



MEDIA RELEASE

NTFO Congratulates Tony Collins on AIDC Triumph

NT Film Office director Penelope McDonald has congratulated Darwin filmmaker Tony Collins, who recently shared top honours at the Australian International Documentary Conference (AIDC) in Adelaide.

Mr Collins' biographical documentary about well known Territory performer George Rrurrambu won \$10,000 at the AIDC MeetMarket "pitching" competition, with one of the seven other finalists also walking away with \$10,000.

The competition was judged last week by Australia's ABC and UK's Channel 4 commissioning editors.

Ms McDonald said the money would further support the documentary's journey to the small screen.

"Tony presented this documentary about the man who used to front the Warumpi Band, who has been called the black Mick Jagger, to a large and critical audience to resounding applause," Ms McDonald said.

"National and international audiences are interested in stories from the Northern Territory and when these films are shown they promote the Territory around Australia and the world.

"The NTFO has contributed more than \$16,000 towards Tony's project including a \$1500 Screen Grant to fund his trip to Adelaide and his success is an indication of a great future for this documentary and other Territory developed films."

Ms McDonald said this was the third year the NT Government, through the NTFO, had offered support to the screen industry to travel to the AIDC through the Screen Grants Program.

Mr Collins thanked the NTFO for contributing towards his project's current level of success.

"With the help of the NTFO and Australian Film Commission I have been able to develop a first draft script for *Rrurrambu* and now I need to get it to a second draft and assemble a creative team to further the project," Mr Collins said.

"Not only is the \$10,000 a welcome financial reward but sharing top prize at the pitching competition creates exposure for the project and the potential of international pre-sales."

Mr Collins said that while the focus of the documentary would be on George Rrurrambu it was generally about the triumph of Aboriginal culture.

"George grew up during the mission era and the Warumpi Band's music basically became the soundtrack to the Aboriginal Land Rights movement and at the height of their success he became engulfed by the worst excesses of the rock n' roll lifestyle," Mr Collins said.

“But by returning to his traditional lands and traditional culture he was able to turn his life around and become the role model he is currently recognised as being.

“The documentary highlights the resilience of Aboriginal people and shows that Aboriginal culture is alive and functioning and this documentary provides the world with an inside glimpse of that culture.”

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Media Note – For more information contact Penelope McDonald on 8951 1163 or Tony Collins on 0407 729 681

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