

 South Australian Film Corporation

in association with
THE AUSTRALIAN CHILDREN'S TELEVISION FOUNDATION
presents



Colin Theles

The Five in the Stone

To Dear
LETTY
Lots of lots
of
love
from
"Hazelley XXX
SOPHE"

Paul Jewell

Colin Thiele's "The Fire in the Stone"

The South Australian Film Corporation is well known for two previous movie adaptations of Colin Thiele's books: "Storm Boy" and "Blue Fin".

In making Colin Thiele's "The Fire in the Stone" the producers have turned away from the sea and moved inland to a location that is dramatically different — Coober Pedy, far in the outback, in the red heart of Australia's opal fields.

This is a part of the continent few Australians have seen and the world will scarcely believe: families living underground like moles in dugout homes; miners defying death deep underground as they work with gelignite to reveal the flash of coloured stone that is the "fire" they all seek. A place of sudden death and harsh retribution; where mates stick together through good times and bad.

"The Fire in the Stone" tells the story of Ernie (played by Paul Smith), who is a teenager with a problem: his no-hoper father (Alan Cassell). Ernie lives in Coober Pedy but dreams of reuniting his separated mother and father with the proceeds from the opal he is going to find one day. Luck smiles on Ernie, and he discovers a small fortune in opals in an abandoned mine; but before he can claim them they are stolen.

Ernie and his friends become impatient with the processes of the local law and decide to get the opal back themselves. This leads to an exciting series of adventures as Ernie and his friends try to recover the lost fortune. Along the way Ernie meets Sophie (Linda Hartley) and experiences his first romance.

"The Fire in the Stone" is an adventure story set in a remarkable place. It has high excitement with plane crashes, cars plummeting over cliffs, mad killers loose underground.

It is also about growing up in a tough world, and the sometimes difficult relationship between parents and children.



South Australian Film Corporation

In association with

The Australian Children's Television Foundation

present the World Premiere of

*The Fire
in the
Stone*

**7.30 pm
Sunday, 18th Sept.**

**ADMIT
ONE**

**Drinks commence at 7.30 pm
Film commences at 8.00 pm sharp**

No. 163

\$5 per ticket. Proceeds to Opal City Radio

AM 00008
c. 1980's?

The Australian Children's Television Foundation

Children are this country's most valuable resource. In the coming years their attitudes and behaviour will determine the Australian way of life. The Australian Children's Television Foundation believes that television programs of excellence can contribute positively to a child's sense of personal and national identity, to his or her values, experience and quality of life.

The Foundation is therefore proud to be associated with the South Australian Film Corporation in the production of "The Fire in the Stone". The film is highly entertaining, exciting, sensitive and relevant to the age group for which it has been produced. As such it embodies the key elements of the Foundation's objectives.

The Foundation is supported by Commonwealth and State Governments. It was established in March 1982 as a national body to encourage the development, production and transmission of high quality children's programs in response to a community interest and concern about children's television in Australia.

The Foundation acts as a catalyst in initiating projects and providing investment funds to support writers and producers for the high risk creative development of new programs. Quality children's programs cost as much if not more than programs for adults. Only by providing appropriate risk investment finance and backing will there be any substantial improvement in the quality of children's television.

To date the Foundation has committed some \$700,000 to script development and the subsequent production of programs. These investments represent thirty-six separate projects which are at different stages of development.

Among its major project initiatives the Foundation is developing an anthology series for young people and their families. The 13 original stories written, produced and directed by Australia's top writers and film makers span fantasy, comedy, adventure, social realism, historical drama and science fiction. The series which will go into production next year has already stimulated a great deal of national and international interest by its unique approach.

The Australian Children's Television Foundation is dedicated to quality television for Australia's young people.

Coober Pedy sees film world premiere

The world premiere of the film *The Fire in the Stone* was held last night in Coober Pedy.

The Premier, Mr. Bannon, attended the screening in the Far North opal town's community hall.

Coober Pedy was chosen because about 150 local people were extras in the film which was shot in March.

The film showing was organised by Opal City Radio, a community group formed to try to get a public radio station for Coober Pedy.

The nearest radio station is in Woomera, about 400 kilometres from Coober Pedy.

The president of Opal City Radio, Mr. Mike Robertson, said it was proposed that money raised through the world premiere would go towards creating a position for someone to make a marketing survey of the communication needs of Coober Pedy.



