

Media Release:

30.09.08

Territory Film Win at the Australian Directors Guild Awards

A documentary about a young Indigenous boy from Arnhem Land preparing for an initiation ceremony has been awarded the 2008 Best Direction in a Documentary Feature at the Australian Directors Guild Awards.

Northern Territory Film Office director, Penelope McDonald said the NTFO supported the making of *In My Father's Country*, directed by Tom Murray through the Screen Grants Program.

"It is terrific to see another documentary made in the Territory by Tom Murray receiving accolades," Ms McDonald said.

"The Yolgnu language film received a \$6,000 grant to assist linguist Ms Merrkiyawuy Ganambarr in developing subtitling skills for film work."

Ms Ganambarr said it was a great opportunity to work alongside director Tom Murray.

"It was exciting for me as I had to work closely with the director and also had the opportunity of seeing the film come together in the editing process," Ms Ganambarr said.

"As more and more films are now being made in Arnhem Land this experience can be useful in the future both to me and my community."

In My Father's Country was made in collaboration with the Dhuruputjpi and Gangan communities of Blue Mud Bay, North East Arnhem Land and offers a rare insight of one boy's passage into becoming a man.

Director Tom Murray also co-directed the award winning documentary *Dhakiya versus the King* which was also filmed in the Northern Territory.

For more information on the Northern Territory Film Office go to www.ntfilm.com.au/ or for more information on the Australian Directors Guild Awards go to www.adg.org.au

Ends

Media Note – for more information contact Penelope McDonald on 8952 5222

Issued: 3.45pm Tuesday, 30 September 2008