

FEMINISM & FILM

Sydney Women Filmmakers, 1970s & 1980s



Barmaids strike for equal pay, Newcastle, 1962, *Tribune*

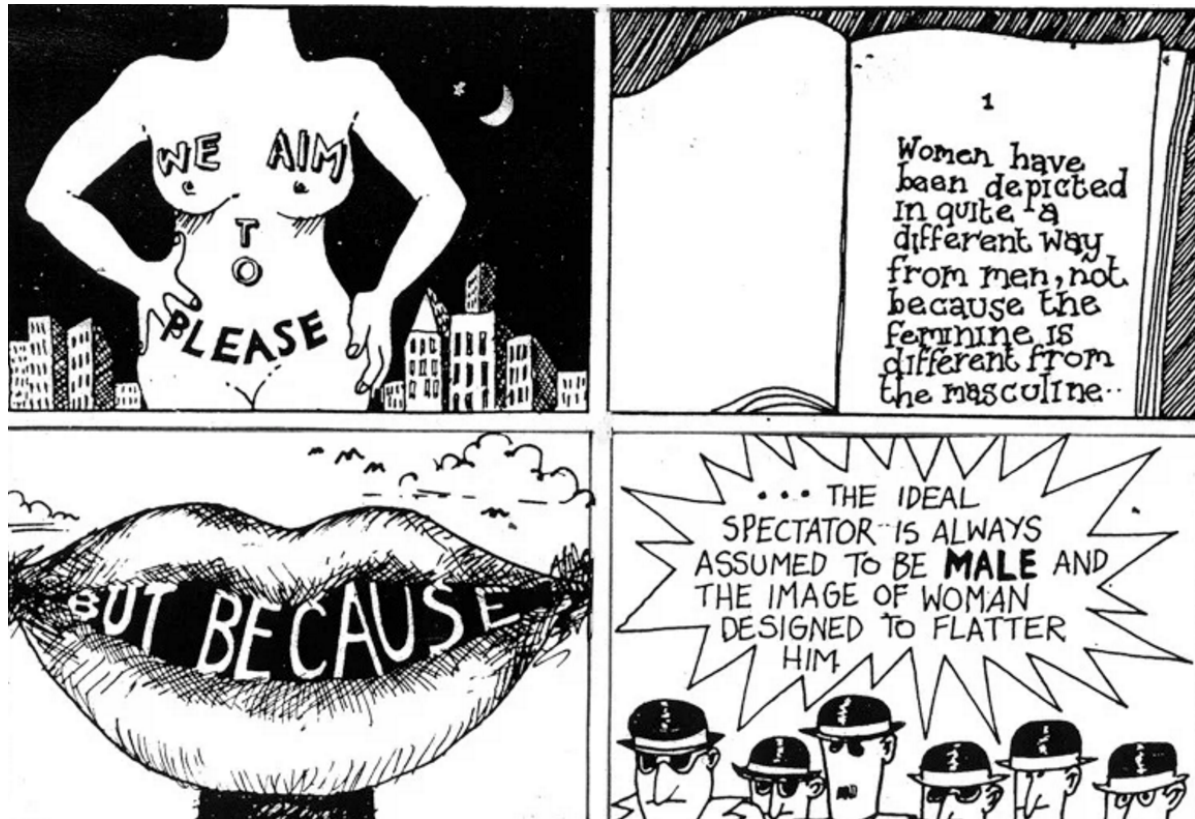
A resurgent feminism is grabbing headlines, re-igniting interest in the bold, stirring, witty films, championed by the Sydney women's movement of the 1970s & 80s. *Feminism & Film* honours the diverse influences and intentions of women who made the films for discussion; committed to the serious undertakings; collaborated on stories of country and culture; and worked for love, but not always money.

Susan Charlton
Guest Programmer

Susan Charlton is a curator and arts/culture writer who works in archives, galleries, museums, communities. She was Women's Filmworker, Sydney Filmmakers Co-op, 1982-84.

PERSONAL & POLITICAL

12.30 pm, Saturday 10 June 2017, Event Cinemas George Street 8



Graphic: Carol Porter

Influential women filmmakers and landmark works from the collective filmmaking practices associated with the heady days of the 1970s & 80s women's movement in Sydney.

Film for Discussion

Documentary-drama by activists, actors and emerging filmmakers, created as a workshop project to provoke discussion, following a day in a young woman's consciousness raising. Australia | 1974 | 25 mins | in English | Sydney Women's Film Group, including Martha Ansara & Jeni Thornley

We Aim to Please

An Anarcho-Surrealist Insurrectionary Feminist romp about female sexuality, visual pleasure and body image, with the filmmakers challenging assumptions about the male gaze. Australia | 1976 | 13 mins | in English | Robin Laurie & Margot Nash

For Love or Money: a history of women and work in Australia

High point in an era of feminist documentary filmmaking, lovingly woven together from women's personal stories, archival collections and excerpts from Australia's film history. Australia | 1983 | 107 mins | in English | Megan McMurchy, Margot Nash, Margot Oliver & Jeni Thornley

DISRUPTION & DECONSTRUCTION

10.30 pm, Sunday 18 June 2017, Art Gallery NSW



Works that wilfully subvert the language of cinema and experiment with narrative form to extort filmic spaces for women's stories and voices.

This Woman is Not a Car

Suburban melodrama meets horror road movie in an artist work that takes on femininity and the maternal; fantasy, humour and the erotic; masculinity, fetishism and violence.

Australia | 1982 | 23 mins | in English | Margaret Dodd

Behind Closed Doors

Powerful short that privileges sound and experiments with image to chilling effect, disrupting conventions of issue-based, feminist documentary to address domestic violence.

Australia | 1980 | 6:30 mins | in English | Sarah Gibson & Susan Lambert

Serious Undertakings

Images of terror and childcare collide in a groundbreaking work, that deftly plays with film form to explore the production of history, sexual difference and national identity.

Australia | 1982 | 28 mins | in English | Helen Grace & Erika Addis

A Song of Ceylon

The narcissistic, masochistic, hysterical body in exquisite tableaux. A formally rigorous, visually lush study of gender and possession, referencing a classic British film.

Australia | 1985 | 51 mins | in English, Sinhala | Laleen Jayamanne

FREE TALK

SUFFRAGETTE CITY: Sydney, Feminism & Film

1 pm, Sunday 18 June 2017, Art Gallery NSW

Women filmmakers from the three *Feminism & Film* programs talk with Curator Susan Charlton about Sydney in the 1970's and 80s; philosophy, pleasure and politics; collectives, collaborations and film co-ops; feminism/s and filmmaking - then and now.

CULTURE & COLLABORATION

2.55 pm, Sunday 18 June 2017, Event Cinemas George Street 8



Powerful collaborations between non-Indigenous and Aboriginal filmmakers and communities, as a prelude to Aboriginal produced film/TV that burst onto screens from the 1990s.

My Survival as an Aboriginal

Respected Murruwurri activist Essie Coffey invites filmmakers and audiences into her family and community of Brewarrina in North West NSW to fight for country and culture.

Australia | 1979 | 50 mins | in English | Director: Essie Coffey, Cinematographer: Martha Ansara

Two Laws

The Borroloola people of the Northern Territory use their storytelling practices to share their history of colonial law and Aboriginal law; dispossession and land rights.

Australia | 1981 | Parts 1 & 4: 70 mins | in English, Mara, Gurdandji, Garrawa, Yanula | Borroloola Aboriginal Community with Carolyn Strachan & Alessandro Cavadini