

Gavin Jennings

Minister for the Environment, Climate Change and Innovation

Member for South Eastern Metropolitan Region

MIFF Premiere Fund Puts Celebrity Nerd on Screen

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The rise of a Victorian performer and the life of an American writer are the subjects of two documentaries backed by the Brumby Government's Melbourne International Film Festival (MIFF) Premiere Fund.

Innovation Minister Gavin Jennings said the documentary to be screened today at 7pm at the Australian Centre for the Moving Image was *Celebrity* a profile of Dominick Dunne, renowned for his perceptive coverage of notorious murder trails. *Celebrity* is produced by Sue Maslin and directed by Tim Jolley & Kirsty De Garis.

Screening tomorrow at the Capitol Theatre is *Rock N Roll Nerd*, the story of Victorian performer, Tim Minchin's extraordinary rise to fame. *Rock N Roll Nerd* is produced by Lizette Atkins and directed by Rhian Skirving.

"These films were among six productions funded in the inaugural round of the MIFF Premiere Fund. A second round funding for projects to premiere at the 2009 MIFF closed last December," Mr Jennings said.

"The Brumby Government has backed the MIFF Premiere Fund with \$1.6 million as part of our support for Victoria's screen industry. And the 2008-09 State Budget handed down in May has extended this funding.

"The MIFF Premiere Fund aims to boost local production by providing more opportunities for Victorian filmmakers to bring their stories to the big screen.

"These films will have an international profile from their association with the Melbourne International Film Festival, linking production investment and festival exposure for the first time in Victoria."

The MIFF Premiere Fund joins 37 South: Bridging the Gap, MIFF's film market, which is backed by the Brumby Government to help more local film makers gain access to funding and to strengthen MIFF as a major film industry event for Australia and internationally.

"The industry also delivers many direct economic benefits. For example, screen production activity was worth over \$260 million to the Victorian economy last financial year," Mr Jennings said.

The Government has invested over \$80 million in screen industry support over the past eight years.