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ABC TV appoints new Head of Arts

ABC Director of Television Richard Finlayson announces the appointment of Mandy Chang to the role of Head of Arts, ABC TV

Mandy is an award-winning producer who joined the ABC after a hugely successful stint producing and directing documentaries for major UK broadcasters. In her three years at ABC TV, she has overseen the creation of significant arts programs including *Autopsy on a Dream - the Story of the Sydney Opera House*, *Hannah Gadsby's Oz*, *The Art of Australia*, *Art and Soul II*, *Getting Frank Gehry*, *Comic Book Heroes*, *The Cambodian Space Project*, *Cast from the Storm*, *The Divorce* and *Matilda and Me*.

Prior to her role at the ABC, Mandy built a standing as a multi-award-winning producer/director and writer with work, covering a wide range of factual genres including music, arts, history, observational documentary and biography, for international broadcasters including the BBC, Channel 4, ITV, PBS and Sky Atlantic. Her feature length documentary *The Mona Lisa Curse* for the UK's Channel 4 won the Rose d'Or, Banff World Media Festival Grand Jury Prize, Grierson and Emmy Awards.

Most recently Mandy has worked with the Arts team on the creation of the ABC iview Arts channel and development of a new prime-time series *David Stratton's Story of Australian Cinema*, due to premiere in 2016.

Richard Finlayson said: "The ABC has a steadfast ambition to become the home of Arts in Australia. Mandy's appointment to this role is a clear signal that we intend to commission and produce world-class content across all our platforms and bring the best of the arts to a wide Australian audience.

"Our Arts team has produced some of ABC TV's best work over the past few years and we are fortunate to have great depth throughout the group. I'd particularly like to thank Kath Earle for her outstanding leadership during the past year, particularly her work bringing our innovative iview Arts channel to life."

Mandy Chang said: "Having done what I feel is a rigorous three-year apprenticeship, I'm both excited and honoured to be taking on the Head of Arts role.

"We have accomplished much within ABC Arts over the past few years, delivering innovative, high-quality Arts content for audiences, across all of our platforms. I look forward to leading the Arts team as we continue to find ambitious and exciting ways to celebrate and share the artistic achievements and dynamic cultural life of this country."

Mandy commences in her new role this week.

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