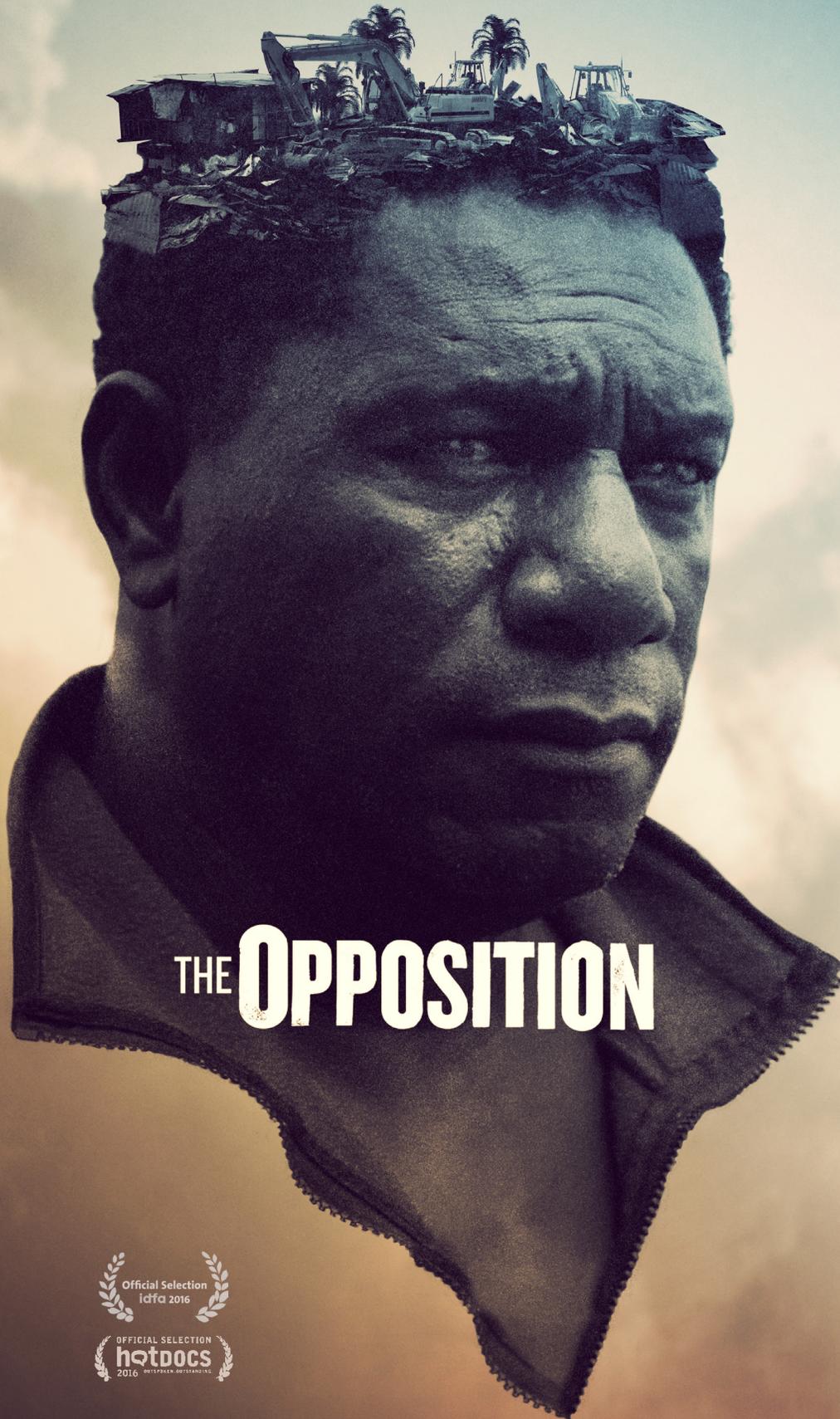


NO-ONE IS ABOVE THE LAW



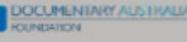
# THE OPPOSITION



SCREEN AUSTRALIA PRESENTS IN ASSOCIATION WITH BERTHA BRITDOC A MEDIA STOCKADE PRODUCTION "THE OPPOSITION" SOUND BY LACHLAN HARRIS & THOM KELLAR  
MUSIC BY JOHN GRAY CINEMATOGRAPHY VINCENT LAMBERTI EDITED BY BERNADETTE MURRAY IMPACT PRODUCER TERI CALDER EXECUTIVE PRODUCER BEADIE FINZE & JESS SEARCH  
PRODUCED BY REBECCA BARRY MADELEINE HETHERTON HOLLIE FIFER WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY HOLLIE FIFER



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



# THE OPPOSITION



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# SYNOPSIS

## ONE LINE

In a David-and-Goliath battle over a slice of Papua New Guinea paradise, Joe Moses, leader of the Paga Hill Settlement, struggles to save his 3,000 people before they are evicted. Battling it out in the courts, Joe may find his community replaced with a fivestar hotel and marina.

## SHORT SYNOPSIS

Mothers Day, Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea 2012: 100 policemen wielding machetes and guns descend on the Paga Hill Settlement to bulldoze their houses to the ground. Residents are beaten, cut with machetes; the policemen open fire on the crowd. In the melle, Dame Carol Kidu who is the Leader of the Opposition Government in Papua New Guinea, is on the scene protesting to protect the human rights of the community and is subsequently taken away by police.

This brutal demolition is to make way for the new multi-million 'master planned development' which will include a five star hotel, marina wharf and executive residential apartments - 'a new precedent in PNG'.

The Opposition is an investigative documentary set in Papua New Guinea where Joe Moses struggles to save his 3,000 strong community before they are forcibly evicted. Despite betrayals, police brutality and risks to his own life, Joe battles through the courts for three years fighting the companies who want to take away his community's home. As the struggle unfolds, Joe recruits a coalition of allies including Dame Carol Kidu, investigator Dr. Kristian Lasslett and a motivated team of pro-bono lawyers.

# ONE PAGE SYNOPSIS

*The Opposition* is an investigative documentary set in Papua New Guinea that follows local leader Joe Moses' struggle to save his 3,000 strong community before they are forcibly evicted from their homes. Despite betrayals, police brutality and risks to his own life, Joe battles through the courts for three years fighting those who want to take away his community's home.

The saga starts on Mothers Day, Port Moresby 2012. Around 100 policemen wielding machetes and assault rifles descend on the Paga Hill Settlement to bulldoze their houses to the ground. Residents are beaten, and cut with machetes; the policemen open fire on the crowd while arresting the Leader of the Opposition Government, Dame Carol Kidu, there to protect the community.

This demolition is to make way for the new multi-million 'master plan development' including a five-star hotel, marina wharf and executive residential apartments which will 'set a new precedent in PNG'.

As the struggle unfolds, Joe Moses recruits a coalition of allies including Dame Carol Kidu, investigator Dr. Kristian Lasslett and a motivated team of pro-bono lawyers.

Piecing together the evidence, *The Opposition* shines a light on the pressures of urban development at a time when displacement is becoming a common occurrence for communities around the world. As the Paga Hill crisis becomes a well known David and Goliath battle in Papua New Guinea, the government enters into a profit share with the company, creating a new twist in the saga.

The obstacles stack up against the community: in a devastating blow to their morale, their mentor Dame Carol Kidu retires from politics as the Leader of the Opposition and in a surprising about turn begins working with the development company who want to evict them. Where once Dame Carol Kidu stood in front of bulldozers to defend the people, she is now in charge of relocating the community, paid by the development company.

As the Supreme Court date draws closer, the pressure mounts. Late one night, two plain clothed policemen attempt to arrest Joe Moses and refuse to tell him the reason for his arrest. Fearing for his safety if taken into custody, the community distracts the police and Joe is able to escape into hiding...

# NARRATIVE BIOGRAPHIES FOR KEY PRODUCERS



## DIRECTOR: HOLLIE FIFER

As a director Hollie Fifer's documentaries are inspired by true life stories that are too bizarre and courageous to believe.

Her first documentary in 2009 was commissioned by Australian Volunteers International, *Children of The Rainbow Serpent* (NITV) set in Tamil Nadu, India. She went onto make *Common Ground* (SBS) which won 7 awards from international and Australian festivals.

Her most recent shorts *Corinna* and *Very Impressive* both premiered at the Antenna Documentary Film Festival in 2013 and 2014 respectively. Her debut feature documentary *The Opposition* set in Papua New Guinea and the UK will have its world premiere in May 2016 at the Hot Docs International Film Festival in Toronto.

Hollie has attended Asian Side of the Doc 2013 in Malaysia under the Strategic Opportunities Program by Screen NSW and has pitched at FIFO Oceania Pitching Forum 2013 and Good Pitch 2014 at Sydney's Opera House. Hollie is also the documentary tutor at the National Institute of Dramatic Art (NIDA).

Hollie studied a Bachelor of Film and Television (Hons) at Swinburne University and The Northern Film School in the UK under the Vice-Chancellor's Scholarship graduating with First Class Honours and the Award for Creative Excellence. Hollie continued her studies to receive a Graduate Certificate in Sustainability and Social Change at Oasis Graduate School in Melbourne followed by a Graduate Diploma of Documentary from the Australian Film Television and Radio School graduating with the Shark Island Prize for Best Social Impact Documentary for her film *The Opposition*.



# PRODUCERS: REBECCA BARRY

Rebecca's driving passion is to facilitate stories, share these with an audience in a creative way, and get people thinking. She is a storyteller and an adventurer at heart, with a deep desire to share new perspectives and observations about our world. Through the power of storytelling she has made significant social impact.

Since graduating from the Australian Film Television and Radio School (AFTRS) in 2003, Rebecca has filmed in some of the most dangerous places on earth including Afghanistan. She survived a Tsunami, collaborated with rock bands, hung out with a circus and communities in Papua New Guinea and along the way recorded and witnessed incredible stories of resilience and humanity. She is a convert to the old saying that ... "the truth is stranger than fiction".

She has collaborated with all of the major Australian broadcasters over the spectrum of drama and documentary. Highlights of her work as a director or producer include: *Footy Chicks* (SBS), *Inspiring Teachers* (SBS), *Home and Away* (Drama - Channel 7), *The Surgeon* (Drama - Channel 10), *You Am I - The Cream* and *The Crock* (DVD release), *Beats Across Borders* (ABC), *The Space In Between*, *The McDonagh Sisters* (SBS), *A Modern Marriage* (SBS) and *Overture* (ABC).

Her recent work as a director and producer of the feature documentary, *I am a Girl* was launched in the cinemas in 2013 to sell out sessions. *I am a Girl* was nominated for 4 AACTA Awards including Best Direction in a Documentary and was also nominated for Best Direction in a Documentary Feature at the Australian Directors Guild Awards. She also produced the ratings success *The Surgery Ship* (SBS) and *Call Me Dad* (ABC). She is also an impact producer on *Embrace*.

Social impact story telling is her remit and it is in this space that she is continuing her work through Media Stockade, her Independent production company, co-founded with Madeleine Hetherton based in Sydney Australia.



# MADELEINE HETHERTON

Madeleine is an experienced award-winning director and producer working across a wide range of television documentary and top rating factual programs and series. In 2013, she completed producing and directing the ratings success documentary *The Surgery Ship* (SBS) which follows stories aboard the world's largest civilian hospital ship as it roams the coast of West Africa.

Her long form documentary work includes directing the documentary series *Making Babies* (SBS) reviewed as 'fascinating and moving' (The Age), *Beats Across Borders* (ABC /Cirque du Soleil) and *Love In Our Own Time*. Her filmmaking has taken her around the world shooting in challenging locations including diamond diving in Africa, wildlife trafficking in Burma and the remote outback of Australia.

Her work has been nominated and won numerous awards including Australian Director's Guild for Best Directing and Best Contemporary Documentary by the Association of International Broadcasters and best documentary at Sarasota Film Festival.



## IMPACT PRODUCER: TERI CALDER

Teri joined Media Stockade in June 2015 and heads Media Stockade's impact campaign consultancy. Teri is the impact producer for Media Stockade's *Call Me Dad* (ABC) and *The Opposition* as well as Tony Presscot's *Legacy: A Ride to Conquer MND* and Taryn Brumfitt's *Embrace*. Her career has spanned almost 20 years across both the screen industry and the not-for-profit sector. She has extensive experience both in Australia and internationally working across communications, advocacy, project management and fundraising roles for organisations such as Greenpeace International, the Medical Association for the Prevention of War, Jubilee Australia and Council for International Development in New Zealand. From 2010- 2015, Teri worked with Screen Australia in several roles first managing the agency's communications and then distribution program. She has worked with boutique Australian distributors running national campaigns for social impact feature documentaries such as the award-winning Canadian feature documentaries *The Corporation* and *The Take*. She also co-distributed the Canadian feature documentary *Scared Sacred* and the Oscar nominated German feature-film Sophie Scholl – *The Final Days*. She has a great passion for social impact story telling and engaging audiences to act for change.



## DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY: VINCENT LAMBERTI

Vincent is a cinematographer with a background as an award-winning documentary filmmaker. He lived and worked in the Australian Central Desert for many years where he learnt how to shoot with limited resources, shape the available light and work quickly. This often harsh real world environment also taught him the value of relationships, both in front of and behind the camera.

In 2008 his documentary *Intervention* was the highest rating episode of Message Sticks on ABC-TV as well as being awarded Best Australian Documentary by Documentary Australia Foundation. Vincent has a number of broadcast and festival credits to his name. At the other end of the spectrum, in the field of drama, his work as a cinematographer was in competition at the 2013 Camerimage, Film Festival for the Art of Cinematography in Poland.

Vincent also teaches at a grass roots level, mentoring young people to tell their stories through film.



## EDITOR: BERNDATTE MURRAY

Bernadette Murray is an Australian film editor with over ten years of experience across drama, documentary, commercial work and art installation.

As well as the feature documentary *The Opposition*, Bernadette's credits include the feature drama *Stalker* and the award winning commercial documentary, *Ideas For Good: The One Laptop Per Child Initiative* which received the 2011 Bronze Cannes Media Lion. Her comedy credits include Dylan Moran's stand-up release, *What it is* (2009) and *Aim low: The best of Dylan Moran* (2010).

Bernadette has cut a number of short films and music videos that have screened and received awards in many international and national film festivals. She has assisted on projects for film and television; most recently for the documentary *Black Panther Woman* produced by Blackfella Films and the ACCTA award winning ABC broadcast documentary series *Redesign My Brain*.

Bernadette holds a Graduate Diploma in Editing from the Australian Film Television and Radio School (AFTRS), a Graduate Diploma in Animation (RMIT) and a Bachelor of Arts in Film Studies from UNSW. Bernadette also teaches editing workshops at the National Institute of Dramatic Arts (NIDA).



## COMPOSER: JOHN GRAY

John Gray is a multi-award winning film composer based in Sydney, Australia. He has written both Orchestral and Acoustic/Electronic scores for film - some of which have been finalists and winners internationally at Sundance, Montreal, Venice, Berlin, New York University, San Francisco (Mill Valley), St. Tropez, Melbourne, Brisbane and Sydney international film festivals, to name a few.



## EXECUTIVE PRODUCER: BEADIE FINZI

Beadie Finzi is one of the founding directors of BRITDOC, a non-profit film foundation based in London and supporting filmmakers globally. Having worked in documentary for the past 20 years, Beadie is in heaven in her role at BRITDOC – whose mission is to befriend independent filmmakers, fund great films, broker new partnerships, build new business models, share knowledge and develop audiences globally. In addition to Executive Producing a number of films at the foundation, Beadie is also responsible for global programmes including Good Pitch and the PUMA Impact Award.



## EXECUTIVE PRODUCER: JESS SEARCH

Jess has been the Chief Executive of BRITDOC since its launch in 2005. Previously she was a Commissioning Editor at Channel 4 TV in the UK for 5 years. Jess has an MBA from Cass Business School. She is also a moderator at the IDFA Pitching Forum in Amsterdam and remains involved in Shooting People, the online independent filmmakers network she co-founded in 1998. Her credits as an executive producer include the Oscar nominated feature documentaries *Virunga* and *Dirty Wars*.



# PRODUCTION COMPANY

Founded in 2012 by Rebecca Barry and Madeleine Hetheron, Media Stockade focuses on social-impact documentary storytelling, delivering across platforms and actively working with key supporters to build communities around each film.

Rebecca and Madeleine share over a decade of film and TV production experience and collectively have made over 50 hours of broadcast television. They have been colleagues for the last 15 years and are working together on an exciting slate of projects. They are joined by impact producer Teri Calder, whose passion for social impact storytelling and engaging audiences across platforms keeps Media Stockade pushing boundaries in form and subjects.

In 2013, Media Stockade released the 4 times AACTA nominated feature documentary *I Am A Girl* and SBS ratings success *The Surgery Ship*. In 2015 their two productions *Call Me Dad*, broadcast on the ABC in 2015, and *The Opposition* to be released in 2016, were both selected for the 2014 inaugural Good Pitch Australia event. Other projects on Media Stockade's slate to be released in 2016 are *Disaster Capitalism*, an explosive documentary that reveals the underbelly of the global aid and investment industry, and *Psychics in The Suburbs*, an insiders look into the rapidly expanding industry of psychic mediumship and its influence on the lives of the clients that seek their services. In 2012, they will release Nat Geo series *The Surgery Ship*.

Media Stockade genuinely love enabling stories and most importantly working with people who inspire them. They are also passionate about working with social issues filmmakers to create powerful impact campaigns for public good. They work to support a film's social impact goals by delivering a critical mass of screening events in non-theatrical settings via communities, schools and businesses and create dynamic customized materials around each film.



# DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Some stories pick you. On my second day in Papua New Guinea I found myself in the middle of a human rights abuse standing between the police holding machetes and assault rifles and the Paga Hill community watching their homes being destroyed fearing for their lives.

The community were peaceful and yet refused to be defeated. When I found out that a property developer was after the Paga Hill land to develop a five star hotel, marina wharf and national cultural centre, I knew I had an obligation to continue to capture the community's resistance. The irony of violently evicting a Papua New Guinean community to replace their homes with a national cultural centre was startling.

Over the last four years I have been constantly watching the story of Paga Hill unfold trying to capture it as it does. The twist and turns throughout kept me in a constant state of fear that I would miss that decisive moment. Ultimately however the more I trusted the process, the more smooth it became. *The Opposition* investigates the miscarriage of justice for the Paga Hill Settlement and the journey of our hero Joe Moses; who, along with his unlikely alliance of leaders, lawyers, politicians, researchers and artists, try to save the community from forced eviction.

The Paga Hill community have a story that they would like to share with you; one of heart, determination and hard evidence. Using observational footage, archive and interviews, *The Opposition* contrasts the dark pressure of court preparation, death threats and exhaustion within the leadership with the slow sun filled lifestyle of the Paga Hill community fishing on the waters, kneading bread and practicing yoga at dusk.

Tropical Papua New Guinea is then contrasted against the United Kingdom where the international alliance extends to where Dr. Kristin Lasslett continues to investigate the Paga Hill community's case. It is Kris's humour which brings the paperwork to life and his genuine and unwavering concern for the community is contagious.

The development company's perspective is seen through the perspective of one of their consultants and the news reports celebrating their efforts. With the court case and continual demolitions at Paga Hill framing the narrative structure we see a pressurized world of real danger. The impending doom in an otherwise peaceful seaside community brings an intensity to the interviews and observational footage. It is through our intimate access with the characters that we see and feel how desperate they are to keep their homes.

# SELECTED STILLS

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VERSION







# PRODUCTION STORIES

*The Opposition* has been the subject of a legal dispute raising questions about freedom of speech as well as the viability of independent film production. When first-time filmmaker, Hollie Fifer, found herself in the middle of police-initiated violence at the Paga Hill Settlement in 2012, there would be no way of predicting the future that lay ahead.

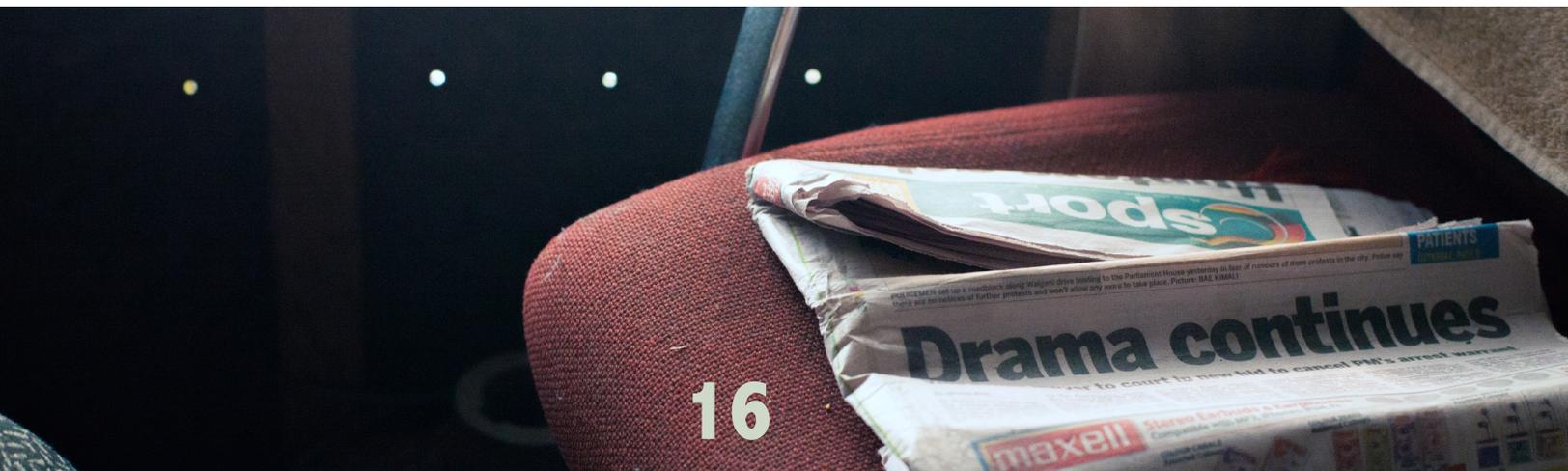
Piece by piece the story revealed new layers of complexity, prompting Fifer to take on one of the largest development companies in the region. Standing up for the community and their rights to the land, the Paga Hill Development Company used the vast resources at their disposal in attempt to squash the low-budget film.

The first blow came in the form of an injunction launched by Dame Carol Kidu who claimed Fifer had engaged in unconscionable conduct. Kidu's case rested on the perspective that she had been misled into participating in what she thought was simply a school project, despite signing an industry-standard release form and remaining actively engaged throughout multiple stages of the production process over a period of 3-4 years.

Throughout the court proceedings the production company, Media Stockade, worked tirelessly to produce a censored version to secure the film's world premiere at the prestigious Canadian documentary film festival, Hot Docs.

After months of deliberation, the court ruled in favour of Fifer and Beacon Films.

[The Supreme Court Ruling is available here.](#) For more information, please see the links below.



# MEDIA COVERAGE

[April 4, 2016: SYDNEY MORNING HERALD: THE DAME, THE FILMMAKER, THE PROPERTY DEVELOPER AND PNGS MOST SOUGHTAFTER PIECE OF LAND](#)

[April 4, 2016: PNG EXPOSED: DAME CAROL KIDU AND THE PAGA HILL DOCUMENTARY](#)

[April 12, 2016: NEW ZEALAND HERALD: POLITICIAN TRIES TO BLOCK NZ FESTIVAL SCREENING FILM](#)

[April 13, 2016: STELLA: STAR OF THE PACIFIC: THE FIGHT TO STOP 'THE OPPOSITION'](#)

[April 14, 2016: SYDNEY MORNING HERALD: FORMER PNG POLITICIAN DAME CAROL KIDU CLAIMS AUSTRALIAN FILMMAKER 'DUPED' HER](#)

[April 22, 2016: MCCLAUSLAND: MEDIA LAW: WHAT'S A WRITTEN RELEASE WORTH? KIDU INJUNCTION AGAINST DOCO SCREENING](#)

[April 22, 2016: SYDNEY MORNING HERALD: APRIL 22, 2016: FORMER PNG POLITICIAN DAME CAROL KIDU WINS INJUNCTION AGAINST AUSTRALIAN DOCUMENTARY](#)

[April 29, 2016: THE HOLLYWOOD REPORTER: HOT DOCS: 'DRESSMAKER' STAR SARAH SNOOK TO NARRATE CENSORED DOC](#)

[May 2, 2016: DAILY REVIEW: SARAH SNOOK TO NARRATE REDACTED SCENES IN CONTROVERSIAL NEW AUSTRALIAN DOCUMENTARY](#)

[May 2, 2016: IF.COM.AU: SNOOK TO NARRATE REDACTED SECTIONS OF THE OPPOSITION AFTER COURT DECISION](#)

[May 2, 2016: FILM INK: AUSTRALIAN DOCUMENTARY THE OPPOSITION CENSORED FOLLOWING COURT INJUNCTION](#)

[May 2, 2016: INDIWIRE: HOT DOCS DOCUMENTARY GETS DRAMATICALLY CENSORED AT THE LAST MINUTE](#)

[May 3, 2016: WOMEN AND HOLLYWOOD: HOT DOCS 2016 WOMEN DIRECTORS: MEET HOLLIE FIFER - "THE OPPOSITION"](#)

[May 3, 2016: SYDNEY MORNING HERALD: SARAH SNOOK TO NARRATE OVER BLACK SCREEN DURING CENSORED DOCUMENTARY'S WORLD PREMIERE](#)

[May 5, 2016: WHITELEY, IRONSIDE AND SHILLINGTON: FREEDOM OF SPEECH?](#)

[May 5, 2016: TORONTO FILM SCENE: HOT DOCS 2016 REVIEW: THE OPPOSITION](#)

[May 5, 2016: LET THE MOVIE MOVE US: HOT DOCS 2016 REVIEW: "THE OPPOSITION" \(2016\)](#)

[May 11, 2016: POINT OF VIEW MAGAZINE: HOLLIE FIFER'S 'THE OPPOSITION': A CENSORED FILM APPEARS AT HOT DOCS](#)

[PNG INDUSTRY NEWS: DAME CAROL DOCUMENTARY FIGHT CONTINUES IN JUNE](#)

[July 14, 2016: 7.30 REPORT: AUSTRALIAN STUDENT'S DOCUMENTARY LEADS TO A LEGAL BATTLE WITH PNG POLITICIAN](#)

[July 14, 2016: SYDNEY MORNING HERALD: AUSTRALIAN-BORN PNG POLITICIAN LOSES COURT BATTLE TO SUPPRESS DOCUMENTARY ABOUT SHANTY TOWN DEMOLITION IN PORT MORESBY](#)

[July 18, 2016: IF.COM.AU: NSW SUPREME COURT REJECTS INJUNCTION AGAINST AUSSIE DOCO THE OPPOSITION](#)

[August 10, 2016: THE ADVERTISER: ACTOR SARAH SNOOK SPEAKS AGAINST CENSORSHIP OF PAPUA NEW GUINEAN DOCUMENTARY THE OPPOSITION](#)

# PARTICIPANT BACKGROUND STORIES



## JOE MOSES

Joe Moses is a Papua New Guinean anthropology graduate who works at the University of Papua New Guinea. Moses was responsible for spearheading the legal case against the forced eviction of 3,000 people from Paga Hill. Despite betrayals, police brutality and risks to his own life, Joe battles through the courts for 3 years fighting the companies who want to take away his community's home.



## DR. KRISTIAN LASSLETT

Kristian Lasslett is a Lecturer in Criminology at the University of Ulster and sits on the International State Crime Initiative's executive board. He is editor of the State Crime Testimony Project and joint editor-in-chief of State Crime.

# OUTREACH

## ON SOCIAL NETWORKS: A DIGITAL MOVEMENT

#TheOpposition



**@theoppositiondocumentary**



**@OppositionFilm**



**@OppositionDoc**



# CREDITS

SCREEN AUSTRALIA presents  
In association with BERTHA BRITDOC  
A MEDIA STOCKADE production

Directed by  
HOLLIE FIFER

Produced by  
REBECCA BARRY  
MADELEINE HETHERTON

Executive Producer  
BEADIE FINZI  
JESS SEARCH

Edited by  
BERNADETTE MURRAY

Sound Design by  
LACHLAN HARRIS

Composer  
JOHN GRAY

Cinematographer  
VINCENT LAMBERTI

Impact Producer  
TERI CALDER

Associate Producer  
ESTER HARDING

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