



EXCLUSIVE ABC TV "Q&A" RETURNS FOR SCREEN FOREVER 2017

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Screen Producers Australia, in association with ABC Television, is delighted to announce an exclusive presentation of ABC's flagship program, **Q&A**, on Tuesday 14 November at this year's **SCREEN FOREVER**, Australia's premier screen industry conference, held at Crown Conference Centre in Melbourne.

This year's Q&A will be the third in succession at SCREEN FOREVER and again brings together an eclectic panel of international and domestic guests from the contemporary media and political landscape to discuss the key issues facing the Australian film and television industry.

Hosted by ABC journalist **Virginia Trioli**, the session's democratic format includes audience questions and interaction, a live Twitter feed, and is specially designed for the SCREEN FOREVER audience of Australia's top producers, distributors, financiers and media executives, as well as international guests. The program is not for broadcast.

Confirmed panellists for Q&A include: **Bob Campbell** (Executive Chairman, Screentime), **Georgina Downer** (Adjunct Fellow, Institute of Public Affairs), **Fiona Egger** (Co-Founder and CEO, Every Cloud Productions), **Peter Khalil** (Federal Member for Wills), **Pallavi Sharda** (Actor) and **Rose Troshe** (Producer).

The ABC's Q&A is well known as a discussion program that gets Australians 'thinking, talking, and debating' the big issues. The specially selected panel share their views and opinions in response to questions from the audience, made up exclusively of SCREEN FOREVER delegates.

"We are again privileged and grateful to have one of Australia's foremost discussion programs opening SCREEN FOREVER. As with the past two conferences, Q&A will get SCREEN FOREVER delegates 'thinking, talking and debating' about the most important topics affecting our industry." said **Matthew Deaner**, CEO, Screen Producers Australia.

Deaner added, "This year's panel is ideally suited to explore issues such as diversity, international trends and experiences, the role of government, audience fragmentation and trends, new market entrants and financing models. I expect the session to again set the agenda for SCREEN FOREVER."

Q&A will open the **SCREEN FOREVER** conference at Crown Conference Centre, Melbourne on Tuesday 14 November at 1.30pm. Delegates registered for **SCREEN FOREVER** are invited to submit their questions for consideration by the producers of Q&A, care of james.cheatley@screenproducers.org.au, by **5pm AEST on Friday 10 November**.

[Q&A AT SCREEN FOREVER](#) is presented by ABC Television

[SCREEN FOREVER](#)

14-16 November 2017, Crown Conference Centre, Melbourne Australia

Register at www.screenforever.org.au

Virginia Trioli is a **two-time Walkley Award winning journalist**, with a formidable reputation as a **television anchor, radio presenter, writer and commentator**. Virginia has written for the Age newspaper and the Bulletin magazine, hosted the Drive Program on 774 ABC Melbourne and the Morning Program on 702 ABC Sydney. She has also hosted ABC TV's premiere news and current affairs programs, 7.30 and Lateline, Artscape, Sunday Arts, and Q and A. Virginia currently anchors ABC News Breakfast on ABC 1 and ABC News 24.

Bob Campbell is **Executive Chairman, Screentime**. Bob has spent his career working in the media, holding senior management positions with Network TEN, Bob Campbell was appointed Managing Director and CEO of the Seven Network in 1987, a position he held until 1995. Bob formed Screentime in 1996 with Des Monaghan, the television production company is a member of the Banijay Group and has operations in Australia and New Zealand. With productions in all genres including telemovies, miniseries, long form drama, comedy, serial drama, reality, factual and documentary, Screentime also produces formats which are owned by the group in over 40 countries.

Georgina Downer is an **Adjunct Fellow at the Institute of Public Affairs**. Georgina has extensive experience in foreign policy, most recently as the Director of Asialink Diplomacy at the University of Melbourne. Previously, she was a diplomat at the Australian Embassy in Tokyo, Japan, and occupied various positions at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in Canberra. Georgina has also worked as a corporate lawyer at Minter Ellison Lawyers in Melbourne, and as a researcher for US Senator Chuck Hagel and the Baroness Howe of Idlicote in the House of Lords, UK. Georgina regularly appears on television, radio and in print as a commentator on Australian politics and foreign policy. She is a member of the Victorian Liberal Party's Administrative Committee and a director of the Indigenous arts project, The Torch.

Fiona Egger is **Co-Founder and CEO of Every Cloud Productions and** is one of Australia's most versatile producers. With Deb Cox, Fiona formed Every Cloud Productions in 2009 with an aim to produce high-quality television based on intelligent writing, exceptional character development and nuanced performances. Fiona has since been responsible for producing breakthrough series *Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries*, executive producing Indigenous drama *The Gods of Wheat Street*, and was executive producer and producer on Every Cloud's latest series for ABC, *Newton's Law*.

Peter Khalil is the **Federal Member for Wills** and was elected as the member for Wills at the 2016 federal election. Immediately prior to his election to parliament, Peter was most the Executive Director of Corporate Affairs, Strategy and Communications at SBS. He also consulted on strategic and corporate advisory, government relations and communications. Peter has worked as a foreign policy and national security adviser and as a senior international adviser to the Federal Government. He has been a consultant for Hawker Britton and a non-resident Adjunct Associate Professor at the Centre for International Security Studies at Sydney University.



Pallavi Sharda is an Australian-Indian film and theatre actress and one of Bollywood's leading ladies. In 2017 Pallavi made her Australian television drama debut, playing the central role of Tanya Kalchuri in the acclaimed ABC medical series PULSE alongside Claire Van der Boom, Andrea Demetriades, Owen Teale and Liam McIntyre. Prior to that she appeared in the Oscar nominated film LION opposite Dev Patel and Rooney Mara and starred in celebrated Indian director Srijit Mukherji's feature BEGUM JAAN.

Rose Troche made her first short film during her graduate studies entitled, Let's Go Back to My Apartment and Have Sex, in 1990. After making several short films, she created the lesbian cult classic of the 90's, Go Fish, which earned a major distribution deal at the Sundance Film festival. Rose's next film was Bedrooms and Hallways, a film that explored the romantic complexities of a group of gay, straight, and undecided characters. In 2001, after the release of The Safety of Objects, Troche began to dabble in the world of television. She directed a second season episode of HBO'S award winning series, "Six Feet Under". Her next project was the direction of an episode of the television series, "Touching Evil". After becoming accustomed with the television/cable world, Troche began to collaborate with Ilene Chaiken, the creator of the Showtime series, "The L Word", the first lesbian centred program offered on a major television network. This led to directing episodes of *Ugly Betty* and *Law & Order*. Most recently, Troche has turned her passion for unsettling the status quo to the narrative story telling opportunities of VR. Her new pioneering VR works include *Perspective Chapter 2: The Misdemeanor* and *If Not Love*, which featured as part of the Sundance New Frontier program and exemplifies the new kind of storytelling that is only possible in VR.