

POETRY IN MOTION

Cinematographer Ashley Barron helps art come to life on the ABC – by *Meredith Emmanuel*



'The Faintest Clasp' - DOP Ashley Barron

Writhing, knobby hands and leathery old skin are photographed in stark black-and-white, juxtaposed with vivid colour, in Cinematographer Ashley Barron's moody new *The Faintest Clasp*, one of five 'ArtBreaks' short films.

Produced for ABC iView, the ArtBreaks series aims to provide bite-sized chunks of video art shot by highly skilled filmmakers, with poems narrated by Australian actors.

The Faintest Clasp visualises an ode written and produced by advertising guru David 'Nobby' Nobay, who commissioned the series. Renowned photographer Simon Harsent directed, while The Pool Collective produced for Sydney's Marcel WW agency.

Barron delivers Harsent's directorial vision by pairing the dramatic reading with close-up shots of an elderly man's

body. Contrasting black and white photography with flashes of colour images – using focus and camera movement to provide 'punctuation' – Barron creates a breathtakingly dark exploration of the stories hidden his beneath his wizened skin.

“...using focus and camera movement to provide ‘punctuation’..”

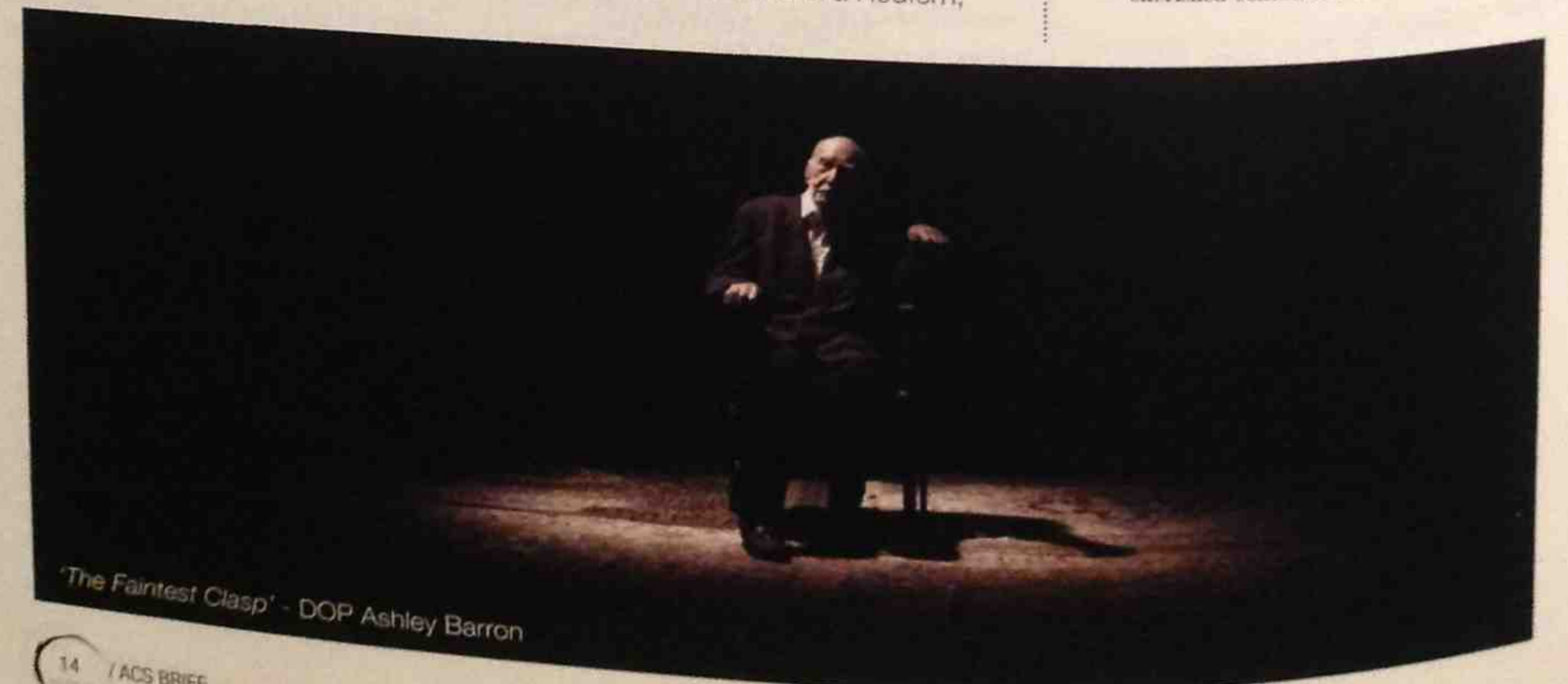
Introduced to the project by Harsent, for whom Barron had previously shot a Sydney Writer's Festival commercial, she jumped at the opportunity to work with the Director again. The pair exchanged visual reference ideas and Barron then shaped the aesthetic. From there, the team refined the ultimate style of the short.

The Faintest Clasp was shot on a Black Magic Cinema camera in a Redfern,

Sydney art studio. Barron combined a small tungsten package with the studio's own lighting system, which created a theatrical high-contrast look, accentuating the character's age and isolation from the world at large.

Besides contributing to the ABC's ArtBreaks, Barron has recently completed a number of other projects; the feature film *One Less God* about group of international tourists besieged in the 2008 Mumbai terrorist attacks, the thirty-second short film *Midnight Walk* for fashion festivals directed by Loaded Content's Mathilde Nocquet, and a commercial she lensed for McDonalds Restaurants, which is currently airing in Australia.

Meredith Emmanuel has over thirty years experience in film & television, public relations and communications, and is now a much-cherished contributor to the magazine.



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