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## ABC iview commissions five new South Australian projects

### Inaugural SAFC/ABC TV LABS 'iview originals' initiative grant recipients announced

The South Australian Film Corporation and ABC TV have funded five South Australian projects through the unique **SAFC/ABC TV LABS iview originals** initiative - with a joint half a million dollar investment.

Each project will showcase the state's writing, filmmaking and production talent. The projects are all now moving forward with further development in anticipation of production in the next six months, with the plan that each will produce their own series of 6 x 5 minute episodes to premiere exclusively on ABC iview.

The selected projects explore a wide range of topics including an autistic Uber driver's search for love; an immigrant adjusting to Australian life; and pop stars overcoming their disability barrier. With three comedies and two documentary productions selected, the projects showcase South Australia's diverse creative abilities.

Impressively, 44 submissions were received from local filmmakers, with the selected projects each providing a first draft script, detailed budget, production schedule, and a short clip to demonstrate the intended tone and style for the project.

The ABC's funding panel decided the field was so strong that it increased its funding commitment to allow for five projects rather than the four proposed at the initiative's launch.

The South Australian Film Corporation's (SAFC) Chief Executive Annabelle Sheehan said she was delighted by the strong response from the local industry.

"The initiative provides a significant opportunity to work closely with the national broadcaster including its Heads of Factual and Comedy divisions," said Ms Sheehan.

"I'm particularly delighted that each project will showcase new SA talent, some of which will get their first ABC credit or have succeeded in gaining funding for the first time.

"The exciting aspect of this initiative is the marriage of established, experienced filmmakers with emerging talents to create innovative projects which will take advantage of the online platform offered by ABC iview.

"The filmmakers will be given the opportunity to not only showcase their work to a national audience, but also to increase their profile and create valuable new networks within the industry."

ABC Director of Television, Richard Finlayson said: “ABC TV is committed to supporting the creation of distinctive and quality content that tells a diverse range of stories from right across Australia.

“Uncovering and developing these original ideas from South Australian creative talent, and being able to share them with a national audience on ABC iview, is very exciting.”

For comedy writer and performer Ivan Aristeguieta, the **SAFC/ABC TV LABS iview originals** funding will take his work from stage to television for the first time, with his team’s project *Lost in Pronunciation*.

Inspired by Ivan’s stand-up material, *Lost in Pronunciation* is based on his experience of coming to Australia from Venezuela as a new migrant and learning that there’s a lot more to Australia’s culture than meets the eye.

Producer Julia de Roeper worked on the project with Ivan after a friend saw his stand-up show and came to her with the idea of turning it into a screen production. The three formed a team to work on the project and bid for funding.

“Receiving an ABC iview commission is a huge endorsement for my comedy,” said Ivan.

“Arriving here less than four years ago, I could have only dreamed of having my work, which has a distinctively Latino flavour, being screened by the national broadcaster.

“Much like stand-up comedy has done, I’m hoping that the ABC iview commission will open up new networks for me as well as bringing my work to the attention of a much wider audience.”

The full list of **SAFC/ABC TV LABS iview originals** initiative grant recipients are:

#### **Goober**

**Producer: Kirsty Stark**

**Writer: Ben Crisp**

**Directors: Simon Williams and Brendon Skinner**

Harry is an Uber driver for three reasons: he really wants to make friends; he really needs the money; and he really can’t hold down any other job. Harry also lurks somewhere on the autism spectrum. That’s why he tries really, really hard to act normally. It’s also why he tries so hard to be helpful, but for some reason, it never seems to work. Nevertheless, Harry is eternally optimistic - especially about his love for Wendy, the girl from his favourite drive-thru restaurant. Harry spends his life trying to turn passengers into friends, and Wendy into his girlfriend.

#### **Pop Ability**

**Writer/Director/Producer: Katrina Lucas**

**Writer: Lauren Drewery**

**Executive Producers: Susan McKinnon and Lauren Drewery**

The Sisters of Invention – the world’s first pop girl group with disabilities – are challenging society’s pre-conceived ideas about what a pop star looks like, what they can say and what they can do. After a successful first album and music video, they want to push their creative limits and establish themselves as professional

singer/songwriters in their own right. But can they break free of the tough reality of living with a disability?

## **Prisoners and Pups**

**Writer/Director/Producer: Shalom Almond**

**Executive Producer: Lauren Drewery**

Prisoners sign up to rehabilitate retired greyhound racing dogs to prepare them for life on the outside. The inmates have just a few weeks to learn how to train, socialise and transform the dogs into loving, family-friendly pets – and then face giving them up for adoption in the outside world. In turn, can the dogs help the inmates rebuild their lives? Can man and animal work together to create a better life for each other?

## **Lost In Pronunciation**

**Producer: Julia de Roeper**

**Writer: Ivan Aristeguieta & Chris McDonald**

As Venezuelan comedian Ivan discovers what it means to be a real 'Aussie', his quest to becoming a permanent resident isn't so much about ticking a box on a form, but learning about the strange and unique customs that we take for granted, and that make us Australian. With the help of two Aussie roommates, a lesbian tradie and hipster vegan, he gets a firsthand insight into modern Australia and in the current climate of being an immigrant, what it takes to being one of the 'good ones' and how lucky we really are.

## **Almost Midnight**

**Producers: Alex Keay and Peta Astbury**

**Writers: Stephen Banham and Aaron Casey**

**Director: Stephen Banham**

*Almost Midnight* is a coming-of-age romantic black comedy about a socially-inept young man named Dave. The tale is told in five minute real-time slices of Dave's life just before the New Year's countdown over six subsequent years. Through this fragmented technique, the audience is able to witness Dave's growth from the bumbling wall-flower to a fully-matured man, comfortable in his own skin. Dave's alcohol fueled misadventures provide many tragicomic cringe moments until he finally learns that you can't hurry love.

The SAFC will shortly commence the next stage of the project's development by taking the winning teams through a workshop and mentoring program. The final productions need to be delivered by the teams later in 2016.

For more information on the South Australian Film Corporation's other funding and production support initiatives visit <http://www.safilm.com.au/funding-and-support/production-support/>

Note: Interviews with the grant recipients listed above are available upon request.

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