



Steve Bastoni visited Broome earlier this month to conduct acting and filmography workshops for schools and the public. Picture: Jakeb Waddell

## Screen stalwart shares wisdom

■ Jakeb Waddell

From the simulated reality of *The Matrix* to the rusty bars of *Wentworth Prison*, internationally renowned actor Steve Bastoni brought his years of experience to Broome earlier this month.

The Italian-born Australian actor worked in collaboration with *Mud and Saltwater Short Film Fest* co-director Shayne Thomson to conduct acting and filmmaking workshops for schools and the public around Broome.

The three workshops, held at St Mary's College, Broome Senior High School and Lotteries House, focused on acting, scriptwriting, filming, editing, uploading and

entering *Mud and Saltwater*.

Bastoni said he enjoyed working with Mr Thomson as he was always looking for opportunities to join forces.

"I hope, by being here, I have helped to spread the word about the *Mud and Saltwater* film festival," he said.

"It is exciting to see the potential *Mud and Saltwater* has to grow and I'm glad I can be a part of helping it."

The Austrian Film Institute-nominated actor runs the Peninsula Short Film Fest, which is recognised as the largest short film festival in Victoria, with the most recent event recording a total attendance of 7000 people and 200 entries from around the world. However, the

visit wasn't all work for Bastoni, who made the most of his time in the Kimberley town.

"I really enjoyed seeing the cultural highlights of Broome," he said.

"Sunset Pictures, Streeter's Jetty and Cable Beach were the parts of the town I enjoyed the most, and it was great to learn about the history and heritage of this very unique town."

Movies such as *The Matrix Reloaded*, *15 Amore*, *The Water Diviner* and *Macbeth* and television shows *Prisoner*, *Neighbours*, *Hawaii Five-0*, *Police Rescue* and *Wentworth* made Bastoni a household name, but the 51-year-old is not done yet.

"I'm currently producing

a feature film called *God's Little Children*, which I also will play the villain in," he said.

"I also recently produced a web series called *Welfare*, which I'm hoping to sell to a network, but it's currently in the editing process."

"The series of *Wentworth* that I feature in is currently playing on Showcase on Foxtel too."

Bastoni encouraged the town's residents to embrace their creative side, with the Kimberley's *Mud and Saltwater Short Film Fest* on August 5 fast approaching.

## Laughs all round at show

■ Robert Dougherty

The Kimberley is braced for side-splitting laughter and gleeful gags as the Melbourne International Comedy Festival Roadshow arrives next week.

Australia's biggest comedy festival is returning to Broome Civic Centre on Thursday, May 25 — 7pm for the 8pm show.

The event boasts a cast of comedy greats, talented newcomers and international performers including stand-up, sketch, slapstick and song acts from MC Cal Wilson, Danielle Walker, the UK's Carl Donnelly, plus Daniel Connell and Josh Earl.

Wilson, who is originally from New Zealand, has made a name for herself on television shows such as *Good News Week* and *Thank God You're Here*.

She is joined by fellow Spicks and Specks rival Josh Earl, who hosts 3RRR's *Breakfasters*.

RAW Comedy 2016 National Champion Danielle Walker will also join the line-up as she brings her dark and twisted everyday observations to combine with comedian Daniel Connell and Edinburgh Fringe royalty Carl Donnelly.

Tickets, \$49, \$42 concession, are available at [www.broomeciviccentre.com.au](http://www.broomeciviccentre.com.au) or 9191 8780.

The show is presented by the Shire of Broome.



MC Cal Wilson will host the MIC Festival Roadshow in Broome.

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