



## A GOLDMINE OF VISION AND SOUND

Our national collection of film and sound is a veritable goldmine of Australian history and the National Film and Sound Archive of Australia (NFSA) are very excited about making it increasingly available to Australian teachers and students. They've discovered library professionals are a key link in getting these valuable resources in front of teachers and helping develop ways to use them in the classroom. Heather Millard explains.

The National Film and Sound Archive of Australia (NFSA) has more than 1.6 million items in its collection and an extensive range of award-winning online learning resources – and with more on the way, we want educators know about them. When looking for the best way to inform teachers, we found that they are generally time-poor, and while they are able to spend some time online looking for educational resources, they rely to a large degree on the resource-finding skills of their professional library staff. Now we are working closely with those library professionals in schools to ensure they are aware of the educational resources offered by the NFSA.

### 700,000 online visitors, 35,000 students through the door every year

The NFSA's educational website, called *australianscreen* online ([www.aso.gov.au](http://www.aso.gov.au)) features more than 4000 moving image clips from almost 1600 feature films, documentaries, television programs, newsreels, animations, home movies and sound recordings. With teachers' notes prepared in collaboration with Education Services Australia, the website is accessed throughout the world by over 700,000

visitors per year. Clips can be explored through curriculum categories and subcategories ([aso.gov.au/education/](http://aso.gov.au/education/)).

The audiovisual material is selected from the collections of the NFSA and a range of other significant national institutions, including the National Archives of Australia, the ABC, SBS and the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies.



The National Film and Sound Archive is a goldmine for education – and library professionals are helping teachers dig out the value

The NFSA's Digital Learning suite of resources also includes educational modules produced by the former Film Australia ([www.nfsa.gov.au/learning](http://www.nfsa.gov.au/learning)). These 21 sites include *Australian Biography Online*, *From Wireless to Web*, *Investigating National Treasures*, *Australian History Timeline*, and *Moving History – 60 Years of Film Australia*. Clips on all 21 websites can be discovered through the Digital Resource Finder sorted by state or national based curriculum areas and by school year.

*NFSA Connects* presents networked real time Q&A sessions with contemporary filmmakers and artists to school students. This innovative program is run through the NFSA's *School Screen* and provides students across Australia with unprecedented access to creative arts professionals to hear their stories and learn about their experiences. The project uses video-conferencing and other digital networking equipment available to schools in both urban and regional areas.

The NFSA also runs educational programs for on-site visits by schools. More than 35,000 students, from primary and secondary schools throughout the country, come to the NFSA each year. Guided tours and live presentations take students through the history of Australian film and sound. We also prepare special presentations throughout the year. For example we are currently preparing presentations on Australian animation, Australian dance, and – for later in the year – on Australian advertising.

The NFSA's *School Screen* ([www.nfsa.gov.au/schoolscreen](http://www.nfsa.gov.au/schoolscreen)) offers free screenings of some of Australia's best feature films, shorts and documentaries for schools nationwide. In local cinemas throughout the country, schools can screen Australian films engaging students in a range of curriculum and learning areas. Using study guides available through *School Screen*, teachers can guide students to achieve key learning outcomes and improve literacy in creative ways. A selection of contemporary Indigenous short films on DVD can also be accessed through the NFSA's *Black Screen* program for use in schools ([www.nfsa.gov.au/blackscreen](http://www.nfsa.gov.au/blackscreen)).

No matter what the subject being taught, there is likely to be something in the national audiovisual collection to help illustrate a lesson, show what life was like 'back then' or to inspire students (and teachers!) to create new projects and artworks.

Explore the NFSA's online resources and you will see the wealth of information and resources available. But be warned - you could find yourself still exploring hours later.

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