STARDREAMING
CASE STUDY
Full dome film puts West Australian science, innovation and Indigenous culture on screens around the world.

As Star Dreaming premiered at CinefestOZ in Bunbury, Yamaji Art Centre manager Roni Kerley had her eyes on the Indigenous artists from her centre whose work featured in the production.

“They were so proud, and quite emotional as well,” she says.

“Star Dreaming was filmed with a 360-degree camera, and is designed to be shown inside a dome, like a planetarium. The film uses animation to bring paintings from the Yamaji Art Centre to life on the dome, with permission from the artists.”

Star Dreaming was set deep in the Australian outback.

It follows two children as they explore the mysteries of the Universe through one of the world’s largest astronomy projects—the Square Kilometre Array.

The film also sees the children learn about the world’s oldest living culture from the Wajarri Yamaji people, the Traditional Owners of land north-east of Geraldton.

Star Dreaming was directed by Charmaine Green, Margaret Whitehurst and Lucia Richardson. Credit: Prospero Productions.

“Star Dreaming was a labor of love. It was a result of our time together.”

“I have a much richer understanding of the night sky. It formed really out of a conversation with Steven,” Redwood says. “It was combining art and science, which I hadn’t seen before in a dome film.”

“It also excited me that I was able to bring to life this wonderful story of the connection between the Yamaji people and scientists.”

But it was ICRAR astrophysicist Professor Steven Tingay who linked the astronomy with an Indigenous understanding of the night sky.

“Professor Tingay, who features in the production, says filming was interesting and demanding.

He says Bonser, Redwood, and the rest of the cast and crew had their work cut out for them.

But Professor Tingay says, for him, the film captures the ambition of the connection between the Yamarji people and scientists.”

But Professor Tingay says, for him, the film captures the ambition of the connection between the Yamaji people and scientists.

“As a scientist, I’ve learned so much from being with the artists and sharing our stories together,” he says.

“I have a much richer perspective on the Universe and Indigenous culture, well beyond the night sky, as a result of our time together.”

Since the premiere at CinefestOZ, Star Dreaming has featured at dome festivals around the world, including Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom and Europe.

“It also excited me that I was able to bring to life this wonderful story of the connection between the Yamaji people and scientists.”

The film was directed by Charmaine Green, Margaret Whitehurst and Lucia Richardson. Credit: Prospero Productions.

“We made sure that all the elders and cultural leaders in the community were given the opportunity to see it as well,” she says.

“They just really loved it.”

Kerley says she felt honoured to participate in the production.

“It’s something that we would never have thought would have happened in a million years—to be given such a forum to share our knowledge, share our history, share our connection to the sky,” she says.

“We made sure that all the elders and cultural leaders in the community were given the opportunity to see it as well,” she says.

“They just really loved it.”

Kerley says she felt honoured to participate in the production.

“It’s something that we would never have thought would have happened in a million years—to be given such a forum to share our knowledge, share our history, share our connection to the sky,” she says.

“I’m just so happy that this culture was heard and celebrated, and continues to be celebrated.”

JULIA REDWOOD, PROSPERO PRODUCTIONS

The film has also won multiple international awards.

“We made sure that all the elders and cultural leaders in the community were given the opportunity to see it as well,” she says.

“They just really loved it.”

Kerley says she felt honoured to participate in the production.

“We made sure that all the elders and cultural leaders in the community were given the opportunity to see it as well,” she says.

“They just really loved it.”

Kerley says she felt honoured to participate in the production.

“It’s something that we would never have thought would have happened in a million years—to be given such a forum to share our knowledge, share our history, share our connection to the sky,” she says.

“I’m just so happy that this culture was heard and celebrated, and continues to be celebrated.”

JULIA REDWOOD, PROSPERO PRODUCTIONS

The film has also won multiple international awards.