



## FlickerLab 2020

A ONE-DAY JOURNEY FROM SHORTS TO FEATURES

PRESENTED BY SAE CREATIVE MEDIA INSTITUTE



Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January 10am – 5pm

### SESSION 1: 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.

**WRITER'S PANEL** moderated by **BOBBY ROMIA (Create NSW)** with **Andrew Knight** and **Imogen McCluskey**.

#### ANDREW KNIGHT



A recipient of the ACCTA Longford Lyell Award, Andrew recently co-wrote *Ride Like A Girl* with Elise McCredie. He won an AACTA Best Screenplay award with Robert Schenkkan, for *Hacksaw Ridge*, co-wrote AWGIE-Award nominated *Ali's Wedding* with Osamah Sami, and AWGIE Award winning *The Water Diviner* with Andrew Anastasios. Television credits include *Rake* (AWGIE nom), *Jack Irish* (AWGIE nom), *The Kettering Incident*, *The Broken Shore*, *After the Deluge*, and *SeaChange*. Andrew has written, produced, co-created or executive-produced over 1000 hours of TV – co-founding Artist Services in 1989 and

serving as Creative Director. He has a busy slate of local and international projects in development.

## IMOGEN MCCLUSKEY



Imogen is a writer and director based between Brisbane and Sydney.

*Suburban Wildlife* is Imogen's debut feature film. Made on a micro-budget of \$4,000, it's premiered at Cinequest Film Festival in California, Sydney Film Festival (Second Runner-Up for AUDIENCE AWARD), Taormina Film Festival, and the London Australian Film Festival's Closing Night Film -with Imogen honoured as the Debut Director for 2019. *Suburban Wildlife* was long-listed for the Australian Academy of Cinema and Television

Arts award for BEST INDIE FEATURE 2019.

A graduate of the prestigious AFTRS Bachelor of Arts (Screen) program, her graduating short film *Gem* received the EU Film Award and was officially selected for Film Fest Gent in 2018. Her short film 'Natural' was a finalist for The Horizon Award supported by Sundance 2018.

In 2017, she was selected for Screen Australia Gender Matters initiative Smart for a Girl and produced her first television pilot *The Ground* with Imogen Banks (*Offspring, Puberty Blues*) and Alice Bell (*The Expatriates, Suburban Mayhem, The Slap*).

She was shortlisted for the ADG Metro Screen Production Fellowship, and is part of the ADG Shadow Directing Program. Amongst other accolades, her music video 'Savannah' won Best Australian Music Video at Clipped Music Video Festival 2019.

She was shortlisted for the Monash University Undergraduate Prize for Creative Writing in 2015 for her short story 'Blue', which was published by Overland. Imogen has been published by Scum, Vertigo and Culture Club Magazine. She was one of the ATYP National Studio Fellows in 2017, and shortlisted for Hot House Theatre Monologue Competition. Her theatre work on 'a library for the end of the world' has shown at Anywhere Theatre Festival, toured with Metro Arts, and was installed in the QLD State Library. Her short story 'Sweet Fruit' was joint runner-up for the Sydney Writers Room Prize in 2019.

Imogen's slate of screen projects includes: 'MASC', an anthology web series about masculinity, which recently received Screen Australia Generate Funding, a YA feminist comedy-drama television show in development with Easy Tiger, and her sophomore feature with Beyond Productions. *Surprise Party*, a web series anthology created by Imogen, is one of 10 projects shortlisted for the SBS and Screen Australia DIGITAL ORIGINALS workshops 2019/2020.

## BOBBY ROMIA - moderator



Bobby Romia is a television producer, writer and former broadcaster with a Master of Arts in Screenwriting at AFTRS. He currently works as a Sector Investment Manager for Screen NSW. Prior to this, he held producer and commissioning supervisor positions at SBS Australia and NITV across a slate of scripted, entertainment and documentary productions which include *Deep Water, The Family Law 2, Eurovision, Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras, Tropfest, The Logan Project, Living Black and Awaken*. As a freelancer, he previously worked across Network Nine's *Underbelly: The Golden Mile, Underbelly: Files Telemovies* and *Underbelly: Razor*, Hopscotch Films/Eone

Entertainment and Screentime New Zealand.

## SESSION 2: 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. 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.

**DIRECTOR'S PANEL moderated by Garry Maddox with Sophie Hyde.**

### SOPHIE HYDE



Sophie's debut fiction film *52 Tuesdays* (director/producer/co-writer) won the directing award at Sundance and the Crystal Bear at the Berlin International Film Festival. Her second film *Animals*, starring Holliday Grainger and Alia Shawkat, premiered at Sundance and released in the UK, Ireland and Australia in 2019. Her first episodic series *F\*!#ing Adelaide*, which she created, produced and directed, screened at Berlin Film Festival and Series Mania in 2018. She produced and co-directed the acclaimed feature documentary *Life in Movement*, winner of the Australian Documentary Prize in 2011. She also works as a Producer and believes strongly in nurturing new voices. She was

mentor and executive producer on *A Field Guide to Being A 12-year-old-girl*, the directorial debut of Tilda Cobham-Hervey. She produced Matt Bate's documentaries *Shut Up Little Man! An Audio Misadventure* and Sam Klemke's *Time Machine*, which both premiered at Sundance. She produced the feature documentary *In My Blood It Runs*, directed by Maya Newell (Gayby Baby) which premiered at HotDocs in 2019. She has just finished production as creator/director/producer of *The Hunting*, a 4x1 hour series for SBS. She is co-founder of film collaborative, Closer Productions.

### GARRY MADDOX



Long-time film writer for The Sydney Morning Herald, Garry Maddox is a regular host of film industry Q&A sessions. He has been policy manager for the Film Finance Corporation, author of a series of industry reports, editor of the magazines *Encore* and *Total Sport*, board member of Sydney Film Festival, researcher-writer for the TV series *Police Rescue*, a playwright whose work has been produced by the Australian People's Theatre, judge for the Walkley, NSW Premier's Literary and Byron Kennedy awards and patron of the first Alliance Francaise Classic French Film Festival. He

has also represented Australia at the last four world age group triathlon championships - in Canada, the US, Mexico and the Netherlands.

## SESSION 3: 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 and distribution and everything in between. All producers are different and this diverse and hard-working panel will share their differing approaches to the very important task of getting the film made.

**PRODUCERS PANEL moderated by Andrea Ulbrick (Create NSW) with Alex White and Samantha Jennings.**

### ALEX WHITE



Alex is a multi-award-winning producer and founder of Whitefalk Films. In 2014 Alex produced the short film *Florence Has Left the Building* with writer/director Mirrah Foulkes which was awarded the 2015 Australian Academy of Cinema & Television Arts (AACTA) Award for Best Short Fiction Film and in 2016 *Trespass* also with Foulkes. *Trespass* won the prize for Best Australian Short Film at the Melbourne International Film Festival & has its international premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival. Her other short film credits include *Measuring the Jump*, which is loosely based on a short story by the American author Dave

Eggers with writer/director Eden Falk and *How to Get Clean* also with Falk based on Rita Kalnejais' short play *How to Get (Very) Clean*. In 2015 Alex was the associate producer on Simon Stone's debut feature film, *The Daughter*. Alex has also worked alongside producer Jan Chapman at her development company Waking Dream Productions and they were also the recipients of Screen Australia's inaugural Enterprise People funding.

*Babyteeth* starring Ben Mendelsohn and Essie Davis marks Alex's debut feature film. *Babyteeth* was directed by Shannon Murphy, written by Rita Kalnejais with Jan Chapman as Executive Producer. The film had its international premiere In Competition at the Venice International Film Festival in 2019 where it was awarded the Marcello Mastroianni Award for Best Young Actor to Toby Wallace as well as the The Bisato d'Oro prize. The film has screened at over 23 international festivals and has won a special mention at the Zurich International Film Festival, the People's Choice Award for Best Film at the Pingyao International Film Festival in China, the Jury prize of the New Filmmakers Competition of São Paulo International Film Festival and the Audience Award at the Zagreb Film Festival.

### MICHAEL PONTIN



Michael produced the Ticket to Ride feature films: *Otherlife* which is available worldwide on Netflix, *1% (aka Outlaws)* which premiered at TIFF and was acquired for Nth America by A24, *Standing Up For Sunny* (RJ Mitte) for writer/director Steve Vidler, *June Again* (Noni Hazlehurst) to be released in Australia in 2020 by Studio Canal, *Long Story Short* (Rafe Spall) marking his 2nd collaboration with writer/director Josh Lawson, and the short film *Martha The Monster* (Rose Byrne) for blacklist winning writer/director Chris Weekes.

Michael has been a Co-Producer on feature films *The Little Death* (Josh Lawson, Bojana Novakovic) which premiered at TIFF and won the audience award at SxSW, an Associate Producer on *Backtrack* (Adrien Brody, Sam Neill), and Executive Producer on *GO!* (Richard Roxburgh) to be released by Village Roadshow in Australia in January 2020.

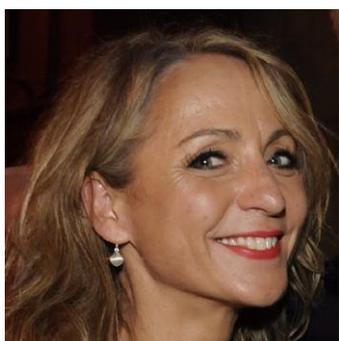
Michael works across all aspects of producing including acquisition, development, financing, production, post-production and sales / marketing.

## **SAMANTHA JENNINGS**



Sam Jennings has held numerous senior positions at Australian screen agencies including Development Executive at Screen Australia and Development & Production Executive at Screen NSW, overseeing films including *The Rocket* and *The Sapphires* and TV series *Redfern Now* and *The Moody's*. She also produced acclaimed short film *Deluge* (Winner of the Grand Jury Prize at Clermont-Ferrand), short animation *FATHER* (which premiered at Tribeca) and short feature *So Close to Home SO* directed by Jessica Hobbs and starring Kerry Fox. In 2014, Sam joined forces with Kristina Ceyton, producer of *The Babadook*, as a partner in Causeway Films. The following year Causeway Films was awarded the Screen Australia Feature Enterprise grant, and in 2017 the Gender Matters Brilliant Careers business grant to foster female screen talent. In 2018 Sam produced Australia's first Netflix Original feature film *Cargo*, starring Martin Freeman, which received five AACTA award nominations including Best Film and a 2019 SATELLITE AWARDS Nomination for Best Motion Picture Made for Television. More recently she produced Rodd Rathjen's debut feature *Bouyancy*, which had its World Premiere at the Berlin International Film Festival 2019, winning the Ecumenical Jury Prize and has gone on to win many awards including Best Indie Feature Film at the 2019 AACTA Awards, Best Youth Feature Film at the Asia Pacific Screen Awards, and is Australia's official submission for Best International Feature Film at the 2020 Academy Awards®.

## **ANDREA ULBRICK - Moderator**



Andrea has been an Investment Manager (Screen) at Create NSW working across development, production finance and a range of screen initiatives from 2017-2018. Prior to this, Andrea worked as a Development and Production Executive at Screen NSW (2016-2017) assessing projects across all project types and genres. As an award-winning documentary filmmaker, she has been working across a broad range of factual programs in film, TV, digital and prior, in radio for 28 years — initially as a television reporter, newsreader, TV presenter, director, creative producer, post producer, consultant executive producer for domestic and international broadcasters including ABC, SBS, Nine Network, Network Ten, Arte, BBC, National Geographic, UKTV, Discovery, S4C WALES and CBC Canada. Prior to joining Create NSW, Andrea worked as a Commissioning Editor, Factual at the ABC (2014-2016), commissioning a large range of high rating, award-winning television singles and formats, as well as executive producing the ABC's long-running religion and ethics flagship documentary series *Compass* with Geraldine Doogue. When she's not at the movies or binge-watching TV or reading, she's competitive sailing aboard an Adams Ten from Middle Harbour Yacht Club in Sydney. Or sleeping.

## SESSION 4: MARKET TO MARKET - CONQUER THE WORLD ON ALL PLATFORMS: DISTRIBUTION, FESTIVALS & 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 audiences possible. 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.

**DISTRIBUTION PANEL moderate by Dov Kornits with Danny Le Cherve, Marcus Gillezeau, Jonathan Page, Courtney Botfield.**

### COURTNEY BOTFIELD



Courtney is a film distribution and marketing specialist with over 20 years' experience in independent film across development, production, distribution and exhibition in Australia and the UK having worked for leading film outfits including Roadshow Films, Transmission Films, Palace Cinemas and the Edinburgh International Film Festival.

She has managed many successful distribution campaigns including *The King's Speech*, *Samson & Delilah*, *The Railway Man*, *Balibo*, *Boy*, *Romulus*, *My Father*, *Sherpa*, *The Eye Of The Storm*, *Antichrist*, *Amour*, *My Year Without Sex*, *Mad Bastards*, *Shame* and *Jirga*. Courtney is the recipient of the 2015 Natalie Miller Fellowship recognising the next generation of female leaders in the Australian screen community. From 2014-2018 Courtney was director of The Goodship Agency, providing services for independent filmmakers exploring alternate and innovative pathways in film financing and distribution. Courtney is Head of Distribution & Sales at Bunya Productions, creators of acclaimed film and television productions including *Sweet Country*, *Mystery Road* and *The Drover's Wife* *The Legend of Molly Johnson*, currently in production. Courtney is also currently producing her first feature.

### DANNY LECHEVRE



Danny is co-founder of Film Marketing Agency The Solid State and Cinema-On-Demand platform Fan-Force.com. Over the past 18 years he has worked across hundreds of film and tv campaigns for domestic and international clients including Filmmakers, Distributors, Sales Agents and Networks. The Solid State develops strategic planning and marketing materials for film and television projects at all stages of production from script stage to sales, theatrical and home entertainment. Producing concept reels, trailers, posters, websites and social media campaigns led the agency to develop the Fan-Force Cinema-On-Demand distribution platform which launched in early 2015. In 2

short years the platform has had over 450,000 visitors and booked thousands of screenings across Australia / NZ. In addition to recent launches in the USA, UK, Canada and Japan the platform has broken box office records for documentaries such as *That Sugar Film*, *Embrace* and *The Magic Pill*.

## JONATHAN PAGE

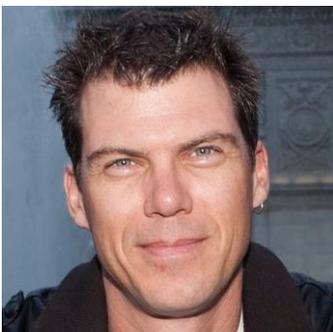


Jonathan Page has worked in multiple capacities in film, television and live theatre for 25 years.

In 2010 Jonathan established Bonsai Films to work with distributors, sales agents and producers providing practical and viable solutions to exploit rights, develop projects and fund films.

Through Bonsai Films, he has licensed over \$30 million worth of content to Australian broadcasters, airlines and online platforms and has theatrically released over 30 feature films. Jonathan has executive produced numerous Australian features including *Mary and Max* and *The Babadook*, *Animals* and *H is for Happiness*.

## MARCUS GILLEZEAU



Marcus Gillezeau [Jillezo] is best known for creating and producing high profile projects for film, TV and digital media. Specialising in all-media development, production and delivery across all platforms, he has built a reputation for being at the forefront of digital innovation, production and distribution. Marcus has won some of the industries' most prestigious awards including the AACTA Award (Australian Academy of Cinema Television Arts), Best Feature Documentary for "STORM SURFERS 3D" and the International Digital Emmy® Award and Australian Directors Guild Award for the all-media drama "SCORCHED". He was

twice honored by Screen Producers Australia for Best New Media and Interactive Producer of the Year. Recently, he produced theatrical feature documentaries *Own the Sky* and *Living Universe* and was EP on *Motorkite Dreaming*. He executive produced NERVE that screened at Sydney Film Festival and Shanghai Film Festival. He has written, directed and produced prime time television in Australia and for major international networks in Asia, North America and Europe. Marcus is also a successful author of two books "Hands On - Tips and Experiences in All Media Producing", and "Hands On - A guide to production and technologies for film, TV and new media."

## DOV KORNITS - Moderator



Co-founder and publisher of Australia's longest running and much-loved movie magazine and website, FilmInk, Dov Kornits is also former Head of Theatrical for Umbrella Entertainment, and has worked with distributors Label, Bonsai, Universal and Athabasca on releasing their films in cinemas. Most recently, Dov co-founded new distribution company Filmink Presents with Lou Balletti, which is focused on finding pathways to audience for their acquisitions, including 2020 releases such as the French animation *The Swallows of Kabul*, Julian Shaw's sex, lies and money thriller *Use Me*, Lucy Coleman's Australian DIY romcom for the now generation *Hot Mess*, Robbie Studsor's stylish neo

noir *The Burning Kiss*, plus in production Australian films, thriller *Sweet River* and female focused *Romance on the Menu*.

## **SESSION 5: NETWORKING DRINKS**

**5.15pm – 6.45pm**

presented by



Please join the panellists and participating filmmakers for drinks, mingling and collaborative opportunities after the final session.

Why not follow that up by attending Love Bites 2 at 6:30pm and Short Laughs Comedy 1 at 8:45pm.