

Media Release:

04.06.08

Exciting Opportunity for Emerging Territory Filmmakers to work on *Balibo* feature

The Northern Territory Film Office (NTFO) announced today an opportunity for three emerging Territory filmmakers to work alongside writer/director Robert Connolly and producer John Maynard on the upcoming Arenafilm *Balibo*.

NTFO Director Penelope McDonald said the attachments would be placed in one of three departments; production, direction and camera and would need to be available to work in Darwin during the scheduled three week shoot.

"The attachments are open to all Territorians and are a fantastic opportunity for Territory filmmakers to really develop their skills and gain experience working with a really professional production company," Ms McDonald said.

"The production team is also looking for additional support crew to assist in the production office and art department."

Balibo is based on the deaths of five Australian based television journalists in Timor-Leste in 1975 and the subsequent investigations by Australian journalist, Mr Roger East, played by Anthony LaPaglia.

"It is terrific that the producers and director have chosen to locate the Australian part of the *Balibo* shoot in Darwin," Ms McDonald said.

"*Balibo* will feature a number of local Australian Timorese and Indonesian actors and extras, with filming commencing in Darwin on Monday 30 June for a three week shoot, followed by a four week stint in Timor-Leste, culminating in a final week filming in Darwin."

The Northern Territory Government provided \$50,000 in funding to secure the production to the Territory and provide assistance with the additional costs of transporting and accommodating the film crew in Darwin.

"Attracting and supporting a feature film such as *Balibo* to the Territory results in significant employment and local expenditure outcomes that benefit the Territory economy and it is a direct result of the activities of the NTFO that *Balibo* is coming to Darwin," Ms McDonald said.

"For the development of the Territory's local industry these kinds of opportunities are really important and I would like to thank John Maynard, Robert Connolly and Arenafilm's line producer Sarah Shaw for their enthusiasm in making these attachments possible."

The Northern Territory Government is providing additional support with logistics through the Northern Territory Government Inter Agency Film Taskforce.

Applications close COB Friday 6 June, for further detail please contact the Northern Territory Film Office on 8952 5222

Media Note – for more information contact Penelope McDonald on 0410 695 272 or John Maynard on 02 9319 7011

Issued: 9.30am Wednesday, 4 June 2007