

I am a Layout Artist at Flying Bark productions.

I want to state how crucial it is to have a strong local Film and TV industry. With no local projects being encouraged by broadcasters, the local industry will die. With no local industry, there will be a huge loss in revenue and an entire industry unemployed instantly. Professionals will flee overseas.

With no local industry, there will be no local projects, and therefore, children growing up with no Australian identity or loyalty.

**DON'T ALLOW THIS PROPOSAL TO GO THROUGH!
IT WILL HAVE MASSIVE REPERCUSSIONS TO OUR ECONOMY AND
CULTURE.**

Gabriel Robinson
Junior Layout Artist

Survey – Inquiry into the Australian Film and Television Industry

Flying Bark Productions

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Gabriel Robinson

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- How many years have you been in the animation or live action children's entertainment industries?

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- Please share your career experience. In addition to Flying Bark, please list your other employers (eg Animal Logic, Illoura etc)

Animal Logic, Flying Bark, Illoura, Great Big Events, The Monkeys, BMF, OneCentre, Archibald Williams, Fox Sports.

- What is it about the Australian film and television industry that inspires you?

I grew up watching 'Pricilla Queen of the Desert', and to me that epitomises the Australian spirit. It's funny, course, outlandish, but above all, courageously honest. The film embraces what is is, and couldn't care less about it's audience appeal, just like other successes like 'Mad Max', 'Muriel's Wedding' and 'Strictly Ballroom'. I believe we need more films that demonstrate Australian bravery, to be what it wants to be, not what it thinks the world would like.

- Why is the health and vibrancy of the industry important to you?

A healthy industry means more jobs for people like me (which is nice), but also allows more local projects to be made. More local projects (ie Films and TV) mean a stronger sense of National Identity, as we can create Australian-centric programs for domestic, and in particular, overseas audiences.

- What do you love about your job and the Industry?

I love creating stories and guiding audiences down an emotional path. I feel very lucky to work in an industry of dreamers who build (and live in) their own realities. Escapism.

- When considering your profession, please list some of the things which you find challenging?

Lack of creative control, as funding and story often come from foreign countries such as US, Germany or China. Australia is primarily involved with production, not developing stories of our own. Having this control is key to a prosperous industry.

- Please share your thoughts on the nature of contracts that are typical in this industry.

Short-term contracts and Freelance are typical for the industry, as it is cheaper for the production companies. As continuous ongoing projects are rare, it is equally rare to be retained by a production company full-time.

- Have you ever left Australia for work opportunities?

Yes, I left to Vancouver, Canada to work on Feature Films (Elysium) and with commercial production companies. I also worked for agencies in the UK and China.

- If you answered 'yes' for the last question, please outline the reasons you travelled abroad for work. IE: higher salaries, lack of local opportunities, longer contracts on offer, to experience living in a new country, etc.

Higher salaries, far more opportunities, living in a new country is always exciting! Projects were also more ambitious and had more creative freedom.

- Do you have children?

Not to my knowledge

- If you have children, what percentage of entertainment consumed is local content?

I have a little sister (14) who watches digital and broadcast content, mostly YouTube, ABCME and iView.

- Please detail why you believe local content is important or relevant to you/your children as consumers of entertainment?

It is relevant in establishing a child's national identity. If all content came from an international source (especially the US), children grow up with no sense of national identity. This is all the more reason focus on making ambitious local content with it's own style, and then aim it towards international audiences, not just local.