



## MEDIA RELEASE

### Funding Support An Essential Ingredient For The Walkabout Chef

A television program featuring the “walkabout chef” Steve Sunk is a step closer to hitting the small screen after receiving conditional funding from the NT Film Office.

NT Film Office director Penelope McDonald said Simon Says Television (SSTV) would receive \$4500 once it receives enough financial support from other sources to enable the production of a pilot program.

Ms McDonald said three other production companies gained funding after the Screen Grants Advisory Panel met recently to assess funding applications.

They are *Kanyini*, a documentary about Indigenous Australian leader Bob Randall and *Shadows of Uluru*, a documentary by acclaimed film producer David Curl.

Katherine Regional Arts is also being supported to post produce *Katherine Stories*, a documentary reflecting the cultural strength and diversity of Katherine.

“The recently appointed Screen Grants Advisory Panel continues to consider an increasing range of excellent and interesting projects from the Territory,” Ms McDonald said.

“I congratulate all funding recipients and panel members for their work in assessing such a competitive field of applicants.”

Mr Sunk is a master chef and senior lecturer at Charles Darwin University who well known throughout the Territory for his regular teaching trips to remote communities. He quickly became known as the “walkabout chef”.

The Aboriginal word for “hunting gathering cooking” is walalma, known in many local Indigenous languages.

The pilot and series title is “Walkabout Chef ...Walalma”.

The program is designed to appeal to non-Indigenous and Indigenous audiences alike as the name reflects.

Mr Sunk teaches locals of all ages at each community ways of mixing wild foods like kangaroo, buffalo, seeds, berries with everyday staples for a nutritional and balanced diet.

“This series will be an insight into everyday Aboriginal lifestyle too few people have seen, traditional life on traditional lands,” Mr Sunk said.

“Each episode will be filmed in a different region of the Northern Territory to capture the variety of foods, landscapes and environments.”

Sydney-based television director Ross Gallen is working together with Mr Sunk and Simon Says Television hopes to one day get the program on air.

Mr Gallen said he has not felt so strongly about the content and vision of a television show during his 20 years involved in the film and television industry.

“Not only is the health and educational component of the show worthy of making good television but so too is the entertainment factor,” Mr Gallen said.

“Steve can be an in your face kind of guy and the program will challenge him and our featured guests to live and survive a traditional Aboriginal lifestyle.”

Ends

**Media Note \_ For more information contact Penelope McDonald on 8951 1163, Steve Sunk on 8988 1534 or Ross Gallen on 0400 400 494.**

Issued: 4pm Monday, 27 March 2006



**ATTACHMENT TO NT FILM OFFICE MEDIA RELEASE**

**List Of The Four Screen Projects To Receive NT Film Office Support**

**Kanyini** **\$2,000**

**Reverb Film – Melanie Hogan and Bob Randall**

Funding for documentary post production.

A tale of Indigenous wisdom clashing against European materialist notions of progress, Kanyini is not only the story of one man and his people, but the story of all indigenous peoples around the world.

**Walkabout Chef** **\$4,500**

**Simon Says Television**

Funding for production of pilot for television series.

Take a walk on the wild side with a couple of white fellas as they explore the true gritty flavours of the Northern Territory through the indigenous peoples and their ancient lands and ways.

**Katherine Stories** **\$1,500**

**Katherine Regional Arts**

Funding for documentary post production

Katherine stories will reflect the cultural diversity and strength of the Katherine Region.

**Shadows of Uluru** **\$15,000**

**David Curl Pty Ltd**

Funding for documentary post production.

The power and majesty of Uluru, a location unlike any other on earth.