



3/4/2008

Three WA projects get FFC greenlight

Three Western Australian productions have been approved for financing by the Film Finance Corporation (FFC), providing yet another boost for the State's booming screen industry.

A feature film version of the Aboriginal musical set in Broome *Bran Nue Dae* has received the green light from the FFC, while prime time drama series *The Circuit* and the genealogical detective series *Who Do You Think You Are?* both secured funding for second series.

The three projects have combined total production budgets of more than \$15M and total ScreenWest investment of approximately \$1.6M.

ScreenWest Chief Executive Ian Booth congratulated the project teams on securing full financing. All three will now go into production in Western Australia this year.

"For three major WA productions to obtain FFC funding in a tightly contested round is an outstanding result and reflects the quality and market appeal of the projects," Mr Booth said.

"The Western Australian screen industry is really punching above its weight with a raft of feature films and major television series currently in all stages of production."

The FFC backing three major new projects is not only great news for the teams involved, but is a huge boost to the wider WA screen industry, with local crews offered varied work on a production slate packed for the next 12 months.

Bran Nue Dae will be directed by Rachel Perkins (*Radiance*, *One Night the Moon*), who co-wrote the film script with Western Australian screenwriter and playwright Reg Cribb (*Last Train to Freo*) based on the original stage musical by Jimmy Chi and Kuckles.

Director Rachel Perkins said she was both terrified and exhilarated at the prospect of bringing Australia's first Black musical to the screen.

"The play and its music have been loved by many people for twenty years and in adapting the work, I feel privileged to be collaborating with its creator, Jimmy Chi," she said.

The film will be produced by Robyn Kershaw (*Looking for Alibrandi*) and Graeme Isaac, with filming expected to commence in and around Broome mid-2008.

Following a host of screen industry awards, a second series of the critically acclaimed drama series *The Circuit*, produced by Media World Pictures, will



also go into production in the Kimberly region later this year.

Featuring a predominantly Western Australian Indigenous cast and crew, the series follows the chaotic and challenging world of the Kimberly 'circuit' court.

Producer Ross Hutchens said that despite the positive critical response to the first series of *The Circuit*, pulling together the finance for the second series was always going to be tough.

"Thanks to the support of SBS and our key financiers, ScreenWest and the FFC, we're tremendously excited to be able to head back to Broome in September to shoot another series," he said.

"As a prime time drama series designed to be as entertaining as it is challenging, we are hopeful that *The Circuit* can continue to bring Indigenous stories and Indigenous storytellers into the mainstream."

Genealogical detective series *Who Do You Think You Are?* also received the green light for a second series.

The first series was produced under Film Australia's National Interest Program and made by Western Australian production company Artemis International and Sydney-based Serendipity Productions.

Series co-producer Celia Tate of Artemis International said it was exciting to be able to go into production on Series 2.

"The audience response from Series 1 was huge and we've had numerous inquiries and pleas to make another series," she said.

"The team learnt so much first time around and so to be able to capitalise on that and give on-going work to many talented people in WA is a wonderful opportunity."

Who Do You Think You Are?, a landmark documentary series chronicling the social, ethnic and cultural evolution of our national identity through the personal family histories of prominent Australians, was a ratings hit in Australia, with the local premiere of the series attracting a record 863,000 viewers – the largest ever audience share for a local production for SBS.

Bran Nue Dae, *The Circuit* and *Who Do You Think You Are?* are proudly supported by ScreenWest and Lotterywest.

For the full list of projects funded in the latest FFC round, visit: <http://www.ffc.gov.au/news/>

Media inquires:

Louise Merrillees, Communications Manager

louise@screenwest.com.au (08) 9224 7342/ 0438 764197

Natalie Ahmat, Communications Officer

natalie@screenwest.com.au (08) 9224 7424/ 0408 440932

