

MEDIA RELEASE

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Screen Australia funding triggers \$26.4 million of production

Thursday 9 April 2009: Screen Australia has announced production investment approval for 13 projects generating \$26.4 million worth of production. \$8.6 million has been committed to a diverse slate comprising a feature film, television dramas and documentaries including National Documentary Projects (NDP) following yesterday's Board meeting.

Director **Jeremy Sims** will team up with producer **Bill Leimbach** and writer **David Roach** to tell the true story of Australia's secret silent war beneath the Western Front in the feature *Beneath Hill 60*. The picture stars Brendan Cowell in the lead role of Captain Oliver Woodward and is slated to shoot in Townsville in July.

The makers of *Underbelly* received finance approval for the true-crime story of *The Killing of Caroline Byrne*. The telemovie for the TEN Network will explore whether model Caroline Byrne jumped or was pushed from the Gap in 1995. It will be executive produced by **Greg Haddrick** and **Des Monaghan**, written by **Peter Gawler** and directed by **Tony Tilse**.

John Edwards, **Claudia Karvan** and **Jacquelin Perske**, the award-winning team behind *Love My Way*, have teamed up again to produce *Spirited*, an eight-part love/ghost story. The series will screen on Foxtel.

Also approved was the fifth installment in the documentary series following the lives, hopes and dreams of three ordinary/extraordinary Adelaide girls since they were 14. Director **Gillian Armstrong** and producer **Jenny Day** catch up with their subjects at the age of 47 in *Not 14 but 47*. The project received funding through the NDP.

Features

BENEATH HILL 60

The Silence Productions

Producer Bill Leimbach

Writer David Roach

Director Jeremy Sims

Sales and Distribution Transmission, Intandem

Synopsis The gripping story of Australia's secret silent war beneath the Western Front.

Television drama

SPIRITED

Northside Productions

Producers John Edwards, Claudia Karvan, Jacquelin Perske

Writers Jacquelin Perske, Ian Meadows

Directors Jessica Hobbs, Stuart McDonald

Sales and Distribution Foxtel, Southern Star International

Synopsis An eight x 1-hour ghost/love story from the makers of *Love My Way* and starring Claudia Karvan.

THE KILLING OF CAROLINE BYRNE (working title)

Screening for the TEN Network

Executive Producers Greg Haddrick, Des Monaghan

Writer Peter Gawler

Director Tony Tilse

Sales and Distribution Screentime

Synopsis In 1995 model Caroline Byrne's body was recovered from the Gap in Sydney: did she jump or was she pushed? A true-crime story from the makers of *Underbelly*.

WILFRED 2

Renegade Films

Producer Jenny Livingston

Executive Producers Joe and Ken Connor

Writers Jason Gann, Adam Zwar

Director Tony Rogers

Sales and Distribution SBS Content Sales, SBS TV

Synopsis A boy, a girl and a bong smoking dog that thinks he is human ... continue their dysfunctional love triangle.

National Documentary Program (NDP)

MOTHER OF ROCK: THE LIFE AND TIMES OF LILLIAN ROXON

Lowlands Media

Producer Robert de Young

Director Paul Clarke

Sales and Distribution SBS Content Sales and Distribution

Synopsis Follows the story of the Australian rock journalist of the 1960s and 1970s who achieved international success in the fiercely competitive New York rock music scene.

NOT 14 BUT 47

Spirited Films and Big Picture Company

Producers Jenny Day and Gillian Armstrong

Writer/Director Gillian Armstrong

Sales and Distribution ABC TV, Beyond Home Entertainment

Synopsis *Not 14 but 47* will be the fifth film in the documentary series Gillian Armstrong has been making about the lives, hopes and dreams of three ordinary/extraordinary Adelaide girls since they were 14 in 1976.

A ROYAL ROMANCE

Electric Pictures

Producer Andrew Ogilvie and Andrea Quesnelle

Writer/Director Trevor Graham

Sales and Distribution ABC TV

Synopsis *A Royal Romance* is an informed, probing and affectionate look at Queen Elizabeth's relationship with her Australian Realm and its people.

THE TRIAL

360 Degree Films

Producer John Moore

Director Joan Robinson

Writers Joan Robinson, Dennis Smith, John Moore

Sales and Distribution SBS TV

Synopsis Since the horrific events of 9/11, governments across the world have been scrambling to introduce laws designed to pre-empt terrorist attacks. This is the inside story of the first big trial under Australia's new anti-terrorism laws.

Documentary – Domestic Door

MR SIN – THE ABE SAFFRON STORY

Evershine Pty Ltd

Producer/DOP Helen Barrow

Writer/Director Hugh Piper

Sales and Distribution ABC TV, DVI Ovation

Synopsis This is a story of bribery, blackmail and corruption that examines how, like a spider in his web, Australia's enigmatic crime boss Abe Saffron remained untouchable for so long.

WORLD CHAMPION SANTA

Fury Productions Pty Ltd

Producer Veronica Fury

Writer/Director David Downey

Sales and Distribution Indigo Films

Synopsis After 15 years on Santa's 'naughty list' Australian filmmaker Dave Downey has decided to redeem himself and get back in touch with his Christmas spirit – going for gold in the 'Santa Clause Winter Games'.

Documentary – International Door

ASYLUM FC

Renegade Films

Producers James Maiden and Lucy Maclaren

Executive Producer Alex West

Director Helen Gaynor

Sales and Distribution SBS TV, Al Jazeera, SBS Content Sales

Synopsis *Asylum FC* follows nine young Zimbabwean soccer players from the slums of Harare in their quest to seek asylum and establish new lives in Australia.

MIRACLE

Essential Media and Entertainment

Producer Nial Fulton

Executive Producer Chris Hilton

Directors Leo Faber, Jen Peedom

Sales and Distribution ABC TV, France 5, National Geographic Television International

Synopsis Following the success of *Miracle on Everest* comes a continuing series of miraculous survival stories.

TERROR IN MUMBAI

Electric Pictures

Producers Andrew Ogilvie, Andrea Quesnelle

Writer/Director Victoria Pitt

Sales and Distribution ABC TV, Discovery Communications, More 4 UK, History Channel UK, ABC Commercial

Synopsis Told entirely from the perspective of the survivors of the Mumbai terrorist attack, this is the revealing story of the emotions we experience, the decisions we make and the desperate actions we take when death is staring us in the face.

Producer Offset

As of 31 March 2009, 216 projects have been issued with provisional certificates: 85 features, 88 non-feature documentaries and 43 other projects (eg TV series, telemovies, direct-DVD/online, short-form animation). Nineteen final certificates have been issued (two features, 10 non-feature documentaries and seven other projects) with a total determined QAPE of A\$40,914,416m. Eight further applications for final certificates are under consideration.