

### Tekst 3

# C I N E M A

A chillingly arrogant quasi-eugenic experiment, carried out in the name of Her Majesty the Queen until the early 1970s, is what is denounced by *Rabbit-Proof Fence*, a heartfelt, though somewhat heavy-footed movie. The scandal is appalling enough on its own terms for the movie to carry its audience along, even without the exceptionally strong performances of the three young stars: Everlyn Sampi, Tianna Sansbury and Laura Monaghan.

At the beginning of the last century, the Australian government instituted a policy of forcibly removing Aboriginal children from their families if they were “half-caste” and taking them away to a briskly Anglican education camp for training as domestic servants. The idea was if these children were denied access to Aboriginal culture they would turn to Western culture and could then be assimilated into white society. Theoretically, this was for their “own good” — but it quite plainly emerges here as a grotesque project to contain the evidence of miscegenation.

Three such children escape from the camp and walk 1,500 miles back home across featureless scrub, taking as their path the giant rabbit-proof fence which stretches from coast to coast, and followed by the Aborigine tracker, Moodoo (a great performance from David Gulpilil), the enigmatic



figure of whom we will come to be afraid as much as Butch and Sundance feared their pursuers.

Their epic journey is regularly intercut, slightly laboriously, with the fulminations of Mr Neville, the colonial official prosecuting this policy, played by Kenneth Branagh. He is a tight-lipped figure who does not reveal any psychological complexity.

Australian-born director Phillip Noyce does an honest and compassionate job, and the movie is beautifully shot by cinematographer Christopher Doyle, but perhaps partly as a result of his fidelity to the true-life source material, there is not much dramatic light and shade. It is a long, slow slog back home, and by the end we begin to feel the exhaustion in the auditorium, too.

*Peter Bradshaw in  
Guardian Weekly*

## Tekst 3 Cinema

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- 1p 3 Which of the following was the “experiment” (first paragraph) officially aimed at?
- A At improving the living conditions for children from Aboriginal communities.
  - B At integrating the Aboriginal tribes into the dominant white culture.
  - C At protecting half-caste children from ill-treatment in their communities.
  - D At providing the white population with cheap domestic labour.
  - E At re-educating children of mixed race in isolation from their families.
- 2p 4 Geef bij elk van de volgende aspecten aan of Peter Bradshaw deze wel of niet overwegend positief beoordeelt met betrekking tot de film *Rabbit-Proof Fence*.
- 1 De acteerprestaties van de kinderen.
  - 2 De intenties van de regisseur.
  - 3 De kwaliteit van de opnamen.
  - 4 De spanning in de film.
- Noteer het nummer van elk aspect, gevolgd door “wel” of “niet”.