



Press Release

Wednesday 6 March

Max Bourke selected for Unscripted International Producer Placement

BBC Studios Australia and the Australian International Documentary Conference (AIDC) tonight announced that Max Bourke is the recipient of the inaugural Unscripted International Producer Placement (UIPP), in partnership with Create NSW.

Following an intensive judging process which took place at the AIDC with five shortlisted NSW-based documentary makers going before a panel of representatives from BBC Studios Australia, BBC Studios UK, the AIDC and Create NSW, Max was named at the AIDC closing drinks.

Max will receive funding of \$50,000 to support his placement in the BBC Studios' documentary department for up to six months. This award-winning team produces internationally-renowned documentaries, including those from Louis Theroux, *Blue Planet II*, *Life and Death Row* and *Stargazing Live*, and is headed up by Lisa Opie, MD of Factual, who conducted a masterclass at the AIDC this year.

Max is a Sydney-based writer, director and producer with over 30 hours of Australian documentary credits. His work covers the big issues and enduring themes of our time, including mental health and climate change. Recent projects include *Man Up* (2016, AACTA-nominated), *Go Back To Where You Came From Live* (2018) and *I Can Change Your Mind About Climate* (2012, AACTA-nominated).

BBC Studios ANZ Director of Production, Kylie Washington, said: 'We were blown away by the level of documentary talent in NSW, but in the end Max's project proposal and passion for his craft had the edge. We're excited that Max will be joining our factual team in the UK and BBC Studios looks forward to an ongoing relationship with the vibrant documentaries industry in Australia.'

AIDC CEO & Conference Director, Alice Burgin, said: 'The Unscripted International Producer Placement is an extraordinary opportunity by BBC Studios and Create NSW, and we are absolutely thrilled that AIDC was able to play a part in its delivery.'

Max Bourke said: 'I'm incredibly honoured to be selected for the inaugural Unscripted International Producer Placement initiative and want to thank BBC Studios, Create NSW and AIDC for this amazing opportunity. Working with Lisa Opie and her team at BBC Studios offers a unique chance to broaden my producing experience with one of the world's leading production companies. Ultimately I intend to bring the exposure to international markets and producing connections back home with me, not only to fuel the next stage of my documentary career, but to enrich the Australian documentary industry.'

Five shortlisted applicants, who each submitted one in-development documentary project with international appeal as part of their application, attended the AIDC with their travel and accommodation paid and discounted entry to the conference.



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For more information, please contact: Laura Dumbrell, Head of Communications, BBC Studios ANZ on 0412 456604, or Chris Harms, Communications & Marketing Manager, on 0438 052201.

NOTES TO EDITORS

BBC Studios Australia launched its production arm in September 2018, as part of the BBC's global production arm. BBC Studios has nine international production bases and formats businesses outside of the UK – Australia, the USA, France and India as well as joint ventures and partners in Germany, South Africa, the Nordics, Brazil and Benelux. Jon Penn is the Managing Director of BBC Studios in Australia and New Zealand, overseeing distribution, production and all ancillary business; Kylie Washington heads up the new production arm.

The Australian International Documentary Conference (AIDC) is the premier event for Australia's documentary and factual screen industry. Held annually at the Australian Centre for the Moving Image (ACMI) in Melbourne and featuring an international marketplace, forum and screening program, AIDC is an essential gathering of non-fiction screen storytellers and decision makers from Australia, the Asia-Pacific and beyond. Registration for AIDC 2019 is currently open at www.aidc.com.au.

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