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## MEDIA RELEASE

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[www.screenaustralia.gov.au](http://www.screenaustralia.gov.au)

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### Screen Australia announces support for 16 new projects including de Bernières' *Red Dog*

**Wednesday 5 August 2009:** An adaptation of Louis de Bernières' best-selling novel *Red Dog* is among \$12.5 million of Screen Australia investment announced today.

The film was adapted for the screen by **Daniel Taplitz** and will be directed by **Kriv Stenders** and produced by **Nelson Woss** and **Julie Ryan**. Production is expected to take place in Western Australia's Pilbara from October and will star **Koko** the dog in the title role.

"In an environment where we have significantly less funding to invest in feature films, it is great to find a very Australian story that explodes with charm. The *Red Dog* story has already touched the lives of many people and we know audiences will also embrace it warmly on the screen," said **Ruth Harley**, Screen Australia's Chief Executive Officer.

**Joel Pearlman**, Managing Director of Roadshow Films, said, "We are thrilled that *Red Dog* has received funding approval. We have been working on this project with producer Nelson Woss for a number of years and we are excited that it will now be brought to the screen. *Red Dog* has the potential to be an extremely broad theatrical release for a wide Australian audience and we are delighted to be collaborating with Screen Australia on the project."

Screen Australia also announced support for *Slide*, an innovative integrated multiplatform drama experience, and the second series of the internationally successful children's television program, *Elephant Princess*.

Three dramas inspired by real-life events have received production investment support: *Hawke*, which focuses on the transformation of Bob Hawke; *Sisters of War*, inspired by a small group of Australians who were made prisoners of war; and *Credence*, the shocking story of Maria Korp who was left to die in the boot of her car.

Ten documentaries received support including *Who Do You Think You Are 3*, the latest instalment in the top-rating series where well-known Australians play detective as they go in search of their family history.

Screen Australia's investment will trigger in excess of \$46 million of production.

**For production details see the following pages.**

**Feature****RED DOG****Woss Group Film Productions Pty Ltd****Executive Producers** Graham Burke, Joel Pearlman, Aaron Ryder, Su Armstrong**Producers** Nelson Woss, Julie Ryan**Writer** Daniel Taplitz**Director** Kriv Stenders**Sales and Distribution** Essential Entertainment, Roadshow**Synopsis** Set in Western Australian's Pilbara, *Red Dog* is based on the Louis de Bernières novel about a dog who brings together a community.**Television Drama****CREDENCE****Playmaker Media Pty Ltd****Producer** David Maher and David Taylor**Writer** Ellie Beaumont**Director** Ian Watson**Sales and Distribution** ITVG Global**Synopsis** While Melbourne mother of two, Maria Korp, lay dying in the boot of her car, her husband, Joe Korp, pointed the finger of blame at his mistress Tania Herman. As the truth unravelled, a twisted tale of suburban swingers, grand scale deception and murder emerged, which shocked Australia. This is the shocking and macabre story of Maria: The Woman In The Boot.**HAWKE****The Film Company****Executive Producers** Rick Maier, David Parker**Producer** Richard Keddie**Writer** Glen Dolman**Director** Emma Freeman**Broadcaster** Network Ten**Sales and Distribution** ABC Commercial**Synopsis** The story of Australia's most-loved Prime Minister as he faces his greatest challenge: a battle within his own party. As he fights for his life, we discover his incredible transformation from the womanising but brilliant trade union president to a polished, egalitarian and visionary world leader.**SISTERS OF WAR****Pericles Film Productions Pty Ltd****Producer** Andrew Wiseman**Writer** John Misto**Sales and Distribution** DCD Rights, ABC Commercial**Synopsis** *Sisters of War* is inspired by the true story of a small group of Australian nurses and nuns who found themselves in the eye of the storm when the Japanese military made them prisoners of war on the remote island of New Britain in 1942. It is a tale of strength, survival and forgiveness.**SLIDE****Slide Films Pty Ltd****Producers** David Maher, David Taylor, Nathan Mayfield, Tracey Robertson, Ross Crowley**Writers** Keith Thompson, Michael Lucas**Broadcaster** Foxtel**Sales and Distribution** Fremantle Media Enterprises**Synopsis** *Slide* is an exciting integrated multiplatform drama experience and tracks five teens as they smash their way into adulthood. When you're 17, life can turn in 24 hours and for Bryan, Tammy, Luke, Linda and Eva this will be the transformative time of their lives. They've got 10 weeks, each other and a lift home from mum when they need it. *Slide*: survive your teenage years with a smile.

**Children's Television****ELEPHANT PRINCESS SERIES 2****Jonathan M Shiff Productions Pty Ltd****Executive Producers** Jonathan M Shiff, Julia Adams**Story Producers** Chris Roache, Joss King**Writers** Simon Butters, Sam Carroll, Max Dann, Joss King, Anthony Morris, Chris Roache**Directors** Colin Budds, Grant Brown**Sales and Distribution** Network Ten, Disney Channel, ZDF, ZDF Enterprises**Synopsis** In an epic battle to defend her Kingdom from Dark Magic and the evil witch Diva, modern teenage girl Alex Wilson falls in love with Caleb, a strikingly handsome boy with a dangerous secret.**Documentaries – Domestic Door****1606 AND 1770: A TALE OF TWO DISCOVERIES****Shoebox Films****Executive Producer** Pat Fiske**Producer/Director** John Mulders**Broadcaster** Foxtel**Sales and Distribution** Foxtel**Synopsis** A lone Dutch explorer lands on Australia's northern coast in 1606, charting over 300 kilometres, yet Australians still revere Cook as their discoverer.**ACCENTUATE THE POSITIVE****Iris Pictures****Producer** Jessica Douglas Henry**Director** John Janson-Moore**Broadcaster** ABC TV**Sales and Distribution** ABC Commercial**Synopsis** Follows the introduction of the philosophy of positive education into the school curriculum at Geelong Grammar School, focusing on the experiences of Year 9 students at the unique Timbertop campus in rural Victoria.**FROM THE ASHES****Carbon Media Events Pty Ltd****Producer** Helen Morrison**Field Producer** Donald Johannessen**Director** Dean Gibson**Broadcaster** ABC TV**Sales and Distribution** ABC Commercial**Synopsis** Two young Indigenous Australian cricketers travel to England as part of a team to retrace the first ever Australian Cricket Tour of 1868, in a journey of self-discovery and extraordinary Indigenous heritage.**THE TRAGEDY OF THE MONTEVIDEO MARU****Montevideo Maru Pty Ltd****Producers** John Schindler, Bob Blasdall**Director** Dick Marks**Broadcaster** Foxtel History Channel**Sales and Distribution** Montevideo Maru Pty Ltd**Synopsis** At the bottom of the South China Sea lies the wreck of Australia's greatest ever maritime tragedy. One thousand and fifty-three young men and boys, military personnel and civilians, forever entombed in the hold of a Japanese prison ship.**WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE 3****WhoThree Pty Ltd****Executive Producers** Brian Beaton, Margie Bryant**Series Producer** Celia Tait**Media enquiries** Victoria Buchan, The Lantern Group

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**Broadcaster** SBS TV

**Sales and Distribution** Outright, SBS

**Synopsis** Well-known Australians play detective as they go in search of their family history, revealing secrets from the past.

### **Documentaries – International Door**

#### **THE NOMAD TRAIL**

**Orana Films Nomad Pty Ltd**

**Producer/Director** Richard Dennison

**Series Directors** Richard Dennison, Malcolm Macdonald, Mike Balson, Tim Cope

**Broadcaster** ABC TV, ZDF/ARTE

**Sales and Distribution** ABC Commercial

**Synopsis** *The Nomad Trail* follows Tim Cope's remarkable journey over three-and-a-half years as he 're-rides' history from Mongolia to Hungary on the trail of mounted nomad warriors.

#### **SALES, SEDUCTION AND SEX**

**Essential Media and Entertainment**

**Executive Producer** Chris Hilton

**Producers** Sonja Armstrong, Christine Le Goff

**Director** Sally Aitken

**Broadcaster** SBS TV, Arte France

**Sales and Distribution** RDF, Essential Media, Telfrance

**Synopsis** *Sales, Seduction and Sex – How Shopping was Invented* is an intriguing story arguing that the department store is one of the greatest inventions to come out of the industrial revolution, and spawned the rise of consumerism and the modern shopping mall.

#### **SKIN DEEP**

**Electric Pictures**

**Producers** Andrew Ogilvie, Andrea Quesnelle, Marco Visalberghi

**Director** Franco Di Chiera

**Broadcaster** SBS, Arte France, RAI, WDR

**Sales and Distribution**, ABC Content Sales

**Synopsis** *Skin Deep* is a global journey to discover the origin of human skin colours, drawing on exciting scientific research that not only sheds new light on the human rainbow, but challenges traditional notions of race.

#### **STORM SURFERS 2**

**6ixty Foot Films Pty Ltd with Firelight Productions**

**Producer** Marcus Gillezeau

**Producer/Director/Writer** Chris Nelius

**Co-Director** Justin McMillan

**Line Producer** Ellenor Cox

**Broadcaster** Discovery Network Asia

**Sales and Distribution** Off the Fence

**Synopsis** *Storm Surfers 2* follows big wave surf legends Ross Clarke-Jones and Tom Carroll as they hunt down the world's biggest waves off the coast of New Zealand.

### **National Documentary Program**

#### **JANDAMARRA**

**December Films, Wawili Pitjas Pty Ltd**

**Executive Producer** Stephen Amezdroz

**Producer** Tony Wright, Eileen Torres

**Director** Mitch Torres

**Broadcaster** ABC

**Synopsis** The thrilling story of the great warrior, Jandamarra, who turned from police assistant to resistance fighter, leading his people against the white forces invading their land.