



PITCH-O-RAMA APPLICATIONS OPEN TODAY

FIRST LOOK AT 2019 SCREEN MAKERS SPEAKERS PROGRAM

Screen Makers Conference, set to be hosted from 26 – 27 July in Adelaide, and ABC iview today opened applications for **Pitch-o-rama**, the live \$10,000 pitch competition.

Pitch-o-rama is an opportunity for screen makers from across Australia to pitch a short-form scripted or factual concept directly to creative executives from the ABC, with the winning pitch receiving \$10,000 from the Media Resource Centre and ABC iview to put towards concept development.

The winner will also receive assistance from an ABC TV commissioning team to help progress the idea. Entries will be judged on the basis of the strength of the concept, creative presentation and audience response.

Pitch-o-rama selection criteria & application details

www.screenmakersconference.com.au/pitch-o-rama/

Submissions **CLOSE on Monday 1 July 2019.**

Up to 10 shortlisted projects/teams will be **NOTIFIED by Monday 15 July 2019.**

For Screen Makers Conference registration and info, please visit

www.screenmakersconference.com.au

Also announced today is the first collection of local and national speakers for the 2019 Screen Makers Conference, including ABC Executive Producer, of Entertainment & Specialist, **Brett Sleigh**, who has worked across the development and production of a wide range of drama and comedy titles such as *The Slap*, *Please Like Me*, *Jack Irish*, *Rosehaven* and *Pine Gap*. Joining Brett from the ABC is writer and comedian **Alistair Baldwin** who has written for ABC's *The Weekly* (season 4), *Hard Quiz* (season 4) and *Get Krack!n* (season 2)

Dan Thorsland from **Mighty Kingdom** is one of Adelaide's leading video game development companies. Dan joined Mighty Kingdom in 2013, focusing on creating business partnerships with major global brands like Disney, Moose Toys and LEGO. Dan will be discussing the link and opportunities between video games and film. Head of Animation at AFTRS, **Krista Jordan**, has professional film credits including *The Matrix*, *The Matrix Reloaded*, *Rabbit- Proof Fence*, *Moulin Rouge* and the Academy Award-winning *Happy Feet*.

Screen Australia's Head of Development, **Nerida Moore** manages Story Development, Enterprise and International initiatives. She has helmed a number of programs that foster story and talent development including, *Gender Matters: Brilliant Stories and Careers*; *Hot Shots* and *Talent USA*. Adelaide's own SAFC CEO **Courtney Gibson** has worked at Screen NSW, Jungle Entertainment, Nine Network and ABC TV among others. As CEO of Screen NSW Courtney introduced a raft of policies that delivered gender parity in key creative roles for women in TV in 2016.

Media Resource Centre Director Gail Kovatseff said,

“We’re thrilled to be reopening Pitch-o-rama for the second year. The first year was such a success and made for one of the most entertaining sections of the conference. There were some big winners but most importantly all of the participants received direct advice and feedback on their ideas from national representatives, an invaluable experience.

“With this first set of speakers announced, the program is once again shaping up to be another must-attend event for emerging screen makers from all over Australia.”

THE CURRENT LINE-UP OF ANNOUNCED SPEAKERS AND MARKETPLACE REPRESENTATIVES INCLUDE:

- **Alistair Baldwin** – ABC - screenwriter / comedian / improviser
- **Brett Sleight** – ABC - Executive Producer, Entertainment & Specialist
- **Courtney Gibson** – SAFC - CEO
- **Dr Alejandra Canales** - AFTRS - Documentary Lecturer
- **Dan Thorsland** - Mighty Kingdom - Director, Business Development & Partnerships
- **Edwina Waddy** – Roadshow Films - Australian Production Executive
- **Ian Collie** – Easy Tiger Productions - Founder and Producer
- **Jo Rooney** - Nine Network - Co-head of Drama
- **Julie Hanna** – ABC - Commissioning Editor, Factual
- **Krista Jordan** - AFTRS, Head of Animation at Australian Film Television and Radio School
- **Lana Greenhalgh** – Foxtel - Drama Executive
- **Lori Flekser** - Creative Content Australia - Executive Director
- **Nathan Mayfield** – Hoodlum - Co-founder and Chief Creative Officer
- **Nerida Moore** – Screen Australia - Head Of Development
- **Nick Murray** - CJZ - Managing Director and Co-founder
- **Peta Astbury-Bulsara** – For Pete’s Sake Productions - Producer
- **Sasha Close** - Wallis Cinemas - Film Programming Manager
- **Susie Jones** – SBS - Commissioning Editor, Documentaries
- **Todd Abbott** – Guesswork TV - Director of Programs & Development
- **Virginia Whitwell** - Good Thing Productions - Head Of Production

Earlybird ticket registration for the 2019 event is now open – more information

<http://www.screenmakersconference.com.au/registrations/>

THE FULL 2019 SCREEN MAKERS CONFERENCE PROGRAM WILL BE ANNOUNCED OVER THE COMING WEEKS.

The ongoing work of the Media Resource Centre is made possible by support of the South Australian Film Corporation.

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