

# From little themes, big themes grow

Rowan Cowley

ANNANDALE residents Amanda King and Fabio Cavadini, both head documentary teachers at the Sydney Film School, are helping to educate aspiring young filmmakers.

And the pair's success is evident – diploma graduate Teagan McCarthy won the Queer Perspective Award, the second prize at this year's My Queer Career competition, while another film (*Mr Hector Dudley*) produced by a former student will be screened at the Australian Museum until March 22.

King and Cavadini have worked in partnership on their own documentaries for the past 21 years.

Cavadini made his first film about the first Aboriginal tent embassy outside Parliament House in 1972.

Among his list of work that has screened on SBS was the documentary *An Evergreen Island*, which told the story of the people of Bougainville Island who protested against mining on the island in a nine-year war.

Despite the fact that both filmmakers have explored large-scale social and political is-



Sydney Film School's Amanda King and Fabio Cavadini.

sues, Cavadini said he encouraged students to tell simple stories.

"There is already a trend towards making personalised, character-based documentaries and to move away from the issue-based documentary," he said.

"But the students are free to choose ideas, we just encourage them in that direction because the end product is usually more palatable."

While the new Sydney Film School semester has begun, interested students can still phone the school on 9698 2244 to inquire about enrolment.

