



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Monday 4 June, 2018

MATCHBOX PICTURES APPOINTS PRODUCER KIRSTY STARK TO LEAD SOUTH AUSTRALIAN INITIATIVES

WANTED SEASON 3 SHOOTING IN SA

One of Australia's leading film and television production companies, Matchbox Pictures, this week opens its South Australian office. The SA branch, based at Adelaide Studios, is headed up by South Australian producer Kirsty Stark who will drive the local development slate in with Matchbox.

A respected local practitioner, Stark comes to this newly created Development Producer role having completed a successful slate of projects including Matt Saville's feature film *A Month of Sundays*, starring Anthony LaPaglia and Justine Clarke, the ground-breaking online sensation *Wastelander Panda* and the recent online comedy series *Goober* for ABC iview.

Matchbox has started filming in SA on the highly anticipated third season of drama series *WANTED*, a co-production between Matchbox and R&R and commissioned by Channel Seven. The series will see the return of stars Rebecca Gibney, also one of the show's Creators and Executive Producers, and Geraldine Hakewill. The high rating, International Emmy nominated show will create over 250 jobs for local cast and crew. *Wanted* will shoot in Adelaide and across the state from Murray Bridge to Parachilna, and is being directed by Jocelyn Moorhouse (*The Dressmaker*) and Peter Templeman (*Wanted 1 & 2, The Wrong Girl, Offspring*).

The establishment of the Matchbox Pictures SA office is set to increase the development of television drama in the state. The initiative was made possible by a two-year funding allocation from the South Australian Film Corporation (SAFC) under the *Television Company Partnership Initiative*.

Matchbox Pictures recently used Adelaide Studios' state of the art post-production facilities for the award-winning Adelaide Film Festival Fund feature *Ali's Wedding* and filmed *Deadline Gallipoli* in SA for Foxtel.

Further information on WANTED – SEASON 3

Season 3 of *WANTED* finds our heroines swapping prison for the tight leash of the witness protection program. But nothing can hold Lola & Chelsea for long and soon they're in pursuit of a life outside the law that will take them right through the burning centre of Australia. It's going to take every last ounce of courage and skill they have to survive extraordinary danger that comes from both their enemies and the and as they journey towards becoming their truest outlaw selves and deliver justice along the way - Lola and Chelsea style. So the world thinks they're bad? They ain't seen nothing yet...

QUOTES ATTRIBUTABLE TO

Rebecca Gibney, R&R Productions - the creator, EP and lead in *Wanted*:

I am really thrilled that we are shooting our third season of *Wanted* in South Australia as I have never filmed in this beautiful state. We are already loving the exceptional studio facilities and are really looking forward to exploring the amazing landscapes that South Australia has to offer and that we know will give *Wanted* the incredible cinematic look that is vital for our show.

Matt Vitins, Acting Managing Director, Matchbox Pictures:

Matchbox is thrilled to be working with Seven and R&R on this next season of *Wanted* in South Australia. It will be a cracking series. We are also excited to be expanding in to South Australia and with such exceptional local talent. Kirsty will be leading the charge to create some signature Matchbox drama with a South Australian feel. We can't wait to see what comes out of the SA office. We also want to acknowledge the support of the SAFC, which has made all of these things possible.

Kirsty Stark, Development Producer for Matchbox Pictures SA:

'Having worked in SA for my entire career, I know the importance of creating opportunities for writers, directors and key creatives from within the state. I'm excited to partner with Matchbox and develop compelling local stories that will showcase our talent on a national and international stage.'

Courtney Gibson South Australian Film Corporation CEO:

'We welcome Matchbox to the state and congratulate Kirsty Stark on her new role developing a strong slate of TV drama production in SA. We're thrilled Rebecca and Matchbox are working here on *Wanted* for Seven, as Lola and Chelsea ride again!'

ABOUT KIRSTY STARK

Kirsty Stark has worked in the South Australian film industry for the past decade, initially as a freelance camera assistant and cinematographer, before moving into production and founding Epic Films. Her credits as Producer include *Goober*, *Unboxed* and *Wastelander Panda: Exile* for ABC iview, *First Day* for ABC ME and the feature film *A Month of Sundays*. Kirsty has presented at SXSW and TEDxAdelaide, and received multiple awards for her work. Epic Films was named the Screen Producers Australia "Breakthrough Business of the Year" in 2016.

ABOUT SAFC

The SAFC 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 and many top production companies and practitioners.

Television production currently underway in the state includes Screentime SA's RBT for the Nine Network and the Screentime/Netflix/ABC TV production *Pine Gap*. Closer Productions television series *F*cking Adelaide* launched on iview June 1 coming soon to ABC TV. Recent SAFC-supported feature films include *Hotel Mumbai*, *Storm Boy*, *Top End Wedding*, *The Nightingale*, *I Am Mother*, *The Flip Side*. *Cargo* and Venice award-winner *Sweet Country* are currently in cinemas nationally.

ABOUT MATCHBOX PICTURES

Matchbox Pictures is a prolific film and television production company with offices in Sydney and Melbourne, Australia. It makes world-class content for a global audience. Its credits include international hit *The Slap*, supernatural drama *Glitch*, children's drama *Nowhere Boys*, and leading adult dramas *Wanted*, *Barracuda*, *Seven Types Of Ambiguity* and *Secret City*. The business also produces a host of non-scripted shows including *The Real Housewives* of Melbourne and Sydney. Matchbox is one of the most credentialed and awarded producers in Australia. It has won International Emmys, Prix de Jour, AACTAs, Logies and has been twice nominated for a BAFTA. An NBCUniversal International Studios company, Matchbox has produced over 40 titles since 2012, working with every network in Australia as well as Netflix, Amazon and the BBC.

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