

# NT SCREEN SUMMIT 2025

📅 20-21 September | 📍 CDU Darwin Waterfront

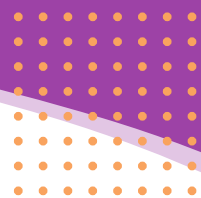


SCAN FOR  
SPEAKER BIOS

## Saturday 20 September

- 09:00 - 09:10** **Opening Remarks by Director of Screen Territory, Jennie Hughes**  
Screen Territory, Director Jennie Hughes provides an overview of the current state and future directions of the NT screen industry.
- 09:10 - 09:20** **Address by CEO, Department of Tourism and Hospitality Suzana Bishop**  
Suzana Bishop provides an overview of the relationship between tourism the NT screen sector.
- 09:20 - 09:35** **SPA Member and Industry Update**  
Join Screen Producers Australia (SPA), for a key member and industry update. In this session, Matt will provide insights on critical industry issues, including content quotas, the new Location Offset, and Above the Line Caps. Stay informed on the latest developments impacting producers and the wider screen sector.
- 09:35 - 10:45** **Beyond the Lens: How Screen and Tourism Amplify Screen Productions**  
This session will explore how Screen Territory and Tourism NT work together to maximize the impact of screen productions—whether through location marketing, strategic partnerships, or leveraging the Territory's appeal as a film-friendly destination. Hear firsthand how this collaboration has supported productions like *Territory*, *Kangaroo* and *Top End Bub*, by creating opportunities for audience amplification and tourism awareness.
- 10:45 - 11:45** **Deadloch Unlocked: Storytelling, Comedy, and the NT Landscape**  
The second season of *Deadloch* takes the blend of crime, comedy, and drama to a whole new level. In this case study, we'll explore how the production team managed to build on the success of the first season while introducing fresh elements to keep audiences hooked. From the evolution of storylines and characters to the logistical challenges of filming in the unique Northern Territory landscape, this session will delve into the key decisions that shaped *Deadloch* Season 2.
- 11:45 - 12:30** ☉ Lunch break
- 12:35 - 14:00** **Bringing Kangaroo to Life: From Sanctuary to Screen**  
Join us for an in-depth exploration of *Kangaroo*, the heart-warming family comedy by Cultivator Films, produced in association with Brindle Films and Bunya Productions, distributed by STUDIOCANAL. Inspired by the life of Chris 'Brolga' Barns, founder of the Kangaroo Sanctuary in Alice Springs. This session delves into the creative and logistical journey of bringing this story to the screen from conception to completion, and the collaborative efforts required to produce a film that resonates with national and international audiences.
- 14:00 - 14:15** ☉ Break
- 14:15 - 15:30** **Bold, Cheeky, Unforgettable: Crafting *Thou Shalt Not Steal***  
Take an exclusive behind-the-scenes look at *Thou Shalt Not Steal*, the groundbreaking Stan Original series produced by Since 1788 Productions and Ludo Studios. Directed by acclaimed Territorian filmmaker Dylan River, this series has captivated audiences with its compelling storytelling, cheeky sense of humour and rich connection to Central Australia.
- 15:30 - 17:00** **The Big Screen Impact: Theatrical Documentaries in the Modern Era**  
Theatrical documentaries have an unparalleled ability to captivate audiences and create unforgettable communal viewing experiences. From striking visuals to universal themes and a strong marketing hook, these films blur the line between art and commerce while redefining what audiences expect from non-fiction storytelling. But what does it take to craft a documentary that not only commands the big screen but also translates to an increasing audience on streaming services?

# Sunday 21 September



09:30 Day 2 arrivals

09:30 – 10:30 **Love, Laughs, and Location: The Making of *Top End Bub***

Step behind the scenes of *Top End Bub*, the highly anticipated follow-up to *Top End Wedding*, and the latest Amazon Original series to hit the Top End. With its signature mix of heart, humour, and breathtaking Territory landscapes, *Top End Bub* is set to delight audiences all over again. Join key creatives as they unpack the journey from big screen to small, revealing the laughs, challenges, and unforgettable moments that brought this next chapter to life.

10:30-11:30 **Behind the Reality: Producing Australia's Biggest Non-Scripted Hits**

Go behind the scenes with the creative forces shaping Australia's most compelling non-scripted series. This panel aims to reveal what it takes to develop, pitch, and produce hit factual and reality content in an increasingly competitive market. From premium docuseries to high-stakes reality formats, this session explores the evolving audience appetite for unscripted storytelling, the creative and ethical decisions behind the camera, and how Australian non-scripted content is making waves at home and on the global stage.

11:30 – 11:45 ☹ Break

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11:45 – 13:00 **The Power of Ideas: Building Stories from Scratch**

Every great story starts with an idea—but how do you turn that initial spark into a compelling, impactful narrative? Together, leading creatives to explore the different pathways of storytelling, from original concepts to adaptations and stories inspired by real events. What unique challenges and freedoms come with each approach? Through insights into brainstorming techniques, creative problem-solving, and the balance between fact and fiction, this discussion will uncover how ideas are transformed into unforgettable screen stories.

13:00 – 13:45 ☹ Lunch break

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13:45 – 14:45 **From Country to Screen : The Making of *Journey Home* - Presented by AFTRS**

David Gulpilil's impact on Australian cinema is immeasurable. *Journey Home*, David Gulpilil, the deeply moving documentary from Savage Films NT and Brindle Films captures the final chapter of his extraordinary story and his Bāpurru, or funeral ceremony, on his Homeland of Gupulul in Arnhem Land. David's return to Yolŋu Country is a farewell steeped in culture, ceremony, and legacy.

14.45 - 15:00 ☹ Break

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15:00 – 16:15 **Playing to Win: The Business of Indie Games**

Discover the secrets to building a sustainable career in independent game development in Australia. This session dives into the challenges, opportunities, and strategies for success in the indie gaming scene. From securing funding to navigating distribution and marketing, our panel of industry experts will share insights on how to thrive as an independent creator. Whether you're an emerging developer or a seasoned veteran, you'll gain valuable knowledge to grow your business, connect with audiences, and position your games for success in a competitive global market.

16:15 – 17:00 **The Producers**

Some of Australia's leading screen producers will unpack the challenges, trends, and future of producing in the Australian market. From securing finance to navigating distribution and marketing, the panel will offer valuable insights into thriving in an ever-evolving landscape of screen content, release platforms, and funding pathways. The discussion will highlight practical approaches to building resilience in an unpredictable market. From the rise of global streaming platforms to the importance of local stories, our experts will cover what's shaping the future of Australian screen production.

17:30 🍷 End of summit drinks at Flicks on Mitchell Street

19:00 🎬 Closing night screening