



Special Focus (Australia) : Restrospective : Bruce Beresford

Country : Australia

Breaker Morant

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1980 / Colour / 107 minutes / English



Director : Bruce Beresford

Producer : Matthew Carrol

Cinematographer : Donald McAlpine

Editor : William Anderson

Cast : Edward Woodward, Bryan Brown, Lewis Fitz Gerald, Jack Thompson

Synopsis : Based on real-life events, the film takes place during the guerrilla phase of the Anglo-Boer War (1899-1902). Three officers from an Australian volunteer unit operating at the fringes of British-controlled territory are accused of executing Boer prisoners and murdering a German missionary. The film charts the course of the officers' trial, which is loaded against the Australians from the beginning. Despite a spirited defense, the determination of the British authorities to secure a conviction leading to a senior British officer committing perjury. Thus, ensuring the conviction of the accused. Two of the officers are executed by firing squad, while a third is sentenced to life imprisonment.



Director's Biography : Bruce Beresford, an acclaimed Australian film director, was born on August 16, 1940. With a career spanning several decades, Beresford has left an indelible mark on the world of cinema. His notable works showcase a diverse range of storytelling, often exploring the complexities of human relationships and societal dynamics. Beresford gained international recognition with films like *Breaker Morant* (1980), a war drama that earned him critical acclaim and an Academy Award nomination. Throughout his career, Beresford has worked on a variety of genres, including historical dramas like *Black Robe* (1991), musical comedies like *Mao's Last Dancer* (2009), and family dramas like *Rich in Love* (1992). His body of work reflects a commitment to storytelling that resonates with audiences on emotional and intellectual levels.