

15 SECONDS



Jason Ballantine has carved a strong career in the darkness of the cutting room. From his assistant editor days on some of Hollywood's bigger flicks, to the current fortunes of film editor both locally and internationally, he recently received peer recognition at the Australian Editors Guild accreditation ceremony, ASE.

The Australian film industry is like...

A drug. You know you shouldn't but the temptation to dabble is all too strong. Warning: eternal rehab required.

The biggest issue facing the Australian film industry is...

To be profitable and therefore sustainable – two very big words to swallow.

Classic I'd love to see remade in Australia?

Apocalypse Now touring down the Parramatta River.

I'd love to work with...

The Coen Brothers. They need an editor that actually exists.

Biggest break?

Liz's spine in *Wolf Creek*, ha ha (ouch).

Biggest mistake?

Delaying the transition from 'assistant' to 'editor'.

My favourite 'guilty pleasure' movie is...

Team America – so politically incorrect yet so funny! One of those films you wished you worked on.

Worst filmmaking or worst film-going experience?

Test audience screenings. A necessary evil for improving your film.

Unsung Aussie film hero/heroine?

The few people who pay to see locally produced films at the cinema.

If I had three wishes I'd wish for...

Sally Menke, Thelma Schoonmaker and Michael Kahn to simultaneously retire overnight.

If I wasn't in the film industry I'd be...

A postie on a red scooter.

I'd spend my last \$20 on...

A small popcorn at Hoyts (using my IF membership discount card).