

**Media Release:**

**09.06.11**

## **2011 Bob Plasto Fellowship Awarded**

Two Territory filmmakers have been jointly awarded the Northern Territory Government's 2011 Bob Plasto Fellowship sharing in the \$20,000 funding to support their professional development as producers.

Northern Territory Film Office Director Penelope McDonald congratulated Darwin based filmmaker Simon Manzie and Alice Springs based filmmaker Alex Kelly who have received \$10,000 each.

"Simon Manzie grew up in Darwin and worked as a cameraman overseas before returning to the Territory and establishing the production company Simon Says Television in 2000," Ms McDonald said.

"The Bob Plasto Fellowship will support Simon in refining and developing his skills in developing and producing factual programs that bring Territory stories to the screen, through working with several mentors and program developers.

"Alex Kelly has received recognition as a theatre producer for her involvement on the Big hART production *Ngapartji Ngapartji* which she worked on for six years.

"Alex intends on using the Bob Plasto Fellowship towards development of her skills as a producer through internships with several Melbourne based production companies, as well as developing several documentary programs to be made in Alice Springs."

Ms McDonald said the Bob Plasto Fellowship was launched in 2008 to honour the achievements of Territorians in the screen industry and was named in honour of the late Bob Plasto who made 75 documentaries in his distinguished career.

"Previous recipients include Indigenous Territory filmmaker Allan Collins ACS who received \$20,000 in 2010 to aid him in the research and development of his debut feature film *4 Boyz*," Ms McDonald said.

"Allan is an award-winning cinematographer who won an Australian Film Institute (AFI) Award for his work on the film *Beneath Clouds*.

"In 2009 the Bob Plasto Fellowship was awarded to writers Merrill Bray and Eleanor Hogan. Merrill was supported to attend a year-long course at the Australian Film, Television and Radio School while Eleanor worked with a script developer to develop the feature film *Stupid Old Love*."

Ends

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

**Images – 2011 recipient Simon Manzie and 2010 recipient Allan Collins**

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