

Billie Dean

Biography

The Overview

With a background in journalism, writing and comedy, Billie Dean is an award-winning filmmaker and Australia's foremost animal communicator and advocate for holistic healing for animals and animal welfare. Her recent book, *Secret Animal Business*, is her first for adults, having published 10 children's books previously.

Billie is also a shamanic practitioner in the Andean tradition, and runs a private forever home for (currently) 27 lucky rescued horses, eight lucky rescued working dogs, plus cats, birds, several goats, geese, a duck who thinks he's a goose, two alpacas and a sheep. She is married to children's author and filmmaker Andrew Einspruch, and they have a teenage daughter, Tamsin.

The Detail

Billie Dean has always had an innate ability to hear the voice of nature and animals. Growing up as a sensitive child in a "normal" family, Billie never saw herself as psychic. Those were people who read crystal balls.

However, being empathetic, intuitive and "too sensitive" meant that she was aware of the unseen world in a way that others weren't and felt the wrongs done to animals and nature from an early age. Advocacy was always part of her nature, sticking up for trees, ants, horses being ridden with rough hands, and social justice.

In the 70s, this was not considered career making material, but as Billie had shown a talent for writing, she became a journalist and her natural curiosity soon had her studying all kinds of alternative therapies, as well as filmmaking and photography. She then moved into acting and comedy, wanting to weave the healing of humour into her work as a filmmaker.

Billie began performing professionally with Studio Sydney in 1982, and wrote, produced and performed in her own comedy shows *THE RELUCTANT SOUL* and *THE BODY & SOUL REVUE* under the banner of her company Barefoot Productions. As Barefoot Productions she also made low budget videos -- mostly music videos. Billie became a stand-up comic, performing regularly at Sydney's Comedy Store and other Sydney venues. She also performed in Melbourne, London, Los Angeles, Hawaii and Santa Fe.

As a photojournalist, Billie's written and photographic work has appeared in a wide range of publications - everything from *Woman's Day*, *Cleo* and the *Sydney Morning Herald*, to *Nature and Health* and *Simply Living*. She's written on subjects as diverse as herbs and nutrition, sex and cellulite, animal health, men and relationships, the environment, and Native American wisdom. She has interviewed people from all walks of life, wrote a regular column for *Nature and Health*, and more recently has

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1 of 1

been a regular contributor to Conscious Living. Billie's speciality is imbuing even the driest of topics with a light touch and a sense of humour.

Billie met Andrew Einspruch in 1986 and they joined forces as the husband and wife comedy duo Einspruch and Dean, performing their show RANDOM THOUGHTS, both in Australia and the USA. The show was heralded as being "New Wave Comedy that is fresh, experimental, very funny and clean!" Their earnest New Age characters David and Joanna were popular with audiences everywhere, earning them the accolade of being the "higher consciousness version of the ABC's Tim and Debbie, with the simpatico of George Burns and Gracie Allen" (Nine to Five magazine).

Photojournalism by day, comedy by night, filmmaking on weekends – Billie and her husband Andrew were also deep in the experimental public TV scene in Sydney. By this time Billie was well aware that her sensitivity was called telepathy and she enjoyed deep relationships with her own animal companions.

The turning point for Billie was moving to the Blue Mountains with adrenal burnout or "Chronic Fatigue Syndrome" and being told to rest. It took six months and a lot of inner spiritual work or shamanic journeying to the other realms, but Billie emerged as a fit yet rather reluctant Animal Communicator, quickly finding a national and international clientele. "I did it because there were animals in need, but it took me a very long time to be comfortable with it, as those things weren't accepted by the normal entertainment industry in which I worked."

"I also stepped into it because it was strongly suggested I do this by people in those other realms I journeyed to, who most people call spirit guides. It was time for me to do the work I came here to do."

It was during this period that Billie's "real" job was writing children's books.

She and her husband Andrew also began working in animal rescue, saving the lives of many dogs and horses, because, as Billie says, when you can hear them ask for help, how can you say "no"?

Billie then moved into children's television writing and wrote for the Channel 9 Logie and Aria award winning hit children's television show HI-5, as well as CUSHION KIDS, a children's show for Channel 9. Her comedy drama HORSEFEATHERS was optioned by Kids Like Us producers Helena Harris and Posie Graeme-Evans and received competitive development funding from the ABC.

At the same time, Billie and Andrew moved to a larger property in southern NSW to house the growing herd of rescued horses in their care. Billie also wove her desire to educate people about animals into her independent films.

In 2001 Billie shot her first feature film, FINDING JOY (www.findingjoy.com), which had its world premiere at the Ausfest 2002 film festival in Brisbane. Her film concept for FINDING JOY was a 1999 Sunrise finalist, and her script was produced by her company Laughing Owl Productions.

FINDING JOY was released independently in 2003, and in 2004 was chosen by Hollywood veteran producer Stephen Simon to launch his international home entertainment distribution business, The Spiritual Cinema Circle. Through this, the film has been seen in 60 countries, and the DVD was a top seller in their e-store for

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2 of 2

two years. In 2004, Billie Dean won a Best Actress AFTI award (ACT Film and Television Council Industry Awards) for her role as Joy.

In 2004, Billie shot SEVEN DAYS WITH SEVEN DOGS, a "dog-umentary" about taking seven rescued dogs on the trip of a doggie lifetime. A three-minute short of the documentary screened at the popcorn taxi Flagfall Film Festival, the short::seasons film festival (Canberra) and on ABC Stateline (Canberra). It was also accepted for inclusion by the Spiritual Cinema Circle for the September 2007 DVD. The full-length, hour-long documentary continues selling on DVD, delighting people around the world.

2009 sees the release of her next project, the hope-filled documentary THIS SACRED EARTH: THE 2012 PHENOMENON, which draws on indigenous and ancient teachings from around the world, along with modern wisdom, to help people reconnect with nature in an effort to save both our species and the planet.

Billie has worked with and filmed indigenous people from many cultures for over 20 years. She is a qualified shamanic practitioner in the Inkan Q'ero tradition through the Four Winds Society. In 2008, she was invited to speak at a gathering of modern wisdom keepers in Wales, and was included in the book Soul Companions: Conversations with Contemporary Wisdom-Keepers.

Today Billie Dean is Australia's foremost animal communicator and advocate of holistic therapies for animals. She launched the For Life Campaign for the end of convenience euthanasia for animals, runs a school Rainbow Fianna: Wisdom School for Earthkeepers, teaching shamanism and animal communication to people who want to be extraordinary with animals.

Her book SECRET ANIMAL BUSINESS (2009) sold out in the first two weeks it was released.

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