

MARKETING PROPOSAL - END OF STORY

Working Title	End of Story Alternative title: A Blanket of Shillings.
Tagline	A travelling boxing troupe struggles to survive in a changing world.
Length	110 minutes
Genre	<p><u>Modern Adventure</u>: exciting story with exotic locations in outback Australia. Energetic experience for viewers; Harry and his boxing troupe struggle and overcome the odds. They are charismatic, courageous, altruistic and fight for their beliefs and survival.</p> <p><u>Drama</u>: Serious, plot-driven, realistic characters, involving intense character involvement and interaction. Contemporary issues such as the relevance and morality of boxing, fixed fights, interracial love and black deaths in custody give the film a powerful voice.</p> <p><u>Romantic</u>: the search for love and the obstacles Blue Tongue and Kate must overcome creates an empathy that drives the story. Both are prepared to risk ostracism for their love.</p> <p><u>Action</u>: spectacular fights create rhythm and pacing; hero versus antagonists with action sequences driving the resolution.</p>
Synopsis	<p>This is an epic story of a travelling boxing troupe's struggle to survive in a changing world.</p> <p>Set in outback Australia, 1958, Harry Corbett's 'family' of boxing entertainers travel from town to town challenging local fighters and devising schemes to prove the old adage that there's one born every minute.</p> <p>The rise in popularity of television and increased anti-boxing sentiment has Harry's troupe on the ropes of economic annihilation.</p>

It's a time when Aborigines require permission to drink alcohol, are prohibited from local swimming pools, segregated behind chicken wire at picture theatres and interracial relationships are taboo. Boxing, however, is their path to acceptance, though not in the relationship sense.

The story is set against the developing relationship between Blue Tongue, a young Aboriginal, searching for his traditional mother, and Harry's daughter, Kate. Infatuated by Kate, Blue Tongue accepts a challenge by Harry to fight Kate's boyfriend. Although Les is the better fighter Harry orders Les to throw the fight. Blue Tongue, naïve to the fix, subsequently joins the troupe to pursue Kate and continue the search for his mother.

This allows Harry to stir the passions of the crowds by playing the race card. If Blue Tongue defeats the troupe's white champion (Les) the crowds become excited at the prospect of one of their own defeating the main draw card, Scorpion, another Aboriginal fighter.

However, Blue Tongue is a natural fighter and under the guidance of Snowy, a one-arm boxing trainer, quickly matches Les's ability. Harry, suspicious of the developing relationship between Blue Tongue and Kate, attempts to thwart their romance while keeping Blue Tongue in the troupe. But Harry's interference only strengthens the relationship.

When the troupe become aware Blue Tongue is wanted by police they agree to prevent his detection.

Kate is uneasy about her true feelings and disturbed by Blue Tongue's insinuation she may be racist. It's only after Blue Tongue teaches her to swim which subsequently allows her to save her drowning brother does she consummate the relationship.

Because of Les' and Blue Tongue's improvement as fighters Harry arranges a boxing promoter to assess them, at the last venue on their circuit, the annual city show. Expectations are high for professional contracts.

Blue Tongue, Kate and Scorpion attend the pictures but refuse to sit in the area reserved for Aborigines. Blue Tongue and

Scorpion are arrested. Blue Tongue's ribs are broken and Scorpion is murdered by police.

Kate discovers Blue Tongue has run away from white foster parents. At Kate's instigation Blue Tongue's mother arranges for Blue Tongue's release.

This occurs as the anti-boxing movement succeeds in banning boxing tents and Harry's show is cancelled by the show management. But Harry is determined the last show will go ahead and out maneuvers management.

Blue Tongue challenges the policeman responsible for killing Scorpion to fight him in the boxing tent. It's a challenge the policeman cannot resist.

When Blue Tongue gains the upper hand Harry realizes a victory for Blue Tongue will ensure further persecution by police, but a victory might also end the relationship between Blue Tongue and Kate. However Harry, concerned for Blue Tongue's safety, signals Blue Tongue to throw the fight. The troupe is devastated but Harry is adamant.

Blue Tongue ignores Harry, however a blow to Blue Tongue's ribs leaves him immobile. He refuses to surrender and earns respect from the crowd that courage and heroic dignity deserve.

Although losing the fight Blue Tongue finds his spiritual place in the world.

The boxing promoter is impressed by Les and Blue Tongue but for Harry's troupe this is the end of the story.

Significance

This is a film set before bitumen and fast rides replaced that wonderful world of flim flam and sideshow alleys. It is both gentle and harsh, yet uniquely Australian, written in the tradition of Fellini's *La Strada*, Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men* and Luhrmann's *Strictly Ballroom*.

What will make it a must-see film is its humour and the enigmatic heroism of its main protagonist, Blue Tongue.

It is rich in nostalgia and working class values that can be traced back to convict-military-goldfield tradition, often ignored but so important in celebrating they type of people we are today.

We have all tossed out shilling onto the blanket of conflict at some stage.

Target Audience General Public, especially film goers who enjoy action/romance films in the style of The Last Samurai, Gladiator and Rocky.

There will be acceptable levels of violence and sexual references.
