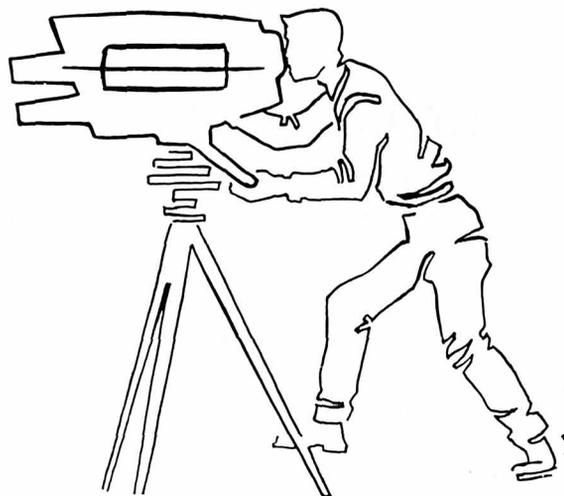


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## Sydney Aborigine Wins International Film Role



A 20-year-old Sydney Aborigine, who works as a postman for the P.M.G., has won a major part in a film to be made next year in Australia, Europe, Japan, and the United States.

He is Athol Compton, who has been signed by 20th Century-Fox to play the lead in the film of Hugh Atkinson's book, "The Games".

This is the part that boxing champion Lionel Rose turned down a few months ago for \$60,000. Athol admitted he wouldn't be paid anything like the money offered to Lionel Rose, and said: "But it's more money than I've ever seen in my life and it will do, I reckon."

Athol will play the part of "Sunny Pintubi", a boy from the bush who runs barefoot to fame in the Olympic marathon. Although he is a good runner, Athol admits he is no champion, and is being trained by special athletic advisers to improve his form.

"But it doesn't really matter, because it's a fixed race. I know I'll win—I've read the script," he quipped to newsmen on his return to Australia in December after his screen test in Hollywood.

Unlike the character he will play, Athol has never lived in the bush. He grew up at Coolangatta, on the Gold Coast, and three years ago came to Sydney with his widowed mother and her four children.

Athol returned to his postman job in December. In February he will leave for England for 10 weeks of filming on location in Austria, Italy, Japan, the United States, and Australia.

He has to do all his running in bare feet, and they're very tender. A newsman asked Athol if he would go into training in bare feet on his postman's round.

"I don't reckon—they'd give me the sack if I did that," Athol said. "I'll just keep running round Ashfield oval till my feet get used to the stones and prickles and I get a bit faster."

Athol said he might keep pretty fit running away from his Mum, because she's threatened to "paddle his hide" if he gets a swollen head.

His mother, Mrs Ivy Compton, said: "I wouldn't like to see Athol making a career in films. I'd rather see him more concerned with his job.

"I think there's more security in staying with the P.M.G."