

THE SCREEN FOREVER 2017 ADVISORY BOARD REVEALED

MEDIA RELEASE 3 AUGUST 2017:

Screen Producers Australia (SPA) welcomes the new and returning members of the 2017 SCREEN FOREVER Advisory Board. This fresh collective of leading executive minds and creatives from across the Australian film, television and digital sectors will be supporting the development of the SCREEN FOREVER 2017 conference. SCREEN FOREVER is one of the largest annual congregations of screen industry professionals in the Southern Hemisphere, taking place in Melbourne, 14-16 November, 2017.

The members of the SCREEN FOREVER Advisory Board play a critical role in helping Screen Producers Australia address the challenges, trends and success stories most relevant to the screen industry today. In the lead up to the SCREEN FOREVER conference, the Advisory Board works closely with Screen Producers Australia to create a diverse, engaging program of inspirational and information-packed sessions, networking events, keynote addresses, masterclasses, panel discussions, workshops, roundtables, pitching opportunities and the International Partnership Market.

The 2017 SCREEN FOREVER Advisory Board includes:

CHAIR: Neil Peplow, CEO AFTRS

Jenni Tosi, CEO of Film Victoria

Jon Casimir, CEO Legacy Media

Kate Croser Producer, Kojo Entertainment

Kylie Munnich, Senior Vice President, Sonar

Nathan Mayfield, CEO Hoodlum

Michael Carrington, Head of Kids TV, ABC

Tracey Vieira, CEO, Screen Queensland

Mike Cowap, Investment Manager, Screen Australia

Therese Hegarty, Director, Content Distribution & Rights, Seven Network

Jason Byrne, Producer, Guilty Content

Special International Consultant: Simone Overend

Screen Producers Australia's CEO Matthew Deaner said: *"We are very fortunate to have the contribution and expertise of these exceptional screen executives and creatives from across the content industry and chaired by AFTRS CEO Neil Peplow. We thank them all for their commitment, ideas and inspiration for SCREEN FOREVER and the development of the platform that it represents in uniting our sector in progressive ways."*

SCREEN FOREVER 14-16 November 2017, Crown Conference Centre, Melbourne Australia. Super Early-Rate registrations now open at www.screenforever.org.au

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Biographies:

Neil Peplow, CEO AFTRS (Advisory Chair)

Neil Peplow is the CEO of the Australian Film Television and Radio School (AFTRS), a world leader in educating and training professionals across a range of screen arts and broadcasting disciplines, and rated as one of the world's top 15 international film schools. Neil is currently implementing a new strategy that focuses on innovation and inclusion.

Neil was previously the COO at the Met Film School in London and the Director of Film at Creative Skillset, and he has extensive experience as a consultant within the media industry.

Jenni Tosi, CEO Film Victoria

Jenni Tosi is the CEO of Film Victoria, the Victorian Government's screen agency based in Melbourne. With over 35 years of industry experience, Jenni has a deep and practical knowledge of the Australian screen industry along with an extensive network of producers, directors, writers, actors, broadcasters, distributors and financiers. Under Jenni's leadership, Film Victoria has delivered over \$900 million worth of production activity to Victoria in the past six years. This has been achieved by supporting a mix of domestic and international feature film and television productions along with the expansion of Victoria's globally successful games sector. Jenni sits on VCA's and RMIT's film and television course advisory bodies and is a member of the Ausfilm Board.

Tracey Vieira, CEO Screen QLD

Tracey has been leading Screen Queensland since February 2014. Prior to this she led Ausfilm's Los Angeles office as the Executive Vice President – International Production – a position she held since 2004. Tracey has held a number of senior roles in the entertainment industry including as the Executive Manager of Locations and International Production for the Pacific Film and Television Commission (PFTC) and as a senior team member at Queensland Events Corporation.

Jon Casimir, CEO Legacy Media

Jon Casimir is CEO of Legacy Media which, he notes, sounds more impressive than it actually is – it's a three-person company that hasn't made anything yet. Give it time. He recently finished up a three year stint as Head of Entertainment at ABC TV. During that time he commissioned new programs including *The Weekly*, *Luke Warm Sex*, *Hard Quiz*, *Dream Gardens*, *The House with Annabel Crabb*, *Growing Up Gracefully*, *Whovians*, *Shortcuts To Glory*, *Sammy J's Playground Politics*, *When I Get A Minute*, *Fancy Boy*, *Wham Bam Thank You Ma'am* and *When TV Was Awesome*. He is best known as the co-creator of *Gruen*, in all its iterations, and of *You Can't Ask That*. Prior to the ABC, he worked at Zapruder's/CJZ on *Enough Rope With Andrew Denton*, *Hungry Beast*, *Randling*, *Elders*, *The Joy Of Sets*, *Can Of Worms* and *Reality Check*. Jon's journalism career began at music magazine RAM. He spent 17 years at the *Sydney Morning Herald* where he was, among other things, instrumental in the creation of the smh.com.au news site. He has written four books and edited six others. He has never had a cup of coffee.

Kate Croser, Producer KOJO

Kate is a producer with a reputation for developing and producing bold film and television work. Kate's first feature film, the Australian-Iranian collaboration MY TEHRAN FOR SALE, was shot entirely on location in Tehran in 2008 (winner 2009 IF Independent Spirit Award). In 2010 Kate was awarded Screen Australia's inaugural producer internship at Film4, and also produced THE PALACE, an international short film collaboration between Australia and Cyprus (winner of AACTA award for Best Short Film). In 2011 Kate produced television series DANGER 5 for SBS (nominated for a Best TV Comedy AACTA award). In May 2012, Kate founded Hedone Productions with Sandy Cameron and together they produced the time travel comedy feature film THE INFINITE MAN, which launched to audience and critical acclaim at the 2014 SXSW Film Festival before its theatrical release. Most recently Kate has produced a second series of DANGER 5 for SBS (also nominated for a Best TV Comedy AACTA Award), documentary film MICHELLE'S STORY for ABC (winner 2015 Audience Award Adelaide Film Festival), and co-produced feature film BOYS IN THE TREES with John Molloy and Mushroom Pictures, which premiered in official selection in 2016 at Venice, Toronto and Pusan Film Festivals. In November 2016 Kate joined Kojo Entertainment as Head of Production and Development to build a broad commercial slate of film and TV projects for international audiences.

Kylie Munnich, Senior Vice President Distribution, Australasia – Sonar Entertainment

Kylie Munnich joined Sonar Entertainment in November 2016 to oversee all sales to Asia Pacific, from Sydney. Sonar Entertainment is the US production and distribution company behind such hits as the BBC/FX series Taboo, starring Tom Hardy. And the upcoming Stephen King adaptation of Mr Mercedes for AT&T's Audience Network. Munnich returned to Australia from five years in London to take the Sonar role. Her most recent role in the UK was as Director of Drama & Comedy for Sky Vision, the international distribution arm of Sky; a role she held for two years. At Sky Vision she was responsible for acquiring scripted content for Sky's international sales. As well as working with Sky's in-house commissioners for scripted series. Prior to that she was Senior Vice President UK, Ireland & Africa for Sony Pictures Television. She joined Sony in 2005 as Vice President of Distribution for Australia and New Zealand. She moved to Sony's London office in 2011 to take up the Senior VP role, responsible for strategically developing and managing all sales functions in territories across multiple distribution platforms. Previous to Sony Pictures Television, Munnich worked for MGM International Television selling content to AsiaPac. Prior to that she was international sales manager for the Warner Bros company, Filmbank Distributors Ltd, based in London.

Jason Byrne, Producer Guilty

Jason Byrne is a Melbourne based award-winning producer. His range of experience has embodied puppetry, animation, hi-end television commercials, experiential media, award winning short films, documentaries and feature films. Byrne joined forces with Rohan Timlock and launched the highly-regarded Melbourne-based production company 'Guilty' which represents select luminaries such as Tony Rogers, Clayton Jacobson, Edwin McGill, Germaine McMicking and a host of other talent. Guilty, within its short history, has produced a long list of successful Television Commercials and Commercial Online Content with a winning formula that suits the expectations of leading national and international advertising agencies. Guilty continues to grow its success and foremost reputation.

Michael Carrington, Head of Kids TV ABC

Michael is a multi award-winning media executive with more than 20 years' experience in the children's television industry, from production and program acquisition roles to channel management and content commissioning. Prior to his role at the ABC, Michael was Chief Executive Officer of Zodiak Kids Studios, working in London and Paris and responsible for the company's international program portfolio of live-action and animation productions. His career has included roles as Vice President, Global Content & Executive Producer – HIT Entertainment Ltd; Chief Content Officer, Cartoon Network; Channel Controller, CBeebies – BBC; as well as various roles at LEGO Media, Discovery Communications, Amazon Films and Network Ten.

Mike Cowap, Investment Manager Screen Australia

Mike Cowap is Screen Australia's Investment Manager for Interactive and Multiplatform projects. He has special responsibility for innovative digital production, and has funded projects and talent that have attained billions of views worldwide. He has served as Development and Investment Manager with Screen Australia and Project Manager with the Australian Film Commission since 2005, and has worked across emerging screen mediums such as AR and VR, as well as animation, television and independent feature film production.

Nathan Mayfield, CEO Hoodlum

Nathan Mayfield is the Chief Creative Officer and co-founder of Hoodlum, an Emmy and BAFTA award-winning entertainment company. Nathan oversees the strategic and creative direction of Hoodlum with his focus the Australian and international business. Pioneering innovative new ways to tell stories since 1999, Mayfield has been the creative force behind Hoodlum's multiplatform work, television series and feature films. In 2009 Hoodlum won a Primetime Emmy for their work on *Lost* and an International Emmy for their work on *Primeval* in 2010. Hoodlum also won two BATFA awards for *Spooks* in 2008. In 2017 Nathan will release the feature film *Australia Day*, produce a gripping new TV series *Harrow* for ABC AUS and ABC Studios International, as well as launch a controversial VR documentary for SBS.

Therese Hegarty, Director of Content Distribution & Rights, Seven Network

In her role, Therese oversees the commercial and operational aspects of the Network's extensive slate of Australian produced programs and is also responsible for the management of Seven's extensive catalogue of program rights both in Australia and internationally. She began her career at George Patterson Advertising as an assistant in the creative department where she decided television was her future and moved through various production roles until she found her dream job in the production department at Beyond 2000, produced by Beyond International. Therese was Vice President, Production Business for Beyond Television from 2003 through to 2012.

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Media Inquiries:

Natalie Apostolou

natalie.apostolou@screenproducers.org.au

0413 350 860

About Screen Producers Australia:

Screen Producers Australia was formed by the screen industry to represent large and small enterprises across a diverse production slate of feature film, television and interactive content. Our members employ hundreds of producers, thousands of related practitioners and drive more than \$1.7 billion worth of annual production activity from the independent sector. On behalf of these businesses we are focused on delivering a healthy commercial environment through ongoing engagement with elements of the labour force, including directors, writers, actors and crew, as well as with broadcasters, distributors and government in all its various forms. This coordinated dialogue ensures that our industry is successful, employment levels are strong and the community's expectations of access to high quality Australian content have been met.