



Where are they now?

Brooke Goldfinch

Age: 32
 Pre-school: Bondi Montessori Pre-school (Ocean St)
 Primary: Bronte Public School
 Secondary: St Catherine's School, Waverley
 Tertiary: BMedia & Communications, UNSW
 MFA in Filmmaking, Tisch School of the Arts, NYU

ME Alumni: Congratulations on your award for Best Director of a Short Film, at the Sydney Film Festival this year. It's a fine achievement. Can you tell us about the film?

Brooke Goldfinch: The film is called Red Rover. It's a fifteen minute end of days drama about two teenagers from a remote religious

community who travel to town in search of shelter after being told by their Evangelical parents that an asteroid will soon destroy the earth.

MEA: Was it made in Australia?

BG: No it was shot in upstate New York, but I was fortunate to be awarded funding through the Screen Australia Talent Escalator Program for the post-production so we came home to finish the film.

MEA: You've recently completed the masters program in filmmaking at the prestigious Tisch School of the Arts as a scholarship student. How was that?

BG: It was a great opportunity, being taught by some of the world's best directors and actors, like James Franco, Spike Lee and Todd Solondz. It was very practical and film focused, whereas my course at UNSW gave me a broader education in media and film theory. I have since been in LA for a while, and returned to live in Sydney last year. I think Sydney is a good place for young filmmakers at the moment. I'm very happy to be in Sydney.

MEA: You were an early pupil of Montessori East, before we had a primary school. Do you think there is anything from your Montessori education that you particularly value, or that has influenced the choices you've made since?

BG: Yes. We all did a lot with our hands, and were encouraged to master every activity. It made me realise I could master any skill if I wanted to. I was given the opportunity by being left to keep trying something until I could do it. I remember really struggling with the zipper, and keeping on trying. I've mastered it now!

Women are generally not encouraged into technical pursuits, and I think being so hands-on at Montessori meant I was comfortable with pursuing a technical career.

MEA: Do you think it's influenced the person you are today in any other way?

BG: Yes. Montessori was a very creative environment. It fostered an independent spirit and curiosity. There was so much colour, and I loved doing plays at pre-school. I loved sitting in the circle with everyone else hearing stories.

MEA: What are you working on now?

BG: Currently I'm working on my first feature film, called *Pretty Lucy*. It's a crime drama about a woman who becomes obsessed with her lover. I'll be seeking funding for it shortly, and plan to be in production early in 2016.

MEA: I guess your experience working as a political and crime reporter for the ABC will have been useful for this! Best wishes for the new film.

You can see more about Brooke's work at <http://brookegoldfinch.com/>