

Introducing Fresh Blood's Class of 2017

Tuesday 28 March 2017: Twenty sketch comedy teams have been selected as the 2017 recipients of Fresh Blood, the highly successful joint initiative between ABC and Screen Australia designed to unearth a new generation of comedic talent.

Each team will receive \$15,000 to create 3 x 3-5min sketches that will be released on iview in the second half of 2017. In addition, all teams will benefit from a two-day workshop in June led by industry representatives where they will explore how to work towards a sustainable career.

Mike Cowap, Investment Manager at Screen Australia said: "Fresh Blood is such an incredible opportunity for emerging comedy filmmakers. What quickly became apparent with this exciting new cohort - many of whom were from diverse backgrounds - was that so many of the talent had already built significant audiences on social media, with impressively risky, witty and weird comedy. We're thrilled to give these unique voices invaluable access to a major Australian broadcaster, and the opportunity to share their humour on a premier platform."

In total 364 applications were received by ABC and Screen Australia following the callout in December 2016. From the 20 teams selected: 20% of projects are animated, 60% had key team members who identified as being from diverse backgrounds; 60% of projects funded were from creative teams (writer, producer, director and protagonist) that were at least 50% female.

Lou Porter, Acting Head of Entertainment at ABC said: "The first series of Fresh Blood unearthed some truly great talent both in front and behind the camera. We're so excited to be running this initiative again in partnerships with Screen Australia. It's a great platform to unearth new talent who are producing funny and compelling new content for our viewers."

Among the projects funded are:

- **LEFTOVERS** from the sketch comedy trio of Pippa Mills, Helena Ruse and Andrew Mills, who have established their brand of comedy through YouTube and Facebook, amassing over 1 million views for their viral videos. A sharply observed social commentary about modern insecurities, Helena and Pippa playfully parody the lives and trending obsessions of young Australian adults.

Co-Writer/Director Andrew Mills said: "This funding will allow us to expand on the world and characters we've created in our online videos. We hope the financial assistance from Fresh Blood will allow us greater freedom in our storytelling and production values, something we've long been aiming to achieve."

- **THE ANGUS PROJECT** from writer/director/producer Nina Oyama and starring Angus Thompson, about a hedonistic university student who happens to have cerebral palsy. Angus employs his fellow students to help him with grocery shopping, studying and - most importantly - to party like a legend. A challenging but warm take on life with a significant disability.

Nina Oyama said: "I was introduced to Angus at university and I started working as his carer shortly after we met. We bonded mostly over our love of TV, and over the years we kind of realised we'd never really seen a realistic portrayal of someone who has cerebral palsy in the mainstream media, and so together we started writing short comedic scripts about his life. We're grateful for Fresh Blood funding because it means we're finally able to broadcast his story on a bigger platform whilst also making a greater statement about diversity and ableism, hopefully while making people laugh too."

- **LET'S BREAK EM UP**, a game show spoof from stand-up comedian Nath Valvo and Tandem Media. Valvo takes to the streets of Melbourne to find unsuspecting couples and put them to the 'love test' - if they win the game there is absolutely no reward, and if they lose they have to break up on camera. Valvo mines the quiz genre with his trademark humour, peppered with everyday observations and a dash of social commentary.

Nath Valvo said: "I'm very grateful that Fresh Blood have the balls to back my gameshow idea! It's exciting and also very scary that it's someone else's money. More than anything Fresh Blood is going to force me to finally learn Excel. I'd be lying if I said money wasn't the key factor in getting stuff made - having ideas you love is one thing but finding the cash to film pilots and get a crew together to make it look nice is really tough. The bar is so high now for online content - there's some YouTube stuff that's already broadcast quality so to be given help to get this idea in front of people is really great. There's some top notch sitcom and skit comedy around at the moment so I wanted to pitch something different. I've been playing a live version of the game for a couple of years now and have always thought it would be a ridiculous TV show ... so ... I entered!"

- Absurdist comedy **1800 SUCCESS** about young schemers, Aaron and Jon, who will do just about anything to scrounge up some cash - except get a job, because they're sassy millennials who think jobs are oppressive. Aaron Chen and Jonathan Lo will write and star, with Henry Stone directing.

Henry Stone said: "Aaron and Jon are undeniably funny and they are using this as an opportunity to get a real-world education in how to speak the language of the baby boomer commissioning bureaucrat. For this I have made them defer their university degrees."

Jon and Aaron add: "Henry our director is a total psycho and keeps making us recite what he calls his 'industry truths'. We think iView is cool and Screen Australia is futuristic. We like doing our private comedy for new friends."

Following the iView broadcast, ABC and Screen Australia will select four teams to progress to the second phase of Fresh Blood in 2018 who will receive \$75,000 to produce a full pilot episode. Previous Fresh Blood recipients include Auntie Donna, Fancy Boy and Wham Bam Thank You Ma'am by Skit Box.

SUCCESSFUL PROJECTS (in alphabetical order)



1800 SUCCESS

Genre Rowdy

Producers Aaron Chen, Henry Stone

Director Henry Stone

Writers Aaron Chen, Jonathan Lo

Synopsis *1800 Success* follows two young schemers on the hunt for cash. Aaron and Jonathan need money. They always need money. This is because they're poor little students who just want to buy textbooks and movie tickets and MDMA but they don't want jobs because they're also cheeky little millennials and jobs are oppressive. Each episode of *1800 Success* finds them trying to lean on a subculture that they are affiliated with in order to make that crispy cashola and keep living their tasty uni student lives.



BIN CHICKENS

Genre Animation

Producers Nikos Andronicos, Dave Carter

Director Nikos Andronicos

Writer Nikos Andronicos

Synopsis The animated adventures of three ibises who eat garbage and live life to the max in the jewel in Sydney's crown, Darling Harbour.



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COLLECTIVE NOUN

Genre Comedy

Directors Zach Mander, Michael Parente

Writers Zach Mander, Dom Fay

Synopsis *Collective Noun* is rebooting the ABC to be more relevant to millennials. This series of sketches will see the ABC line up adjusted to be more Gen Y focused. The ABC will have more smashed avo, more ride sharing services, and be more self-interested - just how millennials like it.



FREUDIAN NIP

Genre Sketch comedy

Producer Bronte Rose Jovevski

Director Jenna Owen, Victoria Zerbst, Bronte Rose Jovevski

Writers Victoria Zerbst, Jenna Owen, Jess Bush, Geraldine Viswanathan

Synopsis *Freudian Nip* is a comedy collective from Sydney, and a champion high school cheerleading squad. After discovering its previous captain stole all their best routines from an inner-city school, they must scramble to compete at this year's championships. May the best moves win.



HEADSWAPSIES

Genre Slapstick

Producers Bec Schultz

Writers / Directors Mitch McTaggart, Djovan Caro

Synopsis Two stupid scientists swap heads in a vain attempt to advance medicine, but instead just lose control of their bodies.



IBIS QUEEN

Genre Animation

Producers Melody Ha, Anna Bateman, James Hackett

Directors / Writers Nick Simpson, James Hackett

Synopsis The polar ice caps have melted and the Ibis Queen is a floating cruise ship that offers a world of infinite activities and entertainment. Captain Caveri is the debauched master of misrule on this vessel. She needs to watch her back as diving instructor Numa is trying to recruit the struggling musician Paul to help her sink the Ibis and create an aquatic haven for transgender dugongs.

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KOALA MAN

Genre Animation

Producer / Director / Writer Michael Cusack

Synopsis *Koala Man* is about a local suburban superhero with no special powers but a strong and burning passion to snuff out petty crime and bring order to the community. Patrolling the streets in his 91' Toyota Corolla, Koala Man is constantly on the lookout for trouble makers.



LEFTOVERS

Genre Comedy

Producer Mark Ruse

Director Andrew Mills

Writers Pippa Mills, Helena Ruse, Andrew Mills

Synopsis Already world-weary in their early twenties, Pippa and Helena are a couple of young people struggling not to constantly embarrass themselves. Based on the experiences of its two stars and creators, *Leftovers* finds the satirical in the mundane lives of young people.



LET'S BREAK EM UP

Genre Street game show

Producer / Director / Writer Nath Valvo, Tandem Media

Synopsis Nath Valvo will hit the streets of Australia, hunt down unsuspecting couples and put their love to the test. If they pass the game they win nothing, if they lose they have to break up.



MARS 500

Genre Comedy sitcom

Producer / Director / Writer Lewis Hobba

Synopsis *Mars 500* follows six astronauts pretending to travel to Mars in a fake space shuttle in Australia's red centre. Their task is to answer a simple but important scientific question: can six people live in a tiny space shuttle for the time it takes to fly to Mars and back without killing each other? Inspired by real world events, *Mars 500* tells the story of a ridiculous yet noble journey to nowhere, and the idiots who signed up for it.

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MEDIA RELEASE



NO-ONE SUSPECTED THE CAT

Genre Animation

Producer Doug Bayne

Director Trudy Cooper

Writers David Collins, Rebecca De Unamuno, Carlo Ritchie

Synopsis Three improvisers enter a sound studio, three animated films come out.

What will they even be about? We don't know. Perhaps we never will.



THE ANGUS PROJECT

Genre Comedy

Producer Craig Anderson, Alessandro Zotti, Nina Oyama

Director / Writer Nina Oyama

Synopsis Angus Thompson is a 20 year old wheelchair bound university student

with cerebral palsy who lives by himself in Bathurst NSW. Cerebral Palsy is a

disease which affects motor skills, but not the brain, so Angus employs other

students as disability carers to help him eat, study and clean...but most

importantly, to help him party. This webseries is about Angus and his carers, and

the hedonistic shenanigans they get up to.



THE BIG DAY

Genre Comedy

Producers Laura Hughes, Carolina Sorensen

Director Bryan Moses

Writer Laura Hughes, Bryan Moses

Synopsis *The Big Day* is a series of 3 connected sketches that celebrate the

ridiculous people who manage to make someone else's wedding all about

themselves. Laura Hughes will be bringing to life all three hilarious characters;

the suffocatingly considerate bridesmaid, an aggressively enthusiastic groomsman,

and the self-proclaimed 'fun mum' of the bride. The series will also star Shari

Sebbens and Christiaan Van Vuuren.



THE LOST TAPES

Genre Fake archival footage

Producers Penny Greenhalgh, Stef Smith, Josh Ladgrove

Director Stef Smith

Writers Penny Greenhalgh, Josh Ladgrove

Synopsis *The Lost Tapes* is an offbeat, unconventional comedy starring Penny

Greenhalgh and Josh Ladgrove. The three sketches will be shot as fake 'forgotten

archival footage' from various eras and genres; so wonderfully bizarre and funny

you might just believe they're real.

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TIGER COPS



TIGER COPS

Genre Parody retro-cop

Producer Maria Tran

Director / Writer Adrian Castro

Synopsis Two mismatched cops Inspector Tiger (Maria Tran) and Detective Wombat (Steven Oliver) are on a mission to take down a Hong Kong crime lord, The White Ghost.



TOO PRETTY TO BE WITTY

Genre Satirical sketch

Producer Petra Lovrencic

Directors Petra Lovrencic, Fiona Gillman

Writer Fiona Gillman

Synopsis A pop song about a basic bitch, a movie trailer starring Hollywood's most stereotypical cast, and a dating game show for the career-driven independent woman. In *Too Pretty To Be Witty*, Fiona Gillman plays three different "types" of women, satirising the generalisations created for them by modern media and society.



TRUE MURDER

Genre Parody true-crime documentary

Producer Erasmo Raimundo

Director Greta Lee Jackson

Writers Cameron James, Becky Lucas

Synopsis Every year hundreds of murders go unsolved - until now. Each episode, *True Murder* attempts to solve the most bloodcurdling, notorious (and 100% made up) crimes in Australian history. And every time, they fail embarrassingly and miserably.



WALK IN MY SHOES

Genre Mockumentary

Producer Mitchell Stanley

Director Peter Nizic

Writer Johnny Lahoud

Synopsis A decade after being disqualified from the Men's 50km Race Walking event at the Sydney 2000 Olympics, race walking legend, Herbert Seaman, is making his much anticipated comeback with the help of his wife/coach, Sandy Seaman. Feeling positive after his public mental breakdown due to his emotionally shattering disqualification, Herbert's training to walk again, striving towards that Olympic gold medal he desperately craves.

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WHY ARE YOU LIKE THIS?



WHY ARE YOU LIKE THIS?

Genre Comedy

Producers / Directors Adam Murfet, Jesse Oldfield

Writers Naomi Higgins, Humyara Mahbub, Mark Samuel Bonanno

Synopsis *Why Are You Like This?* is about two girls, Penny and Mia, who always say the wrong thing. As they inadvertently dissect the dark side of human nature - premises that are often taboo - they swiftly move through social interactions, leaving destruction in their wake, with anyone they come across being forced to pick up the pieces. *Why Are You Like This?* is a dark, dialogue comedy that is unforgettingly harsh, punchy and sharp.

YEAH NAH

Genre Comedy

Producers Madeline Kelly, Julia Corcoran

Directors Yasmin Suteja, Claudia Allison

Writer Kai Suteja

Synopsis A comedy about two millennial misfits stuck in a perpetual state of irresponsibility.

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