

# *GOING TO THE DOGS*

## PUBLICITY KIT

Directed by:  
Paulo Alberton

Producers:  
Rachel Way  
Paulo Alberton

Animation:  
Merlin Cornish

Duration: 10 minutes  
Shooting format: S-16mm  
Master format: Digibeta PAL  
Preview format: DVD  
Screening format: DVD 5.1 or Digi Beta or Beta SP

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## **S**HORT SYNOPSIS (20 words)

Highly stylised and half animated parody documentary that uses dogs as metaphors to examine multiculturalism and immigration policies in Australia.

## **S**YNOPSIS (55 words)

Afghan Hounds are welcome in Australia, but are Afghan people also? This highly stylised and half animated parody documentary uses dogs as metaphors to examine multiculturalism and immigration policies in Australia. The narration humorously describes the everyday life of multicultural dogs and people of the exclusive Cottesloe, WA, where a doggy Christmas party takes place.

## **S**YNOPSIS (100 words)

*Going to The Dogs* is a highly stylised, half animated parody documentary that uses dogs as metaphors to examine multiculturalism and immigration policies in Australia. The film is narrated by the Brazilian Director who observes the everyday life of both multicultural dogs and people of the exclusive suburb of Cottesloe, in Western Australia. His humorous descriptions of these Australian cultural practices lead to the re-creation of a popular local event: a doggy Christmas party, organised by character Mrs. Ping Bond, a Chinese migrant. At the party the comparison between “multicultural dogs” and the asylum seekers of Christmas Island is unavoidable.

## **M**AIN CREW

Writer / Director  
Co-Producers

Animation  
DOP  
Editors

Online  
1<sup>st</sup> Assistant Director  
Production Designer  
Art Director  
Original music  
Sound mixer  
Script Editor  
Sound Recordist  
Stills Photographer

Paulo Alberton  
Rachel Way  
Paulo Alberton  
Merlin Cornish  
Andrew Piercy  
Paulo Alberton  
Walter McIntosh  
Rob Bygott  
Jemma Tyley  
Francis Italiano  
Mand Markey  
Damian Summers  
James Hewgill  
Sarah Rosetti  
Jeremy Ashton  
Merlin Cornish  
Flavio Rosa

## **M**AIN CAST

Peter  
Ben (man driving Ute)  
Teka (woman picking up pooh)  
James  
Michael  
Ali  
Mrs. Bond  
Mr Jock Bond  
Man at Christmas Island

Dan Hayes  
Paul Fimster  
Teresina Souza  
Boris Radmilovich  
Igor Sas  
Poria Motearaffi  
Caroline Potter  
Charlie Gurbiel  
Mansoor Baluchi

## CREW BIOS

### **PAULO ALBERTON – Writer, Director and Producer**

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Paulo is an independent filmmaker who left a seven-year career as a commercial airline pilot in 1994 to the uncertain grounds of filmmaking. In 1998 he wrote and directed his first short film, *Water and I*, which won Best Photography at the Museum Of Image And Sound Festival in São Paulo, Brazil and screened in over 10 international festivals. In 1999 Paulo completed a certificate in Film and AVID at New York University and studied film theory at WITS University, Johannesburg, South Africa. After relocating to Australia in 2000, Paulo has produced several documentaries and educational videos, which have met with festival success. He also worked as a freelance tutor for various organizations in Western Australia, including the Film and Television Institute WA as a tutor of the first Making Movies Roadshow, which toured in remote communities in Western Australia. Paulo is currently doing his Masters at the Australian Film Television and Radio School. For more information on Documentary titles produced by Paulo, please visit the website [www.vidiola.com](http://www.vidiola.com).

### **RACHEL WAY – Producer**

Rachel has worked as a freelance filmmaker since she graduated from the Western Australian School of Art, Design and Multimedia. She has worked primarily on Natural History documentaries including “World Around Us – Box Jellyfish”, “Craytales “ and “Before its too Late”. Rachel’s interest in Natural and Social History lead her to develop the project “Going to the Dogs” her first Producer credit.

### **MERLIN CORNISH – Animator**

Merlin Cornish is a graduate from the Western Australian School of Art, Design and Multimedia. Upon graduation, Merlin has worked as a Senior Editor/Designer. Primarily cutting high-end commercials, including a winning campaign at the British Design Awards. Since his departure from the Advertising Postproduction he has concentrated on his passion for film, design and art in the areas of directing and postproduction. Based on his strong design and effects background Merlin’s work is clear-cut, simple and yet technically sophisticated.

## *D*IRECTOR'S NOTES

The idea for this film originated when I moved to the wealthy suburb of Cottesloe, Perth. I met this Brazilian woman, her anaesthetist husband and her Chow-Chow dog. I started visiting their trendy social environments and on a number of times I went to walk her dog with her at the Cottesloe Oval. I then met all these other dogs, their owners and learned about the intrigues and stories of the Oval. As I spoke to the owners I noticed that most of them were migrants from various different countries; and so were their dogs. But what stayed with me was the feeling that these people were not really connected to their original culture; neither were their dogs. Chinese people were not Buddhists and Blue Healers didn't herd sheep. But they share one common culture: the dog culture and the social status it provides. They even set up a Christmas party for the dogs every year. This "multicultural dog" Christmas party is what triggered my interest in the question: is a country called multicultural simply because it is highly composed of migrants. All those thoughts were very present in my mind during the six months it took for my permanent visa to be processed.

There are two important elements that drive the narrative: My reading and probing of my social environment in Cottesloe and my need to understand some values used by immigration laws in Australia. In the film I frequently type keywords on screen as if I needed to consult the dictionary in an attempt to understand this particular social environment and its values.

The dogs' issues and values cross paths with those lived by human beings. Sometimes the connection is obvious, other times it is subtle. The multi-layered brainstorm intends to reach people in different ways and depths. It is ok if part of the audience doesn't fully understand or agree with the points I want to make at a particular moment, but it is important that the film makes the audience think about multiculturalism and immigration in Australia.

Some roles are played by actors, others are played by real people from the Cottesloe community whose real life relates to the role they are playing onscreen.

Visually the film looks like a brainstorm fast pace with a few short pauses. The cartoon-animated portion of the film is composed of real and designed elements. For example: people have real faces and designed bodies, in a caricature style and proportion. Animation is used to allow the descriptions of this social environment to be spicier and the connection between peoples and dogs to be humorous.