



South Australian Film Corporation



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LA-based Nest to supercharge careers of SA screen makers

Los Angeles: Premier of South Australia, the Hon Steven Marshall today announced a new international opportunity to supercharge the careers of South Australian producers, directors and writers in the heart of Hollywood. Australians in Film (AiF), the South Australian Film Corporation (SAFC) and the internationally acclaimed South Australian winery Bird in Hand have joined forces to create **The Bird in Hand Nest**, a new two-part initiative offering both a bespoke **Residency** and an SA **workspace** at Australians in Film's LA base, Charlie's, on the Raleigh Studios' lot, the oldest working studio in Hollywood.

AiF and the SAFC will curate a custom-made residency program for the successful applicant of **The Bird in Hand Nest Residency** incorporating tailored mentoring, industry networking opportunities and access to AiF's industry program. The eight-week residency is supported by airfares and a living allowance.

In addition to the Residency, **The Bird in Hand Nest, Anytime** will allow for access to a workspace at Charlie's. Open to all SA creatives all year round, it will provide an invaluable Hollywood base to work from while doing business in LA.

The announcement was made during Premier Marshall's trade mission focused on the development and promotion of the screen industry, and timed with the record success of Australian films at the prestigious Sundance Film Festival where four of the historic six features to premiere at Sundance were funded by both the SAFC and the Adelaide Film Festival Fund.

South Australian Premier Steven Marshall said: "This is an exciting opportunity which will help supercharge the careers of South Australia's next generation of producers, directors and writers. Hollywood oozes creative flair, and I congratulate all parties involved in bringing this program to fruition.

President of AiF, Kate Marks said: "Charlie's has become an unofficial Australian creative embassy for Australian screen professionals visiting and working with the US and we are delighted that South Australians will have the opportunity to be part of this community. We look forward to working with the SAFC on this exciting new program and are immensely grateful to the wonderful generosity of Andrew Nugent and his entire Bird in Hand team."

Founder of Bird in Hand, Andrew Nugent said: "'We are delighted to help support young creative South Australians to showcase their talents on the international stage.'

The announcement was made from a special event at Charlie's, hosted by SAFC and AiF, and ahead of the Premier's trade mission program of high-level film production studio and industry meetings, attendance at the G'Day LA Gala event, and featured premiere screening of Grant Sputore's *I Am Mother* only days after the film's world premiere at Sundance. *I Am Mother* was shot at Adelaide Studios and stars two-time Oscar®-winner Hilary Swank and Golden Globe® nominated Rose Byrne.

Applications for The Bird in Hand Nest Residency open next week at <https://www.safilm.com.au>

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BACKGROUND

Bird in Hand

Bird in Hand is a world-renowned producer of fine wine that celebrates place and passion not only through expert vinification but also through food, art, and cultural events. Bird in Hand has received great support from the Australian community over the years and the 'Bird in Hand Foundation', launched in early 2013, is a way to contribute to their wellbeing by giving back to those young talented individuals. Bird in Hand was the title partner for the 10th Heath Ledger Scholarship in 2018, operated by Australians in Film for the Ledger family.

www.birdinhand.com.au

Charlie's / Australians in Film

Charlie's is a bespoke hub for the Australian filmmaking community in Los Angeles, offering a unique creative workspace for AiF industry members to conduct business, collaborate and network. Named after Charlie Chaplin and located at the historic Raleigh Studios, in the heart of Hollywood where Chaplin and Douglas Fairbanks made films and frequently played cards, 'Charlie's' has been co-funded by Screen Queensland, Screen NSW, AFTRS and Film Victoria as an invaluable home base for Australian film-makers while they are in Los Angeles.

South Australian Films at Sundance 2019

Four of the historic six Australian films in selection for Sundance 2019 are funded by the SAFC and Adelaide Film Festival FUND. They are:

***Animals* - Sundance Film Festival World Premiere**

Closer Productions Pty Ltd

Director Sophie Hyde **Writer** Emma Jane Unsworth **Producers** Sarah Brocklehurst, Rebecca Summerton, Cormac Fox, Sophie Hyde

Synopsis After a decade of partying, Laura (Holliday Grainger) and Tyler's (Alia Shawkat) friendship is strained by Laura's new love and her focus on her novel. A snapshot of a modern woman with competing desires, at once a celebration of female friendship and an examination of the choices we make when facing a crossroads

Production credit: *Animals* is an Official Australian/Irish Co-production by Closer Productions. Principal production investment from Screen Australia and the Irish Film Board. Financed with support from **Adelaide Film Festival** and **South Australian Film Corporation**.

***I Am Mother* - Sundance Film Festival World Premiere**

Mother Film Holdings Pty Ltd

Director Grant Sputore **Writer** Michael Lloyd Green **Producers** Timothy White, Kelvin Munro **Co-Producers** Anna Vincent, Michael Lloyd Green

Executive Producers Terry Douglas, Paris Kasidokostas-Latsis, Jean-Luc Di Fanti, Grant Sputore, Philip Wade, Bryce Menzies and John Wade

Synopsis In the wake of humanity's extinction, a teenage girl (Clara Rugaard) is raised by a robot (voiced by Rose Byrne) designed to repopulate the earth. But their unique bond is threatened when an inexplicable stranger (Hilary Swank) arrives with alarming news.

Production credit *I Am Mother* is a The Penguin Empire and Southern Light Films production. Principal production investment from Screen Australia in association with **South Australian Film Corporation** and Screenwest. Financed with support from **Adelaide Film Festival**.

***The Nightingale* - Sundance Film Festival North American Premiere**

Causeway Films HQ Pty Ltd and Made Up Stories Pty Ltd

Writer/Director Jennifer Kent **Producers** Kristina Ceyton, Bruna Papandrea, Steve Hutensky, Jennifer Kent

Synopsis Set in 1825, Clare, a young Irish convict woman (Aisling Franciosi), chases a British officer (Sam Claflin) through the rugged Tasmanian wilderness, bent on revenge for a terrible act of violence he committed against her family. On the way she enlists the services of an Aboriginal tracker named Billy (Baykali Ganambarr), who is also marked by trauma from his own violence-filled past.

Production Credit *The Nightingale* is a Causeway Films and Made Up Stories production. Principal production investment from Screen Australia in association with Bron Creative. Financed with support from Screen Tasmania, **South Australian Film Corporation** and the **Adelaide Film Festival**.

Venice Film Festival 2018 Special Jury Prize, Best Young Actor for Baykali Ganambarr

***Top End Wedding* - Sundance Film Festival World Premiere**

Goalpost Pictures Australia

Director Wayne Blair **Writers** Joshua Tyler, Miranda Tapsell **Producers** Rosemary Blight, Kylie du Fresne, Kate Croser **Executive**

Producers Ben Grant, Glen Condie

Synopsis Lauren (Miranda Tapsell) and Ned (Gwilym Lee) are engaged, they are in love, and they have just ten days to find Lauren's mother who has gone AWOL somewhere in the remote far north of Australia, reunite her parents and pull off their dream wedding.

Production Credit *Top End Wedding* is a Goalpost Pictures Australia production in association with Tapsell, Tyler & Condie and Kojo Entertainment. Principal production investment from Screen Australia. Financed with support from **South Australian Film Corporation** with **Adelaide Film Festival**. Supported by Tourism NT.

The two other films have strong South Australian connections, with *Judy and Punch* starring Adelaide actor Damon Herriman, and *Little Monsters* produced by Adelaide-born Bruna Papandrea.

***Judy and Punch* - Sundance Film Festival** World Premiere. In competition.

Seaside Productions Pty Ltd

Director / Writer Mirrah Foulkes **Producers** Michele Bennett, Nash Edgerton, Danny Gabai **Executive Producers** Eddy Moretti, Vincent Landay, Natalie Farrey, Jennifer Semler

Synopsis Seaside (nowhere near the sea), puppeteers Judy and Punch are trying to resurrect their marionette show in an anarchic town on the brink of mob rule. Stars Mia Wasikowska and Damon Herriman.

Production Credit *Judy and Punch* is a Seaside Productions film. Principal production investment from Vice Studios and Screen Australia, in association with Film Victoria. Financed with support from Create NSW.

***Little Monsters* - Sundance Film Festival** World Premiere

Made Up Stories Pty Ltd

Director / Writer Abe Forsythe **Producers** Jodi Matterson, Bruna Papandrea, Steve Hutensky, Keith Calder, Jessica Calder **Executive Producer** Jeanne Snow

Synopsis A film dedicated to all the kindergarten teachers who motivate children to learn, instil them with confidence and stop them from being devoured by zombies. Stars Lupita Nyong'o, Josh Gad and Alexander England.

Production Credit *Little Monsters* is a Made Up Stories production. Principal production investment from Screen Australia in association with Snoot Entertainment. Financed with support from Create NSW.