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MEDIA RELEASE: Star Cinema to host festival

(11 January 2010): The Star Community Cinema has secured funding to run a Rural and Regional Expression (RARE) Festival celebrating local film as part of this year's Dahlia and Arts Festival in March.

"We are delighted that Festivals Australia has funded this initiative," said Star Cinema Chair, Elsie L'Huillier. "We'll be working with others, including Bendigo Amateur Movie Makers and Eaglehawk Secondary College, to ensure that the RARE Festival provides something for everyone."

"The vibrant arts culture in Central Victoria is expressed in many ways; however, minimal opportunities are available for emerging film-makers to participate in a film-festival outside metropolitan areas," Ms L'Huillier said.

The Star Cinema identified an opportunity to encourage regional film-makers, celebrate local films, and showcase unique regional attributes, such as arts and culture, Indigenous and European heritage, vibrant towns, primary produce, state and national parks, the Murray River and other waterways, goldfields and a lively sporting scene.

There are also less appealing aspects to regional life, such as bushfire, drought and the global financial crisis – challenges where the community would benefit from artistic expression.

The RARE Film Festival will take place at the Eaglehawk Town Hall on 27– 28 March, the last two days of the Dahlia and Arts Festival. It will include a short-film festival, feature films made in this region, script-writing and film-making workshops.

Amateur film-makers from Central Victoria are invited to submit a short-film into the festival. To do this, they should provide a one-page synopsis to the Star Cinema outlining the proposed film by Jan 29th 2010. Nine synopses will be selected to be screened at the RARE Festival and receive a small grant to assist with film production costs.

"Another highlight of the RARE Festival will be the screening of a film by Jamie Roberts of the Bendigo Amateur Movie Makers titled 'From the Land of Pasties and Cream – An Insight into the Cornish Settlers of Bendigo and Eaglehawk'," said Ms L'Huillier. "This ties in with the Cornish theme of the Dahlia and Arts."

For further information about the RARE Film Festival, visit www.starcinema.org.au or contact the Star Community Cinema on 5446 2025.

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Photo opportunity: Star Cinema Chair, Elsie L'Huillier and Bendigo Amateur Movie Makers President, Jamie Roberts .

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