

# Care for Kids

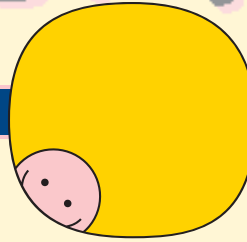
T E L E V I S I O N

N E W S

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE AUSTRALIAN CHILDREN'S TELEVISION FOUNDATION

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## DANCE ACADEMY

*Dance Academy* is an exhilarating new drama series for children and teens, as well as anyone, anywhere, who's ever had a dream.

Through Tara Webster's eyes we enter the National Academy of Dance, where the best in the country train to become dancers. It's a story about a group of ordinary teenagers who are pushing themselves to the limit as they fight to achieve extraordinary things. For Tara, this is also the year she leaves her outback home for a boarding school in Sydney. Amidst friendships and jealousies, triumphs and disappointments, 15 year old Tara comes of age in this high pressured world as she chases her dream.

The television series will be produced by Joanna Werner, under her own production company Werner Film Productions, with the support of the Australian Children's Television Foundation (ACTF), Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC), New South Wales Film and Television Office (NSWFTO), Screen Australia and ZDF Germany.

This is Joanna's first production under her own production company, with Joanna having previously co-produced



Dance Academy - Sam Strauss and Joanna Werner.

*The Elephant Princess* and *H2O: Just Add Water* with Jonathan M. Shiff Productions. Joanna's production is based out of the ACTF's Melbourne Office, and the ACTF's Bernadette O'Mahony is the Executive Producer.

The originating writer on the series is Sam Strauss, whose pilot for *Dance Academy* was nominated for a Monte Miller Australian Writers' Guild Award. Sam has previously written for *H2O: Just Add Water Series 3* and was

involved in the script development for *H2O: Just Add Water Series 2* and *The Elephant Princess*, which she also cast.

Casting is currently taking place around Australia, with more than 1,000 elite level young actor/dancers applying to audition for one of the six lead roles.

*Dance Academy* goes into production in July this year in Sydney.





# 2009 Finalists

On 22 February at The Domain in Sydney's Royal Botanic Gardens, 15 year old Gabriel Colomb won this year's *Trop Jr: The World's Largest Short Film Festival – for Kids! By Kids!*

As the 2009 winner, Gabriel has won a trip to Los Angeles to see the making of a Cartoon Network show, \$3,000 cash from Enhance TV, plus a one day Australian film industry tour comprising of a visit to post production facilities Atlab, The Lab and the set of a major feature in production, courtesy of Kodak.

The runner-up was 15 year old Andrew Mills.

The *Trop Jr* annual competition showcases the 12 best films made by Australia's youngest, most talented filmmakers, all under the age of 15. The finalists were chosen from 140 entries (almost double the entries received last year) and were from four states – South Australia, Victoria, Queensland and New South Wales.

2009 marked the first live broadcast of the festival, with the 12 finalist films screening to national audiences via a simultaneous satellite broadcast in Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide and Canberra.

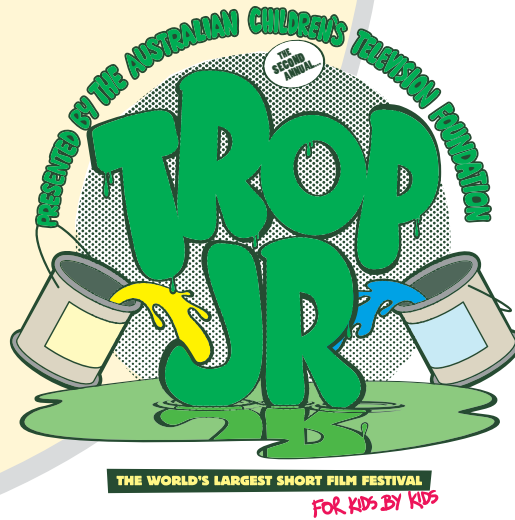
Congratulations to all of this year's *Trop Jr* finalists!



2009 Trop Jr finalists at The Domain in Sydney's Royal Botanic Gardens, in February.



Gabriel Colomb



Andrew Mills

## Dry Water: The Making Of - NSW

Director: Gabriel Colomb **Winner!**

Famous Hollywood director, Winston Kubrike, waxes lyrical about his new masterpiece. When the film fails miserably, however, he is less than complimentary about some of his key crew members.

## The Walnut Tree - SA

Director: Katherine Samarzia

With its knobby bark, jaded symmetry, and generous, shady branches, the walnut tree is a silent sentinel in this story about a grandfather and his grandson.

## Meeting Me - NSW

Director: Ella Sandor

Emily is not happy at her new school, the other kids think she's a weirdo. She wishes there was someone just like her. Imagine her surprise when her wish comes true!

## Trampoline - VIC

Director: Jordie Katz

4 young boys + 1 bouncy trampoline = VERY BIG TROUBLE!!!

## Bindiana Jones - QLD

Director: Silvermay Darlison Raines

When Bindiana is challenged by the school bullies, she decides enough is enough... but does she have what it takes to evade capture?

## The Can - VIC

Directors: Marc Levin & Brian Sack

An ordinary can is drunk and not properly disposed of. He wakes up and makes it his mission to stop the man who threw him away from littering again.

## Hold My Hand - VIC

Directors: Kai Mann-Robertson & Lochlan Broughton

A tale of two lovers, a boy and a girl, who chase each other from place to place, hoping only to hold one another. But as a distance separates them, will they ever have the chance of truly being together?

## 142 Hours - NSW

Director: Jasmin-Johanna Mobbs

An adventure prone single mum and her equally intrepid four kids aged 7-15 take the Trans-Siberian train journey through China, Mongolia and across Russia.

## Big Bad Baz - VIC

Director: Andrew Mills **Runner-up!**

Baz is a big bad bully. He loves rock music, picking on kids and ice-cream. So what is young Sam to do when his only hope, the school counsellor, is Baz's mother?

## For the Love of the Game - VIC

Director: Emmah Richards

Every Saturday hundreds of teenagers play Aussie Rules Football. Many of them face no future in the sport, yet they continue to play anyway.

## Ant Plague - VIC

Director: Anthony Barnhill

Who would have thought that a queen ant with one big appetite could cause such mayhem for two young boys? Watch as the battle between man and ant begins!

## Corporate Blob - VIC

Director: Edward McAndrew

What happens when you are the only colourful thing in a grey world? If there was another colour, would you dare to trust in hope?

# ACTF Project Development Funding

At its meetings on 25 November 2008 and 16 March 2009, the ACTF Board committed funds for the development of the following children's projects:

## The Mango Street Kids

13 x half hour live action drama series  
Fury Productions, QLD  
\$10,000

*Mango Street Kids* is a comedic look at the friendships, lives and adventures of a gang of primary school kids. It is based on the book series *Mango Street Mania* by Margaret Clark.



The Dream Factory

## The Dream Factory

52 x 12 minute animation series  
Sticky Pictures, NSW  
\$14,500

Did you know that every evening the inhabitants of the Dream Factory create dreams to entertain kids, adults, dogs, cats and even goldfish? It's an amazing world nestled in the clouds. Heading the dream team is Tommy Winks. With his over-active imagination he's the perfect dreams writer – combine this with his desire to get more heads on beds and increase the snore count and you have a character on a mission. Unfortunately there are

those such as stunt kid Howie who prefer nightmares over dreams (more action!) as well as the chance to get Tommy into trouble.



Big Green Truck

## Big Green Truck

26 x 8 minute short live action drama series  
Julia de Roeper, SA  
\$20,000

*Big Green Truck* is based on the many best selling books by children's author Pamela Allen and the stage adaptations of her work by Patch Theatre Company in Adelaide entitled *Who Sank the Boat?* and *Mr McGee and the Biting Flea*.

## Go Girl!

26 x half hour live action drama series  
Westside Film and Television, VIC  
\$20,000

*Go Girl!* is based on the book series of the same name. The stories are all set within the school and home lives of 10 year old girls – ordinary kids dealing with growing up and everyday issues.

## New board member



Daryl Karp

The Hon Peter Garrett AM MP, Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts, has appointed a new representative to the ACTF Board.

### Daryl Karp

Daryl Karp is an experienced senior executive and executive producer in broadcast media. She was the Chief

Executive Officer of Film Australia where she positioned the company as an international leader in non-fiction production. She has worked extensively for the Australian Broadcasting Corporation, as Head of Factual Programs from 2001-2004, and Head of Features and Documentaries Department, Head of Science and Features Department and Executive Producer of TV Science.

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