

Comment on Screen Australia draft program guidelines from Joolee Eadie

I believe input is being requested for Australian film development in the future.

First of all - it is very necessary to show Australia's multi-culturalism on the screens, both big and small. Film and T.V. do not reflect what is seen if one walks down any city street - hundreds of people from many cultures and countries around the world. If they ARE seen they are usually shown in steryotype - Japanese toting cameras, Chinese running laundries and restaurants, Aboriginal people living in squallor in Redfern or out in the bush throwing boomarangs, Arabic people as terrorists. They rarely get to play doctors, lawyers, teachers, police etc. as they do in American and English T.V. & films. How long will it take to show that ours is a very multi-cultural society?

As an agent I also find that, although I have been working in this industry for 20 years, and have been told I have a good name, my actors are rarely requested for major roles. I am quite often not told that these roles are being cast - only the "big" agencies get that privilege. What does it take to be a big agency? I audition everyone who is on my books and all that I put forward are very good actors who don't stand a chance of an audition for a major role because of my status. This is unfair to actors and agents. All actors who meet the description of the role should be given an audition if their agency deems them suitable. All agents should be made aware of all the roles being cast and given a fair chance. There is a plethora of talent in this country. It is so sad to see so much talent NOT being used. Much more money needs to be put into the industry and if handled properly, encouraging the public to see the Australian product, then there is a great deal of money to be made.

Please consider these points when drafting your guideline.

Yours sincerely,
Joolee Eadie,
Director - The Joolee Eadie Agency