**PHIL AVALON**

Phil Avalon picked up a Bolex movie camera whilst still in his teens - it seems as though he has never put it back in it's case.

Phil is considered a leading light in the domestic and international film community. Writing, producing and more recently directing a diverse slate of feature films that appeal to a global audience.

Beginning his career as a male model to pay his way through drama school, Phil began serious theatre work in **HADRIAN V11**. TV appearances followed in programs like **Number 96** and **The Third Eye** which saw him garner enough experience to work alongside internationally acclaimed talent including Dame Judith Anderson, **Mel Gibson** and Ryan O'Neill together with Oscar winners Jack Albertson and Nancy Kwan. However, his love of creating and producing saw him move behind the lens with the Bolex camera shooting surfing movies. He credits those early years as his 'hands on' film school.

His eye for talent is legendary. **Mel Gibson** was still at a drama school when Phil cast him in his first feature film 'Summer City'. **Julian McMahon** (Profiler, Nip & Tuck) began his international career on Phil’s **'Exchange Lifeguards'** whilst sex symbol '**Abigail**' appeared in her first character role on an early Avalon production. **Ryan Kwanten**, now appearing in ‘Summerland’ in the U.S had his first lead role on Avalons "**Liquid Bridge**"

Marketing is another arrow in Avalon's quiver. With **'Breaking Loose'** Phil designed and released a beach clothing range. It was commissioned internationally and became one of the highest selling clothing ranges in the summer of '87 - '88. On other productions he has marketed product such as novels, records, surfboards and TV specials.

Phil is an Associate Producer on the children television series **SHAPIES** which is in its third year of production and plays weekly on the National Nine Network.

Avalon's feature writing & producing credits include **'Double Dealer'** (InterTropic) **'Summer City** (Columbia Tri- Star) **Little Boy Lost** (Disney) **Breaking Loose** (Columbia/Hoyts) **Sher Mountain Killings Mystery** (Columbia/ Beyond) **Fatal Bond** (Columbia/ Beyond) **Exchange Lifeguards** (**Wet and Wild Summer)** (Trimark/ Beyond) **Signal One, BULLET DOWNUNDER,**  (Arrow) **Tunnel Vision** (Beyond/InterTropic) **Trackdown, THE FINDER** (Showcase/ InterTropic) **The Pact** (Lionsgate/ Paramount/ InterTropic) **Liquid Bridge** (Paramount /Lionsgate /InterTropic)**The Stolen/WILLIAM KELLY’S WAR** IFM Filmways

Phil recently directed the award nominated feature film “***Liquid Bridge’*** ( D.G nomination for best film as a director, also awarded for best cinematography)

Phil is currently script editing & producing WILLAM KELLY’S WAR and has also been lined up to direct ‘***SWOOP’*** and '***The Killers List' in 2014***.

A retrospective of Phil Avalon films was showcased at the 2005 Independent Film festival at Sanctuary Cove.

Phil received a **lifetime achievement** award in 2013

Phil is renowned for assisting young & experienced film-makers alike.

**PHIL AVALON**

Phil Avalon is one of Australia's most prolific filmmakers. Born and raised in Merewether, a beach side suburb of Newcastle he was tutored by Marist Brothers and excelled in art, sport, music and English.

He began his entertainment career at the ripe old age of four - conceiving and acting in plays and puppet shows for all the kids on the block – the entrance fee a 'chocolate frog' . His sporting interests included surfing (winning a world title in 1989) tennis and football.

As Phil matured he continued to show an interest in the theatre and arts, but music became his first real passion. Blessed with musical parents who encouraged young Phil to take violin and guitar lessons, he loved music. With ‘The Beatles' and the 'Beach Boys' as his main inspiration, Phil joined a band.

During a short stint in the Army as a crew commander on army aircraft, Phil got the opportunity to watch and play with real musicians at 'Whisky a Go Go' - Billy Thorpe, Kerry Biddel and Levi Smiths Clef's. These gigs and a recording of the title song 'Summer City' on the M7 label were the highlight of this short lived musical career.

It was a commercial for Ampol that was going to change his life forever.

In Sydney to compete in surfing contest Phil was invited to participate as an 'extra' in an Ampol commercial at the North Sydney Pool. Director Ric Kabriel from Fontana Films cast him to play a young Murray Rose, Olympic gold medallist and bronze Aussie legend. The commercial was a national hit and a talent scout from the Gary Griffin Theatrical Agency signed him on. Gary saw an easy, natural 'on camera' presence and encouraged Phil to spread his wings into drama. Phil auditioned for the Independent Theatre Drama school and paid his way through the two-year course by modeling assignments, he soon became the country's highest paid male model. Stage and Television appearances in Hadrian VII, Spy force, Number 96. Skippy, Animal Doctor, McCloud, Dynasty, The Rovers, Return to Eden and The Resurrection started to flow in just as Goldsworthy Productions began making feature films in Australia. Phil had a first taste in movies when he appeared in THE GAMES with Ryan O Neal, SQUEEZE A FLOWER with Jack Albertson and Walter Chiari and THE GIRL FROM PEKING with Nancy Kwan, but it was his performance in INN OF THE DAMNED with Dame Judith Anderson that eventually garnered Phil the lead role on the A.F.I award winning film - SUNS.

Phil wrote his first stage play in his teens, an earlier attempt at re-writing 'A Midsummer's Night Dream' was frowned upon by his Independent theatre drama school coach. 'The Backstreet General' was produced and directed by Phil and had a respectable & profitable run in theatres over a twelve month period. Flushed with success, he continued writing and producing at the Film-Makers Co-operative with other young film makers like Phil Noyce, Albie Thoms and Frank Shields. Shooting shorts and surfing films with an old Bolex 16 m.m. camera. It was during his time at the Co-Op Phil decided to write and produce a screenplay entitled 'Double Dealer'. Phil 'shopped it' to investors without success. This was the early seventies, the Australian film industry was dormant. He eventually saved enough money via modeling assignments to finance the film personally. The budget - $36.000. A lot of money in 1974. 'However, 'Double Dealer' was ahead of it's time, but Phil had spearheaded today's methods of production by shooting on film and editing on videotape.

Next, 'SUMMER CITY'. This was to be a major breakthrough. Written, financed and produced by Phil, 'Summer City' was shot on a shoe string budget of $66.000. The film is still playing worldwide and is now considered 'cult' globally.

**Phil Avalon**

SUMMER CITY was shot over four weeks at Catherine Hill Bay and launched a trio of young NIDA students into stardom - Mel Gibson, Steve Bisley and John Jarrat (who had featured in 'Picnic at Hanging Rock'). This talented trio were supported by Abigail in her first feature film appearance. Avalon played the other lead role in this ground breaking Australian production.

Still in his early twenties it was his next experience as a Producer on the film 'Little Boy Lost' that nearly ended his career. The film was a producer’s nightmare. Phil was coerced by first time producer Alan Spiers to rescue the under financed and doomed production the week principal photography had begun. Phil completed the film, but the effort exhausted him. He immediately announced his retirement from producing feature films to go back to his other loves, acting, writing and directing surfing and sport related documentaries. Phil soon joined the AFI award winner 'SUNS' as lead actor.

A couple of years later Alan Dickes ( ‘Double Dealer’ director) talked Phil into rejoining the industry with a couple of acting roles. Whilst on a shoot Alan suggested they do another film together, Phil would write, produce and act - Alan would co-write and direct. The film 'The End of Innocence' was developed but Alan had moved overseas by the time the project was ready to shoot. The idea stuck, Phil employed another director and the feature film 'Breaking Loose' (a sequel to Summer City) was shot at Catherine Hill Bay. The film will be re released at Christmas 2011 with 'Summer City' in a collectors double disc package.

In the mid eighties Phil was asked to set up and manage a run down film studio. The Avalon Film Corporation studio in Mitchell Street North Sydney soon became one of the busiest independent film studios in the country. The hiatus was broken, other feature films followed. A.F.I nominated 'The Sher Mountain Killings Mystery', 'Fatal Bond', 'Exchange Lifeguards', 'Signal One' (a.k.a ‘Bullet Down-under’) and 'Tunnel Vision'.

The new millennium saw Phil write and produce ‘The Finder’ (a.k.a. TrackDown) next ‘The Pact’ - released in November 2002. He is currently associate producer on the childrens TV series ‘Shapies, now in its third season on the nine network. In 2003 Phil produced & directed the award winning ‘Liquid Bridge’ . Phil has been nominated for A.F.I and Sammy awards.

1986 to 1990 - C.E.O - Avalon Film Corporation Studio

1990 A.F.I award finalist - Sher Mountain Killings Mystery.

1996 Originated and co-ordinated a season of - 'All Australian films ' for the inaugural Pittwater Film Festival.

1996-97 Judged the Australian Film Industry Awards.(A.F.I)

1996 Received an 'Outstanding Citizen Award' in the Australia Day celebrations.

1998 Honoured as 'Australian Film Pioneer'.

1998 Featured guest speaker at the 'Tiberina - Island of Cinema' - Film Festival in Rome where 'Tunnel Vision' was selected to open the festival.

1999 Planned the Goat Island Film Festival as part of the 'City of Sydney' Celebrations

1999 Joined the steering committee of the 'Short Black Film Festival'

1999 and 2000 - Panelist and judge - 'Sunrise Film Festivals’.

2001 Finalist - SPAA ‘Independent Producer Of The Year’

2002 The Pact selected for Prague film festival

2002 Guest lecturer - AFTRS film school

2003 Nominated - ACS award for Liquid Bridge

2003. Finalist - Best director for Liquid Bridge A.S.D.A

2003 Liquid Bridge selected for Prague film festival & Cannes Film festival.

2003 Liquid Bridge - Finalist - best film soundtrack - APRA awards

2003 Speaker - Creative and Marketing - Gold Coast Film Festival

2003 Speaker - Film investment & production - AFTRS film school

2004 Speaker/ Panelist - SPAA Taxation and Investment conference

2004 Speaker - Film production & investment - Gold Coast Film Festival.

2004 Avalon films – Pacific Film and Television Corporation – animated feature & youth feature film initiatives supervised by Phil.

2005 Guest lecturer – Moncreif Film Group

2005 Sanctuary Cove Film Festival Award – Liquid Bridge – Best Cinematography,-Audience award best film .

2005 Retrospective - Avalon's movie career - Sanctuary Cove Film Festival.

2006 Guest lecturer - Bond University

2006 Speaker - 'In the Bin' Film Festival

2006 Host -Big Band Night - Broadbeach Entertainment centre

2006 G.C.C.C Medal for outstanding achievement in film and entertainment.

2007 Guest speaker SPAA Conference.

2007 Guest speaker Rubber Room film events.

2007 Gold Coast Awards medal for outstanding achievement in film & entertainment.

2007 Host- Queensland Ambassadors Awards

2008 Awarded - Patron Of The Arts - A.B. Pattersons College

2008 Nominated G.C. Arts Outstanding achievement

2009 Guest speaker Surf Museum Currumbin

2010 Host and presenter Independent Movie Awards

2011 Surfers Paradise Council presents Outdoor screenings - re- release of Summer City.

2010 Retrospective screening & speaking tour supporting - 'Summer City 1 & 2''

2010 Developed & Script editor 'The Killers List'

2011 Guest speaker ASIN

2011 Producer 'The Stolen"

2011 Developing " The Killers List"

2011 Developing "Swoop"

2011 Judge - Premiers Literary Awards

2012 Retrospective screenings, speaking & tour of Avalon film projects.

2012 Judge- Premiers Literary awards

2013 Producer/script editor 'The Stolen'

2013 Judge - Premiers Literary awards

2013 Lifetime Achievement Award for contribution to the Australian Film Industry

2014 Producer –William Kelly’s War.

2015 Producer ‘Hot Water’

**WRITER** Double Dealer, Summer City, Fatal Bond, Exchange Lifeguards. Shimmering Light, Out Of The Blue, The Backstreet General, The Homecoming, The Finder, Swoop, Heist.

**SCRIPT EDITOR**. Bullet Down Under, Tunnel Vision, The Pact, The Killers List,

The Stolen, William Kelly’s War.

**PRODUCER** The Backstreet General, Double Dealer, Summer City, Little Boy Lost, Wave-Rider, Breaking Loose, The Fantastic Sport Of Wave Ski Surfing, The Cursed Mountain Mystery, Sher Mountain Killings, Fatal Bond, Exchange Lifeguards, Wet n Wild Summer, Signal One, Bullet Down under, Tunnel Vision. Trackdown, The Finder, Shapies -TV series, The Pact, Liquid Bridge, The Stolen, William Kelly’s War.

**DIRECTOR** ‘The Backstreet General’, (theatre) ‘WaveRider’,(documentary)

‘Behind The Scenes’ (TV Special – 10 Network. )

‘Liquid Bridge’ (Feature Film)

Phil has many sporting achievements to his name -

Won the **World Cup Masters** surfing championship in1989.

He also volunteers spare time to charities, is highly respected by his peers and is renowned for assisting film makers and surf culture around the globe.