



South Australian Film Corporation



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Tuesday 9 August 2016

FILMMAKERS SELECTED FOR SAFC ABORIGINAL SHORT FILM INITIATIVE

Five South Australian aboriginal filmmakers have been selected to receive \$20,000 each in funding along with mentoring and professional development from some of Australia’s leading film industry figures to make their own short drama.

Edoardo Crismani, Isaac Lindsay, Kiara Milera, Thibul Nettle and Dylan Coleman will all receive funding and support as part of the new *SAFC Aboriginal Short Film Initiative* - a key initiative of the recently officially launched *South Australian Film Corporation’s Aboriginal Screen Strategy 2015-2020*.

This week ten South Australian Aboriginal filmmakers, including those receiving the Short Film Initiative funding, are participating in an intensive 5-day Production and Development Workshop at SAFC’s Adelaide Studios. They are joined by three non indigenous emerging producers who will be partnering on three of the projects.

The workshop will be led by Writer/Directors Beck Cole and Warwick Thornton. Beck Cole has extensive film credits, including the feature film *Here I Am* as well as the AACTA award winning sketch show *Black Comedy* and the drama series *Redfern Now*. Warwick Thornton has an extensive career as Director Writer and Cinematographer. His debut feature film *Samson & Delilah* was awarded the prestigious Camera d’Or at the 2009 Cannes International Film Festival, and his short film *Nana* won the Crystal Bear at the 2008 Berlin International Film Festival.

Other guest lectures at the workshops include film editor Tania Nehme (*Tanna, Charlie’s Country*), and cinematographer Allan Collins (*Mad Bastards, Beneath Clouds*) as well as Screen Australia’s Development Executive Louise Gough.

Workshop participants will receive support and advice from these industry experts on developing their stories, working with Directors of Photography (DOP), Editors, and on production planning, scouting locations and script development.

South Australian Film Corporation’s (SAFC) Chief Executive Annabelle Sheehan said the initiatives would harness the significant creative talents of South Australia’s Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander filmmakers.

“For several decades, Australian indigenous filmmakers have made extraordinary work which has been celebrated globally. This workshop marks the start of a new wave of aboriginal filmmakers, and it’s coming from South Australia, said Ms Sheehan.

“We look forward to seeing the depth of creative strengths of these five films and this group of filmmakers.”

SAFC’s Aboriginal Strategy Executive Lee-Ann Tjunypa Buckskin said the initiative would provide participants with significant career progression opportunities.

“They will receive mentoring and support from some of the best in the industry to help them to develop their own stories and realise their vision for the projects, said Ms Tjunypa Buckskin.

“The initiative will also help build networks and relationships between the filmmakers so they’re able to support each other in developing their projects.

“Opportunities will be explored for potential screening partnerships with a broadcaster or digital platform.”

The *SAFC Aboriginal Short Film Initiative* is the third new production initiative launched or delivered under *South Australian Film Corporation’s Aboriginal Screen Strategy 2015-2020*. The Strategy aims to support ambitious screen projects by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander filmmakers by growing investment, increasing production, providing professional development and mentoring for filmmakers, and building valuable industry partnerships.

Participating filmmakers will also benefit from the use of the newly 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.

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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Writer/Director Profiles

Edoardo Crismani, has just recently completed his 50 minute documentary *The Panther Within*. He will be working on his latest drama screenplay titled *440*, which tells the story of an Indigenous man in the corporate world. The project will be co-produced by Georgia Humphreys and Nara Wilson. Nara has been involved in many diverse short films and documentaries including SAFC supported projects *Ringbalin – the Breaking of the Drought* (2013) documentary and NITV microdoc *A Time for Refection*(2015). Gabrielle Fry will be Director’s Assistant on the project.

Isaac Lindsay will be coming down from Berri to take part in the workshop. He recently completed a behind the scenes documentary about the Micro Docs Production Initiative in 2015 run by the Media Resource Centre. Isaac’s short screenplay titled *A Mother’s Death* looks at an abusive relationship in a marriage.

Kiara Milera was supported by the SAFC to attend the the Short Film Screen Writing Course at the Australian Film, Television and Radio School (AFTRS) in Sydney to develop her script and has also been an actor on the successful ABC series, *Black Comedy*. Kiara’s short drama titled *No Ears* is a contemporary relationship drama. It will be produced by Bonnie McBride.

Thibul Nettle also goes by the name Stinga T, a renowned Rapper and has won numerous awards for his music and song writing. He won Best Actor at the ASIN Awards for his lead role in the film *49* and has recently produced , wrote and was lead actor in the feature film, *Friendship Love and Loyalty*. Thibul’s short script titled *The Protectors*, to be produced by Tess O’Flaherty, is a supernatural horror/ thriller.

Dylan Coleman is an established novelist and Lecturer at UNI SA. She holds a PhD in Creative Writing and won the Arts Queensland David Unaipon Award for her unpublished novel *Mazin Grace*, on which her short film is based. Most recently, Dylan just completed her short film *Spin*

Out, that is currently entering the festival circuit. Dylan will be co-writing with her brother Staurme Glastonbury, who co-wrote *Spin Out*.

Observer Team Profile

Garth Agius is developing a period drama about Mary Munartu, a traditional Kurna woman who lived in Adelaide during the 1800s. Garth was recently supported by SAFC to attend the 2016 National Screenwriters Conference on Phillip Island and has several projects in development.

Natasha Wanganeen is an awarding winning theatre and screen actress who has appeared in the ABC series' *Redfern Now* and *Secret River*, the TV movie *Jessica* and features *Australian Rules* and *Rabbit-Proof Fence*. Natasha's screenplay *Finders Keepers* is the story of two traditional young girls in the Dreaming.