

Screen Australia and SBS to develop three Digital Originals

Monday 6 April 2020: Three online projects from the [2019 Digital Originals initiative](#) will share in \$65,000 of development funds from Screen Australia and SBS. *A Beginner's Guide to Grief*, *Freewheelers* and *Iggy & Ace 5eva* were selected from the 10 projects workshopped last year and will now be developed further with the intention of at least one going into production for SBS On Demand.

Lee Naimo, Screen Australia's Online Investment Manager said, "The Digital Originals initiative was incredibly effective at bringing new creators into our orbit, and all three of the teams going into further development feature creators at early stages of their careers. These three stories are clever, engaging and offer a slice of Australian life not often seen on screen."

The Digital Originals initiative was created to provide opportunities and support to writers from backgrounds that are currently underrepresented in the sector. The first round of the initiative received over 220 applications.

Marshall Heald, SBS Director of TV and Online Content, said: "The Digital Originals initiative has been a great success in supporting some of Australia's next generation creatives, to ultimately bring more diverse stories to our screens. While sharing very personal experiences, the selected projects have themes that resonate with all Australians. We're incredibly excited to progress them to the next stage of development."

The funded projects are:

- ***A Beginner's Guide to Grief*:** An 8 x 12 minute drama/comedy about 28-year-old Harriet Wylde, who returns to her home town in remote South Australia to care for two terminally ill parents. When both pass away within weeks of each other, she's forced to face her ultimate fear: absolute aloneness. But when she reconnects with a dysfunctional childhood friend Daisy, Harriet discovers that grief doesn't play by any rules and soon, neither will she. Exploring themes of death, grief and identity, this series is written by South Australian Anna Lindner.
- ***Freewheelers*:** A 6 x 12 minute adventure comedy centred on Abe Walker, a teenager with cerebral palsy, his terminally ill grandmother Jude and his best friend Sally. In a bid to establish Abe's independence, they concoct a plan to exchange thousands of cans for the cash needed to get him to school camp. But what starts as a simple journey to the local recycling centre, becomes a last hurrah to remember. This Sydney-based creative team features creator and producer Belinda Dean ([Cloudy River](#)) and writer Emily Dash ([The Milky Pop Kid](#)).
- ***Iggy & Ace 5eva*:** A 6 x 15 minute comedy that explores friendship, addiction and recovery through a queer lens. Iggy and Ace are two gay alcoholic best mates who live, work and play together. After Ace decides to get sober, a rift develops between the two friends as Iggy balks at the idea of recovery. This project is written by Sydney-based AB Morrison and produced by Perth-based Hannah Ngo who previously teamed up on short films [Carnal Privilege](#) and [Tribunal](#).

ABOUT SCREEN AUSTRALIA'S ONLINE FUNDING

Screen Australia funds scripted drama content, including projects for on demand streaming such as [Robbie Hood](#) and [Homecoming Queens](#), through three streams:

- Development funding through [Generate or Premium](#). No professional credits required for Generate. Fund is open all year.
- Special initiative funding. Applications are now open for Screen Australia and Google Australia's [Skip Ahead](#) initiative.
- Production or completion funding through [Online Production](#). Fund is open all year.

MEDIA RELEASE

Funding is also available for online documentary content through the [Documentary Department](#)

New to applying for funding? Read [Screen Australia for Beginners](#)

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