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Subject: AFC provides no Sanctuary for Australian performers - Media Release

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Media Release

AFC provides no *Sanctuary* for Australian performers

"A performer with the head of a goat, spruiking for the Trotskyist party on a pro-abortion platform, it's all just part of the future of film encouraged by the Australian Film Commission (AFC)", says Simon Whipp, National Director, Media, Entertainment and Arts Alliance.

"With Australian box office at historic lows of 1.3% of total film box office, it seems that the AFC has some pretty strange ideas on how to build box office," he said.

The Australian Film Commission has indicated it intends to fund *Sanctuary* a 'so-called' re-mixable film intended for theatrical release, DVD and the Internet. It is being produced under a creative commons licence, which means that the film can be modified, adapted and reused by third parties without performer or producer consent or payment.

"This means that a film that starts out with a performer in a specific role could end up spliced and diced into a pornographic scenario a million miles away from what the performer agreed to or would feel comfortable with", Whipp said.

"You've got to wonder if this is how Government money should be used in promoting the local film industry," he said.

"By funding this film the AFC will be party to the exploitation of performers. In other jurisdictions performers as well as writers and directors are protected from this exploitation by moral rights laws."

In Australia all performers have to rely upon is the agreement negotiated by their union, and the producer of this film has said it will not use the union's standard Feature Film Agreement, which would prevent this exploitation.

"The US Screen Actors Guild (SAG) have endorsed our stance on *Sanctuary* and stated that their members will not sign to any productions, either on film, tape or digital, made under a creative commons licence," Whipp said.

"The AFC have got it wrong on this production and it is Australian performers who will suffer the consequences of their decision," Whipp predicted.

"The local film industry is precious to all Australians, and the federal Government should have a long hard think about whether it wants to fund our home grown performers digitally

manipulated to sound like aliens with heads of farmyard geese, talking about sex with donkeys as they perform terrorist acts on the Sydney CBD.”

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