



South Australian Film Corporation



For immediate release: Thursday 2 November, 2017

## South Australian Film Corporation attracts Matchbox and Screentime to open Adelaide offices

The South Australian Film Corporation (SAFC) is accelerating its drive into drama series production by partnering with two of Australia's premier TV drama houses; **Matchbox Pictures** (*Deadline Gallipoli*, *Glitch*, *Wanted*, *The Family Law*, *Barracuda*) and **Screentime** (*The Secret Daughter*, *Wolf Creek TV*, *Pine Gap*, *Anzac Girls*, *Janet King*). Both companies will establish offices in Adelaide for the next two years to develop drama series and bring increased production to the State while developing local writing and directing talent for high-end TV drama series.

The SAFC is now inviting South Australian producers or production companies to apply for the opportunity to partner with one of these two interstate companies and head up their South Australian-based offices.

SAFC will provide \$250,000 over two years towards the running of each of the new Adelaide offices covering overheads, travel and TV drama series development funding. This significant opportunity will give a South Australian Producers and key creatives unique access to the development of a TV drama series through project support and enhanced access to high-end collaborators. The initiative can place SA writers into key TV writing rooms while SA directors will have greater opportunities for directing or as placements on series episodes.

By attracting two prestigious, high-volume drama production houses to open Adelaide-based operations, the SAFC recognises the vital importance of television production to the sustainability and capacity for growth of the industry in South Australia.

Additionally, a new and separate TV Development Grant for writers and producers will be launched this week. The initiative can support an SA Producer and/or Writer with the opportunity to develop high-end television drama. Up to \$40,000 will be provided for up to 2 TV drama series with the funds to be used for the development of a series bible including story rooms, series outlines, script editors, plotting sessions, and completion of a pilot episode.

The SAFC TV Drama initiatives are seeking to trigger the development and production of long running series to be produced in SA, creating consistent jobs and further growing the local industry. These initiatives are expected to bring significant production spend to the State and enhance South Australia's growing reputation for quality TV drama.

**Bob Campbell, Screentime Executive Chairman** said "We are very pleased to be partnering with the South Australian Film Corporation in setting up a Screentime office in Adelaide. Two series of *Wolf Creek* and now *Pine Gap* have meant we have come to appreciate the considerable advantages South Australia offers and we look forward to working with the creative community to develop and produce more productions in SA."

**Chris Oliver-Taylor, Managing Director of Matchbox Pictures** said "Matchbox is delighted to be partnering with the SAFC on this important initiative. Following our huge success with South Australian produced *Deadline Gallipoli* we are looking forward to working again with the amazing South Australian writing and producing teams to create world-class drama series that will complement the work already underway in South Australia".

**Premier of South Australia and Minister for the Arts Jay Weatherill** said "It is testament to the reputation and experience of the South Australian screen industry to attract such powerful players in TV production to expand their operations into our State. This key investment in our local industry will have benefits for years to come."

**Chair of the SAFC, John Hill** said "These initiatives provide a great opportunity for our South Australian content creators to collaborate with experienced production companies and their exceptional national and international reach. The resulting growth to our screen sector, and development of our professional skill base will have many advantages to our local industry going forward."

**SAFC CEO Annabelle Sheehan** said “Both Screentime and Matchbox have engaged with South Australia and its creative teams via substantial projects and other programs over the past few years. The decision to partner with and create offices in the state confirms their commitment to further building the industry here .The South Australian screen sector will substantially benefit from the global reach of both these extraordinary companies with their parent companies in the USA and Europe.”

Applications for SA Producers to apply for these two partnerships can be found on the SAFC website under TV DRAMA INITIATIVES.

- Applications for the TV Producer Partnership are due 4<sup>th</sup> December 2017
- Applications for the TV Writers Development Grant are due 12<sup>th</sup> February 2018

**Matchbox background:**

Matchbox produces a diverse slate of programming across television drama, children’s, factual & entertainment, animation and feature films. Matchbox is one of the most dynamic and innovative production houses in Australia. Since its inception in 2008, Matchbox has enjoyed continued domestic and international acclaim as a result of telling stories that inspire and entertain.

Since 2011 Matchbox has produced over 40 series, predominantly in Drama production, such titles include *Glitch, Seven Types of Ambiguity, Barracuda, Wanted, Underground, Nowhere Boys, Mustangs FC, Hyde & Seek, Safe Harbour, Secret City, Deadline Gallipoli, The Family Law, Maximum Choppage* and *Devil’s Playground*.

**Screentime background:**

Screentime has operations in both Australia and New Zealand .The company produces a diverse range of television programs –both drama and factual/documentary. Over its 21 year history the company has produced over 800 hours of television, including 400 hours of drama .It works with all the free-to-air networks and Foxtel and has recently made *Wolf Creek* in South Australia for Stan and is in pre-production for the Netflix/ABC production of *Pine Gap* again being produced in South Australia. Its recent factual line up has included *Anh’s Brush With Fame, Stop Laughing This is Serious, RBT* and *Testing Teachers*.

**MEDIA CONTACT**

Cathy Gallagher 0416 22 72 82 [cathy@abcfilm.com](mailto:cathy@abcfilm.com)