



Australian Government



MEDIA RELEASE

Six Australian projects selected for Toronto International Film Festival

Friday 16 August 2019: Unjoo Moon's Helen Reddy biopic [I Am Woman](#) will have its World Premiere at Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) alongside [True History of the Kelly Gang](#), [Dirt Music](#) and ABC drama [Black B*tch \(working title\)](#). [Hearts and Bones](#) and [The Australian Dream](#) will have their International Premiere.

TIFF, as well as being one of the world's premiere film festivals, is an important event for [Australian titles and talent](#) with its significant industry and media presence, making it a crucial launching pad for the North American market.

Screen Australia's CEO, **Graeme Mason** said, "This year's TIFF contingent showcases some truly iconic Australian people and stories, including legendary musician Helen Reddy, sporting hero Adam Goodes, the notorious Ned Kelly and Tim Winton's classic novel *Dirt Music* brought to the screen. Having a television series at TIFF is also a first for Australia, and speaks to the increasing international appeal of premium dramas like *Black B*tch*."

"We're particularly thrilled to see Unjoo Moon's *I Am Woman* screening as the Special Presentations opening night film, which is a high honour for any production, and doubly impressive for a debut feature. Congratulations also to Ben Lawrence whose debut scripted feature *Hearts and Bones* has been selected to screen in the Discovery program."

I Am Woman director **Unjoo Moon** said, "It was always my dream to premiere [I Am Woman](#) at the prestigious Toronto Film Festival. I am so thrilled that TIFF have not only selected our film but have also given it the honour of opening an incredible selection of films and filmmakers in their Special Presentations section this year. I can't wait for people to embrace Helen and fall in love with her and her music all over again."

Justin Kurzel, director of *True History of the Kelly Gang* said, "We are extremely excited to get everyone together again and watch the film at such a regarded festival as Toronto. There were so many extraordinary crew and cast who gave more than I could have ever wished for. That passion and love for what they did is something I am so proud of and thrilled the great festival audiences of Toronto will see their work."

*Black B*tch (working title)* director **Rachel Perkins** said, "You can be so immersed in the creative process of filmmaking that you become unsure of what you have at the end of it. News of our acceptance into Toronto, particularly given our television series is one of the few chosen from the world, was therefore a high point and a huge relief. Screening at Toronto is also special on a very personal level. It marks the 20th year of my collaboration with actress Deborah Mailman. My career has been built around her prodigious talent and I look forward to following our leading lady onto the red carpet."

In addition to the films selected, Australian writer/director Charles Williams ([All These Creatures](#)) and director Jennifer Peedom ([Mountain](#)) are among 24 international practitioners to be invited to the [TIFF Industry Filmmaker Lab](#).

Artistic Director and Co-Head of the festival, Cameron Bailey was in Australia earlier this year to connect with local creatives after long-time selector [Jane Schoettle stepped down](#) from the programming team.

The 44th Toronto International Film Festival runs from 5 - 15 September 2019.

Resources:

For a history of Australia's presence at TIFF click [here](#)

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Australian projects at Toronto 2019:

[Black B*tch \(working title\)](#)

6 x 50 mins

Blackfella Films Pty Ltd

Director: Rachel Perkins

Writers: Stuart Page, Pip Karmel, Angela Betzien, Kim Wilson, Rachel Perkins

Producers: Darren Dale, Miranda Dear

Executive Producers: Rachel Griffiths, Sally Riley, Kelrick Martin

Cast: Deborah Mailman, Rachel Griffiths, Harry Richardson

Australian Broadcaster: ABC

International Sales: Keshet International, Endeavor Content (US)

Synopsis: An unlikely national hero, Alex is catapulted into government in a cynical power play. Used, abandoned and underestimated, now she's on a path that will send the political establishment into meltdown.

Production Credit: *Black B*tch* (working title) is a Blackfella Films production for the ABC. Major production investment from Screen Australia in association with the ABC. Financed with support from Create NSW with Screen Queensland and Screen Canberra.

TIFF: World Premiere, Primetime

Australian Media Contact: Yasmin Kentera, ABC TV Publicity kentera.yasmin@abc.net.au

International Media Contact: Natalie Lee, Keshet International Natalie.Lee@Keshet-tv.com

[Dirt Music](#)

Aquarius Films Pty Ltd, Wildgaze Films

Director: Gregor Jordan

Writer: Jack Thorne

Producers: Finola Dwyer, Amanda Posey, Angie Fielder, Polly Staniford

Cast: Kelly MacDonal, Garrett Hedlund, David Wenham

Australian Distributor: Universal

International Sales: Cornerstone Films, US: 30WEST and Cornerstone Films

Synopsis: *Dirt Music* is a gritty, sexy drama with a haunting love story at its heart set against the powerful backdrop of Western Australia's evocative landscape. Based on the Booker Prize shortlisted novel by Tim Winton.

Production Credit: *Dirt Music* is a Wildgaze Films and Aquarius Films production. Major production investment from Screen Australia in association with Film4. Financed with support from the West Australian Regional Film Fund (WARFF) and Screenwest with Ingenious Media.

TIFF: World Premiere, Special Presentations

Australian Media Contact: Fiona Nix info@nixco.com.au

International Media Contact: Scott Feinstein, 42 West Scott.Feinstein@42West.Net

[Hearts and Bones](#)

Night Kitchen Productions Pty Ltd

Director: Ben Lawrence

Writers: Beatrix Christian, Ben Lawrence

Producer: Matt Reeder

Cast: Hugo Weaving, Andrew Luri

Australian Distributor: Madman

International Sales: Visit Films

Synopsis: A war photographer has just returned home to prepare for his latest exhibition when a South Sudanese refugee appears at his door with a request - that he not exhibit any photographs of the massacre in his village, taken 15 years earlier. What emerges is an unlikely friendship between the two men. While sifting through the photographer's archive, they make a startling discovery - the refugee's daughter, thought dead, may still be alive. As more revelations arise, both men begin to question their past and in their search, they discover salvation.

Production Credit: *Hearts and Bones* is a Night Kitchen Production. Major production investment from Screen Australia in association with Create NSW and Spectrum Films. Financed with support from Lemac.

TIFF: International Premiere, Discovery

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International Media Contact: Guillermo Restrepo guillermo@brigademarketing.com

[I Am Woman](#)

Goalpost Pictures Australia Pty Ltd

Director: Unjoo Moon

Writer: Emma Jensen

Producers: Rosemary Blight, Unjoo Moon

Executive Producers: Kylie du Fresne, Ben Grant, Cass O'Connor, Tracey Mair

Cast: Tilda Cobham-Hervey, Danielle Macdonald, Evan Peters, Chris Parnell

Australian & New Zealand Distributor: Transmission

International Sales: WestEnd Films

Synopsis: *I Am Woman* is the story behind the woman who wrote a song which galvanised a generation of women to fight for change.

Production Credit: *I Am Woman* is a Goalpost Pictures production in association with Deep Blue Pacific. Principal production investment from Screen Australia in association with WestEnd Films and Create NSW. Financed with support from the Goodship Women's Fund.

TIFF: World Premiere, Special Presentations

Australian Media Contact: Tracey Mair Publicity traceym@tmpublicity.com

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[The Australian Dream](#)

Good Thing Productions Company Pty Ltd, Passion Pictures

Director: Daniel Gordon

Writer: Stan Grant

Producers: Nick Batzias, John Battsek, Sarah Thomson, Virginia Whitwell

Executive Producers: Paul Wiegard, Andrew Ruhemann

Australian Distributor: Madman Entertainment

International Sales: Lorton Entertainment

Synopsis: *The Australian Dream* is a theatrical feature documentary that uses the remarkable and inspirational story of AFL legend Adam Goodes as the prism through which to tell a deeper and more powerful story about race, identity and belonging.

Production Credit: *The Australian Dream* is an Australian-UK co-production between GoodThing Productions and Passion Pictures. Production investment from Screen Australia, Lorton Entertainment, ABC and Film Victoria.

TIFF: International Premiere, TIFF Docs

Australian Media Contact: Fiona Nix info@nixco.com.au

International Media Contact: Ryan Werner ryan@cineticmedia.com

[True History of the Kelly Gang](#)

Porchlight Films Pty Ltd, Daybreak Pictures

Director: Justin Kurzel

Writer: Shaun Grant

Producers: Hal Vogel, Liz Watts, Justin Kurzel, Paul Ranford

Cast: George MacKay, Essie Davis, Nicholas Hoult, Orlando Schwerdt, Thomasin McKenzie, Sean Keenan, Earl Cave, Marlon Williams, Louis Hewson, Charlie Hunman, Russell Crowe

Australian Distributor: Transmission Films

International Sales: Memento Films International

Synopsis: Inspired by Peter Carey's Man Booker prize-winning novel, Justin Kurzel's *True History of the Kelly Gang* shatters the mythology of the notorious icon to reveal the essence behind the life of Ned Kelly and force a country to stare back into the ashes of its brutal past. Spanning the younger years of Ned's life to the time leading up to his death, the film explores the blurred boundaries between what is bad and what is good, and the motivations for the demise of its hero. Youth and tragedy collide in the Kelly Gang, and at the beating heart of this tale is the fractured and powerful love story between a mother and a son.

Production Credit: *True History of the Kelly Gang* is a Porchlight Films and Daybreak Pictures production.

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Major production investment from Screen Australia, La Cinefacture and Film4 in association with Film Victoria, Asia Film Investment Group and Memento Films International.

TIFF: World Premiere, Gala

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International Media Contact: Ryan Werner ryan@cineticmedia.com

ENDS

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