



South Australian **Film Corporation**



FOR IMMEDIATE USE

Thursday 9th June, 2016

SAFC launches South Australia's first Aboriginal Screen Strategy

Building upon a tradition of 75,000 years of Aboriginal storytelling

Ambitious screen projects by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander filmmakers will be supported and developed under a new strategy officially launched last night by the South Australian Film Corporation.

The South Australian Film Corporation's Aboriginal Screen Strategy 2015-2020, a first for SAFC, has been developed to build upon a tradition of 75,000 years of Aboriginal storytelling from South Australia.

The Aboriginal Screen Strategy will grow investment, increase production, provide professional development and mentoring for filmmakers, and build valuable industry partnerships.

The development of the new strategy has been guided by SAFC's Aboriginal Screen Strategy Executive Lee-Ann Buckskin, and SAFC's Chief Executive Annabelle Sheehan, and supported with advice from the SAFC Aboriginal Advisory Committee. The Committee comprises key national and local aboriginal arts and media figures.

Derik Lynch from the SAFC Aboriginal Advisory Committee hosted the launch event, with South Australia's Commissioner for Aboriginal Engagement, Frank Lampard, officially launching the Strategy.

The new strategy honours a commitment to increase the presence of South Australian Aboriginal stories on screen, made by Annabelle Sheehan when she was appointed to the SAFC Chief Executive role in January 2015.

Ms Sheehan said the strategy aims to strengthen South Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's involvement in screen production.

"The Strategy is designed to grow and support the extraordinary stories and creative voices of the Aboriginal screen sector in this state, and to provide opportunities to develop skills and knowledge in filmmaking through production, professional mentoring and partnerships."

SAFC's Aboriginal Strategy Executive Lee-Ann Tjunypa Buckskin said she was delighted with the launch of *South Australia's Aboriginal Screen Strategy* which marked a new era for SAFC in its support of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander filmmakers.

"The strategy will help the funded projects reach their potential and provide an opportunity for South Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to share their stories, said Ms Buckskin.

Implementation of the *South Australia's Aboriginal Screen Strategy 2015-2020* is already well advanced, with three new production initiatives already launched or delivered.

Last year, a few months after joining SAFC, Annabelle Sheehan initiated and launched the NAIDOC Week Micro-Documentaries Pilot which funded five micro-documentaries with support from partners National Indigenous Television (NITV) and the Media Resource Centre.

The micro-documentaries were all screened on NITV during NAIDOC Week (5-12 July, 2015).

The following month, SAFC launched the Aboriginal Project Development Grant to provide script and project development grants to South Australian based Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) storytellers for the development of long form (feature and series) drama and factual projects.

This year, SAFC launched the Aboriginal Short Film Initiative, for the development and production of a high quality short film.

The initiative will support the development of up to five projects from treatment or script through to production and explore the potential for partnerships with a broadcaster or digital platform.

Applications closed on June 1 and are currently being assessed.

SAFC has also established Pirrku Kuu (The Story Room) at Adelaide Studios. Pirrku Kuu will provide a creative and administrative hub for Aboriginal filmmakers to work on project development. Guidelines for use of the room will be launched soon.

A Reconciliation Action Plan, which sets out a foundation for the organisation's commitment to reconciliation has also been developed and approved by the SAFC Board.

To view a copy of the *South Australian Film Corporation's Aboriginal Screen Strategy 2015-2020* visit

<http://www.safilm.com.au/pdfs/production%20support/SAFC%20Strategy%20Digital%20FINAL.pdf>

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Footnote:

SAFC Aboriginal Advisory Committee Members

- Erica Glynn, Director Black Comedy (Arrente) Erica is a graduate of AFTRS in Sydney, Erica cut her teeth working for the Central Australian Aboriginal Media Association (CAAMA) in Alice Springs. Erica’s award-winning short film *My Bed, Your Bed* was an international success. She’s also made many documentaries including *A Walk with Words* with Romaine Morton and *Ngangkari* about traditional healers of the Central Desert Region. Erica was also head of Screen Australia’s Indigenous Unit for over 10 years.

- Major Sumner AM, a Ngarrindjeri Elder from the Coorong and Lower Lakes in South Australia. He has been involved in the repatriation of ancestral remains from London and Scotland back to Ngarrindjeri country. He has met with collecting institutions in the United Kingdom about repatriation for the remains of an estimated 600 Indigenous people. He is also a member of the World Council of Elders. Mr Sumner was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia in 2014 for his significant service to the Indigenous communities in South Australia.

- Derik Lynch (Yankunytjatjara) Derik Lynch was born in Alice Springs and is a proud Yankunytjatjara and central Arrente man who grew up in small town camp in Alice Springs called Old Timers Camp. Derek has had a terrific arts career to date. He starred alongside of Trevor Jamieson in the Theatre show *Namatjira* and which toured England and Rotterdam. His recently screen credits includes *Black Comedy* and *Deadline Gallipoli*.

- Natasha Wanganeen (Narungga) Natasha has had a successful film and television career. Her credits include *Rabbit Proof Fence (2002)*, *Black and White (2002)*, *Australian Rules (2002)* and most recent *Redfern Now – TV Series (2013)* and ABC’s production of *The Secret River (2013)*.