

Media Release:

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***Samson & Delilah* to Premiere in Alice Springs**

Territory based Indigenous director Warwick Thornton's first feature film *Samson & Delilah* will have its Territory premiere at the Alice Springs Telegraph Station on Friday 17 April 2009, before the film is released nationally in cinemas on Thursday 7 May 2009.

Samson & Delilah, which recently won the Audience Award for Best Feature Film at the BigPond Adelaide Film Festival, tells the story of two Aboriginal teenagers in a remote community and features local Alice Springs teenagers Marissa Gibson and Rowan McNamara.

Northern Territory Film Office Director Penelope McDonald said the premiere of *Samson & Delilah* is free and open to the public, and encourages everyone to come along and see a fantastic home grown film.

"*Samson & Delilah* was filmed on location in and around Alice Springs in 2008 and features a number of Territorians on camera and behind the scenes," Ms McDonald said.

"The NTFO is supporting the Alice Springs premiere through the Screen Grants Funding Program, in addition to the \$20 000 grant to assist with the post-production costs."

Funding assistance for the film was also provided by BigPond Adelaide Film Festival, Screen Australia, New South Wales Film and Television Office and the Australian Broadcasting Corporation.

The premiere is an alcohol free event, food will be on sale on the night and patrons are invited to bring their own chair or blanket and picnic. Gates open at 5.30pm and the film commences at 7.15pm.

"A live concert will take place from 6.15pm featuring local bands including the Desert Mulga Band, who are also featured in the film," Ms McDonald said.

"Volunteers are needed on the night to assist with setting up, car park marshalling and ushering. If anyone is interested please contact Kieran Sanderson from Arts NT on 8951 1190."

Ms McDonald said the NTFO has provided an \$80 000 grant towards another Territory film project, *Yarning Up 2*, which is set to commence production next week, Tuesday 14 April 2009.

"The grant was provided through the Northern Territory Government's Screen Grants Funding Program and will assist towards the production of four short documentaries from remote Top End communities," Ms McDonald said.

"The documentaries chosen for production are *Nundhirribala's Dream* by Ella Geia from Numbulwar, *One Leader, Ten Wives* by Malcolm Wilson from Milikapiti, *The Barngurnn Story* by Queenie and Marie Brennan from Barunga and *The Boss for his Country* by Revonna Urban from Beswick."

Ends

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

Image – *Samson & Delilah* Director Warwick Thornton with Marissa Gibson 'Delilah' and Rowan McNamara (Samson)

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