



Dreamtime story screens at festival

WESTERN Australian Indigenous short film *Karla* will feature in the 2009 Perth International Arts Festival at the traditional Noongar Welcome to Country.

ScreenWest chief executive Ian Booth said the film was a fitting addition to the Welcome to Country event.

"*Karla* is a dreamtime story of how fire came to the Noongar people of the Pinjarra region, told through painting, dance and visual storytelling," Mr Booth said.

"The screening of *Karla* at the Welcome to Country will be a wonderful opportunity for families to enjoy the work of our talented local filmmakers and celebrate the unique storytelling of the Noongar people."

First-time director Karrie-Anne Kearing said that through *Karla* and the arts, she ensures that the history of her people is recognised alongside the history of modern Australia.

"I am very proud to have my work selected to be screened at the festival," Ms Kearing said.

Karla producer Naomi Ashcroft is equally pleased to share her work with the Perth festival audience.

"Through the modern medium of film, everyone can appreciate these ancient dreamtime stories," she said.

Ms Kearing cut her teeth as the writer of the Indigenous short film, *Weewar*.

She is an active member of the Pinjarra Katijin Corporation, working to develop art and cultural programs for her community.

Karla and *Weewar* were both funded through the Deadly Yarns Indigenous short film initiative, a joint initiative of ScreenWest, the Film and Television Institute and the ABC.

The Perth Festival Welcome to Country is part of the Lotterywest Festival Celebration, a free family event at the Supreme Court Gardens.

Karla screens at 8.30pm this Friday.



Storytelling: Pinjarra film *Karla* screens on Friday as part of the Festival of Perth.