



South Australian Film Corporation



Thursday 17 October 2018

**INAUGURAL LOTTIE LYELL AWARD FOR
PRISONERS AND PUPS CREATOR SHALOM ALMOND
GROUNDBREAKING NEW PROJECT THROUGH PRISONER EYES**

SAFC announced the recipient of the inaugural **Lottie Lyell Award** and prize of \$20,000 as **Shalom Almond**, to develop her bold new multi-faceted, multi-platform project, **Through Prisoner Eyes**. This new award was launched to commemorate Lottie Lyell’s trail-blazing impact on the industry, 100 years after she and Raymond Longford established South Australia’s first production company, and is for a female screen practitioner, based in South Australia, who is as innovative in our time as Lottie was in hers.

The announcement was made during the **Adelaide Film Festival Awards** event, and presented by renowned filmmaker **Gillian Armstrong**, director of *My Brilliant Career*, *Starstruck* and *High Tide*, who made her first documentary *Smokes and Lollies* in South Australia in 1974, the first documentary ever made by the SAFC. The film became the first of a recurring series about a group of women growing up and growing older in Adelaide.

Shalom Almond’s documentary *Prisoners and Pups* which world premiered at Adelaide Film Festival in 2017 gave her unique access to the Adelaide Womens Prison as she documented a groundbreaking program that gives a small group of women inmates and former racing greyhounds a second chance at life. *Prisoners and Pups* will next month embark on a tour jointly funded by the SAFC, The Greyhound Adoption (GAP) SA and the Department for Corrections SA with 17 screenings across regional South Australia and includes a speaking program with former inmates, representatives of the Department of Corrections and other advocates in the area.

Through Prisoner Eyes, the project to be developed with the Lottie Lyell Award, is an Australian first program in which a small group of women prisoners will learn photography as a way to tell their stories of life on the inside and beyond. In addition to running the program, Shalom will film the process for a documentary.

In the spirit of landmark documentary *Born into Brothels* – this first-of-its kind documentary project will put cameras into the hands of female prisoners to delve deep into their lives and tell us what it means to be an Australian woman in prison. A small group of incarcerated women will go through an intensive photography program inside the prison, where they will attend photography workshops in shooting, composition, lighting, portraiture and editing, then work together as a team to practice their new skills. Each prisoner will be working towards producing a series of personal photographs to tell the story through their own voice of their incarceration, to break down stigmas and stereotypes around their portrayal in mainstream media.

Shalom Almond said “I feel so honoured to become the first recipient of the SAFC Lottie Lyell Award - not only to carry on her legacy to create bold and ambitious screen work in South Australia, but to be given the opportunity to develop a documentary project with our state’s most vulnerable and disempowered women to give them a positive voice.”

Minister for Industry and Skills, David Pisoni said, “My congratulations go out to Shalom for winning the inaugural Lottie Lyell Award. It’s important for Australian audiences to see Australian stories on the big screen. And the Marshall Liberal Government is very proud to support the effort to bring more and better Australian documentaries to Australian audiences.”

Judging submissions and deciding the inaugural winner in 2018 were SAFC Chief Executive Officer Courtney Gibson and Adelaide Film Festival CEO/Artistic Director Amanda Duthie, joined by acclaimed filmmaker Gillian Armstrong.

The SAFC is a proud member of the Screen Diversity Inclusion Network (SDIN).



SCREEN DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION NETWORK

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Gillian Armstrong said “I am honoured and inspired to present first ever Lottie Lyell Award. Lottie was an amazing pioneer – a star, writer, director and editor in the 1920s! and yet there are still only 17 to 20 % of women directors in this country. There is so much talent in little old Adelaide so it was a very tough decision, but our final choice was unanimous. Shalom is a knockout, both for her inspirational and passionate work, and her talent, and for her innovative and compassionate project. This is not only an important film but the work itself is aimed to help our most vulnerable and unseen. Women in prison. I wish her and her chosen team every success.”

SAFC Chief Executive Officer Courtney Gibson said “Shalom is a compelling documentary-maker with tenacity, empathy and a unique authorial voice, very much like Lottie herself. ‘Through Prisoner Eyes’ will further expand Shalom’s ongoing documentary project about female prisoners, and give creative agency and mentorship to the women with whom she works. This has the potential to be a ground-breaking and life-changing project for many people and it’s a really powerful first project to be supported by the Lottie Lyell Award.”

Adelaide Film Festival CEO/Artistic Director Amanda Duthie said “Presenting the world premiere of *Prisoners and Pups* in 2017 illustrated Shalom’s extraordinary capacity to be an inclusive filmmaker and bring a whole community along on the production journey. Her fearlessness, determination and directing ability will ensure this is a project of many layers and impacts with multiple benefits.”

The development of this project in the Adelaide Womens Prison comes with the full support of the Department for Correctional Services SA.

A portrait of Lottie Lyell features in ***Starstruck: Australian Movie Portraits*** now showing at Adelaide’s Samstag Museum of Art, 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.

Image credit: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/2nxe0j79vxt4opj/AADLI0TNQsz4hSjpKO2VKQNMa?dl=0>
Gillian Armstrong and Shalom Almond with the portrait of screen pioneer Lottie Lyell in the Starstruck Exhibition at Samstag Museum of Art. Photo credit: Jo-Anna Robinson.

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