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Make 'em laugh: Create NSW, ABC iview and I.C.E. call for Western Sydney comedy shorts

Create NSW, ABC iview and the Western Sydney based creative hub Information & Cultural Exchange (I.C.E.) have partnered to search for up to three teams of filmmakers to share \$225,000 in funding for a series of comedy shorts.

Together, the three organisations are calling for pitches that will deliver high-impact, youth-focused and digital-first Australian comedy projects across a mix of sub-genres (comedy/drama, sketch etc), that will premiere on ABC iview and showcase talent and stories from NSW.

Up to three NSW-based teams will receive up to \$75,000 per project, with projects needing to span four to six five-minute episodes each, deliverable by the end of December 2018. Projects must appeal to a youth audience, from teams that include at least one key creative from Western Sydney.

Once selected, teams will have access to the professional development services of representatives from Create NSW and I.C.E., plus an ABC Commissioning Editor to guide the projects and build relationships with the broadcaster.

Details of a briefing and Q&A session for interested potential applicants to be held at I.C.E. will be announced via Create NSW shortly.

Create NSW Director for Sector Investment Sophia Zachariou said, "This is a great opportunity to up-skill Western Sydney creatives with production experience and create new industry relationships through our partners at ABC, I.C.E. and beyond.

"NSW is home to an excellent pool of screen talent and we're committed to building this capacity further, this time with a focus on increasing the opportunities and exposure for Western Sydney screen practitioners and on expanding the diversity of the people and projects we fund."

ABC Head of Comedy Rick Kalowski added, "The ABC prides itself on reflecting Australian diversity through innovative storytelling, and this I.C.E. initiative is an exciting means to uncover more of these stories for Australian audiences. I am extremely excited to work alongside our partners to develop these projects with Western Sydney creatives."

I.C.E. Executive Director John Kirkman said, "Western Sydney is a rich source of stories that reflect the reality of a cultural diverse contemporary Australia. I.C.E. is pleased to support this initiative and promote the new stories and storytellers from our region."

Applications are now open and close midnight Sunday 17 June 2018. To apply, please read the full eligibility guidelines and criteria online at: <http://screen.nsw.gov.au/funding/production-support/digital-first-comedy-intiative>.

Create NSW is committed to supporting increased participation in the industry of people from underrepresented groups including people from regional NSW and Western Sydney, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, people with disability, young people, women and LGBTIQI people. Priority will be given to teams including people from under-represented groups.

MEDIA CONTACT Kristoff Clark **E** kristoff.clark@create.nsw.gov.au **P** 02 8289 6408