

25 June 2009

Lynne Williams
Director/Chief Executive Officer
National Institute of Dramatic Art
215 Anzac Parade
Kensington NSW 2033
Australia

by email: co/o Rita Mastrantone, Executive Officer to the Director/CEO
rita.mastrantone@nida.edu.au

Dear Ms Williams,

Re: AFTRS NIDA Collaboration – *One More Day*

We, the undersigned, are writing to you to express our concerns over the National Institute of Dramatic Arts' (NIDA's) collaboration with the Australian Film Television and Radio School (AFTRS).

It is our understanding that the full time final year students will be performing in a project titled *One More Day*. We support this project moving forward as a benefit to all involved and appreciate the need to view this production differently with respect to the terms and conditions for working on this production. For example, we understand that, as agreed by the students, there will be no up-front payment.

Our concern with this project however is centred upon the potential sale of the end product to a commercial Australian television network.

The repercussions of a potential sale to a network (and its substantial precedential value) are not insignificant. A sale to an Australian commercial network of a production where no student cast or crew members have been paid will directly take paid employment away from both NIDA graduate and non-graduate performers and other crew who would ordinarily work on a production that would be used by the network to acquit their obligations under the Australian Content Standard.

The Australian commercial networks always have a keen interest in reducing their spend on Australian content and this is particularly the case with the current financial crisis. The purchase of this film would more than likely be at a rate cheaper than one produced under typical commercial terms. The purchase of a feature film will also provide them with maximum points under the drama sub-quota of the Australian Content Standard. This makes the purchase of this production at a level cheaper than they would normally have to pay for another feature film a much more attractive proposition.

This is an untenable situation that could have a significant negative impact upon



ABN: 84 054 775 598

FEDERAL OFFICE
245 Chalmers St
Redfern NSW 2016

POSTAL ADDRESS
PO Box 723
Strawberry Hills
NSW 2012 Australia
Tel: [61] 2 9333 0999
Fax: [61] 2 9333 0933

Email:
mail@alliance.org.au

Alliance Inquiry Desk
1300 656512

Alliance Membership
Centre 1300 656513

Website:
www.alliance.org.au

Federal President:
Patricia Amphlett

Federal Secretary:
Christopher Warren

future employment for performers be they former NIDA students or current and future NIDA students.

With this in mind, we seek an undertaking from you that such a sale will not take place.

Yours faithfully

Former NIDA students and Members of the Media, Entertainment and Arts Alliance