

FADE IN

BUSH TRAIL. EXT. DAY.

The bushwalking trail bakes in the heat of the sun. Looking out over the valley is a group of six foreign TOURISTS, male and female, being lead along by an Aboriginal TOUR GUIDE. The tourists are overloaded with backpacks, cameras and bum bags. The tour guide carries a small satchel.

They stop for a rest. The tourists fan at themselves vigorously. The tour guide proudly points at the valley.

TOUR GUIDE

Ya see that valley? My people lived in that valley for centuries before the white fellas came. They call it Phillip's Valley but my people? We just say "wattamunga".

TOURIST #1

What does that mean?

TOUR GUIDE

It's a big, open hole.

The tourists point excitedly at the valley. TOURIST 2 takes a picture of the valley. His camera flashes as he takes it.

TOUR GUIDE

Now, we're about to enter sacred land. Normally, we're don't let tour groups onto this land but today we can make an exception.

The tourists nudge each other excitedly.

TOUR GUIDE

We can only do that if you can follow tradition and pay respect to the land, the spirits and our ancestors.

The tour guide pulls a small container of a white sticky material, similar to clay.

TOUR GUIDE

First, we have to show that you have been allowed to travel here by the traditional peoples of the land. This ochre will show the ancestors that you have been invited onto this land.

He moves along the group, marking each person with the ochre. The tourists show off their markings to the other people in their group. TOURIST 2 takes a photo of the markings on the person next to him, blinding them with the camera flash.

TOUR GUIDE

Next, we have to show our respect to the land, the animals and the spirits that inhabit it. Everyone join hands.

The group join up and hold hands in a circle.

TOUR GUIDE

(Rhythmic chanting.)

He stops suddenly.

TOUR GUIDE

(Pointing upwards)

Ya hear that?

The tourists strain to hear. There are no sounds other than the normal sounds of the bush.

TOUR GUIDE

The spirits are pleased. They say you mob are allowed to go onto this sacred land.

TOURIST 2 cranes his head directly upwards and takes a picture of the sky.

TOUR GUIDE

Ya just need to show them that you are respectful and you are humble. You need to remove the clothes that separate you from nature. All of 'em.

TOURIST 3

Are you talking about synthetic fabrics?

TOUR GUIDE

Nah mate. I'm talking about clothes. Ya gotta get naked.

TOURISTS (VARIOUS)

What?/But I don't want to get naked!/That's perverse./Are you sure?

The tour guide raises his hands to quiet the tourists.

TOUR GUIDE

It's just to show your respect. Ya know, for the spirits?

The crowd hesitates.

TOURIST 1

Well...if it's for the spirits.

The tour guides face locks in a lecherous grin as he watches the tourists remove their clothes.

The tourists stand around nervously, covering themselves with their arms.

TOUR GUIDE

All right, ya did good. The spirits will be very happy. Now, I'll show all you mob an ancient fertility ritual conducted by my people. If you'll all just come and gather in a circle--

The group turns their heads to the side as they hear a loud rustling.

A second aboriginal tour guide leads a group of tourists coming back from the opposite direction. The tourists are all fully clothed and devoid of any markings.

The tour guide leads them along the trail past the naked tourists who stare in horror. The returning tourists are so fixated on their tour guide's words that they pay no attention to the silent group of nude tourists.

TOUR GUIDE 2

And as we're coming up out of Phillip's Valley, we can actually see the tourism centre and gift shop we started our walk from, nestled right there next to the waterfall. This region was a very popular area where hunters from many different Aboriginal nations would hunt and gather together, even throwing corroborees with some of the colonists who came here in the eighteen hundreds. It's one of our biggest tourist attractions in the area and employs over five hundred people--

(Fading out as he walks out of
earshot)

The naked tourists stare at the group as they walk out of
sight.

TOUR GUIDE

Aw shit. Well, ya can't blame a man
for trying.

TOURIST 2 takes a picture of the naked tourist standing next
to him as the rest of the group glares daggers at the now
sheepish tour guide.

FADE OUT