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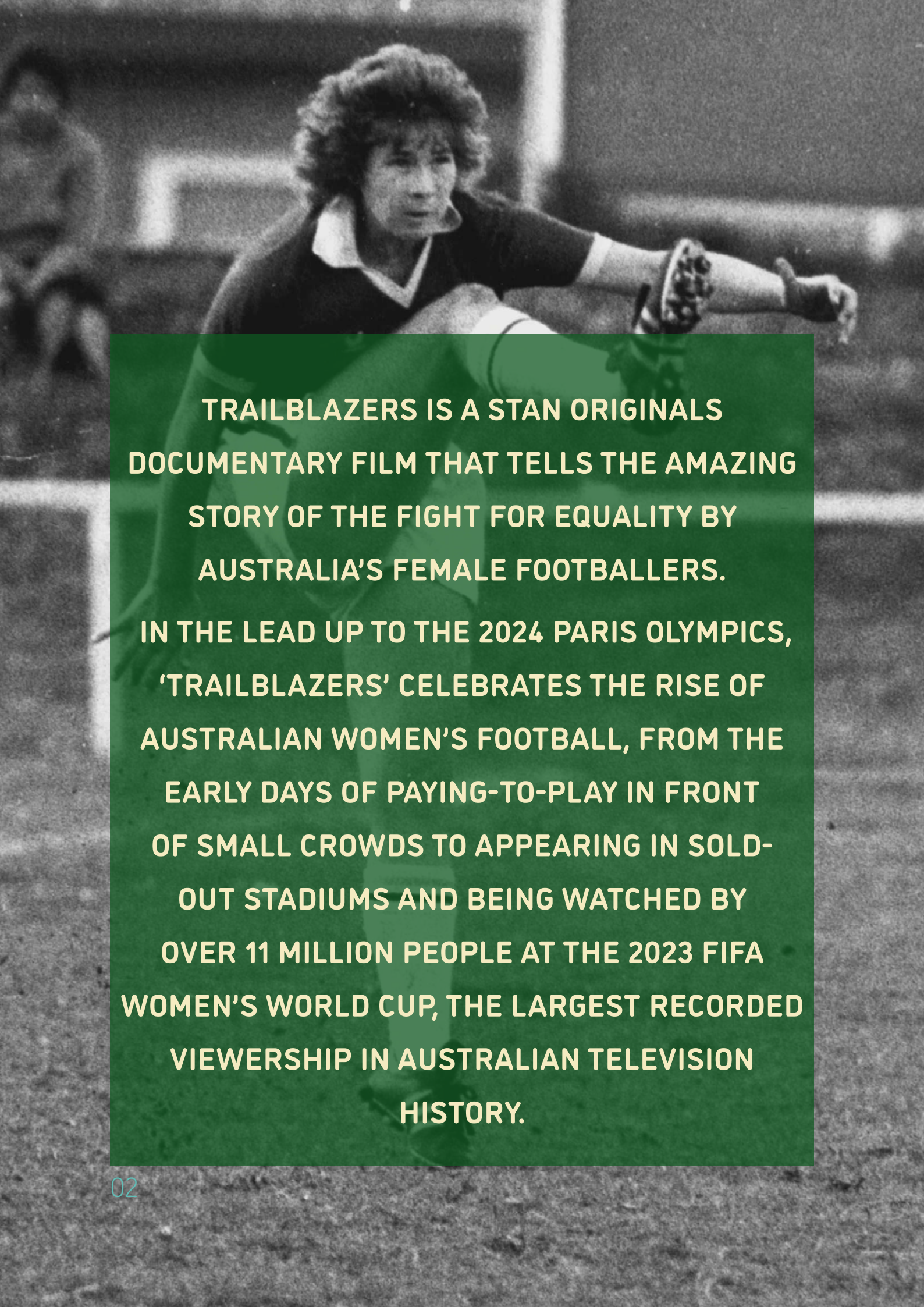


A **Stan.** ORIGINAL DOCUMENTARY

# TRAILBLAZERS

JUNE 4

A SAVAGE FILMS, MILESTONE FILMS & LM FILMS PRODUCTION



**TRAILBLAZERS IS A STAN ORIGINALS DOCUMENTARY FILM THAT TELLS THE AMAZING STORY OF THE FIGHT FOR EQUALITY BY AUSTRALIA'S FEMALE FOOTBALLERS.**

**IN THE LEAD UP TO THE 2024 PARIS OLYMPICS, 'TRAILBLAZERS' CELEBRATES THE RISE OF AUSTRALIAN WOMEN'S FOOTBALL, FROM THE EARLY DAYS OF PAYING-TO-PLAY IN FRONT OF SMALL CROWDS TO APPEARING IN SOLD-OUT STADIUMS AND BEING WATCHED BY OVER 11 MILLION PEOPLE AT THE 2023 FIFA WOMEN'S WORLD CUP, THE LARGEST RECORDED VIEWERSHIP IN AUSTRALIAN TELEVISION HISTORY.**



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After the FIFA Women's World Cup Australia & New Zealand 2023, players and allies of Australia's national women's football team celebrate the strides towards equality that have been made, and the international movement that is women's football.

Players from Australia's national women's football team join forces with a community of supporters to tell the story of their fight for gender equality.

How did Australian women's football progress from a strike for equal pay in 2015 to co-hosting the largest women's football tournament on the planet in 2023?

This work takes a deep-dive into that question highlighting how societal shifts have supported the long-overdue visibility and success of women's football.

## FEATURING

**Melissa Barbieri**

**Laura Brock**

**Ellie Carpenter**

**Steph Catley**

**Moya Dodd**

**Julie Dolan**

**Ava Fisher**

**Caitlin Foord**

**Craig Foster**

**Mary Fowler**

**Prof. Simone Fullagar**

**Emily Gielnik**

**Kate Gill**

**Katrina Gorry**

**Kerry Harris**

**Amy Harrison**

**Renaye Iserief**

**Elise Kellond-Knight**

**Alanna Kennedy**

**Sam Kerr**

**Samantha Lewis**

**Chloe Logarzo**

**Tracie McGovern**

**Karen Menzies**

**Teagan Micah**

**Maggie Murphy**

**Clare**

**Polkinghorne**

**Hayley Raso**

**Heather Reid**

**Tommy Sermanni**

**Kyah Simon**

**Leigh Wardell**

**Lydia Williams**

**Tameka Yallop**

**Shelley Youman**

**Lucy Zelic**

## QUOTES FROM THE TRAILBLAZERS

**“Women footballers are kind of a special breed. It takes a certain kind of feistiness and energy to want to do something that you’ve been told you shouldn’t do.”**

*Moya Dodd AO, Cap # 42, debut 1986*

**“I don’t think the Socceroos were ever out doing cake stalls and car washing to raise funds.”**

*Karen Menzies, Cap # 30, debut 1983, first Indigenous national women’s team member*

**“I just never thought I’d be able to do it, one, as my job, and two, be able to make an income”**

*Sam Kerr, Cap # 168, debut 2009*

**“This film has been a long time coming and many trailblazers of Australian women’s football are thrilled to get the chance to put their story on the record. Those early years were a lotta fun and we had no choice but to fight for recognition to enable us to play the game we love.”**

*Julie Dolan AM, Cap # 1, debut 1979, first Captain*

Each time a player debuts for Australia, they are honoured with the next ‘Cap’ number. Caps have been counted since Australia’s first FIFA recognised game in 1979. At the time of production there are 226 Capped Australian Women’s Team players.



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## CREATIVE TEAM



### Writer Producer Director

**Maggie Miles**

(High Ground, Guilty, Paper Planes, Dare To Be Different)



### Writer Producer Director

**Maggie Eudes**

(Between Two Worlds, Egg, Don't Leave)



### Editor

**Sara Edwards**

(Gatwick – Last Chance Hotel, Not Quite Hollywood, SUZI Q, Finding the Line)



### Producer

**Lucy Maclaren**

(Miss Fisher & the Crypt of Tears, People's Republic of Mallocoota)



### Executive Producer

**Caitriona Fay**

(Managing Partner - Community, Social Investment and ESG, Perpetual)



### Executive Producer

**Kate Gill**

(Co-CEO Professional Footballers Australia, Former Matildas' captain)



## DIRECTOR BIOS

### Maggie Miles

Born in England, Maggie's Australian career began in the Northern Territory where she directed and wrote critically acclaimed plays *BRANDED* and *Worry Dolls*. Maggie was senior producer and writer for Burrundi Pictures, a co-producing entity on the feature *Yolngu Boy* with the Yothu Yindi Foundation and the Australian Children's Television Foundation.

Maggie co-wrote and produced feature documentary *GUILTY* which premiered at the Adelaide Film Festival and won Best Docudrama at the ATOM Awards.

Maggie was a script editor and producer on *High Ground* starring Simon Baker and Jack Thompson. *High Ground* had a Gala Screening at the Berlin International Film Festival and was awarded Best Film by the Film Critics Circle of Australia.

Maggie is directing the documentary *Journey Home* with Trisha Morton-Thomas. It's the final chapter of the late Indigenous actor David Gulpilil's extraordinary story, and she is producing a screen adaptation of Tony Birch's, *Miles Franklin*

Award shortlisted book 'The White Girl', with Tony Briggs and Damien Pradier.

### Maggie Eudes

Maggie Eudes is an emerging Director and experienced Director of Photography (DOP) based in Melbourne, born and raised in Paris, France.

Maggie has been a cinematographer on a range of documentaries, commercials, music videos and short films. She has worked in camera departments across a range of Australian television shows including *MUSTANGS F.C.* (ABC), *FIVE BEDROOMS* (Channel 10) and *HUNGRY GHOSTS* (SBS) as well as sports broadcasting for the Australian Open and the World Surf League.

A passion for Football has taken Maggie around the globe as she played at a semi-professional level in France and Canada before joining the Australian women's national premier league.

Through a keen interest to combine her love for sports and filmmaking, Maggie has been involved on several sports documentaries.

Maggie founded and runs the social impact video production company *Milestone Films* which works with non-profit organisations, B-Corps and government agencies to tell impact driven screen stories across mental health, LGBTQ+ rights, philanthropy and education.



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## CO-DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Trailblazers was made by a small, determined group of women who share a passion of making women's stories visible. Full respect to our production team led by producer Lucy Maclaren and to Trailblazers' wonderful editor Sara Edwards.

For years Australian women's football got scant recognition in the media and in public discourse. From the time we began working together in mid 2020 we could see that change was coming with the FIFA Women's World Cup 2023 to be co-hosted by Australia and New Zealand. That incredible tournament, that truly captured the nation, when over 70% of Australians watched the Australia v England game, was a signal of that change.

We have been incredibly humbled to have recorded the stories of many current and early Matildas and learnt more deeply about the barriers they faced, the psychological and physical challenges of playing a tough game at national level with little support, and the incredible camaraderie that buoyed them through those struggles.

We took the position of 'players-first', if the

players wanted this story told, we would take on the challenge and we thank the Professional Footballers Association (PFA) for their support in this regard. We worked hard to have a representative spread of stories within the film including the First Captain Julie Dolan and current captain Sam Kerr. Now, with the film about to land on Stan, we have been humbled by the many heartfelt messages received from current and former players, thanking us for telling their story.

Our aim was to create a film that recognised the grit, humour, ferocious physicality, and team focus of these incredible women and by shining a light on Australia's amazing women footballers and honoring those who have shaped the women's game. We hope this film will make visible the strides towards equality that are being made right across society. In this regard, we couldn't be happier that Trailblazers will land on Australia's premier streaming platform Stan in the lead up to the next battle faced by the Australian women's football team, the Paris Olympics 2024.



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## IMPACT CAMPAIGN

The rise of women's football mirrors the progress of gender equality across society. However, there is still a long way to go to achieve gender equality, both in sport and broader society. At the community level, girls are participating in sports at significantly lower levels than boys. At the elite level, women receive unequal support, pay and media coverage. Women are also underrepresented in leadership positions at all levels of sport.

With the success of the Australian Women's Football Team at the 2023 Women's World Cup and in the lead up to the 2024 Paris Olympics, an opportunity exists to both celebrate the gains that have been made in women's football but also to spark action on issues where change is still needed.

MECCA - Australia's biggest beauty brand came on board to celebrate the beauty of women's sport, and seize the opportunity to

move the conversation on gender equality forward by supporting Trailblazers Impact Campaign, through their social change program, MECCA M-POWER.

Documentary Australia will drive the impact campaign for Trailblazers, with a vision to build momentum to further progress gender equality and leadership, and to increase investment and opportunities for women and girls to participate in sport at all levels. "The Trailblazers documentary has a high impact potential to catalyse change for women and girls in sports and society more broadly. The campaign will see an impact and education campaign rolled out in grassroots clubs, communities, schools and boardrooms and will ask audiences to blaze a trail for gender equality in sport by taking action" Lisa Kanani, Impact Director, Documentary Australia.





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## IMPACT CAMPAIGN

The impact campaign goals are to:

- Celebrate and acknowledge the legacy of the Australian women's football team and continue to grow the football movement in Australia.
- Educate and drive action for gender equality, diversity and inclusion in sports for everyone at every level.
- Support increased representation of women in sports leadership and decision making.
- Support partners and campaigns working for equal investment, conditions and opportunities in women and girl's sport
- Encourage viewing, engagement and participation in women's sport and sustain the visibility and representation of women's sport in the media

These goals will be supported through the impact and education campaign, launched on the Trailblazers website and the films' digital channels, to drive audiences to action by directing them to relevant campaigns supported by partners including Professional Footballers Australia, Correct the Internet, Inspiro Health, Women Onside and Women Sport Australia.

Trailblazers will also be screened in classrooms alongside educational resources created by Cool.org, supported by MECCA M-POWER. Developed for students in grades 5 to 10, these 15 lessons tackle themes of gender equality, media bias, and representation through the lens of the Australian Women's Football Team's battle to play the beautiful game on equitable terms.

Trailblazers impact campaign aims to move individuals to take action in support of a future where there is equal access and opportunity in sport for all genders and where genders are equally represented, respected, and rewarded.

### ABOUT DOCUMENTARY AUSTRALIA

Since 2008, Documentary Australia has been Australia's only not-for-profit organisation fostering social impact through storytelling. By offering tax deductibility to donors to support filmmakers, Documentary Australia enables documentaries to be made and seen, and to make a positive social impact. To date, Documentary Australia has facilitated over \$35 millions in philanthropic funding.

## Links To Websites

Trailblazers  
[www.trailblazersfilm.com.au](http://www.trailblazersfilm.com.au)

Savage Films  
[www.savagefilms.com.au](http://www.savagefilms.com.au)

Milestone Films  
[www.milestonefilms.com.au](http://www.milestonefilms.com.au)

LM Films  
[www.lmfilms.com.au](http://www.lmfilms.com.au)

Stan Original  
[www.stan.com.au](http://www.stan.com.au)

Screen Australia  
[www.screenaustralia.gov.au](http://www.screenaustralia.gov.au)

VicScreen  
[www.vicscreen.vic.gov.au](http://www.vicscreen.vic.gov.au)

MECCA M-POWER  
[www.m-power.mecca.com](http://www.m-power.mecca.com)

Documentary Australia  
[www.documentaryaustralia.com.au](http://www.documentaryaustralia.com.au)

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SCREEN AUSTRALIA, STAN AND VICSCREEN, WITH MECCA M-POWER PRESENT  
'TRAILBLAZERS'

A SAVAGE FILMS, MILESTONE FILMS & LM FILMS PRODUCTION

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY MAGGIE EUDES EDITOR SARA EDWARDS

EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS CAITRIONA FAY, KATE GILL, CAILAH SCOBIE & ALICIA BROWN PRODUCER LUCY MACLAREN

WRITERS-DIRECTORS PRODUCERS MAGGIE MILES & MAGGIE EUDES



LM Films



MECCA M-POWER



VICSCREEN

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