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ENTERPRISE FUNDING REVIEW SUBMISSION



As a small production company and distributor of one-off feature documentaries and low budget feature films, a company on the scale and experience of Ghost Pictures P/L seems to fall through the Enterprise Fund's "gap of eligibility" in their concept of providing an amount of 'slate development funding' and supporting the building of a sustainable business model.

Ghost Pictures P/L is a company that focuses on the production and cross-platform & theatrical distribution of quality feature-length productions such as IN BOB WE TRUST, AUTOLUMINESCENT, WE'RE LIVING ON DOG FOOD, the digitally restored version of DOGS IN SPACE, ECCO HOMO & the Michael Hutchence dramatised biopic MICHAEL (developed with the support of Screen Australia).

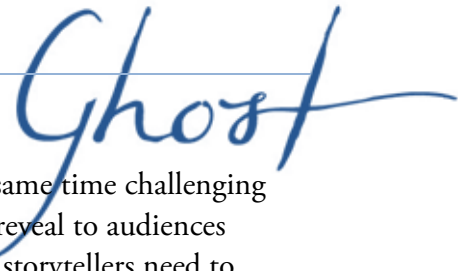
There are numerous companies and independent producers on the scale of Ghost Pictures in the Australian film industry who are not large or "multi-format" enough to fit the current criteria that makes them eligible for the Enterprise Program.

Ghost Pictures and similar production companies are also ineligible for the 'Feature Enterprise' version of the Enterprise Funding Scheme as this program is currently aimed at "new feature film producers" and our experience as film producers extends back over 25 years. However, as any experienced film producer knows, experience does not make getting the next film up any easier.

A sustainable existence is an extremely fragile and risky one for producers of the type of films that are challenging and confronting and important. Due to the current changing of the distribution models and diversification in the media landscape, the 'Free To Air' pre-sale license fees on offer for feature-length projects from the broadcasters have become radically smaller. The broadcasters now relegate feature documentaries and low-budget features to the second digital channels that have much lower budgets. Presently Broadcasters choose to take the more economically rational path of acquisition of a completed film and the fees in this case are extremely small; as is evident in our recent experience with 'IN BOB WE TRUST' in spite of its successful national theatrical release.

Consequently our suggestion is this:

**That there be an Enterprise Program stream set up to deal with this gap in eligibility for smaller, experienced Production companies and/or Producers who have had recent success in the production and distribution marketplace. This stream would provide a working capital grant over two years to sustain and enable the development and financing of a slate of feature length projects along with the development of new and professional talent within the existing company structure. If relevant, the capital could also be used to create and sustain an innovative, in-house distribution base for the company's feature-length product.**



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We understand that an industry needs to be commercially viable but at the same time challenging stories need to be told and seen by audiences for the culture to flourish and reveal to audiences worlds, stories and characters outside of the mainstream. In other words the storytellers need to lead with confronting and even unsettling films rather than conforming to the dictates of current programming. From the experience we have had with the recent multi-platform releases of our “one-off” feature documentaries and films, these stories are greatly appreciated and welcomed by audiences around the world. However there still remains the long-term livelihood of companies committed to this part of the industry’s endeavours to be considered.

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