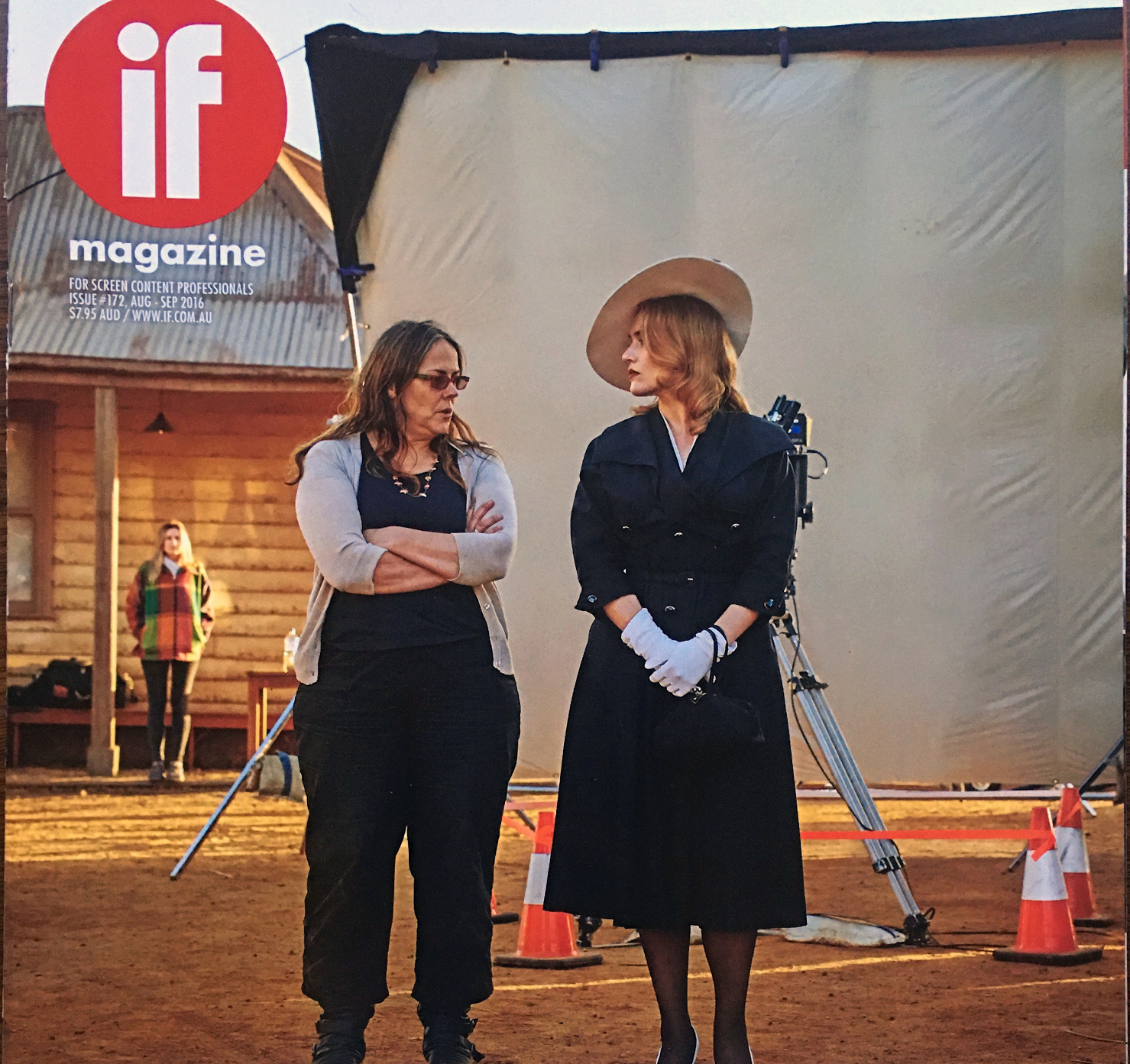




magazine

FOR SCREEN CONTENT PROFESSIONALS  
ISSUE #172, AUG - SEP 2016  
\$7.95 AUD / WWW.IF.COM.AU



# GENDER MATTERS

WELCOME TO IF'S FIRST EVER SCREEN WOMEN'S ISSUE.

**INSIDE:**

**FILM:** Australia's best female DPs chat to IF about their careers.

**ON LOCATION:** We visit the Bondi set of SBS crime drama *Deep Water*, starring Yael Stone and Noah Taylor.

**FEATURE:** IF pays a visit to Entertainment One Australia's Sydney HQ.

**TV:** Foxtel Head of Drama Penny Win takes IF through her slate.

**EDUCATION:** AFTRS CEO Neil Peplow previews AFTRS' five-year plan.

ISSN 1447-2252



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## EDUCATION FEATURE

# FILM STUDENTS BENEFIT FROM FESTIVAL EXPOSURE

Harry Windsor speaks to SAE Australia GM Lee Aitken about the mentoring partnerships giving SAE Creative Media Institute students an entrée into industry.

**LAUNCHING A FILM** career sometimes requires a mixture of skill, networking and sheer luck.

Film students at SAE Creative Media Institute are having the networking part done for them, with SAE recently formalising partnerships with two of Australia's largest music festivals.

According to SAE Australia's General Manager Lee Aitken, the Institute's agreements with the Byron Bay Bluesfest and Splendour in the Grass means that students can couple industry-relevant learning with real-world experience.

"SAE audio and film students get hands-on experience at these festivals, putting their skills to the test under the supervision of event production professionals such as

stage managers, sound technicians, publicity and event staff," says Aitken.

"These student-learning opportunities characterise the SAE ethos of marrying hands-on learning with exposure to industry relevant projects; they ensure students graduate with portfolios that wow prospective employers not only with technical abilities but exposure to real working environments."

SAE's two-year degrees include an internship program that help students transition from study to the workplace.

"Our students interning at these events provides the ideal opportunity for students to hone and showcase their skills surrounded by Industry professionals offering some great



networking that can lead to opportunities later in their careers."

According to Aitken, SAE focuses on developing exceptional student experience when seeking its Industry partners.

"In a recent government survey of more than 145,000 students, SAE ranked higher in Learner Engagement and Student Support than the top five universities in Australia, and student support was our second strongest area of performance."

Russell Burton, Film Department Coordinator at SAE Byron Bay, described SAE's operations at Bluesfest as "an exceptionally challenging but rewarding environment" for students.

"In 2016, we had the biggest contingent of student interns, with 28 students working on stages in audio and film roles, providing roving direct broadcast media on the Periscope App and lending a hand in the new ABC Radio National

interview tent," Russell said.

"I started working with Bluesfest in 2004 – the same year I started with SAE. For the past 12 years, our film and audio students have been given the chance to get involved at this amazing event, putting their skills to the test. Most students who work on Bluesfest complete about 80 hours work for their internship."

"Over the five days and nights of the festival, film students work alongside a national AV company, producing multi-camera live coverage of the event and shooting content for the web based Bluesfest TV."

SAE students also attended Splendour in the Grass in Byron.

"The chance to get involved in that backstage environment was something most students will remember as a highlight to their first venture into their careers."

SAE's Open Day is Saturday, August 6 in Brisbane, Byron Bay, Sydney, Melbourne and Perth. **📍**

# WOMEN OF SYDNEY FILM SCHOOL TAKE ON HOLLYWOOD

Sydney Film School's emphasis on practical skills is bearing fruit, with recent graduates already seeing their names up in lights.

**SYDNEY FILM SCHOOL** prides itself on its hands-on approach to learning, and credits the success of so many of its recent students – the likes of *Gayby Baby's* Maya Newell and *The Last Impresario's* Gracie Otto – to the school's brass-tacks approach to film education.

Agnes Baginska, who graduated from Sydney Film School in 2009, won a full scholarship to the David Lynch MA film program and was mentored by Lynch in his studio in Los Angeles. She credits her alma mater with helping her understand the value of experiences and gender roles in the industry.

"Sydney Film School taught me that every experience counts, whether it's positive or negative," Baginska says.

"I learnt straight away that the film industry is predominately a

boys club and you need to work twice as hard and be completely persistent to make it happen for you as a female filmmaker."

Gracie Otto, who graduated from Sydney Film School in 2007, is currently in Los Angeles working with Nick Broomfield on his next documentary.

Otto says the experience she gained working on projects at Sydney Film School has helped her overall confidence in any situation.

2006 Sydney Film School alumni Kate Hickey moved to New York City to start her career in editing and has since moved to Los Angeles where she has just finished directing and editing the documentary feature *Roller Dreams* and is currently working as an editor on the final season of HBO's *Girls*.

When asked how Sydney Film School has helped her get to where she is now, Hickey explains that the school helped her pinpoint her passion in filmmaking.

"I learnt a love and passion for the art of editing. I love how we were taught on a Steenbeck. I felt connected to a whole history of filmmakers before me and I gained more of an appreciation for the origins of the art form."

A more recent grad is Melanie Jayne, the winner of the 2016 Village Roadshow Entertainment Group and Animal Logic Entertainment Internship, who is currently living in Los Angeles after finishing up at Sydney Film School last year.

"The Advanced Diploma program gave me a really holistic view of the filmmaking process," says Jayne. "While the work I have been doing at my internship is in development, the SFS course has helped me to have such a well-rounded knowledge of the filmmaking process."

Newell, who graduated from SFS in 2006, has had her latest project, *Wurdurd/*

*Kids*, selected for Good Pitch<sup>2</sup> in November at the Sydney Opera House. The observational documentary is about four indigenous children in Kakadu, and the innovative education project which aims to break a cycle of inequality and poverty in the region.

Newell's last feature, *Gayby Baby*, was selected for Good Pitch<sup>2</sup> in 2014 and went on to enjoy a theatrical run at home and abroad, in addition to being broadcast on both SBS and the ABC. **📍**

