

Solrun Hoaas / After Tatura

Report

By Keiko Tamura, Yuriko Nagata, Lorna Kaino & Mayu Kanamori (hereafter referred to as the Japan-Australia Research Group)

Viewed 12 July 2012 at National Film and Sound Archive of Australia

Summary

Three dvds containing late film director Sol run Hoaas' documentary moving image AFTER TATURA consisting of interviews with former WWII Japanese civilian internees in Australia about their internment, their post war lives and footage of their reunion in Japan are held at the National Film and Sound Archive of Australia (NFSA). Hoaas died in December 2009. AFTER TATURA was not realized as a finished production.

As a documentary, the material currently held at the NFSA appears to require further work, not only in its editing, but in overall footage for a complete production at this stage. It is also difficult to conclude if the material held at the NFSA is the extent of Hoaas' filming as the work appears to have already been edited to some extent (much of the material are cut, repeated and overlapped between the three disks). Furthermore the film treatment prepared and ABC/FFC proposal by Hoaas in January 1994 (which was given to Nagata) indicate additional interviews may have taken place. It would be of benefit to check with Hoaas' then co-producer Franziska Wagenfeld and with the accepting officer at the NFSA as to how NFSA came to hold this material and if anyone else could be contacted to clarify if there were any other materials available.

The content of Hoaas' work is of significance in the field of Australian and Japanese history and cultural studies, and is of relevance today due to resurgence in interest the subject matter of WWII civilian internment. Many of the people interviewed by Hoaas are now too old or have deceased and can no longer be interviewed, and some of the information given by the interviewees has not been documented to date. It is of considerable value to future researchers, academics and cultural producers / film makers / artists with interest in Australian heritage, Australian-Japanese relations and other related fields.

For these reasons, we would like to consult and receive expert advice from NFSA in regard to the legal considerations (copyright etc), as well as and potential creative and archival practices that can be considered in order to make this valuable material available to the public.

Japan-Australia Research Group:

12 July 2012

Location:

National Film and Sound Archive of Australia, Canberra

Name	
Yuriko Nagata, Dr	<p>y.nagata@uq.edu.au</p> <p>The University of Queensland Researcher, Snr Lecturer, Japanese Language Studies</p> <p>Research interests: Cultural and social diversity in Japanese language material, Japanese community of Torres Strait, The Japanese Diaspora in Australia: Gender perspective</p> <p>Author, Unwanted Aliens: Japanese Internment in Australia</p>
Keiko Tamura, Dr	<p>keiko.tamura@anu.edu.au</p> <p>Australian National University Research Associate, School of Culture, History & Language</p> <p>Research interests: Australia-Japan relationship; Japan in Australian moving images; women and migration; expatriates in Japan; war and memory</p>
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Background

Late filmmaker Solrun Hoaas consulted Yuriko Nagata, author of *Unwanted Aliens: Japanese Internment in Australia* (Queensland University Press, 1996.) in 1988 with the view to realizing a documentary film AFTER TATURA. Nagata's *Unwanted Aliens* documented the Japanese civilian internment in Australia during WWII. AFTER TATURA was conceived as a follow up on Nagata's research, documenting the post war lives of the former internees in Nagata's book.

Hoaas started work on this production as director and co-producer in 1988 with independent film producer Franziska Wagenfeld as co-producer and production manager. Nagata facilitated interviews and other research materials for Hoaas and locations surveys were conducted in Japan and Australia in 1988 and in 1993, including locations in Thursday Island, Broome, Brisbane, Melbourne, Tokyo, Wakayama and Atami. Nagata was due to narrate the documentary. However the project was unrealized due to lack of funding, and eventually Hoaas' death.

Current Status

Since the time that Hoaas began making her film, there has been increased interest in the plight of the Japanese WWII civilian internees. There are academic researchers who are engaged in this field as well as other cultural producers such as playwrights, novelists and visual artists working on their respective productions. Such studies and cultural productions are widely appreciated in the United States and Canada. However, there is little extant in Australia.

The Research Group is planning a Symposium in collaboration with Cowra Breakout Association that focuses on civilian internment of all nationalities to take place in Cowra NSW in August 2013. At the same time there are plans underway to unveil an interpretative board at Cowra's Japanese War Cemetery where Japanese civilian internees who died during WWII are buried. There will be academics, cultural leaders, community representatives from towns in Australia where there were former internment camps, former civilian internees and their descendants at this event. There will also be a launch of an arts project inspired by the civilian internee experience involving community youths in Cowra.

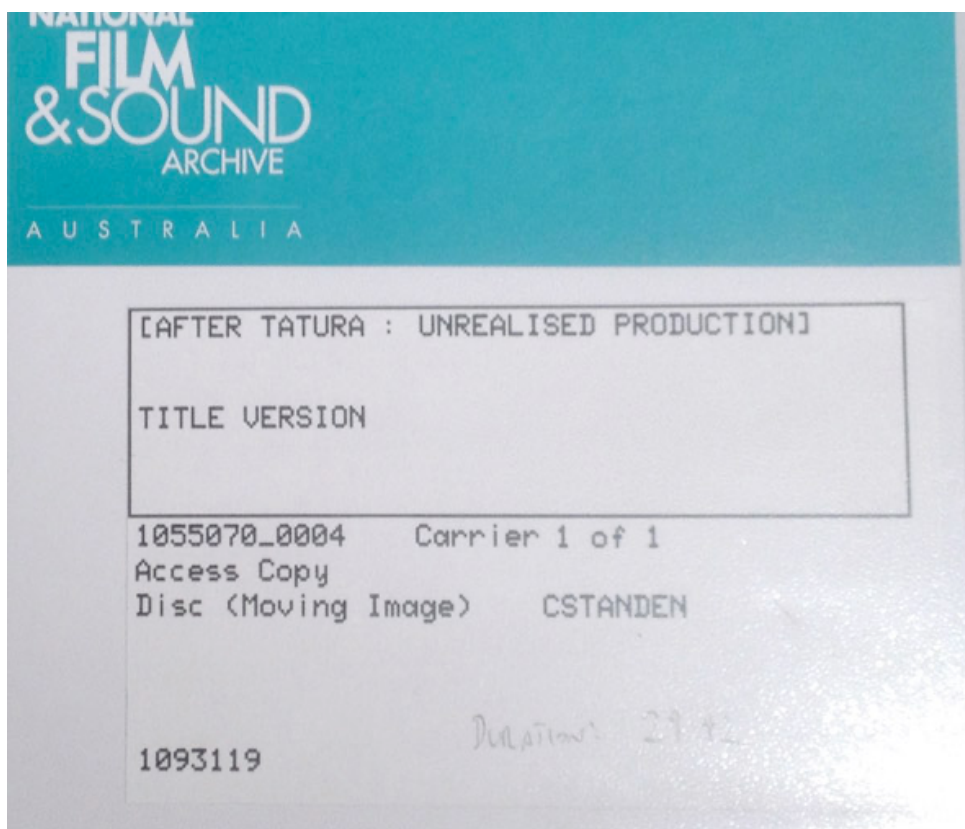
In July 2012 the Research Group viewed 3 dvds containing late film director Solrun Hoaas' documentary moving image AFTER TATURA held at National Film and Sound Archives of Australia was auditioned by Yuriko Nagata, Keiko Tamura, Lorna Kaino and Mayu Kanamori.

Findings

1. (AFTER TATURA: UNREALISED PRODUCTION) 29.42 mins

1055070_0004 Carrier 1 of 1

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CONTENT IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE:

Frank Murakami (former internee) interview & cut away

Murakami family photographs – cut away

Theresa Chi (former internee) interview & cut away

Peter and Paul Murakami (former internees) interview & cut away

Theresa Chi (former internee) – again

Jimmy Chi (former internee) interview & cut away

Pearl Hamaguchi (descendant of internee) interview

Broome township landscapes -overlay & cut away

Peggy Shiosaki (former internee) interview & cut away

Frank Murakami (former internee) – again

Peter and Paul Murakami (former internees) – again

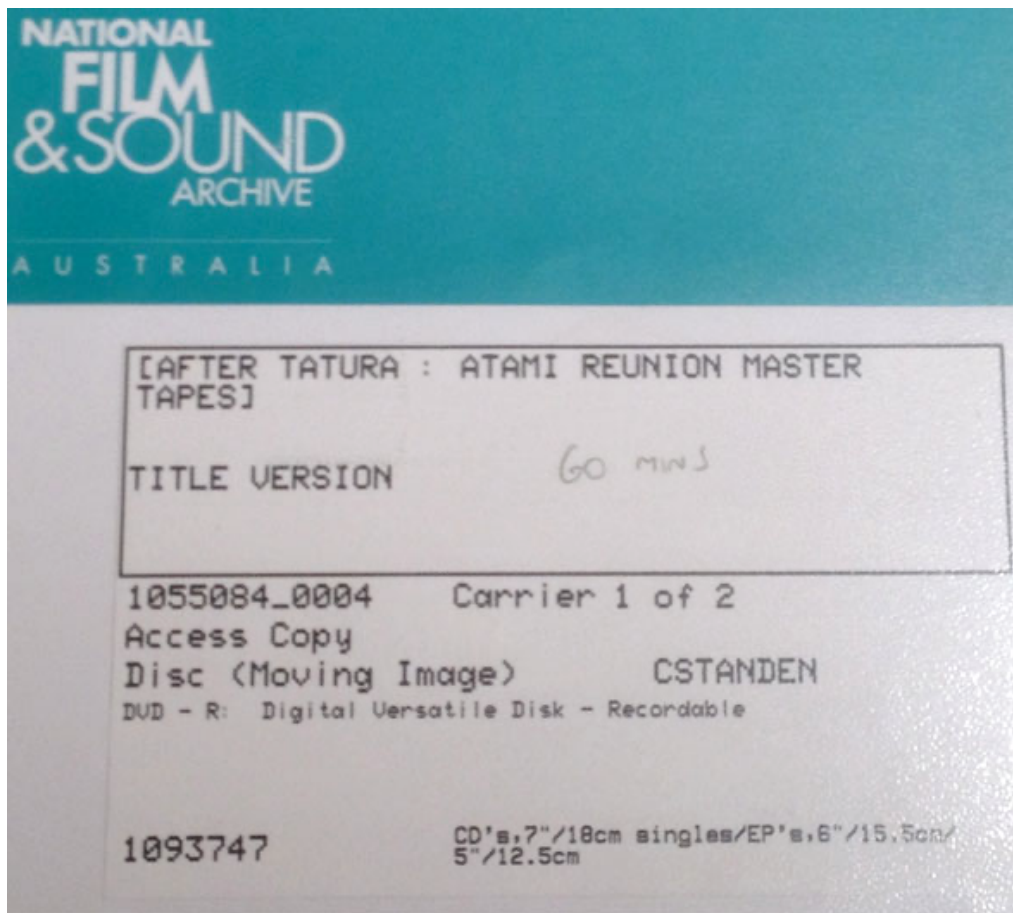
Mixed footage from former internees reunion held at hot spring resort in Atami, Japan –overlay & cut away

- The former civilian internees interviewed lived in Australia at the time of filming.

2. (AFTER TATURA: ATAMI REUNION MASTER TAPES) 60 mins

1055084_0004 Carrier 1 of 2

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CONTENT IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE:

Mixed footage from former internees reunion held at hot spring resort in Atami, Japan - mostly for overlay & cut away. Some very moving scenes are included. Their common experience was that they were interned in Australia during WWII. They have come from different parts of the world to be at this reunion in Japan

People who we see at the reunion include (not necessarily in order of appearance):

Joe Murakami (interned from Darwin)

Andy Takamura (interned from Indonesia)

Masu Tsutsumi (interned from Broome)

Yoko Tsushima (interned from New Caledonia)

Shimpei Murayama (interned from New Caledonia)

Haruko Namba (interned from Indonesia)

Jessie Banno (interned from New Zealand)

Joe Umemura (interned from Indonesia)

*Includes identification of caucasian woman in the repatriation boat as Mrs Kanda (see film treatment 1994)

Broome township landscapes -overlay & cut away

Broome cemetery landscapes -overlay & cut away

Pearl Hamaguchi (descendant of internee) interview

Barbara Lynette (Pearl Hamaguchi's mother) - cut away

Jimmy Chi (former internee) interview

3. (AFTER TATURA: ATAMI REUNION MASTER TAPES) 44 mins

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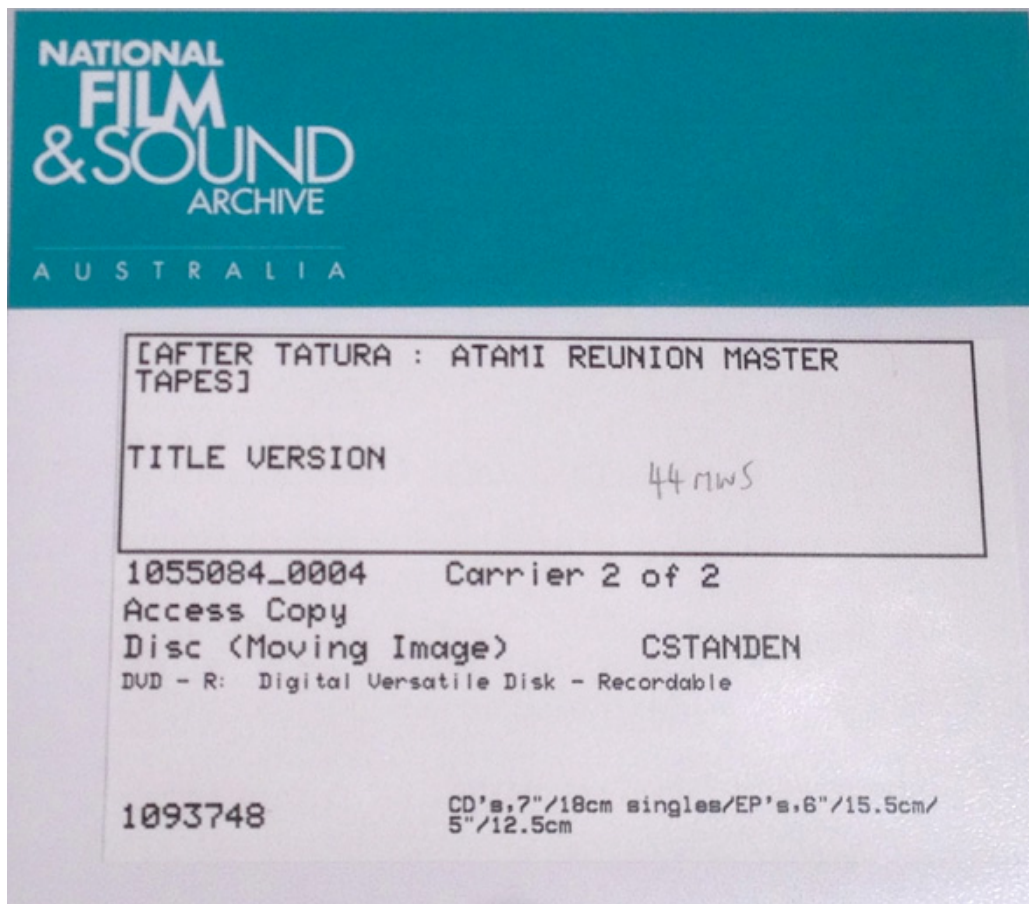
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CONTENT IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE:

Jimmy Chi (former internee) interview & cut away

Broome township landscapes -overlay & cut away

Peggy Shiosaki (former internee) interview & cut away



Conclusions/future actions

1. It would be of benefit to make the content of the Hoaas' work available / accessible to future filmmakers, researchers and other cultural producers.
2. Considerations could be given to connecting Hoaas' work with the 2013 Cowra Symposium and related events.

3. We would like to locate and interview then co-producer Franziska Wagenfeld and the collecting officer from the National Film and Sound Archives to check possible availability of further materials that would be of benefit.
4. We seek advice on issues relating to copyright, licensing and interview release status of Hoaas' material in its current form as a priority
5. We seeking expert advice from NFSA in regard to possible ways to make Hoaas' work accessible / available to the public either as moving image, transcribed oral history or any other mediums