

The Boomerang

July 2007



From the President

Dear Members and Friends,

I'm excited to begin my two-year term as President of Australians in Film and look forward to working with Vice-President, Paula Paizes, whose support I am counting as well as our fabulous board!

A special thanks to outgoing President, Rob Marsala who contributed so much to the growth and reputation of Australians in Film since 2005 and who is, fortunately, staying on the Board as

We have come such a long way since March 2003 when we became Australians in Film. We now have a passionate membership of 500, incredible sponsors and a world-renowned list of distinguished ambassadors, and advisors. We screen at least 15 films a year, host the annual Breakthrough Awards, as well as offer special events throughout the year.

As the incoming President my goals are to support the initiatives promoted by the members, Board of Directors and committees; to expand our membership; increase sponsorship; and develop new programs to become the pre-eminent entertainment organization for expatriates.



We are planning member's events to welcome new members, and thank existing members. The first on August 14 is at the Luxe Hotel, Rodeo Drive for new members and committee volunteers. Additionally we are looking into a panel discussion forum with some of our fascinating and successful Australians in film, in the fall. With these goals in mind, I look forward to your vision and efforts to assist in bringing these to a reality in the upcoming years. It is my privilege to serve as President of Australians in Film. If you have any suggestions or comments, please email me at Susie@sdgpr.com

Warmly,
Susie Dobson

Introducing President Susie Dobson

Susie Dobson, and her husband, director Kevin Dobson, moved from Australia to the United States in 1989, where she took time off from the public relations world to raise two sons.

Forming Susie Dobson Global PR in January 2000, Susie has used her PR skills and expertise with local and international clients in the areas of film, hospitality, beauty and lifestyle.

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She has managed film events, and product launches not only in Los Angeles and the United States, but also around the world. She has also worked for a number of not for profit organizations and for a number of major hotel chains.

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Introducing The Dwights Screening

Australians in Film and Warner Independent Pictures were delighted to present the Los Angeles premiere of *INTRODUCING THE DWIGHTS*, Tuesday June 26 at the Directors Guild of America.

It was a star studded evening with stars and guests mingling after the screening. Stars Brenda Blethyn (two-time Academy Award nominee for *Secrets & Lies* and *Little Voice*), Khan Chittenden, Emma Booth and Richard Wilson; director Cherie Nowlan; producers Tristan Whalley and Rosemary Blight attended.

VIP guests included writer Keith Thompson as well as Aussie actors Sam Worthington; *Mummy 3* star Luke Ford; Kate Beahan; Emma Lung; Mia Wasikowska; Kimberley Joseph and Matt Le Nevez.



(l-r) Emma Booth; Richard Wilson; Brenda Blythen; director Cherie Nowlan; Katie Wall and Khan Chittenden

A special thanks for James Lewis (publicist) and Afnaah Khan (events coordinator) of Warner Independent Pictures who helped put the evening together.



(l-r) Australian Consul-General Innes Willox, Brenda Blethyn, director Cherie Nowlan, producer Rosemary Blight



President and COO, Warner Bros. Alan Horn



(l-r) Emerging Aussie country artist Morgan & Emma Booth

Australians in Film thanks their sponsor Rosemount Estate for the wine served during the evening.

The delicious appetizers were provided by the catering company, It's Our Party.

Photography by Michelle Day and John Ziomek. Additional images are available from our website www.australiansinfilm.org.

Upcoming July Screening No Reservations

Australians in Film and Warner Bros are delighted to present No Reservations on 23 July at the Harmony Gold Theatre.

No Reservations, directed by Scott Hicks, Director/Co-screenwriter whose credits include Shine, is a romantic comedy starring Catherine Zeta-Jones, Aaron Eckhart and Abigail Breslin. Hicks lives in Adelaide and studied drama at Flinders University, Adelaide.

NO RESERVATIONS will start at 7:30 pm. There will be pre-screening drinks from 6:30 pm onwards. After the film there will be a post-screening reception serving complimentary Aussie wine, beer and food.

RSVP to rsvp@australiansinfilm.org Please note that there are limited seats available, so RSVPs are taken on a first come, first served basis.

Photo Gallery - Introducing the Dwights



*(l-r) Kym Wilson,
Jaason Simmons,
Bethany Gaeber,
Kate Beahanz*



*(l-r) Morgan
Evans &
Kimberley
Joseph*



*(l-r) Ausfilm's
Tracey
Montgomery,
DWIGHTS star
Brenda Blethyn*



*(l-r) Introducing the
Dwights cast members:
Richard Wilson, Katie Wall
and Khan Chittenden*

Introducing President Susie Dobson

(continued from page 1).

In 2005, Susie co-produced, with her husband, the independent feature film *The Virgin of Juarez*, which stars Minnie Driver.

'Working with and being married to a director provided me with a greater understanding of what it takes to succeed in the film industry,' said Susie. 'I am keen to use my skills to assist Australians in Film in its integral role in supporting and promoting Australian talent.'

Susie was nominated in May 2006 for the Women Making a Difference Award by the Los Angeles Business Journal. She enjoys imparting her knowledge and understanding of the PR industry as a guest lecturer at Santa Monica College's School of Marketing and USC Annenberg School of Communications and Pepperdine University.

Film and Television News

- **Simon Duggan**, ACS, is the Director of Photography on *Live Free or Die Hard* (2007). Duggan, born in New Zealand, has made Australia his home where his work has been acknowledged with the Film Critics Circle of Australia Award 1998 for his work on the feature film *The Interview*, plus nominations for other industry awards.
- Lifetime Television has announced that Australian **Nadia Tass** will direct *Custody*, the "poignant story of a widowed college professor who risks losing custody of his 13-year-old stepdaughter." *Custody* will star Rob Morrow (*Numbers*) and James Denton (*Desperate Housewives*).
- Aussie thespian **Tim Draxl** will play the lead in the indie feature *The Ivory Trade* opposite Natasha Kinski.
- Aussie director **Peter Cornwell** will make his feature directorial debut with *Lion's Gate A Haunting in Connecticut* to star Virginia Madsen (*Sideways*).
- **SHORTY'S MAC DADDY COMEDY SHOW** - **Shorty Brown** (MTV Australia) is hosting L.A.'s hottest young comics on 1 August at 7.30 pm at Westside Eclectic (in the alleyway behind 3rd street Promenade, bw Arizona & Santa Monica). The Line up is:

Andrew Donnelly (late late show)
Beth Sherman (writer: Leno show)
Correne Christianson (cheap date comedy night)
Scott Krinsky (comedy store)

Amber Tozer (Mntreal comedy fest)
Ali Waller (writer: showbiz show)
Eric Kirschberger (premium blend)

Shelagh Ratner (Comedy Central/VH1 All Access)

Cost is \$7 and be greeted with a free beer!

www.westsideeclectic.com www.shortybrown.com

Ph: 310 562 7363

Membership News

Annual Membership Renewal Time

Our membership drive is currently taking place. There are two options: the \$125 **individual yearly membership**, or the \$200 **Individual plus Guest** option, which allows you one free guest to each screening (subject to availability) instead of paying the \$10/\$15 guest fee.

Existing members who haven't renewed their membership please do so. Please note memberships are non-transferable.

Please visit our website for application form. <http://www.australiansinfilm.org/membership.html>

2007 NEW MEMBER COCKTAIL PARTY

All this year's new members and committee volunteers are invited to attend a welcome drinks party on Tuesday August 14th at 5:30 - 7:30pm at Café Rodeo, 360 Rodeo Drive Beverly Hills in the LUXE HOTEL with the board. Individual invitations to follow.

Don't miss out. If you have been holding off joining, now is the time!

New Members

Jeanie Drynan	Australian, multiple AIF Award nominated Australian actress (Don's Party, Muriel's Wedding)
Mary Marmo	Australian, supporter of Australians in Film
B.J. Miller	US Executive Vice Director of Manifest International

Australians in Film welcomes news about the activities and successes of our members. Please send your information to administrator@australiansinfilm.org

Sponsor news

Gold sponsors



Silver Sponsors



Australian Trade Commission

Bronze Sponsors



Australians in Film

Austrade

Au revoir

Australians in Film says thank you and au revoir to Kylie Hargreaves, Senior Trade Commissioner, Austrade who has been an energetic and loyal supporter while based in Los Angeles starting virtually from the moment she stepped into town. Kylie is moving to take up the position of senior trade commissioner in London. We wish her much success in her new role.

Tourism Australia

Australians in Film also acknowledges the magnificent support from Tourism Australia, and in particular Michael Londregan and Rachael Crowley, who are both moving onto bigger roles in Sydney. Luckily for us they will still be involved in LA activities. Congratulations guys, we'll miss you!

Tourism Queensland

There is still time to register for the ultimate Aussie Escape with Tourism Queensland, Qantas Airways and Pleasant Holidays at www.ultimatequeensland.com.

Photo Gallery - on the Ugly Betty set



(l-r) On the Ugly Betty set with Lynn Barker (film producer) Zoe Willox, Ugly Betty star America Ferrera, Consul General Innes Willox and Ross Berryman (DP, Ugly Betty)

Introducing - Vice-President Paula Paizes

Paula Paizes' career as an entertainment lawyer makes her a very valuable asset in her role of Vice-President and as Chair of the Governance Committee.

Prior to moving to Los Angeles Paula worked for Australian law firm Blake Dawson Waldron and Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber's company, The Really Useful Co. Working as a legal and business advisor to film and media companies in the areas of finance, production and distribution of film, TV and media products Paula recognised the need for an organization such as Australians in Film.

'I wanted to create and encourage professional and social opportunities for Australians trying to make it in the film industry in L.A,' said Paula.

Thus, she became a co-founder of the original organization known as LAAFTA in May 2001.

Paula is looking forward to working closely with the new president Susie Dobson and implementing many of Australians in Film's newly identified goals and strategies for its continued expansion and improvement.

Paula relaxes from the pressures of work by watching her two young sons play rugby, American Football and basketball and of course seeing a good movie. She enjoys entertaining, travel, boot camp, and poker.



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