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REVIEW - FILM

Lousy Little Sixpence. Directors: Alec Morgan and Gerald Bostock 1983. Length, 54 minutes. Colour: with B/W footage. Available in 16mm film in one reel (54 minutes), or in two reels (27.5 min. reels).; 3/4" videocassette; 1/2" videocassette. Contents include discussion guides, project sheets, and project notes available with each purchase. Can be rented from Ronin Films, 136 Blamey Crescent, Campbell, A.C.T. 2601. Telephone (062) 480851.

Reviewer, R.Bostock*

Lousy Little Sixpence is a documentary film about the lives of the Aboriginal people in New South Wales during the years 1900-1946.

Through old newsreels, archive film, photographs, newspaper articles, and interviews with five Aboriginal elders who lived through those hard times, the film weaves a moving account about the lives of these Aboriginals.

The enclosed discussion guide should be used *only* with the film. It is essential that discussion leaders should view the film before using the guide.

Resources for further research are listed at the end of each section. By using these, each section could be used as a project study by the discussion group.

Lousy Little Sixpence portrays what can only be seen as a thinly disguised form of child slavery in the early 20th century Australia and the deliberate breakdown of Aboriginal civilisation. This film shows the plight of Aborigines in New South Wales in a most effective manner - through the mouths of the people (who were themselves stolen from their parents). The interviews with several Aboriginal elders, including Margaret Tucker, M.B.E., Geraldine Briggs and Bill Reid, is supported by well researched, documented evidence in the form of early photographs, film (newsreel), and newspaper clippings, and are united with simple direct narration.

The Aboriginal people who suffered many indignities in their early years under the "Protection Board" control, are still emerging

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to fight for the moral and constitutional rights of *all* Aborigines.

This film is most impressive and is especially valuable from an educational point of view. It could be used to supplement episode three of *Women of the Sun*. It is an excellent background film for teachers to view prior to introducing Aboriginal Studies in a school.

The film can be divided into two parts, which would be of 27 minutes duration and would leave the teacher enough time for discussion with students afterwards.

Part One contains rare footage of reserve life in 1912, and uses old photographs, government propaganda film, music and songs to fascinate the viewer.

Part Two traces the use of the first Aboriginal groups showing their struggle against the "Protection Board".

This film shows how Aboriginal people forced the State Government to alter policy, and how the foundations for today's Aboriginal organisations came into effect.

This film could be used for the following topics in Aboriginal Studies:

Australian History
Social Science
Aboriginal Studies
Psychology
Land/Prejudice and Racism
Anthropology and many others.

Should be made compulsory viewing in all high schools and tertiary institutions.

Highly recommended.

S/US/T*

* Mid-secondary/Upper secondary/Tertiary - Teacher reference - symbols as per *A Guide to Resources for the Teaching of Studies about Aborigines and Islanders*. R. Bostock, 1982, Department of Education, Queensland.