

ANISA NANDAULA

# THE YEAR IS 2020

A FILM BY BILL + BROWN



# THE YEAR IS 2020

## SYNOPSIS

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*The Year Is 2020* is a 4-minute film project by James L Brown ACS and Bill Irving, based on Brisbane writer Anisa Nandaula's poem of the same name. It is an uncompromising call-out of the fear and racism that informs Australia's refugee policies from a powerful new Australian voice.

Imagine an Australia torn apart by civil war. And imagine yourself fleeing that conflict. At the mercy of the global community. Then imagine being locked up. Demonised in rhetoric. Imprisoned. Ignored.

Anisa Nandaula's powerful spoken word poem *The Year Is 2020* reflects the pain and suffering of humans placed in crisis, humans who love, hurt, and bleed, just like us.

Irving and Brown have taken the beauty and brutality of Anisa's poem and imagined a situation that none of us hope for, yet one that is the reality for over six million displaced people on Earth.

The passive violence of inaction is etched in the film's powerful imagery, and in the faces of a young cast, many of whom have been touched by the conflicts the poem speaks to.

The global debate on asylum seekers forgets to recognise the chess game we are playing with real peoples' lives. The urgency of the situation. What if it was us, our children that were dying, our families being displaced? Would the world treat us as we have treated them? How angry would we be? How engaged would we be?

*The Year Is 2020* inspires thought and reflection through the questions it raises. Anisa's incredible critique of the Australian government's demeaning and cruel refugee policies seeks to turn the focus on us. What is the actual human cost of the policies of successive Australian governments?

How can we be better?



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## FILMMAKERS INTENTION

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*The Year Is 2020* started with a random email from James to Anisa. He'd seen a YouTube video of her performing at the Queensland Poetry Slam and sent it to us. We'd been talking about doing a project with a musician or spoken word artist. Anisa responded enthusiastically and sent us a draft of her poem *The Year is 2020*.

**It was perfect.**

Yes, it's a metaphor for Australia's refugee policies – but the way it places that commentary in the context of the simmering, underlying fear of the 'other' that is the truth of Australian history is the strength of the poem in our opinion. And what makes it relevant right now – in the shadow of Christchurch, and during an election when those fears will undoubtedly be exploited by our politicians, again, with rhetoric about "African gangs", "secure borders", "stopping boats" etc.

It's such a base-level, condescending and cynical political strategy. And it sucks that it has worked in the past.

So, while we don't pretend to expect a four-minute film to considerably change people's opinions, we do hope that releasing the film now, prior to the 2019 Federal Election, will provide a counterpoint to the rhetoric and introduce people to Anisa's work, which is deeply focused on the bigger issues of identity we have to confront as a nation - our reckoning with our history, and our relationship to the rest of the people on planet Earth.

Hers is the voice and perspective that Australia needs to listen to right now.

If enough people care about the things she cares about when they go to vote, we might find that in 2020, Australia will have become a more relevant, mature, globally responsible country. One that we can actually be proud of.

**- Bill+Brown.**



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## BIOS

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### **Anisa Nandaula**

**Anisa** is a nationally recognised spoken word poet, play writer, educator and published author. She has performed at the Sydney Opera House, Splendour in the Grass, Queensland Poetry Festival and Women of the World festival. She is the Queensland Slam Poetry champion 2016 and placed second in the Australian National Slam Poetry finals. She is the co-founder of the arts collective Voices of Colour which creates space for diverse youth to share their work. Her political poetry focuses on not only highlighting social justice issues but educating and engaging people to have difficult discussions.

### **Bill Irving – Director/Editor**

### **James L Brown ACS – Director/Cinematographer**

**James L Brown ACS** and **Bill Irving** are a creative team based in Australia. James is a prolific and award winning cinematographer/-director whose work spans feature films, commercials, music videos, and documentaries. He recently shot the acclaimed Colombian feature film *Matar A Jesus*. Bill is a writer, director and editor of commercials, music videos, short films, having won international and local awards for his work for Fox Sports Australia. Bill and James' work together include commercials, short films and *Watan*, their first long-form documentary project.

### **Truce Films**

Driven by a desire to entertain global audiences, **Truce Films** is a full-service production facility equipped for commercials, feature film and television, representing some of Australia's finest young directors. With a fresh and enjoyable approach towards filmmaking, we are a company that nurtures talent and cherishes opportunities to showcase our creative wares. Founded eight years ago, and with offices in Melbourne and Sydney, our work is award winning because it is fun to make – and watch.



# THE YEAR IS 2020

## CREDITS

*The Year Is 2020* written and performed by Anisa Nandaula  
A film by Bill+Brown

**Cast -**

Leo Mullen	Marlo Mitsak	Adamopoulos
Haytham Kadro	Will Dillion	Jordan Sciberras
Michael Scott	Andrew Nicholas	Erick Mitsak
Luke Buckler	Taj Aldeeb Lameck	John Irving
Jason Browning	Munalula Travers	David Ferrier
Adrian Eastwood	Mullen Deana	

**Directed by -** James L Brown and Bill Irving

**Producers -** Michael Ciccone, Carla McConnell, Jim Wright

**Screenplay / Editor -** Bill Irving

**Cinematographer -** James L Brown, ACS

**Production Designer -** Ella Carey

**Composer -** Michael Robb

**Sound Designer -** Markus Kellow

**Costume Designer -** Greta Thompson-Weiner

**Anisa's Costume Design -** Somer Watson

**SFX Make Up Artist -** Mia'kate Russell

**1st Assistant Camera -** Austin Haigh

**2nd Assistant Camera -** Thomas Hayes

**Gaffer -** Richard Chapman

**Best Boy -** Henry Ripper

**3rd LX -** Darcy Tuppen

**Sound Recordist -** Alex Wakefield

**Standby Props -** John Lambert

**Scenic Artist -** Bryony Hesson

**Art Department Assists -** Kevin Florés, Bryony Hesson, Stephanie Crowe

**Security -** Brian Lynch

**Runners -** Catherine Treloar, Isobelle Amie

**Colourist / Online -** Matt Fezz

**Publicist -** Sarah Finney

**Artwork -** Brett Glover

**Behind The Scenes Director / Camera Operator -** Donna Yeatman, Ben Jaensch

**Behind The Scenes Editor -** Isobelle Amie



# THE YEAR IS 2020

## PRESS CONTACTS

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Publicity stills can be downloaded [here](#).

Behind the scenes of The Year is 2020 can be seen [here](#).

