

# CARE FOR KIDS

## Television News

AUSTRALIAN CHILDREN'S  
TELEVISION FOUNDATION

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## Little Lunch

### IN PRODUCTION

Production is well under way on the mockumentary children's comedy series, *Little Lunch*.

*Little Lunch* is a 26 x 15 minute series about what happens at snack time in the primary school playground.

The series for ABC3 is based on the books written by Danny Katz and illustrated by Mitch Vane. It is produced and written by Robyn Butler and Wayne Hope and directed by Wayne Hope,

with Erin White, Ian Reiser and Bob Franklin. Bernadette O'Mahony is an executive producer.

The production company is Gristmill and the series is supported by Screen Australia and Film Victoria. The Australian Children's Television Foundation will distribute the series worldwide.

*Above: Director Wayne Hope works with Faith Seci (Debra-Jo) and Oisin O'Leary (Battie) on set.*



# PAPER PLANES

## TAKES FLIGHT



*Paper Planes*, which opened in cinemas nationally on the 15th of January, has captured the imagination of audiences and critics alike. Following an exceptional marketing campaign by Roadshow Films, it was the number one film watched in Australia on its opening day. Reviews and the audience response to a live action Australian children's film have been glowing and affectionate. The film generated over \$6 million at the box office in its first two weeks.

*Paper Planes* was directed by Robert Connolly, written by Robert Connolly and Steve Worland, and produced by Robert Connolly, Maggie Miles and Liz Kearney. It stars Ed Oxenbould, Sam Worthington, David Wenham and Deborah Mailman.

The Australian Children's Television Foundation is an investor in the film and has educational distribution rights.

**"Can you really make a movie about the art of paper plane flying involving? Exhilarating, even? You bet your trusty paper dart you can...Connolly and co-writer Steve Worland have fashioned a kids' film with plenty of Aussie dry humour and heart, where reality meets the fantastical as the crushing blow of loss dovetails with an all-encompassing wonderment that only the young can truly inhabit...*Paper Planes* is top shelf children's entertainment and perfect holiday fare for the whole family. Locally made live action cinema for whippersnappers is all too rare. More please."**

Jim Mitchell, Empire Magazine Australasia

**"The beauty of *Paper Planes* lies in its simplicity...It's low budget, with none of the special and visual effects our children have come to believe are synonymous with the big screen... Yet this is part of *Paper Planes* charm: the film captures boys and girls imaginations, because - in the words of my 10 year old - 'it's real'... Another drawcard is that *Paper Planes* is a home-grown film, shot in Australia. 'Look, the Opera House!' my son squealed with delight when he recognised the familiar landmark on the big screen. It's a delightful change to expose our kids to a movie with our own cultural references..."**

Elana Benjamin, Essential Kids

**"In one of the great career gear shifts in recent memory, Melbourne director Robert Connolly, who gave us such searing dramas as *The Bank*, *Three Dollars* and *Balibo*, here delivers an adorable family film that is uplifting, life-affirming, warm, winning and, most of all, funny...As far as quality kids films go, *Paper Planes* obeys all the important rules: underscore the humour with drama; pit competition against friendship; be moving but not mawkish; let the kids behave like kids, not like miniature adults."**

Jim Schembri, 3AW

**"Just wanted to let you know that we took our year 4/5 students to see this movie earlier this week...The children LOVED it (and so did the adults)! It was absolutely fantastic to be able to have them experience a quality AUSTRALIAN film. There were so many great messages to take away about resilience, persistence, friendship and learning."**

Amanda, teacher at Whitefriars Primary School, SA



Left to right: Tristan Jones, Keith Sagers and Colin South

# 2015

## AACTA AWARDS

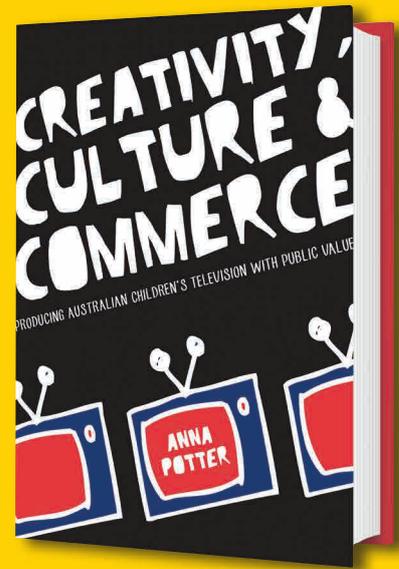
**THE FLAMIN' THONGS WON THE AWARD FOR 'BEST CHILDREN'S TELEVISION SERIES' AT THE 4TH ANNUAL AUSTRALIAN ACADEMY OF CINEMA AND TELEVISION ARTS (AACTA) AWARDS CEREMONY IN SYDNEY ON 27<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY.**

*The Flamin' Thongs* is an animated series produced by Media World Pictures and Red Dog Bites, and screened in Australia on ABC3. The ACTF distributes the series worldwide.

In his acceptance speech at the Awards Ceremony, Colin South said: "We are particularly proud of the fact that *The Flamin' Thongs* is one of the rare children's series that has actually been written, voiced, designed and animated entirely within Australia".

Colin also paid tribute to Screen Australia and Film Victoria, and said that without their investment it would be impossible to fully animate a series in Australia.

*Worst Year of My Life, Again!* (Reflective Pictures/ACTF), *Sam Fox: Extreme Adventures* (SLR Productions) and *Get Ace* (Galaxy Pop) were the other nominees for the Best Children's Television series at the AACTAs.



### **CREATIVITY, CULTURE & COMMERCE: PRODUCING AUSTRALIAN CHILDREN'S TELEVISION WITH PUBLIC VALUE**

A new book by Dr Anna Potter, of the University of the Sunshine Coast, explores the production of children's television drama in Australia from 2001-2014.

Since the late 1970s, Australia has nurtured a creative and resilient children's television production sector with a global reputation for excellence. Providing a systematic analysis of the creative, economic, regulatory, and technological factors that shape the production of contemporary Australian children's television for digital regimes, *Creativity, Culture & Commerce* charts the complex new settlements in children's television that developed from 2001-2014 and describes the challenges inherent in producing culturally specific screen content for global markets. The book features interviews with a wide range of television producers as well as individuals who work for organisations including the ACMA, ACTF and broadcasters. It calls for new public debate around the provision of high quality screen content for children, arguing that the creation of public value must sit at the centre of these discussions.

The book is distributed in Australia by Footprint Books ([www.footprint.com.au](http://www.footprint.com.au) 02 9997 3973). It is available from the Brunswick Street Bookstore (03 9416 1030) and from the Australian Teachers of Media (ATOM) Education Shop ([www.theeducationshop.com.au](http://www.theeducationshop.com.au)).



## AWARD NOMINATIONS

The MY:24 App is a finalist in the "Best Learning App (Smartphone)" category at KidScreen's 2015 iKids Awards, which recognise and celebrate the world's best digital media products and platforms for children.

The MY:24 App is also a finalist in the 2015 AIMIA Awards, where it has been nominated for 'Best Smartphone or Tablet Application' in both the 'Learning and Education' and 'Entertainment and Media' categories. (AIMIA is the Digital Industry Association of Australia.)

MY:24 is a companion app to the factual entertainment television series MY:24 produced by Essential Media.

A number of ACTF supported productions have received nominations in the KidScreen 2015 TV Awards.

*Bushwhacked!* (Mint Pictures) and *WAC (World Animal Championships)* (Blacklab Productions) in the Best Non-Animated or Mixed Production for Kids;

*Nowhere Boys* Series 1 (Matchbox Pictures) for the Best New Series for Teens; and *Dance Academy* Series 3 (Werner Film Productions) for the Best Non-Animated or Mixed Production for Teens.

# 2014 Asian Television Awards



The Asian Television Awards in December was a great night for ACTF supported series.

The second series of *Bushwhacked!* won the Best Children's Program. *Bushwhacked!* is produced by Mint Pictures.

*The Flamin' Thongs* won Best 2D Animation Program.

*Hoopla Doopla!* received a Highly

Commended Award in the Pre-School Program Category. *Hoopla Doopla!* is an ABC/CCTV co-production produced by Content Media and Beyond Productions.

*Nowhere Boys* (Matchbox Pictures), *Worst Year of My Life, Again!* and *Wacky World Beaters* (Active TV) were all nominated in the Best Children's Program category at the Asian Television Awards.

## NOVEMBER BOARD MEETING SCRIPT DEVELOPMENT APPROVALS

At its meeting in November the Board approved \$10,000 development funding for *Mel Marshall's Movies*, a 15 x 3 minute short form series for 8-12 year olds, from Hackett Films (NSW).



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