

Media Release:

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***Balibo* Commences Filming in Darwin**

Territorians are back in the spotlight again with filming for the political thriller *Balibo*, starring Anthony LaPaglia, commencing in Darwin today.

Northern Territory Film Office (NTFO) Director Penelope McDonald said a number of locals would be appearing as extras on the film, as well as three local filmmakers assisting behind the scenes.

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

"The filming of *Balibo* in the Northern Territory is not only providing employment opportunities, but during production will inject close to \$1 million dollars into local businesses and the economy.

"Additionally once the film is released for viewing it will promote Darwin as a great place to visit and also promote the Northern Territory as an excellent filming location.

"We are extremely pleased that the *Balibo* production, through Arenafilm, is using the Territory as their primary location for filming and we are delighted with the large number of Territorians who are working on the film set.

"Many of the extras come from the local Timorese and Indonesian communities, and will appear in scenes to be filmed at locations such as Stokes Hill Wharf and Litchfield National Park.

"*Balibo* is based on the deaths of five Australian based journalists in Timor-Leste in 1975, and the subsequent investigation by Australian journalist Roger East who was enticed to Timor by the young José Ramos Horta."

The *Balibo* cast includes LaPaglia (*Without a Trace*), up and coming Guatemalan actor Oscar Isaac (*The Nativity Story*), Nathan Phillips (*Wolf Creek*), Gyton Grantley (*Underbelly*) and Damon Gameau (*The Tracker*).

Ms McDonald said that filming for *Balibo* will take place for three weeks in Darwin followed by a four week stint in Timor-Leste before returning to Darwin for the final week of filming.

"The hard work of the NTFO to attract and support feature films such as *Balibo* has really paid off, and the results are a boost in employment, local expenditure and opportunities for the Territory."

Ends

**Media Note – for more information contact Penelope McDonald on 0410 695 272
There is an opportunity for media to attend the film set today at 1pm. The first set has been designed as journalist Roger East's house and is located at 137 Smith Street, Darwin.**

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