

LAST PARADISE

A film by Clive Neeson



"My favorite film of all time"
Gina Caruso, Director, Honolulu Academy of Arts

MEDIA RELEASE
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AUSTRALIAN RELEASE OF LAST PARADISE MAY – JUNE 2014 Official premiere screening @ Luna Cinemas Friday 2 May

A 45-year quest for adventure in original footage, **Last Paradise**, comes to the big screen with a special premiere and Q&A at Luna Cinemas Leederville on Friday 2 May (6.30pm). The screening will be introduced by special guest and celebrated Western Australian author, Tim Winton – a fan of the film for its social and environmental issues.

An adventure film based on the evolution of extreme sports and the eternal quest for paradise, the film is the work of physicist-come-filmmaker Clive Neeson.

Filmed over four decades by Neeson and his family the original footage has been restored by Peter Jackson's *Lord of the Rings* technical team who described it as "the most extraordinary footage we have ever seen."

Speaking of the film, Neeson says "it is my life's work and deals with the innovation of extreme sports; specifically sports which engage the wilderness and use natural forces as a source of energy."

"It began with my mother, who was raised in an orphanage and became a wildlife cinematographer in Africa during the 1950's. My parents raised four boys remotely and we all became addicted to adventure travel. I began filming at the age of 15 with a broken camera that I bought in a pawn shop, mainly because my parents wouldn't let me touch theirs," he continues.

Driven by a passion of exploring new travel frontiers, Neeson and his brothers met likeminded New Zealanders and Australians throughout the 1960's and 1970's, and *Last Paradise* is a culmination of footage sourced over a 45 year period.

The highlight of a lifetime of filmmaking turned out to be Western Australia, which is revealed as the Last Paradise in the film.

"I wanted West Australians to see on the big screen just how amazing and valuable their own wilderness is," Neeson says.

It is through this unique original footage that a series of stories emerge which will speak to almost anyone, especially those with a thirst for adventure travel and an interest in science and nature. However, it's not simply an adventure film as there is a deeper message for audiences take away.

Amongst the adrenaline, adventure and nostalgia, *Last Paradise* addresses issues such as energy development, deforestation, species loss and urbanization.

"I wanted to use original footage to address the world's biggest problems – in this sense the film is an open letter to a generation inheriting a world vastly different to the one me, my brothers and my friends grew up in, and we were just one generation before the youth of today," Neeson says.

With a Master's degree in physics and a career in technology innovation (including the first digital movie camera and climate monitoring system), Neeson skillfully incorporates scientific and educational elements into the storyline and it is hoped *Last Paradise* will become a reference point for education and a stimulus for cultural and social change amongst the youth of today.

Winner of a string of awards including Most Popular New Zealand Film at the New Zealand Film Festival, Best of Banff in Canada and The Ambassador of Green Award at XDance USA, **Last Paradise launches with a premiere screening, including a Q&A with filmmaker Clive Neeson, at Luna Cinemas Leederville on Friday 2 May, 6.30pm.**

The screening will be introduced by West Australian author Tim Winton and tickets are \$20.00, available via <http://lastparadisefilm.com/perth-premiere-launch-event/>.

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Following this Perth premiere screening, the film will screen at regional WA locations such as Fremantle and Geraldton. Each session includes a Q&A with filmmaker Clive Neeson following the film.

National screenings are planned in capital cities and select regional areas throughout May-June. Visit www.lastparadisefilm.com for further screening details.

MEDIA LINKS & INFORMATION

Official website:

www.lastparadisefilm.com

(see Press link)

Trailer link:

<http://www.vimeo.com/58958728>

Production Credits:

Written, produced and directed by Clive Neeson (MSc)

Edited by Brough Johnson and Katrina Jones

Sound by Dave Carnahan

Film mastering and post production by Park Road Post, Wellington

Cast:

Allan Byrne, AJ Hackett, Jeff Campbell, Ton Deken, Biggi Smithers.

Running Time:

100 mins

Full synopsis:

In the remote wilderness, when necessity was the mother of invention, a maverick bunch of kids began experimenting with something that would change the world of adventure travel. In 45 years of stunning original footage we experience first-hand the adventures of early adrenaline seekers and join them on the roads less travelled to discover just how the world used to be and the science of restoring it.

~ ENDS

For further information, interviews, image and screener requests please contact ANARCHY PR

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