

Minister for Fair Trading
Minister for Citizenship
Minister Assisting the Premier on the Arts

Virginia Judge MP



16 June 2009

MINISTER CONGRATULATES 2009 FILM PRIZE WINNER

Minister for Citizenship Virginia Judge today congratulated film director Khoa Do who took out the 2009 Community Relations Commission Award at the Sydney Film Festival on Sunday.

Khoa Do won the prize for his film *Missing Water*, a portrayal of Vietnamese refugees who travelled to Australia during the 1970s and 1980s.

The story follows the memories of a now middle-aged sweatshop worker who fled Vietnam with her sister, uncle and a stranger, hoping for a better life on Australian shores.

“This year’s Community Relations Commission prize has been awarded to a uniquely Australian film that depicts the migrant experience shared by so many,” Ms Judge said.

“I am delighted the Rees Government is supporting this annual award through the Commission’s cash prize of \$5,000 which acknowledges on screen work promoting cultural and linguistic diversity.”

Ms Judge said the Community Relations Commission had been sponsoring an award at the Sydney Film Festival since 1992, with previous recipients including John Evagora’s *296 Smith Street* and Tony Krawitz’s *Jewboy*.

“*Missing Water* was produced entirely in New South Wales and shot on location in Western Sydney,” Ms Judge said.

“It details the story of the dangerous and often life-threatening journeys undertaken by thousands of Vietnamese refugees in search of a new life in Australia.

“Do’s use of first-time actors who have themselves either been refugees or descendants of refugees, gives the story a distinct reality that many Australians can relate to.”

Ms Judge said *Missing Water* followed on from Do’s success with his first film *The Finished People* also set in Western Sydney and the feature film *Footy Legends* starring Anh Do and Claudia Karvan.

Khoa Do is one of the youngest directors to ever be nominated for an AFI Award for Best Direction and was the 2005 Young Australian of the Year, the first ever film-maker to have been awarded the honour.

***Please find attached a photograph of Minister Judge with award winner Khoa Do. If photo is used for publication please acknowledge the image as being courtesy of the Sydney Film Festival 2009.**

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