

**Media Release:**

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## **Feature Film to Premiere in Darwin**

The feature film *Balibo* is set to have a Territory premiere, with a screening at the Deckchair Cinema on Monday, 10 August 2009.

Northern Territory Film Office (NTFO) director Penelope McDonald said the premiere will be attended by Australian actor Anthony LaPaglia, producer John Maynard and director Robert Connolly, as well as many of the local actors and crew who were involved with the filming.

"*Balibo* tells the story on the Indonesian invasion of Timor-Leste focussing on the deaths of the five Australian journalists at Balibo and the death of another Australian journalist, Roger East, played by Australian actor Anthony LaPaglia," Ms McDonald said.

"The filming took place in Darwin and Timor-Leste in July and August 2008."

Ms McDonald said the NTFO had a key role in securing the filming of *Balibo* to the Territory, negotiating with the production company Arenafilm and offering assistance throughout the shoot.

"Support was provided through the Northern Territory Government Inter Agency Film Taskforce, in addition to financial support of \$50 000 towards the production from the NTFO Screen Grants Program and Arts NT," she said.

"An estimated \$900 000 of the total \$4.7m budget was spent in Darwin with 40 Territorian crew engaged and more than 100 actors and extras for the film coming from local Timorese and Indonesian communities."

"NTFO also secured six positions for emerging Territory filmmakers to work alongside writer/director Robert Connolly and producer John Maynard - these roles covered production, direction and camera and were open to all Territory filmmakers by application."

Ms McDonald said the Territory scenes included filming at several local locations that represented Timorese locations, including Litchfield National Park, George Brown Darwin Botanic Gardens and Perkins Shipping Wharf.

"Using Territory locations for the film will serve to promote Darwin and the Northern Territory as a great place to visit as well as being an excellent filming location, encouraging more filmmakers to film in the Territory."

"The NTFO continues to play a pivotal role in increasing filming in the Northern Territory, both by local companies, and companies that come to film in the Northern Territory."

*Balibo* opens nationally on 13 August 2009.

Ends

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

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