

MEDIA RELEASE

11/08/09

Deadly locals to debut on ABC TV

Filmmakers from Roebourne, Broome, Margaret River, Perth and Fremantle will gather tonight at the Maritime Museum for a sneak preview of their short films, which will screen nationally as part of the ABC TV's 'Message Stick' program on Sunday 6 and 13 September.

The five films, made by emerging Indigenous directors, writers, actors and producers from Western Australia, make up the fourth instalment of the Deadly Yarns series. The development program provides first-time filmmakers an opportunity to learn their craft, with advice and assistance provided by seasoned industry professionals.

Minister for Culture and the Arts, John Day, praised the Deadly Yarns initiative, which is the result of a joint partnership between ABC TV, ScreenWest and Film & Television Institute WA.

"From the initial idea to develop a program to support indigenous filmmakers, the Deadly Yarns initiative has grown into a widely recognised storytelling and skills development program," he said.

"Deadly Yarns films have been applauded by the wider community through screenings at national and international film festivals including the Perth International Film Festival in 2008 and 2009.

"It is a source of great pride for the Western Australian Government to be supporting this valuable program. We're particularly proud that this year, four out of five films are regional stories."

Continuing the theme and building on the success of the first three series, 'Deadly Yarns 4' invited Indigenous filmmakers to explore 'their best, most personal, funniest or deadliest story' in a documentary, drama, doco-drama or animation format.

This year's crop of Deadly Yarns is eclectic collection of stories including:

- A comedy about a father's attempt to rescue his son from a possessed gaming console (filmed in Perth);
- Story of a fallen horse musterer who re-appears at every horse mustering time on the stations (filmed in Roebourne);
- A story by Bunaba elder George Brooking and his strange encounter with a peculiar animal (filmed near Fitzroy Crossing);
- A documentary on a much loved musical dynasty from Port Hedland (filmed in Port Hedland); and
- During Australia's longest strike – the ten year 1946 Pilbara strike, it was the humble practice of 'Yandying' that enabled hundreds of Pilbara men and women and children to survive (filmed in Marble Bar).

For further comment, or to arrange an interview with any of the filmmakers, please contact Film & Television Spokesman, Michael Ellis on (08) 9431 6708 or michael_ellis@staff.fti.asn.au