



Department of Culture and the Arts
Government of Western Australia



Media Statement

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Teen thriller wins latest West Coast Visions round

The high tech thriller *Wasted*, will receive \$750,000 in funding from ScreenWest, the Western Australian film and television funding agency, as the third project to benefit from the West Coast Visions low budget feature film initiative.

ScreenWest Chief Executive Ian Booth said *Wasted* had all the elements of a great feature film with a talented Western Australian filmmaking team and nail biting script.

"A high profile panel selected *Wasted* for its strong market appeal and cutting edge storyline," Mr Booth said.

Dendy Films General Manager Andrew Mackie provided feedback to the funding panel on the market potential of the applications, saying *Wasted* captures the zeitgeist of cutting edge youth culture today.

"The YouTube generation meets *Saw* in *Wasted*, a voyeuristic teen, tech, thriller with global appeal," Mr Mackie said.

Other panel members included internationally renowned director Gillian Armstrong (*My Brilliant Career*, *Charlotte Gray*), screenwriter Andrew Bovell (*Lantana*) and producer Vincent Sheehan (*Little Fish*).

Wasted is written by local writer Ben C. Lucas who will also direct the film with Western Australian producers Aidan O'Bryan and Janelle Landers from WBMC.

Ben is currently filming a documentary for the joint ScreenWest, SBS and South Australian Film Corporation (SAFC) 'Generation Y' project.

"I'm still coming to grips with the news - I'm thrilled that ScreenWest is backing this film. I want to ensure this project is the best and most competitive film product we can produce, not just for Perth but for everywhere. We've got a lot of hard work ahead of us." Mr Lucas said.

Wasted synopsis: When a high school party goes dangerously off the rails, one teenager finds that revenge is just a computer click away.

The film joins a thriving production slate in the State – WA has almost reached a sustainable level of 100 hours worth of production per year.



The current record production slate is a culmination of ScreenWest's strategic vision over the next five years to increase WA production by 50% and create a sustainable and thriving work environment for crew.

The first West Coast Visions film *Last Train to Freo*, received rave reviews and four Australian Film Institute (AFI) Award nominations and the second West Coast Visions film *Brace*, is currently in pre-production.

For full details of the current WA production slate, see the attached document. A photo of director Ben C. Lucas is attached.

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Ben C. Lucas biography

Ben is a creative filmmaker with a diverse range of industry experiences. His career background is a mix of writing, production credits and tertiary education including the Australian Film Television and Radio School (AFTRS).

He recently won the prestigious [ZTudio](#) What IF? award for his screenplay *All Flesh Must Be Eaten: The Movie*. Ben has directed internationally screened short films and television. He has a passion for writing and directing fables and stories with definitive audience appeal. *Wasted* will be his first feature.

