

MEDIA RELEASE

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Screenworks secures funding to invest in locally produced short films

Northern Rivers based screen industry organisation, **Screenworks** has successfully secured funding from the NSW State Government to invest in locally produced short films. Called **Createability**, this initiative will see up to 3 short documentary films about artists with disability produced in the Northern Rivers region before August this year.

This is the first time in Screenworks' 15 year history that it has received funding to invest directly into local production, which will provide economic benefits and the creation of screen industry jobs in the Northern Rivers region.

"Screenworks is genuinely excited by successfully securing this funding for our new **Createability** initiative, especially because of the multiple benefits it will provide to our region" said Screenworks General Manager Ken Crouch.

Up to three local production teams will be selected to each produce a 3-minute short documentary film profiling the work and life of an artist with disability living and creating in the Northern Rivers region. Each production team will be allocated a budget of \$4,000 to produce its short film.

Mr Crouch explained that "the **Createability** initiative will provide local artists with disability the opportunity to challenge community attitudes and misconceptions that form barriers to social inclusion, and it will also provide money and an opportunity for local professional screen workers to produce short films in our region."

"Through this initiative we also intend to connect emerging filmmakers with disability with the selected production teams - so we strongly encourage production teams that already include local filmmakers with disability to apply with an expression of interest."

Although yet to be confirmed, Screenworks' ambition is to see the **Createability** films broadcast on free-to-air television, as well as distributed widely for online viewing.

Screenworks is now seeking expressions of interest from professional Producer / Director teams and is asking that all applicants be current Screenworks members. Pre-production is scheduled to commence in late March with project completion in August. Expressions of interest for **Createability** will close on March 2.

A detailed Guidelines / Information Kit and more information about how to apply are available from Screenworks' **CREATEABILITY** website – www.screenworks.com.au/event/createability.



Screenworks' new initiative, **CREATEABILITY**, is being funded and supported by Screen NSW and the NSW Department of Family and Community Services.

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For more information, interviews or pictures please contact Lisa O'Meara
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About Screenworks:

Northern Rivers Screenworks is the regional film, television and digital media office supporting the local screen industry, its practitioners and promoting screen culture.

We are a home-grown not-for-profit, membership based association managed by a board of 8 directors that voluntarily provide industry, management and screen industry knowledge and experience.

We are small – with only two part-time staff (our General Manager and Events & Membership Manager) – but we continue to punch above our weight (for over a decade now!).

We service a large region that covers an area of 20,895 km² and includes seven local government areas – Ballina, Byron, Clarence Valley, Kyogle, Lismore, Richmond Valley and Tweed.

Many of Screenworks members are extremely active and well regarded in the film, television and multimedia industries. Members include producer and writer Deb Cox (Miss Fishers Murder Mysteries, East of Everything) and Jon Bell (The Gods of Wheat St, Redfern Now), writer director Belinda Chayko (Old School, Lou), documentary film maker David Bradbury (My Asian Heart, Frontline), IMAX film maker John Weiley (Antartica ,The Edge), children's series producer Cate McQuillen (dirtgirlworld), producer Robert Raymond of BlueSeas Films (Going Vertical), just to mention a few.