



## Media Statement

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02/02/09

### **Karla comes to the Perth Festival Welcome to Country**

Western Australian Indigenous short film *Karla* will feature in the 2009 Perth International Arts Festival at the traditional Noongar Welcome to Country.

ScreenWest Chief Executive Ian Booth said that the film is a fitting addition to the Welcome to Country event.

"*Karla* is a dreamtime story of how fire came to the Noongar people of the Pinjarra region, told through painting, dance and visual storytelling," Mr Booth said.

"The screening of *Karla* at the Welcome to Country will be a wonderful opportunity for families to enjoy the work of our talented local filmmakers and celebrate the unique storytelling of the Noongar people."

First-time director Karrie-Anne Kearing said that through *Karla* and the arts, she ensures that the history of her people is recognised alongside the history of modern Australia.

"I am very proud to have my work selected to be screened at the Festival Welcome to Country," Ms Kearing said.

*Karla* producer Naomi Ashcroft is equally pleased to share her work with the Perth Festival audience. "Through the modern medium of film, everyone can appreciate these ancient dreamtime stories," she said.

Ms Kearing cut her teeth as the writer of the Indigenous short film, *Weewar*. Karrie-Anne is an active member of the Pinjarra Katijin Corporation, working to develop art and cultural programs for her community. *Karla* and *Weewar* were both funded through the Deadly Yarns Indigenous short film initiative, a joint initiative of ScreenWest, the Film & Television Institute (FTI) and the ABC.

Along with *Karla*, three Western Australian short films have been selected to screen at the 2008/09 Lotterywest Festival Films season during the Perth Festival. *Clouds*, *Edgar* and *Elizabeth* and *Legacy* will each screen for one week, prior to the main program feature film.

The Perth Festival Welcome to Country is part of the Lotterywest Festival Celebration, a free family event at the Supreme Court Gardens from 8.30pm on Friday February 13.



## **Western Australian short films screening at the 2009 Perth International Arts Festival:**

### ***Karla***

Short drama

Screening: 8:30pm Friday February 13 at the Welcome to Country

Director / writer: Karrie-Anne Kearing (Pinjarra)

Producer: Naomi Ashcroft (North Fremantle)

Synopsis: A dreamtime story of how fire came to the Noongars of the Pinjarra (Bindjareb) region told through painting, dance and visual storytelling.

### ***Clouds***

Short drama

Screening: 8.30pm February 16 to 22 at Somerville before the feature film *You the Living*

Director / writer: Will Faulkner (Darlington)

Producer: Annabelle Fouchard (Brentwood)

Synopsis: A young boy becomes lost in the bush and uses his vivid imagination to get back home to safety.

### ***Legacy***

Short drama

Screening: 8.30pm March 2 to 8 at Somerville before the feature film *Buddha Collapsed out of Shame*

Director: Grant Sputore (Winthrop)

Producer: Poppy Dowle (Mt Lawley) and David Smith (Kardinya)

Writer: Ron Elliott

Synopsis: 1943. On leave from the front, Donald makes one last attempt to save his brother from the life their father has unwittingly prepared for him.

### ***Edgar and Elizabeth***

Short comedy

Screening: 8.30pm March 9 to 15 at Somerville before the feature film *A Pain in the Ass*

Director / writer: Renee Webster (White Gum Valley)

Producer: Melissa Kelly (Cottesloe)

Synopsis: A short film about lust, loneliness and finding love in the workplace.

These films were all funded by ScreenWest and Lotterywest. *Clouds*, *Legacy* and *Karla* also received funding support from the Film & Television Institute (FTI) and *Edgar and Elizabeth* received additional funding from the Australian Film Commission (AFC).

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