

Media Release:

09.03.09

## Feature Film Projects Chosen for Development

The Northern Territory Film Office (NTFO) has announced the five Territory feature films, and three interstate feature film projects that will be developed through IGNITE, a new initiative aimed at nurturing the development of feature films in the Territory.

Returning from the first residential week long workshop last Friday, 6 March 2009 at the picturesque West MacDonnell Ranges in Central Australia, NTFO Director Penelope McDonald said the IGNITE experience was intense and of great benefit for all the scripts and writers involved.

“We had five Territory projects that involved six writers, in addition to two writers from Tasmania and a team from South Australia,” Ms McDonald said.

“The IGNITE initiative will result in fast tracking screenplay from initial ideas to draft scripts. IGNITE will see more home grown features being realised.

“Each Territory project will receive a \$10 000 writing grant from the Northern Territory Government and projects from South Australia and Tasmania will receive a \$10 000 grant or investment from the relevant State Screen Agency to support the writer through the process of writing the draft.”

The projects chosen for the IGNITE initiative include:

- *Reffo Now* – Andrzej Zukowski (Northern Territory)
- *The Sandbar Man* – Trevor Shiell (Northern Territory)
- *Carnage* – Steven McGregor (Northern Territory)
- *Captive Lives/Unfallen Rain* – Tom E Lewis and Fleur Parry (Northern Territory)
- *I am Daisy* – Jane Hampson (Northern Territory)
- *The Cyclone Engine* – Zane Pinner (Tasmania)
- *The Bridge That Wasn't There* – Lucien Simon (Tasmania)
- *Fatherland* – Michael Clarkin and David Haddin (South Australia)

IGNITE aims to accelerate feature development by mixing two high intensity residential workshops with distance learning and online consultation. IGNITE is a partnership between the NTFO and acclaimed script development company Eurista Development.

The first IGNITE workshop was lead by acclaimed international story consultant Simon van der Borgh whose screenwriting credits include; *The Alchemist of Happiness*, *Kidulthood* and *In Tranzit*.

Screen Australia had provided financial support to the initiative.

Ends

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

Image – Workshop participants with tutor Simon van der Borgh and NTFO Director Penelope McDonald

Back Row LR: Simon van der Borgh (Tutor), Andrzej Zukowski, Zane Pinner, Steven McGregor, Michael Clarkin. Middle Row LR: David Haddin, Jane Hampson, Fleur Parry, Penelope McDonald (NTFO Director). Front Row LR: Lucien Simon, Tom E. Lewis, Trevor Shiell.

Issued: 9am Monday, 9 March 2009