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MEDIA STATEMENT

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Six WA documentaries share in \$2.15 million production funding

The Western Australian documentary sector is off to a strong start for the 2017-18 financial year, with Screenwest announcing six documentary productions will share in more than \$2.15 million of Production Investment funding.

PREDATOR PETS is the first documentary series Screenwest has funded under Ray Pedretti's new production company Blizzard Road Productions. Set to commence principal photography in September 2017, PREDATOR PETS exposes the world of pet ownership, where a cat or dog is not enough and people have pets which match the lives they may lead, the challenge, excitement and the ever-present danger. From bison to tigers, the dangers of ownership are recognised, but at times overly accepted.

Also receiving production investment funding is the second series of the successful **FAMILY RULES**, developed by Metamorflix and Karla Hart Enterprises. The second series will be produced in association with National Indigenous Television (NITV) and supported by Screen Australia. In the first season, which aired in early 2017, Daniella Rule and her eight daughters, all strong, modern, independent Indigenous females, attracted national audiences in high numbers.

Electric Pictures, Prospero Productions and Artemis Media also secured documentary production funding, for major projects which are in the final stages of financing, to be announced in due course.

Last financial year, Screenwest committed more than \$3.2 million in Production Investment funding to 16 factual productions from 12 Western Australian production companies. In addition, Electric Pictures and Prospero Productions were supported with SuperDoc funding.

Ian Booth, Screenwest Chief Executive Officer, reiterated Screenwest's support for the factual screen industry.

"Factual production companies are the foundation of the screen industry here and provide substantial employment and creative opportunities, as well as experience for the filmmakers of the future," he said.

"The breadth of their subject matter, from high end natural history to celebrating Noongar footballers, exploring the life-changing world of organ donation, contentious issues of sexism to dangerous animals, is all testament to the diversity of Western Australian stories and the production houses we have here in the State," he said.

"Screenwest remains committed to supporting the factual screen industry."

Screenwest is supported by



Projects supported in 2016-17 include:

ROTTNEST AND THE MYSTERY ISLANDS – Sea Dog TV International has been filming this documentary series on Rottneest Island and Penguin Islands over the past few months, utilising the latest 4K camera technology and 4k infra-red cameras. The company is filming extensive VR footage above and under water. This includes rigging six GoPros together, using the Kolor Abyss 360-degree underwater camera housing, capturing habitats above and underwater at various locations around Rottneest Island to create a Virtual Reality experience to complement the series.

Artemis Media's **DON'T STOP THE MUSIC!** is a 3 x 60-minute observational documentary series for the ABC which follows the journey of a Primary School in Armadale, WA as a new music program is introduced. The series is part of a multiplatform program and outreach campaign which aims to re-awaken the importance of music education, and appeal to the public to donate instruments no longer being used to schools that need them.

Periscope Pictures have just finished a community focused one hour observational documentary, part of the SBS Untold Australia initiative. The film is being executive produced by Joined Up Films. This production has also secured Western Australia's first participant in SBS and Screenwest's Talent Escalator program, who is working as a Production Assistant on the production.

A TEAM OF CHAMPIONS, from Beyond West, is a documentary series exploring the legacy of 24 Noongar players in the AFL, WAFL and VFL, utilising interviews and biographical and sporting archival footage to tell their stories. The series is led by a strong female Indigenous creative team, with Kelli Cross and Karla Hart as Writer/Directors and Shakara Walley producing alongside Joshua Gilbert and Harry Bardwell. It was partly filmed at the ABC studios and is currently in post-production. It will screen on NITV and AFL Media.

Showrunner Productions have two series in production, continuing the successful '72' series with **72 DANGEROUS ANIMALS ASIA** and **72 DANGEROUS ANIMALS LATIN AMERICA**. The series screens on Netflix and whilst most of the filming took place on location overseas, all pre-production and production was coordinated from Perth and re-enactment shoots filmed on location in WA. All post-production is undertaken in Perth.

DYING TO LIVE, from Aquarius Productions and Intrinsic Story, is an important feature documentary delving into the powerfully complex and emotionally charged world of organ transplantation. Through the touching stories of those awaiting life-saving transplants and others campaigning for historic change - this film explores what it really means for a country of the willing to become a country of the ready as physical philanthropists - and set the stage for global change in how we think about death and dying.

Pete Gleeson's acclaimed observational documentary **HOTEL COOLGARDIE**, garnered national and international attention, with a World Premiere at Hot Docs Canadian International Festival, Australian Premiere at Sydney Film Festival and a string of high-profile festivals including Slamdance (USA), where it was picked up by UK distributor Journeyman Pictures. **HOTEL COOLGARDIE** is now available worldwide on VOD platforms iTunes, Vimeo on Demand, Amazon and YouTube movies.

All the productions are proudly supported by Screenwest and Lotterywest.

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