



Doing Time for Patsy Cline

Chris Kennedy

AUSTRALIA, 1996

95 minutes ■ Colour/35mm
 Production Company: **Oilrag Productions**
 Producer: **John Winter, Chris Kennedy**
 Screenplay: **Chris Kennedy**
 Cinematographer: **Andrew Lesnie**
 Editor: **Ken Sallows**
 Production Designer: **Roger Ford**
 Sound: **Tony Vaccher, John Dennison, Chris Alderton**
 Music: **Peter Best**
 Principal Cast: **Richard Roxburgh, Miranda Otto, Matt Day, Tony Barry, Kiri Paramore, Laurence Coy, Annie Byron, Roy Billing, Gus Mercurio, Betty Bobbitt, Frank Whitten, Tom Long, Wayne Pygram, Jeff Truman**

Print Source/Foreign Sales Agent:
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Production: **Oilrag Productions.**
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Doing Time for Patsy Cline is writer-director Chris Kennedy's charming and entertaining story of an innocent who dreams of fame and fortune. Ralph (Matt Day) is an 18-year-old Australian country boy who desperately wants to be a country and western star at the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville. His hard-working parents are supportive but poor; they manage to purchase him an airline ticket, but since they haven't got any money left over, Ralph is forced to hitchhike all the way to Sydney to catch his plane.

The wide-eyed Ralph, guitar case in hand, hits the road and is picked up by Boyd (Richard Roxburgh) and Patsy (Miranda Otto). Boyd is driving a stolen green Jaguar and appears to be involved in drug running. He seems a little unstable and, worst of all, isn't interested in country and western music. But Patsy, who tells Ralph she was named after the legendary Patsy Cline, is interested in Ralph's dreams. Pretty soon, Ralph has fallen for the beautiful Patsy. And, just maybe, she is beginning to feel the same way.

Eventually the police catch up with Boyd, who blames the stolen car and the drugs on poor Ralph. In the ensuing confusion Patsy manages to escape, while Boyd and Ralph end up sharing a jail cell together next door to the brothers Grimm, three tough outlaws who pass their time inside playing and singing country and western songs.

Kennedy, who describes his film as "a rhinestone *Casablanca*," has assembled a top-notch cast and directs them with a sure hand.

By turns hilarious and touching, *Doing Time for Patsy Cline* is a delightfully unpredictable comedy, a toe-tapping celebration of country-and-western music with charm to burn. It will steal your heart.

■ **Suzanne Weiss**

Chris Kennedy was born in Sydney, Australia in 1949. He studied dentistry at Sydney University and film writing, directing and producing at the Australian Film and Television School. He won the Australian Writers' Guild prestigious Monte Miller Award for Best Unproduced Film Script in 1982. Feature films include: *Glass* (89), *This Won't Hurt A Bit* (93), and *Doing Time for Patsy Cline* (96).

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