



Australian Government



Media enquiries Teri Calder, Screen Australia
Tel +612 8113 5833 | Mobile 0408 440 995 | teri.calder@screenaustralia.gov.au
www.screenaustralia.gov.au

Development support for 10 feature projects announced

Wednesday 25 January 2012: Screen Australia today announced over \$275,000 in funding to support the development of 10 feature film projects. Australian screenwriter **John Ratchford** has also been supported to undertake a six-month professional internship with Island Pictures in London, working closely with acclaimed screenwriter **Dominic Minghella**, creator of hit TV series including *Doc Martin* and *Robin Hood*.

Among the feature projects supported for development include writer/director **Catriona McKenzie's** (*Satellite Boy*), new project **One White Crow**. The script is a thriller based on a true story about an Australian academic who loses faith in God and scientifically proves there is life after death. Also based on true events is writer, director and producer **Bill Bennett's** script **Defiant** about two young Indian lovers from different castes who are marked for honour killings. Bennett is developing *Defiant* with producer **Anupam Sharma**.

Aussie Girls is a new comedy in development from writer **Josephine Emery** and **Kingdom Come** is an action feature script to be developed by writers **Marc Furnie** and **Shiyan Zheng**. Marc Furnie is attached to direct *Kingdom Come* with **Martin Fabinyi** on board to produce along with executive producers **Ron Saunders**, **Keith Sweitzer** and **Rob Woodburn**.

Writer, director and producer **Robert Connolly** (*Balibo*) will develop his script **Paper Planes** about a young boy's passion for flight that compels him to compete in the world paper plane championships. **Maggie Miles** is attached to the project as a producer. **Kristine Wyld** has also been supported to develop her thriller feature script **Metamorphosis** with producer **David Elfick**.

Writer **Ross Grayson Bell** and producer **Heather Ogilvie** will be supported to develop **Salvation Creek**, a drama about a high-flying magazine editor's experience coping with grief and writer/director **Andrew Lawrence** has been supported to develop the drama script **Sentido** with producer **Monique de Groot** and executive producer **Andrena Finlay**.

Producer **John Polson** has received matched funding to develop **Sydney Project** and producer **Jessica Brentnall** has also received matched funding to develop **The Evolution of Bruno Littlemore** based on the novel by Benjamin Hale.

SINGLE-PROJECT DEVELOPMENT: FEATURE DEVELOPMENT

AUSSIE GALS

Genre Comedy

Writer Josephine Emery

Synopsis Georgie and Kylie are sisters. When Georgie's boyfriend cons her into pulling a job for him and the heat is on her, Kylie has to risk everything she has to save her sister from her own worst plans.

DEFIANT

Genre Thriller

Writer/Director/Producer Bill Bennett

Producer Anupam Sharma

Synopsis Two young lovers from different castes are marked for honour killings. Based on true events.

KINGDOM COME

Genre Action

MEDIA RELEASE

Producer Martin Fabinyi

Executive Producers Ron Saunders, Keith Sweitzer, Rob Woodburn

Writer/Director Marc Furmie

Writer Shiyan Zheng

Synopsis After a masked gunman takes 16 people hostage in the Calvary Pentecostal Church and pits the church members against each other, Australian Federal Police agent Doug Limner is assigned the task of ending the crisis. As Limner struggles to control the situation, he is forced to confront his own demons, and choose between the lesser of evils.

METAMORPHOSIS

Genre Thriller

Producer David Elfick

Writer Kristine Wyld

Synopsis Scientist Susan Wang, inspired by the visual deception of the insect world, disguises herself to gain prison access to her sister's killer and dispense her own form of justice.

ONE WHITE CROW

Genre Thriller

Producer Jodea Bloomfield

Executive Producer Raphael Benoliel

Writer/Director Catriona McKenzie

Synopsis An Australian academic who has lost faith in God scientifically proves there is life after death. Based on a true story.

PAPER PLANES

Genre Family

Writer/Director/Producer Robert Connolly

Producer Maggie Miles

Synopsis A young boy's passion for flight compels him to compete in the world paper plane championships.

SALVATION CREEK

Genre Drama

Producer Heather Ogilvie

Writer Ross Grayson Bell

Synopsis A high-flying magazine editor thinks she's coping brilliantly with grief until the day she can't get out of bed. Sometimes salvation turns out to be a place of unexpected beauty.

SENTIDO

Genre Drama

Producer Monique de Groot

Executive Producer Andrena Finlay

Writer/Director Andrew Lawrence

Synopsis Alejandro, a young Australian of Mexican heritage, sets out on a rite of passage journey to his homeland of Mexico to find out who his father was and to discover his own identity.

SINGLE-PROJECT DEVELOPMENT: FEATURE MATCHED FUNDING

SYDNEY PROJECT (Working Title)

Genre Drama

Producer John Polson

SINGLE-PROJECT DEVELOPMENT: FEATURE MATCHED INITIAL OPTION FUNDING

Media enquiries Teri Calder, Screen Australia

Tel +612 8113 5833 | **Mobile** 0408 440 995 | teri.calder@screenaustralia.gov.au

THE EVOLUTION OF BRUNO LITTLEMORE**Genre** Drama**Producer** Jessica Brentnall**Synopsis** Bruno Littlemore is unlike any chimpanzee in the world. Born and raised at Lincoln Park Zoo, Bruno falls under the care of university primatologist, Lydia Littlemore, revealing a remarkable gift for language. A heartbreaking exploration of what it feels like to be human. Based on the novel by Benjamin Hale.**INDUSTRY INTERNSHIPS****JOHN RATCHFORD INTERNSHIP**

Writer John Ratchford will work closely with writer Dominic Minghella (*Doc Martin*, *Robin Hood*) and Island Pictures in London for six months during production of their slate of television and film projects, including post-production on the feature film *The Scapegoat*.