

MEDIA RELEASE

Monday 12 October 2009

Victorian screen industry celebrates leaders

Producer Philippa Campey and games development studio Firemint honoured with awards

Film Victoria presented two industry leaders, producer **Philippa Campey** and games development studio **Firemint**, with the Greg Tepper and Tim Richards Awards respectively at a special industry celebration for the 2008/09 year.

Each year at Film Victoria recognises an individual or team of people who have made an outstanding achievement in the industry through the Greg Tepper Award. That award went to Victorian producer **Philippa Campey**, whose tremendous talent, boundless energy and passion for her craft has resulted in some amazing work over the last year.

Her independent production company Film Camp, started only five years ago, has produced a trove of highly-regarded and innovative documentaries, including **BASTARDY**, the feature length documentary about one of Australia's forgotten treasures, Jack Charles. In November last year, she was awarded the Screen Producers' Association of Australia's Independent Documentary Producer of the Year.

The Tim Richards Award for 2009 went to local games development studio **Firemint**, whose pioneering spirit has made it a respected independent that easily competes on the world stage. The studio created and self published one of the world's most popular iPhone downloadable games, **FLIGHT CONTROL**. This internationally popular game even had actress Demi Moore and Australian Director Robert Luketic 'twittering' each other about its addictiveness.

In another coup, Firemint has recently been signed by a major publisher for its prototype **MEGA MONSTER**, a 3D game for mobile phones where the player is in charge of a monstrous pet.

This year for the first time, Film Victoria also awarded Tim Richards honourable mention to Passion Pictures for their project **SCARYGIRL** - a downloadable game that follows the adventures of a one-handed pirate girl and her guardian, who just happens to be a giant octopus. This game was downloaded 100,000 times in its first day and was nominated for this year's inaugural AFI Screen Content Innovation Award.

On presenting the awards Sandra Sdraulig, Film Victoria CEO, reflected on another outstanding year for the Victorian screen industry. "After a record year for production in 2007-08, a further \$172 million was spent in Victoria in the last financial year, creating over 5,000 full-time job opportunities. That's an amazing result, particularly considering the difficult economic times and the real challenges our industry faces when trying to finance productions."

"The success of the industry, and talented practitioners like Philippa Campey and the teams at Firemint and Passion Pictures, is a testament to the strength that resides in the Victorian screen industry," she continued.

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About Tim Richards

For more than 10 years Tim Richards was an industry advocate for mobile content and game development, particularly for the Victorian sector. He was an industry leader with a special interest in new media law. Tim's passion to see the local industry grow showed in his continued effort to run public events such as *Dissecta* and his commitment to the Games Development Association of Australia.

About Greg Tepper

Greg Tepper was a well respected and highly regarded industry practitioner. He was widely praised for his contribution to Victorian film culture and for his tireless efforts to support filmmakers. For more than 13 years Greg worked at Film Victoria playing a vital role in the ongoing development of the local industry.