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PRIME MINISTER

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AUSTRALIAN FILM AND TELEVISION SCHOOL

Professor Jerzy Toeplitz has been appointed foundation director of the Australian Film and Television School, on the recommendation of the school's interim council.

We have been fortunate to obtain the services of Professor Toeplitz, an eminent and distinguished figure with a world wide reputation.

Professor Toeplitz is a Master in Law and holds a PhD from the University of Warsaw. He became involved with film production in Italy and England from 1934-39. From 1945 to 1949 Professor Toeplitz was the Director of the Polish Film Corporation. He was the first Professor of Film History at the Polish National Film and Theatre School, Lodz, from 1949 to 1968 and rector of the school for two terms, 1949-51 and 1957-68. The Polish Film School was recognised as the most important in the world under his leadership, producing such directors as Andrej Wajda, Roman Polanski, and Jerzy Skolimowski. In 1967-68 Professor Toeplitz was visiting Professor of Film at the School of Theatre Arts at U.C.L.A.

From 1948 until 1972 he was President of the International Federation of Film Archives and for many years was Vice-President of the U.N.E.S.C.O. International Council for Film and Television. From 1949 he also acted as Director of the Film Section in the Institute of Art at the Polish Academy in Warsaw and in 1968 he took up full time duties there.

Professor Toeplitz was a co-founder of the Film School at Zurich (1956-66). He has served on numerous international film juries and has been a delegate to many international film congresses. He is co-editor of the History of the Polish Cinema and has written a massive five volume History of the Cinema. His work on the New American Cinema is shortly being published in English by George Allen and Unwin.

In 1970 Professor Toeplitz visited Australia to advise on establishment of the Australian Film and Television School. In 1972 he returned to Australia as visiting Professor at La Trobe University in the School of Education's Communication and Media Centre.

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