

The FAR SOUTH FILM Story So Far...



Far South Film Inc is an association formed in 2019 of filmmakers and content creators based in **regional South East NSW**. We are a grassroots industry organisation creating networking and learning opportunities for our filmmaking community. We foster, promote and advocate for regional screen projects through skill- and resource sharing in a region that is sparsely populated and a long way from city film schools and resources. The **Far South Film Festival** is our major annual project.

In August 2019 Far South Film held a **Networking and Expert Q&A** session in Batemans Bay with award winning filmmakers **Jess Milne** and **Nick Bolton** from Wollongong. This event was kindly supported with funding from *Eurobodalla Shire Council*.

Leading up to the Festival was a **screening of Australian-made feature *Ride Like A Girl* with three short films made in the South East NSW region - *Dairy Queen, Mirror and Me* and *The Shallows*** - in December 2019 at The **Picture Show Man Cinema in Merimbula**. It clearly demonstrated the appetite of audiences for **Australian and regional content**. Cr Cathy Griff from Bega Valley Shire Council spoke in support of regional film making and a Q&A was held with youth participants from the locally made films.

In Seniors Week 2020, Far South Film held a free two-day **Film making workshop for Seniors** in Merimbula. Recent bushfires clearly influenced much of the work created and we encouraged participants to enter their films into the Festival. The group are keen to continue learning the collaborative film making process. This workshop was made possible by the *Bega Valley Shire Council Community Grants Program*.

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Thanks to the the Regional Arts *Country Area Support Program*, Far South Film were able to offer two online **Screen Acting** courses with sought-after Sydney acting tutor **Sam Haft** during the April 2020 school holidays. Youth participants aged from 8 to 19 Zoomed in from the **Bega Valley**, **Eurobodalla** and **Snowy Monaro** shires.

These workshops continue the tradition of South East Arts' *YoofTube* Youth Film Festival and Footprint Theatre's annual Film Schools of the past.

Further **networking events** were held online in April 2020 via Zoom, connecting filmmakers, composers, writers and actors across **southeast NSW** and **northeastern Victoria**. The feedback collated via such events as well as surveys will assist Far South Film to develop a **4 year Screen Industry Strategy** for the South East region, thanks to an agreement signed with South East Arts (NSW) Inc.

As part of our ongoing mission of **developing professional and emerging filmmakers** in the South East region, funding from the *Regional Arts Fund* is supporting **public and professional development workshops** in advanced film making techniques. The first of these in June 2020 was an online **colour grading** workshop with Brisbane's Warren Eagles.

Creative roundtables are a great way for filmmakers to **test ideas**, get **feedback** and **find potential crew** or collaborators for their projects. A group of filmmakers including writers, producers, directors, cinematographers and editors met in **Bermagui** in October 2019, with some joining via Zoom.

Our region covers 24,869 square kilometres (ten times the area of the ACT) with a population of only 93,400.

Maintaining connections between filmmakers, either in person or online, is vital to the success of filmmaking in our region.

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We continue to raise the profile of our members with major industry players, encouraging them to **employ local filmmakers** on projects for tourism and other regional businesses as well as collaborations with community organisations. A team from Far South Film recently filmed *The Oudmaker of Narooma* in collaboration with **One Book One Community** and screened a preview of the documentary at the Tathra Hotel in February 2020.

Upcoming projects by members include a post-bushfire tourism project, a film focusing on people living with a disability, completion of a number of documentaries and several short dramas including an adaptation of an award-winning play.



**FAR
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