

## Gender Matters: Record-breaking funding for women to be seen and heard

**EMBARGOED 10am Tuesday 12 July 2016:** The Australian Government has today revealed the 58 recipients of Screen Australia's Gender Matters: Brilliant Stories and Brilliant Careers, marking the largest cohort of projects funded in a single day in the agency's history.

A combined 45 story ideas and 13 industry projects led by Australian women will share in more than \$3 million of funding. For Brilliant Stories, the funds enable the creative teams to fast-track the development of their creative concept. For Brilliant Careers, the funds are for the implementation of business proposals to tangibly grow careers and create work opportunities for female screen makers.

Screen Australia received a record-breaking 452 applications for Brilliant Stories (333) and Brilliant Careers (119), the most applications ever received for a funding program.

"Gender Matters is unashamedly providing express-lane access to female business ideas and stories. The funding boost provided by Screen Australia has been a game-changer, providing the industry with an opportunity to get behind some very commercial and creative prospects. It's now time for action," said Screen Australia Chief Operating Officer, Fiona Cameron.

Gender Matters Task Force Chair **Deanne Weir** added, "What is significant is not just the number of applications we have been able to attract and support, but that the Gender Matters program has opened up funding opportunities for applicants who might otherwise fall outside of the established structures. For instance, nearly 20% of the successful Brilliant Stories teams would not normally be eligible for Screen Australia development funding because they do not have that magic first professional credit. Although there are good reasons for these checks and balances, by opening the door a little wider, Screen Australia is showing faith in the potential of many female filmmakers. I absolutely believe that the opportunities being created today will have a resounding effect on our screen industry for many years to come."

Gender Matters was announced in December 2015 as a direct response to the [identified gender imbalance](#) in lead creative roles across the screen sector. The disparity is most notable in traditional film with just 32% of women working as producers, 23% as writers and only 16% as directors.

Brilliant Stories and Brilliant Careers are part of the broader \$5 million [Gender Matters program](#), with the aim to ensure Screen Australia's production funding is targeted to creative teams that are at least 50% female by the end of 2018.



The Dressmaker: The 2015/16 Australian box office smash was led by Director/Co-Writer Jocelyn Moorhouse and Producer Sue Maslin, with three women as the central characters.

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**BRILLIANT STORIES: DIVERSITY OF CREATIVES AND NARRATIVE**

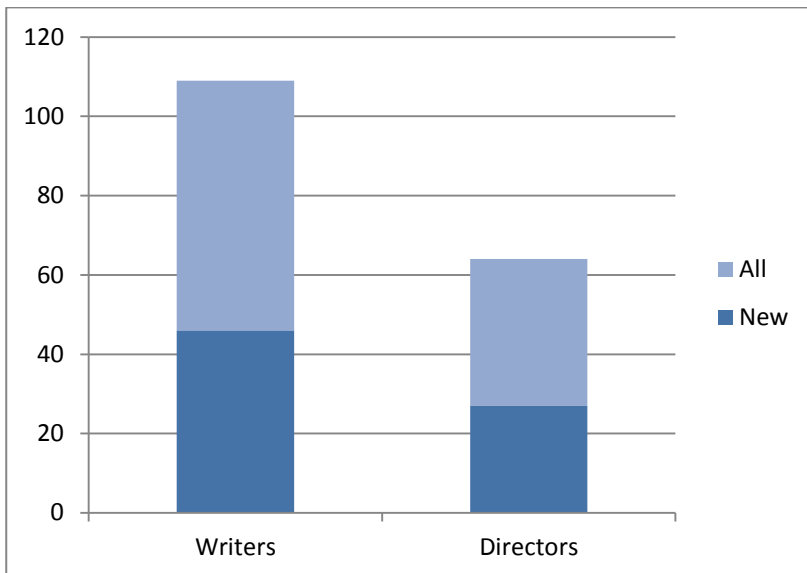
The Brilliant Stories slate includes 45 original, ambitious and compelling concepts across television (16), online (11) and feature film (18).

Television concepts include *Sex in the West*, the story of three mixed-faith friends living in Western Sydney and *I Am Woman* – the life of one of the mothers of modern feminism. Diana Glenn and *Offspring*'s Kat Stewart and Jane Harber move behind the camera into first-time writing roles with *The Elementals*, penning the tale of a group of washed-up superheroes in a share house. *Public Relations* is a comedy set in a PR firm that puts our culture of spin in the spotlight, while *Sixteen* is a sci-fi tale of sixteen girls who disappear on a three night hike. Writer Elise McCredie is also set to pen crime drama *Overflow* with Claudia Karvan on board as producer.

The online slate includes Skitbox, the brains behind viral hit *Activewear*, teaming up with online sensation SketchShe to create *Manifest*, three female creatives adjusting to life without chai lattes in a post-apocalyptic creative slum. *Triple Oh!* follows the antics of a mismatched pair of ambulance paramedics, while *Funny Rabbit* is a dark satire created by one-woman producer/writer/director Bidy O'Loughlin, told through the eyes of a rabbit named Bill. In *Sheilas*, two sisters dramatically explore the forgotten and most 'badass' women in Australia, and *Good Grief* is a funny and touching series on the inevitability and inconvenience of grief and mourning.

The feature film concepts include *Ride Like A Girl* – the story of the first woman to win Melbourne Cup (with Rachel Griffiths making her feature film directing debut). *Cloud Money* sees an elderly artist from a remote community run away to France to fulfill her lifelong dream to visit Claude Monet's garden. 2015 NSW Young Australian of the Year Genevieve Clay-Smith, whose work in supporting underrepresented people continues with *Baby Cat*, a tale of a vivacious young woman with Down syndrome, determined to make it on the international krumping stage.

*The Last Flight* tells the true story of the brave Pan Am flight attendants on a rescue mission into Vietnam during the war, and in *Girls in Hotels*, Gracie Otto and Jessica Carrera from Dollhouse Pictures work with writer Lee Tulloch to reveal the last 24 hours in the life of one woman. Meanwhile, producer Alex White and writer Mirrah Foulkes (the sole female member of Blue Tongue Films) are teaming up with acclaimed filmmakers Jan Chapman and Jane Campion, who are set to executive produce their drama-thriller *Runaway*.



New Faces: The successful Brilliant Stories teams include 27 new directors and 46 new writers (including those extending their careers into new genres and platforms), fast-tracking their careers whilst still allowing them to learn from experienced practitioners.

For a full list of recipients, see page 4.

## BRILLIANT CAREERS: FROM THE NORTHERN RIVERS TO THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

Brilliant Careers is about creating business and industry infrastructure around women that is ongoing, and covers various business initiatives from networking to new VOD platforms.

Networking applicant Northern Rivers Screenworks will run **The Athena Project**, a program that will provide writers and directors from regional areas around Australia with industry forums, while **Bunya Engendered** will see women from diverse backgrounds develop their stories within a writers lab and have access to ongoing networking and mentorship support.

Mentorship and training applicant and renowned producer Imogen Banks (*Offspring*) and writer Alice Bell (*Puberty Blues, The Beautiful Lie*), will address the lack of new female voices coming into the TV industry by taking 12 uncredited female writers through the process of developing a series with **Smart for a Girl - ROAR**.

Another successful application is **The Causeway Forward**, from the production company behind Jennifer Kent's *The Babadook* and upcoming *The Nightingale*, who will aim to use development funds to identify, nurture and promote stories by women.

Directors including Gillian Armstrong, Samantha Lang and *Sherpa's* Jennifer Peedom are just some of the representatives from Australian Directors Guild attachment proposal with **Gender Careers for Screen Practitioners** - a two-year plan to place female directors in the feature film and television space. It will not only seek to change the shocking lack of female directors (16% in feature film in 2014), but will give them the credits they need to progress into more opportunities.

Mamamia.com.au will soon be moving into narrative storytelling as well as providing a distribution avenue for a Screen Australia-supported web series for its female audience base with **Mamamia: Love | Laugh | Learn**. The **business development** concept already has *Starting From Now's* director Julie Kalceff and story producer Rosie Lourde attached.

For a full list of recipients, see page 4.

### NEXT STEPS

Screen Australia is currently working with state screen agencies to schedule networking events for all Brilliant Stories and Brilliant Careers applicants (regardless of whether their application was successful). The first event is with Screen Queensland's [IncubatHER](#) initiative on 21 July, with more details to follow.

The final two stages of Gender Matters – **Better Deals** (a pilot program to enhance the distribution and marketing of Australian films with significant female content) and **Attachments for Women** (a program that requires female attachments to projects when Screen Australia invests more than \$500,000) – will be announced later this year.

### FURTHER INFORMATION

A reel announcing all Brilliant Stories and Brilliant Careers recipients, plus a selection of high resolution photography will be available from the [Screen Australia News Room](#) from 12 July.

- [Gender Matters hub](#)
- [Gender Matters video series](#)
- [Gender Matters: Women in the Australian Screen Industry Report \(Dec 2015\)](#)

Follow the conversation on Twitter: [@ScreenAustralia](#) and [#GenderMatters](#)

## Gender Matters: Brilliant Stories

MEDIA RELEASE

### SCRIPTED TELEVISION

#### THE ELEMENTALS

8 x 30 min

**Snap Pants Productions**

Genre Action adventure, Comedy

Producers Diana Glenn, Katherine Stewart, Jane Harber, Andrew Walker

Director Sian Davies

Writers Diana Glenn, Katherine Stewart, Jane Harber

**Synopsis** Three washed up, co-dependent ex superheroes living in a share house wrestle with their responsibilities to save the planet and their desire to do very little. Things heat up with the emergence of a new uber villain and news that they are about to lose their government superhero payouts.

#### FALLOUT

6 x 1 hr

**Film Art Media**

Genre Drama

Producer Charlotte Seymour

Executive Producer Sue Maslin

Writer Jane Allen, Stuart Page

**Synopsis** The decline of an ageing parent is the catalyst for a complex drama series around love, loss and shifting loyalties and the discovery that sometimes those closest to you are the greatest strangers of all.

#### FEARLESS

2 x 90 min

**Werner Film Productions**

Genre Drama

Producers Louise Smith, Joanna Werner

Writer Megan Simpson Huberman, Steven McGregor

**Synopsis** A two part mini-series based on the inspiring true life story of one of Australia's best-known and most loved female heroes.

#### THE GIFTED

13 x 1 hr

**Princess Pictures Holdings**

Genre Action adventure, Drama, Thriller

Producers Andrea Denholm, Jessica Leslie

Writer Giulia Sandler, Courtney Wise

**Synopsis** Vivica Webb, a 16 year old orphan murder suspect, is offered refuge at The Phoenix Institute for Gifted Teenagers, only to discover that the school is run by a highly evolved supernatural race preparing for a war against humanity.

#### HOLY COW

6 x 1 hr

**See Pictures, Bliss Bomb, Jungle FTV**

Genre Comedy, Drama

Producers Ester Harding, Radha Mitchell, Chloe Rickard

Directors Alethea Jones, Daina Reid

Writers Liz Doran, Lally Katz, Greg Waters

**Synopsis** When media commentator Sarah runs to foreign correspondent Jonathan's New Delhi doorstep, she keeps her reasons secret. A romantic adventure through India's extremes is not what she expects, but it may turn out to be what she needs.

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MEDIA RELEASE

**I AM WOMAN**

2 x 2 hr

Ruby Entertainment

Genre Drama

Producers Stephen Luby, Mark Ruse

Director Daina Reid

Writer Alica Gwinner

**Synopsis** 28-year-old Germaine Greer is at a crossroads. Does she choose marriage, academia and respectability, or instead pursue a burning personal intuition? Her decision leads to the publication of 'The Female Eunuch' which cements her place in the history books as a mother of modern feminism.

**JUMPER**

6 x 30 min

Porchlight Films

Genre Comedy

Producers Tanya Phegan, Sylvia Warmer

Executive Producers Anita Sheehan, Vincent Sheehan, Liz Watts

Writer/Director Kacie Anning

**Synopsis** A big-hearted comedic underdog sports series where a working class university student forms a jump rope team to protest the repeal of free tertiary education in 1980's Australia.

**OVERFLOW**

6 x 1 hr

Genre Drama, Crime, Mystery

Producer Claudia Karvan

Writer Elise McCredie

**Synopsis** When 17-year-old, private school boy Albie disappears without a trace, Detective Sophie Krawitz is on a mission to find him, but his social media trail leads her back to her own family and the past she had determined to leave behind forever. *Overflow* is a dense, action packed, crime drama set against the backdrop of the mysteriously rising Yarra River.

**PROPINQUITY**

8 x 1 hr

FremantleMedia Australia

Genre Drama

Executive Producer Jo Porter

Director Rachel Ward

**Synopsis** A period drama set in a boarding house that explores the social, economic, gender and political issues of the late 19th century, through the story of Women's Suffrage activist, Vida Goldstein.

**PUBLIC RELATIONS**

6 x 30 min

Revolver Films

Genre Comedy

Producer Martha Coleman

Director Sarah Bishop

Writers Claire Phillips, Sarah Bishop, Ainslie Clouston

**Synopsis** An outrageously funny and biting satirical ensemble comedy set in a PR firm that struggles to keep its clients out of the papers and their dick pics offline.

**SEX IN THE WEST (SITW)**

6 x 1 hr

Entertainment One Films

Genre Comedy, Drama

Producers Troy Lum, Jude Troy

Executive Producer Fadia Abboud

Writers Fadia Abboud, Lina Kastoumis, Gillian Stein, Amal Awad

**Synopsis** A sharp, warm and celebratory story of three Arab, Muslim and Christian female friends living in contemporary Western Sydney. Their friendships and loyalties are tested as they balance community and family expectations with their own desires and ambitions.

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MEDIA RELEASE

#### SILVER LINING

8 x 30

Carver Films

Genre Comedy, Drama

Producers Anna McLeish, Sarah Shaw

Director Mirrah Foulkes

Writers Mirrah Foulkes, Luke Davies

**Synopsis** Rose returns from her life overseas to convince her eccentric ageing parents to move into assisted living. As they dig their heels in, she suddenly finds herself parenting them and having to face the dysfunctional family dynamics that bubble to the surface.

#### SIXTEEN

10 x 50 min

Madman Production Company

Genre Drama, Science fiction

Producers Nick Batzias, Virginia Whitwell

Director Amy Gebhardt

Writer Veronica Gleeson

**Synopsis** Sixteen girls disappear on a three-night hike. They return pregnant - carrying a new species.

#### SWEET JANE

10 x 1 hr

Cordell Jigsaw Productions

Genre Drama, Romantic comedy

Producer Paul Bennett

Director Jennifer Leacy

Writers Samantha Strauss, Ally Burnham, Paul Bennett

**Synopsis** A contemporary workplace comedy set against the dramatic highs and lows of the book publishing industry.

#### TALES FROM OUTER SUBURBIA

12 x 11 min

Spirited Pty Ltd T/Highly Spirited

Genre Family

Producer Sophie Byrne

Executive Producer Julia Adams

Director Shaun Tan

Writer Lally Katz

**Synopsis** Two siblings discover a strange world beneath a deceptively ordinary surface: a wise local buffalo; an inch-tall exchange student; a hidden room that leads to other countries; a lost deep sea diver and many other mysteries, all raising questions about what it means to be a family.

#### TORN

8 x 1 hr

Common Language Films

Genre Drama

Producers Julie Kalceff, Rosie Lourde

Writer/Director Julie Kalceff

**Synopsis** Two women, former school friends, are reunited. While they each appear to have moved on with their lives, there is still one thing holding them back - their unresolved feelings for each other.

#### SCRIPTED ONLINE AND INTERACTIVE

##### ALL OUR EGGS

Genre Comedy, Drama

Producer Dan Prichard

Director Martha Goddard

Writer Vanessa Bates

**Synopsis** The journey taken by a family...to make a family, humorously navigating all the agonies and ecstasies of the Great Big Fertility Ride.

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MEDIA RELEASE

#### CARAVAN OF LOVE

Genre Comedy, Drama

Producers Trudy Hellier, Maria Theodorakis

Executive Producers Susie Dee, Nicci Wilks

Writer Patricia Cornelius, Melissa Reeves

Synopsis A mother and daughter's tumultuous relationship is put to the test in a bid to find love, hope, independence or even a Tinder date, after years of roaming in their caravan in search of greener grass.

#### COSMICA

Paper Rabbits

Genre Science fiction, Action adventure, Comedy

Producer Debra Liang

Writer/Director Makoto Koji

Synopsis A vivid intergalactic animated anthology following young space-faring women as they overcome, grow and succeed on the vast cosmic stage.

#### FUNNY RABBIT

Genre Comedy

Writer/Director/Producer Bidy O'Loughlin

Synopsis A dark comic satire and poignant series about the human condition as told through the eyes of a rabbit named Bill.

#### GOOD GRIEF

Genre Comedy, Drama

Producer Amanda Reedy

Executive Producer Nicole Minchin

Director Amanda Jane

Writers Natalie Harris, Jess Harris

Synopsis A funny and touching series on grief. Whether it's mourning a loved one, your youth, or last night's bottle(s) of pinot, grief is inevitable and never convenient.

#### MANIFEST

Genre Comedy

Producer Sarah Bishop

Writer/Director Shae-Lee Shackelford

Synopsis Post-apocalyptic creative slum has become home for three female creatives adjusting to life without chai lattes. A book promising to manifest their desires out of thin air leads them to magical thinking and misconstrued 'thanking the universe' when really they are just 'stealing'. Can love, belief and spirituality hold them afloat in a comedy of delusion, or do fabulous miracles just happen?

#### NEWS JUNKIES

Weave Films

Genre Comedy, Drama

Producers Emma Masters, Kristy O'Brien

Director Emma Masters

Writer Lucy McNally

Synopsis Wannabe hotshot journalist, Elle Walker, gets more than she bargains for when she moves from Sydney's Bondi Beach to a tabloid television newsroom in remote northern Australia.

#### SHEILAS

Giant Dwarf

Genre Comedy

Producer Nikita Agzarian

Executive Producer Julian Morrow

Writers/Directors Eliza Reilly, Hannah Reilly

Synopsis A playful celebration of the forgotten and most badass women in Australian history.

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MEDIA RELEASE

**SUNSHINE**

**RKPix**

Genre Comedy, Drama

Producer Eva Di Blasio

Director Julietta Boscolo

Writer Louise Woodruff Sanz

Synopsis When the global internet is destroyed, the residents of a sleepy town that technology forgot - Sunshine - find themselves catapulted to the verge of becoming a world power. As they ready themselves for their annual 'Sunshiny Fair', the population face a global apocalyptic meltdown, served up alongside a nice slice of award-winning sponge cake.

**TRIPLE OH!**

Genre Comedy, Drama

Producer Poppy Stockell

Director Melvin Montalban, Poppy Stockell

Writer Erica Harrison

Synopsis In the shadow of the night, a comically mismatched pair of Sydney ambulance paramedics working the graveyard shift inadvertently explore life, death - and each other, as Tayls introduces Josh to her policy of 'life-affirming sex' to help 'balance things out' when a patient dies.

**THE VIRGIN INTERVENTION**

Galvanized Film Group

Genre Comedy

Producers Holly Fraser, Heather Ogilvie

Director Erin White

Writer Fiona Gillman

Synopsis When did 'virgin' become the new 'slut'?

**FEATURES**

**ARRIVALS**

Genre Comedy, Drama

Director Corrie Chen

Writers Penelope Chai, Corrie Chen

Synopsis Following the death of her mother, a young Australian woman travels to a mysterious city in China to track down her long-absent father, but all she finds is a desolate metropolis with a single inhabitant awaiting the arrival of others.

**A TERRIBLE BEAUTY**

Storey Kids

Genre Drama, Science fiction

Producers Anna Kojevnikov, Sally Storey

Writer/Director Sarah-Jane Woulahan

Synopsis In 2064 the world's leading social-robot engineer, Dr Olivia Hallaran, her robot partner and a robotics psychologist are drawn into a manipulative love triangle where they test what it means to love.

**BABY CAT**

Bus Stop Films

Genre Comedy, Drama, Romantic comedy, Family

Producer Eleanor Winkler

Writer/Director Genevieve Clay-Smith

Synopsis A vivacious young woman with Down Syndrome who is obsessed with street dance, embarks on a quest to win the Philadelphia krump crew championships. She will need determination, the help of a duplicitous street dancer and some killer moves to win.

**BIG GIRL**

Rogue Productions

Genre Drama

Producer Glenda Hambly

Writer/Director Melanie Scammell

Synopsis With their father in jail, two sisters escape poverty-stricken suburbia and embark on a dangerous journey to find their absent mother. Sisterly bonds are pushed to the limit as they discover a new meaning of 'family'.

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MEDIA RELEASE

**BONDI BEACH BREAKFAST CLUB**

Film Depot

Genre Comedy, Drama

Producer Louise Smith

Writer Liz Doran

Synopsis Three friends, one beach, four decades - and a secret that could tear them apart.

**CLOUD MONEY**

Brindle Films

Genre Comedy

Producers Rachel Clements, Meredith Garlick, Trisha Morton-Thomas

Writer Trisha Morton-Thomas

Synopsis An old female artist from a remote Aboriginal community runs away to France to fulfil a lifelong dream to see Claude Monet's garden before her eyesight fails. Her community and family go into crisis and send out a search party to bring her back.

**FLOWER**

Aquarius Films

Genre Drama

Producers Angie Fielder, Cecilia Ritchie, Polly Staniford

Director Del Kathryn Barton

Writer Emma Jensen

Synopsis A middle-aged accountant fights against an increasingly intense erotic fetish for flowers. He meets a kindred spirit, a researcher who analyses historic suicide notes, who helps him accept and celebrate his secret sexual proclivities.

**GIRLS IN HOTELS**

The Dollhouse Pictures, Ralf Films

Genre Drama, Mystery

Producers Jessica Carrera, Gracie Otto

Executive Producer Robyn Kershaw

Director Gracie Otto

Writer Lee Tulloch

Synopsis The last 24 hours in the life of one woman. Her final day is shared through the eyes of eight women around the world in multiple time zones and hotel rooms.

**HER PREDILECTION**

Feisty Dame Productions

Genre Comedy

Producer Tania Chambers

Writer/Director Renee Webster

Synopsis A mature woman starts a business providing women with quality sexual experiences packaged with a house clean, and discovers the boundless nature of not only their desires, but her own.

**KILL THE MESSENGER**

Handmaid Media

Genre Romantic comedy

Director Samantha Lang

Writer Nakkiah Lui

Synopsis Nakkiah and Peter are the two parts of a post-colonial interracial love story: passionately in love, and furiously at odds. As fiction and reality collide, Nakkiah has to rewrite their story if they are ever to have a happy ending.

**THE LAST FLIGHT**

Deep Blue Pacific

Genre Thriller

Director Unjoo Moon

Writer Joan Sauers

Synopsis In 1975, during the height of the Vietnam War, Pan Am flew one last commercial flight into the warzone. This is the untold true story of the five brave air stewardesses who volunteered for the heroic mission to rescue over 500 civilians.

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#### THE MOTEL AT THE END OF THE WORLD

Rummin Productions

Genre Post-apocalyptic psycho-biddy

Producers Briony Kidd, Catherine Pettman

Writer/Director Briony Kidd

Synopsis A mother and daughter running a motel in post-apocalyptic suburbia are each other's fiercest ally, until the arrival of a disturbed soldier turns the relationship deadly.

#### REINCARNATION

Carver Films

Genre Psychological thriller

Producers Anna McLeish, Sarah Shaw

Writer Hannah Kent

Synopsis A doctor is frightened by her young son's inexplicable visions of a past life. She must abandon her scientific rationale to uncover the hidden dark history of her estranged mother.

#### RELIC

Carver Films

Genre Psychological horror

Producers Anna McLeish, Sarah Shaw

Director Natalie James

Writers Natalie James, Christian White

Synopsis Creeping dread turns to sheer panic as a mother and daughter search an isolated town for their missing grandmother. To survive they must confront their worst fears and face a sinister manifestation of aged dementia.

#### RIDE LIKE A GIRL

100 to 1 Films, The Film Company

Genre Comedy, Drama, Family

Producer Richard Keddie

Director Rachel Griffiths

Writers Andrew Knight, Elise McCredie

Synopsis The inspirational true story of the youngest girl in a family of eight jockeys, determined to defy all odds and become the first female jockey to win the holy grail of horse racing: the Melbourne Cup.

#### RUNAWAY

Whitefalk Films

Genre Drama, Thriller

Producer Alex White

Executive Producers Jane Campion, Jan Chapman

Writer Mirrah Foulkes

Synopsis Fearing the unravelling of her relationship, a young woman leads her husband into a complex and dangerous world of sexual fantasy that entangles the lives of her older neighbours.

#### SHEEDA

Epic Films

Genre Romantic comedy

Producer Kirsty Stark

Writer/Director Shideh Faramand

Synopsis When her mother's matchmaking antics unearth a surprisingly charming suitor, a struggling 30-something actress is torn between ambition, family and the surprise return of an unrequited flame.

#### THE SOUND OF MUMBAI

The Sound of Mumbai Australia

Genre Drama, Musical

Producer Michelle Sahayan

Writer/Director Sarah McCarthy

Synopsis Based on an extraordinary true story, a music teacher on sabbatical in India discovers a choir of children from Mumbai's harshest slum, and conspires to have them perform a concert of songs from *The Sound of Music* at Mumbai's most prestigious concert hall.

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## Gender Matters: Brilliant Careers

### GENDER CAREERS FOR SCREEN PRACTITIONERS

#### Australian Directors Guild (ADG)

**Company Directors:** Ray Argall, Jonathan Brough, Samantha Lang, Michela Ledwidge, Jennifer Peedom, Nadia Tass, Stephen Wallace, Jeffrey Walker **Manager:** Kingston Anderson **Directors:** Gillian Armstrong, Rebecca Barry, Anna Broinowski, Megan Simpson Huberman

**Summary** At its core, the ADG Gender Careers program will identify, introduce and place female directors into the feature film and television space. Run over two years with production and broadcast partners, the program will provide 12 women directors with relevant credits to stimulate real directing opportunities.

### BUNYA ENGENDERED

#### Bunya Productions

**Producer:** Greer Simpkin

**Summary** Bunya Production's Engendered program will provide opportunities for emerging and mid-career creatives from diverse backgrounds to develop their stories within a TV writers lab run by a highly experienced international mentor. Engendered will also create ongoing networking and mentorship support.

### THE CAUSEWAY FORWARD

#### Causeway Productions

**Producers:** Kristina Ceyton, Sam Jennings

**Summary** Causeway Films continues to launch the international careers of some of Australia's hottest female writers and directors. With Gender Careers support Causeway will consolidate and expand on its success by bringing in another female producer. It will also create a seed development fund with a commitment to identify, nurture and promote more female talent onto its expanding slate of screen projects.

### CLOSER'S BRILLIANT CAREERS

#### Closer Productions

**Company Directors:** Sophie Hyde, Rebecca Summerton **Producer:** Christine Williams

**Summary** Closer Productions will further support the careers of their existing female principals and offer opportunities for new talent. Committed to identifying and supporting exceptional female voices, Closer's early development fund will allow the company to nurture identified talent and allow women's stories to flourish.

### SMART FOR A GIRL - ROAR

#### Endemol Shine Australia

**Producer:** Imogen Banks **Writer:** Alice Bell

**Summary** ROAR's premise is simple: take twelve, uncredited, female writers through the process of developing a television series from genesis to network pitch. The renowned producer, Imogen Banks and writer Alice Bell will work to redress the serious problem of no new writers coming into the TV industry and will assist female writers to get their first job.

### GENDER REALLY MATTERS TO FLICKCHICKS

#### Flickchicks

**Company Directors:** Margie Brown, Mandy Lake

**Summary** Following the international success of the 10-part Animal Planet series *Snake Sheila/Snake Boss*, Queensland factual producer Flickchicks will realise the potential of its existing factual slate and provide career opportunities for two female screenmakers.

### THE GOODSHIP AGENCY

#### The Goodship Agency

**Company Directors:** Courtney Botfield, Tracey Mair

**Summary** The Goodship Agency will upscale to employ a brand integration specialist to secure brand partnerships for an expanding slate of film, television and online productions. Brand integration and screen content has huge untapped potential which film distribution and marketing specialists Tracey Mair and Courtney Botfield are well placed to mine.

### HARDY WHITE SLATE AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

#### Hardy White Pictures

**Company Directors:** Michelle Hardy, Erin White

**Summary** Michelle Hardy and Erin White will develop the Hardy White Pictures slate of original TV and online projects and develop professionally as business owners while nurturing emerging talent.

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MEDIA RELEASE

**LEVELK INTERNATIONAL SALES AND DISTRIBUTION INTERNSHIP**

LevelK

**Company Director:** Alexandra Burke

**Summary** International Sales Agent, LevelK, offers a 1 year part time internship in Australia that will enable the successful applicant the chance to gain hands on market experience and the skills to further a career in distribution or production.

**MAMAMIA: LOVE | LAUGH | LEARN**

Mamamia.com.au

**Creative Director:** Mia Freedman **Managing Director:** Kylie Rogers **Editor:** Kate de Brito, **Head of Podcasts:** Holly Wainwright **Head of Editorial Strategy and Product:** Rebecca Jacobs **Head of Sales and Broad Media:** Danika Johnston  
**Summary** Mamamia is Australia’s largest online distribution platform for news and stories about and for women. This partnership with Screen Australia will enable Mamamia to move into the narrative story space while also providing an avenue for online web series supported by Screen Australia to gain access to audiences and generate revenue.

**THE NATALIE MILLER LEADERSHIP PROGRAM**

The Natalie Miller Fellowship

**Company Directors:** Julia Adams, Jackie Fletcher **President:** Sue Maslin

**Summary** The Natalie Miller Foundation has built an impressive brand and reputation promoting female leadership in the screen industry. The Natalie Miller Leadership Program will focus on career advancement and leadership for women from all Australian states and territories as well as formal mentorships with established screen industry professionals.

**THE ATHENA PROJECT**

Northern Rivers Screenworks

**Managers:** Ken Crouch, Lisa O'Meara

**Summary** Screenworks will run The Athena Project, a program that will provide writers and directors from regional areas across Australia with the opportunity to participate in a career development forum in Byron Bay designed to impart strategies and information about building a successful career in the screen industries. There will also be ongoing support opportunities for participants that will build networks and create viable and strategic career pathways and plans following the forum.

**REALTV PROJECT**

The Real TV Project

**Company Directors:** Angela Betzien, Leticia Caceres

**Summary** RealTV will enable successful theatre director, Leticia Caceres, and playwright, Angela Betzien, to extend their experience, skills and talent onto the screen via exciting long term attachments with Matchbox and Madman.

Media enquiries

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