



FlickerLab 2026

A ONE-DAY JOURNEY FROM SHORTS TO FEATURES
FRIDAY 30 JANUARY from 10:00am - 5.15pm

PRESENTED WITH



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 scope 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.

Our panellists on the day will include:

Sophie Somerville (Fwends), Alex White (The Fox, Went Up a Hill), Rachel Okine (Goolagong), Craig Boreham (Lonesome), Yingna Lu (The PM's Daughter), Adrian Russell Wills (RFDS, The Newsreader), Jamie Hilton (Runt, Where All Light Tends to Go), Andrew Undi Lee (Saigon Kiss), Marcus Gillezeau (Kangaroo), Garry Maddox (Snr. Writer SMH), Andrea Ulbrick (Screen Australia), Imogen Gardam (Screen Australia), Kalu Oji (Pasafaho, What's In A Name), Mahveen Shahraki, Julie Kalceff (First Day), Robbie Miles (AFTRS) & more.

FRIDAY 30 JANUARY
4 x 1.5HR SESSIONS

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.

WRITERS PANEL moderated by IMOGEN GARDAM



Imogen Gardam is a Development Executive at Screen Australia and has worked in development and production across film and theatre for Entertainment One Australia, Hopscotch Features, Griffin Theatre Company, Bell Shakespeare and The Festivalists.

She co-founded independent theatre company Montague Basement, producing the group's twenty-one productions from formation in 2014 to 2022, and co-founded and ran independent theatre company FERVOUR., producing and developing the company's work from 2020 to 2022.

Imogen was the 2018 winner of the Rose Byrne Scholarship for an Emerging Female Leader in the Arts, and served on the Board and as Deputy Chair for Theatre Network NSW from 2018-2020.

She has been published in Lumina Journal, Audrey Journal, Honi Soit and on Four Three Film. A graduate of Media and Communications from the University of Sydney, Imogen is currently completing a Masters of Research in Film Studies.



Rachel Okine, as Head of Scripted at the ABC, oversees the Australian national broadcaster's scripted Drama and Comedy slates. After starting her career over 20 years ago in acquisitions at FilmFour, Rachel Okine was the first employee of Hopscotch, later becoming the Acquisitions Executive for eOne ANZ and Head of Development for Hopscotch Features. Rachel moved back to Europe in 2015 to become Paris-based VP of International Production and Acquisitions for Studiocanal and was subsequently appointed VP of International Acquisitions for STX.

Returning to Australia in 2020, Rachel was appointed Managing Director of Academy Award-nominated production company Aquarius Films to strategically lead its film and TV operations.

Rachel joined Australian streaming service Stan in 2021 as Senior Commissioning Editor, overseeing a slate of scripted drama and comedy, feature films and feature documentaries.



Adrian Russell Wills is a proud Wonnarua man, originally from Bourke NSW who is committed to exploring the outsider, the fringe dweller, and the rebel - known for creating outside the box. Adrian comes from a strong line of ancient storytellers who maintained their culture, law and language through song, dance, and world renowned visual art. Adrian sees his role as a Screen Writer and Director, as an extension of his ancestor's before him.

Adrian is currently working as Series Creator and head writer on Television Series, *LANDGRABBERS* with Kindling Pictures, writing the pilot episode. Adrian has both written and directed on the Logie Award Winning series *RFDS* (Royal Flying Doctors) Season 2 and the up-coming Season 3. Previously he wrote on the multi award winning ABC-TV series, *THE NEWSREADER* for both Season Two and Three and was nominated for a 2024 AACTA Award for Best Screenplay in Television for his Season Two Episode, *The Hungry Truth*. He has written on the highly anticipated *TOP END BUB* for Goalpost Pictures and Amazon Studios as well as writing the pilot episode of *BLACK LOVE* for Lingo. He also wrote and directed two episodes of Blackfella Films' landmark drama series *REDFERN NOW* for ABC-TV.

Adrian's television Directing credits include; *RUSH*; *WONDERLAND*; *THE GODS OF WHEAT STREET*; *8MMM ABORIGINAL RADIO*; International Emmy Award Nominated *READY FOR THIS*; *WENTWORTH*; and *THE WARRIORS*.

Adrian has also worked extensively in the Documentary form throughout his career. His debut Feature Documentary for NITV with Gillian Moody of Kalori Productions entitled KINDRED, received a DGA nomination for Best Direction in a Documentary Feature for his work as well as receiving the MIFF Inaugural First Nations Film Creative Award. Adrian directed the critically acclaimed documentary OUR BUSH WEDDING in 2005; co-wrote and directed WHEN THE NATIVES GET RESTLESS in 2007; BOXING FOR PALM ISLAND in 2010, which was selected to open the Message Sticks Film Festival that year; Political documentary 88, looking at the Bicentennial celebrations of the British colonisation of Australia; and the widely acclaimed, BLACK DIVAZ, which was produced by Kalori Productions / Pursekey Productions which was released in 2018. Black Divaz premiered at Queer Screen as part of the Sydney Mardi Gras 2018 Film Festival and screened on NITV – SBS.

Adrian's short films include; JACKIE JACKIE, which screened at Melbourne International Film Festival, Flickerfest and at Santa Barbara Film Festival; BOURKE BOY, which was developed through the Screen Australia Indigenous Unit for ABC was awarded Best Indigenous Film at St Kilda Film Festival in 2010; and DANIEL'S 21ST which opened the 2010 Message Stick Festival at the Sydney Opera House. Adrian is currently attached to direct the wildly hilarious drama feature film WHO'S AFRAID OF CHRISTMAS, as well as the feature film adaption of the highly acclaimed stage production BARBARA & THE CAMP DOGS for Bunya Productions. His passion for directing and writing continues into his original work with a new screenplay development, HOW TO BUILD THE PERFECT MAN, an original first nations gay romance.



Andrew Undi Lee is a queer Korean Australian writer, director, and producer whose work spans across film, television, theatre, and webtoons. He is the recipient of the Kenneth B. Myer Award for Exceptional Talent (AFTRS) and the Young Australian Filmmaker Award from the Korean Consulate of Australia.

His film and television credits include, MELON GRAB (Screen Australia), TROPPO (ABC/Amazon), BORN TO SPY (ABC/BBC), The Newsreader (ABC/BBC) and the Korean Australian horror series NIGHT BLOOMERS (SBS) - a show he created, wrote, directed, and produced, which premiered at SXSW Sydney and was awarded an Australian Writers' Guild Award. Most recently, he completed writing 2 MOONS, a sci-fi

feature film commissioned by the Powerhouse Museum, and is currently writing the English-language adaptation of the Korean horror feature film DEATH BELL. Andrew has also worked with See-Saw Films and Picking Scabs across multiple high-profile projects. He was the writer's assistant to showrunner Samantha Strauss on APPLE CIDER VINEGAR (Netflix Australia) and GROWN UPS (Netflix UK), and the director's assistant to Jennifer Peedom's feature film TENZING (Apple Original Films). Written by Luke Davies and produced by Liz Watts, Emile Sherman and Ian Canning.

Additionally, Andrew was the Australian producer on SAIGON KISS, a German, Vietnamese, Australian co-produced film that was awarded the Special Mention honour by the Queer Palm Jury, currently broadcasting on ARTE TV. Andrew started his career as a production designer, with short films screening at major festivals that include the Berlinale, Sundance, Venice and Tribeca.



Craig Boreham, is an award winning Sydney based writer and director. Boreham's films have screened at over 200 international festivals: including the Berlin International Film Festival, Sydney Film Festival, Cannes (Cinéma des Antipodes), Palm Springs, Frameline and Outfest. He has received numerous awards and nominations including the Berlinale Teddy Award for his debut short film TRANSIENT and four nominations for the prestigious Iris Prize in Wales. Other awards include Best Film at My Queer Career (DROWNING, OSTIA LA NOTTE FINALE), Mardi Gras Film Festival, The City of Melbourne Best Short Film Award, MQFF and National Film Sound Archive Orlando Award among others. In 2008 a retrospective of Craig's work, CINEMA OF TRUE POISON was presented by Fundacion Triangulo in Madrid.

Craig's debut feature film TEENAGE KICKS premiered at the Sydney Film Festival in 2016 to critical acclaim. The Guardian, named Boreham as "a strong new voice in Australian Queer cinema", and the film ranked third place in the Sydney Film Festival Audience Awards. TEENAGE KICKS was nominated for Best Direction in a feature film at the Australian Directors Guild Awards, and for Best Feature at the Iris Prize Festival, where lead actor Miles Szanto won Best Male Performer.

Craig's second feature film Lonesome premiered at the Sydney Film Festival and travelled to 50 film festivals including Seattle International Film Festival, Guadalajara International Film Festival, Frameline in San Francisco and Newfest in New York. Lonesome won Festival Favourite and Director's Choice at the Cinema Diverse Festival in Palm Springs and was Nominated for Best Independent Film at the 2022 AACTA Awards and Best Indie Director at the Australian Directors Guild Awards. Craig is currently developing an adaptation of Peter Polites' acclaimed novel Down the Hume with producer Annmaree J Bell.

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



Garry Maddox is a senior writer at The Sydney Morning Herald, specialising in film.

A longtime host of film and television Q&A sessions, he wrote the bestselling book Brainstorm, about a courageous attempt to reinvent the treatment of brain cancer, with former Australian of the Year Professor Richard Scolyer.



Sophie Somerville is a writer, director and editor based in Melbourne. Her shorts PEEPS and LINDA 4 EVA screened widely at festivals including Telluride Film Festival and London Short Film Festival and won consecutive Dendy Awards at Sydney Film Festival.

Her debut feature film FWENDS, shot guerilla style in Melbourne's CBD, premiered in the Forum section of the 75th Berlinale and was awarded the Caligari Film Award for stylistic and thematic innovation.

It went on to screen at numerous Australian and international film festivals, including BFI London, Sao Paulo Mostra IFF, Beijing International Film Festival and New Horizons.

Sophie was also nominated for the Blackmagic Design Award for Best Australian Director at Melbourne International Film Festival in 2025.



Kalu Oji is a filmmaker and writer whose practice is rooted in process-driven collaboration and the exploration of memory, place, and identity. His short films have screened at festivals including the BFI London Film Festival and Palm Springs ShortFest, and have received awards from Flickerfest, Sydney Film Festival, and the Atlanta Film Festival, where he was named the 'Filmmaker to Watch' in 2019.

In 2025, Kalu's debut feature, 'Pasa Faho', premiered at the Melbourne International Film Festival to 3 sold out screenings. 'Pasa Faho' had its international premiere at the Chicago International Film Festival, and its African premiere at the Africa International Film Festival, where the film was awarded 'Best International Feature Film'. Alongside his artistic

practice, Kalu also works in the education space, teaching filmmaking at both grassroots and institutional levels.

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 panelists 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.

PRODUCER'S PANEL moderated by Anita Sheehan



Anita Sheehan is an Investment Manager for Narrative Content Production at Screen Australia where she manages a range of feature films and television series and provides information and advice to filmmakers and producers applying for funding.

Prior to joining Screen Australia, Anita was the managing director of Porchlight Films a company that she co-founded with brother Vincent Sheehan and fellow producer Liz Watts. Porchlight, which operated from 1997 to 2020 was a Sydney-based independent production company with output including the feature films *Mullet*, *Little Fish*, *Animal Kingdom*, *The Hunter*, *The Rover* and *The True History of the Kelly Gang* as well as television series such as *Fisk*, *Operation Buffalo*, *The Kettering Incident* and *Laid*. Anita also co-founded Jetty Distribution which holds and exploits the ongoing rights of Porchlight's catalogue of over twenty feature films and television series.

Anita has decades of experience in the development, production, financing and distribution of film and television in Australia as well as a hands-on understanding of how to build sustainable production businesses. Anita is passionate about the power of story-telling and aims to support filmmakers to be innovative practitioners across the range of platforms now available..



Alex White produced her critically acclaimed and multiple award-winning debut feature film *Babyteeth* in 2019, written by Rita Kalnejais and directed by Shannon Murphy.

The film had its international premiere In Competition at the Venice International Film Festival. *Babyteeth* sold worldwide and screened at festivals including Venice, BFI London, Rotterdam, Palm Springs and New Directors/New Films presented by Film at Lincoln Centre and The Museum of Modern Art in New York winning numerous awards & prizes.

The film was nominated for thirteen AACTA Awards and won nine including Best Film, Best Director and Best Screenplay and was

nominated for a BAFTA Award for Best Director and as well as a British Independent Film Award nomination for Best International Film. From 2020-24 Alex was the development producer at Causeway Films (*Talk To Me, Went Up The Hill*) and since 2021 has also been the development mentor of the South Australian Film Corporations FILM LAB: NEW VOICES (*Monolith, Lesbian Space Princess*).



Yingna Lu is a creative producer with a background in advertising. She co-founded Spaceboy Studios with Steve Anthopoulos, a Screen Australia Business Enterprise recipient in 2023.

Yingna's first gig was with Bill Leimbach, working in feature development and music management for Lime Cordiale. From there, Yingna produced scripted digital shows for ABC and Foxtel with Matilda and Bryan Brown and numerous Vimeo Staff Pick videos, including music clips for Rüfüs Du Sol, SBCR and short film *We're All Going to Die*. Lu was among Screen Producers Australia's Ones to Watch in 2016, winning Screen Australia's \$20,000 screen Internship.

Her 2017 short *Tangles and Knots*, directed by Renée Petropoulos, was selected for Berlinale, SXSW, Melbourne and Sydney Film Festival. Her 2022 short *Voice Activated*, written and directed by Anthopoulos, premiered internationally in Tribeca, was nominated for an AACTA and won Short Film Production of the Year at the 2023 SPA Awards.

Yingna produced the 10-part ABC AACTA-nominated second season of *The PM's Daughter* with Fremantle, and most recently ABC's half hour series *Caper Crew* with Easy Tiger airing in 2026. She is now in development on the Spaceboy slate including feature *Keep Walking* (w/d Petropoulos, EP Liz Watts), supported by Screen NSW's Short to Feature Fast Track initiative.



Jamie Hilton has produced or executive produced 20 feature films through his jabber See Pictures, including Tim Winton's *Breath* (Simon Baker, Elizabeth Debecki), Craig Silvey's *Runt* (Jai Courtney, Celeste Barber), *Where All Light Tends to Go* (Billy Bob Thornton, Robin Wright), *Swinging Safari* (Kylie Minogue, Guy Pearce), *The Waiting City* (Joel Edgerton, Radha Mitchell), *Backtrack* (Adrian Brody) and Josh Lawson's comedies, *The Little Death* and *Long Story Short*.

Jamie is a founding partner of production company Servo, Australia's largest media employer, which has serviced over \$1.8B of inbound production. He is also a founding partner of Home Fire Industries who built and operate Perth Film Studios for the West Australian government.

His productions have played Official Competition at Cannes, Berlin, Toronto, and Sundance, and he is a Best Picture winner and three-time nominee at the AACTA Awards. Before making movies, Jamie produced over 120 music videos for artists such as Blink 182, Kasey Chambers and Eskimo Joe.

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.

DISTRIBUTOR'S PANEL moderated by Robbie Miles



Robbie Miles is an AFTRS alumnus (Graduate Certificate: Screen Drama – Directing & Screenwriting, 2009) and an experienced producer and development executive.

Robbie spent several years working in Los Angeles and New York as a Development Executive for Full Clip Productions on projects such as *Deadline Gallipoli* and *Danger Close*, as well as producing branded content for Bonds, Coca-Cola and Australian fashion label Kahlo.

He returned to Australia to produce his first feature film, *Crushed*, with fellow AFTRS alumni Megan Riakos, and develop a diverse slate of feature film and television projects, including the Nicholl

Fellowship-winning *Great Falls*.

Robbie produced the ABC iView series *Sarah's Channel* starring Claudia O'Doherty and also worked for Animal Logic's genre label, Truant Pictures, as Development & Production Executive. After several years as Subject Leader for Producing & Production at AFTRS, Robbie is now Head of Industry & Alumni Engagement, consulting with companies, guilds and agencies to support the future of screen & audio storytelling in Australia.

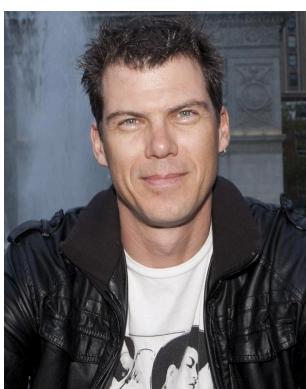
Robbie has a passion for story development and inept protagonists and has presented everywhere from El Dorado Film Festival in Arkansas to the Australian Comic Arts Festival Canberra, Oz Comic Con and the San Diego Comic Con.



Mahveen Shahraki brings a strong creative perspective to film distribution, shaped by her background working as a producer on award winning and loved features.

Her experience in development, financing, festival strategy, and audience engagement has given her a keen instinct for identifying marketable stories and supporting films through their life cycle. Having migrated from Iran to Australia, Mahveen draws on a cross-cultural understanding and a relationship-driven approach to connect diverse voices with audiences.

She is committed to championing distinctive, impactful cinema and to guiding projects through thoughtful and effective pathways.



Marcus Gillezeau is an AACTA and International Emmy Award-winning Australian producer and executive producer with over three decades' experience across feature films, television, documentaries and digital projects.

He's worked with leading local and international partners, raising and managing significant production finance and guiding projects from development through to release.

His credits include award-winning and festival-screened films such as *STORM SURFERS 3D*, *SCORCHED*, *OWN THE SKY* and the recent family feature *KANGAROO*.

Formerly Head of Production and Development at Studiocanal Australia/New Zealand, Marcus now works as an independent producer and consultant, and is currently working with independent distributor Screen Impact on audience-led distribution strategies and impact-driven releases.



Julie Kalceff is an International Emmy Award winning writer and director. Her credits include *First Day* (Seasons 1 and 2), which she created, wrote, directed and co-produced. This ground-breaking story of a 12 year-old transgender girl starting high school was the first Australian series to star a transgender actor in the lead role. It sold to multiple territories worldwide including the UK (CBBC) and the US (Hulu). *First Day* (Season 1) won an International Emmy Award, a Rose d'Or, a GLAAD Media Award and was nominated for two AACTA Awards. *First Day* Season 2 was nominated for an Emmy Award for Outstanding Young Teen Series, an AACTA Award, the MIPCOM Cannes Diversify TV Award and an Australian Directors Guild Award.

Julie co-directed and co-wrote the feature film documentary *Danielle Laidley: Two Tribes* about a former Australian Football League (AFL) player and coach who was publicly outed as transgender when Victorian police officers shared photos of her with the press. Julie was a director on feature film anthology *Here Out West*, which opened the Sydney Film Festival in 2021. Julie was set-up director on comedy series *PM's Daughter* Season 2. She directed the first 5 episodes and was nominated for an Australian Directors Guild Award for Best Direction in a Children's TV or SVOD Drama Series Episode, her third nomination in this category. Julie created, wrote, directed and produced *Starting From Now*, the global hit digital drama series that amassed over 260 million views.