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Award-winning producer Rachel Gardner appointed to SAFC Board

The South Australian Film Corporation (SAFC) is delighted to announce the appointment of highly experienced and acclaimed producer Rachel Gardner to the SAFC Board.

Rachel has Produced and Executive Produced a wide range of award-winning film and scripted television in both Australia and New Zealand, with recent credits including two major South Australian-shot productions.

Rachel produced writer/director Thomas M Wright's film *The Stranger*, shot in South Australia with stars Joel Edgerton and Sean Harris. The film premiered in Un Certain Regard competition at the 2022 Cannes Film Festival followed by its Australian premiere at MIFF, before breaking all ratings records for an Australian film on global Netflix.

She was creative lead producer on Warwick Thornton and Brendan Fletcher's South Australian-made First Nations vampire hunter series *Firebite* which launched AMC+ in Australia.

Other credits include producer of John Maclean's Sundance Film Festival jury winning film *Slow West* starring Michael Fassbender and Ben Mendelsohn alongside SA's Kodi Smit-McPhee, Executive Producer of Sam Strauss' acclaimed series *The End* for Foxtel, Showtime and Sky and both seasons of Netflix original *The New Legends of Monkey*.

Rachel is Creative Director of critically acclaimed production company Curio Pictures, where she oversees all creative aspects of their scripted slate. Backed by Sony Pictures Television, Curio has a focus on delivering clearly authored, compelling and entertaining projects for premium local and international commissioning platforms. Previously Rachel spent seven years at See-Saw Films, most recently as Head of Drama, and was Head of Drama at Great Southern Film and Television, based in New Zealand, which she co-owned.

Minister for the Arts Andrea Michaels MP said: "Congratulations to Rachel Gardner on her appointment to the SAFC Board. As one of Australia's most experienced producers, Rachel will bring invaluable international and national screen production knowledge and insight to the SAFC's already highly credentialled Board."

Rachel Gardner said: "I am delighted to join the SAFC Board. In 2021 I spent five incredible months living and working in Adelaide where, driven by the SAFC, the screen sector was thriving despite the national and international impacts of COVID. My own experience in producing film and television content in South Australia has made me the most passionate supporter of the South Australian screen industry, and I look forward to supporting the excellent work of the SAFC through my role on the Board."

SAFC Board Chair Mike Rann AC CNZM said: "We are thrilled to have one of Australia's top screen producers joining the SAFC Board in Rachel Gardner. Rachel's expertise in screen production, along with her extensive national and international experience, network and connections, will be invaluable assets in the SAFC's continued work to support and grow the South Australian screen industry."

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