

= Ned Manning =

Ned Manning is an Australian playwright , actor and teacher , whose film credits include the lead role in Dead End Drive @-@ In (1986) and an appearance in the teen film Looking for Alibrandi (2000) . Manning 's television credits include Bodyline , The Shiralee , " Prisoner " , and Brides of Christ . His first major play was Us or Them , and its production by Griffin Theatre Company marked the company 's transition to being staffed by professional actors . Other plays have included Milo , Kenny 's Coming Home and Close to the Bone ; in 2007 Manning played the lead in his own play Last One Standing at the Old Fitzroy theatre in Sydney . The plays have received mixed reviews , with Last One Standing in particular being criticised for its formulaic and predictable narrative . Manning has written for the Bell Shakespeare Company 's Actors at Work program , a travelling community and schools theatrical education initiative .

At one time the husband of Indigenous Australian artist Bronwyn Bancroft , Manning has since remarried , to theatre director Marion Potts . His children include New South Wales Young Australian of the Year for 2010 , Jack Manning Bancroft .

= = Life = =

Ned Manning was born in 1950 and grew up on a property in Coonabarabran , New South Wales . He married Bronwyn Bancroft , an Indigenous Australian artist , with whom he had two children , including New South Wales Young Australian of the Year for 2010 , Jack Manning Bancroft . Manning remarried to theatre director Marion Potts , with whom he had two children . In 2010 , they relocated from Sydney to Melbourne when she was appointed director of the Malthouse Theatre .

= = Playwright and author = =

Manning 's first play , Us or Them , was initially produced at the Childers Street Hall in Canberra on 1 November 1977 . It was then re @-@ written and performed in 1984 at the Stables Theatre for the Griffin Theatre Company , where it marked a turning point in Griffin 's history as the play 's success led to the cast and creatives being paid full professional rates . The play then transferred to the Philip St Theatre and on to the Q Theatre in Penrith .

Milo premiered at the Sydney Theatre Company 's Wharf 2 Theatre in October 1984 before productions at the Q Theatre , Theatre Up North in Townsville , Theatre South in Wollongong and regional performances . Milo has been recorded for Radio National , had numerous other productions , and also been published by Currency Press . However a 2001 production in Sydney was panned by the reviewer , who described it as " formulaic and obvious , complete with clunky and unconvincing pat ending " , and thought the play should be " put out to pasture " . The same year , The Australian 's reviewer was more positive , considering the performance to be " passionate and funny . Seven years after it first appeared , it remains one of the best plays written about the bush @-@ city divide " .

Manning 's next play , Kenny 's Coming Home (1991) , was performed at the Q Theatre , Penrith and was subsequently recorded for radio on ABC Radio National . The play is centred on a Rugby league footballer , Kenny , who gets caught up in a preselection battle between two of his family members . Kenny 's Coming Home included songs by Shane McNamara .

Close to the Bone was written in collaboration with the Indigenous students at the EORA Centre for Performing and Visual Arts in Redfern , and first produced there in September 1991 . Luck of the Draw was produced by the Darwin Theatre Company in May 1999 and was the first play written by a non @-@ Indigenous writer to be produced by Kooemba Jdarra theatre company in Brisbane . Last One Standing was performed at Sydney theatre the Old Fitzroy in 2007 . Manning played lead character Joe in the Old Fitzroy production ; The Sydney Morning Herald 's reviewer Bryce Hallett described his performance as " terrific " , providing the play " with an emotional anchor " , but considered the play itself to be predictable , lacking in depth and with " nothing revelatory on offer " ; The Sun @-@ Herald reviewer was of a similar view .

Manning has created many works for young audiences . He has prepared scripts for ten works for The Bell Shakespeare Company 's Actors at Work program , a travelling community and schools theatrical education initiative . Other plays for young people have included Alice Dreaming , which is one of the Australian Script Centre 's anthology of large cast plays . In 2012 he contributed to a Federation Press anthology of monologues for drama students , No Nudity , Weapons or Naked Flames . His play Romeo and Juliet Intensive was nominated for a 2011 AWGIE Award .

In 2012 , NewSouth Books published Manning 's memoir of a life of school teaching , Playground Duty . Reviewed by the New South Wales Writers ' Centre 's Amanda Calwell , it was described as showing " the value that one person with drive , ambition and compassion can offer by applying themselves to teaching " .

= = Television , film and directing = =

Manning 's film credits include the lead role in the 1986 Ozploitation film Dead End Drive @-@ In . Based on a Peter Carey short story called " Crabs " , Dead End Drive @-@ In is a post @-@ apocalyptic tale about a young man stranded in a small town 's drive @-@ in theater when the wheels are stolen off his car . He finds himself amongst a community of misfits trapped at the site , and seeks to break out . The film , directed by Brian Trenchard @-@ Smith , received mixed reviews : Tim Kroenert writing for Eureka Street described it as " Mad Max @-@ lite " and said that the film " is an example of how literality of translation can result in the sacrifice of the story 's essence . The film is fun on its own terms , but much of the nuance and irony that lend ? Crabs ? its magic are simply lost " . Philippa Hawker writing for The Age said the film was " an energetic , inventively designed , cheerfully satirical and entertaining film " , and it is one of American film director Quentin Tarantino 's favourites . The film received only a short box @-@ office season ; Manning was critical of the distributor Greater Union and worked with the film 's other actors to secure separate release in independent cinemas . Manning 's other film credits include an appearance in the teen film Looking for Alibrandi . He has also made a short film , Love Bites . Manning 's television credits include Bodyline , The Shiralee and Brides of Christ .

In 1989 Manning directed the Belvoir St Theatre production of a play , Black Cockatoos , about the relationship between a white woman and an Aboriginal man . The script (not by Manning) was criticised by reviewer Angela Bennie , who nevertheless described Manning 's direction as delicate and perceptive in places , if also naive and self @-@ conscious .