

TWO FILMS BY
TRACEY MOFFATT



NIGHT CRIES - A RURAL TRAGEDY

1990 19 minutes Color 35mm/16mm/Video Australia

On an isolated, surreal Australian homestead, a middle-aged Aboriginal woman nurses her dying white mother. The adopted daughter's attentive gestures mask an almost palpable hostility. Their story alludes to the assimilation policy that forced Aboriginal children to be raised in white families. The stark, sensual drama unfolds without dialogue against vivid painted sets as the smooth crooning of an Aboriginal Christian singer provides ironic counterpoint. Moffatt's first 35mm film displays rare visual assurance and emotional power.

* New York Film Festival

* Cannes Film Festival

* Montreal Women's Film Festival, Best Short

* Tampere Short Film Festival, Special Jury Award

"A dazzling grand opera of silence and maternity, as opulent as Robert Wilson,
as soulfully anguished as Fassbinder."
Manohla Dargis, Best of 1990, Village Voice

"Unsentimental and self-consciously artificial, the film undermines any easy
assumptions or conclusions. Formally innovative and thought-provoking at once."
Caryn James, New York Times

NICE COLORED GIRLS

1987 16 minutes Color, 16mm/Video Australia

This stylistically daring film audaciously explores the history of exploitation between white men and Aboriginal women, juxtaposing the "first encounter" between colonizers and native women with the attempts of modern urban Aboriginal women to reverse their fortunes. Through counterpoint of sound, image and printed text, the film conveys the perspective of Aboriginal women while acknowledging that oppression and enforced silence still shape their consciousness.

* Berlin Film Festival

* Festival of Festivals, Toronto

"With humor, elegance and finesse, Tracey Moffatt brilliantly deconstructs the
classic good girl/bad girl dichotomy in a game of seduction,
symbolic violence and illusions."
Berenice Reynaud