



Australian Government



MEDIA RELEASE

Screen Australia announces nearly \$800K for five online projects

Thursday 9 May 2019: A teenager navigating the trials of her tiger mum, a sexual health clinic on the brink of closure and a children’s club learning about music are among the latest stories to be supported by Screen Australia. The five online projects will share in nearly \$800,000 of production funding.

Screen Australia’s Online Investment Manager, **Lee Naimo** said: “I’m excited to support such a wide range of original ideas in this slate, including *Cloudy River* presenting a contemporary perspective on relationships and LGBTQ+ experiences, and *Deadhouse Dark* breaking the mold with a series of online horror films.”

“We have been impressed by the quality of the applications coming through and have started to see teams coming with fully formed pilots and very clear plans for producing and marketing their work. Creators are becoming very aware of their audience, with some teams leveraging their existing online fanbases or transferring audiences from live acts to screen projects. This innovation is evident in finance plans too, where we are seeing much more lateral thinking about how a project will be funded. No two projects are the same, and this is the great thing about our online fund - you can really carve your own path and create unique content.”

The funded projects are:

- ***Cloudy River***: A six-part series about pansexual artist Emma (aka Cloudy) and her lover River, whose open relationship is put to the test when they move in together. Challenging ideas about love, sex and romance, this drama raises questions around whether you can truly be there for each other in an open relationship while pursuing the individual freedoms the relationship is founded on. Writer/directors Charlie Ford and Sophie Hardcastle will team up with producer Belinda Dean ([The Funny Ones](#)). This project is financed with support from Queer Screen.
- ***Deadhouse Dark***: A series of six short horror films for YouTube and deadhouse.tv anchored by a woman who orders a ‘mystery box’ from the dark web, and then discovers that each item is linked to a macabre real world headline. The stories all take place within the same world - one which is driven by online connections, constant surveillance and curated social media personas, much like our own. *Deadhouse Dark* will be presented by an experienced team led by Enzo Tedeschi, who has built a name in the horror genre with projects such as [Event Zero](#). He will be joined by Joshua Long ([Post Mortem Mary](#)), Kristy Best ([How To Know If You’re Dating A Narcissist](#)), Denai Gracie ([Battle Ground](#)) and Rachele Wiggins ([Slice of Life](#)) who will each write and direct an episode, with Rosie Lourde ([Skin Deep](#)) also directing. This project is also supported by Screen Queensland.
- ***Metro Sexual***: An eight-part series for 9Go! and 9Now about doctors Stephanie and Langdon who work at Metropolitan Sexual Health clinic. They have a tough enough job as it is dealing with odorous STIs and arduous colleagues, but when government cuts threaten to close them down they must do whatever it takes to save the clinic. The series will be produced by Darren McFarlane ([Bruce](#)) and Riley Nottingham ([Your Call Is Important To Us](#)), who also stars alongside comedian Geraldine Hickey. The creative team also features writer/director Henry Boffin and writer Nicholas Kraak from Humdrum Comedy, and executive producer Julia Adams ([The Bureau of Magical Things](#)). *Metro Sexual* is produced in association with Film Victoria, Screen Queensland, the Department of Health and Human Services and Yarraville Club.
- ***Phi and Me***: A five-part series for YouTube about 16-year-old Phi Nguyen and her over-the-top tiger mum Kim Huong, who is a constant source of embarrassment as she does everything she can to help her daughter have a better life. Originally a live act at the Melbourne International Comedy Festival, this Vietnamese-Australian comedy will be brought to the screen by writers and creators Fiona Chau and Diana Nguyen, who also stars as Kim. Producers Serena Hunt ([Swift and Shift Couriers](#)) and Lucinda Bruce ([Choir Girl](#)), and emerging director Melanie Killingsworth are also on board.

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- **Stripy Sock Club:** An 18-part series which will premiere on ABC Kids starring popular children’s entertainment group Lah-Lah. Viewers will be invited to join Lah-Lah’s Big Live Band, a group of fun-loving musicians, as they work together to solve problems and learn about new musical instruments. The series will be produced by Lah-Lah creators Tina Harris and Mark Harris, along with Kristy Fuller ([Heart and Soul](#)) and Elaine Beckett ([Back Of The Net](#)). It will be directed by Mark Grentell ([The Merger](#)) and Ashley Koek ([Heart and Soul](#)). *Stripy Sock Club* is financed with support from the Australian Children’s Television Foundation.

To find out more about online funding, listen to the [Screen Australia Podcast](#).

All online production funding approvals can be found [here](#).

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