

Screen Australia announces over \$560,000 for crew and gamemaker skills programs

Thursday 15 February 2024: Screen Australia has announced the latest recipients for the Skills Development Fund and BTL: Next Step initiative, who will share in over \$560,000 of Industry Development funding.

Since launching in April 2023, Screen Australia’s Industry Development initiatives have provided over \$3.4 million specifically for training and skills development for more than 430 people.

These initiatives were introduced to help address the skills shortages for below-the-line roles and grow the capacity of the Australian screen workforce. The Skills Development Fund is designed to support screen businesses and games development studios to provide work-based learning, while BTL: Next Step supports mid-career practitioners to upskill from their current area of expertise.

Screen Australia’s Head of Industry Development, **Ken Crouch** said, “Screen Australia is committed to supporting the skills and talent required for the future success of the Australian screen industry. The Skills Development Fund and BTL Next Step initiatives provide unique opportunities for professional crew and gamemakers to gain the necessary skills and knowledge to advance their careers. We look forward to seeing how this latest cohort will benefit – by being encouraged, challenged and supported to take their career in new and exciting directions.”

The host companies and ‘placees’ supported through BTL: Next Step are:

- **Jacob Gibson (Folklore Sound):** An aspiring sound designer from Gubbi Gubbi Country on the Sunshine Coast, Gibson obtained a bachelor’s degree in audio engineering from JMC while working as an assistant at post production house, 3P Studio. His credits include diverse freelance projects in game design, short films and music production and has also served as a boom swinger on projects ranging from corporate training videos to the Mater Hospital Charity Fun Run. Gibson specialises in crafting immersive soundscapes and elevating storytelling through meticulous sound design with a focus on creating impactful audio experiences that resonate with audiences. Gibson will undertake a sound designer placement with award-winning studio Folklore Sound, who deliver content for a variety of global companies, including Disney, Lucasfilm, Netflix and Warner Bros, and recently announced a new partnership with Spectrum Films.
- **Daria Latter (Helium Pictures):** Graduating from a Bachelor of Film and Television Production at JMC Academy in 2014, Latter worked as a coordinator for the BBC World Service in London and triple j in Sydney before joining Animal Logic in 2018. While at Animal Logic, she gained a strong understanding of the VFX and animation process and was introduced to the world of Post Production. Since working at Animal Logic, Latter has spent the past three years working in post-production and VFX coordination for international and local content, working with companies including Warner Bros, Marvel, Netflix and Matchbox Pictures. Latter will be undertaking a post-production supervisor placement on [Last King of the Cross Season 2](#) with Helium Pictures, a Sydney-based production label, founded by Mark Fennessy - former CEO of EndemolShine Australia and Head of MTV Australia.
- **Stephanie Tiltman (Hoodlum Entertainment):** Tiltman has eight years of experience in film and television production across Australia and Canada. While working in management at the New York Film Academy in Sydney, her TV career kicked off as a production runner and third AD on ABC’s [Wham Bam Thank You Ma’am](#). In 2018, she gained international experience as a post-production coordinator in Canada, handling shows including *Jade Fever* (Discovery Channel Canada) and *Wild Bear Rescue* (Discovery+). At Deluxe Entertainment in Vancouver, Tiltman worked as a Digital Intermediate producer and project manager, overseeing post-production for a variety of shows, including *Riverdale* (CW Network), *Snoopy in Space* (Apple TV) and *Snowpiercer* (Netflix). Moving back to Australia in 2020, she served as post-production coordinator for Warner Bros’ [Elvis](#) and transitioned to post-production supervising, working on the projects [In Our Blood](#) (Hoodlum/ABC) and the Hoodlum/Highland Group feature film *Land of Bad*. Tiltman will be undertaking a line producer placement with Emmy® and BAFTA Award-winning production company, Hoodlum Entertainment.

The programs/projects supported through the Skills Development Fund are:

- **Costume Supervisor Pathway Program - Australian Production Design Guild (APDG):** Established in 2009, the APDG represents designers and their associates in screen, live performance, events and digital production across Australia. Through this funding, APDG will receive support for their Costume Supervisor Pathway Program - a comprehensive training initiative to address the need for costume supervisors with the expertise to oversee large-scale productions. This will be achieved by upskilling three mid-career costume department practitioners in a new assistant costume supervisor position through a focused mentorship within a production, guided by a highly experienced costume supervisor. This dedicated position offers a specialised training opportunity, creating a pathway for potential costume supervisors, bridging the gap between existing roles and meeting the industry's increasing demand for local supervisors on large-scale, high-budget, and international productions.
- **Return to Paradise - BBC Studios Productions Australia:** BBC Studios Productions Australia aims to grow and support ongoing and fit-for-purpose skills development - creating opportunities for project attachments seeking future employment to leverage their participation on this project for subsequent future series of *Return to Paradise* and other BBC Studios Productions Australia projects. The core of the company's Skills Training and Development Plan focuses on mentoring, shadowing and on-the-job training, which is paramount to the success of providing crew with a platform to learn and up-skill. Through this funding, BBC Studios Productions Australia aims to decrease the skills shortage currently being faced Australia-wide in the film and television industry while increasing opportunities for attachments to be employed either as part of the HOD's team or in a similar role on other Australian productions.
- **Post Production Leadership Initiative - EndemolShine Australia:** EndemolShine Australia is a television and digital production company with a focus on the production and post-production of unscripted and scripted content for domestic and international television broadcast. This funding will support EndemolShine's Post Production Leadership Initiative, which aims to offer practical leadership mentoring, including targeted workshops and on-the-job guidance, to aid individuals in transitioning from storytelling roles to managerial positions as the industry experiences a shortage in executive producers and supervising producers. Through this initiative EndemolShine looks to support the needs of emerging post executive producers and supervising post producers as they prepare for senior positions across post production management roles on a number of upcoming series.
- **Practical Production Office, Locations and Costume Department Skills Training - Invisible Boys Pty Ltd:** With a boom in WA-based screen production activity, there is an opportunity to train additional production office, locations and costume department personnel. This funding aims to support the upcoming production of the Stan/Banjay 10 x 28-minute series *Invisible Boys* through Practical Production Skills Training - teaching and guiding a production assistant, an assistant locations manager and a standby costume assistant to put into practice the skill sets they need to create a strong foundation for future career pathways.
- **Guck Academy - GUCK:** Based in Victoria and led by company directors Hayley Percy (Wiradjuri) and Kati Elizabeth, GUCK have spent the past four years heavily investing into professional development, pre-production, community collaboration and consultation. GUCK currently employs eight First Nations on-going staff and a wide range of additional First Nations casual staff and contractors, and are committed to supporting people from diverse backgrounds and underrepresented groups. Through this funding, GUCK will be expanding their commitment to investing in professional skills, leadership skills and creative cultural practice through Guckster Academy, to assist the needs of their team while enabling wellbeing, connection to culture and empowerment as they work to create Australia's first Aboriginal-led mobile game.
- **Iron Crab Level Up Initiative - Chaos Theory Games:** Chaos Theory operates as a for-purpose business built upon a passion for games with a vision to enhance quality of life and inspire a more sustainable future through the magic of play. Over the past 12 years, Chaos Theory has worked to cultivate a team capable of realising this vision and launched over 150 games and interactive



Australian Government



MEDIA RELEASE

experiences designed to captivate, inspire, and transform players. With this support, Chaos Theory's Iron Crab Level Up Initiative looks to equip their team with the skills necessary to excel in upcoming game productions including *Crab God*. This program will empower Chaos Theory's gamemakers - ensuring they can meet the unique challenges of these projects and, in the broader context, contribute to the growth and innovation of the Australian video game industry.

Applications are currently open for the following industry development initiatives:

- [Skills Development Fund](#) for projects/initiatives commencing from July 2024
- [BTL: Next Step Stage One](#) (host companies) for placements starting after 5 August 2024
- [BTL: Next Step Stage Two](#) (Placee opportunities) will open in the coming weeks.

For more information, contact industrydevelopment@screenaustralia.gov.au.

ENDS

Media enquiries: Maddie Walsh
+61 2 8113 5915 | +61 400 156 625 | Maddie.Walsh@screenaustralia.gov.au
www.screenaustralia.gov.au



[Twitter](#)



[LinkedIn](#)



[Facebook](#)



[Instagram](#)