FUTURE DREAMING PRESS NOTES

Synopsis
In this immersive Virtual Reality Film you will step into a time warping dream bubble as four young Aboriginal Australians guide you through their futures. Be ready for an intergalactic adventure. Look out for the space emus!

Process
Future Dreaming was inspired by the ancient Australian Aboriginal practice of Dreamtime, a mental visualisation technique where you see your spirit move through the past, present or future. The project began with a question... "What does your future look like... one week from now?" And then it grew... "5 years from now? ... and 20 years from now?" "Could you be the first Australian Aboriginal astronaut?" "Sure!" Over the course of a few months our young protagonists; Ali Lockyer, Maverick Eaton, Nelson and Maxie Coppin, collaborated with VR artist Sutu to design their Future Dreaming in the limitless creation space of Virtual Reality. And once their worlds were designed, they employed motion capture technology to animate their avatars to tell their story and guide visitors through their creation.

Director’s note
I’ve worked on and off with these young people for the past 6 years as part of the YijalaYala project ran by BighArt - an Australian social justice art organisation. Our collaboration during YijalaYala yielded the critically acclaimed interactive comic book series, NEOMAD. All four of the young people were the main characters in the NEOMAD series and were also involved in the production of the comic art and story, several short films and an online video game. To create NEOMAD, the young people learned Photoshop and assisted in colouring in the pages of the comic. Future Dreaming continues the legacy of Yijala Yala in that the young people are now learning new Virtual Reality tools to tell new stories whilst increasing their skills and capacity in the digital domain.

Most of my work is imagined for short time frames, but Future Dreaming has helped me to realise the importance of long term collaborations. I’ve had the privilege to see these young people evolve from 12 year olds to young adults. It’s exciting to facilitate their creative journey and to witness their empowerment and growth. My personal Future Dreaming is to imagine what projects we may work on together over the next 20 years.

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