

**Media Release: 30.10.2007**  
**Workshop to Boost Development of Territory Films**

Territorians interested in developing feature film scripts will have the opportunity to attend a 2 day script development workshop, *Lo Budget Hi Quality*, being held in Darwin on Sunday, 18 November to Monday, 19 November 2007.

Northern Territory Film Office (NTFO) Director Penelope McDonald said NTFO has joined forces with the UK based company Arista Development and Northern Territory Writers' Centre to inject some serious script development skills into the Territory screen industry.

"*Lo Budget Hi Quality* offers Territorians a unique opportunity to access international expertise in developing features," Ms McDonald said.

"The workshop will be jam packed with essential information for Territorians writing or developing low budget films, with detailed information on how a low budget approach will affect script development.

"In addition to offering a fresh approach to the craft of storytelling for film and television, the workshop will also focus on how to make your Territory story distinctive to the public, festivals and the marketplace, which really assists in getting a film made.

"If you are serious about developing a Territory based feature, mark the Arista Development workshop in your calendar as must attend.

"Often tourists first hear about the Territory through movies, so we are looking forward to Territory developed feature films being shown around the world."

UK based Stephen Cleary, former Head of Development at British Screen and Director of Arista Development will be coming to Darwin for the workshop, after running workshops in Sydney, Melbourne, Hobart and Adelaide.

Arista Development was founded in 1996, and has been recognised as a Centre of Excellence by the Media Program of the European Union.

It is also Europe's largest private development agency working with filmmakers and financing and development institutions.

Stephen Cleary ghost wrote the autobiography of Nina Simone, developed over 50 produced features including; *Rob Roy*, *Before The Rain*, *The Escapist*, *Land and Freedom*, *The Killer Tongue*, *Photographing Fairies*, *The Darkest Light* and *The Governess*. He produced his first feature, *New Years' Day in 2000*, and co produced *Goodbye Charlie Bright* the same year.

Pre registration of attendance at the Arista Development workshop is essential – either call 89511162 or email [film.office@nt.gov.au](mailto:film.office@nt.gov.au) by COB Friday, 9 November 2007.

Ends

**Media Note – For more information contact Penelope McDonald on 8951 1163.**

Issued: 1.30pm Tuesday, 30 October 2007