



FEDERAL AND STATE GOVERNMENT INCENTIVES

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT INCENTIVES

<http://arts.gov.au/film-tv/australian-screen-production-incentive>

 **Location Offset** - a 16.5 per cent rebate which supports the production of large-budget (>AUD\$15m) film and television projects shot in Australia (Ministry for the Arts).

 **PDV Offset** - a 30 per cent rebate which supports work on post, digital and visual effects production (PDV) in Australia, regardless of where a project is shot (Ministry for the Arts). MINIMUM SPEND AUD \$500,000.

 **Producer offset** - The Producer Offset is a rebate on the production expenditure incurred in Australia when making Australian film and TV. Not all expenditure qualifies, but the offset can be worth up to 20% of Australian spend in the case of television and documentary, and up to 40% in the case of film. Official Australia-China co-productions can access the producer offset when certain criteria are met.

 **Producer offset loans** - Export Finance and Insurance Corporation (EFIC), the Australian Government's export credit agency, can help finance eligible Australian film, documentary and television productions that have international distribution agreements with its Producer Offset loan.

 **Enterprise Industry program** - Encouraging ambitious and innovative development projects and/or innovative business initiatives, including the development of new models for financing, producing and distributing Australian screen content. Enterprise Industry will offer approximately \$2 million in 2015/16 to deliver diverse initiatives costing between \$100,000 and \$400,000 over one to two years.

QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT INCENTIVES

<http://screenqueensland.com.au/production>

Production Investment

Screen Queensland funds screen stories from Queensland or interstate practitioners with significant Queensland elements and benefit. Funding may be used for production and post-production of factual and fiction screen projects and is in the form of either a grant or recoupable investment.

- **The Revolving Film Financing Fund** provides secured loans to cash-flow the Producer Offset, distribution guarantees and pre-sales with a 7 per cent loan fee charged on RFFF loans making it an extremely competitive option.
- **Development and Production Investment Grant** - available where a Queensland producer or writer is attached.
- Support is also available for **co-productions** capturing the benefits of working with Queensland producers including the advantage of both state and federal incentives (including Screen Australia's 40% federal offset.)

Production Incentives

A production attraction program has been established to provide significant economic, industry up-skilling and cultural benefits to Queensland. National and International Producers are eligible with AU\$3.5 million minimum Queensland Production Expenditure and generally must not have received Production Investment

- **Production Attraction Incentive** - a grant provided to producers based on the anticipated spend for projects with a minimum spend of AUD\$3.5m Queensland Production Expenditure (QPE), the engagement of bona fide Queensland practitioners, and/or the creation of infrastructure in Queensland
- **Location and Scouting Assistance** -provided for projects considering Queensland locations prior to commencement of pre-production or during financing. The extent of support is based on the anticipated QPE.
- **State Payroll Tax Rebate** - available for those productions that have paid the 4.75% Queensland Payroll Tax and with a spend greater than AUD\$3.5 million QPE. Note, payroll tax is only paid on spend >AUD\$1.1m.
- **Regional Statewide Incentive Grants** - a negotiable grant up to AUD\$100,000 based on regional spend and employment opportunities.
- **Post, Digital and Visual Effects Attraction Grant** - a negotiable grant capped at AUD\$250,000 for a minimum spend of AUD\$500,000 in Queensland on post-production elements.



LOCATION: TOWNSVILLE

UNBEATABLE CLIMATE

Townsville gets less rain than other areas in the tropics with over 300 days of sunshine each year.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
MAX °C	31.4	31.1	30.7	29.6	27.6	25.6	25.1	26.0	27.8	29.4	30.7	31.5
MIN °C	24.3	24.1	22.9	20.6	17.6	14.6	13.7	14.7	17.4	20.7	22.9	24.1
DAYS OF RAIN	11.8	12.8	9.6	5.4	3.7	2.4	1.9	1.5	1.3	2.9	4.9	7.3

CONNECTED

As one of the first sites for the roll out of the national broadband high speed network, Townsville is at the forefront of communications technology and connectivity with the world.

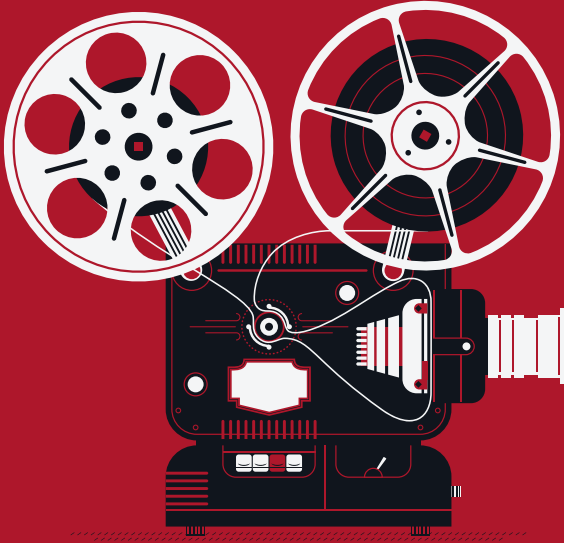
With over 22,000 airline seats available weekly it has never been more convenient to access the region. Direct flights from Brisbane, Cairns, Darwin, Denpasar (Indonesia), Sydney, Melbourne and regional Queensland centres).

ECONOMY

Townsville offers a diverse, resilient and prosperous economic base that thrives on growth. Townsville is the key economic hub for Northern Australia with one of the fastest growing economies in Australia.

For further information contact the Economic Development Unit, Townsville City Council:

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E investtownsville@townsville.qld.gov.au



FILM
TIME

OPPORTUNITY FOR TOWNSVILLE,
NORTH QUEENSLAND



FILM OPPORTUNITIES: TOWNSVILLE, NORTH QUEENSLAND

Recognised as the second capital of the state of Queensland and the largest city in Northern Australia, Townsville is poised for significant growth. With both natural and built environments within close proximity to the city, Townsville's established and emerging film and television industry represents a significant opportunity. The growth in the Chinese film industry raises the potential to collaborate on development, production, script writing, filming, financing and other forms of collaboration on Australia-Chinese screen productions.

Townsville has a long and endearing relationship of collaboration with China. In the early years many Chinese people were involved in opening up the horticultural and retail sectors throughout the city. Today we celebrate our relationship with our Sister Cities of Changshu and Foshan. Our mutual aim is to create friendship and understanding between our peoples and to lay a foundation of goodwill and exchange for future generations. This has increased through formal arrangements such as the sister port agreement between the Ports of Townsville and Qinzhou and cultural exchanges between sculptures, artists, musicians, and photographers.

WHY FILM IN TOWNSVILLE, NORTH QUEENSLAND

-  LOCATION AND LIFESTYLE
-  INDUSTRY PARTICIPANTS WITH BROAD KNOWLEDGE AND DEEP SKILLS
-  LOWER FILM PRODUCTION COSTS
-  300 DAYS OF SUNSHINE EVERY YEAR
-  DIVERSE LOCATIONS WITHIN EASY ACCESS
-  FILM FRIENDLY LOCAL AND STATE GOVERNMENTS

INSPIRING LOCATIONS

Uniquely diverse and accessible locations in an affordable and film-friendly place. Within an hour's drive from the city centre is the World Heritage Great Barrier Reef, monsoonal rainforests, mountain ranges, wetlands, red outback, agricultural lands, colonial/heritage buildings, and modern day street scapes. Additional landscapes such as moon scapes, prehistoric jungle, swamp lands, and rock quarries are located within a 2 - 3 hour drive. Our studios and locations can double for cities as diverse as Los Angeles, Rio De Janeiro or Honolulu.

SCREEN CREDITS

Accessible locations combined with the use of affordable local studios and experienced crew has attracted past large-scale productions. Townsville, North Queensland has played a starring role in many movies and television shows including Nim's Island, Beneath Hill 60, and Departure Lounge. Sir David Attenborough's new three-part documentary series on the Great Barrier Reef was filmed on location in 2015.

AUSTRALIAN TALENT

Our region is home to dedicated and skilled talent both in front of the camera and behind. We have capable and experienced creators, performers and extras as well as a workforce and crew encompassing all areas of film production from script writing through to post-production, choreographers, costume designers, gaffers and wranglers, sound recording engineers, set decorators, producers and many more.

WORLD CLASS EQUIPMENT & FACILITIES

As a major regional centre Townsville is well-equipped with 3D equipment, drones, generators, lighting and sound equipment, cranes and even portable toilets. We can build your sets, design and deliver costumes and provide hair and makeup services. We offer a full suite of post-production services including visual effects, editing, post-production sound and facilities.

EDUCATION & TRAINING FACILITES

James Cook University features courses in the Creative Industries and New Media Arts. There are onsite studios and production facilities, which can be used by external parties. Central Queensland University delivers creative, performing and visual arts programs. Townsville Creative Technologies College focuses on training for the productive use of digital technologies specific to the animation, game programming, media design, audio and vision capture and editing sectors. Griffith Film School, Brisbane is the state's industry specific education facility producing future filmmakers, animators and game designers.

SUPPORT SERVICES

We have all the support services a production crew needs from car rentals to aircraft charters, couriers and catering, domestic services, computer services, graphic designers, a place to base your production from including venues, studios and office rentals.



FALLING LEAVES* SOME THINGS WERE DESTINED TO REMAIN BURIED

Inspired by true events. An Official China-Australia Feature Film Co-Production
Townsville Northern Queensland Australia and Jiangsu Province, People's Republic of China

THE CONCEPT

A modern Chinese teenager, Zhanyu, is taught an important lesson in life and love when she accompanies Lee, her aging Grandfather to Australia; seeking the remains of his Grand uncle Tommy Ah Toy, who travelled to the harsh mining fields in Northern Queensland Australia in the nineteenth century in the pursuit of gold and prosperity to send home to the family.

SYNOPSIS

Nineteen year old Chinese calligraphy student Zhanyu and Lee, her 79 year old Grandfather are nothing alike. Lee is a retired water engineer from Changshu – a man of family, tradition and honour, Zhanyu is a modern young cosmopolitan Chinese woman. Lee remembers his own Grandfather telling him about the mythical Chinese water dragon and how it represents prosperity. Lee's Grandfather tells the story of his much younger brother Tommy Ah Toy who went to Australia as a baby with their parents in the 1850's and never returned. Lee's Grandfather gives Lee his precious jade water dragon chopstick holder and tells him that he also gave Tommy a matching one – and that when the two holders are placed side by side they neatly fit together – signifying the unity of the family.

Remembering how Tommy always sent gold home for the family but never made it home himself, Lee is empowered by Tommy's self-sacrifice and sense of duty... and despite his own failing health, Lee asks Zhanyu to accompany him as his interpreter to Australia, to help discover the fate of Tommy and bring his remains home to the family burial site overlooking the lake in Changshu.

Their journey takes them to Northern Queensland where times are tough with severe drought and low cattle and mineral prices are pushing many people to the wall. Farmers are worried about foreign buyers snapping up their property for a fraction of its normal value. For many Australians – like Bill, the owner of Cradle Creek Cattle Station, the sight of a wealthy Chinese businessman exploring his property raises suspicion and fear.

Zhanyu and a young Aboriginal/Chinese jackaroo from Cradle Creek Station, Freddy, connect and gain each other's attention through a rogue character, masquerading as a metal detector operator, seeking possible gold associated with Tommy's remains, but their encounters help Bill understand the real purpose of Lee's visit. Following information from the Cooktown Museum, Lee, Zhanyu and Freddy follow the trail of Tommy – discovering the fact that he had survived entrenched racism, violence and murder on the goldfields, but soon gave up digging for gold. He establishes a market garden called Lone Star with his Aboriginal wife (Topsy) and they prosper.

Searching over Bill's cattle station, Lee and Zhanyu also find the now ruins of his market garden, dam and ingenious aqueduct. But their quest remains so-close-but-so-far-away... “Tommy could be buried anywhere in this overgrown and desolate place!” Lee confides in Zhanyu that he is torn. He always thought Tommy was alone – but he had made this country his home. “Even if we find him, would it be right to return him to a country he barely knew?”

It's now 1922 in Tommy's life... and Topsy is distraught at the government's forced removal of their son to the remote mission at Yarrabah. Tommy writes to the Home Office to protest, but to no avail. Not long after, Topsy dies.

Having buried Topsy in his garden, Tommy's own health begins to deteriorate. Tommy is now the last Chinese in the Palmer diggings. Following a series of mishaps Tommy dies – and is buried in Cooktown Cemetery. His friends recover his bones and place them in a family urn with the water dragon discovered at Tommy's campsite and bury it next to Topsy's grave.

Lee is forced to return to China due to ill-health. Freddy and Zhanyu uncover some Chinese bronze coins and shards of pottery which Zhanyu recognises as the type produced in Changshu, finally leading them to Topsy's fallen gravestone engraved with her tribal yellow honey bee totem. A high-drama kidnapping attempt is then made of Zhanyu by the sinister detector operator to exchange her life for Tommy's gold which he think has also been discovered. When this fails, Zhanyu and Freddy locate the buried remains of Tommy in a sealed urn beside his beloved Topsy. The urn is wrapped in an intricately designed burial shroud which also contains a jade water dragon chopstick holder. Knowing that Tommy is in his right home, they respectfully rebury his urn and re-straighten Topsy's headstone, taking the jade chopstick holder and shroud with them. Zhanyu and Freddy embrace – both knowing their destinies are now forever entwined.

Back in Changshu, Zhanyu hands her ailing grandfather the little package in the shroud. He unfolds the shroud to discover Tommy's matching jade water dragon chopstick holder. Lee brings the two heirlooms together - and then divides them again - giving one to both Zhanyu and Freddy as an early wedding present. As Lee quietly and contentedly drifts into his final sleep, the family connection has been renewed with the promise of a new dynasty between China and Australia.



FALLING LEAVES* SOME THINGS WERE DESTINED TO REMAIN BURIED

Inspired by true events. An Official China-Australia Feature Film Co-Production
Townsville Northern Queensland Australia and Jiangsu Province, People's Republic of China



EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Ross Thomas is an Australian Executive Producer and Writer based in Townsville Northern Queensland. His EP CV includes “Beneath Hill 60” (2010, dir. Jeremy Sims) and “Departure Lounge – A Bollywood Affair” (2014, dir Paul Andersen). Ross graduated as a Mining Engineering from the University of Queensland in 1973 and worked in Zambia, South Africa and Australia, before joining the Queensland Government as a Mines Inspector for nearly two decades.



EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Terry Delphin is a film industry/ business representative who has a 33 year underground mining background and has worked as a general superintendent on some of the biggest mining contracts in Australia. After 33 years, Terry decided it was time for a change. He is currently in the film business and has represented films made in Townsville at the Berlin, Cannes, Montreal, Toronto and Australian film festivals and is working on a number of films being made in Townsville.



PRODUCER

Mark Overett is an Australian writer/ producer and founding partner of New Holland Pictures Two. His films include 6 x AFI Award winning drama “Unfinished Sky” (2007, dir. Peter Duncan); NZ comedy “Separation City” (2009, dir Paul Middleditch), Danish/ Australian action/comedy “At World's End” (2009, dir Tomas Villum Jensen), Finnish/German/Australian sci-fi comedy “Iron Sky” (2011, dir. Timo Vuorensola) and thriller “The Fear of Darkness” (2014, dir. Chris Fitchett). Mark was co-awarded the 2008 SPAA Independent Film Producer of the Year.



PRODUCTION COMPANY NEW HOLLAND PICTURES TWO PTY LTD

New Holland Pictures Two is an Australian feature film production company founded by producer Mark Overett. The company specialises in medium-budget features across all genres with a flair for co-productions having worked with producers in Holland, Denmark, Germany, the UK, South Africa, France, Ireland, New Zealand & the US. www.nhp2.com.au

For more information please contact:
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GENRE Family Adventure/Historical Drama

BUDGET \$US 8-10m

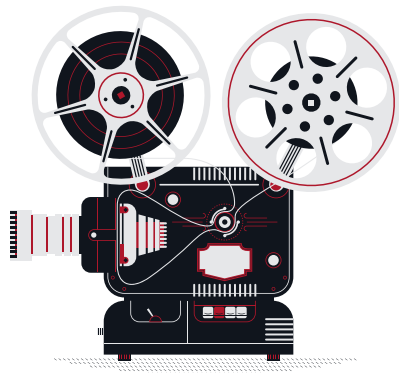
FILMING LOCATIONS (to be confirmed)

North Queensland: Townsville, Palmer River Goldfields, Cradle Creek Cattle Station & Cooktown

China: Old Village and Modern City - Changshu.

COMPARABLE FILMS

Mao's Last Dancer, Red Sorghum, The Joy Luck Club, The Home Song Stories.



*From the ancient Chinese proverb: Fallen leaves return to their roots.