
MEDIA RELEASE

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Screen Australia announces production investment in nine documentaries

Wednesday 28 October 2009: Screen Australia today announced commitment of close to \$1.3 million to the production of nine documentaries triggering more than \$4.7 million worth of production.

Gallipoli's Deep Secrets takes viewers on an unparalleled underwater exploration to reveal the secret history of Gallipoli, led by the world famous shipwreck hunter Robert Ballard. The documentary will be produced by **Ed Punchard** and produced and directed by **Julia Redwood**.

Ten prominent Australians will tell the story of the event, incident or experience that made them appreciate what it means to be *As Australian As ...* The series will be produced by **Michael Tear**, written by **Michael Cove** and directed by **Serge Ou**.

Producer Sue Maslin and **Director/Writer** Daryl Dellora will bring Justice Michael Kirby's final days before retirement from the High Court of Australia to the screen with *Kirby*. The documentary explores the personal, moral and spiritual convictions that provide the framework for understanding one of Australia's greatest legal minds.

Two feature films received completion funding, *The Horseman*, a revenge-thriller that tears open an unflinching study of grief and retribution and *Little Deaths*, which brings together 11 stories about love, loss, music and sex.

International Documentary

GALLIPOLI'S DEEP SECRETS

Prospero Productions

Producers Ed Punchard, Julia Redwood

Director Julia Redwood

Sales and Domestic Broadcaster NGTV, NGUS, RAI, NGTI and History Channel Australia

Synopsis An unparalleled underwater exploration to reveal the secret history of Gallipoli, led by the world famous shipwreck hunter Robert Ballard.

Domestic Door – Documentary Series

ANATOMY SERIES 2

Matchbox Pictures

Producers Michael McMahon, Tony Ayres and Polly Staniford

Directors Emma Crimmings, Donna McCrum, Andy Canny and Adele Wilkes

Broadcaster ABC TV

Synopsis A three-part documentary series exploring the ways in which artists and performers deal with the subject of sex and the human body. The films are thematically linked but are also complete stories in themselves.

AS AUSTRALIAN AS**Bearcage Films****Producer** Michael Tear**Writer** Michael Cove**Director** Serge Ou**Broadcaster** Foxtel History Channel

Synopsis *As Australian As* is a series of self-contained personal television essays in which 10 prominent Australians tell the story of the event, incident or experience that made them appreciate what it means to be as Australian as ...

Domestic Documentaries**THE ART OF WALKING****Flaming Star Films Pty Ltd****Producer** Sharyn Prentice**Director** Rosie Jones**Broadcaster** ABC TV

Synopsis On a 50-mile trek from Los Angeles airport to the heart of Hollywood, notorious writer and cultural provocateur, Will Self, interrogates the meaning of walking in a globalised, industrialised world.

THE INQUISITION**Pony Films****Producer** Dylan Blowen**Director/Writer** Rachel Landers**Broadcaster** ABC TV Sales, ABC Commercial

Synopsis A study of the Wood Royal Commission, which gripped the Australian public's imagination for almost three years as it rolled out like a twisting, shocking thriller. It surged to life through the persistence and resolve of the independent politician John Hatton.

GIRLS' OWN WAR STORIES**Iguana Films****Producer/Director** Jenny Ainge**Writer** Paul Roy**Broadcaster** ABC TV

Synopsis Tells the intimate stories of 10 Australian women and how WWII changed their lives. WWII was one of the greatest social catalysts for Australian women. The film explores the remarkable courage and resourcefulness of Australian women in a time of great turmoil and danger.

PHOTOGRAPHY HIJACKED**Valarc Films****Producer** Matteo Bruno**Director** Jack Pam**Broadcaster** ABC TV

Synopsis *Photography Hijacked* is an exploration into the dynamic and diverse world of contemporary photography told through the eyes of the practitioner.

KIRBY**Film Art Doco Pty Ltd****Producer** Sue Maslin**Director/Writer** Daryl Dellora**Broadcaster** ABC TV Sales, Film Art Doco

Synopsis With filming starting during his final days before retiring from the High Court of Australia, this documentary about Justice Michael Kirby explores the personal, moral and spiritual convictions which provide the framework for understanding one of Australia's greatest legal minds.

THE TROUBLE WITH ST MARY'S**Soul Vision Films Pty Ltd****Producer/Writer/Director** Peter Hegedus**Producer** Veronica Fury**Broadcaster** ABC TV

Synopsis On February 21 2009, Father Peter Kennedy of St Mary's Church in Brisbane, became the first Catholic priest ever to be sacked in Australia. His transgressions included questioning the Virgin Birth, blessing same sex unions and allowing women to recite the Eucharist. In the eyes of Rome, Peter Kennedy is a heretic. This documentary follows the story of Peter Kennedy and the people whose lives have been affected by his sacking. Ultimately *The Trouble with St Mary's* investigates the future of the Catholic Church on the dawn of the 21st century.

Low-budget Feature Film Fund (Completion Funding)**THE HORSEMAN****Kastle Films Pty Ltd****Producers** Steven Kastrissios, Rebecca Dakin**Director/Writer** Steven Kastrissios**Sales and Distribution** Media 8 Entertainment and Umbrella Entertainment**Synopsis** A revenge-thriller that tears open an unflinching study of grief and retribution.**LITTLE DEATHS****The Difference Engine****Executive Producer** Jason Byrne**Producers** Marni Holuigue, Nina Hutchinson, Lacey Fitzgerald, Chris Kamen, Nina Hutchison, Helene Nicol, Jonathan Finney, Kate Hagar and Darran McFarlane**Writer** Guila Sandler**Directors** Geoff Hitchens, Sian Davies, Toby Angwin, Chris Benz, Ben Chessell, Genevieve Bailey, James Teh, Jarrah Gurrie, Fin Edquist, Giulia Sandler and Melanie Brunt**Sales and Distribution** Odin's Eye and Madman**Synopsis** Eleven stories about love, loss, music and sex.