

Media Release:

24.4.08

Australian Film and Television Incentives

The Producer of iconic Australian films such as *Mad Max Beyond Thunderdome* and *Young Einstein*, Antonia Barnard will be addressing Territory based filmmakers about generous new incentives for Australian film and television productions.

The seminars, co-hosted by the Northern Territory Film Office (NTFO) and the Film Finance Corporation (FFC), will be held in Alice Springs 4-7pm on Wednesday 30 April 2008 and in Darwin 4-7pm on Thursday 1 May 2008.

NTFO Director Penelope McDonald said the seminars will assist Territory based producers and production companies in understanding how to access the new incentives offered by the Australian Government.

“The Australian Screen Production Incentive legislation was enacted in September 2007, and provides more than \$280 million over the next four years for Australian film and television productions as well as a location offset to entice large budget offshore productions to film in Australia,” Ms McDonald said.

“This new incentive scheme is the greatest reform to Australian Government film financing in the last 25 years and will not only impact the film and television industry Australia wide but also the local industry here in the Territory.

“The information sessions held in Alice Springs and Darwin aims to provide local filmmakers a greater understanding of new ways of financing their productions.”

“Whether it’s a feature film, telemovies, series, animated series, documentaries or short form animations, these offsets will assist financially as well as help to attract private investment and potentially increase their equity in productions.

The Australian Screen Production Incentives include:

- Producer Offset - provides a 40 per cent rebate to producers of Australian films and a 20 per cent rebate for the production of other media;
- Location Offset - provides a 15 per cent rebate to attract large-budget overseas film and television productions to Australia; and
- Post Digital Vision Offset - provides a 15 per cent rebate on post, digital and visual effects production work of over \$5 million regardless of where a screen project has been shot.

The sessions will be run by Antonia Barnard, Manager, Producer Offset at the FFC and Michele McDonald, Head of Documentary Division, Producer Offset at the FFC.

“These seminars will be packed with practical advice on how to use the new producer offset as part of a finance plan for screen productions,” Ms McDonald said.

“Topics covered include the basis of the Producer Offset and how it works with other Government agencies at both State and Federal levels, a summary of the key definitions in the legislation, eligibility and the application process.

“Our guest speakers will also be available for a limited number of one-on-one meetings with filmmakers to discuss how the Producer Offset can directly benefit them.”

To request a one-on-one meeting and to RSVP to the seminars please contact the NTFO on 8952 5222 or email kira.tapps@nt.gov.au.

Alice Springs:

Date: Wednesday 30 April 2008

Time: 4:00pm to 7:00pm

Venue: Witchetty's, Alice Springs Cultural Precinct, Larapinta Drive

RVSP: Close of Business Monday 28 April 2008

Darwin:

Date: Thursday 1 May 2008

Time: 4:00pm to 7:00pm

Venue: Arts NT Conference Room, Level 1, AXA Building, 9 -11 Cavenagh Street (behind the Roma Bar)

RSVP: Close of Business Tuesday 29 April 2008

Ends

Media Note – for more information contact Penelope McDonald on 0410 695 272

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