

INFORMATION KIT

INDIGENOUS DOCUMENTARY SCHOLARSHIP IN WESTERN SYDNEY FROM METRO SCREEN

August 25 – October 17 2008 | Scholarship course |
3 days per week over eight weeks | Based in Western Sydney

Overview

Metro Screen, with funding from the Joint Indigenous Funding Program and the Department of Education and Training, is running a free part time Documentary Scholarship course for Indigenous people.

The course is fully accredited, and is nationally recognised through VETAB. Successful students will receive a Statement of Attainment from the Certificate IV in Screen.

Newsorthy Highlights

- Four local documentaries will be made
- Local Indigenous people will become documentary filmmakers
- Industry Accredited Tutors will provide training
- Provides skills for employment in the industry
- Provides an outlet for expression and artistic pursuits in the local area
- Makes the community stronger

What Metro Screen is seeking from the Indigenous Community?

Metro Screen is seeking the support of Indigenous Elders in reaching Indigenous people in Western Sydney and finding students that are interested in studying this course. We find that attendance and completion of the course by Indigenous students often relies strongly on the support these accredited courses receive from the local Indigenous Communities and their Elders. We would ask that you could assist us in making contact with potential students by advertising the course through your community bulletins and or website.

We also ask for assistance in securing a location within the Western Sydney to hold the course.

The course

The focus of this course is to introduce students to Documentary production and the power of documentary as a story telling medium. The course runs for eight weeks part time from August 25 - October 17 2008. The location is yet to be confirmed but we would like to discuss further with you and would be happy to take any suggestions. So far, possible locations are Casula Powerhouse or Campbelltown Arts Centre.

Four stages

Stage One - Pre Production. Tutors will discuss documentary filmmaking and develop students' techniques of story telling and script writing.

Stage Two – Production. As one group the students will schedule and shoot their documentary.

Stage Three - Post production. Students are split into three or four smaller groups where they edit the footage shot into the final films. Each group uses the same footage shot in the stage 2 to edit their own version of the documentary.

Stage Four - Wrap and Screening. This stage will provide an excellent opportunity for students to discuss the process and view the three or four documentaries produced and look to the future.

Each documentary will be a maximum of five minutes and can be on any subject, which the group agrees upon.

Tutor

Students will gain valuable industry knowledge from experienced industry trainer Adrian Symes. Over his career Adrian has worked extensively with regional communities across NSW and Australia as an artist, multimedia producer and trainer. His work in Arnhem Land with Indigenous communities at the Garma Festival assisted young students to document their work placement at the festival through digital means producing video, photos and audio. Adrian has already worked with youth in the local area producing a TV show called Wild West TV in Forbes and a number of short films and music videos in Condobolin. His work, photographs and CV can be viewed at <http://www.geocities.com/adriansymes/>

Skills and future employment for students

Students will develop skills in script writing, shooting on digital cameras, editing and production management. They will be well placed to seek a traineeship or continue study in the Certificate IV in Screen to further their career within the film, video, TV and screen industry. The course will also prove useful for those unsure of which path in filmmaking they wish to pursue as it provides an overview of all production roles.

Metro Screen and Mobile Unit

Metro Screen has been providing training, equipment hire, and production support for filmmakers for over 25 years. In that time we have trained thousands of people from a wide cross section of the community, providing them with valuable skills and experience to start their careers in film, video, TV and portable content.

Metro Screen's Mobile Unit is dedicated to providing the same training and support to areas outside central Sydney. Our Mobile Unit was set up seven years ago and has trained and worked with over 750 emerging artists and filmmakers in the areas of project development, video production, post-production, multimedia and cinema projection. We are willing to go anywhere and teach anyone who is keen!

To view past projects and films made go to <http://www.metroscreen.org.au/mobile.html>

Metro Screen and Indigenous Communities

Metro Screen has a strong record of working with Indigenous communities and individuals to develop industry based screen skills. Metro Screen has strong Indigenous representation at the governance level. Two members of our ten member board are Indigenous; Frances Peters-Little and Adrian Wills. Frances is a Research Fellow and is the Deputy Director of the Australian Centre for Indigenous History at the Australian National University. Adrian was one of the first participants in Metro Screen's Lester Bostock Mentor Scheme in 2000 and currently works on *Message Stick* at ABC TV. In addition, Lester Bostock, a highly regarded Indigenous screen practitioner, was for many years the President of Metro Screen and is now considered the organisation's principal patron.

Screen studies are generally received well within Indigenous communities. Metro Screen and its tutors are aware of the culturally sensitive issues that are associated with the recording of images and voices and ensure that the appropriate discussions take place as part of the project.

In addition, Metro Screen regularly consults with relevant Indigenous communities, especially when conducting training programs in regional areas. Metro Screen will work with DET to ensure the project gains the support of the appropriate Indigenous community and that relevant consultation takes place.

Earlier this year we partnered with the Wiradjuri Aboriginal Corporation in Condobolin and DET to run a 4-week full time Indigenous Scholarship, similar to the one we are running in Western Sydney. The outcome was fantastic with 4 local films being made and several Indigenous students inspired to take on further study. I have included a copy of the films made by 'Condo Koori Productions' throughout the four week Cert IV accredited course.

For further information please do not hesitate to contact me and I am looking forward to meeting with you and discussing a potential partnership.

Regards,

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