



Award-winning Porchlight Films to cease operations as partners pursue new opportunities

Wednesday 17 June, 2020 – Award-winning Australian production company **Porchlight Films** will cease operations as its three founding partners **Vincent Sheehan**, **Liz Watts** and **Anita Sheehan** move on to pursue new opportunities individually.

Founded in 1997, the prolific and proudly independent production company leaves behind an immense legacy of bold, cinematic screen content that has advanced the careers of numerous Australian directors, writers and actors, including 15 feature films, five television series, two documentaries and three short films.

Porchlight Films was not only founded on great relationships with creatives but long-standing and deeply valued relationships with other Australian and international production companies, talent agents, international sales agencies, broadcasters, distributors, streaming services and federal and state government screen funding bodies.

Vincent and Liz will continue to work on individual projects currently in development, with Anita, who has been managing director of Porchlight since 2015, leaving to pursue other opportunities after a short break. Productions currently being financed will continue to be produced under the Porchlight banner into 2021 including Kitty Flanagan's comedy series **Entitled** and Nakkiah Lui and Gabe Dowrick's **Preppers**.

"We are indebted to our many brilliant and talented colleagues for their incredible contributions to Porchlight Films' productions. We thank our very committed staff for their dedication and hard work, and we thank our many partners locally and internationally for their faith in the Porchlight brand. You have all contributed to Porchlight's success and longevity. We have loved working together for the past 23 years and remain enormously proud of our catalogue of work. As we all move into a new phase in our careers, individually, we hope to continue to work with you all long into the future."

With a focus on finding and fostering unique talent with strong voices and introducing them to the world, Porchlight Films' award-winning film & TV legacy includes:

- Acclaimed Rake creator Peter Duncan's new political satire, **Operation Buffalo** (2020), currently airing on the ABC starring **Ewen Leslie**, **Jessica de Gouw** and **James Cromwell**.
- **Justin Kurzel's** acclaimed interpretation **True History of the Kelly Gang** (2020) starring **George MacKay**, **Essie Davis**, **Charlie Hunnam**, **Nicholas Hoult**, **Charlie Hunnam** and **Russell Crowe**.
- **The King** (2019), **David Michôd's** epic feature for Netflix starring **Timothée Chalamet**, **Sean Harris**, **Joel Edgerton**, written by **David Michôd** and **Joel Edgerton**, which premiered at Venice Film Festival 2019.
- **Garth Davis' Mary Magdalene** (2018) starring **Joaquin Phoenix** and **Rooney Mara** for Universal/Focus Pictures.
- The eerie psychological thriller **The Kettering Incident** (2016) created by **Vicki Madden** and **Vincent Sheehan** and starring **Elizabeth Debicki** and **Matthew Le Nevez** which won the AACTA Award for Best Telefeature or Mini Series, the Silver Logie for Best Mini Series and the Special Jury Prize at Series Mania Festival.
- **Michôd's** outback dystopian drama **The Rover** (2014), which screened in Official Selection at Cannes Film Festival in 2013, starring **Guy Pearce** and **Robert Pattinson**.
- The feature film **Jasper Jones** (2017) directed by **Rachel Perkins** and based on the award-winning best seller by **Craig Silvey**, starring **Toni Collette**, **Levi Miller**, **Angourie Rice** and **Hugo Weaving**.
- Indigenous playwright **Nakkiah Lui's** web comedy **Kiki and Kitty** (2017), and her upcoming TV series **Preppers** (2021) co-written with **Gabe Dowrick**.



- Michôd's directorial debut, AFI-winning, Oscar-nominated ***Animal Kingdom*** (2010), which won the World Cinema Jury Prize at Sundance Film Festival in 2010 and spawned five seasons of the nihilistic family drama of the same name for US cable station TNT.
- Two seasons of AFI Best Comedy series for the ABC, ***Laid*** (2011-2) with creators **Marieke Hardy** and **Kirsty Fisher** starring **Alison Bell** and **Celia Pacquola**.
- **Tony Krawitz**' first two feature films ***Jewboy*** (2005), which premiered in Un Certain Regard at Cannes Film Festival in 2005, and ***Dead Europe*** (2012) starring **Ewen Leslie**, **Marton Csokas** and **Kodi Smit-McPhee**.
- **Black Widow** director **Cate Shortland**'s second feature film, ***Lore*** (2012), a German-British-Australian historical drama based on Rachel Seiffert's lauded novel *The Dark Room*, which screened at Toronto Film Festival.
- **Willem Dafoe** starrer ***The Hunter*** (2011), which screened at Toronto Film Festival and SXSW, from first-time feature director **Daniel Nettheim**, who went on to direct episodes of critically acclaimed and beloved British TV shows *Line of Duty*, *Broadchurch* and *Doctor Who*.
- ***The Home Song Stories*** (2007), **Tony Ayres**' biographical feature film starring **Joan Chen** and his debut feature film, ***Walking on Water*** (2002) both of which premiered at the Berlin International Film Festival.
- Rowan Woods' ***Little Fish*** (2005), starring **Cate Blanchett** and **Hugo Weaving**, which was nominated for 13 AFI Awards including five wins.
- **David Caesar**'s ***Mullet*** (2001) starring **Ben Mendelsohn** and **Susie Porter**.

Said long-time collaborator **David Michôd**: "I feel incredibly lucky to have been taken into the Porchlight family. Liz, Vincent and Anita are brave and smart and tasteful, but most of all they are good eggs. *Animal Kingdom* would not have happened without them and so, of course, I will be forever grateful to them for everything that has happened for me since."

The three partners will retain ownership of **Jetty Distribution**, which will continue to manage the ongoing rights in Porchlight's catalogue.

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