

# Eternity

THANKYOU FOR SHARING ETERNITY

## **WHEN I STARTED THE JOURNEY OF CREATING WRITTEN IN CHALK: THE ECHO OF ARTHUR STACE,**

I was not expecting to meet, speak with and interview such a diverse and eclectic mix of people.

My intent had been to tell the life story of the Sydney eccentric, Arthur Stace – better known as ‘Mr Eternity’ or ‘the Eternity Man’ – who wrote the eight-letter word Eternity in copperplate script on streets and pavements more than half a million times over a period of 35 years.

Earlier films by Lawrence Johnston (1994) and Julien Temple (2008) had previously told Arthur’s story, focusing on his early life and influences, his radical conversion to Christianity, and his obsessive writing of Eternity on Sydney’s footpaths.

As production gained momentum, the storyline of my film began to move in a different direction. I discovered that Eternity had taken on a life of its own. Not only was it continuing to steadily etch itself into the pages of history, I realised that it is a living, breathing phenomenon, and continues to influence Australian culture and identity today.

## **WRITTEN IN CHALK: THE ECHO OF ARTHUR STACE NEEDED TO TELL THE STORY OF ARTHUR STACE’S LEGACY.**

I spoke with television personalities, politicians, environmental and social activists, composers, singers, actors and songwriters, clergy, graffiti and street artists, painters, academics, social researchers, poets and world-renowned creative directors and personalities. Each had their own interpretation of Eternity.

**WRITTEN IN CHALK: THE ECHO OF ARTHUR STACE IS THE NEXT CHAPTER OF THE ETERNITY STORY.** It explores and celebrates the unexpected ways in which the word Eternity has been embraced and adapted as an indelible vehicle of personal, social and cultural expression.

It has been my privilege to produce and direct this film, to catch the passion and drive of the diverse range of people who I have met, and to tell the story of the way this eight letter word written in chalk by one individual continues to echo through the lives of so many people today.

**Richard Attieh**  
(Director)