



NAMATJIRA PROJECT – THE FILM – IS COMING

Follow Albert Namatjira's family on a quest for justice, from Aranda country to Buckingham Palace.

Namatjira Project, a remarkable feature documentary by **Big hART**, will premiere on **Saturday 5th August** at Melbourne International Film Festival before going on to tour to festivals around the country, and make its cinema debut at Cinema Nova, Melbourne on 7th September. Created with the Namatjira family, the film is directed by Sera Davies, produced by Sophia Marinos, stars Trevor Jamieson and will be distributed by Umbrella Entertainment.

Albert Namatjira is one of the most revered icons of Australia's art scene, and is considered by many as the father of Australia's contemporary Aboriginal art movement. However, since 1983 Albert Namatjira's family have earned no money from copyright or royalties from reproductions of Albert Namatjira's works.

Namatjira Project follows the family's extraordinary plight for justice. Until his death in 1959, Albert Namatjira supported up to 600 members of his family and community on the proceeds of his artwork. Yet Albert Namatjira was a man caught between cultures – paraded as a great Australian, whilst treated with contempt. The first Indigenous person to be made a citizen by the Australian Government, he was widely celebrated but in 1957 imprisoned for something he didn't do, and in 1959 died a broken man.

The Namatjira family's quest brings them to team up with Australia's leading arts and social change organisation – Big hART - to tour a theatre production about Albert's life, raising awareness, calling for support, and for a return of the copyright. Big hART is invited to stage the show in London and they use this opportunity to generate international pressure. Queen Elizabeth invites the Namatjiras to Buckingham Palace, and UK media pick up the story of this famous family's struggle. In Australia, despite valiant efforts, the silence is deafening and the Namatjiras return home powerless.

These days Albert's family and community struggle to survive in Ntaria (Hermannsburg) in the Northern Territory. 54% live in overcrowded conditions, 56% subsist on income support and 11% will be displaced and admitted to hospital with chronic illness caused by poor environmental health, and students achieve below the national minimum standard in literacy and numeracy.

Namatjira's copyright would have expired on the 50th anniversary of his death in 2009. But now, unless something changes, due to the Aus-US Free Trade Agreement, Legend Press's ownership of all of Albert Namatjira's copyright will not expire till 2029.

The Namatjira Project is an initiative of the Namatjira family alongside Big hART to ensure Albert Namatjira's community and the remarkable traditions of the Western Desert watercolour movement thrive into the future. In 2017, Big hART celebrates 25 years, working in over 50 communities, alongside over 8000 individuals in urban, rural, regional and remote Australia and has won over 45 awards.

Namatjira Project Key Dates

WORLD PREMIERE	5 & 7 AUG	Melbourne International Film Festival
QLD	18, 22, 24, 29 AUG	Brisbane International Film Festival
NT	19 AUG	Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair

NATIONAL CINEMA RELEASE FROM 7TH SEPTEMBER BEGINNING AT CINEMA NOVA, MELBOURNE

More dates to follow. Keep up with the latest news at <http://www.namatjiradocumentary.org>.

Follow us on Facebook [@namatjira](#) or lend your voice to the campaign [#justice4namatjira](#)



Australian Government



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