
From: Dallas Krueger
Sent: Tuesday, 3 July 2018 11:53 AM
To: David N Anderson
Cc: Katrina Ray
Subject: FW: Contacting the ABC

Hi David,

I'm sending an email to Jonathan to let him know we'll come back to him by the end of the week.

Happy to provide you with background/detail if you require.

Regards
Dallas

From: jonathan@livingeyes.com.au <jonathan@livingeyes.com.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 3 July 2018 11:35 AM
To: Dallas Krueger <Krueger.Dallas@abc.net.au>; Katrina Ray <Ray.Katrina@abc.net.au>; David N Anderson <Anderson.David.N@abc.net.au>
Subject: FW: Contacting the ABC

Dear Mr Anderson, Mr Krueger and Ms Ray,

Please find below correspondence to the ABC made via
<http://www.abc.net.au/contact/complain.htm>
concerning my email to you on 18 July 2018.

This complaint was advised by the office of the Minister for Communication and the Arts.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Sequeira



Jonathan Sequeira
Director
Living Eyes Pty Ltd
www.descentintothemaelstrom.com.au
m: 0423 758 836
e: jonathan@livingeyes.com.au

From: anonymous@your.abc.net.au [<mailto:anonymous@your.abc.net.au>]
Sent: Tuesday, 3 July 2018 11:00 AM
To: jonathan@livingeyes.com.au
Subject: Contacting the ABC

Dear Jonathan Sequeira

This email provides a copy of your comments recently submitted to the ABC via the online email form located on this webpage :
<http://abc.net.au/contact>.

Yours sincerely,

ABC Audience & Consumer Affairs

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First name: Jonathan
Surname: Sequeira
Email: jonathan@livingeyes.com.au

Location: NSW

Response Required: Yes

Program:

Program Date:

ABC Service\Network: ABC Television

ABC Recipient: Audience & Consumer Affairs

Subject: Minister for Communications and the Arts letter

Your Comments: I am contacting you through this portal as recommended in correspondence to me by the Minister for Communications and the Arts (29 June 2018), to ensure that 'the ABC is formally aware of your concerns about this decision and has an opportunity to respond to you'.

On 18 June 2018, I emailed Dallas Krueger, Head of Acquisitions, asking him to please reconsider a decision not to acquire 'Descent into the Maelstrom - The Radio Birdman Story' for broadcast. Also cc'ed were Katrina Ray, (Acquisitions Manager) and David Anderson (Director Entertainment and Specialist).

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Could you please advise:

- is the ABC reconsidering this matter?
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Sincerely,

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Producer
Descent into the Maelstrom - The Radio Birdman Story

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free. Before opening any attachment you should check for viruses. The ABC's liability is limited to resupplying any email and attachments.

From: Natalie Edgar
Sent: Friday, 13 July 2018 11:02 AM
To: Harry Ravenswood
Subject: FW: Contacting the ABC
Attachments: ABC Dallas Krueger phone summary.pdf



Natalie Edgar
ABC Channel Manager, E&S Distribution

P [REDACTED] 47F
M [REDACTED]
E edgar.natalie@abc.net.au
W abc.net.au



From: jonathan@livingeyes.com.au <jonathan@livingeyes.com.au>
Sent: Thursday, 12 July 2018 12:48 PM
To: Dallas Krueger <Krueger.Dallas@abc.net.au>
Cc: David N Anderson <Anderson.David.N@abc.net.au>; Rachael Nathan <Nathan.Rachael@abc.net.au>; Natalie Edgar <Edgar.Natalie@abc.net.au>; Katrina Ray <Ray.Katrina@abc.net.au>
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Jonathan Sequeira



Jonathan Sequeira

Director

Living Eyes Pty Ltd

www.descentintothemaelstrom.com.au

m: 0423 758 836

e: jonathan@livingeyes.com.au

From: Katrina Ray [<mailto:Ray.Katrina@abc.net.au>]

Sent: Monday, 9 July 2018 3:24 PM

To: jonathan@livingeyes.com.au

Cc: Dallas Krueger; David N Anderson; Rachael Nathan

Subject: FW: Contacting the ABC

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www.descentintothemaelstrom.com.au
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e: jonathan@livingeyes.com.au

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Surname: Sequeira
Email: jonathan@livingeyes.com.au

Location: NSW

Response Required: Yes

Program:

Program Date:

ABC Service\Network: ABC Television

ABC Recipient: Audience & Consumer Affairs

Subject: Minister for Communications and the Arts letter

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Producer
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From: Natalie Edgar
Sent: Friday, 13 July 2018 11:07 AM
To: Michele Peachey
Subject: FW: Contacting the ABC
Attachments: ABC Dallas Krueger phone summary.pdf

FYI.



From: jonathan@livingeyes.com.au <jonathan@livingeyes.com.au>
Sent: Thursday, 12 July 2018 12:48 PM
To: Dallas Krueger <Krueger.Dallas@abc.net.au>
Cc: David N Anderson <Anderson.David.N@abc.net.au>; Rachael Nathan <Nathan.Rachael@abc.net.au>; Natalie Edgar <Edgar.Natalie@abc.net.au>; Katrina Ray <Ray.Katrina@abc.net.au>
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Jonathan Sequeira

Director

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www.descentintothemaelstrom.com.au

m: 0423 758 836

e: jonathan@livingeyes.com.au

From: Katrina Ray [<mailto:Ray.Katrina@abc.net.au>]

Sent: Monday, 9 July 2018 3:24 PM

To: jonathan@livingeyes.com.au

Cc: Dallas Krueger; David N Anderson; Rachael Nathan

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First name: Jonathan
Surname: Sequeira
Email: jonathan@livingeyes.com.au

Location: NSW

Response Required: Yes

Program:

Program Date:

ABC Service\Network: ABC Television

ABC Recipient: Audience & Consumer Affairs

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From: Rachael Nathan
Sent: Thursday, 23 August 2018 3:25 PM
To: David N Anderson
Subject: Radio Birdman
Attachments: ABC Dallas Krueger phone summary.pdf

Contact details below.

Jonathan Sequeira
Director
Living Eyes Pty Ltd
www.descentintothemaelstrom.com.au
0423 758 836
jonathan@livingeyes.com.au

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Date: Thursday, 12 July 2018 at 12:51 pm
To: Dallas Krueger <Krueger.Dallas@abc.net.au>
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Surname: Sequeira
Email: jonathan@livingeyes.com.au

Location: NSW

Response Required: Yes

Program:

Program Date:

ABC Service\Network: ABC Television

ABC Recipient: Audience & Consumer Affairs

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Summary of Telephone Conversation 11 July 2018, between Dallas Krueger (DK) of ABC Acquisitions, and Jonathan Sequeira (JS) of Living Eyes

DK: advised he was on speakerphone and had a cough

DK: wanted to advise process of assessment, 'touch base' and explain how we assess content

DK: I was away Monday and asked colleague to send email. Outcome still the same, have made decision to make an offer for *Descent into the Maelstrom*

DK: Apologise for delay and difficulty to get a quick response

DK: We make an effort to keep producers and suppliers informed

DK: Can be frustrating in addition to not making an offer.

JS: How do you assess? There is very little information on Acquisitions website about what you are looking for.

DK: We are pretty broad with genres and styles that we are interested in. Acquisitions always serves to schedule around commissioned programs, we 'do not know from one moment to the next' what we are looking for, so can't make it clear on the website as it changes too quickly.

DK: Commissioned programs are key priority

DK: ABC has augmented commissioned programs in Australian Music Month with acquisitions for the last couple of years.

DK: You submitted *Descent into the Maelstrom* 'a couple of months ago'.

JS: No, I submitted it in 2017. You should know that. The ABC has been considering it since then.

DK: We flagged it for Australian Music Month. We did not know if we would acquire additional content for Australian Music Month.

DK: How we assess is broad. For example, on Friday and Saturday night we look for relatively inexpensive acquisitions from UK. On Mondays ABC programs current affairs.

DK: Limited opportunity for documentary content on main channel (ABC 1). Flipside is we commission a lot.

DK: Used to have more opportunity on ABC2. It was quite successful for documentaries. From December 2017 ABC relaunched ABC (as comedy channel) and we are no longer looking for factual content

JS: ABC broadcast music documentaries on Sunday nights recently.

DK: This was 'inventory content' we acquired some time ago and we were 'running out the value'. Programmed in *Sunday Arts Up Late*. We program around themes and strands.

JS: How can we turn this into a win-win situation?

DK: Do you mean broadcasting your program?

JS: How can we serve the needs of the ABC audience and the taxpayer by providing this economical, quality content to them?

DK: We looked at elsewhere in the schedule and 'afraid there just isn't anywhere' that suits our current needs.

DK: Each channel has a manager. The main channel (ABC 1) is fairly consistent and is locked in. We (Acquisitions) try to provide content.

DK: Australian Music Month would be the place to fit *Descent*. Outside of that *Descent into the Maelstrom* would be 'inconsistent with the type of content we provide audiences in the schedule'.

DK: Budget restrictions are increasing, in the news that we face 'headwinds' and have had to cancel our own shows. We can't acquire programs just for 'inventory', to put on the shelf due to these budget restrictions. Acquisitions does not have flexibility.

DK: I have had conversation with the Channel Managers who decide what they want to program.

JS: Who are the Channel Managers?

DK: There are several?

JS: What are their names? Have they seen my email requesting a review of the decision.

DK: I've only spoken to one Channel Manager, of the main channel (ABC 1).

JS: What is their name?

DK: Natalie Edgar. Yes, she's seen the email and I discussed it with her.

JS: The ABCs behaviour and decision is a terrible look for the ABC.

DK: I feel conflicted that what I've said might not be met with understanding.

JS: My opinion and understanding is not relevant. I'll pass the information to Radio Birdman manager and band members. Feedback to me from various people is that it is a bad decision.

DK: If we had the financial wherewithal it would be different. I have had similar conversations with other producers.

JS: Regardless of final decision, I find the delay in communication and decision, since 2017 unacceptable.

DK: We could have handled it better. I hold responsibility.

JS: ABC delay (since 2017) has real-world consequences to myself and other producers who are trying to organise release schedules etc. I'll advise the band and management.

Thanks etc and end of call.

From: Patterson, Sam (A. Albanese, MP) <Sam.Patterson@aph.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 10 August 2018 4:41 PM
To: David N Anderson
Subject: Anthony Albanese - Radio Birdman - Letter of Support
Attachments: 180810 - Radio Birdman - Letter of Support - ALBANESE.pdf

Dear David,

Thank you for sending through your details [REDACTED]

47F

Please find attached a letter of support from Anthony in regards to the ABC deciding not to acquire the broadcasting rights to *Descent into the Maelstrom – The Radio Birdman Story*.

Please feel free to give me a ring if you would like to discuss this further, I am sure Anthony would be happy to chat as well.

Enjoy your weekend.

Regards,

Sam

Sam Patterson
Electorate Officer

Office of the Hon Anthony Albanese MP | Shadow Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Cities and Regional Development | Shadow Minister for Tourism | Federal Member for Grayndler | Ph: 02 9564 3588 | Mob: [REDACTED] | Sam.Patterson@aph.gov.au | 334a Marrickville Road, Marrickville NSW 2204 | RG-115 Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600

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The Hon Anthony Albanese MP
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR GRAYNDLER



Mr David Anderson
Director Entertainment & Specialist
Australian Broadcasting Corporation
ABC Ultimo Centre
700 Harris Street
Ultimo NSW 2007

Dear Mr Anderson,

I write to you regarding the ABC's recent decision not to acquire the broadcasting rights to Jonathan Sequeira's documentary film *Descent into the Maelstrom – The Radio Birdman Story*, about iconic Australian punk band *Radio Birdman*.

The creation of the band by Deniz Tek and Rob Younger in Sydney in 1974, cemented the foundation of Australian punk rock – laid by Chris Bailey and Ed Kuepper of *The Saints* the same year.

The bands visceral performances, attended by thousands, are an important part of Australia's musical history – not to mention the release of their first full-length studio album *Radios Appear* in 1977, to critical acclaim.

Through the cunning use of archival and present day footage spliced together, Jonathan Sequeira has managed to capture the band's journey and outlaw reputation on film – a journey that was integral to the development of the independent music scene in Australia.

I implore the ABC to reconsider acquiring the rights to the film and for it to be broadcasted to the Australian public free-to-air.

Keep the fun(house) alive.

Yours sincerely,

Anthony Albanese MP
Federal Member for Grayndler

Friday, 10 August, 2018

From: Rachael Nathan
Sent: Thursday, 30 August 2018 5:02 PM
To: 'Sam.Patterson@aph.gov.au'
Subject: Letter from David Anderson - re Radio Birdman
Attachments: Letter from David Anderson - Radio Birdman 30082018.pdf

Hi Sam

Please find attached letter from David Anderson to The Hon Anthony Albanese MP regarding the Radio Birdman documentary *Descent into the Maelstrom*.

Kind regards
Rachael



Rachael Nathan
EA to Director Entertainment & Specialist
P +61 2 8333 5168 E nathan.rachael@abc.net.au





30 August 2018

The Hon Anthony Albanese MP
Federal Member for Grayndler
334a Marrickville Road
MARRICKVILLE NSW 2204

Dear Mr Albanese

RE: Radio Birdman

Thank you for your letter of 10 August about the Radio Birdman documentary *Descent into the Maelstrom*.

I appreciate your passion for Radio Birdman and the independent Australian music scene and can assure you that we share the same desire to support and promote our local music industry.

The ABC has a long legacy of nurturing Australian music from our earliest radio and television programs through to triple j and Unearthed, the only music station to play 100% independent Australian acts. The ABC also is well known for documenting the history of Australian music, including recent programs on The Go-Betweens and The Saints.

In 2017 we were approached by the producer of *Descent into the Maelstrom*. Both the ABC acquisitions team and I have watched the program and I agree with their view that the 110-minute documentary does not meet the quality standards we require for broadcast to a national audience. This decision is no reflection on the band and their significant role in Australian music.

The ABC is required to make these types of editorial decisions regularly. The ABC will continue to be a champion for Australian music through initiatives such as this weekend's One Night Stand in Tasmania. We also have a number of exciting projects coming up for Ausmusic month, which we will kick off with a special *Spicks and Specks* reunion show. I would be pleased to discuss these programs with you at any time.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'DA Anderson', with a horizontal line underneath.

David Anderson
Director Entertainment & Specialist