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## MEDIA ALERT

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### **Australian films at the local box office in 2008**

**Thursday 14 January 2009:** Screen Australia analysis of the Motion Picture Distribution Association of Australia (MPDAA) 2008 box office results has found that Australian films earned \$35.5 million in 2008. This represents 3.8 per cent of the total box office of \$945.4 million.

Baz Luhrmann's *Australia* was the top-grossing Australian film in 2008. The film was released on over 600 screens, achieving a gross of \$7.8 million by the end of its opening weekend. Although still in theatrical release, *Australia* had reached \$26.9 million in Australia with worldwide earnings of over US\$120 million by the close of 2008.

The multi-award winning debut feature for director/co-writer Elissa Down, *The Black Balloon*, was the second highest grossing Australian film. The film earned \$2.3 million in Australia and has opened across a number of foreign markets, including the US.

Australia's first-ever official co-production with China, *Children of the Silk Road*, placed third grossing \$1.2 million.

For further information and context on the number of local and internationally produced films with reported box office earnings in Australian cinemas from 1 January to 31 December 2008 go to <http://www.screenaustralia.gov.au/boxoffice>