

## **Documentary Australia Foundation and Screen NSW announce three SheDoc recipients – supporting women in documentary**

Screen NSW, Documentary Australia Foundation and RØDE Microphones today announced three recipients of the first inaugural SheDoc program, a new initiative to support female documentary filmmakers based in NSW.

SheDoc supports travel, research, mentoring, residencies, skills development, seeding new work and the development of impact strategies using documentary.

The inaugural recipients are Justine Moyle, Gemma Quilty and Georgia Plummer Quinn.

Producer/director Justine Moyle will travel to the US to work for up to six weeks with British born and twice Academy Award-nominated documentary director Lucy Walker and her team. While there, Justine will hone her skills as a storyteller and craft a treatment and story structure for her feature documentary film in development, *Tall Poppies*, about young women in skateboarding. Lucy Walker is best known for directing the observational documentaries *Devil's Playground*, *Blindsight*, Oscar nominee *Waste Land*, *Countdown to Zero*, and the HBO feature documentary *The Crash Reel*.

Documentary filmmaker Gemma Quilty from Bankstown is a Western Sydney based graphic designer who has been developing her documentary filmmaking skills for several years working with strong support from the Information Cultural Exchange (ICE) in Parramatta. SheDoc funding will enable Gemma to research and develop new work and to further develop a strong slate of observational documentaries from Western and South Western Sydney. Award-winning observational documentary producer and director, Tom Zubrycki, will also mentor Gemma.

Georgia Quinn, from Sydney, is a young film graduate who is also a social activist, inspired by a range of human rights causes. Georgia has a degree in Anthropology and International Relations from ANU and her first film recently screened at Flickerfest. SheDoc funding will allow Georgia to engage in an intense professional development schedule with Walkley Award winning video journalist and filmmaker Yaara Bou Melhem, who works as a freelance documentary director for SBS, ABC, CNN and Al Jazeera English. The pair plan to continue researching a slate of films and will then travel together internationally to produce a range of documentaries for Al Jazeera's 101 East documentary strand, among several other broadcasters.

*"The SheDoc program aims to make a pivotal intervention in a woman's filmmaking career. By offering funding to facilitate opportunities that are self-directed and of benefit, our intention is to positively intervene in women's filmmaking careers,"* said Mitzi

Goldman, CEO Documentary Australia Foundation.

*“Justine, Gemma and Georgia are each exceptional candidates with thoughtful and detailed strategies on the most effective way to further their career ambitions.”*

Create NSW CEO Michael Brealey said: *“Screen NSW has partnered with the Documentary Australia Foundation on this significant initiative to address the alarming gender divide and lack of diversity in the documentary sector. Justine, Gemma and Georgia are worthy recipients of the SheDoc funding and we will look forward to following their promising careers over the coming years.”*

The most recent Screen NSW figures report that, in the period November 2015 – November 2016, for projects supported by Screen NSW, 37% of documentary and factual directors were women. This is slightly higher than the figure for 2014/15, but there is still a way to go.

The 2017 SheDoc initiative has awarded three grants:

- to encourage new voices;
- to enable skills to be consolidated or developed;
- to assist projects to be kickstarted; and
- to assist in building strategic audience engagement strategies.

The initiative has been funded by private philanthropic support through the Documentary Australia Foundation, funding from Screen NSW and from corporate partner RØDE Microphones.

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