



Friday 8 July, 2016

SA filmmakers head off to 37th South Market

Nineteen SA filmmakers will attend the global film financing market *37th South* at The Melbourne International Film Festival

Nineteen South Australian screen industry practitioners are heading to the Melbourne International Film Festival's (MIFF) *37th South Market*, *PostScript & Direct*, and *MIFF Accelerator* programs, coinciding with MIFF's opening weekend. These events offer an exceptional opportunity for attendees to pitch their projects in a global film financing marketplace and to attend a series of sessions on the business and creative decision making of the film industry.

In a significant recognition of their talent and potential as filmmakers, two emerging South Australian directors, Brendon Skinner and Simon Williams of Gravity Films, supported by SAFC, have been selected to attend the *MIFF Accelerator* program. Being selected for *MIFF Accelerator* program is a significant boost for short film directors seeking to make the transition to feature film. *MIFF Accelerator* provides four days of workshops, screenings, seminars and networking events with leading film practitioners.

The highly-regarded special initiative, *37th South: PostScript and Direct* program will include another ten talented South Australian directors supported by SAFC. The *37th South: PostScript and Direct* program enables selected local screenwriters, directors and writer/directors to meet, and pitch to, a range of Australian/NZ producers, to discuss potential development or to secure an Executive Producer for their projects.

Seven South Australian producers will attend the invitation-only *37th South Market*, which draws together selected Australasian producers with national and international financing representatives (eg. sales agents, distributors). In a series of individual meetings, the producers will have the opportunity to pitch feature film drama or documentary projects.

The SAFC is proud of strength of the South Australia talent attending these events at MIFF. Supporting the delegation will be SAFC's CEO Annabelle Sheehan and Head of Production, Development and Studios, Michelle Krumm.

See further details of MIFF attendees overleaf.



Details of South Australian delegation

Producers - 37th South Market

- Kristian Moliere, Triptych Pictures
Producer: *The Babadook* (2014), *Touch* (2014), *Downriver* (2015)
- Julie Byrne, Triptych Pictures
Line producer: *The Babadook* (2014), Producer: *Touch* (2014), Co-Producer: *Inner Demon* (2014)
- Kirsty Stark, Epic Films
Producer: *A Month of Sundays* (2016)
- Julie de Roeper, Gearbox Productions
Producer: *The Lost Tools of Henry Hoke* (2014), *Ringbalin Breaking the Drought* (2013)
- Carolyn Johnson, Carolyn Johnson Films
Producer: *Tanna* (2015)
- Gena Ashwell, dancing road productions
Producer: *Gridiron UK* (2016)
- Helen Leake, dancing road productions
Producer: *Wolf Creek 2* (2013), *Swerve* (2011)

Directors - 37thSouth: PostScript and Direct

- **Victoria Cocks – writer/director**

Victoria's directorial debut was on SAFC supported web series *Wastelander Panda*, for which she received the Australian Directors Guild Award for Best Direction in the 'Original Online Project' in 2015. Victoria has recently completed a director's attachment with the talented director Kieran Darcy-Smith on the ABC series *Jack Irish*.

- **Stephen de Villiers – writer/director**

Stephen de Villiers is a South African born, Adelaide based director, who graduated from the Australian Film Television and Radio School (AFTRS) in 2009. While at AFTRS, Stephen was one of four directors selected from his class of 18 to collaborate on *Before the Rain*, the first feature film made in partnership with AFTRS and the National Institute of Dramatic Arts (NIDA). Stephen has written and/or directed over 12 short films.



- **Ben Crisp - writer**

Ben Crisp is the screenwriter of comedy series *Goober*, a SAFC/ABC iview original series, and the recipient of the Colin Thiele Scholarship for Creative Writing. Ben is an actor and screenwriter trained at the Adelaide Centre for Arts and the University of Adelaide, where he studied a postgraduate degree in creative writing. He has played leading and supporting roles in several

independent comedy and drama shorts, as well as writing and directing the award-nominated shorts *The Car (2008)* and *Don't Blame Me (2009)*.

- **Claire Bishop**

Claire Bishop is a graduate of the University of Adelaide and the MAPS Film School. Claire produced, directed and shot a documentary about her hometown called *Iron Child*, which was presented with 4 awards at the SASAs including Best Director, Best Short Film, Best Documentary and Best Non-Narrative. In 2015 Claire received a Bronze Australian Cinematographers Society award for her work on the short film *The Dream Creator* and the MRC Emerging Filmmaker Award. Claire is currently co-creator and DOP in a Sci-Fi/Drama Web-Series funded by the MRC due to air early 2017.

- **Dave Wade – writer/director**

Dave was funded by the SAFC to direct the short film *Cropped*, which was nominated for 2 Dendy Awards (SFF), the Gold Hugo (Chicago FF), and 2 AACTA awards. His next short - *Welcome to Iron Knob* - went on to win Best Film at St Kilda FF, and Best Screenplay at Sydney FF and was nominated for Best International Short at Raindance and Best Short Film at the AACTA awards and was selected as 'best of the fest' at Palm Springs.

- **Dylan Coleman – writer/director**

Dylan is a Kokatha (Gugatha) Aboriginal /Greek woman who is a multi-award winning writers and holds a PhD in Creative Writing from the University of Adelaide. In 2011, the creative component of Dylan's PhD, *Mazin Grace*, won the Arts Queensland David Unaipon Award for Unpublished Indigenous Manuscript, as part of the Queensland Premiers Literary Awards. In 2012 *Mazin Grace* was published and in 2013 was longlisted for the Stella Prize, and shortlisted for the Commonwealth Book Prize. In 2015, Dylan was selected for an SAFC Aboriginal Project Development Grant for *Mazin Grace* to be developed into a television series.

- **Eddie White – writer/director**



Eddie co-founded The People's Republic Of Animation (PRA) while still a teenager. There he would go on to make several short animated films, including *The Cat Piano* which received *Best Short Film* at the Melbourne International Film Festival and *Best Animated Film* at the Sydney Film Festival in

2009. Since 2011 Eddie has been developing feature film projects as well as directing the short *Upside Down Feeling* in 2015, a film that combines live action, miniatures and prosthetics. In 2016 Eddie was invited to talk at Pixar animation studios in California, about his films and creative processes.

- **Peter Ninos – director**

Peter Ninos has worked as an assistant director on SAFC productions *Danger 5* (2012), *Wastelander Panda* (2014) and the feature film *A Month of Sundays* (2015). His independently produced short film *Omega* was screened at the 2014 Boston Science Fiction Film Festival and won the Independent Vision Award at the 2014 South Australian Screen Awards. Following its festival run *Omega* was released online where it amassed over 140,000 views, while his film *Horizon* has received over 200,000 online views.

- **Lucy Campbell – writer/director**

Lucy Campbell is the writer/director of several well-received short films and co-founder of Sharptooth Pictures. She has been successfully funded through the MRC for several shorts including *Dream Creator* (2014) and *Nuts* (2016). In 2015 she was chosen to take part in the writer's room for *Deadlock* for Every Cloud Productions/Screen Australia, working with *Skins* writer/creator, Bryan Elsley, and in 2016 she was part of the top 8 Australian Director's Guild shortlist for the director's attachment with Sir Ridley Scott on *Alien: Covenant*. Lucy is currently co-writing and co-directing a four part sci-fi neo-noir web series, *Absolute Zero*, also funded through the MRC, due 2017.

- **Matt Cormack – writer**

Matthew Cormack is a screenwriter and producer whose credits include the *52 Tuesdays*, writer for short film *My Last Ten Hours With You* (2007), as well as co-creator of transmedia project *My 52 Tuesdays*. Matthew won the 2014 AWGIE for Best Original Screenplay for *52 Tuesdays*, which was directed by Sophie Hyde, who received the Sundance Festival's World Cinema Dramatic Directing Award for the film.

For the last 6 years Matthew has worked in development, production, sales, and distribution at Adelaide-based Closer Productions across such projects as feature documentaries *Shut Up Little Man! An Audio Misadventure* and *Life in Movement*, and hybrid doco/ drama *I Want to Dance Better at Parties*.



MIFF Accelerator Program

- **Brendon Skinner and Simon Williams – Gravity Films**

Brendon Skinner and Simon Williams began working together while studying film at Flinders University and found that their sensibilities were both similar and complementary. Together they directed three short films with international festival recognition, *See-Saw Sweethearts* (2009), *Monkeybar Mafia* (2010) and *Toot Toot* (2010), before creating two corporate web-series, *Age Matters* (2011) and *Is It Dementia* (2013). Most recently they directed and co-produced the ABC iview Original Series *Goober* (2016).

Late in 2010, they undertook an intensive mentorship with Mario Andreacchio where they were exposed to the international market at the Marche du Film and the Hollywood Immersion Program at AFM. In 2011 they won first prize at the MPA CICE International Pitching Competition held in Beijing, and went on to form Gravity Films in 2013. Since then their feature film *Survival Instinct* (a survival film set in the Australian wilderness) has been optioned by Dancing Road Productions and they have developed a range of feature film, web-series and TV projects. They are driven to create content that entertains and inspires audiences around the world.