

Developing A Collaborative National Postgraduate Research Program For 22 Australian Film Schools

South Australian Inaugural SPARC Meeting Report

Meeting held at: 28th June 2012
Flinders University Board Room, Victoria Square Campus
3.30 – 5pm

In attendance: Dr Russell Fewster (UNISA), Dr Josko Petkovic (Murdoch University), Dr Michael Wilmore (University of Adelaide), Dr Alison Wotherspoon (Flinders University),

- There are no universities in South Australia that describe themselves as film schools.
- The three SA universities do offer undergraduate and postgraduate degrees that allow for the production of creative works in a varying range of forms.
- Flinders University and UNISA are members of the Australian Screen Production, Education and Research Association (ASPERA).
- The South Australian SPARC group had a preliminary meeting to meet each other and describe what practice based screen production research occurs in South Australia at a post graduate level.
- Due to participants limited availability the meeting was brief and did not allow time to devise or propose ideas for a research project that will contribute to the overall SPARC research program given that the postgraduate screen production output in South Australia is quite limited.

The meeting

- SPARC overview given by Dr Josko Petkovic Chief Investigator of the project - Developing A Collaborative National Postgraduate Research Program For 22 Australian Film Schools
- The meeting provided an opportunity for the representatives from the 3 South Australian universities to meet for the first time.
- There is not a history of collaboration in the area of screen production between the 3 institutions.
- Each participant from SA briefly described the current state of post-graduate practice-led screen production in his or her universities.
- Flinders is the only university currently offering production based post-graduate degrees in screen and media – Masters of Screen and Media, Master of Creative Arts and PhD – creative work and exegesis. There are two completed screen production based PhDs and 2 more due to submit in 2013.

- Flinders University views practice-led PhDs as an area of potential growth in the future due to strength of BCA Screen Honours program, which has had over 135 students graduate with Honours in the past 17 years.
- Resourcing of PhD projects however problematic.
- University of Adelaide offers a B.Media with a smaller number of screen production topics, and range of other production topics in radio, digital media, web design, and journalism. PhD and Masters by research can accommodate post-graduate practice led creative works but these have normally been in the form of documentary projects with a thesis. (Michael can you confirm /expand?)
- UNISA – does not currently have postgraduates in screen production but envisages it will be an area that will grow in the future. (Russell can you confirm /expand?)
- At this initial meeting it was agreed that there was a need for further meetings to devise a project that suited the SA limited practice-led post-graduate landscape and to find a research initiative which would be meaningful and useful in a South Australian context.
- Flinders University and UNISA are members of the Australian Screen Production, Education and Research Association (ASPERA).
- The opportunities for creative collaboration do exist at an undergraduate level with the Helpmann Academy but there does not currently seem to be a mechanism for similar opportunities at a post-graduate level in screen production.

Dr Alison Wotherspoon
1st April 1, 2013