



Mrs Mago

words max veenhuyzen « picture ross swanborough

When she hasn't got her head down editing the latest addition to Mago Film's illustrious show reel, film and television producer Marian Bartsch dreams of a blonde, blue-eyed lass named Nadia. (Don't we all?)

But while others' intentions may be less than noble, Bartsch's interests actually lie in the actor behind the whip-wielding masked heroine Fearless Nadia – Perth girl Mary Evans, who was Bollywood's first female superstar of the 30s.

One of her many projects in the can, *Nadia the Fearless One* looks set to continue Marian's knack for finding fascinating (West) Australian stories and sharing them with the world.

Think *The Fabulous Flag Sisters*, crowned joint best documentary winner at the recent Rome Fiction Festival, as well as four wildly successful series of *Surfing the Menu*.

Although Marian calls Perth home, she considers the whole world her office.

"It's really all about the quality of your work and the reputation of the production company to deliver an international-quality product on time and on budget," she says.

While the state's many untold stories provide fertile pasture for Marian's productions, she is quick to pay homage to the wealth of talent in the local industry, as well as the support of the state's film-funding body, ScreenWest.

While it takes 12 months to complete the average documentary, she recommends an even longer production period for would-be Spielbergs, citing travel and living life as ideal resume fodder.

"Life skills and experiences will assist in coping with the demanding life of a film producer where one has to pitch projects, manage budgets and deal with broadcasters, funding bodies and investors while managing the needs of a film crew," she says.

Meanwhile, don't miss series two of *The Best in Australia* on the Lifestyle Channel. ●