

SMITHY (1946)

Charles Kingsford-Smith (played by Ron Randell) talking to Sir Hubert Wilkins (played by John Dease)

Scene: a hotel room in New York.

Smith: Sir Hubert, you're an explorer – an Australian who's arrived. Tell me, is there something wrong with me? I just can't seem to get started.

Wilkins: That one seems to call for a drink.....

Now look. You want to be an explorer. Do you remember anything about another explorer? The man who happened to discover this continent? Do you remember that he begged his way all around Europe, pleading for the backing to fulfil his dreams?

It's always been that way, Kingsford-Smith. Nobody believes in you – *until* you're successful. And if you do succeed, the tin bugles and the cheering will be short lived, believe me. Oh, honours will be showered upon you. But don't think for a moment that you'll participate in the fruits of your discovery.

Your rendezvous with fame will be a gravestone. Looking down from above, you'll be astonished at the appreciation and gratitude that is showered on your tomb.

Smith: Yes. I guess explorers have to be half dreamers, half lunatics and half plain stubborn.

This is a dialogue extract from the feature film *Smithy*, Directed by Ken G Hall (1946)