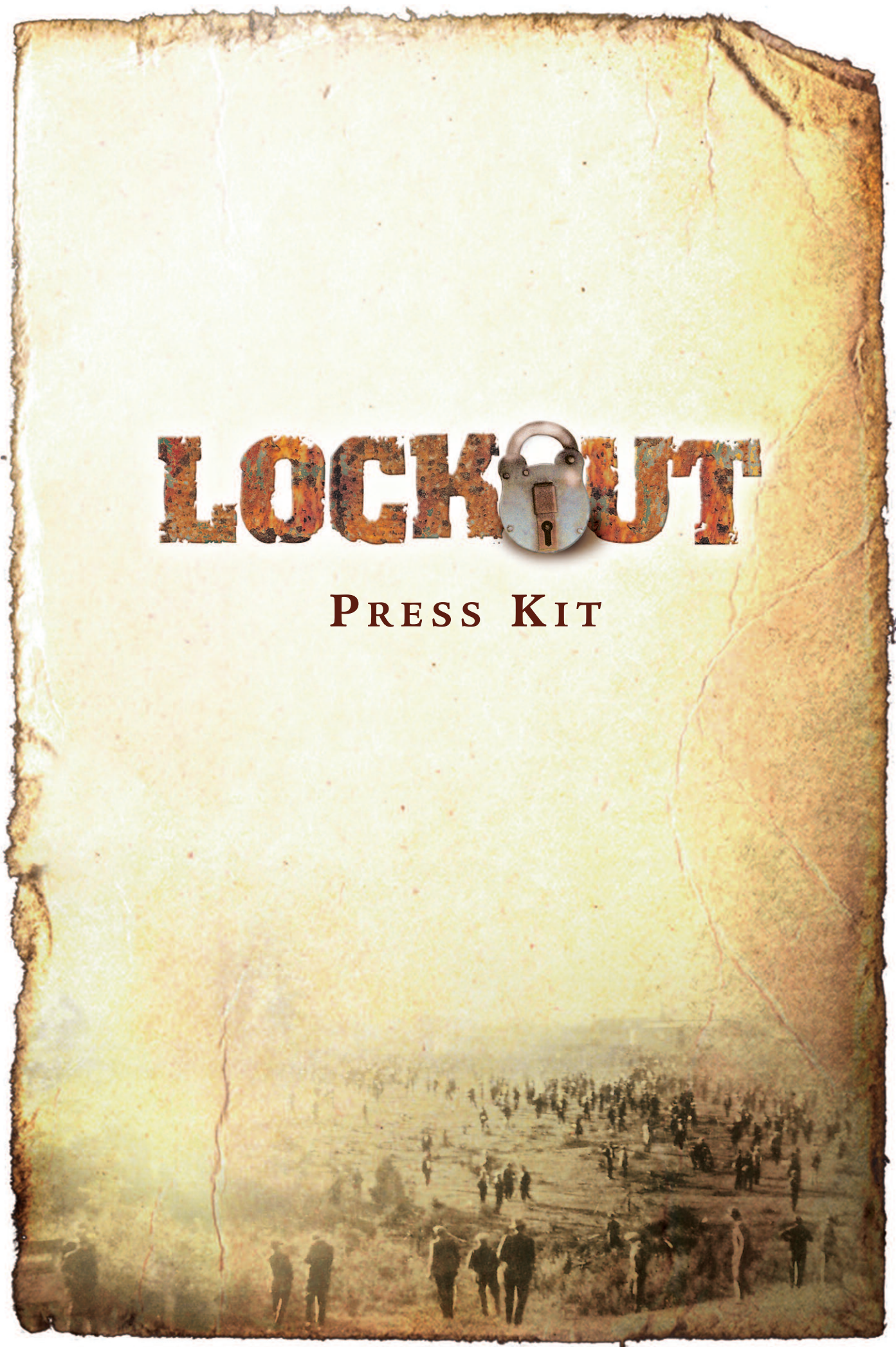


LOCKOUT

PRESS KIT





THE DOCO

1 Line Synopsis

In 1929 one of the darkest chapters in Australian industrial history was written in blood and bitterness on the Northern Coalfields of NSW, a tale that will echo across our landscape in story, song and legacy.

Short Synopsis

In 1929, 10,000 miners found themselves locked out of their Hunter Valley coal mines in a bitter industrial dispute over pay rates. What began as an undeclared war on industrial labour ended up overpowering a government, crippling an industry and besieging a community.

This event challenged the rights of every Australian, and redefined the political and industrial landscape of a country that witnessed an event forever remembered as 'The Great Australian Lockout'.

Long Synopsis

In 1929, in the face of collapsing demand for coal, mine owners in the Northern Coalfields of NSW, announced (with the support of the conservative State Government) that they would reduce miners' wages by 12.5 per cent and strip them of their hard won industrial rights. When their union, the Miners Federation, refused to agree to these terms the mine owners locked the gates. They were to remain closed for 15 months. 10,000 miners, pit boys and their families now found themselves without a job, forced to subsist on government handouts and charity.

What began as an undeclared war on industrial labour ended up overpowering a government, crippling an industry and besieging a community.

Community anger brewed into a violent day of violence, with police firing on civilians, killing one and wounding many. Subsequently, the 'Unlawful Assemblies Act' was introduced by a Government fearing all-out civil war.

This event challenged the rights of every Australian, and redefined the political and industrial landscape of a country that witnessed an event forever remembered as 'The Great Australian Lockout'. This story is told by the men and women who fought, against extraordinary odds, in extraordinary times, for what they believed in – a fair day's pay for a fair day's work.

Lockout is presented by award-winning actor, Chris Haywood.

Tagline

Australia's most violent industrial conflict



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LOCKOUT THE FACTS

Funding

The production of this documentary was entirely funded by private organisations with a passion for the story and a will to preserve and broadcast this vital chapter in Australia's history.

Veterans

We were indeed fortunate enough to spend time with 3 of the Lockout's veterans.
All sadly passed away prior to the project's completion.

Jim Comerford who was born in 1913, migrated with his family to Australia from Scotland in 1922. He began work in the mines at 14 and was a young man of 15 when the Lockout took place. His career as a militant activist and union leader was determined by his involvement in the Lockout and the events at Rothbury - they were vivid memories that remained with him throughout his lifetime. (Jim died in November 2006, aged 93)

The extraordinary *Jack O'Shea*, who was 20 at the time of the Lockout. (Jack died on 7 April 2007, aged 97)

Local Kurri Kurri identity (Edward) *Coogan Frame* was also interviewed. His brothers Merv and Mick and his father Edward, were involved with events at that time and were at Rothbury. (Coogan died on 31 March 2007, aged 89)

Duration

LOCKOUT runs 56:44

Broadcaster

First screening will be on FOXTEL 'The History Channel' - Thursday August 23 at 8.30pm

Key Crew

Mining Historian	Alan Murray
Presenter	Chris Haywood
Publicity	Veronica Ozolins, Max Publicity
Original Music & Sound Design	John Roy
Cinematographer & Editor	Gavin Banks
Associate Producer	Paddy Gorman
Producers	Diane Michael & Greg Hall
Director	Jason van Genderen

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT



Jason van Genderen



In an age of information technology, emails, chatrooms, BLOGS and SMS... it's truly inspiring to work on a project which so strongly embodies a forgotten bond. I'm talking

about community spirit, togetherness, working as one to better the position of many individuals and families. It's a hallmark of the Australian spirit, and one so very worth telling.

When Lockout's producers (Greg Hall and Diane Michael) invited me to a pub to hear their story about 10,000 miners virtually abandoned by their employers, their government and their legal system... I was simply stunned that this story hadn't become Australian folklore sooner.

What they had unearthed was a story of incredible hardships, bribery, tenacity and undying community solidarity. Against all odds, Lockout chronicles the bravery and strength of the human spirit, the fighter, the worker. It also reminds us that in the apparent balance of democracy lays the tempting opportunity for graft and corruption.

Documenting the story of the Lockout has become an incredibly revealing and personal journey for all our crew. The fact that we were fortunate enough to spend time with the three remaining veterans (before they passed away)

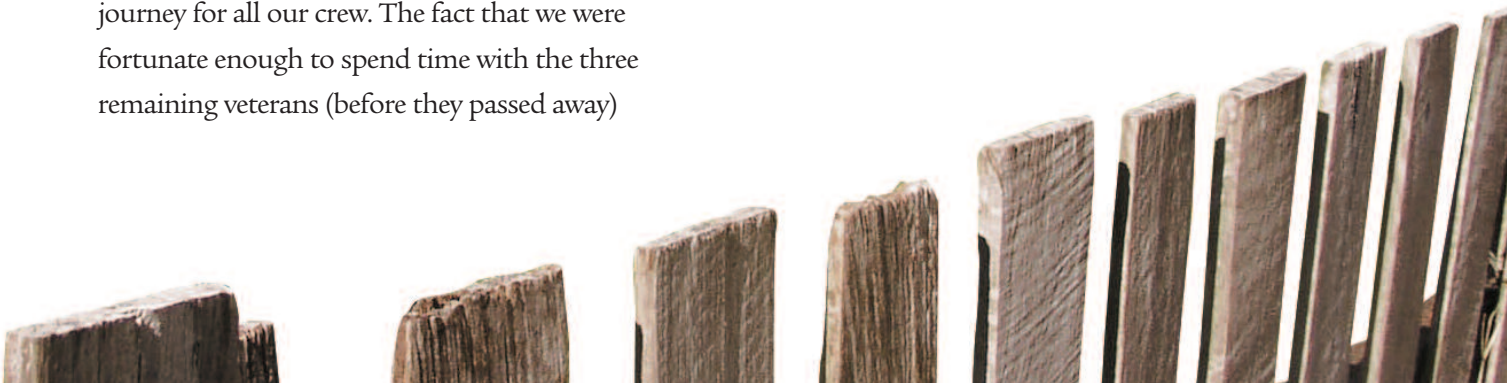
allowed us the opportunity of telling their story and cementing the legacy of their struggles. Their eyes still glowed vividly, reflecting times of passion, pain and disbelief... some 78 years on.

During our week of filming the dramatic recreations, there was many a time we stood in awe at the scene before us... feeling the gravity of this historical story. The recreation of the legendary dawn march (when some 6,000 miners marched behind the wailing strains of a Pipe Band) brought a tear to the eye of many crew.

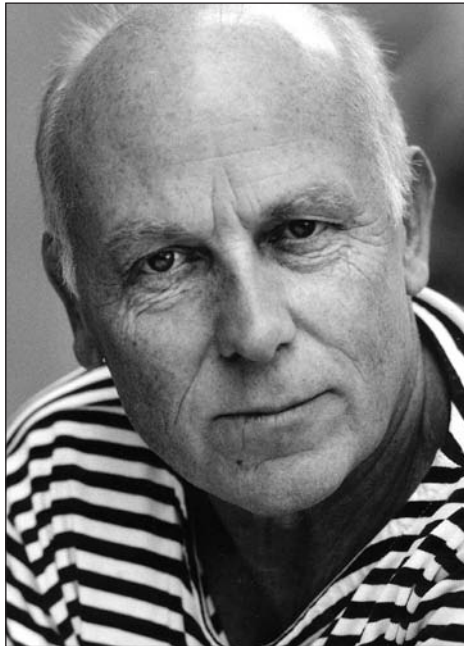
I'm also immensely proud of the sheer dedication and talent of our all-local crew. For a story so strongly seeded in the Hunter Valley, it seems so fitting that it's now been brought to life by the very people who live here.

Lockout is not just a documentary, nor a piece of history re-told... it's much more than that. Lockout is a window to Australia's soul... it's a reflection of the working man, the fighting spirit, the will to bring community together and the importance of self worth & survival.

There's many things we can still learn from this story, and I invite you to open your mind to them.



PRESENTER'S BIOGRAPHY



Chris Haywood

Is an actor/producer who has had success in over 400 individual performances in Australian film and television.

Film credits include:

The Cars That Ate Paris, Newsfront, In Search of Anna, Kostas, Breaker Morant, Running on Empty, Lonely Hearts, The Clinic, Man of Flowers, Strikebound, Malcolm, The Bit Part, Golden Braid, Quigley Down Under, A Woman's Tale, Muriel's Wedding Shine, Water Diaries and Jindabyne.

TV credits include:

Homicide, Five Mile Creek, Return to Eden, Waterfront, Boys From The Bush, Water Rats, Farscape, McLeod's Daughters, All Saints and Stingers.

Other Information:

His performances have been honoured with three Awards from the Australian Film Institute (from a total of eight nominations) for his roles in the feature films A Street to Die and Emerald City, and for television in Stingers as well as the Film Critics Circle Award for Kiss or Kill and the Asian Film Festival Award for In Search of Anna.

Additionally, he has garnered three Logie Awards for his work on television-for Essington, Good Thing Going and Janus.

Most recently he received the best actor award at the Tampa Bay Film Festival, Florida.



PRODUCERS BIOGRAPHIES



Greg Hall

PRODUCER

Greg Hall has worked in the three key media sectors since he joined Sydney's journalistic ranks in 1985. As a writer, radio and TV producer/program maker and presenter, he has learnt the art of telling a story, be it in words, sound or vision. He has also found himself in a range of other areas, including teaching, workshop development festival management, and most rewardingly, as a full-time house dad, to gain the benefit of seeing the world from distinctly different perspectives.



Diane Michael

PRODUCER

Diane's experience has spanned more than 30 years with commercial and public broadcasters, commercial and corporate productions, and in a host of roles from Producer, Script Editor, Writer and Documentary director to Production Management. With a discerning eye for detail and a tuned ear for memorable documentary, Diane brings with her an immense passion for telling important stories.

Credits

Lockout 2007 – Producer (TV Documentary)

Newcastle 2007 – Location Manager (Feature Film)

The Battle for Rothbury 2007 – Producer (Documentary Short) - Tropfest/Shortlisted (Popcorn Taxi)

Plane Spotting 2005 (mini documentary) - Producer

Martha's New Coat 2002 – Casting Coordinator, 3rd AD

The Big House 2000 - Unit manager

The Shoot Out 24 Hour Filmmaking Festival
- Course coordinator and producer

The Hunter Residences (Corp Documentary) - Producer/writer

ABC Radio - Radio producer/program maker

Credits

Lockout 2007 – Producer (TV Documentary)

The Battle for Rothbury 2007 – Producer (Documentary Short) - Tropfest/Shortlisted (Popcorn Taxi)

The Hunter Residences (Educational/Training DVD) 2005 - Producer/Writer/Director

Martha's New Coat 2002 - Casting coordinator

Peach Advertising (EPA "It's a Living Thing") - TV Commercial Agency Producer

The Shoot Out 24 Hour Filmmaking Festival
- 3 years/Course coordinator

NSW Police Service 1997 – 1999
Supervising Producer/Police TV Network

SBS Television 1987 – 1997
11 years as Senior Producer Education

Contact

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DIRECTOR BIOGRAPHY



Jason van Genderen

DIRECTOR

After serving 14 years hard labour in the Advertising industry as an Art Director, Jason turned his hand to short film production. As a creative; writer, cinematographer, editor and director - Jason has carved a reputation for developing innovative production techniques with challenging budgets, having won several film festivals including the competitive 24 hour 'Shoot Out'. A creative of many disciplines, he heads a very successful boutique production agency based on the Central Coast of NSW, named 'Treehouse Creative'.

Credits

Lockout 2007 – Director (TV Documentary)

The Battle for Rothbury – Director, Editor (Documentary Short) - Tropfest/Shortlisted (Popcorn Taxi)

Finalist Tropfest 2006 (How many doctors does it take to change a lightbulb?) – DOP

Plane Spotting 2005 (Documentary) - Writer, Director for mini doc screened in-flight/Qantas.

'Best Film' The Shoot Out 2005 (The Sperm Society?) - Writer, Director, Producer.

'Best Film' The Shoot Out 2003 (The Scrum?) - Writer, Director, Producer, DOP.

Finalist Sour Grapes Film Festival 2003 (The Terrorist) - Writer, Director, Producer, DOP.

Late Nite USA - Australian ARIAS awards segment Writer, Director, DOP, Editor.

Contact

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LOCKOUT

Australia's most violent industrial conflict



Paddy Gorman

ASSOCIATE PRODUCER | SCRIPT EDITOR

Paddy is a Labour Movement journalist and author. He has managed the Miners' Oral History Project and edited both books published on the human face of Australian coal miners and their communities – *At the Coalface*; and *Back at the Coalface*.

He edited Jim Comerford's two seminal works on Australia's coal industry – *Lockout*, an eyewitness account of Australia's most violent industrial conflict; and *Coal and Colonials*, the foundation of Australia's coal industry.

Writer of *Weipa* – where Australian unions drew their "line in the sand" with CRA and co-author of *The Coal Mines the Workers Ran*.

Co-producer of the radio documentary *Working for Coal* for the ABC Radio National's *Hindsight* programme.

Paddy has been involved in a number of projects on modern Australian mining history including *Fighting for a Fair Go* and *The Human Cost of Mining*.

His work has been published internationally in Britain, the US, Canada, New Zealand and Ireland.



Alan Murray

JOURNALIST | HISTORIAN | TEACHER

Alan has written on miners and their families for more than 30 years. He is the author of *Working Class Heroes – The Great Australian Lockout*.

Alan's work has examined the plight of workers during the turbulent early years of the 1930s, the battles fought by miners and their union during The Great Depression and the struggles to improve health and safety at the coalface.

Alan has also worked on the development and scripting of *Lockout*.

He also worked on the editing and presentation of the stories for the second volume of the Miners Oral History Project, *Back at the Coalface*, for which he also provided additional historical material.

LOCKOUT

IMAGE LIBRARY



01. Re-enactment of the legendary dawn march on Rothbury



02. Endless boardroom debate between the employers and unions



03. A lone piper heralds the dawn of a new day for the miners



05. Miners walking through the derelict mine site of Rothbury



06. One police constable, traumatized by the event, took his own life.



Jason van Genderen (Director), Greg Hall (Producer) and Diane Michael (Producer)