

THE GREAT EMU

WAR

A Feature Film



Australian Outback - 1932

Yes, there really was a Great Emu War. And yes, the Emus won.

Australia is the only country to lose a war against flightless birds.

An epic indie comedy adventure that takes the audience on an emotional journey as friendships rise and fall like the hot Australian sun.





Still from the war satire 'Jojo Rabbit'

@Fox Searchlight
2019

Historical Background

After World War 1, The Australian Government gave their honored soldiers parcels of farmland for their service. At the time it seemed like a great way to thank the veterans and boost the economy. However, the Great Depression began to sweep world markets, putting extra pressure on these new farmers to keep Australia's economy afloat and the people's bellies full.

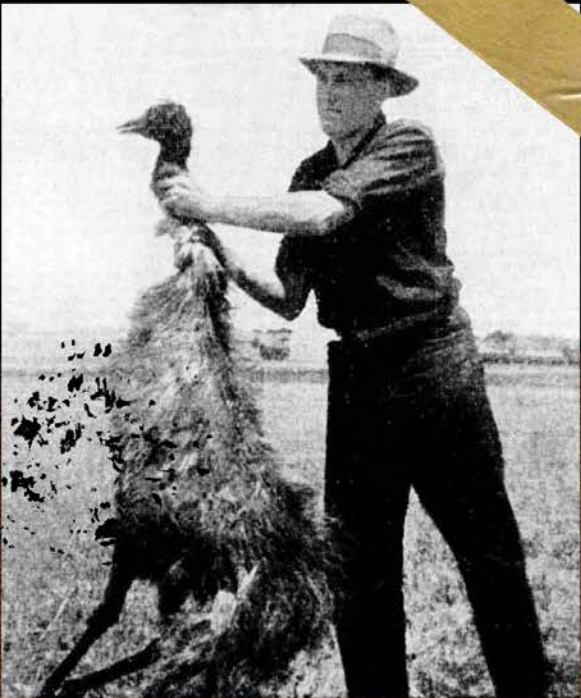
But This wouldn't be the last of Australia's hardships in 1932. Even their sacred, national bird would turn against them. Hordes of Emus began to devour the farmlands, leaving the farmers with nothing but dust and emu footprints.

A group of farmers became fed up with no food or money on the table, and convinced the Australian Government to declare war on the emus. The war saw a swift victory - for the birds. After around two months, less than one percent of the Emu population had been killed. The mission was declared a failure and the Australian troops packed their bags.





Great Emu War (1932)



Story

This absurd tale begins as three Americans are deployed to help aid the Australians in their great war against Emus. PERCY FAWCETT, RC ANDREWS, and JAY HUNT, 19 year olds who have freshly been drafted, face their first mission against the birds in the Australian outback. Percy is determined to become a beloved war hero, while RC and Jay intend to put a stop to the war with their anti war films.

Percy successfully kills his first Emu, and lands a meeting with GENERAL GEORGE PEIRCE, the general tasked with winning this war. He immediately promotes Percy to the rank of General for his heroics and throws a celebratory party.

As the war progresses, Percy fights in more battles while RC and Jay keep making anti war propaganda, butting heads over their differing ideologies.

Over the course of the film, Percy begins to change his stance on the war when he meets an aboriginal woman, KALINDA, who shows him the natural beauty of nature.

However, RC begins to fall victim to the fame of making propaganda films. He befriends GENERAL FLYNN, who becomes his mentor and backer for the war movies. RC's mind is slowly corrupted until he is churning out pro war propaganda instead of anti war films.

Percy and RC undergo opposite arcs, culminating in a cinematic climatic battle in which Percy fights on the side of the Emus, while RC fights to kill every last Emu.

The Americans



Three lifelong friends, Percy, RC, and Jay grew up together in Philadelphia orphanage. As the depression rips through America, Uncle Sam can only afford to send three soldiers abroad to help aid Australia in their war against the birds. As luck would have it, the three friends are drafted. Percy is assigned to be a foot soldier, RC a medic, and Jay a cameraman to document the war.

Percy Fawcett - a fit, handsome lad with a large ego to match, Percy is hellbent on becoming a war hero, like his father who nobly gave his life in World War 1. Percy is also motivated by the naive ideology to serve and give back to his wonderful country that has done so much for him.

RC Andrews - in contrast to the charismatic Percy, RC is the snarky, sarcastic nerd of the group. He often struggled to fit in with anyone outside of the trio, and indulged his time in educating himself in various scientific fields. However, first aid was not one of those.

Jay Hunt - the glue that holds the group together, the lifestyle of the orphanage has sculpted Jay into a thoughtful and caring person who often examines multiple sides of every issue. He has dreams of becoming the next big filmmaker of his time, and intends to make his first picture about the horrors of war.

The Australians

Margret Wagner - The Prime Minister's beautiful daughter, Margaret uses her status and good looks to get whatever she wants. Currently, she is trying to help get more funding for the war effort, so her parents can continue their war profiteering scheme.

Kalinda - an aboriginal woman, Kalinda is horrified by the war against Emus, as she has great respect for nature. She is the alpha of her tribe and doesn't take no for an answer. She also isn't afraid to speak up against the immoral social atmosphere of the 1930's.

General George Peirce - The General tasked with leading the fight against the Emus, General George Peirce's mind is long gone due to his service in World War 1, leaving an extremely manic, weird, and borderline insane man hellbent on extinguishing Emu's for his country.

General Flynn - General Peirce's right hand man, General Flynn is more calm and collected. Also a World War 1 veteran, General Flynn is a keen expert in war strategy. He is also very mysterious, and is possibly in this war for other, more political motives.

Tone and Style



Given the nature of this weird war, your typical dark, Saving Private Ryan esque tone would not be the ideal way to go about making a movie where Emus play a titular role. Instead, we are aiming for something more along the lines of a Jo Jo Rabbit, a light hearted and quirky film but with extremely strong emotional beats. We want our audience to walk into a comedy expecting laughs but to walk out also surprisingly moved about the effects Propaganda can have on the average person.

The style of this film must highlight its absurd nature. Wide angle lenses will be predominantly used to capture the Australian landscape, but also on close ups to create a slightly distorted image that also adds to the weirdness of the whole thing. The colors will also be heavily contrasted, in order to show a visual theme between the bland military olive colors and the beautiful, diverse color palette of the Australian outback.



Mad Max
@Warner Brothers 1979

Theme



All is fair in love and war, except, not when Emus are involved. The various impacts of propaganda take centerstage in this film. The goal of this film is to show how easy it is to convince people to go to war.

In fact, the propaganda has such a profound effect that our two protagonists, Percy and Jay, end up completely switching their stances by the end of the film in reverse character arcs.



Potential



With only a few locations- even with the 1932 setting- the film remains fairly low budget. Nearly every scene takes place in the same location and with the same three or four characters. With a huge running joke being the lack of emus in an emu based war, emus are rarely fully shown.

With the success of recent period pieces, this has the potential to be the next big cult classic. It takes place in a country that is typically under represented by film and infuses it with quirky humor that will resinate with audiences everywhere.



