

MEDIA RELEASE

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SAE and AACTA partner to uncover outstanding future filmmakers through doco competition

The leaders in creative media education, SAE Creative Media Institute have partnered with the Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts (AACTA) to launch 'Uncovered' - a unique documentary filmmaking competition for SAE film students, which will nurture and inspire the next generation of outstanding Australian documentary filmmakers.

'Uncovered' ties in with SAE's existing film course learning, and provides students with exposure, industry expectations and feedback from leading AACTA professionals. In addition, the competition will give students the chance to advance their careers in the highly competitive screen industry.

The successful filmmakers of 'Uncovered' will receive expert mentoring from the panel of judges including Malinda Wink, Executive Director at Minderoo Pictures and Stephen Oliver, Manager of Documentaries for ABC. The winners will also enjoy introductions to producers, distributors, and broadcasters to support them in the development of their documentary, a 12 month AACTA membership, and tickets to the 2023 AACTA Awards.

SAE General Manager, Dr Luke McMillan was honoured to be working closely with Australia's most prestigious film and television membership body that supports and nurtures Australian screen, and provides opportunities for its students.

"A key element of the learning journey at SAE is to provide students with the skills and knowledge to be 'industry-ready' once they graduate," Dr McMillan said. "We are delighted to partner with AACTA and offer our film students the chance to develop their documentary filmmaking skills and receive expert advice from some of the leading filmmakers in this country."

Dr McMillan added the importance and relevance of the competition: "At SAE, we encourage students to make impactful content that creates meaningful discussion. 'Uncovered' provides the platform for students to draw on their own personal experiences, while exploring other valuable themes important to society."

AACTA Awards and Industry Development Manager, Ivan Vukusic was looking forward to collaborating with SAE on what is a major part of the Academy's strategy.

"Supporting new and emerging filmmakers is a passion and priority for AACTA," Ivan said. "We're committed to working directly with the education sector and with the screen industry to achieve meaningful outcomes for emerging filmmakers. We're really excited to be collaborating with SAE on an initiative that works very much hand in hand with their curriculum."



ANIMATION



AUDIO

CREATIVE
INDUSTRIESCREATIVE
TECHNOLOGIES

DESIGN



FILM



GAMES



MUSIC

“With ongoing support and industry guidance, we anticipate that winning ‘Uncovered’ will be a significant career stepping stone for the successful filmmakers involved,” Ivan added.

Screen Australia’s recent [Drama Report](#) for 2021/22 revealed that drama production in Australia grew to \$2.29 billion for the first time. Given the demand, the entire screen industry is only going to continue to grow, according to Ivan.

“The proliferation of new platforms has really expanded the pipeline, and emerging filmmakers are well placed to explore those opportunities,” Ivan explained.

“The need for talented technical craft practitioners is at an all-time high. This is due to the rapidly increasing volume of productions in Australia - both domestic and the ever growing number of international productions. That won’t come to an end any time soon, that’s for sure.”

SAE Creative Media Institute provides students with the experience, skills, equipment and connections to succeed in the industry. Find out more at sae.edu.au.

-ENDS-

About SAE

SAE Creative Media Institute is the place for creatives and innovators. Since 1976 we’ve been the leaders in creative media education across animation, audio, creative industries, creative technologies, design, film, games, and music. Every year, we support students globally to develop the skills and experience needed to carve successful careers. Students enjoy access to the latest technology and are taught by industry-experienced faculty, while putting their skills to the test in small class environments. Our graduates become part of a highly-respected global community of creatives that’s been around for over 40 years.

We pride ourselves on being technically explorative, transformative and brave through our range of creative media programs, from short courses and professional training through to bachelor and postgraduate degrees. In Australia, our programs are delivered at campuses in Sydney, Brisbane, Byron Bay, Melbourne, Perth and Adelaide. SAE is a part of Navitas Pty Ltd. More information about SAE is available at sae.edu.au.

About AACTA

The Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts (AACTA) is a not-for-profit organisation, aimed at promoting, encouraging, and celebrating screen excellence in Australia. For over 60 years, the AACTA Awards (formerly the AFI Awards) have recognised and celebrated Australia's highest achievements in film, television, short form, and digital content.

Held annually in Sydney, the AACTA Awards are Australia’s most prestigious screen ceremony, embracing a diverse range of screen productions and recognising some of the biggest and brightest names in the industry. AACTA also remains committed to supporting and encouraging the next generation of industry talent through a variety of development initiatives aimed at providing opportunities and support for up-and-coming creatives.



About Malinda Wink

Malinda Wink is the Executive Director of Minderoo Pictures, the social impact film enterprise of Minderoo Foundation, a modern philanthropic organisation that takes on tough, persistent issues with the potential to drive massive change. Ms Wink was Executive Producer of several of Australia's most high-profile social impact documentaries of recent times including *2040*, the Adam Goodes documentary *The Final Quarter*, and *Big Deal: Is Our Democracy for Sale?* and is a highly regarded leader within the global screen industry and not-for-profit sector.

In 2019, Ms Wink joined Doc Society (formerly BRITDOC) as Global Director of Good Pitch and launched Doc Society's Australian programs including the ABC and Doc Society Climate and Environment Shorts initiative with emerging talent from across the country. She was previously Executive Director of Good Pitch Australia whose films included *That Sugar Film*, *Gayby Baby*, *Blue*, *Frackman*, and *In My Blood It Runs*, and Executive Director of Ian Darling's Shark Island Institute.

About Stephen Oliver

An award-winning filmmaker, Stephen has brought expertise in both high end program-making and game-changing impact campaigns to his commissioning role at the ABC with great success. Currently Manager of Documentaries at the ABC, Stephen oversees many of the national broadcaster's biggest hits, including *Love on the Spectrum*, *Southern Ocean Live*, *Big Deal*, *Fight for Planet A*, *War on Waste*, *Big Weather*, *Family Court Murders* and *People's Republic of Mallacoota*.

Stephen is passionate about telling stories with real world impact and has headed up several ground-breaking shows around climate and the environment for the ABC. He believes in the power of storytelling to change the world, and is always looking for talent, innovation and boldness to jump off the screen and into people's homes. Outside of work, he likes tennis, mountain-biking and dogs. Oh and his kids, he definitely likes them too.

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