



Australian Government



MEDIA RELEASE

Screen Australia announces development funding for 28 drama projects

Monday 26 July 2021: Screen Australia has announced 12 feature films, 13 television dramas and three online projects will share in \$975,000 of Story Development funding.

The projects include a television series inspired by the 1999 film [Two Hands](#) from director Gregor Jordan, and a family feature film from the producers of [Bluey](#) called *Stacycation*.

Screen Australia's Head of Development **Nerida Moore** said, "Screen Australia is really proud to be supporting this impressive mix of projects. This includes fresh genre-bending comedies *HOME* and *Our Haunt*, and beautiful romantic drama *10 Moments* that will bring together 10 chapters from a great team of exciting creative voices. It's also wonderful to support more children's content with Big Serious Studios' *Goo Zoo* set to invite children into the world of microbiology as part of the company's aims to deliver more STEM content for kids."

This slate is the final development funding awarded in the 2020/21 financial year. During this period Screen Australia received 397 Story Development applications across the Premium and Generate Funds. In the last 12 months, Screen Australia has provided funds to a total of 83 projects out of a pool of 387 projects that were creatively assessed. This included 45 through the Generate Fund for lower budget projects, and 36 through the Premium Fund for higher budget projects from established creators. There were also two projects funded through the Premium Plus Fund for critical late-stage development funding to high-budget projects with firm market interest that were impacted by COVID-19 (note this fund closed in July 2020).

Moore continued, "One year on it's great to see the success of projects that we were able to support during the initial impacts of COVID-19 through our Premium Plus Fund, including *The Newsreader* which is set to air on the ABC next month and *New Gold Mountain* which is coming to SBS later this year."

The latest projects funded for development include:

- **10 Moments:** An anthology feature film telling the love story of Chris and Ben, two very different men who have a special connection. Ten key moments, from when they first meet through the years that follow, will be brought to the screen by 10 different writer/directors across a range of genres. The creative team currently includes writer/directors Neil Triffett ([EMO The Musical](#)), Roger Monk ([The Unusual Suspects](#)), Adrian Chiarella ([Black Lips](#)) and Brendon McDonall ([The Dam](#)). The film will be produced by Michael McMahon ([Cut Snake](#)) and Mat Govoni ([Lone Wolf](#)) and executive produced by Tony Ayres ([Clickbait](#)).
- **Goo Zoo:** A 26-part animated children's series set in a petri dish, in a world populated by microbes. Following the fun and wacky adventures of Tina the Amoeba, this television series from Big Serious Studios will bring to life an amazing microscopic world. *Goo Zoo* will be directed by Charlotte Rose Hamlyn ([Kangaroo Beach](#)) and David Peers ([Happy Feet 2](#)). Hamlyn will also write alongside Bruce Griffiths ([Spongo, Fuzz & Jalapena](#)), Maria Lewis and Roshelle Fong, with ARIA Award-winning band Art Vs Science lending their musical talents. The series will be produced by Katrina Peers ([Legend of the Guardians](#)).
- **HOME:** An eight-part series written by Patrick Durnan Silva and Honor Wolff of award-winning comedy duo Hot Department (featured on [At Home Alone Together](#)). *HOME* is a comedy series inspired by the classic 90's sitcom, set in an absurd and elastic universe. Whiplashing through a mixture of odd, horrendous and hilarious scenarios and characters, *The Funkles'* 'nuclear family' is pushed to the verge of implosion. *HOME* will be directed by Hot Department director Liam Fitzgibbon, and executive produced by Jono Matrippolito (*A Life in Questions: Wisdom School with Aaron Chen*).
- **Our Haunt:** An eight-part television series about a hapless couple who buy an old Surry Hills terrace to do it up, but instead find their haunted house wants to do them in. Unable to afford to leave, they're forced to become bumbling investigators of the previous occupants' murders - flashing back to

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the counter-culture 70s and razor-gang 20s. This horror-dramedy series will be written, directed and produced by Daniel Reisinger whose 2018 series *Sideswiped*, featuring the likes of Jason Sudeikis, has gained over 50 million views online. The creative team also features writer/directors Ben Howling and Yolanda Ramke whose credits include *Haunting Of Bly Manor* and [Cargo](#), as well as Romina Accurso ([The Heights](#)).

- **Remembrance:** An interactive virtual reality (VR) project that will allow audiences to explore the memories of a shell-shocked World War I veteran, in a quest to find the source of his repressed trauma. This project sees writer/director Anna Brady team up again with producer Lester Francois, whose 2018 VR project [RONE](#) screened at South By Southwest Festival and Cannes NEXT.
- **Staycation:** A family feature film from the producers of [Bluey](#) which follows the dysfunctional Moore family, whose dream holiday is cancelled so they try to survive their summer break at home on a ‘staycation’. Tempted by the luxuries of the rich Smith family across the road, they begin living at their neighbours’ house and impersonating the Smiths. But they soon discover the other family are under witness protection. The creative team features writer/director Daley Pearson ([Bluey](#)), writers Donick Cary (*Parks and Recreation*) and Kim Huffman Cary, and producer Charlie Aspinwall ([Bluey](#)).
- **Two Hands (working title):** An action-charged comic revenge thriller for television inspired by Gregor Jordan’s 1999 [feature film](#) of the same name. Writer/director Jordan ([Ned Kelly](#)) is developing the series with writers Melissa Bubnic (*Shameless*), Gretel Vella (*The Great*), Sarah Bassiuni ([The Heights](#)), Greg Haddrick ([Pine Gap](#)) and Meyne Wyatt (play *City of Gold*). They are joined by producers Justin Davies (*Psychoville*) and Marian Macgowan (*The Great*) and executive producers Tim White (*The Luminaries*) and Chris Oliver-Taylor ([Glitch](#)).

For the complete list of development funding approvals, refer to [television](#), [online](#) and [feature film](#) breakdowns.

2020/21 SUCCESSFUL STORY DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS

	Generate		Premium		Premium Plus		Totals	
	Projects	Funds	Projects	Funds	Projects	Funds	Projects	Funds
Film	13	\$434,211	15	\$563,461	2	\$64,000	30	\$1,061,672
Commissioned Platform (TV)	23	\$752,808	21	\$932,354	0	\$0	44	\$1,685,162
Online	9	\$258,548	0	\$0	0	\$0	9	\$258,548
Total	45	\$1,445,567	36	\$1,495,815	2	\$64,000	83	\$3,005,382

ABOUT DEVELOPMENT

The [Story Development Fund](#) is for fictionalised stories of any genre and is open for applications year-round.

‘Development’ refers to any stage of a project’s creation as it travels towards production. It can involve everything and anything that will help get a project to the screen, from various stages of scripting to filming a proof-of-concept, such as a short film or series pilot. It can take many years for a project to reach the screen, and each project’s timeline from development to release is different due to many factors including financing, cast, locations and festival timing.

ENDS

