



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 09.45 ACDT Wednesday 28 March, 2018

South Australian Film Corporation announces Courtney Gibson as CEO

Adelaide, SA: The South Australian Film Corporation today announced leading industry figure Courtney Gibson as the new CEO of the SAFC. She takes over the role from Annabelle Sheehan and will commence on Tuesday April 3.



An accomplished leader in the Australian screen industry, Courtney Gibson has worked at a senior executive level across both television (Nine Network, ABC TV, SBS) and film (Screen NSW) and with leading production companies Southern Star Entertainment and most recently as Managing Director of Jungle Entertainment. She has commissioned, financed and produced many thousands of hours of prime-time screen content across a diverse range of scripted and non-scripted genres.

In her position as Chief Executive of Screen NSW, Gibson significantly increased levels of production in the state, introduced a game-changing, world-leading gender equity initiative and attracted numerous major international film and TV productions. Looking to the future of the industry, she introduced a groundbreaking Virtual Reality & Augmented Reality development program.

Chair of the SAFC Board John Hill said “South Australia is proud to have attracted someone of Courtney Gibson’s calibre to head the South Australian Film Corporation. She has a proven track record in delivering industry growth, securing local and international production and launching agenda-setting initiatives, all of which result in jobs and economic impact.”

Courtney Gibson said: “With the state’s unique new 10% PDV rebate, and the SAFC’s recent move to a 100% grant production funding model, there’s never been a better state or time to produce content than in South Australia, right now. We can build an even stronger production base here - SA continues to be the lead state backing innovation and creativity - and I look forward to working with the local industry as well as producers and partners from the rest of Australia and the world.”

COURTNEY GIBSON

With a background in TV production and commissioning, Courtney has worked as CEO of Screen NSW, Managing Director of Jungle Entertainment, Programming Production Executive at the Nine Network, Director of Programmes at Southern Star, Executive Head of Content Creation at ABC TV, Head of Arts, Entertainment and Comedy at ABC TV and a Commissioning Editor of Documentaries at SBS Independent.

As CEO of Screen NSW Courtney introduced a raft of policies which delivered gender parity in key creative roles for women in TV in 2016 and was awarded the 2017 Cecil Holmes Award by the Australian Directors Guild in recognition of this.

While at the ABC Courtney commissioned a range of highly successful programmes including *Spicks & Specks*, *At The Movies with Margaret & David*, *We Can be Heroes*, *Summer Heights High*, *Q&A*, *The Chaser's War on Everything* and *The Book Club with Jennifer Byrne*. At the Nine Network Courtney managed the productions *Married at First Sight*, *Australia's Got Talent* and *The Great Australian Bake Off*. In her time as CEO of Screen NSW Courtney was instrumental in attracting major international productions including *Peter Rabbit*, Jackie Chan's *Bleeding Steel* and Ridley Scott's *Alien Covenant* to the state.

Courtney serves on the board of Australians in Film, a foundation that promotes Australian screen talent and culture in the United States and operates the Heath Ledger Scholarship.

ABOUT SAFC

SAFC was the first screen agency to be established in Australia. It now boasts the country's newest, state of the art production facilities. Adelaide Studios features world-class sound stages, production offices, a set construction workshop and outstanding post sound facilities. The studios, South Australia's unique creative and collaborative screen hub, is the shared home of the SAFC, the ADL Film Fest and many top production companies and services.

Established in 1972, the SAFC's first production *Sunday Too Far Away (1974)*, starring Jack Thompson, premiered at the prestigious Cannes Film Festival, and was closely followed by two equally iconic productions, *Picnic at Hanging Rock (1975)* and *Storm Boy (1976)*. The SAFC quickly became an important source of prestige and promotion for the State, showcasing the State's stunning locations and talent on an international stage, and a model for emulation by all Australian states.

More than 40 years on, the SAFC continues to support outstanding screen content, with recent feature films including *Hotel Mumbai (2018)*, *Storm Boy (2018)*, *Sweet Country (2017)*, *Girl Asleep (2016)*, *Last Cab to Darwin (2014)*, *Charlie's Country (2013)*, *The Babadook (2012)*, *Tracks (2012)* and *52 Tuesdays (2011)*. SAFC investment slate includes productions for television, streaming services Stan and NETFLIX in addition to documentary, shorts and most recently, web-series in collaboration with ABC iView.

MEDIA CONTACT

Alicia Brescianini 0400 225 603 alicia@abcfilm.com

Cathy Gallagher 0416 227 282 cathy@abcfilm.com