Territory Women Shine with Screen Stories

14 July 2016

Territory women’s skills in the film industry are being recognised with financial support flowing into the Territory for three new projects.

“This is a vote of confidence in the ability of talented women in the Northern Territory’s screen industry,” Minister for Arts and Museums Gary Higgins said.

“The Government has long recognised the importance of the Northern Territory screen industry - that is why in Budget 2016/17 we allocated an additional $500,000 to Screen Territory,” he said.

The three projects, all dramas, will receive investment from Screen Australia, the national funding and investment agency.

The support is through Gender Matters, a national initiative aimed at increasing the representation of women in key creative roles and positions of influence in the Australian screen industry.

The projects that have been supported are from a Darwin based team, and two from creative women from Alice Springs.

**News Junkies** is a web series that was initially developed this year through a Screen Territory’s web series development program Illuminator.

It is a comedy about wannabe hotshot journalist, Elle Walker, who gets more than she bargains for when she moves from Sydney’s Bondi Beach to a tabloid television newsroom in remote northern Australia.

To be produced by Weave Films, the producers are Darwin based Emma Masters and Kristy O’Brien, with writing by Lucy McNally.

**Cloud Money** is a feature film about an elderly female artist from a remote Aboriginal community runs away to France to fulfil a lifelong dream to see Claude Monet’s garden before her eyesight fails. Her community and family go into crisis and send out a search party to bring her back.

Trisha Morton-Thomas, the writer, lives and works in Alice Springs. She is well known for her acting skills, including in the much loved Alice Springs based television series 8MMM Aboriginal Radio. Cloud Money will be produced by Brindle Films.

**Funny Rabbit** is being developed by Biddy O’Loughlin based on her successful one women show. It is a dark satire created by Biddy about the human condition, told through the eyes of a rabbit named Bill. Biddy recently went to Cannes with her VCA graduation short drama *Ten Thousand*, a darkly funny western that was filmed near Alice Springs.
Penelope McDonald, Director of Screen Territory said Screen Territory’s support for professional development of industry practitioners is paying dividends, for Territory stories.

“It is great to see that Territory women and stories are getting national attention, as well as financial investment,” she said.

“The fact that these three projects have been recognised for this opportunity is testament of the talented, successful women in the NT film industry.”

**Media Contact**

Sean Conway    0400 165 743