

The Secret Country



"The Secret Country was my first film on Indigenous Australia. I look at it these days and what shocks me about it is that virtually nothing has changed. Please keep that in mind as you watch the film.

I knew almost nothing about the first people of my own country until I left Australia in my twenties and went to London to work. My London newspaper sent me back to Australia to find out the secret and shocking truth - which is that 'we' who are the majority in this country bear the same responsibility as the white minority in apartheid South Africa. That truth will be prominent in my new film on Indigenous Australia, entitled Utopia.

One last thing to remember please. Australia has two distinctions: one, its extraordinary ancient terrain and two, its extraordinary original people. The rest is derivative and so often exploitative. If that doesn't humble and anger us, it should."

John Pilger