



South Australian Film Corporation



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SAFC LAUNCHES LOTTIE LYELL AWARD

100 years after Lottie Lyell & Raymond Longford established South Australia's first production company.

SAFC today launched a new award to commemorate Lottie Lyell's trail-blazing impact on the screen industry and provide significant financial support to a female-driven screen project.

The annual Lottie Lyell Award is for a female screen practitioner, based in South Australia, who is as innovative in our time as Lottie was in hers.

The Award provides a \$20,000 prize to go towards the development or delivery of a screen-based work which is bold, ambitious and full of promise.

Screen pioneer Lottie Lyell was a writer, producer, director, editor and art director, and an accomplished horsewoman who did all her own stunts.

Together with her partner in work and life Ray Longford, Lottie made 28 films, before she died aged 35. Their production company, the Southern Cross Feature Film Co, was the first production company founded in South Australia, and it made its very first feature - *The Woman Suffers* - regarded as Australia's first feminist film, exactly 100 years ago. The following year they made *The Sentimental Bloke*, the most successful Australian film of its day.

100 years after Lottie's production company was formed in South Australia, the SAFC is seeking applications for the award named in her honour - it could be for a draft script for a feature film, or a TV series bible; it could be development materials for a documentary, or a game, it could be to finish a film, or it could be to make art of the moving image; it could be any screen based work that is bold, ambitious and full of promise.

Judging submissions and deciding the inaugural winner in 2018 will be SAFC Chief Executive Officer Courtney Gibson and Adelaide Film Festival CEO/Artistic Director Amanda Duthie, joined by acclaimed filmmaker Gillian Armstrong who, like Lottie, was a trailblazer in South Australia.

Gillian made her first-ever documentary in South Australia for the SAFC, in 1974: *Smokes and Lollies* was the first in a recurring series of documentaries by Gillian, produced by Jenny Day, about a group of women growing up and growing older in Adelaide.

Gillian Armstrong said "I am delighted to be part of the selection team for the SAFC's wonderful inaugural Lottie Lyell Award for a talented local female filmmaker. What a generous and needed initiative, as it is clear that it is sadly still not a level playing field for female talent in this industry. May they follow in the bold brave footsteps of writer, director, editor pioneers like our brilliant Lottie Lyell."

SAFC Chief Executive Courtney Gibson said: "Lottie Lyell was a pioneer and a powerhouse, who remains a beacon to female screen practitioners in Australia, particularly in South Australia. The Lottie Lyell Award will enable a female SA screen creative with a bold and ambitious project to make her mark and go next-level."

The recipient of the inaugural Lottie Lyell Award will be announced during the Adelaide Film Festival, 10-21 October, 2018.

A portrait of Lottie Lyell features in *Starstruck: Australian Movie Portraits* opening at Adelaide's Samstag Museum of Art next month, presented as part of the Adelaide Film Festival. The collaborative project between the National Film and Sound Archive and the National Portrait Gallery reveals never-before-seen stories of Australian cinema.

To apply, go to: <http://www.safilm.com.au/funding-and-support/gender-agenda/>
Deadline for applications: COB Monday 24 September, 2018

MEDIA CONTACT: Cathy Gallagher 0416 22 72 82 cathy@abcfilm.com