

## FLICKERLAB Friday 13 Jan 2017 A ONE-DAY JOURNEY FROM SHORTS TO FEATURES

### PRESENTED BY SAE QANTM

FlickerLab gives you the chance to immerse yourself in the latest filmmaking trends as you spend the day with some of the industry's leading film experts offering up their expertise and wisdom with a range of panels designed to enhance and develop your creative ideas and get your film noticed in the marketplace. The entire gamut of the film making experience is covered, from initial concept through to script, producing, marketing, distribution and the latest cross platform and alternative distribution methods.

Listen, share, network and engage as our panellists guide you through the joys and challenges of filmmaking. Absorb essential tips and knowledge and be inspired on your own creative journey.

### FROM IDEA TO PAGE

10.00am – 11.30am

Everyone will tell you a good script is an essential ingredient for any good film. Our panel of experienced screenwriters will discuss turning a good idea into a good script, looking in detail at development, collaboration and script editing. They will share their insights about their own transitions from independent shorts to lauded feature films. Discussions will also include observations about writing for some of television's most successful and acclaimed dramas. This valuable session is a must for all budding screenwriters and filmmakers looking to develop and write scripts.

### STEPHAN ELLIOTT

Writer / Director



One of Australia's leading film directors, Stephan Elliott began his career as an assistant director/editor before directing ***Frauds***, starring Phil Collins and Hugo Weaving. His second feature, ***The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert*** (1994) starring Terence Stamp, Hugo Weaving and Guy Pearce, went on to become one of the most successful Australian films of all time, collecting an Academy Award, BAFTA and AFI Awards for Best Costume Design and Best Make Up/Hair as well as nominations for a Writers Guild Award and a Golden Globe for Best Comedy/Musical.

Stephan directed the thriller ***Eye of the Beholder*** (1999) starring Ewan McGregor, Ashley Judd, KD Lang and Jason Priestley. The film premiered at Venice that year winning the Brussels Sci-fi and Fantasy Festival – an award also shared by his film ***Frauds***.

Stephan's earlier film then became ***Priscilla The Musical***, (which opened on Broadway in 2011) and he directed the adaption of a Noel Coward play, ***Easy Virtue*** starring Jessica Biel, Ben Barnes, Colin Firth and Kristin Scott Thomas.

In 2010 Stephan directed ***A Few Best Men*** starring Kris Marshall, Xavier Samuel, Kevin Bishop and featuring Olivia Newton John. The film opened across Australia in January 2012 as the most successful Australian comedy at the box office in over 10 years. Most recently, Stephan directed the short film ***Rio, Eu Te Amo*** – part of the ***Cities of Love*** franchise, starring Ryan Kwanten, a collective feature film, composed of 10 short film segments from 10 visionary directors from across the globe.

Stephen is currently in postproduction with his film ***Flammable Children*** starring Guy Pearce, Radha Mitchell and Kylie Minogue.

## MEGAN RIAKOS

Writer / Director



Megan Riakos is a Screenwriter and Director with a passion for telling stories that engage and provoke. She recently completed her debut feature **Crushed**, a mystery thriller set in the beautiful Australian wine region of Mudgee. **Crushed** screened at a number of festivals including Montreal World Film Festival, Miami International Film Festival and Napa Valley Film Festival before completing a successful limited theatrical release in Australia. She has also completed over a dozen short films ranging from the psychological thriller **The Shed** to the 1930's crime drama **50-50** and even an experimental dance film **The Eye of the Beholder**. Her tastes are eclectic but it's the love of telling a good story no

matter the genre that attracts Megan the most.

Megan's screenplays have also garnered acclaim. Her mystery period feature **The Last Reprieve** was awarded the Grand Prize in the Greater Philadelphia SIP Screenplay competition and her political drama **Victory** and **Defeat** made the semi-finals in the Final Draft Big Break Competition.

Megan earned her Bachelor of Arts in Communication (Media Arts & Production) at University of Technology, Sydney (UTS) and has completed both a Graduate Certificate in Screen Drama and a Graduate Diploma in Directing at the prestigious Australian Film Television and Radio School (AFTRS). In 2013, she also completed the Professional Screenwriters Program at UCLA. Megan is currently the co-chapter head of the Sydney chapter of **Film Fatales** – a global female feature film directors' collective, as well as an active committee member of WIFT NSW where she is a mentor as a part of the WIFT Big Screen Sister Initiative.

Megan is currently in development on her second feature, a science fiction thriller called **Traceless**.

## CRAIG BOREHAM

Writer / Director



Craig Boreham's films have been seen in over 200 international festivals including Berlin International Film Festival, Cannes and Palm Springs. His work has received numerous awards and nominations including the Berlinale Teddy Award, Best Film at My Queer Career, Mardi Gras Film Festival, The City of Melbourne Best Short Film Award, MQFF and National Film Sound Archive Orlando Award among others. Craig recently made MTV's list of hot Australian filmmakers to watch and his feature film **Teenage Kicks** was billed as a debut not to be missed by Empire Magazine. Craig is currently developing two feature films with producer Annmaree J Bell.

This session will be moderated by:

## SOFYA GOLLAN

Screen NSW



Sofya has worked as an award winning filmmaker for ten years, her eleven short films screened and competing in major international festivals in Germany, France, Ireland, Italy, the UK, the US and Australia. An acting graduate of National Institute of Dramatic Art she moved from a successful acting career to filmmaking, holding a Masters in Directing (AFTRS).

**Preservation**, her latest film, has screened worldwide and was nominated for 3 AFI Awards (ACCTA's), including Best Director and Best Screenplay. She has also been nominated for Best Director at the Australian Film Critics Circle Awards, and Best Screenplay at the Australian Writers Guild.

She is also an ATOM award winner of Best Short Documentary, **Dressing Dad**. Sofya has also worked as a commissioned Playwright on several occasions. She is currently a Development and Production Executive at ScreenNSW.

## THE DIRECTOR'S JOURNEY

11.45am – 1.15pm

Intimately follow the career path of an esteemed Australian director from independent short filmmaker to feature film director with Garry Maddox. Areas of discussion will include script development, working collaboratively, casting, directing actors, where ideas come from and how to make the leap from shorts to features.

### SOTIRIS DOUNOUKOS

Director / Writer



Sotiris Dounoukos is a graduate of the Binger Institute, Netherlands, and the VCA School of Film and Television, where he received the Outstanding Postgraduate Student Award. His debut feature, **Joe Cinque's Consolation**, is the screen adaptation of Helen Garner's celebrated book of the same name. **Joe Cinque's Consolation** premiered at the Melbourne International Film Festival, and screened at Thessaloniki International Film Festival and in competition at the Toronto International Film Festival in 2016. The film recently had its Australian cinematic release, and won the 2016 Canberra Film Critics' Award for Best Film.

His short film, **A Single Body (Un Seul Corps)**, won the Dendy Best Short Film Award at the 2015 Sydney Film Festival and Best Film at the St Kilda Film Festival and the inaugural Best International Short Film at the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) in 2014 amongst a hugely impressive line-up of filmmakers including Claire Denis. The screenplay was awarded the Association Beaumarchais' Script Award for Short Drama.

Sotiris' shorts have screened at over 180 festivals around the world and acquired numerous sales and awards. Past films include **Mona Lisa** (2004), winner of Best Student Production at Melbourne International Film Festival, and **Paper and Sand** (2007).

### NICHOLAS VERSO

Director / Writer



Nicholas Verso is an exciting filmmaker who recently directed his first feature film; supernatural skate film **Boys In The Trees** for Mushroom Pictures. The film won Best Narrative feature at the Austin Film Festival, screened at the Toronto International Film Festival and Busan International Film Festival and had its world premiere at the 73rd Venice International Film Festival. The script also won the NewDraft Award at NewFest 2011, received a rehearsed reading at the Lincoln Center in New York and was nominated for the 2012 Monte Miller AWGIE Award.

Nick's short film work includes **Hugo** (winner of the Grand Prize for Fantasy at the Rhode Island International Film Festival), three **Apocalypse Bear** webisodes (funded by the City of Melbourne), **The Last Time I Saw Richard** (funded through Screen Australia's Springboard programme and winner of several awards, including Best Short Film at the 2014 AACTA Awards and Best Emerging Filmmaker at the Melbourne Queer Film Festival). As a director, Nicholas has attended the Berlinale Talent Campus, Binger FilmLab Directors Coaching Programme (Amsterdam), trained with Song Of The Goat theatre company (Poland), won the 2013 Inscription LA Residency and was awarded an Asialink Arts Fellowship to Beijing in 2015. His television work includes directing the Emmy award-winning **Nowhere Boys** for Matchbox Pictures, and **Snake Tales** (a children's sitcom) for Network Nine, which won the ATOM award for Best Children's Programme and Gold Remi Award at Worldfest Houston. He has also directed multiplatform content for **Conspiracy 365**, **Dangerous Remedy**, **Time Of Our Lives**, **Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries (Season 2 & 3)**, **Molly** and **Glitch**.

## MAKING IT HAPPEN

2.00pm – 3.30pm

The Producer oversees the entire film from the initial idea, right through to production and distribution. They are key in *making it happen*. Our panellists discuss the role of the producer, from budgeting and financing to marketing, distribution and everything in between. Every producer is different and this diverse panel will share their differing approaches to the very important task of getting the film made.

### LIZ WATTS

Producer



Liz Watts is an independent producer and founding partner of Porchlight Films based in Sydney and her most recent work includes Producer on feature film ***Mary Magdalene***, with SeeSaw UK, directed by Garth Davis, starring Rooney Mara and Joaquin Phoenix, currently in production.

Liz is Executive Producer on upcoming ***The Kettering Incident*** (2015), an 8 part TV series for Foxtel, & on the feature film ***Jasper Jones*** directed by Rachel Perkins adapted by Shaun Grant from the Craig Silvey novel currently in production.

Liz' feature credits as Producer include the feature film ***Animal Kingdom*** (2010, Director David Michôd, nominated for an Academy Award and Golden Globe in 2011), ***The Home Song Stories*** (2007, Director Tony Ayres), ***Little Fish*** (2005, Director Rowan Woods), Cannes and Sundance selected ***Jewboy*** (2005, Director Tony Krawitz), and ***Walking On Water***, (2002 Director Tony Ayres).

Liz also produced German Australian co-production ***Lore***, directed by Cate Shortland, and ***Dead Europe***, directed by Tony Krawitz, with Emile Sherman & Iain Canning, both of which premiered at Festival Special Presentation Toronto International Film in 2012.

Liz's feature ***The Rover***, reteaming with writer/ director David Michôd, premiered in Official Selection Cannes Film Festival in 2014 and starred Guy Pearce and Robert Pattinson, and sold in over 35 territories worldwide.

Liz is Executive Producer on the US adaptation of *Animal Kingdom* for TNT (Directed by John Wells, written by Jonathan Lisco) currently airing with a second season on order. Liz also executive produced ***The Hunter*** (2011, Daniel Nettheim), starring Willem Defoe, ***Lou*** (2010 Belinda Chayko, starring John Hurt), and ***Prime Mover*** (2009 David Caesar).

Liz's other credits include two seasons of ***Laid*** (ABC TV, Marieke Hardy & Kirsty Fisher), ***Martha's New Coat*** (2003, SBS, Rachel Ward), ***Delivery Day*** (2001, SBS, Jane Manning); documentaries including ***Buried Country*** (2000, SBS); ***The Pitch*** (1998, ABC) and ***Island Style*** (1999, SBS).

Liz's industry work includes Board Member of the Sydney Film Festival for 5 years (2005 - 2009) and as Vice President of the Board of MetroScreen for 6 years (2005-2011). She is currently on the Board of the SAFC (South Australian Film Corporation). Liz was awarded a Churchill Fellowship in 2011 to explore and focus on innovative new methods of distribution and exhibition, and its affects on production and content creation as relevant to the Australian industry and its future. Liz has served with various industry awards and juries including the Berlin Film Festival 2016 Generation jury and the Sydney Film Festival 2015 International Competition Jury.

### MATT REEDER

Producer



Matt Reeder is an award-winning producer. He has produced three feature films. ***The Little Death***, which won the audience award at the prestigious SxSW film festival in 2015, had its premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival in 2014 and was theatrically released in the USA by Magnolia. ***West***, which had its world premiere at the 2007 Berlin Film Festival and was theatrically released by Palace Films throughout Australia and ***Joe Cinque's Consolation***, which had its premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival in 2016 and was theatrically released by Titan View.

Matt produced numerous award winning short films including ***Boo!*** (Official Selection Telluride & Palm Springs), ***Tomorrow*** (2010 Mofilm winner), and ***New Skin*** (financed by Screen NSW, 2002 Dendy Award). His short film ***He. She. It.*** (financed by Screen Australia) had its world premiere at the 2008 Melbourne Film Festival. Matt is a graduate of the prestigious writing & production course at the University of Technology, Sydney.

This session will be moderated by:

**DANIEL KRIGE**

Producer / Writer / Director / Actor



Daniel Krige first tasted international success at the age of 23 when his episode of the Hugh Jackman vehicle *Corelli* garnered a BAFTA nod. He went on to write, direct and star in the award-winning short films, *Our Feral Friends*, *Fuckwit* and *Happy Ever After* and, more recently directed *Providence Park* featuring Rachael Taylor. His critically acclaimed first feature, *West* was released in 2007. HBO picked up his second feature, *Inhuman Resources*, which was released in 2012. As an actor, Krige has appeared in *Backyard Ashes*, *Catching Milat*, *Redfern Now*, *The Devil's Playground*, *Home and Away*, and *Brothers in Arms* to name a few. He has also starred in many award-winning short films,

including *Not Even A Mouse*, *Connection* and *The Pitch*. He appeared in an episode of Bryan Brown's *Twisted Tales*, which he also wrote and directed. Krige has recently written, directed, produced and starred in the multi-award winning short-form series *The Agent* and has numerous other projects in development.

**MARKET TO MARKET – CONQUER THE WORLD ON ALL PLATFORMS:  
DISTRIBUTION, FESTIVALS AND MULTI-PLATFORM DISTRIBUTION**

3.45pm – 5.15pm

Now your short film is finished. What next? How do you launch your next project? This informative session puts the spotlight on current marketing and distribution trends to get your feature, web or TV series seen by the largest possible audience. The panel will dissect traditional distribution models and offer up innovative cross platform alternatives. In the age of digital distribution find out how these new models can enhance the viewing potential of your film and build your filmmaking reputation.

**JOHN L. SIMPSON**

Titan View Films



John L. Simpson is an award winning creative producer with over thirty years' experience working in the performing arts arena. John L. began working as a Producer at the Melbourne Fringe Festival with the critically acclaimed production *My Black Heart – Memories of Apartheid*, which was soon picked up for a season at Belvoir St Theatre. After studying Producing at AFTRS, John L. was attached to Executive Producer Al Clark on the feature film *Thunderstruck*.

Following this attachment, John L. was invited to co-produce Mike Bullen's directing debut *Amorality Tale*. He went on to Associate Producer *Razzle Dazzle*, followed by the powerful Australian film *Men's Group*, winner of the Digispaa, Spaartan Award and Best Film, Best Actor and Best Script at the 2008 Inside Film Awards. John L.'s film productions have been screened worldwide, including at Rotterdam, Warsaw, Copenhagen, Montreal, Palm Springs, Sydney, London, Algarve, and Melbourne International Film Festivals.

John L. founded Titan View after picking up *The Jammed* for distribution in 2007. Expected to go straight to DVD, John L. pulled out all stops to secure a theatrical release. *The Jammed* exploded with audiences. During its first two weeks of release *The Jammed* held the third highest grossing screen average for an Australian film of all time, beaten only by *Crocodile Dundee* and *Lantana*. *The Jammed* went onto screen at The United Nations at Human Rights Conventions in New York, Vienna and Geneva, and was nominated for seven AFI Awards, four FCCA and six Inside Film Awards. Following the launch of Titan View, John L. focused on releasing films that are culturally significant to Australian audiences, including Khoa Do's *Mother Fish*, Matthew Newton's *Three Blind Mice* and *Men's Group*.

John L. created the Indie Gems Film Festival hosted by Parramatta Riverside Theatre in 2010, to promote the work of Western Sydney filmmakers, providing skills workshops and networking opportunities to encourage and help filmmakers to expand their skills and build sustainable businesses. In 2010/11 John L was appointed as the marketing director of the first ever co-production between China and NSW, *33 Postcards* starring Guy Pearce, which Titan View went on to distribute throughout Australia and New Zealand. Guy Pearce was nominated for the Best Lead Actor Award at the 2013 AACTA's for his role in *33 Postcards*. Under Titan View, John L. was awarded the 2008 AFI Fellowship, and was awarded the 2011-2012 Innovative Distribution Funding from Screen Australia.

## **KARL WISSLER**

Roadshow Films



In his current role of GM Acquisitions and Strategic Distribution, Karl is responsible for defining and overseeing the content acquisition strategy for theatrical, home entertainment and television.

Karl has been with Roadshow Films for the past 14 years in various senior management roles encompassing marketing, sales, distribution and acquisitions. Commencing with Warner Roadshow Home Entertainment in 2003 in a national sales role, Karl then established the REEL label for Roadshow as a niche distribution operation in 2005. The REEL business has generated over \$200m in revenue. Prior to Roadshow Karl held senior sales and distribution roles with Sony Music.

## **ELLE BECKER**

Becker Film Group



Elle joined Becker Film Group in 2009 as Head of Regional Sales and in 2011 took over as National Sales and Acquisitions manager, responsible for overseeing all theatrical sales including **The Last Station** starring Academy Award® Nominees Helen Mirren and Christopher Plummer, **Margin Call** starring Kevin Spacey and Jeremy Irons, **Boy Choir** starring Academy Award® Winner Dustin Hoffman and Kathy Bates and **5 Flights Up** with Academy Award® Winner Morgan Freeman and Diane Keaton. Elle is also actively involved with acquisitions, along side Richard for both Australia and New Zealand. Attending all major international film festivals including Festival de

Cannes, Berlin and The American Film Market. Elle's background in cinema exhibition, her creative outlook and attention to detail are vital resources to promote and position each and every film effectively.

This session will be moderated by:

## **RICHARD HARRIS**

Screen Australia



Richard was previously CEO of the South Australian Film Corporation (SAFC). As SAFC CEO Richard introduced a suite of initiatives and programs that underpinned a resurgence in local production levels and built the creative and production company base in South Australia. In particular, he created FilmLab, the development program which nurtured a new generation of South Australian talent. He also oversaw the construction of Adelaide Studios. Prior to the SAFC Richard was the Executive Director of the Australian Directors Guild. His previous experience included policy positions at the Screen Producers

Association of Australia and the Australian Film, Television and Radio School. He has taught media policy at the University of Sydney and is the author of *Film in the Age of Digital Distribution*. In 2007, *Variety* labelled him one of 20 global film executives to watch and in 2010 he was listed as one of *Encore's* 'Power 50'.

## **NETWORKING DRINKS**

5.15pm – 6.45pm

Please join the panellists and participating filmmakers for drinks. This is the perfect occasion for mingling and initiating collaborative opportunities.

*Why not follow that up by attending **with Love-Bites at 6:45pm** | **Short Laughs Comedy at 8:45pm***