

VICE & SCREEN AUSTRALIA ANNOUNCE SECOND YEAR OF DOCUMENTARY FUNDING, ALONGSIDE AIDC 2019 PITCH COMPETITION

Nationwide pitching competition returns, announcing \$50,000 in funding

Successful pitch and production to join VICE 'Australiana' series in 2019

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Today VICE, Screen Australia, and the Australian International Documentary Conference (AIDC), announced the second *Pitch Australiana* pitching competition, offering local filmmakers the chance to win a \$50,000 commission for a short form documentary to be released on VICE.com.

The *Pitch Australiana* competition is open to early career Australian filmmakers that have at least one documentary production credit to their name.

Filmmakers will be pitching for the chance to secure funding for a production to be released through VICE's lauded tent-pole digital documentary series, [Australiana](#). The short form documentary will be released through VICE's global digital network, and will join previous *Australiana* films also broadcast on local TV channel SBS VICELAND.

Four pitches will be selected to compete for the prize in a public pitching forum, given to a panel of VICE and wider documentary community representatives on Monday 4 March during AIDC 2019 in Melbourne. Entrance to watch the pitch will be free for student card holders.

Australiana is a series committed to presenting stories from the perspectives of Australian communities, individuals and subcultures that are overlooked or ignored. At its heart, it's a way to offer a voice to those on the fringe.

Shooting Cats was the winner of the pitching competition at AIDC 2018, with the project due for release in November. Directed by Inday Ford and produced by Dylan Blowen, *Shooting Cats* is an observational documentary that explores the catastrophic impact feral cats have on Australian wildlife and the complexities environmentalists face in their attempt to find solutions to this epidemic.

[Previous *Australiana* episodes](#) also feature teenage burnout stars in regional Victoria, the Indigenous queer experience in the Tiwi Islands, Australia's medicinal marijuana black market, and a search for love in the outback.

Sally Caplan, Head of Content at Screen Australia says, "*Our first edition of Pitch Australiana unearthed director Inday Ford who had only recently graduated from AFTRS and presented a wildly different perspective on a controversial subject. This year we're looking*

for the next distinctive Australian story that has the potential to shine a light on a topic in a unique way, with access to great characters.”

Katy Roberts, Head of Video at VICE Australia, said: *“We're thrilled to be able to return for another year with Pitch Australiana. The series is intended to be an ongoing, diverse portrait of modern Australia, so expanding the filmmakers and storytellers we are able to work with is essential to that mission. We're very thankful to Screen Australia and AIDC for their ongoing support.*

Alice Burgin, Conference Director of AIDC says *“Pitch Australiana is literally where dreams are made! The generous contribution of Screen Australia and VICE make this a unique opportunity for a new generation of talent to come to AIDC and really be seen, heard and celebrated. We cannot wait to welcome them and their projects next March.”*

Call for pitch submissions is now open. The deadline for applications is **10 December, 2018**. An information session will be held at ACMI on **Tuesday 13 November, 2018** and will be streamed live across the country.

For more information, full eligibility requirements, and to submit a pitch idea, please visit: www.vice.com/australianpitchcompetition

Finalists will be contacted in January 2019.

For more information on the Australian International Documentary Conference (AIDC) visit: www.aidc.com.au

For more information on Screen Australia visit: www.screenaustralia.gov.au

About VICE

VICE is the world's preeminent youth media company and content creation studio. Born in 1994—with Australia the third country to launch—VICE now operates in over 30 countries and distributes its programming to viewers across digital, linear, mobile, film and socials. VICE includes an international network of digital channels; a television and feature film production studio; a TV network, SBS VICELAND in partnership with SBS; a magazine; a record label; an in-house creative services agency; and a book-publishing division.

VICE Australia has won a number of brand-defining awards, including Media Brand of the Year (B&T 2017), Brand of the Year and Branded Content Studio of the Year (Publish 2017) and Content Company of the Year (BEFEST 2017) and more—alongside nominations at the Young Walkley's. VICE's award-winning programming has been recognised by the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences, Peabody Awards, Sundance Film Festival, Cannes Lions, Webby Awards, among others.

VICE media contact: Josh Gardiner, Head of Communications josh.gardiner@vice.com
AIDC media contact: Communications & Marketing Manager chris@aidc.com.au

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