for *Dusty Feet Mob – This Story's True* in Port Augusta. Photo: Carl Kuddell ©2020 Change Media

**Credits:** A Tallstoreez / Change Media Production

**Writers:** Paul Tanner, Piri Eddy, Johanis Lyons-Reid, Carl Kuddell, Steven Fatt-Lang, Marika Davies, Lyall Campbell-Ware, Bonita Leahy, Bessy-May Taylor-Haseldine, Denise Champion, Donny McKenzie, Roxanne Lawrie

**Directors:** Johanis Lyons-Reid and Paul Tanner

**Producers/ mentor:** Carl Kuddell and Jen Lyons-Reid

**Associate Producer:** Paul Tanner

**Director of Photography/ mentor:** Johanis Lyons-Reid

**Camera Operators:** Steven Fatt-Lang, Marika Davies, Lyall Campbell-Ware, Paul Tanner

**Sound Recordist/ mentor:** Piri Eddy

**Sound operators:** Steven Fatt-Lang, Marika Davies, Lyall Campbell-Ware

**Editor:** Johanis Lyons-Reid

**Composer and Sound Mix:** Justin Pounsett

**Original song:** Archie Roach ‘Took The Children Away’

**BTS Stills Photographer:** Carl Kuddell

**Archival Stills:** Paul Tanner

**Dusty Feet Mob interviews:**

Wanita Calyun – Artistic Director/ Choreographer, Dusty Feet Mob

Paul Tanner – Manager, Dusty Feet Mob

Maria Anderson – Chairperson Dusty Feet Mob, Wanita’s mother

Justin Mogridge – Wanita’s father

Archie Roach – Singer, ‘Took The Children Away’

Sarcha Taylor - Dusty Feet Mob member

Tyeisha Taylor - Dusty Feet Mob member

Micah Buckskin - Dusty Feet Mob member

Marika Garlett - Dusty Feet Mob member

Josh Saunders - Dusty Feet Mob member

**Dusty Feet Mob dancers:**

Wanita Calyun, Tyrone Taylor, Sarcha Taylor, Tyeisha Taylor, Josh Saunders, Shalana Cox, Jakeem Cox, Tyree Cox, Tia Buckskin, Laila Buckskin, Micah Buckskin, Mareeka Garlett, Twyla Stuart, Rikki-Lee Bodger

**Thanks to:**

Archie Roach and Jill Shelton

Dusty Feet Mob crew and supporters

Mii Pudanthi festival - Angelena Harradine

Mushroom Music – Lisa Businovski

Warner Music Australia – Rose Sejean

Port Augusta Car Club - Mark Taylor

City of Port Augusta – Maria Anderson

Country Arts SA – Sam Yates and Josh Barbo

South Australian Film Corporation – Lee-Ann Tjunypa Buckskin and Nara Wilson

Produced and shot in South Australia. Change Media acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land in Australia on which this program was filmed.

*The project has been funded by the Port Augusta City through the Regional Arts Fund and Country Arts SA and the South Australian Film Corporation grants for an Aboriginal screen initiative, with additional support from the Australia Council for the Arts through Change Media’s What Privilege initiative 2019.*