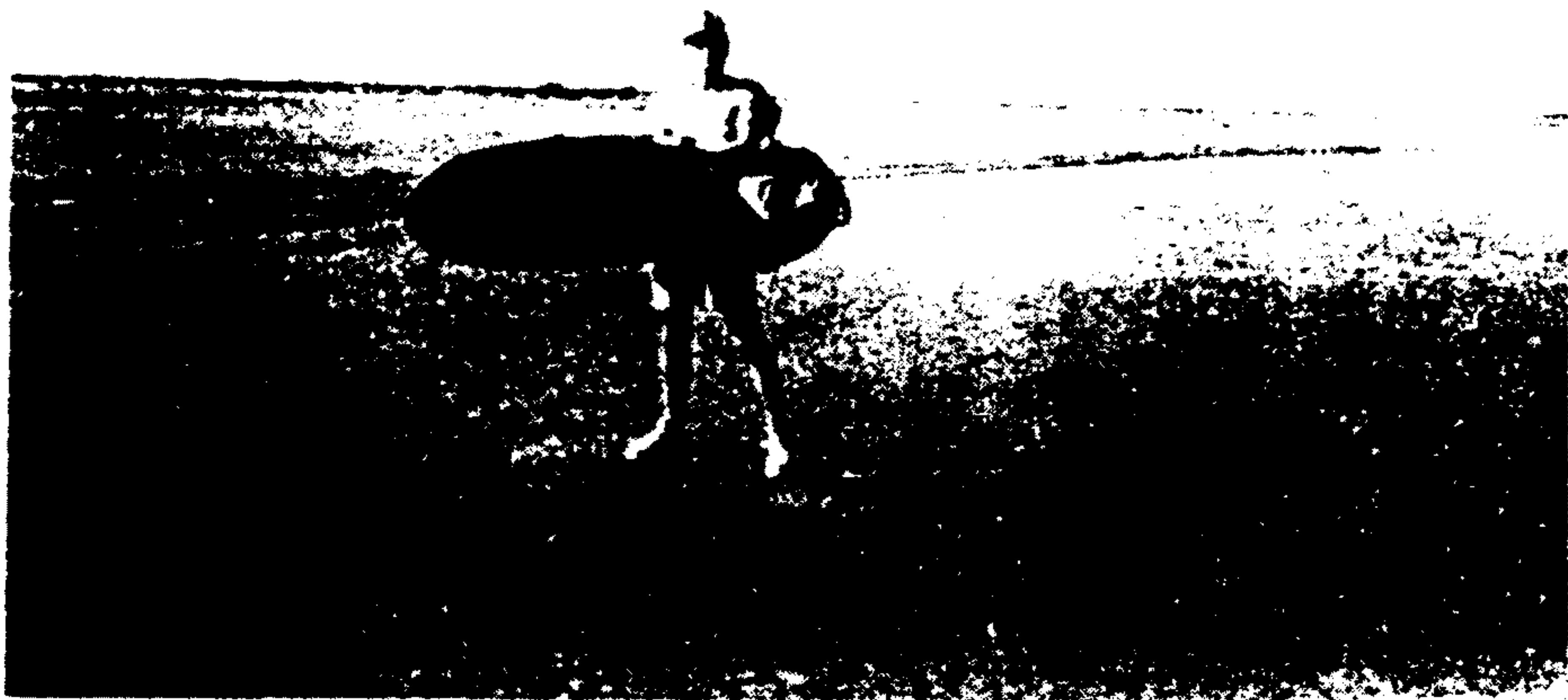


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AS TIME GOES BY

Directed by Barry Peak

Starring Nique Needles, Bruno Lawrence, Max Gillies and Ray Barrett.

Screening at the Valhalla and selected cinemas.

A battered cart, full of animal skulls and pieces of rag and bone is pushed across the desert by an equally battered old man; a battered, weather-beaten, derelict old man. He looks up at the sky and suddenly there is a strange noise, a flash of light, and an explosion. When the smoke clears, there it is, 'Joe Bogart's Diner'; a neon-lit spaceship that sells Budweiser. Inside is a time-travelling alien (Max Gillies). But what is he doing in the middle of the Australian outback? And will the old rag-and-bone-man ever recover from witnessing his arrival?

Joe Bogart has arrived to keep an appointment made twenty-five years earlier. The appointment is with a knockabout surfer called Mike (Nique Needles) who is heading across the outback for a rendezvous with someone, for some reason, arranged via his mother many years earlier. Mike has talked two female surfers into driving him to the middle of the outback; they head towards the inland sea, to a mysterious assignation. But when his companions decide to abandon him on the side of the road, Mike is left to cope in the outback with only a surfboard, a diving watch and a pair of Bolles as basic equipment.

However, the outback turns out to be nothing compared to the people he encounters, most of whom are determined to get their hands on the alien's power capsule. Mike finds himself a long way from the surf and in a whole lot of trouble.

Eventually though 'Surfers and Aliens Rule!' in this quirky, sci-fi adventure.

As Times Goes By exhibits a slapdash, tongue-in-cheek attitude to the sci-fi genre, and to quite a few other genres as well. It's a kind of science fiction, spaghetti-western-road movie. The film, produced by Valhalla Cinemas, should attract a cult following at the very least. It's a charming inventive comedy with an excellent cast.

Joe Bogart was the perfect film role for Max Gillies to tackle. This alien speaks almost exclusively in lines (and voices) from old Hollywood films and this give Gillies a lot of scope for his brilliant impersonations. He does everyone from Bogart to Garbo and generally looks to be enjoying himself in this rather manic role.

Bruno Lawrence is a lot more restrained in his role as an outback cop called Ryder. It's a very strong, very controlled performance from Lawrence and it is this performance which gives the film its emotional depth and complexity. Lawrence plays it straight, providing the perfect foil for the lunacy of the characters which surround him.

The other stand-out performance is from Nique Needles as Mike the surfer. Needles, who distinguished himself in Richard Lowenstein's *Dogs In Space*, makes a welcome return to the big screen in *As Time Goes By*. Needles has a kind of roguish quality which is perfect for the role of Mike. He gives a charming, witty performance as the spaced-out hero of the piece.

Make sure you find time to see *As Time Goes By*. It's well worth the effort.

Narelle Gee