



## *First Australians - The Untold Story Of Australia*

**Distributor**

Madman  
 Entertainment

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**Writers** Rachel  
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**Producers** Darren  
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A great perspective into a rich and colourful history Australians today are widely unfamiliar with. First Australians is an even-handed documentary that explores in seven episodes, stories of the aboriginal Australia and early settlers. In chronological order, from the First Fleet's arrival in 1788 to the Rudd Government's apology in February 2008, the documentary retells the history of the first Australians in abounding detail and through narrative and zealous talking-head interviews from Aborigine descendants, historians and writers. Complementing the interviews are archived illustrations, letters, documents and photographs from the National Library of Australia and state libraries, paintings and striking video footage of the Australian landscape – all accurately depicting the respective era, which adds to the series' vibrant aesthetic.

Utilising a mix of the authoritative and observational documentary

approach, the series conveys that it is well researched and strives to portray an unbiased point of view. From the boldly opinionated Professor Marcia Langton to the tactful writer Bruce Pascoe recounting historic events as they have intricately studied them, to the dispassionate accounts of NSW Governor Arthur Philip and Bennelong from archived letters. Particularly moving is the aborigine perspective, as never before depicted, that is appropriately represented with deserving pride and honour.

Historic events in every Australian state are represented, chronicled into seven episodes of approximately 50-minutes respectively. Episode one begins with the first Australian's encounter with the arrival of the First Fleet in New South Wales, and the subsequent unfolding of clashes and friendships made and lost. Episode two deals with the myth of the eradication of Tasmania's aboriginal

population and one aboriginal woman's bravado to rescue her people. While in episode three, the aboriginal reserve of Coranderk in Victoria struggles to gain political freedom in an intellectual effort to assimilate with the new world. Disc two contains episodes four through to seven, containing more contemporary stories of the Aboriginal struggle with laws, like the Aborigines Protection Amending Act 1915 that caused the Stolen Generation and the landmark Mabo Land Rights case.

The series works brilliantly as didactic material, clearly intended so from Disc One's DVD-ROM content that includes a study guide in PDF format for episode one. While study guides for subsequent episodes are said to be available at the Metro magazine website.

**ZONA MARIE TAN**