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STAGE TO SCREEN ADAPTATION OF PATRICIA CORNELIUS' *LOVE*
CATRIONA MCKENZIE & CAROLYN JOHNSON
- DOING IT DIFFERENTLY -

Minister for Innovation and Skills **David Pisoni** today announced South Australian producer of Oscar®-nominated *Tanna*, **Carolyn Johnson**, and multi-award winning director **Catriona McKenzie** as the recipients of the inaugural **Doing It Differently** development initiative for their screen adaptation of **Patricia Cornelius'** award winning play, *LOVE*.

The Doing It Differently initiative was introduced to encourage innovation in film production methods, especially the development of family-friendly approaches that support parents and carers working in the screen industry.

“This initiative not only cements the State Government’s commitment to promoting innovation across the screen sector, but also encourages diversity in the industry by encouraging film creatives of all backgrounds to develop new methods that support flexible ways of film production,” Minister Pisoni said.

“The creative team of Carolyn Johnson and Catriona McKenzie and their collaborators have an excellent track record, and are worthy recipients of this inaugural initiative. I look forward to seeing what they produce.”

Producer Carolyn Johnson (Oscar®-nominated *Tanna*, *A Sense of Self*, *The Last Goldfish*, *Son of a Lion*) together with Director Catriona McKenzie, known for Berlin Film Festival award-winning *Satellite Boy* and celebrated for her work on *Dance Academy*, *The Circuit*, *Kiki and Kitty*, *Redfern Now*, *The Gods of Wheat Street*, have proposed a bespoke and flexible methodology to adapt *LOVE*.

The approach, which draws on Johnson’s documentary background, will allow for flexible production scheduling, blurred stages of production and part-time working hours for a core crew of highly experienced Heads of Department.

Producer Carolyn Johnson said “We want to build creative thinking time into the whole production process. With flexible hours and a process tailored to the particular team and project, we can nurture creativity as well as helping us to integrate our multi-project careers with the varied demands of life.”

Director Catriona McKenzie said “We will take the existing beloved text of Patricia Cornelius' play *LOVE*, and dynamically develop it for the big screen. Using the camera as a story-finding tool and actors as collaborators, we are excited to make a film with a narrative heart that touches the zeitgeist.”

CEO of the South Australian Film Corporation Courtney Gibson said the response to Doing it Differently had been overwhelming, after applicants were asked to propose screen projects with innovative production methodologies.

“We are really looking forward to seeing how Carolyn and Catriona, in consort with Patricia, develop not just a well-crafted stage-to-screen adaptation but also an innovative and groundbreaking methodology,” she said.

The Doing It Differently development and production initiative was one of a range of responses by the SAFC to the findings of the [Raising Films Australia Screen Industry Survey](#), conducted by Women in Film and Television NSW (WIFT) and the University of Technology, Sydney, highlighting the challenges of progressing in the screen industry while being a carer.

The initiative is intended to develop and ultimately provide production investment towards projects that break the mould in terms of production methodology.

A landmark example of Doing It Differently is *52 Tuesdays*, which six years ago the SAFC enabled through development, financing and production.

Adelaide-based Closer Productions developed a unique production methodology: by shooting only every Tuesday, for a whole year, Closer created a flexible arrangement that allowed them to accommodate their team members’ varying schedules and other commitments. *52 Tuesdays* became a calling card film for Closer, producer Bec Summerton and director Sophie Hyde, winning the Crystal Bear at Berlin and earning Hyde the Best Director World Cinema at Sundance. It was also the screen debut of Tilda Cobham-Hervey, star of *Hotel Mumbai*.

ABOUT LOVE

Winner of the 2006 AWGIE for Best Stage Play and the 2003 Wal Cherry Award for Best Australian Play, *LOVE* is a searing exploration of love and addiction from celebrated Australian playwright Patricia Cornelius. Tanya, Annie and Lorenzo are on the bottom of the heap. They’re young but already the youth has been wrung out of them. They’ve been abused, they’re abusive, and they’re difficult to like, let alone to love. But it is love in all its distorted and mutated forms that holds them together, at least for a while.

The **Raising Films Australia Screen Industry Survey** can be downloaded at <https://www.wiftaustralia.org.au/surveyreport>

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