

MAD MAX ... BEYOND THUNDERDOME

A special review by our intrepid reviewer, Mr Michael Robertson.

After being bombarded by intense hype for four weeks before its arrival, Mad Max 3 finally descended upon Adelaide. Rick Haynes' rail car ground Hindley Street to a halt and celebrities from Barry Humphries to Martin Cameron arrived for the Charity Premiere (which raised \$12000 for the Adelaide Children's Hospital) and we waited expectantly for Beyond Thunderdome.

Well, to cut a long story short, Max wins, but doesn't knock off his colleague/enemy and thus must himself face exile and certain death in the post apocalypse desert.

Just as all seemed lost and Max was facing his own apocalypse, he is saved by a bunch of feral children who mistake him as a saviour, an allegation that Max firmly denies. But because this man has clearly survived, this

manage to find is Bartertown, that cesspool of corruption and rough justice, and Max and his mates are not on the best of terms with Bartertown.

So they beat up on a few of the real nasties and steal an unlikely looking vehicle that just happens to be there and just happens to be on rails and the car chase begins. Inevitably they dodge the mandatory car or two but come to the end of the line and things look pretty 'bloody' grim. Just as all looked like it was going down the tube again, a route out is discovered which leads to the residence of a remarkable pilot, Bruce Spence. (The residence? Crocodile Harry's) who is the proud owner of a pretty ugly plane. They all pile into this wafer thin crop duster and it looks like there is just too much weight. And the cars are only yards away! Max finds a way to get his youthful friends into the sky but he finds himself on terra firma and heading towards the cars.



Rick Haynes' reconstructed Mad Max vehicle

It's a little difficult to view a film unemotionally after seeing the 'on set' reality and the hours of work that was put into scenes that lasted two or three seconds or were edited out totally. And when the first scene is a team of camels pulling Mel Gibson through the moon plain, it was even more difficult.

But the action soon washes over the viewer, the drama of Bartertown and the political intrigue of power-plays between Aunty Entity (Tina Turner) and the keeper of the powerhouse (run on pig dung) Master Blaster (actually two people.) Max walks into this situation an outsider, and soon manages to upset a number of people and is sentenced to 'Trial in Thunderdome', a throwback to gladiatorial days where "two men enter and one leaves."

means to the children that there must be a "Tomorrow, tomorrow-land" and that their little crack in the earth is insignificant. Despite further denials and statements by Max, that the civilised world has ended, they go and try to find out for themselves with Max in tow. Of course all they

The plane gets away and Max meets up again with Aunty Entity after a reasonably serious car crash that managed to stop the entire chase and good old Aunty decides, rather than finishing Max off, she'd let him wander around the desert again, a good deal worse

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off than he was when he began his journey.

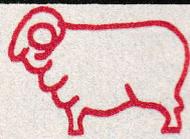
As for the children, they land their plane in the ruins of Sydney and start a new civilisation, where Max goes down in legend, (apparently, he's still out there, somewhere ...).

This movie was the most enjoyable of the three made so far. It's still fairly violent in parts but with a more gentle message than the past two.

There are some wonderful shots of the Breakaways and moon plain country and the film completes a trilogy of world class movies made in Coober Pedy, "Fire in the Stone", "Where the Green Ants Dream", and "Beyond Thunderdome". Hopefully Coober Pedy will be able to cope with the influx of tourists that will be attracted to the town because of these movies. The Breakaways will now become a major tourist attraction and must be preserved for future generations to view. Perhaps the town will work together to preserve something worthwhile and remember the spirit of Coober Pedy. It's still out there somewhere...



Tina Turner driving one of the Mad Max vehicles on location on the moon plain north of Coober Pedy.



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COMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

- 10 Coober Pedy Times meeting
- 14 Salt water turned off
- 16 School term 3 starts
- 17 Basketball starts 7pm
- 18/19 Tennis starts 7pm
- 21 Badminton 2pm
Community Hall
- 28 Cricket - CP Vs Ceduna

OCTOBER

- 8 Coober Pedy Times meeting
- 11 Cocktail Party - Italo
Australian Miners Club
- 12/13 Race Meeting & Gymkhana
- 12/13 Outback Festival - Golf Club
- 14 Labor Day Holiday