

## VERVE ENTERTAINMENT INTERNATIONAL FACTUAL CATALOGUE...

### **A Life Among Whales (1 x 1hr)**

**Environment - Factual - Culture - History**

Weaving together natural history and biography, 'A Life Among Whales' is a fascinating exploration into the life and work of whale biologist and MacArthur Fellowship winner Dr. Roger Payne. Beginning with his controversial and pioneering work on whale songs in the 1970's, to his study of ocean pollution today, Payne has, for four decades, advanced the boundaries of science and activism and helped ignite the modern day environmental movement.

With beautiful and haunting images, 'A Life Among Whales' follows one scientist's dedication to save the whales and forces us to question our stewardship of the Earth and our co-existence with some of its most intriguing creatures.

Winner *Earth Watch Film Award 2006* and many other prestigious awards. Full list available.

*A Bill Haney Film*

*Worldwide terrestrial rights (excluding USA) with Verve on behalf of Watch This Space*

### **Aspiring (1 x 1 hr)**

**Factual – Art**

A compelling documentary about a lost film, a lost script and a life-changing expedition

In the summer of 1949 a young cinematographer was inspired by the idea of a cinematic poem ...

Bringing together music, poetry and visual arts using the medium of colour film, Brian Brake's vision remains an artistic feat even today.

To realize his dream he embarked upon journey... A dangerous ascent of Mount Aspiring in New Zealand with 3 like minded creative artists of his time. Brake enlisted the enthusiasm and talent of the greatest artists in the country at the time: James K Baxter: Literature/Poet, Douglas Liburn: Composer & John Drawbridge : Artist – 4 men who were best in their fields for decades to come.

Together they spent a month trekking the Southern Alps of New Zealand working on their radical film project. With some scenes shot on film, ASPIRING is part biography, part history, part art – a reconstruction of a time when artists in new mediums were beginning to define themselves and their approach.

But the footage of what happened on the mountain was lost.. until now

Nearly sixty years on, Artist John Drawbridge returns to Mt Aspiring to solve the mysteries of a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

Aspiring.. telling the true story of an amazing adventure.

*A Gibson Group Production*

*Worldwide rights available with Verve*

### **Black Beulah's (1 x 1hr)**

**Factual – Gay**

Beulah is a gay slang term for beautiful - fabulous - ravishing .. its Beulah... "I am a Beulah person... positive, full of colour, life and love"

Black Beulah's - a documentary that explores the lives of three friends living within the largely unexplored Soweto gay sub-culture - an existence that is often shrouded in secrecy with homosexuality still viewed by many within black communities of Soweto as a something immoral and shameful. Somizi – a choreographer and entertainer; DK – a businessman who owns a funeral parlour; and Chix – a body builder. They are Beulah. Successful men who have each defied societal expectations to live their lives as they see fit. It is a revealing personal portrait by director Fanney Tsimong of three people intersecting with changing sexual values and a community struggling with the reality of homosexuality in its midst.

An engrossing and remarkable additional to the depiction of gay experiences in South Africa.

*An Underdog Production*

*Worldwide rights (excluding Africa) available with Verve*

### **Children of the Golden Horse (1 x ½ hr)**

**Culture – Factual – Family - HDV**

A unique documentary of faith, conflict and dreams...

Ten-year old Jattae is a "Hilltriber", one of the ethnic minorities living in poverty in the mountains of Northern Thailand. Without Thai citizenship Jattae and those like him have no right to a school education or public health care. Many of the inhabitants of these villages escape poverty through drug dealing or prostitution, but young Jattae dreams of escape by moving to a nearby Buddhist Temple run by a famous Monk, Phra Khru Ba – a local hero who actively campaigns for the rights of the Hilltribers.

The Temple has over 100 horses who help advertise the temple; encourage visitors to donate money and attract more young boys to the school. As the monk Phra Khru Ba finds himself unable to give all the children the time and attention they deserve, the horses also serve to provide an emotional bond to the boys as well.

Join Jattae during a very important month in his life. A unique testament of faith and dreams.

*A Marta Polo Media Production*

*Worldwide rights (excluding German) available with Verve*

### **China in a Box (over 500 clips)**

**Culture – Travel – Factual - Interstitials**

A compilation of pre-cleared stock footage clips at your fingertips.

China today is one of the world's most dynamic economies and is experiencing profound social and cultural change. The Beijing Olympic Games in August 2008 will focus the world's media on a country that has evolved faster than our perceptions.

China In A Box is a compilation of stock footage clips covering all aspects of contemporary China, encompassing its geographic, cultural and demographic richness with a focus on the topics most likely to be in the media spot-light

*From World Stock Footage*

*Worldwide rights available with Verve*

### **Guinness Entertainment Catalogue (9 hrs)**

**Culture – Factual**

Prolific Australian Filmmaker Martin Guinness award winning documentary films including:

- A Glorious Way to Die (1 x 1hr)
- Peacemaker/Peacekeeper (1 x 1hr)
- The Art of Ken Done (1 x 1hr)
- Fire & Ice (1 x 1hr)
- Strung Out (1 x 1hr)
- The Things We Do (6 x ½ hours)

*Guinness Entertainment Productions*  
*Worldwide rights available with Verve*

### **Horse Sense for People (1 x 1hr)**

**Environment - Factual – Culture – Family**

Using methods of developing trust through communication, Monty Roberts "The Man Who Listens to Horses" helps troubled youths to get a handle on their lives and become successful adults.

Monty Roberts, horse gentler and New York Times best selling author, gained international fame by developing a method of communicating with horses using their natural body language, a technique he calls Join UP. Founded on a consistent set of principles, communication and trust, Monty's methods assert that violence is never the answer. When Monty learns that the lives of the wild horses of Palm Island are being threatened by local youths, he flies to Australia to help save them.

A victim of child abuse himself, Monty sees an opportunity to share a message of hope, learned from horses, with these children who have been raised in one of the most violent places on earth. Witness the positive changes that come over these troubled youth of Palm Island as they work with Monty and the horses to create a bond of trust.

[www.montyroberts.com](http://www.montyroberts.com)

*A Monty and Pat Roberts Inc Production*  
*Worldwide rights available with Verve*

### **Hot Water – The Firefighters of Venice (1 x ½ hr)**

**Factual - Reality**

Venice. The enchanted city. A city built on water. But what happens if it burns? The story of the Pompieri, the 16 men who fight the fires of Venice

In the dead of night when the alarm signal shrills at their headquarters on the Canal Grande, the pulses of Luca, Salvatore and Gianluca begin to race.

These men are three of the sixteen who are "Pompieri". The firefighters of Venice. Defending a city whose main problem is not the steadily rising waters, but the challenge for these men to get to there in time.

A blaze erupts in one of the centuries-old wooden palaces, there are just 16 men to control the spread of the flames – a challenge they aren't always able to meet. Often, they say it's only luck that prevents a worse incident.

Each mission in Venice poses risks - variable water levels and a maze of canals and narrow footpaths make the lagoon city an obstacle course for the rescue service. What unites them all is their deep passion for a unique city. A city of enchanting beauty, that must be defended –against all odds.

*A Marta Polo Media Production*

*Worldwide rights (excluding German) available with Verve*

### **I Will Be A Survivor (1 x 1 hr)**

**Factual**

To be diagnosed with Breast Cancer is a heartbreaking reality for a number of women and men the world over. Today the rate of survival is ever increasing due to enormous developments in research, awareness, early detection and greatly improving treatment options. I will be a Survivor – presents the stories of three women and their intimate journeys with breast cancer treatment. Debbie, Sandra and Mara represent three age groups and three diverse backgrounds. The nature of their breast cancer also means each has a different treatment and different experience. In literally life or death situations join these women as they meet the doctors who impact their lives, share their deepest fears, make decisions with enormous emotional repercussions, and greatly appreciate the incredible support of their families and friends. A documentary of true hope and encouragement on a topic very real for many.

*A BCI Production*

*Worldwide rights available with Verve*

### **It's Only A Number (1 x ½ hr)**

**Factual – Women**

A New Age Story. This is the story of Michael and Anita Arendsen, a married couple with a difference, and their struggle for acceptance; she happens to be fifteen years older than he is.

We profile them as a couple with views on what makes them unique but also what makes them exactly the same as everybody else. We get a glimpse into their daily lives and examine how this couple functions in a world where their relationship is viewed as a little less than ordinary.

Only a Number focuses on the growing global phenomenon of older woman and younger men. While these marriages are breaking new ground, some might find them hard to accept. We'll speak to Michael and Anita's family and friends to see who they feel about their union. We also ask why it seems completely normal for older men to be with younger women but when the roles are reversed – it becomes taboo.

*An Underdog Production*

*Worldwide rights (excluding Africa) available with Verve*

### **Kanyini – Interconnectedness (1 x 1 hr)**

**Factual – Culture – History**

#### **A celebration of land, spirit and wisdom that connects us all**

**Kanyini** is a sacred principle of unconditional love and responsibility to all things. It is a principle that underpins Aboriginal Indigenous life, linking four main areas of responsibility:

**ƙukurpa** (philosophy, Law and religion), **ngura** (country -land), **waltyja** (family and kinship) **kurunpa** (spirit, soul and psyche).

A necessary and beautiful film, **Kanyini** looks at the world's oldest living culture in a way that has never been seen before.

Respected Aboriginal leader "Uncle" Bob Randall, a beautiful and generous man who lives beside the greatest monolith in the world, Uluru in Central Australia tells his personal story to 'whitefella' filmmaker Melanie Hogan.

A tale of Indigenous wisdom clashing against materialist notions of progress.... The story of an Indigenous community's struggle to become part of the modern world .

Told with passion, political insight, dignity and warmth. This is not only a story of one man and his people but the story of the human race.

"*The Earth is Our Mother .. that makes you and me brother and sister*"... Bob Randall

It is only through understanding the way our past has shaped our present, that we can create a better future allowing Indigenous and non indigenous cultures to truly come together and re-connect to the land

[www.kanyini.com](http://www.kanyini.com)

A Reverb Film

Worldwide rights available with Verve

### **My Voice (5 x 4 mins)**

**Factual – Interstitials**

In five interstitial documentaries MY VOICE takes a quick dip into the lives of five disabled individuals, and shows how they communicate and express themselves in the face of physical challenges. We meet:

Richard – once a stockman, now an artist. Richard has not let quadriplegia stop him from fulfilling his dreams. He is a sought after painter.

Cathy – Muscular Dystrophy is a debilitating disability that attacks the body relentlessly. However it hasn't stopped Cathy in her artistic endeavours and her plans to pass on her knowledge of art to willing students

Jungle – Has schizophrenia and has spent many years battling through the troubles in his life. Things changed when he picked up a paintbrush and decided to devote his life and surroundings to art

Tim – Being visually impaired has stopped him from fulfilling his dream. He plays bass guitar in a band called Legally blind.

They may not see their audience but they sure love the applause.

Daniel – At twenty two years of age, Daniel is one of Adelaide's most respected dancers. This achievement is even more amazing as he has Cerebral Palsy.

A Q Production

Worldwide rights available with Verve

### **Not All Tea & Scones (4 x ½ hrs)**

**Factual – Culture - Women**

A delicious but lemony slice of country life...

Petticoats and pearls. James and chutneys. Scones and tarts. Droughts and deaths. Bankruptcies and auctions. Tractors and tragedies. Mothers and babies. Town and country.

It's the Country Women's Association (these days known to its members as Chicks With Attitude). And it's the bond that binds rural Australian women together through the greatest adversity they've known in their hundred year history.

An affectionate portrait of a life on the land that is fading fast - told through the stories of rural women as they prepare for the annual "The Land Cooking Contest"....

The summer harvest is in... the hot, dry months finally give way to cooler days and nights.. the worries of the time are set aside as 14,000 women across rural New South Wales prepare for the great annual cook-off.

The competition is fierce, the standard is high. But in the finest traditions of sisterhood, there is a pithy sadness mixed with laughter as stories of hardship and triumph over adversity are shared around the mixing bowls and over a cup of tea.

With intimate and moving interviews with the women as well as recipes and cooking guides, Not all Tea and Scones will provide a sensory feast as we follow the journey of a small group of women, celebrating their resourcefulness, grit and friendships as they shoulder rural Australia through challenging times

A Purple Pictures Production

Worldwide rights available with Verve

### **Olga: The Last Grand Duchess (1 x 1 hr)**

**Factual - History**

This Danish/Canadian co-production tells the fascinating story of the sister of the last Czar of Russia. Daughter of the Danish Princess, Tzarina Dagmar, and Russian Czar Alexander III, Olga Romanov started life as a privileged member of the Russian Royal Family. She died in obscurity in an apartment above a barbershop in Toronto. Filmed in Russia, Denmark and Canada, the documentary includes conversations with people who knew Olga and draws on extensive archival material.

An Up-Front Production

Australian & New Zealand rights available with Verve

### **Peschardt's People - International version (10 x ½ hrs)**

**Factual**

A private look into very public lives.

Authors, sports people, entrepreneurs, film stars, political activists... Peschardt's People takes you right into the private lives of the people with very public faces. Michael Peschardt, one of the BBC'S most distinguished Senior Foreign Correspondents, shares with us intimate and revealing interviews with his guests – an insight into their world, their home, their beliefs, their social conscience - a summary of their lives and their story. It's not about the tabloid and controversial stories of their public face

Peschardt's People, shot entirely on location around the globe, is about unveiling the essence of their story. Their heart, their passion... the things that really matter.

A Pesch Enterprises Production for BBC World  
Worldwide Rights available with Verve

### **Refugee Like Me (1 x 1 hr)**

**Factual – Culture – Political**

They are ordinary people. And they have come from disparate corners of the globe, seeking an elemental need - the need to be safe, the need to feel safe. Their exodus from their homeland is the most painful journey they will ever undertake. If they have made a choice, it is simply the choice to live. In this poignant film, we seek to restore a human face to the word "refugee". Refugee Like Me provides a voice. A voice for six people with six very different stories, from six very different parts of the world yet they all tell a familiar tale. They have all endured the betrayal of their own governments to keep them safe and protected in their homelands. Many have risked their lives in escaping tyranny; all have suffered the loss of loved ones. But in the end, they are all a telling testament to the triumph of the human spirit over repression and injustice.

A Purple Pictures Production

Worldwide rights available with Verve

### **Saving Babies – Series 1 & 2 (16 x ½ hrs)**

**Reality – Factual – Medical – Family - HDV**

Gripping, emotional and uplifting scenes as courageous families tell their stories of incredible medical miracles. For most parents, a new baby brings enormous joy, but for the few whose newborn faces complications, birth creates the most uncertain and challenging journey of their lives. Saving Babies follows the stories of infants requiring immediate medical attention, whose lives are in the hands of dedicated teams at Sydney's Royal Hospital for Women. In the Intensive Care Unit, doctors, midwives, nurses and specialists work around the clock, saving the lives of the smallest babies imaginable. It's a place where medical miracles happen every day.

Covering long-term problems diagnosed while the baby is in the womb, to unexpected complications soon after birth, Saving Babies follows the ups and downs of courageous families who share their stories to show the world the incredible work of their medical specialists.

A Quail Television Production for Network Ten

Worldwide rights available with Verve

[www.quailtv.tv](http://www.quailtv.tv) & [www.savingbabies.com.au](http://www.savingbabies.com.au)

### **Saving Kids (8 x ½ hrs)**

**Reality – Factual – Medical – Family - HDV**

Little patients, Big stories from a special place where the job is saving kids. Uplifting tales of love, hope and medical wonder at a busy children's hospital where extraordinary people save the day when kids are ill or have an accident. Children's hospitals are filled with love and emotion, the doctors and nurses who work there are the most dedicated professionals who deal with all kinds of cases, from sore throats to major traumas to long-term treatments involving the most intricate surgery. To specialize in the care of such precious patients requires a special kind of person. Saving Kids follows the fascinating work of doctors and nurses on the job at Sydney Children's Hospital and focuses on the heart warming stories of their little patients.

A Quail Television Production for Network Ten

Worldwide rights available with Verve

[www.quailtv.tv](http://www.quailtv.tv)

### **The Ultimate Donation (2 x 1hr)**

**Reality – Factual – Medical – Family - HDV**

With the untimely death of an anonymous person comes the opportunity to save the lives of up to seven people with fatal medical conditions. Organ transplants are a wonder of modern medicine.

For the surgical teams that retrieve the organs and those who transplant the precious gifts, the call to save lives always comes without warning and results in a race against the clock to perform transplants in time.

The Ultimate Donation has unprecedented access to all aspects of organ donation. Cameras are allowed into the operating room while organs are retrieved and coverage of the organised scramble to transport the life-saving packages on jets and fast cars to critically ill patients results in exhilarating television.

As major organs are sent to transplant units around the country, surgical teams prepare to perform the operations. The Ultimate Donation follows heart-warming stories of patients who receive the gift of life in time. There's two year-old Karleigh, who needs a life-saving liver transplant and a young father Robert, who's been in a coma for three weeks as his wife waits and hopes for a new set of lungs.

Single man David gets his life back with a new kidney and pancreas and Kim leaves hospital just days after receiving a new heart. With an emotional twist comes the poignant footnote to the series as a new heart arrives too late for Evan, a father of three.

Paying tribute to those who have given the greatest gift of all, this action-packed two-part special rides with organ retrieval teams in speeding jets and police cars and showcases the vital work of transplant surgeons under pressure.

A Quail Television Production for Network Ten

Worldwide rights available with Verve

[www.quailtv.tv](http://www.quailtv.tv)

### **Theme Park Junkies (1 x ½ hr)**

**Factual – Travel**

Can life be a theme park fantasy every day? The ultimate childhood dream ... fuelling an adult obsession. An all consuming passion. . Theme Parks.. The big parks. Disneyland. Knott's Berry Farm.

From their addicting first rides as young children .. to a life revolving around the daily frenzy of theme park action. These are a special breed of people who are.... Theme Park Junkies. Westcoaster.net and Laughingplace.com are two examples of how

obsessed fans can integrate their fantasies into their every day career. A day in the life of a special breed of fans.. and the internet world they have created.

*A Troll/Logic Films Production*

*Worldwide rights available with Verve*

### **The Secret of the Bat: Bacardi - Between Rum and Revolution (1 x 1hr)**

**Factual – Culture - Political**

The Bacardi Family, their rum empire and their bitter battle against the regime.

Relations between the Bacardi family concern and Cuban leader Fidel Castro are characterized by more than forty years of hatred. The Bacardi company founded in Santiago de Cuba in 1862 was dispossessed and driven out of the country after the Cuban Revolution. Since then, the history of the Bacardi rum empire is a story of corruption, of skeletons in the closet, of terror and a powerful and bitter battle against the regime of Cuba.

With surgical precision, authors Marcel Kolvenbach and Ekkehard Sieker dissect the involvement of one of the world's biggest spirits manufacturers in the military operations and acts of sabotage carried out by the CIA and other organizations against socialist Cuba. On the basis of impressive archive material and interviews with family members and their supporters, as well as with opponents and victims of the conflict, the key position of the Bacardis amongst various right-wing extremist, anti-Cuban, associations becomes clear.

Also revealing the influence the Bacardi's enjoy in the highest political circles in America - the family played a major role in the introduction of a US embargo on Cuba, however it becomes clear that all efforts by the Bacardi family to put an end to socialism in their home country have failed. Even today 'the bat' is still unable to return to Cuba.

*A Kiosque GmbH Production / A Marcel Kolvenbach and Ekkehard Sieker film*

*Worldwide rights (excluding Germany and France) available with Verve*

### **Through A Child's Eyes (1 x 1 hr)**

**Culture – Factual**

Hundreds of millions of people in our world live on less than one dollar a day. The facts and statistics of poverty distress us daily. But what does it mean in human terms to really live in such dire poverty. Through a Child's Eyes presents a true picture of daily life ... told through the eyes of nine year old children.

Moving yet uplifting, human stories of life in poverty told by seven very special children from India, Egypt, New York, Romania, Cambodia, Rwanda and Brazil, who share in earnest their experiences of life in poverty so articulately while retaining their joyous spirit of childhood.

*A Guinness Entertainment Production*

*Worldwide rights available with Verve*

### **Truth, Lies And Intelligence (70 min)**

**Factual – Political**

In March 2003 thousands allied troops were committed to fight a war in a distant land as part of a pre-emptive strike on a country that few had visited, few understood, and from whom there was no immediate threat.

The conflict, which has all but destroyed this land, and which has seen an estimated thirty thousand of its civilians killed, millions made homeless, and has left a legacy of anarchy and religious division.

In the words of Robert MacNamara, United States Secretary of Defence during the Cuban Missile Crisis and the Vietnam War, "On Vietnam, we got it wrong."

Is Iraq a twenty first century Vietnam? Did we get Iraq wrong? If so, how could we have made such an historic error.

"Truth, Lies and Intelligence" is a powerful, hard-hitting documentary chronicling the inside journey from 9/11 to the bombing of Baghdad. After scores of interviews with senior intelligence analysts, Iraqi refugees, Arab leaders, insurgent bombers and ordinary citizens -can there be only one conclusion? That the devastating chain of events culminating in the invasion, conquest and occupation of Iraq was a war based on a litany of lies and intelligence fraud.

*A Purple Pictures Production*

*Worldwide rights available with Verve*

### **Voices of Iraq (74 min)**

**Factual - Culture –Political**

150 digital video cameras were distributed among the people of Iraq to create the ground breaking, critically acclaimed documentary Voices of Iraq. The film offers a unique opportunity to experience the diverse perspective of Iraqis on issues ranging from Saddam to women's rights to everyday life – directly from the streets, home and offices of Iraq with an honest and reality unheard of during Saddam's regime of terror. Including many personal stories and never before seen footage – showing what happens after the car bombs explode, beyond what we see on the news everyday. Silenced for 24 years, this is the first feature to tell the Iraqi stories for the world to see

[www.voicesofiraq.com](http://www.voicesofiraq.com)

*A Becker Entertainment Production*

*Worldwide rights available with Verve*

### **War of the Wombats (1 x 1hr)**

**Factual**

With their cute and cuddly appearance, wombats have become an icon of Australia.

But the future of the world's largest burrowing mammal is uncertain. Shrinking habitats, crippling droughts and hunting have all combined to drastically reduce their numbers in recent years.

Just 90 individuals remain of one species. War of the Wombats reveals the extraordinary efforts being undertaken by a group of passionate Australians to save these creatures from extinction.

Right across the continent, scientists, researchers and volunteers are desperately racing the clock combining new technologies, innovative experiments and groundbreaking science to create an 11th hour survival plan.

A Landmark Television Production  
Worldwide rights available with Verve

**War Stories: Great Escapes (7 x ½ hr)**

**Factual - History**

A compelling new docu-drama series, recounting seven extraordinary tales of World War II heroism. From spies and escape artists to fighter pilots, War Stories recreates the dramatic events - the action, battles and heroics through a combination of stylised reconstructions, moving personal accounts and evocative archive footage. These are war stories that don't ignore the horror - but are focused on bravery, excitement and a celebratory ending.

A Gibson Group Production

Worldwide rights available with Verve

**What's Your Verdict (1 x 1 hr)**

**Factual**

These are no ordinary crimes - they're the cases that gripped a nation, cases in which the outcome has continued to be debated, long after the verdict has been delivered. *What's Your Verdict*, an innovative new format that reveals the workings of a jury as they re-try real cases. combines dramatic reconstructions, archive footage and studio debate, as these controversial cases are re-tried by a studio jury. Find out what actually happens behind closed doors, when 12 ordinary men and women are called to decide the fate of the accused...Controversial New Zealand case of Mark Lundy available as a finished episode.

A Gibson Group Production

Australian rights available with Verve