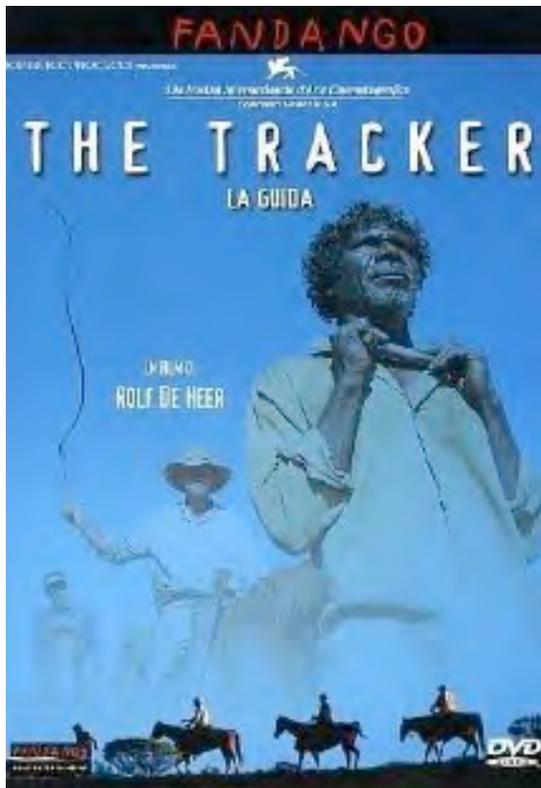


# THE TRACKER

AUSTRALIA, 2002

**ROLF DE HEER**



## SYNOPSIS

It's 1922; somewhere in Australia. When a Native Australian man is accused of murdering a white woman, three white men (The Fanatic, The Follower and The Veteran) are given the mission of capturing him with the help of an experienced Native Australian (The Tracker). In charge is the Fanatic (Gary Sweet), cold, ruthless, calculating but complex. The second of the three whites is the Follower (Damon Gameau), a greenhorn, new to the outback. And there is the Veteran (Grant Page), a thinker rather than a doer. But the real leader, whether the others know it or not, is the Tracker himself (David Gulpilil), a mysterious figure who clearly isn't who he seems. So they start their quest in the outback, not knowing that their inner wrestles against and for racism will be more dangerous than the actual hunting for the accused.

The Tracker was shot entirely on location in the rugged Gammon Ranges in outback Australia and debuted to a standing ovation at the 2002 Adelaide Festival of Arts and in Official Competition at the 2002 Venice International Film Festival. The film won prizes all over the world, winning the Special Jury Prize at the 2002 Valladolid International Film Festival, and Best Screenplay at the Festival of Ghent. In Australia it won numerous prizes, including Best Film at both the 2002 Circle of Film Critics Awards and the 2002 IF (people's) Awards.

## TECHNICAL DATA

Director: Rolf de Heer

Cast: Gary Sweet, David Gulpilil

Music: Graham Tardiff, Rolf de Heer

Photography: Ian Jones, ACS

Runtime: 90 min

## DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

**Rolf de Heer** was born in 1951 in Heemskerk, Holland, and migrated to Australia with his family in 1959. From eighteen, he spent seven years working at the Australian Broadcasting Corporation, until he decided it was time "to stop dealing with other people's programs and make some of my own". In 1977, he was granted entry into Australia's prestigious Film Television and Radio School, completing the three-year course with Diplomas in Production and Directing. De Heer's first film was the children's feature 'Tail Of A Tiger' (1984), which attracted both critical and commercial success and played at the Berlin Kinderfest. 'Incident At Raven's Gate' (1987), de Heer's second feature, was an atmospheric science fiction mystery thriller, followed by 'Dingo' (1990), a musical odyssey that travelled from outback Western Australia to the streets of Paris starring Colin Friels and jazz legend Miles Davis in his only film role. 'Bad Boy Bobby' (1993) marked de Heer's first collaboration with Italian producer Domenico Procacci. Thirty-two different cinematographers were used to chronicle the adventures of a child-man seeing the world for the first time.

De Heer spent the next two years working on EPSILON (1995) that made extensive use of motion control cinematography. During a break in filming, THE QUIET ROOM was shot and garnered critical acclaim and numerous awards from around the world and was selected for Official Competition in the 1996 Cannes International Film Festival. .

The next film directed by De Heer was DANCE ME TO MY SONG in 1997, and it was followed by THE OLD MAN WHO READ LOVE STORIES in 1999, THE TRACKER in 2002, ALEXANDRA'S PROJECT -de Heer's tenth film as director-, TEN CANOES and his last feature film DR PLONK, a black and white silent comedy in the style of Charlie Chaplin and Buster Keaton. The film closed the Adelaide Film Festival in 2007 and was selected into the Visions Section of the Toronto International Film Festival.