

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****CANBERRA SCREEN WRITER ENJOYS GLOBAL OPPORTUNITY**

Screen Canberra in partnership with Fontaram Productions and Easy Tiger Productions is pleased to announce the development of 'MONSOON SEASON' a TV Series which was born out of Screen Canberra's bespoke program Accelerator TV POD.

Accelerator TV POD is a 5-month program that brings the market to the forefront of the television development process, offering participants a structured and supportive environment to develop smart, original, high-concept projects that can connect with global audiences.

Claudia Cooney, a local early-career writer, has been supported by Screen Canberra since the project's inception. Through TV POD, Claudia pitched and this led to a partnership with Easy Tiger Productions (DOCTOR DOCTOR, RAKE, SUNSHINE) and Fontaram Productions (FAMILY BUSINESS and ROCHES NOIR) – both pre-eminent producers in their respective territories of Australia and France, who brought a highly experienced writing and creative producer team into the workshops to realise the drama of Claudia's project to its full potential.

Claudia Cooney said; "The Accelerator POD allowed me to develop the skills and knowledge to craft my idea in a supportive environment and established the relationship with Easy Tiger so I could pitch it."

Through Screen Canberra, Accelerator TV Pod and Easy Tiger, the project received matched funding which supported the development of the series bible. Claudia has since gone on to receive further funding as part of the 2019 ACT Screen Arts Fund in partnership with the ACT Government. This funding saw her work in Paris with a French show runner and writer to develop the series further. The plan is for the production to be a French/Australian coproduction with the high-value, returnable series to shoot in Canberra, Europe and other parts of Australia.

Rachael Turk, Easy Tiger said "In the global marketplace, getting new talent up with original ideas is a challenge but we were struck by the authenticity of Claudia's project. It's a unique perspective on a colourful world that only she and her wealth of lived experience can bring. She has been finessing it for years – with Screen Canberra's support – and both Easy Tiger and Fontaram were committed to surrounding her with the highly experienced writers and producers it required to take it to the next level. It is now an even more powerful and resonant show."

"The Screen Canberra Accelerator TV POD Program has indeed accelerated a local Canberran early career writer. There was market interest at that very early stage in the development process and Claudia has had an amazing experienced being heavily involved in the development of her project on an international scale," said Screen Canberra CEO Monica Penders. "We will be starting the next round of Accelerator TV POD in November 2019 and registrations open this week."

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**Background**

Screen Canberra’s mission is to grow the ACT screen industry and to be a significant contributor to the economic and cultural success of the region. Governed by a professional industry and skills-based board, Screen Canberra supports the growth of the local screen industry and provides assistance to visiting productions. For more information on Screen Canberra visit us at: [www.screencanberra.com.au](http://www.screencanberra.com.au)