

KNOW ME

 DOCUMENTARY AUSTRALIA

A[C]F
Make culture happen





SYNOPSIS

Drawing on footage from two eras KNOW ME is an intimate portrait of Sarawak's fragile biomass and the relationship its unique indigenous cultures have to it.

Linguist and WWII veteran, Ian Urquhart, was sent to Sarawak in 1947 where he served as a British civil service officer. In 1955 Ian began filming his visits to indigenous communities in the 'ulu' - the near inaccessible forests of the Baram, Tutoh and Tinjar rivers and the Kelabit highlands.

In 1993, Australian filmmaker Andrew Garton made the first of many visits to Sarawak filming in some of the same regions.

A poetic interweave of Ian's restored footage with Andrew's video, narration and sound design KNOW ME is an appeal from Sarawak's forests and its peoples who yearn to be known before no one is left to tell their story.

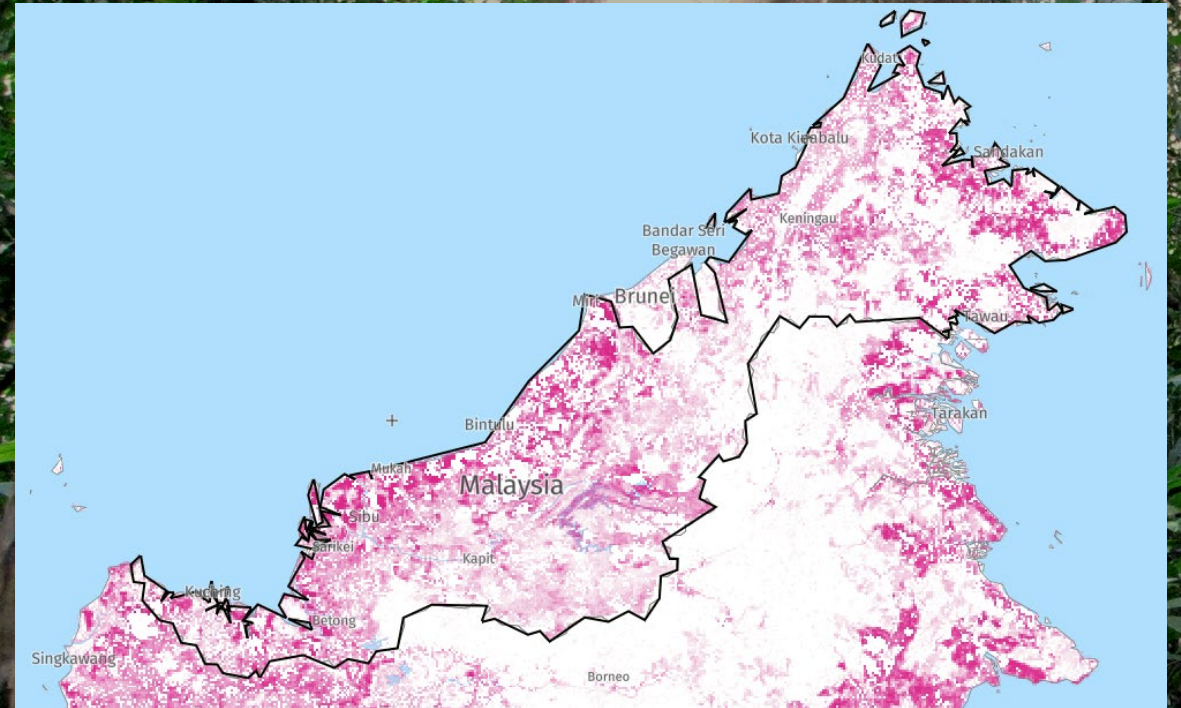
CONTEXT

Rainforests once covered 14% of the planet. Since 1947, when industrial-scale logging commenced, less than 6% remains. We lost an estimated 11.1 million hectares of tree cover in 2021 alone, of which 3.75 million hectares included tropical rainforests, the equivalent of 10 football fields a minute being razed to the ground.

This includes the diminishing rainforests in Sarawak which has resulted in not only extensive habitat loss, but it has also displaced thousands of indigenous communities who once lived and thrived in these forests.

When we lose trees we increase carbon emissions, accelerate species extinction, and biodiversity losses. We also increase the spread of zoonotic diseases - 75% of new human diseases are zoonotic.

Everything on planet Earth owes itself to six inches of soil and the fact that it rains. The Land, country, has its own voice. It always has. People just need to stop and listen. ~ Richard Swain, Indigenous Ambassador, Invasive Species Council, Australia



In 2010, East Malaysia (Sarawak and Sabah) had 20.3Mha of natural forest, extending over 87% of its land area. In 2021, it lost 123kha of natural forest, equivalent to 87.2Mt of CO₂ emissions.

● Tree cover loss

[Global Forest Watch, 2022](#)

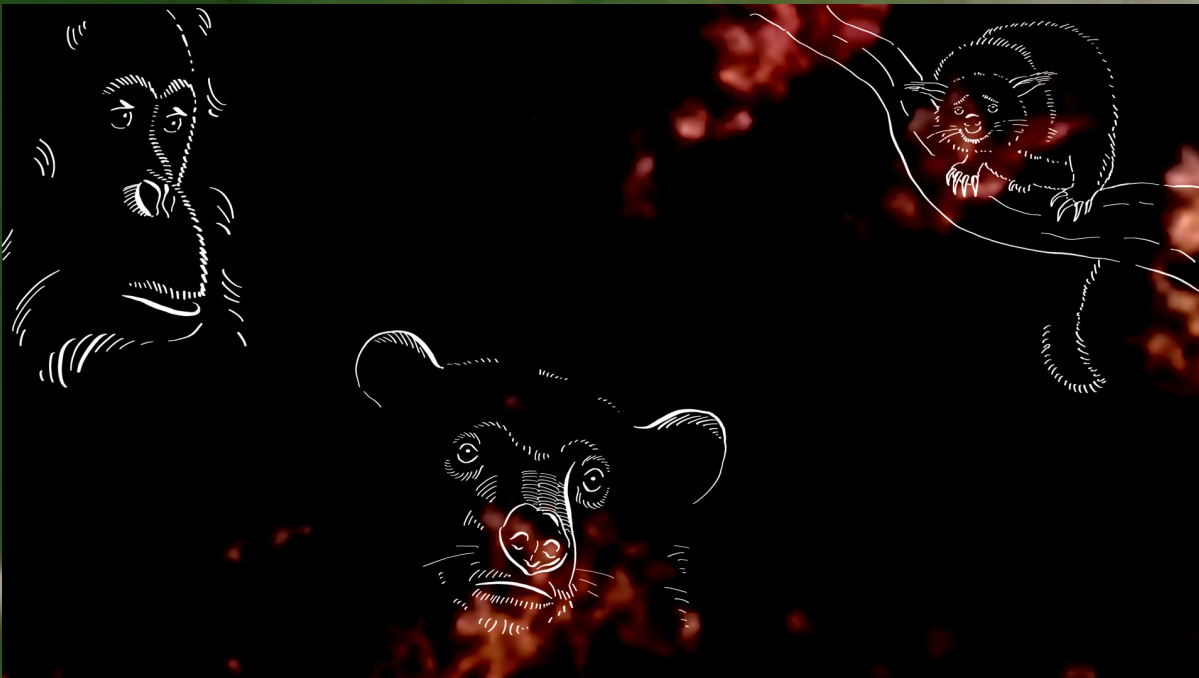
EXECUTION AND STYLE

KNOW ME is a 35-minute film comprised of footage taken by former British WW2 veteran and linguist, Ian Urquhart, between 1955 and 1963 (standard 8mm), and filmmaker and artist, Andrew Garton between 1999 and 2014 (DV8, HDV and HD).

Narration is delivered as a long form poem written and performed by Andrew interspersed with references from both his and Ian's journals. These are underscored by field recordings from Sarawak, and original soundscapes and music composed by Andrew for TONG TANA (Cape Town, 2009) and TAT FAT SIZE TEMPLE (ABC StuffArt, 2000).

Time-lapse animations by artist, Miranda Burton, respond to the narration. These sequences interact with footage from Sarawak informed video and sound installations produced by Andrew for the Dunmoochin Foundation, Victoria, Australia (2010), Alliance Française Cape Town, South Africa (2009), ESC *im Labor*, Graz and The MAK, Vienna, Austria (2008), and Small Black Box, Institute for Modern Art, Brisbane, Australia (2003).

The overall approach in the realisation of this film draws on the genre of *poetic realism*.



SOURCE FOOTAGE

KNOW ME is comprised of the following footage and restoration processes:

- 30 reels of standard 8mm footage found in London
- A total of 6,100ft, approx. 8.5 hours of footage
- Cleaned, restored and scanned at 2K Pro Res.
- Each reel accompanied by Ian Urquhart's notes & timecoded annotations

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- DV, HDV, Hi-8 tape and HD
- Upscaled and restored

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- Ian's entire collection of Cinefilm reels are available from archive.org, search 'Ian Urquhart'



Ian's original reels. Photo: Murdo Urquhart, 2021

Director and Producer Profiles



ANDREW GARTON – Writer/Director/Producer/

Andrew Garton has worked in film and the media arts for forty years. His credits include work as a composer, writer and director, editor and artistic director on documentaries, theatre, sound and video installations, music videos and online media.

His first feature, *Ocean in a Drop* (2017) describes the impact broadband internet has had on India's rural and tribal communities. It has screened at numerous festivals and on national television in India. His second feature, *Forged from Fire – The Making of the Blacksmiths' Tree* (2019), was nominated for best documentary at the Melbourne Documentary Film Festival with several publications referring to its innovative trauma-informed screening guide.

More recent works include *LIKE WATER – Bruce Lee and Hong Kong's Pro-Democracy Movement*, which screened at the 7th Melbourne Documentary Film Festival and *Peer to Peer – The Makers of the other Internet*, was commissioned by EngageMedia and the Cinemata streaming platform. He has also served as a juror at the Melbourne Documentary Film Festival.

Andrew is an Adjunct Industry Fellow and lecturer in media and communications at the School of Social Sciences, Media, Film and Education, Swinburne University, Australia.



SHAUN MILLER – Producer

Shaun attained his Honours Law Degree, a Commerce Degree and a Graduate Diploma in Intellectual Property Law, all from the University of Melbourne. He has specialised in film and entertainment law for over 20 years and has a background working in film distribution and exhibition via Sharmill Films and Cinema Nova.

Shaun lectures in film and entertainment law at the Victorian College of the Arts Film and TV School and RMIT University. He regularly presents sessions at various film conferences and film festivals.

Board positions include chair of the Victorian College of the Arts Film and TV School Course Advisory Committee. Previous boards served on include Channel 31 (Melbourne Community Television) and the Melbourne Queer Film Festival. He is a Senior Fellow at the University of Melbourne within the Faculty of Fine Arts and Music

A highlight of Shaun's career to date has been acting as the lawyer on Adam Elliot's film "Harvie Krumpet", which won the Oscar for best short animated film in 2004. Another highlight was being awarded Lawyer of the Year, Entertainment Law, Best Lawyers, 2019.

Shaun loves his work. And when not at work, Shaun loves gym training, yoga classes, photography, going to art galleries, listening to music and, of course, watching films (usually at Cinema Nova).

CREDITS

Executive Producer AIK PANG WEE

Cameras IAN URQUHART, ANDREW GARTON

Time-lapse illustrations MIRRANDA BURTON

Music & Sound Design ANDREW GARTON

Cultural advisor KELVIN EGAY

Native Customary Rights Advisor MIHIN URIP

Script and edit consultant LESLEY BRANAGAN

Advisor PATRICIA AUFDERHEIDE

Sape performed by ASANG LAWAI

Sound mixed by NICO SCHAUBLE & ANDREW GARTON

Recorded & Mixed at PUGHOUSE STUDIOS

Standard 8mm film restoration R3 STUDIOS

Legals SHAUN MILLER

Financials AUSPICIOUS ARTS

Ian Urquhart footage courtesy of ALEXA YOUNG, MURDO URQUHART & NEIL URQUHART

CONTACT

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More info + trailer
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