



MEDIA RELEASE

Eight Screen Projects Receive Support

Northern Territory Film Office director Penelope McDonald today announced development funding totalling \$33,800 for eight film projects across the Northern Territory under the November 2005 Round of the Screen Grants Program.

The funding is awarded through a process of peer assessment. The recently appointed Screen Grants Advisory Panel comprises Darwin based producer Mr Richard Davis and CAAMA CEO Priscilla Collins, with Ms McDonald as chairperson.

“The range and calibre of the projects being developed in the Territory reflect the variety of Territory stories the industry is interested in telling,” Ms McDonald said.

“Funding has gone to developing four terrific documentaries, as well as several drama films.

“Musical legend Warren Williams is the focus of one of the documentaries, to be produced by renowned Alice Springs film-maker Chris Tangey.

“Another documentary supported for development is about relationships between Macassans and Yolgnu, and is to be developed by artist Andrish Saint-Claire and film maker Mike Sweet.

“CAAMA productions has put together an award-winning team, in Darwin based writers and directors Danielle Maclean and Steven McGregor to develop a documentary about children and missionaries fleeing Croker Island during World War II.

“I congratulate all funding recipients and thank Mr Davis and Ms Collins for their work in assessing such a competitive field of applicants.”

A further five projects have been asked for additional information and will be considered at an additional meeting of the Panel early in 2006.

A full list including a summary of projects is attached.

Ends

Media Note _ For more information contact Penelope McDonald on 8951 1163

Issued: 8.30am Monday, 23 January 2006

Silt **\$4,500**

Dena Curtis

Funding for a script development.

After a night out with her best friend Shaynaya, Amber is found lying in a pool of blood. All of the evidence leads to Amber's ex-boyfriend Jono, but it is only when Jono is in custody that they discover he is innocent.

Croker Island Exodus **\$4,500**

CAAMA Productions

Funding for documentary development.

95 children and their missionaries journeyed from Croker Island to Sydney in the second World War. This is a film about survival, and a story about courage and hope.

The Inkgata's Pepa **\$4,500**

Shayne Mulcahy

Funding for documentary development.

Tells the story of Carl Strehlow, frontier intellectual, and his unknown Australian masterpiece. He bridged the 19th century cultural gap by creating "The Aranda and Loritja of CA" and translating the bible into Aranda.

Film and Television Association of the Northern Territory (FATANT) \$3,000

Funding for Operations and activity for Jan – June 2005.

FATANT is an industry association that promotes the skills and resources of its members and seeks to develop independent film and television industry infrastructure in the Territory. Support offered towards administration and membership development

A Silence Not Like Sand **\$3,800**

Sandra Thibodeaux

Funding for script development.

1976. A family beachside holiday as seen through the eyes of a 12-year-old, Jane, with rollerskating, boyfriends and the growing tensions between childhood and adolescence to contend with.

The Last Macassan **\$4,500**

Sweet As Productions

Funding for documentary development.

An inspiring exploration of the connection between the Macassans and the Yolgnu. Mansur from Sulawesi travels in the footsteps of his grandfather, to meet the indigenous Australians who call him 'brother', and whose culture was changed forever by their interaction with the Macassans.

Desert Phoenix **\$4,500**

Chris Tangey

A contemporary journey with Warren H Williams, from violence and substance abuse, to an against all odds partnership with bush music icon, John Williamson, and the top of the Australian music industry.

Mitch and Me **\$4,500**

Anthony Holt

Funding for script development.

Needing to have it out with God once and for all, Damon searches for Him at the one place where he's heard He exists - a roadside truck stop in the outback.