

Home Movies

a visual and oral history project by Andrew Garton

Home Movies is a mobile audio/visual story-gathering and story-telling installation for communities eager to bridge present generations with their past and rekindling a sense of place inclusive of cultural origins.

Collaborating with local artists and residents **Home Movies** is a nostalgic exploration of creative place-making; family audio and visual archives - photos, slides, video, film and tapes - are sensitively collated alongside interviews into meditative projected works viewed within neighbourhoods, towns, rural or regional centres contributors originate from.

Much like troubadours of former times collecting folk songs from one village to the next, **Home Movies** harvests audio-visual archives into luminous stories re-telling them in forms that incorporate projected video, locally created music, remixed soundscapes and spoken word.



Screenshot from Home Movies v1, Illuminate, City of Whittlesea and Light in Winter, Federation Square, 2014

How it works

Community members are invited to share audio/visual family archives with the Creative Producer and local artists. With their approval participants are interviewed on camera documenting their thoughts and memories of select materials. A video portrait of each participant is also taken.

Photos and videos recorded on mobiles may be incorporated juxtaposing the recording of daily life in former times through to the present.

All collected works are scanned, digitised and returned to participants. The archived materials are sensitively compiled into video pieces with accompanying voice-overs that are projected across suitable public spaces.

Video portraits are incorporated within these projections as well as stylised black and white portraits printed and pasted within, or upon public surfaces by prior arrangement.



Sample Home Movies 3 channel video projection incorporating Super 8 film, stills and video portraits



Participant portraits, Memefest 2014 – Radical Intimacies, Hawthorn, Melbourne

Prior consultation with community leaders would define spaces in which **Home Movies** may be projected (e.g. exterior apartment blocks, rear projected from the interior of homes turning houses or shop fronts into ‘light boxes’).

In addition, an accessible location for work-shopping the project with participants, for the gathering and production these works will be required for the duration of the project.

Ownership

All works will be licensed under a suitable Creative Commons license ensuring the widest possible distribution of finished works. This includes works accessible online and broadcast. All original archival materials remains the property of the families and / or individual contributors.

Funds permitting all digitised materials will be made available within an online archive and / or made available to local, state or national institutions charged with the archiving of such records.

Making it happen – local consultation

Behind **Home Movies** is a flexible format responsive to local characteristics, sensitivities and needs defined through consultation with community leaders, community workers and the community at large. These consultations can take place in numerous forms entirely dependent on the process in which **Home Movies** may be invited to participate in.

All in all local consultation provides the project with the means to:

- identify collaborating local artists
- specific community activities or groups
- establish an open and collaborative relationship with all participants
- identify local needs, characteristics and sensitivities
- locations from where artists may meet participants, produce and screen the final works
- grassroots historians and archivists
- organisations and / or local institutions that may share additional anecdotal media
- where and with whom all completed works may be archived.

Making it happen - locations

Vacant shop fronts, disused buildings, community halls; any of these spaces with a prominent street facing window would be a suitable location to house the **Home Movies** incubator and projections.

In addition several disused show windows may be transformed into rear projected "light boxes" activated come night-fall. Each shop window would be covered entirely with white scrim. Sound is accessibly by way of speakers hung onto the exterior.

Making it happen - requirements

Producing **Home Movies** requires a technical, administrative and budgetary kit. The following gear list provides an example of what would be required keeping in mind the project can be shaped to what ever resources may be available.

Technical

The following kit may vary should there be one or more projection possibilities.

- Document and slide scanner
- 8mm film projector / film to digital capture device (or budget for transfers)
- VHS player
- 2 x 4TB hard-drives (one for production, the other for back-up)
- 2-3 projectors + cables (HDMI, VGA, etc)
- 2-3 A/V playback devices (DVD, blue-ray, iPads)
- 2-3 sound-systems, small PAs or second-hand stereos
- Video lighting rig
- White, stretchable scrim, several metres, for rear projection

Administrative

- Public liability insurance (provided via Auspicious Arts)
- Release forms (can be provided by the artist)

Budget

- Travel from artists residence to location (petrol)
- Catering (for artist and participants)
- Artist fees (standard fees as guide)
 - Pre-production > \$580/pday
 - consultation, research, scripting
 - Production > \$735/day
 - set-up and shooting on location
 - Post-production > \$580/day
 - editing, review and fine cut
 - preparation for online and/or devices (e.g. Youtube, Vimeo)
- Additional costs may include:
 - digital storage (hard-drives) and back-up
 - DVD / Blue-Ray production

Artist provides

- Editing suite
- Editing software
- Video + sound capture rig
- Analogue to Digital converter
- VGA video splitter + cables
- Vehicle to transfer equipment from artist's residence to location

About Andrew

Andrew Garton grew up in Sydney's multicultural western suburbs where, in the mid-1970s, he began shooting experimental video contributing to both community radio and television. By the 1980s Andrew was playing keyboards, sax and guitar in numerous bands most notably Private Lives, Lingo Babel and White Punks on Hope. An interest in community media led him to contribute to the formation of pre-web computer networks with Pegasus Networks in Australia and Pactok Southeast Asia where he fine tuned his filmmaking, installations and radio artworks.

Andrew has remained staunchly independent, community driven with a love for forests and creative place-making. In 1995 he co-founded the ground-breaking online media arts studio Toy Satellite remaining its Creative Director up until 2005 when he joined Open Channel as its inaugural Program Director. He has been commissioned to create works for the Taipei international Arts Festival, Ars Electronica, the Australian Centre for the Moving Image, Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre, numerous Australian festivals and international broadcasters.

Andrew has a Master of Arts in Interactive Media and writes on a wide range of topics from internet security, radio, media arts and ethnomusicology. Andrew resides in rural Victoria where he runs Secession Records & Films, a mixed media production studio and editing suite producing non-fiction films, special events and installations. He writes and performs for his 8-piece band The Smitten Bridge and releases through his own label Secession Records.

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More information

Inside Home Movies 1

An article describing the process and outcomes of the first in the **Home Movies** series.

<http://agarton.org/blog/inside-home-movies-1/>