



# MINISTER FOR CULTURE AND THE ARTS

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## MEDIA STATEMENT

Attention: News Editor/Chief of Staff

15/5/07

### **New ScreenWest Chief Executive appointed.**

Western Australian filmmaker and entertainment lawyer Ian Booth has been appointed Chief Executive Officer of ScreenWest, the State Government's Film financing body.

Culture and Arts Minister Sheila McHale today announced Mr Booth's five-year appointment.

"Ian Booth has a wealth of experience in the local and national film and television industries and was a logical choice for the job," Ms McHale said.

"Mr Booth has a well-rounded background in entertainment law and film production and has previous experience with the ABC and ScreenWest.

"This appointment means ScreenWest and the WA screen industry will have a strong leadership team to guide them over the next five years."

Mr Booth said it is an opportune time to take on the Chief Executive role.

"The WA screen industry has a slate of terrific projects in both the production and development stages in the fields of adult and children's drama, factual programming and also feature films," Mr Booth said.

"The future is very bright for ScreenWest and the local industry and I am really looking forward to leading ScreenWest at this exciting time."

Mr Booth previously worked as Business Affairs Manager for Drama and Comedy at the ABC in Melbourne, where he worked on projects including *Kath & Kim*, *MDA*, *the Glasshouse*, *Enough Rope*, *The Shark Net* and *Marking Time*. Prior to the ABC he was the Business Affairs Manager at ScreenWest.

Mr Booth returned to WA in mid-2003 and set up his own law practice specialising primarily in film and television law. He also established the production company *Sassafras Films*.

He recently co-produced the half-hour drama *Hidden Creatures*, which screened at the Sydney Film Festival, and the Revelation International Film Festival and is now screening on the international festival circuit, including the Atlanta, Indianapolis, and Palm Beach film festivals.

Mr Booth has just finished co-producing the adult drama series *Marx and Venus* for SBSi (to be screened mid-2007) and is a Board member of Awesome Arts and an adjunct senior lecturer for the WA Screen Academy.

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