

# The Lost Tribe



*A film by  
Rachel Landers*



A WOMEN MAKE MOVIES RELEASE

Women Make Movies • 462 Broadway, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor • New York, NY 10013  
Tel: 212.925.0606 • e-mail: [wmmonscreen@wmm.com](mailto:wmmonscreen@wmm.com) • [www.wmm.com](http://www.wmm.com)

## Synopsis



A hilarious and highly-charged chronicle of one-of-a-kind, ex-Mormon, Lesbian, Sue Ann Post who has molded a career in Australia as an award-winning comedian from the lurid and toxic brew of tales from her childhood. When Sue Ann accepts an invitation to be the guest of deeply religious organization's annual Gay and Lesbian Mormon Convention in Salt Lake City, an outrageous and emotional roller coaster begins.

What follows is a bizarre and confrontational pilgrimage back to Mormon Zion where Sue Ann encounters a peculiar mix of people and rediscovers the roots she has all but buried. At once humorous and moving, *THE LOST TRIBE* is a fascinating portrait of one of the world's least understood faiths and a telling example of the explosive intersection of sexuality and religion.

## Festivals & Screenings

For the most updated list, visit [www.wmm.com](http://www.wmm.com)

- Atlanta Gay & Lesbian Film Festival
- London Lesbian Film Festival, Canada
- Spokane Gay & Lesbian Film Festival
- Seattle Lesbian & Gay Film Festival

## Credits

2005 · 56 minutes · Color

Director/Camera/Writer  
**Rachel Landers**

Producers  
**Dylan Blowen and Rachel Landers**

Editing  
**Chris Spur**



### Publicity Contact

Julie Whang

Women Make Movies, 462 Broadway Suite 500, New York, NY 10013

212-925-0606 ex. 320

[jwhang@wmm.com](mailto:jwhang@wmm.com)



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# Biographies

## **Rachel Landers (Producer/Writer/Director)**

Rachel Landers completed a PhD in history at Sydney University and a post-graduate directing course at the National Institute of Dramatic Art. Working in theatre after graduation she then moved into film as a writer and director of both drama and documentary. Her films have screened at numerous international festivals and have won and been nominated for a number of awards that include: the Gold Hugo from the Chicago Film Festival, Best Cinematography from the Australian Cinematography Society, Nominations for 2 AFI's (writing and direction) for the film *Revisionism*; won a United Nations Media Award at the Melbourne Film Festival for the documentary *Whitey's Like Us* and a Logie nomination for the documentary series *Drama School*. Her most recently completed projects include the one hour documentary *A Girl, A Horse, A Dream* (finalist for the ATOM awards), the 4 part documentary series, *Missing* for SBS, and *The Lost Tribe* for the ABC's Compass slot, both of which go to air in 2005.

*The Lost Tribe* is Rachel's third project to be completed since the formation of her production company Pony Films in 2002. She has two projects in development: the documentary series *Saving The World?* with the Australian Film Commission and the feature film *Storage* with the NSW Film and TV Office.

## **Dylan Blowen (Producer)**

After spending years in feature film and television production in New York and Los Angeles, Dylan joined forces with Rachel Landers in 2002 on the film *A Girl, A Horse, A Dream*. They are now partners in Pony Films and have completed three projects together: *A Girl, A Horse, A Dream*; *Missing*; and *The Lost Tribe*.

Dylan is currently developing four projects with Pony Films including the feature film *Storage* in association with the New South Wales Film and Television Office, the documentary series *Saving The World?*, and the one-hour documentaries *After Idi* and *Kempsey*.

## **Sue-Ann Post (Principle Subject)**

Sue-Ann Post is Australia's only six foot, lesbian, ex-Mormon, diabetic, comedian and author. Since Sue-Ann launched onto the scene in 1991 with her multi-award winning solo show, *A Bit of a Postscript*, she has been creating her own brand of information charged comedy that has shocked and delighted audiences around Australia, New Zealand, the UK and the USA.

Sue-Ann's second book, *The Confession of an Unrepentant Lesbian Ex-Mormon* is due to be released by ABC Books in March. The national tour of her latest one-women show titled *Jesus Loves Me, He Just Hates What I'm Doing* kicks off in April at the Melbourne International Comedy Festival with other dates to follow.

Sue-Ann has written and performed numerous one-woman shows in festivals across the country and has won a host of awards, including the Melbourne International Comedy Festival's Stella Award for Best Show and the National Radio Award for Best Comic Performance. She has also appeared on numerous television programs, including *Kath and Kim*, *The Panel*, and *Denton*.

Post's thought-provoking weekly column appeared in the TODAY section of *The Age* for three years and was nominated for the 2002 Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission's Print Media Award. Her articles have also appeared in *The West Australian*, the UK's *Freethinker* and *Versal* in The Netherlands. Her 2002 Melbourne Comedy Festival season became known as having one of the most diverse audiences at the festival.



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# Background Information

## ***Some background information on The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Mormonism):***

According to the book of Mormon, a companion volume to the Bible, an ancient Hebrew tribe one of the lost tribes of Israel journeyed to America in 600 BC. After arrival the tribe divided into two warring factions the virtuous fair-skinned Nephites and the darker, idle and mischievous Lamanites.

In 33 AD, soon after his resurrection, Jesus Christ appeared in America to share his new gospel with the entire tribe. Despite a temporary peace, the Lamanites wiped out the Nephites in 400AD and went on to become the ancestors of the American Indians.

Mormon, one of the last Nephites to survive, recounted the history of the tribe to his son Moroni who inscribed it on a series of golden plates. These golden plates remained buried until Moroni, now an angelic personage, guided a young man Joseph Smith to them in 1823.

Joseph Smith translated the golden plates (which formed the text of the Book of Mormon) and in 1830 became the 1st contemporary Mormon prophet and founded the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

20 years after being guided to the golden plates, Joseph Smith had another revelation from God. The sanctity of celestial marriage had been revealed to Joseph in effect that a man in the Latter-day Saint faith could take multiple wives.

The practice of polygamy led to wide spread persecution of the Mormons (including the murder of Joseph) and they were hounded from one state to another. Finally Brigham Young, the 2nd Latter Day Saint prophet, led the Mormons on a great trek across North America, eventually settling in an utterly remote desert valley founding Salt Lake City known also as Zion.

The Church of the Latter Day Saints is deeply patriarchal in structure, only (and indeed all) male Mormons can hold the office of priesthood and thus can enter the highest levels of heaven and become Gods themselves. This is also a religion that endorsed polygamy and slavery until threatened with expulsion from the Union in the 1890s. Up until the late 1970s male black Mormons could not join the priesthood and homosexuals were "treated" with Electro shock therapy to turn them straight. A Mormon can still be excommunicated for any number of sins including adultery, homosexuality and masturbation. Even today the LDS adhere to the belief that its Gay and Lesbian members can be "cured" of homosexuality if they attend reparative/conversion therapy conducted by the Church (such as that conducted by the LDS Evergreen Foundation).

At present there are approximately 11 million Mormons worldwide. It is regarded as one of the fastest growing religions in the West. In the US There are more Mormons than Presbyterians or Episcopalians. On the planet as a whole there are now more Mormons than Jews... if this growth continues at it's current pace it is on it's way to being considered a major world religion.



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