

## CLIFFY - SYNOPSIS

Cliff loves running. He gave up a promising running career when his father died and he was forced to take over the family farm – at age 13. Cliff lives in the long shadow cast by the father he idolizes, a true Australian pioneer who first settled the farm in 1880. But the farm is a bog. On a good year Cliff earns minimum wage growing spuds and running a few milkers. On a bad year he earns nothing.

Cliff lives on the farm with his mother. It's a tough, brutal life and short on love. He has never left the farm and Cliff the 60 year old virgin has never experienced love. Never seen a naked woman, let alone kissed one.

When the potato crop fails – again – Cliff, convinced his life is a failure, enters the 550 mile Sydney-to-Melbourne footrace. He hooks up with his old trainer Wally who hasn't trained a decent runner in years, and who now lives boozily and alone in a caravan park.

Against all odds Cliff qualifies. But waiting for him is history's greatest distance runner, Ray Reardon.

Against even greater odds, and over six grueling days, Cliff wins the race. Australia embraces a new national hero – a simple spud farmer, the bush battler.

Cliff has it all – fame, respect, success, money. And finally, after 60 years, love. The love of an entire nation. And he falls in love, and marries Mary.

But love is a fickle mistress. The public tires of the simple old geezer and Mary leaves him. Cliff enters the big race again trying to win back Mary's and Australia's love. It damn nearly kills him.

He is forced back on the farm and when his mother dies, he is unloved and alone. Which is where he finds what he's been looking for all his life – himself.