



NEWSLETTER – JANUARY 2009

LATEST NEWS

Developing a Shared Vision for the Northern Territory Screen Industry

During the first week of November, consultant Doug Macnamara met with stakeholders in Alice Springs and Darwin, to explore some ideas for potential futures of the Northern Territory screen industry, and the role of the NTFO in those futures as part of the first stage of the Northern Territory Screen Industry Visioning Project.

The resulting Phase One Strategic Discussion Paper is available to download from the NTFO [website](#).

Comments on the discussion paper are sought until **Friday 6 February 2009**.

All comments will be posted on the NTFO website, along with your name and the date received.

Comments will impact on the next phase of the process – developing a Five Year Screen Industry Framework for the Industry and the NTFO.

IGNITE – Feature Film Initiative Launched

The NTFO is calling for applications for IGNITE, a new accelerated feature film development initiative aimed at nurturing the development of feature films in the Territory.

Applications are open for proposals for feature screenplays from writers in the Northern Territory.

IGNITE will take place over six months in 2009.

IGNITE will commence on Sunday 1 March 2009 with a five day residential workshop being held at Glen Helen Resort in the spectacular West MacDonnell Ranges approximately an hour and half drive west of Alice Springs. The follow up second workshop will be held in Alice Springs in late June.

IGNITE combines two high intensity residential workshops with distance learning and online consultation. The result will be well developed Territory stories and energised creative teams ready to push feature projects on with an increased chance of success.

Territory writers with projects in early stages of development will be considered in addition to teams that include producers and directors.

The NTFO will support a maximum of four Territorian individuals/teams to participate in IGNITE. A team may be comprised of a writer, producer and director. Only the writer is required to be Territory based to be eligible for IGNITE. Other team members, including the producer/director engaged by the writer can be based interstate.

Four projects from other states will be offered places in the IGNITE initiative.

The NTFO is offering each selected Territory participant a full scholarship to attend IGNITE which will cover all costs including airfares, accommodation, meals, transfers, online consultation and draft funding. The total value of each IGNITE place is in excess of \$15 000 with \$10 000 being set aside for script development.

For further information on IGNITE and to download the guidelines and application form [click here](#). Applications for IGNITE close **COB Friday 13 February 2009**.

If you are unsure of your eligibility please contact the NTFO on 8952 5222 or e-mail film.office@nt.gov.au.

Aurora – Intensive Script Development Program

For the first time, the New South Wales Film and Television Office (NSW FTO) program Aurora is opening up nationally.

The NSW FTO is calling for applications for Aurora 2009. The NTFO will support Territorians and Territory based projects if they are selected to participate.

Territorians interested in participating in Aurora are encouraged to read the Aurora guidelines which can be found on the NSW FTO [website](#) to determine if they will be eligible. If after reading the guidelines applicants still think they are eligible they should contact the NTFO on 8952 5222 to discuss the possibility of submitting an application. The NTFO will only support applications and applicants that we believe are ready to participate in Aurora.

Applications for Aurora close on **Monday 9 February 2009** and Territorians interested in applying should contact the NTFO by **Friday 30 January 2009**.

The LONG BLACK

Screen Australia is currently accepting applications for the LONG BLACK Feature Program a strategic initiative aimed at encouraging and supporting Indigenous filmmakers to work in the longer format, and to bring to the screen feature stories authored and crafted by Indigenous people.

Screen Australia are seeking to invest in the development of outstanding feature-length drama projects which are based on strong ideas, are well crafted, of varying styles and content, exhibit a high level of creative ambition and can demonstrate the possibility of being financed for production.

Screen Australia will support the development of up to five projects with funding of up to \$25 000.

For further information and to download the guidelines and application forms [click here](#). Applications close **5:00pm Friday 20 February 2009**.

Congratulations Catherine Martin

The NTFO congratulates Catherine Martin on her Oscar nomination for Costume Design for *Australia*. *Australia* filmed on location in Darwin for two weeks during 2007.

Oscar winners will be announced on 22 February 2009.

Industry News Wanted

If you have screen industry news that you would like to share with the screen industry in the Northern Territory and beyond e-mail it to film.office@nt.gov.au and the NTFO will endeavour to publish it in our next newsletter or newsflash.

OPPORTUNITIES

NTFO Travel Grants to Support Travel and Registration at AIDC 2009

The NTFO is offering a limited number of travel grants to Territory documentary makers to attend the 2009 Australian International Documentary Conference (AIDC) being held in Adelaide from 18 – 20 February 2009.

The NTFO will accept applications up to **Wednesday 4 February 2009**.

Preference will be given to applicants taking projects to pitch at AIDC.

To download the Travel Grant guidelines and application form [click here](#). For further information on these Travel Grants please contact the NTFO on 8952 5222.

Please note any applications received for travel grants to attend AIDC will not be assessed until after Wednesday 4 February 2009. Applicants will be notified if their application was successful shortly after.

NTFO Travel Grants to Support Travel and Registration at the National Screenwriters' Conference 2009

The NTFO is offering a limited number of travel grants to Territory screenwriters' to attend the 2009 National Screenwriters' Conference which is being held in the picturesque Barossa Valley from 25 – 27 February 2009.

The NTFO will accept applications up to **Wednesday 11 February 2009**.

To download the Travel Grant guidelines and application forms [click here](#). For further information on these Travel Grants please contact the NTFO on 8952 5222.

Please note any applications received for travel grants to attend the National Screenwriters' Conference will not be assessed until after Wednesday 11 February 2009. Applicants will be notified if their application was successful shortly after.

Creative Tropical City Exhibition

The *Creative Tropical City: mapping Darwin's creative industries* (CTC) project has now reached the report stage and will be presented and distributed at a launch at Parliament House on Tuesday 10 February 2009 at 6:30pm.

To celebrate this launch the CTC project team are inviting members of the Darwin creative industries scene to join other creative industries practitioners to be part of the display which will celebrate the identification of the creative industries as a discrete and economically essential industry sector in Darwin and the Northern Territory.

People who are interested in being part of the display are invited to prepare one A4 flyer with information front and back which will be laminated and placed on a table within the display. The information contained on the flyer is open to interpretation and could include things such as a business profile, event promotion or a biography.

The aim of the flyers is to encourage attendees to sit and down and sift through the information rather than idly walking past display boards or an expo style environment. Visitors at the launch will be able to sit down, look through flyers and interact with others. Pens and notepads will also be on hand for those who wish to write down contact information to take away.

Flyers can be submitted to Karen Hughes, Project Manager, Creative Tropical City by e-mailing karen.hughes@cdu.edu.au no later than **Wednesday 28 January 2009**. Flyers should be 300dpi and under 5MG.

ITVS International Call

The Independent Television Service (ITVS) in the United States is calling for applications for International Call, an initiative which provides production funding and support to international documentaries for broadcast on ITVS in the United States. ITVS is looking for documentaries with powerful global stories that inform, inspire and connect Americans to the world at large. For further information on International Call [click here](#). **Applications close Friday 6 February 2009.**

2009 International Documentary Challenge

Registrations are being accepted for the 2009 International Documentary Challenge which is taking place from Thursday 5 March 2009 – Monday 9 March 2009. The International Documentary Challenge inspires hundreds of filmmakers from around the world to make short documentaries in five days, with surprising results. Documentaries made during the past three years have screened at numerous international film festivals including; Hot Docs, Big Sky Documentary Film Festival and Dokufest. For further information on the 2009 International Documentary Challenge [click here](#).

AFTRS Final Cut Pro Basics Course – Alice Springs and Darwin

The Australian Film, Television and Radio School (AFTRS) are once again bringing its popular Final Cut Pro Basics Course to Alice Springs and Darwin. The three day course covers everything needed to get started with Final Cut Pro including digitising material, splicing and overwriting, trimming, adding dissolves, working in the timeline window, mixing audio, saving work and managing bins.

The course will take place in Alice Springs from Monday 16 March 2009 – Wednesday 18 March 2009 and in Darwin from Wednesday 25 March 2009 – Friday 27 March 2009. For further information and to apply online [click here](#). Applications close **Friday 27 February 2009** (Alice Springs) and **Wednesday 11 March 2009** (Darwin).

EVENTS

Flickerfest 2009 Northern Territory Tour

Flickerfest, Australia's premiere international short film and documentary festival is returning to the Northern Territory as part of its 2009 Tour in January and February.

The Flickerfest 2009 Northern Territory Tour will kick off in Darwin on Australia Day (Monday 26 January 2009) at the Birch, Carroll and Coyle Darwin 5 Cinema on Mitchell Street. Flickerfest will then slowly make its way south stopping in Katherine on Thursday 29 January 2009 at the Katherine Cinema. Flickerfest will continue heading south to Alice Springs for the final part of the Northern Territory Tour where it will screen at the Araluen Cultural Precinct from Friday 30 January 2009 to Sunday 1 February 2009.

For further information on the Flickerfest 2009 Northern Territory Tour [click here](#). The Flickerfest 2009 Northern Territory Tour is proudly supported by the NTFO.

AIDC 2009

AIDC 2009 is being held at the Adelaide Hilton from 18 – 20 February 2009. The theme for AIDC 2009 is Who's Watching? The conference will focus on audiences and their behaviour. It will also explore the demand of factual programs by asking by Whom, What, When, Where and How is factual content consumed?

Serious gaming and interactive content will play a pivotal role in the 2009 conference which is aiming to initiate relationships between filmmakers, television producers, games developers, web application designers and investors.

The conference will also focus on the art and craft of documentary making.

AIDC also has a large market place with a variety of options for filmmakers to pitch their projects. To find out more about AIDC and the market place opportunities [click here](#).

Secrets and Lives....the Pitch

The Special Broadcasting Service (SBS) and Screen Australia are calling for concept stage documentary series proposals from Australian independent producers for *Secrets and Lives ... the Pitch* to be held as part of AIDC 2009.

SBS and Screen Australia will jointly finance the development of a documentary series, with a view to the series being commissioned by SBS Television and Online for the newly launched *Secrets and Lives...* strand. This strand will feature tough subjects and engaging journeys that tackle the major social issues of our times. It will feature work that uses humour and surprising, innovative approaches to factual storytelling for television and online platforms. Above all the series must be entertaining.

The winning pitch will receive a combined development investment fund of \$30 000 from SBS and Screen Australia.

Proposals should focus on strong story and characters, and be accompanied by a sizzle reel. SBS and Screen Australia are looking for cross-platform series concepts with up to 4 x 25-minute

television episodes. SBS Online is contributing \$10 000 for the development and is seeking integrated online aspects to the project.

The commissioning of the series will be contingent upon the final treatment, the creative team, and the budget being appropriate for SBS.

Up to four projects will be selected to be pitched to a panel of SBS and Screen Australia judges at AIDC 2009. Everything from the candidates' CVs (including production experience) to their pitching skills will be under scrutiny. The winning pitch will be announced at the end of the session! Filmmakers selected as finalists for *Secrets and Lives ... the Pitch* are required to register for AIDC 2009 in order to pitch, and must fund their own attendance at AIDC.

Applications for *Secrets and Lives...the Pitch* should be sent to:

SBS Commissioned Content
Locked Bag 028
CROW NEST NSW 1585

The deadline for applications to be submitted to SBS Television is **Friday 23 January 2009**, and pitching finalists will be announced via the SBS website and Screen Australia website on Friday 6 February 2009. No late entries will be accepted. For further information please contact Zaac D'Almeida, Documentary Coordinator, SBS Television on (02) 9430 3905 or e-mail Zaac.Dalmeida@sbs.com.au.

Videotheque

Videotheque is a DVD library of completed documentaries (final or rough cut) that runs during AIDC and provides documentary filmmakers with the opportunity to get their documentaries noticed by more people.

This year AIDC has revamped Videotheque and for the first time all entries will be listed online in the lead up to the conference. The listing which will include the synopsis, images and contact details, will allow buyers, distributors and acquisitions managers to view these details as soon as they are submitted. This in turn will allow them to begin selecting the documentaries they are interested in and contacting the filmmakers if they would like to initiate discussions.

AIDC will be opening Videotheque for longer in 2009 and will have a rental option for delegates who wish to watch entries outside hours.

For further information on Videotheque [click here](#). Entries close 5:00pm **Monday 26 January 2009**.

Trailer Park

New to AIDC 2009 is Trailer Park. Trailer Park aims to provide filmmakers with another avenue to pitch their documentary to potential buyers and funding bodies. Trailer Park will run alongside Videotheque and trailers in the Trailer Park library will be available for buyers, distributors, acquisitions managers and funding bodies to view during the conference.

All AIDC delegates will have access to the online catalogue for Trailer Park entries in the lead up to the conference. The Trailer Park catalogue will contain the filmmakers e-mail and a synopsis of each documentary project. At the conference all buyers will also receive a hard copy of the catalogue and will be able to access the Trailer Park library to watch the trailers that are of interest to them.

For further information on submitting your trailer for Trailer Park [click here](#). Submissions close **Friday 6 February 2009**.

NATIONAL SCREENWRITERS' CONFERENCE

The Australian Writers' Guild, National Screenwriters' Conference is being held in South Australia's picturesque Barossa Valley from 25 – 27 February 2009. The theme for the 2009 conference is Picture This: From Idea to Audience. The conference aims to provide screenwriters with the opportunity to network and be inspired by the best of Australian and international talent. For further information on the National Screenwriters' Conference [click here](#).

LATEST NTFO FUNDING DECISIONS

Industry/Screen Culture Funding

Sydney Travelling Film Festival - \$6 000
Flickerfest 2009 Northern Territory Tour - \$3 000

Travel Funding

Alex Kelly – Travel to Crossover 2009 and AIDC 2009 - \$1 435
Eleanor Hogan – Travel to the National Screenwriters' Conference - \$1 500

SCREEN AUSTRALIA FUNDING

Screen Australia guidelines for Development and Production Financing Programs have been recently released.

For further information visit the Screen Australia [website](#).