

Film Inquiry Submission No. ...b5.....

NIDA

SUBMISSION TO THE INQUIRY INTO THE FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES FOR AUSTRALIA'S FILM, ANIMATION, SPECIAL EFFECTS, AND ELECTRONIC GAME INDUSTRIES

Terms Of Reference E: The Skills Required To Facilitate Future Growth In These Industries And The Capacity Of The Education And Training System To Meet These Demands

BACKGROUND

The National Institute of Dramatic Art was established in 1958 under the auspices of the University of New South Wales and in association with the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC). It is an independent company incorporated under the Corporations Law.

NIDA has a close association with professional theatre companies in all states, including Opera Australia, the Australian Broadcasting Corporation, the Australian Film, Television and Radio School and the University of New South Wales.

NIDA is the Australian national theatre school, a centre of excellence in training for theatre, film and television. The main objective of NIDA is to train actors, stage managers, designers, craft technicians, directors, voice and movement teachers and playwrights.

The aim of all NIDA courses is to supply the arts entertainment industry with highly trained, imaginative and innovative artists, technicians and craftspersons.

The specific aim of the Theatre Crafts Course is to provide vocational training for people who wish to work in theatre, film and television as craft technicians specialising in costume or properties or scenery. The course fulfils this aim through classwork, project work and direct practical experience in the NIDA Play Production Program. Students spend a significant period of time on secondment to an arts entertainment company related to their area of specialisation.

Animation

In 2002 NIDA Theatre Crafts graduates worked extensively with Freerange Animation on the Leunig Animations shown on SBS. The Leunig Animations were commissioned for exhibition at the Sydney Museum during the Sydney Festival. Unfortunately due to lack of potential employment in Australia these successful graduates are now living and working in Canada.

Film and Television

In recent years the Film and Television industry has experienced rapid structural and technological change and the international profile of and demand for Australian products has risen rapidly.

The growth of Australian film, animation and special effects industries and the high standard of production in Australia and overseas has meant that graduates with a high level of skill and experience are constantly required. The training for practitioners in these sectors of the entertainment industry is very specific.

To accommodate the demands of the industry and ensure the provision of increased film and television training, NIDA has completed construction of a new state of the art film and television studio with post production facilities, equipped for teaching acting for the camera, design for film and TV, film technology and special effects imaging.

The film and television studio ensures the provision of increased film and Television training through the delivery of NIDA's full time vocational education and short term accredited courses, enabling students to acquire extensive film and television techniques required to effectively to contribute as industry practitioners.

Multimedia

In 1999, NIDA completed stagestruck an interactive CD designed to introduce school students to the creative process of directing a stage production of an opera or ballet. Stagestruck won a British Academy as well as awards for the best interactive CD in Europe, the USA, France and Australia

NDA is taking active steps to develop skills in multi-media with the objective of creating specialised courses in this new area of performing arts