

Screen Australia announces near \$500k for five online originals

Wednesday 7 November 2018: Four comedies and one drama form the latest Online Production slate from Screen Australia. Four of the creative teams are receiving Screen Australia funding for the first time, including producers Karen Colston and Robbie Miles who will create the six-part parody *Sarah's Channel* for ABC iview. [Claudia O'Doherty](#) (Amy Schumer's *Trainwreck*, Netflix's *Love*) will star in the title role.

Sarah's Channel follows beauty vlogger Sarah who discovers she's been reanimated after an apocalypse. Live performer and theatre playwright [Nick Coyle](#) will make the jump to screen to write/direct, fresh off the back of his hit play [The Feather in the Web](#).

"I'm thrilled (and surprised) that my idea of a Beauty Vlogger uploading videos in a post-apocalyptic world has been green-lit, and excited to be collaborating with such a fantastic team to bring it to life," said **Coyle**. "There is so much comedy to mine in the online influencer world, and so many pre-existing fans who I hope will love this new take on the genre."

Producer **Karen Colston** of Yellow Creative Management added, "We're so pleased Nick's unique voice will be seen by a wider audience than those lucky enough to have caught his brilliant theatre work, and we hope to create a pathway to screen for other stage practitioners. The concept and execution of *Sarah's Channel* is inextricably linked to the internet, so it is uniquely suited to the online series format."

Emmy-award winning Queensland studio Ludo are also creating a series for the ABC, satirising the web life-coach industry in the six-part comedy *Content*. Completion funding has been provided to the emerging creators behind comedies *How To Know If You're Dating A Narcissist* and *Single Ladies*, plus family drama *Time & Place*.

"We have a healthy appetite for creative risk in Online Production, and want to support new creators who are trying out bold concepts," said Screen Australia Investment Manager **Lee Naimo**. "I'm particularly pleased to see the majority of projects in this slate have female central characters, and female directors."

"As we've seen most recently with [Superwog](#) and [Sheilas](#), online content can well and truly compete with traditional mediums in terms of production values and audience share. Now is the time for emerging creators to be taking advantage of Screen Australia's [revised Development funding](#) opportunities to refine their concepts, and get in touch with us in [Online Production](#) to discuss their projects."

ONLINE FUNDING:

Since 2008, Screen Australia has funded more than 200 online projects, collectively amassing over 290 million views on YouTube alone.

In 2017/18, Screen Australia provided \$3.479m in production funding to online dramas. Recipients included Theo and Nathan Sidden for the [Superwog series](#), which launched in October 2018. The first three episodes of the comedy all trended #1 on YouTube, and have already amassed over ten million views.

The agency also provided near \$600k in online talent and sector development in 2017/18, including the hugely popular Google Skip Ahead and ABC Fresh Blood initiatives.

Screen Australia invests in online documentaries and online works from Indigenous creators through additional funding programs.

Four of the five titles nominated for the 2018 AACTA for '[Best Online Video or Series](#)' were Screen Australia funded.

ONLINE CONTENT:

Screen Australia's [Drama Report](#) detailed that the budgets and expenditure for Australian online dramas* more than tripled in 2017/18 to \$53 million. There were seven fewer online drama titles compared to 2016/17, however the higher volume of hours and significant increase in budgets stemmed from the



production of content with longer episodes and higher cost per hour.

18 Australian titles* were made for first release online in 2017/18, including ABC iview’s [Deadlock](#) and SBS On Demand’s [Homecoming Queens](#) - both of which are nominated for Best Online Video or Series in the 2018 AACTA Awards.

*includes single episodes or series titles with total durations of 30 minutes or more.

CONTENT

1 x 60 min / 6 x 10 min

Ludo Studio (QLD)

Genre: Comedy

Producer: Meg O’Connell

Executive Producers: Charlie Aspinwall, Daley Pearson

Director: Daley Pearson

Writer: Anna Barnes

Platform: ABC TV and ABC iview

Synopsis: Lucy is a woke, successful influencer who wants to help you achieve everything you’ve wanted - a partner, a career and contentedness. Unfortunately, Lucy has a severely unhealthy relationship with her phone which keeps her from achieving any of these things herself.

Production credit *Content* is a Ludo Studio production for the ABC. Principal production investment from Screen Australia, in association with Screen Queensland.

HOW TO KNOW IF YOU’RE DATING A NARCISSIST

6 x 5mins

Sweary Canary Films (NSW)

Genre: Comedy

Producers: Kristy Best, Michelle Lia (Associate), Enzo Tedeschi

Directors: Kristy Best

Writers: Kristy Best

Platform: TBC

Synopsis: Follow multi-narcissist survivor Kristy Best as she abrasively whisks you through a surreal lifestyle parody hell-bent on teaching women everywhere *How To Know If You’re Dating A Narcissist*.

Production credit: *How to Know If You’re Dating a Narcissist* is a Sweary Canary Films productions. Production investment from Sweary Canary Films in association with Screen Australia.

SARAH’S CHANNEL

6 x 5 mins

Yellow Creative Management Pty Ltd and Mythmaker Media Pty Ltd (NSW)

Genre: Comedy

Producers: Karen Colston, Robbie Miles

Executive Producers: Mark Morrissey, Jean Mostyn, Claudia O’Doherty

Director: Nick Coyle

Writer: Nick Coyle

Platform: ABC iview

Synopsis *Sarah’s Channel* is a quirky, relatable Youtube channel created and run by Sarah, who isn’t going to let the fact that she’s been re-animated in a post-apocalyptic future stop her from doing what she’s famous for: Beauty Vlogging. Sure, everyone she knew is dead, the subterranean mutants who worship her are annoying, and a monster is trying to kill her, but Sarah’s got some fantastic makeup tips and it’ll take more than that to prevent her from uploading them.

Production credit: *Sarah’s Channel* is a Yellow Creative and Mythmaker production for the ABC. Principal production investment from Screen Australia, in association with Create NSW.



Australian Government



MEDIA RELEASE

SINGLE LADIES

6 x 8 mins

Story Republic Pty Ltd (WA)

Genre: Comedy

Producer: Joshua Gilbert

Executive Producer: Ros Walker

Directors: Gemma Hall, Mimi Helm, Jacqueline Pelczar

Writer: Aaron Moss

Platform: TBC

Synopsis: *Single Ladies* follows the misadventures of unlikely trio Catherine, Nina and Hashim as they try to save their sex positive radio show from the conservative owners of the station.

Production credit: *Single Ladies* is a Story Republic production. Production investment from Screen Australia and Screenwest.

TIME & PLACE

7 x 9 mins

Gemini Arts and Media Pty Ltd (QLD)

Genre: Drama

Producer: Tam Sainsbury, Dylan Schenkeveld

Director: Tam Sainsbury

Writer: Tam Sainsbury

Platform: TBC

Synopsis: After living abroad for years, magazine writer Rebecca Woodruff returns for a holiday to her hometown of Golden Beach with her husband and daughter. Her family; divorced mum and dad, her mum's new lesbian partner, her married sister and wildly single lawyer brother; are all thrilled to have her home. As Rebecca navigates her family's chaos, her marriage begins to crumble and her deeply hidden secret begins to surface and she realises that maybe this is the time and the place where she now needs to be.....permanently.

Production Credit: *Time & Place* is a Gemini Arts and Media production. Principal production investment from Screen Australia, in association with Sunshine Coast Council and Arts Queensland.

MORE INFORMATION:

- Online Production funding approvals are [available on Screen Australia's website](#).
- Get an overview of Online Production funding in 60 seconds [here](#), or apply [here](#).

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