

MEDIA RELEASE

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EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR ABORIGINAL DIGGERS FILM RESIDENCY NOW OPEN

ANZAC soldiers have hero status in Australia but many people don't know the stories of past and present Aboriginal war veterans. Country Arts SA is providing the opportunity for an Aboriginal screen writer/director for film to make a significant contribution to commemorate Aboriginal Diggers who have served for our country.

Expressions of Interest are now open nationwide for an Aboriginal screen writer/director for film to undertake a Country Arts SA Aboriginal Diggers film residency in regional South Australia working from August 2016 to April 2017 to honour and recognise the soldiers and their families affected by the wars they served in post-World War 1.

Country Arts SA has engaged Aboriginal Creative Producer Lee-Ann Tjunypa Buckskin to work with the film maker to consult and support the Aboriginal community in the telling of stories uniquely related to Aboriginal Diggers and their life experience.

"For seven years I was intimately involved in the conceptual development, production and implementation of the South Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander War Memorial based in Adelaide," Ms Buckskin said.

"Throughout that time I was privileged to work alongside and be advised by many of our first nation's veterans in both metropolitan and regional South Australia. They shared with me first hand stories of their personal experiences in war, honouring mateship and their lives post service. The sacrifices and adjustments they made coming home to their loved ones and their community was inspiring and heart wrenching."

"My vision is to enable these stories to be told and to hear the voice of our veterans by providing a supportive and safe platform to express and capture their untold stories through the arts. This will also enable audiences to connect with and honour the ANZAC legacy of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander service men and women."

While in the community the artist will provide workshops in filmmaking to build future artistic capacity in the chosen regional community. The artist will also mentor one young regional filmmaker as part of the residency.

Media enquiries: Helene Sobolewski, Helene.sobolewski@countryarts.org.au or 8444 0429

Country Arts SA Cultural Programming Manager Aboriginal and Reconciliation Programs Sam Yates said the residency would honour the Aboriginal ANZAC legacy as well as provide opportunities for Aboriginal artists.

“This Aboriginal Diggers residency will capture unique and untold stories of Aboriginal service men and women, and it will also serve to create advancement for an Aboriginal artist’s career,” she said. “When the film is screened in 2017, audiences will honour and engage with the Aboriginal ANZAC legacy.”

The residency will start in August 2016 and culminate in film screenings on ANZAC Day 2017 in partnership with the Media Resource Centre at the Mercury Cinema in Adelaide. It will also screen at annual Black Screen event at Country Arts SA’s five regional Arts Centres as well as five regional venues across the state in May 2017.

The film residency is stage one of three years residency program that will support a film artist, playwright and a visual artist. This application is only for stage one which is the film residency.

Expressions of Interest close Thursday 28 July, 5pm.

To apply, go to www.countryarts.org.au



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