
Marty Rhone

I am a 54-year veteran of the Australian entertainment industry. I have performed professionally on four continents with some of the biggest names in show business. I am a proud Australian and thrilled that I have been able to take my art and culture to many parts of the world. Australian stories are who we are, where we came from and the journey to come. If the Greeks, Romans & Egyptians had not had writers, storytellers, performers, artists we would know far less about those civilizations and their cultures than we do today. Therefore, a country without its stories, its arts, is a country without a soul. A country without its stories becomes a country of little relevance, a blip in the pages of history. Because without our stories and our ability to tell them, via today's technology and sheer breadth of avenues and streams, we sink further back into becoming a place, a country, that no one really cares to know about or even knows exists. "Australia, oh, that's that place in central Europe isn't it? It is maddening to think that still today after so many years that our artists still have to travel abroad to live and work in order to earn a decent enough living to become household names in someone else's house and speak a different tongue/accents and be feted within some other country's culture and often be thought of as that country's prodigy. Yet when they come back to visit we use that annoying phrase "Australia's own! This is the ultimate insult. If you want to call a celebrity 'Australia's own'. Then own it! Be responsible for that person's success. Instead of improving our situation respective governments have allowed the situation to deteriorate at a time when our industry should be thriving. Never has there been a better time to reserve our seat in the very front row of world entertainment. We were doing better when we had 15 million people. Now with 26 million we are no longer punching above our weight. We are on the canvas. Especially when you see our industry stalwarts like the ABC & SBS showing more and more overseas content. COVID 19 has shown this country to be one of the safest, along with NZ, in the world. Why aren't we using this fact to our advantage by offering overseas film and television producers and companies increased incentives to come down

under in order to get on top. We have the talent, we have the world class facilities, we have the terrain, we have the weather. Where is the will, governments?

I wish for my submission to be anonymous: No

I wish for my submission to be private: No

This submission has been lodged via the [Media, Entertainment & Arts Alliance](#).