

# “BELINDA”

“A straight documentary about deprived Australian children” is how the Save the Children Fund (N.S.W. Division) describes its recently made film, “Belinda”. The pictures on these pages are taken from the film.

The film has been described in the press as “the story of a failure” and it was with deliberate purpose that the SCF “chose to show one of the failures, rather than our many successes.”

The heroine of the film is a 3-year old Aboriginal girl; one whose baby brother’s burial provides the opening sequence for the film; one who lives with her mother in a tin shanty on the outskirts of Walgett.

The film chronicles Belinda’s first days at a pre-school kindergarten established by the Save the Children Fund. The purpose of the SCF schools is to provide Aboriginal children with a language and cultural background which will help them cope with a school system designed for white, middle-class children. The fund operates ten such pre-schools in New South Wales.

The aim from the beginning of the project, 2 years ago, was to make a film of artistic merit, *not* a propagandist film for the Fund. It was eventually produced through the co-operation and work of the Australian Council for the Arts, the Office of Aboriginal Affairs, Rothmans of Pall Mall (Aust.), the Australian Film Development Corporation, and Trojan Films. It was produced by Jack Lee and directed by Peter Thompson.

The SCF hopes to sell the film for local and overseas distribution, especially through television outlets. Enquiries regarding arrangements for screening of the film can be directed to the Save the Children Fund N.S.W. Division, P.O. Box E181, St James, N.S.W. 2000. Tel. 61 6038.

*At right: Belinda, her mother, and teacher, Joy Evans at Belinda’s home near Walgett*

*Far right: Boarding the bus for school*



*Belinda responds to the teacher at pre-school*

*The film opens u*

