

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Budget Estimates May 2017
Communications Portfolio
Screen Australia

Question No: 183

Screen Australia

Hansard Ref: Page 40, 25/05/2017

Topic: Happenings in the Industry, State by State

Senator Reynolds, Linda asked:

CHAIR: Ms Cameron, one final question if I could. In relation to my own home state—in fact, our home state—I just wonder if you could give us a bit of an update of what is happening in the industry in WA. There is obviously a lot happening. Are you able to give us state specifics, or would you like to take it on notice?

Ms Cameron: Probably on notice. As you rightly say, WA is a bit of a powerhouse, particularly with feature films and documentaries as well. I know there have been a number shooting in WA over the last little while. Of course I was in Busselton this time last year, when *Jasper Jones* had its preview, and of course it was shot not too far away from that location—a wonderful backdrop to that program. There are a couple of other features filming there, but it would be great if I could put a little bit detail on notice.

CHAIR: That would be lovely. I will pre-empt Tasmania, so maybe you could give us a state-by-state breakdown that we could share with our colleagues.

Answer:

Looking outside the main production centres of NSW and Victoria, here are some highlights of recent productions supported by Screen Australia.

Western Australia

THREE SUMMERS: Feature film directed by acclaimed novelist Ben Elton covering the music, characters, and hilarious antics of three consecutive summers at an annual folk music festival in Western Australia.

BREATH: Beloved Australian actor, Simon Baker, in his directorial feature debut adaptation of Tim Winton's award-winning novel. Baker stars alongside Elizabeth Debicki, Richard Roxburgh and rising teen stars in this tale of friendship and discovery set on the beaches of 1970's Western Australia.

THE BURIED VR: An innovative virtual reality project immersing the audience in an interactive journey through a magical dreamtime underworld. This is one of the first VR projects funded by Screen Australia.

Tasmania

THE NIGHTINGALE: Highly anticipated feature by the writer/director of *THE BABADOOK*, Jennifer Kent. This exhilarating revenge/western takes us back to 1829 Tasmania where a 21-year old Irish convict woman and an Aboriginal male tracker seek revenge on the soldiers who killed her family.

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ROSEHAVEN Series 2: Screen Australia provided support to the first series of this popular ABC comedy TV show, which has garnered rave reviews and built such a huge following that a second series is currently in production.

South Australia

HOTEL MUMBAI: With local and international cast featuring Dev Patel and Armie Hammer, this feature directorial debut from Anthony Maras explores the intersecting stories of the survivors, victims and perpetrators of the 2008 Mumbai attacks. Slated for theatrical release late 2017.

CARGO: Based on the Tropfest 2013 finalist of the same name, CARGO stars Martin Freeman as an infected father in the aftermath of a violent pandemic desperately seeking a new home for his infant daughter to protect her from his own changing nature. Netflix has acquired worldwide distribution rights for this feature after its theatrical release.

MOTHER: Sci-fi thriller follows a teenage girl raised underground by a robot “Mother” – designed to repopulate the earth’s surface following an extinction-level event. This feature directorial debut by Grant Sputore starring Clara Rugaard, with award-winning WETA Workshop creating “Mother” (voice yet to be cast) , has recently had international sales rights acquired at Cannes.

STORM BOY: Filming starts soon on this contemporary retelling of the classic from 1976, starring Geoffrey Rush and Jai Courtney.

Northern Territory

SWEET COUNTRY: From Screen Australia’s Indigenous Department comes a period western set in the Northern Territory frontier where justice itself is put on trial. Directed by Cannes Film Festival Camera d’Or-winning writer/director Warwick Thornton and starring Sam Neill, Bryan Brown, and Ewen Leslie, SWEET COUNTRY will premiere at the Adelaide Film Festival in October 2017.

Queensland

FLAMMABLE CHILDREN; From the creative team behind PRISCILLA QUEEN OF THE DESERT, comes a suburban 1970’s coming of age dramedy featuring Guy Pearce, Kylie Minogue, Julian McMahon, and Rhada Mitchell.

BUREAU OF MAGICAL THINGS; Fantastical family TV series from the creators of MAKO MERMAIDS in which two teens investigate the delicate balance between the human and fairy worlds.

TIDELANDS: The first Australian original series ordered by Netflix started with support from Screen Australia with development funding for high-end TV. The series, from the creators of *Secrets & Lies*, follows a former criminal as she returns home and investigates the town’s secrets and strange inhabitants – half-Sirens called “Tidelanders”.