

STRICTLY EMBARGOED UNTIL 9PM AEST, THURSDAY JUNE 2, 2016

ABC & SUNDANCETV COMMISSION SECOND SERIES OF THE GENRE DRAMA - CLEVERMAN

Sydney and New York – June 2, 2016 - ABC and SundanceTV today announced that a second season of **Cleverman**, the epic genre drama, will go into production in Australia later this year.

The recommission announcement comes just as series one launches internationally - in the United States on SundanceTV on Wednesday, June 1 at 10/9c - and in Australia on ABC and ABC iview on Thursday, June 2 at 9.30pm.

The first series of **Cleverman** has also been sold to channels including BBC Three in the UK and was selected to screen at the 2016 Berlinale Film Festival in Berlin and 2016 Series Mania TV Festival in Paris.

Cleverman series two will be a further 6x1 hour episodes produced by Goalpost Pictures Australia and New Zealand's Pukeko Pictures for ABC TV Australia in co-production with SundanceTV and Red Arrow International, with the assistance of Screen Australia, Screen NSW and the New Zealand Screen Production Grant. Production will be based in Sydney.

Red Arrow International will continue to distribute the drama worldwide.

Sally Riley, Head of Scripted Production, ABC TV, says: *"It's rare that you get the green light for a second series of a show before the first season has even gone to air, so for me it's a testament to the quality and audience appeal of **Cleverman**. It is also a testament to the unflinching support the show has from our funding partners Screen Australia and Screen NSW here in Oz, and our international partners Red Arrow and Sundance TV."*

Said Joel Stillerman, president of original programming and development for AMC and SundanceTV: *"The world that Ryan Griffen and the rest of the team behind **Cleverman** have created is a perfect blend of timeless mythology seen through the prism of a near future lens. This is a series that sophisticated genre fans will no doubt fall in love with. We are thrilled to be working with our incredible partners at ABC TV, Goalpost Pictures Australia, Red Arrow International and Pukeko Pictures to continue the West brothers' journey."*

Screen Australia CEO Graeme Mason said: *“**Cleverman** fully deserves the local and international accolades that it has received – it’s engrossing, challenging, entertaining and unique. Following this original concept from inception through to development and now seeing its resonance with audiences both overseas and at home is a proud moment for Screen Australia. Congratulations to all involved.”*

Henrik Pabst, Managing Director of Red Arrow International said: *“**Cleverman** has already generated a huge amount of interest with international broadcasters, and the great news about season two will continue to build on this success. Congratulations to everyone involved in this groundbreaking new drama.”*

Five-time Academy Award®-Winning Weta Workshop (*The Lord of the Rings* and *The Hobbit* motion picture trilogies, *King Kong*, *Avatar*, *The Chronicles of Narnia*, *District 9*, *Elysium* and *Chappie*), through their association with Pukeko Pictures and in collaboration with Jacob Nash (Bangarra Dance Company), will again provide the creature design and physical effects manufacture. Park Road Post Production (*The Hobbit* films) is providing picture, visual effects and sound post production services.

Series one directors Wayne Blair, director of the Australian box office hit *The Sapphires* and upcoming TV movie *Dirty Dancing*, and Leah Purcell (*The Secret Daughter*) will return to direct series two.

Cleverman is based on an original concept by Ryan Griffen. Series two writers are Stuart Page, Jane Allen, Jada Alberts, Justine Gillmer and Ryan Griffen. Producers are Rosemary Blight for Goalpost Pictures, Ryan Griffen, Jane Allen and, for Pukeko Pictures, Sharon Lark, with executive producers Sally Riley, Ben Grant, Kylie du Fresne, Wayne Blair, Angela Littlejohn, Lisa Chatfield, Adam Fratto, Jan David Frouman, Amelie Kienlin and Irena Ignatiew.

Series one of **Cleverman** featured a superb ensemble cast led by Scottish actor Iain Glen (*Game of Thrones*), Golden Globe® nominee Frances O’Connor (*The Missing*), Hunter Page-Lochard (*The Sapphires*) and Rob Collins (*The Lion King*).

#Cleverman

For further information contact:

Bridget Stenhouse, ABC TV Publicity

02 8333 3847 | 0466 546 642 | stenhouse.bridget@abc.net.au