



# NEWSLETTER – APRIL 2009

## LATEST NEWS

### Production Commences on *Yarning Up 2*

On Tuesday 14 April 2009 production commenced on the latest four short documentaries chosen for production as part of the NTFO/Top End Aboriginal Bush Broadcasting Association (TEABBA) initiative *Yarning Up*.

The four projects chosen to participate in this series of *Yarning Up* are:

- *Nundhirribala's Dream* – Ella Geia
- *One Leader, Ten Wives* – Malcolm Wilson
- *The Barngurnn Story* – Queenie and Marie Brennan
- *The Boss for his Country* – Revonna Urban

*Yarning Up 2* will screen on ABC TV's *Message Sticks* later this year.

### Comments Received on the Draft Strategic Framework for the NEW NTFO

Following the release of the Draft Strategic Framework for the NEW NTFO on 19 March 2009 the NTFO received four comments from the Northern Territory screen industry. To view these comments [click here](#).

### NTFO Hosts Indigenous Media Training

Indigenous screen media professionals from the Central Australian Aboriginal Media Association (CAAMA), Imparja and Pintubi, Anmatjere, Warlpiri (PAW) Media and Communications have spent this week skilling up with the NTFO in Alice Springs.

The Australian Film, Television and Radio School (AFTRS) have developed a special course for the Territory in making segments for television and the course has been offered at no cost to participants to skill them up to help them further develop their careers.

The course is being lead by John Millard who has extensive experience in media production and teaching media. John has worked on well known television programs including; *Australian Story*, *The Investigators*, *Hot Chips*, *Four Corners*, *A Big Country* and *Nationwide*.

This is the second AFTRS course that the NTFO has secured for the Northern Territory this year and we are currently in discussions with AFTRS about further professional development opportunities for Territorians.

Territory screen practitioners will be advised of the next AFTRS training course once details have been confirmed.

### **Gary Haslett Appointed New President of FATANT**

The NTFO congratulates Gary Haslett on his new appointment as President of the Film and Television Association of the Northern Territory (FATANT). Gary takes over from outgoing President Andrew Hyde who has been in the role since September 2006.

The NTFO thanks Andrew for all his hard work over the past two and a half years and we wish him and his production company Exposure Productions all the best in the future.

The NTFO looks forward to working with Gary and the FATANT executive, including new Vice President Rachel Clements.

### **Screen Australia Industry Briefings: Discover More About Accessing Production Investment from Screen Australia**

Screen Australia is hosting a national series of briefings in April and early May. The Screen Australia briefings will provide information to potential applicants about the best way to apply for:

- Documentary Development Funding
- Production Finance for Feature, Television Drama, Children's Drama and Documentary
- Development and Production Finance for Indigenous programs

The briefings will also include details on how the Producer Offset dovetails with your production financing plan.

**Ross Matthews** (Head – Production Investment) and **Chris Oliver** (Senior Manager – State and Industry Partnerships incl. Enterprise Program) will be in Alice Springs on Wednesday 29 April 2009 and Darwin on Thursday 30 April 2009 and Friday 1 May 2009 to meet with practitioners.

Representatives from the Development and Marketing areas will be hosting briefings in June and July – details and dates will be circulated shortly.

### **Screen Australia Alice Springs Briefings:**

Date: Wednesday 29 April 2009

Time: 4:00pm –6:00pm

Venue: Northern Territory Film Office, 27 Hartley Street, Alice Springs

### **Screen Australia Darwin Briefings:**

Date: Thursday 30 April 2009

Time: 4:00pm –6:00pm

Venue: Boardroom, Environment, Heritage and the Arts, Department of Natural Resources, Environment, the Arts and Sport, Level 2, Darwin Plaza, Smith Street Mall, Darwin

Chris and Ross will also be available for one-on-one meetings. To book an appointment go to [www.screenaustralia.gov.au/briefings](http://www.screenaustralia.gov.au/briefings).

## **Producer Offset Update**

Screen Australia has recently released information regarding applying for Provisional Certificates for the Producer Offset.

Since the Producer Offset was established in 2007 Screen Australia has closely monitored trends that are developing and has found that feature film projects tend to apply for the Producer Offset early in the development phase – often when there is only a screenplay in place. This can be detrimental to the applicant as the Provisional Certificate issued will be based on a ‘first-pass’ budget which bears little relationship to the actual budget.

Screen Australia also advises applicants for the Provisional Certificate that the Producer Offset Unit will only reassess the Qualifying Australian Production Expenditure (QAPE) in special circumstances, with priority always given to ‘new’ applications. This means re-assessment of QAPE for an existing project may take a number of weeks.

Applying later for provisional certification of a feature also means there's more likely to be a distribution agreement in place, which makes it possible to demonstrate that the project is intended for commercial cinema release and so would potentially be eligible for the 40% offset.

The Screen Australia Provisional Certificate application form will shortly be updated to allow applicants to demonstrate that they intend to release their film theatrically. To be satisfied that this intention is bona fide, Screen Australia would expect to see:

- An executed distribution agreement for theatrical distribution in Australia with a recognised distributor. The agreement must commit the distributor to contributing finance through a distribution guarantee, P&A funds or similar, which must be commensurate with the size and scale of the production.
- A commitment that all cast will be engaged under the relevant performers' contracts with appropriate buy-outs of residual rights consistent with a theatrical picture.
- A finance plan consistent with a feature film.
- A budget reflecting that of a feature film.
- Delivery items consistent with a feature film.

Other information that could be relevant includes:

- The track records of people attached to the project.
- An attached sales agent and any international theatrical pre-sales.

Without a distribution agreement with a reasonable commitment of funds, it is unlikely that Screen Australia will be satisfied at the Provisional Certificate stage that there is a demonstrated bona fide intent to distribute the film theatrically.

Screen Australia have also clarified their position on Significant Australian Content. A revised version of the document *Guidance on Significant Australian Content* reflecting this clarification is now available on the Producer Offset section of the Screen Australia [website](#).

## 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](mailto:film.office@nt.gov.au) and the NTFO will endeavour to publish it in our next newsletter or newsflash.

## OPPORTUNITIES

### Serious Games

Screen Australia and ABC TV have partnered in an initiative to support the development of three games and the production of one game.

Serious Games aims to provide a powerful opportunity for media professionals to develop and produce a serious game. This is a Talent Escalator Initiative.

Screen Australia and ABC TV are looking for game ideas that address issues in the fields of society and culture, health, relationships, history, science, politics or the environment. The idea will explore one of these topics in an imaginative, creative, entertaining and innovative way.

For further information on Serious Games and to download the guidelines and application form [click here](#). Applications close **5:00pm Friday 24 April 2009**.

### Nominations Now Open for the Tudawali Award

Nominations are now open for the Tudawali Award which recognises the significant contribution of an individual to the promotion of Indigenous culture through film and television. The Tudawali Award is named in honour of Robert Tudawali who was born on Melville Island in 1930. Robert worked for the air force and army during the Second World War and after the war he became the world's first Aboriginal film star. Robert starred in the Australian classic *Jedda*, and the feature film *Dust in the Sun*. Robert spent the last years of his life as a spokesman for the Gurindji people at Wave Hill, who were fighting for land rights and better conditions.

The recipient of the Tudawali Award will receive \$7 000 in prize money and a Tokampini (bird) sculpture by Samuel Poantimului, Robert's nephew.

The award will be judged by previous recipients; Freda Glynn, Lester Bostock and Dot West, and will be presented on Thursday 7 May 2009 at the opening night of the Message Sticks Film Festival.

For further information on nominating an individual for the Tudawali Award [click here](#). Nominations close **Thursday 30 April 2009**.

### Call for entries – Melbourne Underground Film Festival

The Melbourne Underground Film Festival (MUFF) is calling for entries for their 10<sup>th</sup> festival. For more information and to register for the MUFF [click here](#). Entries close **Friday 15 May 2009**.

### New Deadline for the Screen Australia Enterprise Program

Screen Australia has brought forward the next round of the Enterprise program to **Friday 29 May 2009** due to the strong response received to the first round of expressions of interest.

For further information on the Screen Australia Enterprise Program [click here](#).

### **Call for entries – Sydney Underground Film Festival**

The Sydney Underground Film Festival (SUFF) is calling for entries after a hugely successful 2008 festival that saw over 100 outstanding films being screened.

The SUFF is being held from Thursday 10 September 2009 to Sunday 13 September 2009.

For more information on the SUFF [click here](#). Entries close **Friday 29 May 2009**.

### **Harmony Film Festival**

The Harmony Film Festival is calling for applications for its 2009 festival. The theme for 2009 is “courage”. For further information on the Harmony Film Festival [click here](#). Entries close **Friday 7 August 2009**.

## **LATEST NTFO FUNDING DECISIONS**

### **Industry Screen Culture Funding**

Footprint Films Pty Ltd – Special Screening – *Samson & Delilah* - \$10 000

### **Strategic Initiative Funding**

Top End Aboriginal Bush Broadcasting Association – *Yarning Up 2* - \$80 000

Footprint Films – Additional Funding – *Samson & Delilah* - \$7 200

## **SCREEN AUSTRALIA FUNDING**

<b>Funding Type</b>	<b>Closing Date</b>
Enterprise Program	29 May 2009
Children’s Television	12 June 2009
Domestic and International Documentary Programs	12 June 2009
Feature Films Not Eligible for the Producer Offset	12 June 2009
Low-budget Television Drama Production	12 June 2009
Television Drama Production	12 June 2009
Special Documentary Program	2 October 2009
Innovation Program	Anytime
Short Animation Production	Anytime
Single Project Development	Anytime
The National Documentary Program	Anytime

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