



Friday, 2 November 2018

**18 DIRECTORS SELECTED TO JOIN THE ADG DIRECTORS PROGRAM
AT SCREEN FOREVER 2018**

The Australian Directors Guild (ADG) today announced the directors joining the Directors Program at the SCREEN FOREVER conference in Melbourne from 20-22 November.

A total of 60 applications were received by the ADG and after careful assessment 18 were selected to attend. The successful applicants are:

NSW

1. Beth Armstrong
2. Bina Bhattacharya
3. Hannah Hilliard
4. Matt Tomaszewski
5. Rebecca Greensill
6. Vonne Patiag

VIC

1. Amie Batalibasi
2. Matthew Richards
3. Nora Niasari
4. Sarah Hatherley

WA

1. Glen Stasiuk
2. Maziar Lahooti
3. Miley Tunnecliffe
4. Zoe Pepper

SA

1. Daniel Phillips
2. Edoardo Crismani
3. Lucy Campbell

ACT

1. Elli Iliades

For information about the selected directors, please see their biography and headshot listed below.

These directors will join the SPA "Ones to Watch" undertaking a special program of panel discussions, workshops and networking events to allow them full engagement with the conference and an opportunity to meet producers and production companies. All the directors attending will be presenting the projects they have developed that are ready for production at SPA CONNECT.

"This is the first time we have collaborated with SPA on this type of project at SCREEN FOREVER and we believe it will be an ideal opportunity for directors and producers to work together on new projects", said Kingston Anderson, CEO of the ADG. "We also want to thank the state screen agencies who will be supporting the directors to attend SCREEN FOREVER."

The Directors Program at SCREEN FOREVER is a partnership between the ADG and Screen Producers Australia (SPA) with the support of Create NSW, Film Victoria, Screenwest, South Australian Film Corporation and Screen Canberra.

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SYDNEY
CITY OF FILM



FULL LIST OF PARTICIPANTS OF DIRECTORS PROGRAM SCREEN FOREVER 2018

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NEW SOUTH WALES

Beth Armstrong



Beth Armstrong is a writer/director. In 2018 Beth was nominated for an ADG award for Best Directing children's TV series (directing 10eps) on Ambience Entertainment's Irish co-pro: *Drop Dead Weird*. Beth has a Masters in directing (AFTRS) and has directed six shorts, which were broadcast in Australia, Canada and Japan and have won numerous awards including a number of Best Films at Palm Springs and international festivals. Her last short, *You Cut I Choose* was nominated for an ADG directing award, after premiering at MIFF. Beth was awarded the ADG/Screen Australia directors attachment to Mel Gibson on *Hacksaw Ridge*. Beth also directs commercials with Clockwork Films/Two Little Indians.

Bina Bhattacharya



Bina Bhattacharya is a Writer/Producer/Director from Campbelltown, NSW. Most recently she launched a series of showreel pieces written specifically for actors in minorities who are usually faced with limited role choices, including her homage to Pedro Almodovar, 'Musings'. She was selected as a writer for Co-Curious' 'Behind Closed Doors' program with development assistance from the ABC, Emerald Productions and Screen Australia to write a series for original short films for broadcast. She was also selected in the inaugural Australia Diversity Showcase, which was produced with the backing of the Media Entertainment Arts Alliance Equity Foundation, the Australian Writers' Guild, the Australian Directors' Guild and Screen Australia. In 2017, she enjoyed international festival success with her film 'Wild Dances', which won the Audience Choice Award at the 'Made in the

West' Film Festival and was a Finalist for the 'My Queer Career' Short Film Competition as part of the Mardi Gras Film Festival. Bina credits her distinctive voice and sensitivity to cross-cultural issues with growing up with two cultures, being exposed to Satyajit Ray and 80s Bollywood through her Indian father and opera and Australian folk music through her Australian mother and attending a multicultural public school in Sydney's West. Bina runs her own production company, Gemme de la Femme Pictures. She is also mother to a three-year-old boy.

Hannah Hilliard



Hannah Hilliard is a multi-award winning AFTRS graduate who has worked as a director in film, television, documentary and commercials. Her Screen Australia funded short film, *Franswa Sharl*, won the prestigious Crystal Bear for Best Short Film at the 60th Berlin Film Festival and Best Short Film at Melbourne International Film Festival, before going on to win several other accolades. As a commercials director Hannah has worked internationally with global transmedia company @radical.media on high profile brands including Adidas and Intel. Hannah was the inaugural recipient of the Screen Australia Director's Acclaim Fund and is currently developing a feature project with producer Kristian Moliere (*The Babadook*, *Wake in Fright*).

Matt Tomaszewski



Matt Tomaszewski is a Director/Writer and Showrunner, with a strong international track record in the doc/factual world, who is currently making waves into the scripted realm with a growing slate of original screenplays and series. A former environmental and marine scientist Matt has worked extensively for National Geographic and Discovery and combines rich hands-on experience with a unique perspective to tell stories of nature, humanity and heart. His recent credits include the upcoming crime series, *Manhunt* for Seven, *Teenage Boss* for ABC Me, *Go Back Live* and multiple Shark Week specials for Discovery US. Matt's first feature (as co-writer) *Caught Inside* was official selection at SxSW and winner of people's choice at the SIFF.

Rebecca Greensill



The recipient of the 2018 Metro Screen Open Fellowship, Rebecca Greensill has spent this year being mentored by Ellie Beaumont and Drew Proffitt (*House Husbands*, *Dead Lucky*) at Subtext Pictures. Her short films *Tender* and *Happy Guy* have been accepted into festivals both nationally and internationally as well as *Tender* being nominated for an AWGIE award. Prior to this Rebecca was a writer and script editor on *Home & Away*. She is currently in post-production on a comedy web-series and is a part of the ADG's Shadow Directing Program.

Vonne Patiag



Vonne Patiag is a Director, Writer and Producer working across Stage and Screen. Based in Western Sydney, he is interested in producing personal stories that explore queer/ethnic intersection and that dissect issues of racism and geographical prejudice prevalent to the Western Sydney area. He is the recent recipient of the Hot Shots Production Fund with Screen Australia for his online series, *Boy (Space) Friends* currently in development, as well as the GEFF Fund with Create NSW & SBS for his short film *Tomgirl* (2018), currently available to watch on SBS onDemand.

VICTORIA

Amie Batalibasi



Amie Batalibasi (Kosi/Feralimae) is an Australian–Solomon Islander writer, director, and producer. She was the Sundance Institute’s 2017 Merata Mita Fellow and is a Berlinale Talents 2018 & TIFF Lab 2018 alumna. Her current project is a feature adaptation of her award-winning short film *Blackbird* (15), which explores the little-known history of Australia’s Pacific Islander sugar slaves.

Matthew Richards



Matt Richards' work spans short films and documentaries, TV commercials, branded content and music videos. He holds a Master of Directing Narrative (Victorian College of the Arts, 2011) and works at the National Gallery of Victoria as Moving Image Designer. His short films, *FIRST CONTACT* (2012), *RABBIT* (2014) and *THE DISAPPEARANCE OF WILLIE BINGHAM* (2015) have collected close to fifty awards and nominations. He is a recipient of Screen Australia's 2014 Hot Shots funding and a Film Victoria supported director's attachment on ABC-TV series *TOMORROW WHEN THE WAR BEGAN*. He is currently developing his first feature film.

Nora Niasari



Born in Iran, Nora holds a Bachelor in Architecture from the University of Technology, Sydney and a Masters of Film & TV from the Victorian College of the Arts (VCA). Her graduate short, *The Phoenix* (2015) was nominated for an Australian Directors Guild award, selected for the MIFF Accelerator program and toured festivals worldwide. In 2016, she completed a Director’s Attachment with Emma Freeman on Matchbox/Netflix TV Series *Secret City* and a screenwriting mentorship with Cannes-award winning auteur Michael Rowe. Her first long-form documentary, *Casa Antúnez* (2017) competed at the 2017 Sheffield Doc/Fest (New Talent Award Nominee) and her latest narrative short, *Waterfall* (Screen Australia Hot Shots Fund) premiered at the 66th Melbourne International Film Festival and the 2018 Leiden International Film Festival. Nora is currently developing her debut

feature film, *Shelter*.

Sarah Hatherley



In 2017 Sarah Hatherley was an ADG nominee for Best Direction in a short film for *Lost Soul*, a dark psychological thriller that premiered at Sitges, Spain (2016). *The Birth*, a tightly crafted comedy, premiered at Tropfest 2017. Recently Sarah filmed a proof of concept for *Domestic*, a small town mystery which will be her debut feature film. During her stellar career writing and directing brand films, she also won an IF Award for best short film *Just Do It* (2001). She has a new mini series in development – *Use of Force*.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Glen Stasiuk



Lecturer & senior Indigenous researcher at Murdoch University and Western Australian Screen Award (WASA) winning director, Glen is a maternal descendent of the Minang-Wadjari Nyungars (Aboriginal peoples) of the South-West of Western Australia whilst his paternal family emigrated from post-war Russia. These rich and varied cultural backgrounds have allowed him, through his filmmaking, research and writing to explore culture, knowledge and diverse narratives.

Maziar Lahooti



Maziar is a Perth based Iranian/Norwegian/Australian writer and director, an AFTRS masters graduate, and currently attached to direct his debut feature film *Below*, which is financed and set to shoot early 2019, produced by Good Thing Productions, of which he's directed Ian Wilding through story development to current draft. As a writer, his feature film script *Nomad*, (a Nicholls semi finalist script) has been optioned on spec by Causeway Films, development of which has been financed through Screenwest. His latest spec *Die Well* was recently (also) shortlisted as a Nicholls top fifty semi finalist, and shortlisted as a finalist for the Warner Brothers/Blacklist/Veerhuis Script competition.

Miley Tunnecliffe



Miley is an award-winning director and writer. In 2018, she was selected for Screen Australia's Talent USA program, while her comedy series *Calling* took out Best International Film at the Austin Short Comedy Festival. She is the recipient of the Screenwest Bill Warnock Initiative. She's written on broadcast series including the upcoming ABC/Matchbox television drama series *The Heights* and ABC kids animated series *100% Wolf*. Her writing has regularly placed in international awards, including winning gold place in the 2017 PAGE International Screenwriting Awards for TV comedy. Miley is currently in pre-production as creator, writer and director on the SBS commissioned digital comedy series *Molly and Cara*.

Zoe Pepper



Zoe is a writer and director for film, theatre and participatory gaming. After ten years as one of Western Australia's top theatre directors, she was selected for Screenwest's prestigious Feature Navigator program, which is allowing her to develop her debut feature script. In 2018 Zoe has completed two web series, *Lift*, a Mad Kids production starring Lucy Durack and directed by Zoe, and *The Big Spaghetti*, which Zoe directed and co-wrote. Zoe's production, *The Irresistible*, was nominated for Best Play at the Helpmanns this year.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Daniel Phillips



Daniel J. Phillips is a writer/director based in Adelaide, South Australia, and one of the owners of Hendon Studios, the largest privately owned film studio complex in the country. The studio has housed such productions as *Wolf Creek 2*, *Danger 5*, *Anzac Girls*, *The Wolf Creek* Stan TV Series, and most recently *I Am Mother*, starring Hilary Swank. Daniel has just written and directed *AWOKEN* – his first feature, which is a \$2M horror film starring Erik Thomson and Sara West.

Edoardo Crismani



Writer/Director Edoardo Crismani is a descendant of the Wiradjuri people. Several of his films have screened on NITV including his documentary about his grandfather, *The Panther Within*, for which he was also nominated for an AWGIE Award. His short documentary *Lest We Forget - Aboriginal Women* - screens nationwide on NITV on Remembrance Day and his short drama titled 440 will Premiere at the Winda Film Festival in Sydney 23 Nov 2018. He is currently developing several long form projects including a feature film inspired by his grandfather known in the boxing ring as The Black Panther.

Lucy Campbell



Lucy Campbell is a writer/director from Adelaide. With several well received shorts under her belt, she most recently co-directed sci fi noir online series, *The Big Nothing* with Peter Ninos, produced by Sharptooth Pictures. As part of Sharptooth Pictures, Lucy is now developing further feature and television projects, including *The Big Nothing* TV show, and developing her first feature screenplay, *Automaton* with Arclight Pictures. In addition to writing and directing, Lucy works as a script coordinator various TV drama series, including *Wolf Creek S2*, *Pine Gap*, *Wanted S3* and *Upright*.

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

Elli Iliades



Elli Iliades is a writer/director with a background in theatre and film studies from the University of Queensland. Her short films, *Waiting For Angel* and *Theodore's Gift*, have received awards at film festivals in Australia and overseas. Elli was a recipient of Screen Tasmania's supported director's attachment on ABC-TV Series, *Barracuda* and is currently developing her feature film, *Stiletto Jean's Daughter*, which was selected for the ADG/Screenworks Directing Intensive and as part of the ADG Program at SCREEN FOREVER.