

SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL

JUNE
05-16
2019

THE FOLLOWING FESTIVAL GUIDE HAS BEEN APPROVED FOR
DOCO DEVOTEES, COMEDY CONNOISSEURS, DRAMA
DIE-HARDS AND ANY-AND-ALL OTHER FILM FIENDS

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SYDNEY
FILM
FESTIVAL
05-16 JUNE 2019

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66TH SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL

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PROGRAM CURATORS

Nashen Moodley is in his eighth year as SFF Festival Director. Previously he was Head of Programming at the Durban International Film Festival for 11 years.

Jenny Neighbour, Head of Programs and Documentary Programmer, has been with the Festival since 1989. 2019 will be her 30th festival. She is responsible for programming documentaries as well as overseeing curatorial teams, First Nations and retrospective programs.

David Stratton AM is a film critic, lecturer, author and former director of SFF. He is a recipient of the Raymond Longford Award and was named Commander of the Ordre des Arts et des Lettres. He has served on the international juries in Venice and Berlin and as President of the FIPRESCI (International Film Critics) jury in Cannes. He recently published his fourth book *101 Marvellous Movies You May Have Missed* (2018).

Kristy Matheson is Director of Film at ACMI. She has worked in independent distribution and film festivals and was the recipient of the 2017 Natalie Miller Fellowship.

Richard Kuipers is a *Variety* film critic and weird cinema specialist. He has produced documentaries including *The Cambodian Space Project* – *Not Easy Rock'n'Roll* (SFF 2015).

Clare Sawyer is a film and TV producer and programmer specialising in Family, Education and Young Adult programs for film and literary festivals.

Bridget Ikin is a producer of films and artists' projects, including Angelica Mesiti's *ASSEMBLY* (2019) for presentation at the Venice Biennale. This is her second year as *FLUX* curator.

Sofya Gollan is an award-winning filmmaker & playwright, now a Screen Investment Manager at Create NSW, and was Associate Director of the Other Film Festival, championing provocative storytelling from filmmakers with disability.

Malcolm Turner directs and co-directs the Melbourne and London Animation Festivals, programs animation for the NZ International Film Festival and lectures at Swinburne University.

PROGRAM ADVISORS

Felix Hubble is a lover of all things trash. He is the co-founder of screening collective Static Vision and works in the programming department of a large independent cinema group.

Melba Proestos is a writer, editor, programmer and social media specialist. In her current role at AFTRS, she heads the content division and teaches digital strategy. Previous posts include publications at SFF and marketing at Golden Age Cinema.

PROGRAM CONTRIBUTORS

Nick Jarvis is SFF Publications and Content Editor, and a journalist and copywriter working across the arts. He also edits the Sydney Festival program and has previously been editor of *inthemix*, *3D World*, *The Brag* and *Time Out Beirut*.

Lucy Rennick is SFF Deputy Content Editor, a filmmaker and journalist with almost 10 years' experience writing about Sydney arts and culture at *Junkee*, *SBS* and *Broadsheet*.

Jim Poe is a critic, DJ and presenter based in Sydney. He edited SFF's program for five years. He contributes to *The Guardian*, *SBS* and *Overland Literary Journal*, and hosts Classic Album Sundays Sydney.

Harry Erickson is SFF Content Intern, an aspiring writer and a consistent volunteer and contributor to several of Sydney's literary and arts festivals.

SFF 2019 APP

Visit the Apple or Google app stores to download our official SFF 2019 App. Browse the program, purchase and access your tickets, all in the palm of your hand.



AGE RESTRICTIONS

No one under 18 is admitted to 18+ films. Children under 15 will only be admitted to 15+ films with a parent or guardian. Films in the Family section are classified for all ages, but please note age recommendations for each film.

HOW TO FESTIVAL

PLEASE ARRIVE ON TIME: SFF sessions start at advertised times and latecomers may not be admitted. If a short film is screening, latecomers will be asked to wait until it has finished before taking their seats.

SCREENING SOLD OUT?
DON'T GIVE UP JUST YET: Check sff.org.au as extra tickets are often released nearer the screening date – or visit the box office in person immediately before the session as tickets may be released at the last minute.

SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL 1954 TO NOW

Explore the Festival's 66 year history on *Sydney Film Festival 1954 to Now: A Living Archive*, hosted by Realview Digital. Visit online sffarchive.org.au.

VISIT SFF.ORG.AU FOR TICKETS, PROGRAM INFORMATION AND MORE

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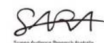
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Screenability is funded by the NSW Government through Create NSW

WELCOME



DEANNE WEIR

FESTIVAL CHAIR

Welcome to SFF 2019. We have an exciting and diverse program this year, with a very strong presence of female filmmakers. Celebrating new and diverse voices is key to our DNA, as shown by our commitment to join other leading international film festivals in signing up to the 5050x2020 charter. Our European Women in Film program returns this year, bringing some of Europe's finest female filmmakers to our shores, and we will all have the opportunity to see David Stratton showcase 10 of Australia's most celebrated female directors.

SFF is a not-for-profit organisation, so we are grateful for the continuing commitment of our government, corporate and philanthropic supporters. Thanks to NSW government partners, Create NSW and Destination NSW, the Commonwealth government through Screen Australia, and the wonderful City of Sydney Council. Other supporters are listed in our program, please use their services!

Many thanks also to the whole SFF team, lead by CEO Leigh Small, Festival Director Nashen Moodley, and for her 30th Festival, Head of Programs Jenny Neighbour. Our passion is matched only by that of our audiences, our filmmaker guests and our volunteers. I wish you all a great festival and thank you for your support.



NASHEN MOODLEY

FESTIVAL DIRECTOR

"In my films, I always wanted to make people see deeply. I don't want to show things, but to give people the desire to see." – Agnès Varda

The idea of seeing deeply, and differently, and sparking a sense of curiosity is very much one that Sydney Film Festival subscribes to: shining a light on subjects, films and filmmakers that are often little explored or seen.

We pay tribute this year to the late Agnès Varda, that most curious and innovative of filmmakers, and her life and cinema. A pioneer in more ways than one, Varda's ground-breaking work will continue to inspire generations of viewers and filmmakers to come.

The Official Competition this year is a line-up of splendid films, by both debut filmmakers and some of the great names of world cinema. Exploring issues such as gender, the intersection of the political and the personal, the power of art to change lives, and income inequality, these films together make a strong argument for empathy and solidarity.

It is fitting, then, that in this year of the Viva Varda Retrospective, Sydney Film Festival has signed the 5050x2020 pledge, committing the Festival to working towards gender parity and inclusion in film festivals.

Welcome to the 66th Sydney Film Festival, where we invite you to see deeply.



THE HON. DON HARWIN MLC

MINISTER FOR THE ARTS

The Sydney Film Festival, in its 66th year, has well and truly made its mark on our calendars. The NSW Government is delighted to continue its support of the Festival through Create NSW and tourism and major events agency, Destination NSW.

This year as one of 13 global UNESCO Cities of Film we will once again award the Sydney UNESCO City of Film Prize in recognition of a NSW-based screen practitioner, a trailblazer whose work stands for innovation and imagination and achieves extraordinary impact.

The Festival is also an opportunity to celebrate home-grown talent, and this year's Australian works are as rich as they are diverse. Within the list, our Production Finance Program, Made in NSW and Regional Filming Fund initiatives have contributed 19 films, all premiering at the Festival.

I'm delighted to expand our Screenability NSW program, which celebrates and supports the work of filmmakers with disability, and excited that regional NSW will enjoy Festival highlights through the Travelling Film Festival.

None can deny the magic of the Festival, where people come together to experience storytelling at its best. Wherever your interest in cinema lies, I warmly invite you to embrace this year's line-up of films and join us in the lively post-screening conversations planned across the Festival program.



CLOVER MOORE

LORD MAYOR OF SYDNEY

Welcome to the 66th Sydney Film Festival. It may rank among the oldest film festivals in the world but it remains one of the freshest, bringing a wealth of the world's finest cinema to our city.

This year's rich and diverse program of films delight, amuse, provoke debate and highlight the issues challenging us now.

Anthropocene: The Human Epoch takes an unflinching look at our impact on the Earth; *Life After The Oasis* highlights the issue of homelessness afflicting young people in our cities; while the beautifully restored *Eternity* tells the story of one of Sydney's legendary characters, Arthur Stace, in whose honour our Eternity Playhouse was named.

I am also looking forward to David Stratton's retrospective, which features 10 ground-breaking films by Australian female directors, from the 1920s to today.

We welcome the Festival back to cinemas and screens across the city from Dendy Opera Quays to Pitt Street Mall, the beautiful State Theatre, the Entertainment Quarter, Event Cinemas George Street, the Art Gallery of NSW and King Street, Newtown.

And of course, we welcome the return of the Hub to Lower Town Hall and its program of talks and parties. I hope to see you there.

FESTIVAL AWARDS

12th YEAR OF THE OFFICIAL COMPETITION AND SYDNEY FILM PRIZE

In 2019 the Official Competition celebrates 12 years of awarding the Sydney Film Prize to each year's most "audacious, cutting-edge and courageous" film. The competition is endorsed by FIAPF, the regulating body for international film festivals, and is judged by a jury of international and Australian filmmakers and industry professionals. The \$60,000 cash prize is presented at SFF's Closing Night ceremony on **Sunday 16 June**.

DOCUMENTARY AUSTRALIA FOUNDATION AWARD FOR AUSTRALIAN DOCUMENTARY

This prize is supported by Documentary Australia Foundation with a \$10,000 cash partnership acknowledging excellence in documentary production. Up to 10 films of any length are selected for the competition, and the jury awards the cash prize at SFF's Closing Night ceremony. Winners are Academy Award eligible.



DENDY AWARDS FOR AUSTRALIAN SHORT FILMS

SFF's prestigious Australian Short Film Awards were established in 1970 and have been sponsored by Dendy Cinemas for over 26 years. The awards are presented at SFF's Closing Night ceremony on **Sunday 16 June**.

- The Dendy Live Action Short Award, sponsored by Dendy Cinemas, provides a \$7,000 cash prize to the best Australian short film. Winners are Academy Award eligible.
- The Rouben Mamoulian Award, sponsored by Dendy Cinemas and named after the director who first presented the award in 1974, provides a \$7,000 cash prize to the best Australian short film director.



- The Yoram Gross Animation Award, sponsored by Sandra and Guy Gross in memory of the late Yoram Gross, provides a \$5,000 cash prize to the best Australian animated short film. Winners are Academy Award eligible.



Marcelo Martinessi, director of *The Heiresses* and winner of the 2018 Sydney Film Prize

2019 SYDNEY UNESCO CITY OF FILM AWARD

This annual award recognises a trailblazing NSW-based screen practitioner whose work stands for innovation, imagination and extraordinary impact. Create NSW awards a \$10,000 cash prize to the winner at SFF's Closing Night ceremony on **Sunday 16 June**.



EVENT CINEMAS AUSTRALIAN SHORT SCREENPLAY AWARD

The Event Cinemas Australian Short Screenplay Award, sponsored by Event Cinemas, provides a \$5,000 cash prize for the best short screenwriting. All Australian short films screening in the Festival are eligible for this award.



DINOSAUR DESIGNS

All Sydney Film Festival Award winners are presented with the Festival's signature mesmeric swirl award, designed and handmade in Sydney by our partners Louise Olsen and Stephen Ormandy of Dinosaur Designs.



DON'T FORGET TO HAVE YOUR SAY + WIN!

THE AUDIENCE AWARDS ARE SFF'S PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARDS, AND THE WINNERS REFLECT THE MOST POPULAR FILMS AT THE FESTIVAL.

After each screening, audience members are invited to rate the film. Two audience awards are presented: one for best narrative feature and one for best documentary. The winners are announced the week after the festival.

- You can only vote once for each film.
- You can vote for a film at any time after it has screened, until the end of the Festival.
- If you have any questions about voting, contact the box office on **1300 733 733**.

WEB VOTING INSTRUCTIONS

Visit sff.org.au/vote and use the code at the bottom of your ticket to rate each film out of a possible ten stars.

APP VOTING INSTRUCTIONS

- Log in to the official SFF 2019 App, go to 'My Tickets' and select a title among the films you've seen to vote for it.
- On the ticket screen, tap 'Vote' (in the upper right-hand corner).
- Enter your rating, on a scale of one to ten stars, to submit your vote.

GET THE SFF 2019 APP



WE'D LIKE TO WARMLY THANK OUR 2019 DIRECTOR'S PATRONS FOR THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT.

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Nick and Sandra Fairfax, Nicole Kidman AC,
Nicole McKenna and Chris Freeland AM,
Sam Meers AO, Zareh Nalbandian | Animal Logic,
Michael and Vivienne Selwyn, Will and Jane Vicars

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David and Leith Bruce-Steer,
Sally Cousens and John Stuckey, Joanne Dan,
Maria Farmer, Rick Gove, Sally and Sam Herman,
Leonie and David Jackson, Kate Mills,
Rebecca Rocheford-Davies, Rockend Technology,
Emile Sherman and Iain Canning | See-Saw Films,
The Sky Foundation, Adam Worling Public Relations,
Dr Greg Wilkins and Dr Wendy Orlay

DIRECTOR'S CUT

Jerrold Abbertson, Nick and Simone Abrahams, Ash St.,
Chris and Annerie Bell, Rosemary Blight and Ben Grant,
Graham Bradley AM and Charlene Bradley, Jane Bridge,
Carole Campbell, Jennifer Catchlove, Challis & Company,
Jan Chapman AO and Stephen O'Rourke,
Robert Coe and Warwick Ross | Third Man Films,
Tim Cox AO and Bryony Cox, Darren Dale | Blackfella Films,
Ben Ferris and Vida Irani, John Fink | FinkFilm,
Goalpost Pictures, Tim and Akiko Jackson,
The Lonergan Family, Dr Stephen McNamara,
Keith Miller, Revlover | Revolver, Ruth Ritchie Family Fund,
Keith Rodger | 98 | Fear of God Films,
Peter and Ingrid Shaw, Doug and Chris Snedden,
Ezekiel Solomon AM, Felicity Stalley, Caitlin Stanton,
Ashley and Aveen Stephenson,
Paul Wiegard Family, Will Wilson

DIRECTOR'S LAB

Drew Bailey, James Bailey, Sophie Cox,
Brendan Donoghue, Dorothy Creatives, David Hov,
Brian Lee, Amanda Maple-Brown, Emma and Andrew
Maple-Brown, McGregor Casting, David Michôd,
Pier 8 Films, Georgia Quick, Alice Yang

HELP KEEP THE FESTIVAL ALIGHT

As a not-for-profit organisation, Sydney Film Festival relies on support from us all. Ticket sales add up to less than 30% of the true cost of producing the Festival. Government and corporate support make up some of the difference, but we need your help too.

Your donations are an investment in the Festival's future and enable it to keep bringing the best and most important stories from around the world to Sydney each year.

Be a part of Sydney Film Festival's future.
Visit sff.org.au or phone 02 8220 6612.

DONATE NOW

MAKE A TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATION TO
SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL AT SFF.ORG.AU/DONATE



ROUND UP YOUR TICKETS

Your ticket price doesn't cover the true cost of bringing the Festival to Sydney each year. By adding a donation when you purchase your cinema tickets, you're helping to make the Festival possible.



BECOME A DIRECTOR'S PATRON

Take a leading role in Sydney Film Festival by becoming a Director's Patron. Meet visiting filmmakers, attend special events throughout the year and celebrate the excitement of the Festival as a VIP, from program launch to the final wrap celebration.



SUPPORT AN SFF INITIATIVE

Help make Sydney Film Festival an experience everyone can share by supporting one of our initiatives, including the Travelling Film Festival, the Screen Day Out secondary school education program, Screenability and our First Nations program.



MAKE A BEQUEST

Leave a charitable gift to Sydney Film Festival in your Will and ensure that the next generation of film lovers will have the chance to be inspired and challenged by the most interesting, important and ground-breaking films from around Australia and the world each year.

Find out more at sff.org.au/support-us or phone 02 8220 6612



2018 Lexus Fellows (L to R):
Jamieson Pearce, Melissa Anastasi,
Sunday Emerson Gullifer, Nathan Mewett
(not pictured: Curtis Taylor)

LEXUS AUSTRALIA SHORT FILM FELLOWSHIP

Lexus Australia and Sydney Film Festival believe in supporting emerging Australian talent so new voices and fresh ideas keep art forms moving forward.

For the third consecutive year, Sydney Film Festival will premiere four short films made by recipients of the Lexus Short Film Fellowship. As 2018 Fellows, each filmmaker received \$50,000 to bring their short film projects to life.

The Lexus Australia Short Film Fellowship develops and fosters new talent by allowing young filmmakers to be assessed by key industry figures and premiere their work at Sydney Film Festival. The Fellowship provides a launching pad for the careers of emerging Australian talent and ultimately contributes to the longevity of the medium, and the Australian filmmaking industry.

Get your tickets now to the Gala Premiere of short film awards at sff.org.au.

GALA PREMIERE: TUE 11 JUN 7:00 PM DOQ1

BROKEN LINE NORTH



ALSO SCREENS WED 12 JUN 6:00 PM EV WITH YULI

Australia | 2019 | 17 mins | In English and Lao World Premiere

Director, Screenwriter: Sunday Emerson Gullifer | Producer: Bethany Bruce | Cast: Alice Keohavong, Kai Lewins
Two broken people – a Lao-Australian woman and a teenage hitchhiker – must navigate grief, isolation and an unlikely connection forged over one night in a roadside motel.



Sunday Emerson Gullifer has won two Australian Directors' Guild Award nominations. Her highly commended short film, *Tomorrow, and Tomorrow*, premiered at SFF 2017.

CHLORINE



ALSO SCREENS TUE 11 JUN 9:00 PM EV WITH SCHOOL'S OUT

Australia | 2019 | 17 mins | In English | World Premiere

Director, Screenwriter: Melissa Anastasi | Producer: Jessica Carrera | Cast: Clementine Bell, Marlo Kelly, Tasma Walton
In a desperate bid for attention from her mother, 11-year-old Keira compulsively steals from pregnant women at her local aquatic centre. But her actions put her at risk of losing the only family she has.



Melissa Anastasi's short films have screened at over 40 film festivals. She is currently developing the feature screenplay *Bluebirds* with support from Screen Australia and Create NSW.

JADAI: THE BROOME BRAWLER



ALSO SCREENS FRI 14 JUN 8:30 PM EV WITH A DOG CALLED MONEY

Australia | 2019 | 12 mins | In English | World Premiere

Directors: Nathan Mewett, Curtis Taylor | Screenwriter: Melissa Lee Speyer | Producer: Glen Stasiuk
Cast: Clarence Ryan, Ruben Yorkshire, Lauren Clair
Amateur boxer Jadaai has promised his family: no more fighting. But the corrupt local cops have other plans, and Jadaai's forced into the fight of his life. Based on a true story.



Nathan Mewett and Curtis Taylor are filmmaking partners from Western Australia. Together they co-directed *Yulubidyl – Until The End*, which screened at SFF 2018.

STRANGERS



ALSO SCREENS THU 13 JUN 6:00 PM EV WITH DIVINE LOVE

Australia | 2019 | 14 mins | In English | World Premiere

Director, Screenwriter: Jamieson Pearce
Producers: Cyna Strachen, Liam Heyen
An emotional exploration of the complexities of ageing. Adrienne and Stewart must care for their ailing mother in the face of an apparent sexual awakening and a strict nursing home policy.



Jamieson Pearce is a freelance director and editor, and a passionate storyteller. His most recent film, *Adult*, adapted from a story by Christos Tsiolkas, screened at SXSW 2017.

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The Miracle of the Little Prince

CELEBRATE INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES AT THE FESTIVAL

IN 2019, THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES, THE SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL CELEBRATES THE ESSENTIAL ROLE THAT LANGUAGES PLAY IN PEOPLE'S DAILY LIVES, AND IN SHAPING AND PRESERVING CULTURE.



Sydney Film Festival has received grant funding from the Commonwealth Government through the Australian National Commission for UNESCO

In our 66th Festival we're screening a fascinating exploration, using Antoine Saint-Exupéry's classic book *The Little Prince*, of the world's disappearing indigenous languages (see International Documentaries, page 30). Indigenous languages from Alyawarre to Niuean to Tamasheq, feature in films screening in this year's Festival: we invite you to take the time to reflect on what language truly means and enjoy these examples of linguistic diversity.



PALM BEACH

WED 5 JUN 7:30 PM STATE

Australia | 2018 | 98 mins | In English | World Premiere

Director: Rachel Ward | Screenwriters: Joanna Murray-Smith, Rachel Ward

Producers: Bryan Brown, Deborah Balderstone | Cast: Sam Neill, Bryan Brown, Greta Scacchi | Distributor: Universal Pictures International Australasia

In Rachel Ward's funny, uplifting drama/comedy a group of lifelong friends reunite for a party at Sydney's Palm Beach; but tension mounts when deep secrets emerge. With a fantastic cast including Bryan Brown, Sam Neill, Richard E. Grant, Greta Scacchi, Jacqueline McKenzie and Heather Mitchell, *Palm Beach* raises universal issues through the prism of friendship. To mark his birthday, Frank (Brown) and Charlotte (Scacchi) decide to throw a three-day party at their luxurious house in Palm Beach, welcoming their closest friends. Frank, Leo (Neill) and Billy (E. Grant) were once involved in a band together; The Pacific Sideburns had one hit but little beyond that. Rounding out the guest list: Billy's partner, beautiful actress Eva (Mitchell); Leo's wife Bridget (McKenzie) and his step daughter Caitlin (Frances Berry); the hosts' children Dan and Ella (Charlie Vickers and Matilda Brown); and Holly (Claire van der Boom), the daughter of the band's late lead singer, who's brought along her new sheep farmer beau (Aaron Jeffery). The party starts well, with mouth-watering food and flowing champagne, but it doesn't take long for new and old resentments to emerge and, more seriously, the threat of an old secret coming to light. With witty dialogue, a breathtaking location and great actors at the top of their game, *Palm Beach* is an exuberant and life-affirming celebration of friendship.

Festival guests: Rachel Ward and members of the film team



In her former life as an actor, RACHEL WARD was the recipient of several international drama awards and nominations, including two Golden Globe nods. She has directed several short films including *Blindman's Bluff*, *The Big House* and *Martha's New Coat*. Her feature film debut *Beautiful Kate* (also playing at SFF this year) played at SFF and Toronto in 2009.

OTHER SCREENINGS:

FRI 10 JUN 4:15 PM STATE
MON 13 JUN 6:30 PM HOC

OPENING NIGHT GALA

What better way to experience the opening of the 66th Sydney Film Festival than on the red carpet at the majestic State Theatre? The Opening Night Gala is SFF's most stylish celebration, Sydney's premier film event and your chance to rub shoulders with international and Australian film industry guests.

A glittering night of sipping cocktails, sampling canapés and experiencing the World Premiere of Rachel Ward's star-packed new drama/comedy *Palm Beach*, followed by an exclusive after party at Sydney's stunning Centennial Hall.

A strictly limited number of tickets are available so grab yours today! This event is strictly 18+

OPENING NIGHT (FILM + AFTER PARTY)	\$130
OPENING NIGHT (FILM ONLY)	\$30
OPENING NIGHT CONCESSION (FILM ONLY)	\$28

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CLOSING NIGHT GALA

Bid a fitting farewell to the 66th Sydney Film Festival at the Closing Night Gala. An evening to appreciate and applaud all the wonderful talent that the Festival has seen.

Our awards ceremony at the State Theatre honours the winners of the Sydney Film Prize, the Documentary Australia Foundation Award, the Dendy Awards for Australian Short Films, the Event Cinemas Australian Short Screenplay Award and the Sydney UNESCO City of Film Award.

The awards ceremony is followed by the screening of our Closing Night Film – the Australian Premiere of a buzzy new title. A gala night full of entertainment, and the culmination of the Festival's journey, this is a moment not to be missed.

Book early as tickets are strictly limited!
This event is strictly 18+

CLOSING NIGHT	\$30
CLOSING NIGHT CONCESSION	\$28



This year the Official Competition celebrates 12 years of awarding the prestigious Sydney Film Prize to each year's most "audacious, cutting-edge and courageous" film. The Official Competition celebrates that rare but thrilling film that truly moves the art form forward. Innovative, provocative or controversial, they broaden our understanding of the world and say important things in original ways.

The previous Sydney Film Prize winners are: *The Heiresses* (2018); *On Body and Soul* (2017); *Aquarius* (2016); *Arabian Nights* (2015); *Two Days, One Night* (2014); *Only God Forgives* (2013); *Alps* (2012); *A Separation* (2011); *Heartbeats* (2010); *Bronson* (2009); and *Hunger* (2008).

The 2019 Official Competition Jury comprises: Australian producer John Maynard (Jury President); Australian filmmaker Ana Kokkinos (*Blessed*, SFF 2019); actor and director from Brazil, Wagner Moura (*Marighella*, SFF 2019); from New Zealand, filmmaker Gaylene Preston; and Indian artist and filmmaker Ritu Sarin (*The Sweet Requiem*, SFF 2019).

BACURAU



FRI 14 JUN 8:45 PM STATE | SAT 15 JUN 11:15 AM STATE

Brazil, France | 2019 | 132 mins | In English and Portuguese with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Directors, Screenwriters: Kleber Mendonça Filho, Juliano Dornelles | Producers: Emilie Lesclaux, Said Ben Said, Michel Merkt | Cast: Udo Kier, Sônia Braga, Barbara Collen | World Sales: SBS International

Straight from the Cannes Competition, the new film from Kleber Mendonça Filho (*Aquarius*, Sydney Film Prize winner, 2016) and Juliano Dornelles is a searing political parable, a magic realism fable and an explosive genre film. In the near future, in the small village of Bacurau, the people are in mourning at the loss of the matriarch, Carmelita, who lived to be 94. In his eulogy, her son says of her: "In our family, we have everyone from bricklayers to scientists, businesspeople, teachers, gigolos and whores. But no thief was ever born out of her." It serves as an apt description of the town too: a diverse group of people who share a sense of honour and pride. But all is not well in Bacurau. The water supply has been cut off through nefarious political deals, and now it appears that the village has vanished from most maps. Worse yet, unbeknownst to the people of Bacurau, not far away is a group of foreigners planning something extremely sinister. Mendonça Filho and Dornelles delicately build the tension until it explodes in a most unexpected way. In its potent combination of political critique and genre mayhem, *Bacurau* is unique, stunning and a rousing call for solidarity.

Festival guests: Kleber Mendonça Filho and Juliano Dornelles



JULIANO DORNELLES is a filmmaker, art director and screenwriter. His short film *Mens Sana in Corpore Sano* won the Special Jury Prize at the Locarno Film Festival in 2011 and several other awards. **KLEBER MENDONÇA FILHO**'s first feature film *Neighboring Sounds* (SFF 2012) was selected in over 100 festivals and won 32 awards. *Aquarius* was in competition at the 69th Cannes Film Festival and won the Sydney Film Prize at SFF in 2016.

BELLBIRD



18+ TUE 11 JUN 6:30 PM STATE | WED 12 JUN 1:55 PM STATE

New Zealand | 2019 | 96 mins | In English | World Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Hamish Bennett | Producers: Catherine Fitzgerald, Orlando Stewart | Cast: Marshall Napier, Cohen Holloway, Annie Whittle | Distributor: Transmission Films

Hamish Bennett's quietly powerful feature film debut, told with a warm humour, takes us into the heart of a small rural town in New Zealand, where a community comes together following a loss. Ross (Marshall Napier) has farmed the land all his life, just as his father and grandfather did before him. A largely silent man, Ross's far more exuberant wife Beth (Annie Whittle) is an eager participant in the local choir and a friend to many. When Beth suddenly dies, Ross is crushed but incapable of displaying his emotions. His son Bruce (Cohen Holloway) moves back in and tries to help, but is not suited to the farming life and also has great difficulties in expressing himself. Around them, their friends realise the difficulties, and pitch in to help. Hamish Bennett says: "The characters of *Bellbird* were inspired by my childhood neighbours in the small rural Northland community of Tauraroa. . . You don't see many outward displays of affection or emotion, but this can't be mistaken for not caring. It's very much the opposite. The love, the loyalty, the reliance – it can all be found in the little moments, buried under the layers of cheeky banter and cow shit." Along with his fine cast, Bennett expertly finds those little moments in this exquisite, gentle film.

Festival guest: Hamish Bennett



HAMISH BENNETT is a New Zealand based film-maker of Māori descent (Te Arawa, Ngapuhi, Kai Tahu) and a fulltime school teacher. He was raised in the rural Northland setting where *Bellbird* and his first two award-winning short films, *The Dump* and *Ross and Beth*, are set. *Bellbird* is his first feature film.

DIRTY GOD



WED 12 JUN 6:30 PM STATE | THU 13 JUN 11:40 AM STATE | SAT 15 JUN 2:00 PM RITZ 18+

UK, The Netherlands, Belgium, Ireland | 2019 | 105 mins | In English | Australian Premiere
 Director: Sacha Polak | Screenwriters: Sacha Polak, Susanne Farell | Producers: Marleen Slot, Mike Elliot
 Cast: Vicky Knight, Katherine Kelly | World Sales: Independent

Sacha Polak (*Hemel*, SFF 2012) paints an intimate portrait of a resilient young mother from East London in this compelling tale of youth, motherhood, courage and self-acceptance. After an acid attack by her ex, Jade is left physically and emotionally scarred. But Jade is no passive victim; she makes her own choices – good or bad – and deals with the consequences. Spiralling down a self-destructive path, Jade finds short-lived solace in online liaisons where she finds the passion and connection she has been craving. However, as family life and friendships start to crumble, she may have to hit rock bottom before finding her path back to her daughter and herself. Newcomer Vicky Knight, who was severely burned as a child, is a revelation in her commanding portrayal of a woman with incredible resilience: “vulnerable, flinty, and unashamedly sexual” as described in *Variety*. The lens of cinematographer Ruben Impens (*Broken Circle Breakdown*, *Raw*) deftly captures the nuances of Knight’s performance, accentuated by the distinct music, style and vibe of East London youth culture. Formidable directors Lynne Ramsay and Andrea Arnold stand as influences on Sacha Polak’s work and with *Dirty God* she joins their ranks.

Festival guest: Sacha Polak



SACHA POLAK is an award-winning director and screenwriter from the Netherlands. Her first English-language film *Dirty God* fits neatly into Polak’s liberatingly frank takes on female sexuality (*Hemel*, SFF 2012; *Zurich*).

HEARTS AND BONES



SAT 15 JUN 6:45 PM STATE | SUN 16 JUN 9:30 AM STATE 15+

Australia | 2019 | 107 mins | In English | World Premiere
 Director: Ben Lawrence | Screenwriters: Ben Lawrence, Beatrix Christian | Producer: Matt Reeder | Cast: Hugo Weaving, Andrew Luri | Distributor: Madman Entertainment

In Ben Lawrence’s beautifully acted debut feature, a war photographer (Hugo Weaving) and a refugee (Andrew Luri) discover a photograph that threatens to destroy them both. Daniel Fisher (Weaving) returns home, and despite his partner’s protests, prepares for his next dangerous overseas assignment. At the same time, he is preparing for an upcoming retrospective exhibition of his work from the world’s war zones. South Sudanese refugee, Sebastian Aman (Luri) has built a life in Australia, living happily with his wife and young child. When he learns that Daniel’s exhibition may display photographs of a massacre in Sebastian’s village 15 years earlier, he finds Daniel and appeals to him to exclude those photographs. An unlikely friendship develops between the two men, but it is severely tested when Daniel makes a shocking discovery. *Hearts and Bones* centres around the relationship of these two men, from very different backgrounds, who bond over their shared trauma. Andrew Luri, who has never acted before and was driving a garbage truck when he auditioned for the role, and Hugo Weaving both brilliantly convey the intricate relationship between the men. With these two powerful performances at its centre, Ben Lawrence has made an intelligent, morally complex and deeply moving film.

Festival guests: Ben Lawrence and members of the film team



BEN LAWRENCE is an internationally award-winning director and photographer. His short films have screened at Edinburgh, Clermont-Ferrand, Los Angeles, San Gio and Sao Paulo film festivals. In 2018, his critically acclaimed debut feature documentary *Ghosthunter* screened at multiple festivals around the world and won the Documentary Australia Foundation Award at SFF.

GOD EXISTS, HER NAME IS PETRUNYA

GOSPOD POSTOI, IMETO I' E PETRUNIJA



THU 13 JUN 6:15 PM STATE | FRI 14 JUN 11:45 AM STATE | SAT 15 JUN 3:45 PM HOC 15+

Macedonia, Belgium, Slovenia, France, Croatia | 2018 | 100 mins | In Macedonian with English subtitles
 Australian Premiere

Director: Teona Strugar Mitevska | Screenwriters: Elma Tataragić, Teona Strugar Mitevska | Producers: Labina Mitevska, Sebastien Delloye, Danijel Hočevar, Zdenka Gold, Marie Dubas, Elie Meirovitz | Cast: Zorica Nusheva, Labina Mitevska, Simeon Moni Damevski | Distributor: Palace Films

In this award-winning feminist satire, based on true events, Petrunya causes fury in her small Macedonian town when she participates in a men-only contest and wins. Petrunya – brilliantly played by Zorica Nusheva – struggles to find a job even though she has a history degree, and is fired of the sexist humiliations she has to endure trying to get one. On the way home from a particularly galling interview, she happens upon an old ritual. Every January the local priest throws an ornate wooden cross into the river and hundreds of men dive after it. Good fortune and prosperity are guaranteed to the man who retrieves it. Petrunya dives into the water on a whim and manages to grab the cross before the others. Her competitors are furious – how dare a woman take part in their ritual? All hell breaks loose, but Petrunya holds her ground. She won her cross and will not give it up. What follows is a strident, and frequently hilarious, skewering of the prejudices and hypocrisies of the police, the church, the media and even Petrunya’s own family.

Festival guest: Teona Strugar Mitevska



TEONA STRUGAR MITEVSKA was born in 1974 in Skopje, Macedonia. Her films include *How I Killed a Saint*, *I Am From Titov Veles*, *The Woman Who Brushed Off Her Tears* and *When the Day Had No Name* (SFF 2017), all of which have played at a number of festivals around the world including Rotterdam, Berlin and Toronto. *God Exists, Her Name Is Petrunya* premiered in the 2019 Berlin Competition.

JUDY & PUNCH



SAT 8 JUN 6:35 PM STATE | SUN 9 JUN 11:15 AM STATE | THU 13 JUN 6:30 PM RITZ 15+

Australia | 2018 | 105 mins | In English | Australian Premiere
 Director, Screenwriter: Mirrah Foulkes | Producers: Michelle Bennett, Nash Edgerton, Danny Gabai
 Cast: Mia Wasikowska, Damon Herriman, Tom Budge | Distributor: Madman Entertainment

Mirrah Foulkes’s astonishing, indefinable feature debut reimagines the *Judy & Punch* puppet show as a blackly comic feminist revenge tale starring Mia Wasikowska and Damon Herriman. It’s the mid-17th century in the anarchic town Seaside (which is nowhere near the sea), and The Enlightenment feels very far away indeed. Seaside has spiralled into violence, mob rule and God-fearing hysteria. Amongst the chaos, one glimmer of artistry remains: Punch and Judy’s puppet theatre. Once a master puppeteer, the charismatic Punch (Herriman) has fallen too much under the sway of whiskey, but his wife Judy (Wasikowska) is a puppeteering genius and ensures that their shows are a hit with the baying crowds. When a Punch bender goes disastrously and violently wrong, Judy decides to wreak vengeance on those who have wronged her and, as she discovers, many others. Mirrah Foulkes said: “My hope is that this epic female driven vengeance story incubates a wholly original and unique world, speaking volumes through its feminine inversion of the traditional hero’s journey. *Judy & Punch* is bat-shit-crazy and fun!” Taking cues from everything from Monty Python to *The Crucible* to *Kill Bill*, *Judy & Punch* is an ambitious film that finds its own singular path.

Festival guests: Mirrah Foulkes and members of the film team



MIRRAH FOULKES is an Australian actor, writer and director, who graduated from the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts in 2003. She wrote and directed three award-winning short films: *Dumpy Goes to The Big Smoke*, which won the Rouben Mamoulian Award at SFF 2012, *Florence Has Left The Building* and *Trespass*. *Judy & Punch*, her first feature film, premiered at the 2019 Sundance Film Festival.

MONOS



MON 10 JUN 6:20 PM STATE | TUE 11 JUN 4:00 PM STATE | SAT 15 JUN 6:45 PM DNEW 15+

Colombia, Argentina, The Netherlands, Germany, Sweden, Uruguay | 2019 | 102 mins | In English and Spanish with English subtitles | Australian Premiere

Director: Alejandro Landes | Screenwriters: Alejandro Landes, Alexis Dos Santos | Producers: Fernando Epstein, Alejandro Landes, Santiago Zapata, Cristina Landes | Cast: Julianne Nicholson, Moises Arias, Julian Giraldo | Distributor: Madman Entertainment

Alejandro Landes' incendiary allegory follows child soldiers holding a female doctor hostage in a remote jungle location, and won a Special Jury Award at Sundance. A film of lush visuals and raw emotion, *Monos* adopts the personality of a twisted fairy-tale. Invoking the thematic core of *Lord of the Flies*, it comments on the dehumanising effect of war and the seemingly endless cycles of violence in many South American nations. But there's no 'once upon a time' here, as Brazilian-born Colombian filmmaker Landes transports audiences to an unnamed mountain jungle in Latin America that can best be described as hell on earth. Teenagers with names such as "Wolf", "Lady", "Rambo" and "Dog" are holding captive an adult prisoner they call Doctora (Julianne Nicholson, excellent). These emotionally destroyed youngsters answer to a shadowy group known as The Organisation. (It's worth noting here that child soldiers brainwashed by the Khmer Rouge were instructed to obey Angkar, which translates as The Organisation). The fracturing of power and breakdown of loyalties in the soldier group is masterfully depicted, alongside Doctora's attempt to master her own version of psychological warfare and break free. This feral and furious drama is set to a score by Mica Levi (*Under the Skin*) that brilliantly places otherworldly sounds into the nightmare we're watching.



ALEJANDRO LANDES is a Colombian director, writer and producer. His directorial debut *Cocalero* premiered at Sundance in 2007 and was theatrically released in over 20 countries, while his second feature *Porfirio* premiered in the Quinzaine des Réalisateurs at the 2011 Cannes Film Festival. *Monos* is his third feature film.

PAIN AND GLORY

DOLOR Y GLORIA



FRI 7 JUN 6:00 PM STATE | SAT 8 JUN 11:45 AM STATE | SAT 15 JUN 8:30 PM HOC 18+

Spain | 2019 | 108 mins | In Spanish with English subtitles | Australian Premiere

Director, Screenwriter: Pedro Almodóvar | Producers: Agustín Almodóvar, Esther García | Cast: Antonio Banderas, Asier Echeandía, Penélope Cruz | Distributor: Universal Pictures International Australasia

Pedro Almodóvar reunites with Antonio Banderas and Penélope Cruz in his most personal film yet: a gorgeous reflection on cinema, art, family, love, and sexual awakening. Banderas, in one of his very finest performances, plays Salvador Mallo, who has a fair few things in common with Pedro Almodóvar. Suffering from a range of health issues, Salvador finds himself in a creative rut. He lacks the physical strength to make a film, and this inability to create makes him more depressed. This artistic limbo leads Salvador to reflect on his life, his loves and his films. *Pain and Glory* goes back in time to Salvador's childhood, where he was raised, in poverty, in a cave modelled into a house by his dotting mother (played superbly by Cruz). In the present, a reunion with an actor he has long been estranged from leads to an addiction to heroin. Amidst the pain, there are thoughts of past glories, and those hopefully to come, in a film that arrives at a resolute position of hope. As always, there is a meticulous attention to detail, and images and moments that make you swoon in the distinctive way that only a Pedro Almodóvar film can.



PEDRO ALMODÓVAR's first film was *Pepi, Luci, Bom* in 1980, which began a prolific career. *Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown* was an international success and he went on to win Academy Awards for *All About My Mother* and *Talk to Her*. *Volver* received two awards in Cannes. His most recent films *Julieta* (SFF 2017) and *Pain and Glory* both appeared in the Cannes Competition.

NEVER LOOK AWAY

WERK OHNE AUTOR



SUN 9 JUN 8:35 PM STATE | TUE 11 JUN 10:00 AM STATE | WED 12 JUN 6:30 PM HOC 15+

Germany | 2018 | 189 mins | In German with English subtitles | Australian Premiere

Director, Screenwriter: Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck | Producers: Jan Mojto, Quinn Berg, Max Wiedemann, Christiane Henckel von Donnersmarck | Cast: Tom Schilling, Sebastian Koch, Paula Beer | Distributor: Sony Pictures Releasing

Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck (Oscar winner for *The Lives of Others*) takes a vast view of German history, over three eras, in this remarkable love story inspired by the life of revered artist Gerhard Richter. The film follows Kurt from his childhood in Nazi Germany, to his life as a young artist (now played by Tom Schilling, *Oh Boy*, SFF 2013) trained to capture the bravery of the working class of East Germany, to someone struggling to find his particular artistic vision when he enjoys freedom of expression in West Germany. At the story's centre is a beautiful and tragic love story, beginning when Kurt falls in love with fellow student Ellie (Paula Beer, *Transit*, SFF 2018; *Frantz*). Though very much in love, Ellie's father Professor Seeband (Sebastian Koch, *The Lives of Others*) objects to the relationship and is determined to bring it to an end. With two of Germany's finest young actors, and an incredibly dramatic story, Donnersmarck carefully intertwines the romance with three key eras of German history in a fascinating way. At the same time, we witness how this love, and this history, affect Kurt as an artist who finally finds his own true path.

Festival guest: Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck



FLORIAN HENCKEL VON DONNERSMARCK was born in 1973 in Cologne and studied Directing at the Munich Film Academy. His debut film as writer and director was *The Lives of Others* (2006), winner of the Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film, amongst many other prizes. His second feature, *The Tourist* (2010), was nominated for three Golden Globes.

PARASITE



SAT 15 JUN 9:10 PM STATE | SUN 16 JUN 11:35 AM STATE 18+

South Korea | 2019 | 131 mins | In Korean with English subtitles | Australian Premiere

Director: Bong Joon-ho | Screenwriters: Han Jin Won, Bong Joon-ho | Producers: Kwak Sin Ae, Moon Yang Kwon | Cast: Song Kang-ho, Lee Sun Kyun, Cho Yeo Jeong | Distributor: Madman Entertainment

Straight from the Cannes Competition, Bong Joon-ho's stunning follow-up to *Okja* (SFF 2017) is a thrilling, satirical take on income inequality as told through the story of two families. Bong regular Song Kang-ho (*The Host*, *Snowpiercer*) plays Ki-taek, whose family of four is close, but hopelessly unemployed. Without prospects, they hustle as best they can to scrape up the money to survive in their subterranean apartment. Hope comes in the form of an unusual offer. The son, Ki-woo, is recommended for a very well-paid tutoring job. Though Ki-woo lacks a university degree, it turns out his sister Ki-jung is a master forger and soon, bearing a fake degree, he is being interviewed at the luxurious home of the very wealthy Park family. Ki-woo gets the job as tutor, and quickly realises that the Park family could well prove to be the solution to his family's money problems. With every frame beautifully composed, *Parasite* vividly contrasts the two families using humour, mystery and a creeping sense of tension. Bong once again skillfully fuses genre elements with social critique in a wildly entertaining, visually extraordinary and intoxicating manner.

Festival guest: Bong Joon-ho



BONG JOON-HO was born in Daegu, South Korea, in 1969. He gained significant international attention in 2003 with the crime drama *Memories of Murder* (SFF 2004). His monster movie *The Host* (2006) and murder mystery *Mother* (2009) followed. He then made two English language films, *Snowpiercer* (SFF 2014) and *Okja* (SFF 2017). *Parasite* (2019) was presented in the Cannes Competition.

THE SOUVENIR



THU 6 JUN 6:15 PM STATE | SAT 8 JUN 9:30 AM STATE | FRI 14 JUN 6:15 PM HOC
 SUN 16 JUN 4:45 PM RITZ

UK | 2018 | 115 mins | In English | Australian Premiere

Director, Screenwriter: Joanna Hogg | Producer: Luke Schiller | Cast: Honor Swinton Byrne, Tom Burke, Tilda Swinton
 Distributor: Universal Pictures International Australasia

Joanna Hogg's dream-like, visually splendid tale of first love stars Honor Swinton Byrne (in a breakout performance) alongside her mother, Tilda Swinton, and Tom Burke. It won the Grand Jury Prize at Sundance this year. Based on elements from Hogg's own life, *The Souvenir* centres around Julie (Swinton Byrne), a 1980s film student from a privileged background who wishes to make films depicting the harsh social realities of Thatcherite Britain. Into her life comes Anthony (Tom Burke), who's older and charismatic and expresses serious interest in, and ideas about, the films Julie wishes to make. Following a chance meeting, the two embark on a tempestuous love affair. The dapper and sophisticated Anthony says he works for the Foreign Office, and hints at daring, secretive missions. While Julie's mother (Swinton) and her friends express some apprehension, Julie remains devoted, borrowing increasingly large sums of money from her parents to hand over to Anthony. Hogg says: "Making the film, I'm allowing parts of my own biography to be re-imagined and expanded upon and changed. I want it to become something else." The result is a film of great power and unforgettable imagery, perfectly capturing the social milieu, and all the euphoria of first love and its accompanying harsh realisations.



© Gerhard Kassner / Berlinale

JOANNA HOGG is considered one of the UK's leading auteurs. Her first feature, *Unrelated* (2008), starring Tom Hiddleston, won the FIPRESCI Prize and *The Guardian's* First Film Award. Following that was *Archipelago* (2010), again with Hiddleston, and *Exhibition* (2013). *The Souvenir* (2018) was Executive Produced by Martin Scorsese. She is currently working on the second part of *The Souvenir*, with Robert Pattinson, Tilda Swinton and Honor Swinton Byrne.

SYNONYMS

SYNONYMES



MON 10 JUN 1:45 PM STATE | WED 12 JUN 9:30 AM STATE

France, Israel, Germany | 2019 | 123 mins | In French with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
 Director: Nadav Lapid | Screenwriters: Nadav Lapid, Haim Lapid | Producers: Said Ben Said, Michel Merkt
 Cast: Tom Mercier, Quentin Dolmaire, Louise Chevillotte | World Sales: SBS International

Proceed with caution into Nadav Lapid's intense, neurotic, uncompromising fever dream about a young Israeli man who goes to Paris to erase his identity. Winner of the Berlinale Golden Bear, the film has Yoav (a brilliant Tom Mercier) turn up in Paris in the hope that France will save him from what he sees as the madness of his country. He refuses to speak Hebrew, and a dictionary becomes his most valuable resource as he walks the streets muttering in French. Things do not begin well for him. Almost immediately all his belongings are stolen, and he is alone, naked and freezing in an apartment. Temporary salvation comes in the form of his neighbours, writer Emile (Quentin Dolmaire) and musician Caroline (Louise Chevillotte), who give him clothes, some cash, and become his first friends in Paris as he embarks on a challenging new life. Mercier's unforgettable performance defies conventional description. Spending much of the film completely naked, he imbues Yoav with a forceful anger and unpredictability. Lapid, whose previous films, *Policeman* and *The Kindergarten Teacher*, were critical looks at militarism and commercialism, here takes a scabrous view of identity and nationhood. It's not always easy to watch, but impossible to look away.



NADAV LAPID was born in Tel Aviv, Israel, in 1975, and studied philosophy. After military service, he moved to Paris, before returning to Israel to study at the Sam Spiegel Film & Television School in Jerusalem. His debut feature film *Policeman* (SFF 2012) won the Special Jury Prize at Locarno in 2011. *The Kindergarten Teacher* played Cannes Critics' Week in 2014. *Synonyms* won the Golden Bear at the Berlinale earlier this year.

SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL THANKS PETER AND SHARON IVANY, THE PHILANTHROPISTS INVESTING IN THE FESTIVAL'S FUTURE.



Sydney Film Festival CEO Leigh Small,
 Peter Ivany AM, Festival Director Nashen Moodley

Noted Sydney philanthropists Peter and Sharon Ivany pledged a \$200,000 gift to Sydney Film Festival.

Peter Ivany's gift attests to his family's strong passion for film and affirms the Festival's reputation as the beating heart of the city's film culture.

"My family and I have always loved that experience of seeing as many films as possible in a few days – walking around in the brisk air of winter between venues and enjoying the buzz of the city," Ivany says. "Getting to travel to three or four different worlds without ever leaving Sydney is a wonderful thing – it's an experience that people will never want to lose."

Peter has long been a patron of the arts (he recently announced a \$1M bequest to the Museum of Contemporary Art), but he holds a special reverence for film.

During his decade-long tenure as CEO of Hoyts Cinemas, the company grew rapidly from a small Australian chain to a global cinema giant, with over 2000 theatres operating in 12 countries.

First-generation immigrants and the children of Holocaust survivors, Peter and Sharon are acutely aware of the need for a platform to foreground diverse stories and experiences.

"I've seen perspectives and ideas change in this country over time, and I think that a part of that is having this access to stories from other places that you otherwise would never hear or see," he says. "Australia has given my family and I so much, and it's important for me to give back so that cultural events like Sydney Film Festival can continue to grow."

As a member of Sydney Film Festival's Advisory Council for over a decade, and having recently pledged \$200,000 towards the Festival's future, Ivany is a valued member of the extended SFF family.

"If the Festival opens up someone's eyes to a new idea or perspective they've never considered before, or inspires a young person to tell their story through the medium of film, then I think it's done its job," Ivany says.

"I'm very pleased to have been able to play a small part in that."

Sydney's cultural institutions rely on investments like Peter and Sharon Ivany's to be able to survive. A gift or bequest from your estate can make an enormous difference towards securing the Festival's future, and enabling your passion for film to live on and bring pleasure and inspiration to others.

If you would like more information, please contact Sydney Film Festival Philanthropy Manager, Georgia Shepherd on 8220 6612 or at georgia.shepherd@sff.com.au.



DOCUMENTARY AUSTRALIA FOUNDATION AWARD

Winning filmmakers of the 2018 Documentary Australia Award for *Ghosthunter* Rebecca Bennett (Producer) and Ben Lawrence (Director, Writer)

SFF is honoured to present the annual Documentary Australia Foundation Award for Australian Documentary, generously supported by the Foundation.

Previous winners include *Ghosthunter* (2018), *The Pink House* (2017), *In the Shadow of the Hill* (2016), *Only the Dead* (2015), *35 Letters* (2014), *Buckskin* (2013), *Killing Anna* (2012), *Life in Movement* (2011), *The Snowman* (2010), *A Good Man* (2009) and *Contact* (2009).

FILMMAKER GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE FOR ALL SCREENINGS

DAF DOCUMENTARY AUSTRALIA FOUNDATION

I AM NO BIRD



SAT 15 JUN 6:45 PM EV5
SUN 16 JUN 4:00 PM DNEW

ALL AGES

Australia | 2019 | 78 mins | In English, Hindi, Turkish and Spanish with English subtitles
World Premiere

Director: Em Baker | Producers: Lucy Hayes, Em Baker | Distributor: Potential Films

What do weddings mean to modern women? Four very different women from Australia, India, Mexico and Turkey prepare for their weddings, each one with different significance. To Benay, in Turkey, it means a new beginning and a new family. To Anna, in Australia, it means being made one with her partner and her god. To Luthanlu, in India, it's preserving her culture; and for Dalia, in Mexico, it means her Catholic family's acceptance of her sexuality.



Em Baker is a filmmaker from Melbourne, Australia. Her documentary *Spoke* won the Audience Award at the Melbourne Documentary Film Festival. *I Am No Bird* is her feature debut.

IN MY BLOOD IT RUNS



SUN 9 JUN 7:00 PM EV5
TUE 11 JUN 2:00 PM STATE

15+

Australia | 2019 | 85 mins | In English
Australian Premiere

Director, Screenwriter: Maya Newell | Producers: Rachel Nanninaaq Edwardson, Sophie Hyde, Maya Newell, Larissa Behrendt | Production Company: Closer Productions

A rare insight into the world of a 10-year-old Arrernte/Garrwa boy, Djuwan, living with his mum, nana and siblings in Hidden Valley, Alice Springs, who has been passed on a gift from his grandfather as a Traditional Healer. Yet Djuwan is 'failing' in school and facing increasing scrutiny from welfare and the police. As he travels perilously close to incarceration, his family fight to keep him safe and grounded in language, culture and identity. We walk with him as he grapples with these pressures, shares his truths and somewhere in-between finds space to dream, imagine and hope for his future self.



Maya Newell directed *In My Blood It Runs* in collaboration with Djuwan Hoosan, Carol Turner, Margaret Anderson, Megan Hoosan, James Mawson. Newell's documentary *Gayby Baby* screened at SFF 2015.

IT ALL STARTED WITH A STALE SANDWICH



SAT 15 JUN 4:35 PM STATE
SUN 16 JUN 3:50 PM DOQ2

ALL AGES

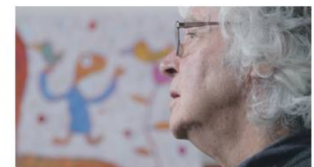
Australia | 2019 | 94 mins | In English | **World Premiere**
Director, Screenwriter: Samantha Lang | Producer: John Maynard | Production Company: Felix Media

50 years ago, Sydneysiders were shocked and the art world astonished by Christo's wrapping of the Little Bay coastline. Hungarian migrant and entrepreneur John Kaldor, who initiated this monumental work, has said "it all started with a stale sandwich, in Christo's studio in 1968 New York." Following projects featured: Christo and Jeanne-Claude, Marina Abramović, Gilbert and George, Jeff Koons, and Jonathan Jones. Now, Project 34 (by Asad Raza) is about to be unveiled, and UK artist Michael Landy is designing the exhibition to celebrate 50 years of Kaldor Public Art Projects.



Samantha Lang directs and writes intimate drama and documentaries that screen at festivals including Sundance, Toronto, Locarno, and Cannes (*The Well*, SFF 2017 competed for the Palme d'Or).

THE LEUNIG FRAGMENTS



SUN 16 JUN 2:15 PM STATE
ALL AGES

Australia | 2019 | 97 mins | In English | **World Premiere**
Director, Screenwriter: Kasimir Burgess | Producer: Philippa Campey | Distributor: Madman Entertainment

Michael Leunig is best known for his whimsical quivering-line cartoons that have appeared in *The Age* and *The Sydney Morning Herald* over several decades. His delightful characters – The Duck, Mr Curly and Vasco Pyjama – have entertained the nation, but he's also been the target of considerable criticism. In this entertaining and revealing documentary portrait, the man behind the pen talks candidly about his life and work as a cartoonist, writer, painter, philosopher, poet and playful provocateur.



Kasimir Burgess' filmmaking mines the territory between art, music and cinema. Films include the award-winning shorts *Lily* and *Directions* and *The Man Who Could Not Dream*, and feature *Fell* (SFF 2014).

It All Started With a Stale Sandwich Photograph: Shunk-Kender © J. Paul Getty Trust. All Rights Reserved.

LIFE AFTER THE OASIS



THU 13 JUN 6:30 PM EV3

15+

Australia | 2019 | 75 mins | In English | World Premiere
 Director, Screenwriter: Sascha Ettinger Epstein | Producers: Mary Macrae, Ian Darling | World Sales: Shark Island Institute

In 2008, feature documentary *The Oasis* shocked Australia with its gritty insight into the lives of homeless teens at a notorious youth refuge in inner-city Sydney. An outpouring of social and political goodwill followed, with the then-Prime Minister pledging to halve homelessness by 2020. A decade later, with social inequality and homelessness worse than ever, this film revisits the original subjects and asks them to reflect on where their lives have taken them.

LILI



THU 6 JUN 6:00 PM EV3

ALL AGES

FRI 7 JUN 6:15 PM RITZ

Australia | 2018 | 85 mins | In English and Hungarian with English subtitles | World Premiere

Director, Screenwriter: Peter Hegedus | Producers: Rebecca McElroy, András Muhi, Gábor Ferenczy, Peter Hegedus | Distributor: Ronin Films

After fleeing the 1956 Hungarian revolution, Lili returns for the 60th anniversary, where she reveals to daughter Edie why she had to leave her first child behind. Edie starts her own investigation, journeying from Australia to come face to face with her abandoned half-sister and the painful truth behind their mother's decision. In the process, more secrets are exposed that re-cast wartime history and challenge Edie to try and reconcile her family's tragic past.

MARTHA: A PICTURE STORY



SAT 8 JUN 6:30 PM EV5

ALL AGES

MON 10 JUN 6:00 PM DNEW

Australia, USA, Germany, Brazil | 2019 | 90 mins
 In English | Australian Premiere

Director: Selina Miles | Producer: Daniel Joyce
 Distributor: Umbrella Entertainment

In 1970s New York, photographer Martha Cooper captured some of the first vivid images of graffiti appearing on the city's subway carriages. Decades later, Martha realises she's become an unexpected icon of the street art world – her visionary photography having inspired the spread of graffiti around the globe. Now, at age 75, Martha must navigate her way through this vastly changed culture.

SANCTUARY



WED 12 JUN 6:15 PM EV3

15+

Australia | 2018 | 85 mins | In English, Dutch with English subtitles | World Premiere
 Director, Screenwriter: Kaye Harrison | Producer: Greer Simpkin | Production Company: Bunya Productions

Khaled was born in Iraq but raised in the Netherlands by his journalist father. At 18, he travelled to Baghdad to visit his sick mother, and ended up working as an interpreter for the Coalition Forces. As insurgent violence escalated, he tried to leave but his Dutch papers were not in order. Khaled was suddenly someone to be feared and treated inhumanely: he spends the next ten years as a refugee travelling the world trying to find sanctuary. An intimate story of a man struggling to hold onto his humanity as he seeks peace and freedom.



Sascha Ettinger Epstein's documentaries include *Painting with Light in a Dark World* (2003), *The Oasis* (2008), *Destination Arnold* (SFF 2016), and *The Pink House* (SFF DAF winner 2017).



Peter Hegedus is a multi-award-winning documentarian. Films include: *Inheritance: A Fisherman's Story* (2003); *My America* (SFF 2011); *Strudel Sisters* (2016); *Éva* (2018).



Selina Miles is known for her directorial work in the online space and the street art world. Her recent projects include *Limitless* (YouTube) and *The Wanderers* (ABC iView).



Kaye Harrison was director and DOP of award-winning Australian documentaries *Crossing the Line* (2005) and *The Long Goodbye* (2010). Her documentary *The Sunnyboy* premiered at SFF 2013.

SHE WHO MUST BE LOVED



FRI 14 JUN 6:00 PM EV3
 SAT 15 JUN 7:00 PM DQ01

ALL AGES

Australia | 2018 | 88 mins | In English and Alyawarre with English subtitles
 Director, Screenwriter: Erica Glynn | Producer: Tanith Glynn-Maloney | Production Company: Since1788 Productions

A celebration of the life and work of the trailblazing Alfreda Glynn: history-maker, mother, and a central figure in Indigenous filmmaking from the heart of the country. Born under the Aboriginal Protection policies, in the early 1970s she channelled her formidable energy into establishing the Central Australian Aboriginal Media Association (CAAMA) and later Imparja TV. Not just a bio-pic, it's part social history and part detective story, as the mystery behind her grandmother's death is tracked down.

Screens with *Ties That Bind*



Erica Glynn has directed shorts, documentaries, and worked as an executive producer (*Redfern Now*, *Gods of Wheat Street*). Recent credits: *Black Comedy*, *In My Own Words* (SFF 2017).

WHITE LIGHT



FRI 7 JUN 6:15 PM EV3
 SAT 8 JUN 9:00 PM DNEW

15+

Australia, USA | 2019 | 96 mins | In English
 Australian Premiere
 Director, Screenwriter: George Gittoes | Producers: Hellen Rose, George Gittoes | Production Company: Gittoes Films Pty Ltd

Englewood, South Side Chicago (aka Chi-Raq) has worse gun violence statistics than any active war zone of the last two decades. Interviewing friends and family, Gittoes documents the young victims, such as 'Prince of the Streets' Solja and Kaylyn, the gang's guardian angel said to be protecting them from the grave. Gittoes explores why these civilian deaths are happening and highlights the ways the community is working to bring peace and end the cycle of revenge and retaliation.



George Gittoes has been making unique, award-winning films since 1977. Films include: *Soundtrack to War* (2003-4); *Rampage* (SFF 2006); *Love City Jalalabad* (SFF 2013); *Snow Monkey* (2016).



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DENDY AWARDS FOR AUSTRALIAN SHORT FILMS

Alyssa McClelland, winner of the Dendy Live Action Short Award for *Second Best*, with Dendy Cinemas' Nick Hayes

Sydney Film Festival's short film competition has launched the careers of directors, writers, producers, cinematographers and other film creatives in its 50-year-history.

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SAT 15 JUN 4:15 PM EV5 18+
SUN 16 JUN 2:00 PM EV3

DENDY
CINEMAS

ALL THESE CREATURES



Australia | 2018 | 13 mins | In English
Director, Screenwriter: Charles Williams
Producers: Elise Trenorden, Charles Williams
Cast: Yared Scott, Mandala Mathia, Helen Hailu
World Sales: Premium Films

An adolescent boy attempts to untangle his memories of a mysterious infestation, the unravelling of his father, and the little creatures inside us all.

THE EGG



Australia | 2019 | 10 mins | In English
Director, Screenwriter: Jane Cho
Producers: Jane Cho, Ilana Lazar | Cast: Kim Doan, Gabrielle Chan | Rights Holder: Good Egg Creative

During her depressing visits with her elderly, immigrant babysitter, a young girl becomes obsessed with a delicious-looking Easter Egg.

FEATHERWEIGHT



Australia | 2019 | 13 mins | In English
Director: Sam Lara | Screenwriter: David Vincent Smith | Producer: Jess Parker
Cast: Vivienne Holub, Eddie Baroo, Ahmed Conte | Rights Holder: No Labels Media

Stubborn and scrawny 13-year-old Tas gets dumped on her father's doorstep. She turns to boxing in an unlikely and desperate attempt to win him over.

THE GRAVE OF ST ORAN



Australia | 2019 | 9 mins | In English
Director, Screenwriter: Jim Batt | Producers: Jim Batt, Josie Hess | Narrator: Neil Gaiman
Rights Holder: Sharp as Knives

A twisted philosophical animated tale of two saints, a murder, and the dark history behind the chapel on the island of Iona, narrated by master storyteller Neil Gaiman.

THE HITCHHIKER



Australia | 2018 | 13 mins | In English
Director, Screenwriter: Adele Vuko
Producers: Chloe Rickard, Johanna Somerville
Cast: Liv Hewson | Rights Holder: Jungle Entertainment

Jade hits the road to Byron Bay with two besties, resolving to keep her terminal diagnosis secret. An enigmatic hitchhiker makes her an offer she finds hard to refuse.

I'M NOT HURTING YOU



Australia | 2019 | 15 mins | In English
Director, Screenwriter: David Vincent Smith
Producers: Lauren Brunswick, Jess Parker
Cast: Alexandra Nell, Noah Skape
Rights Holder: No Labels Media

A desperate woman kidnaps and forces rehab on her dangerous, younger meth-addicted brother, in a last-ditch effort to save his life.

JACKRABBIT



Australia | 2018 | 9 mins | In English
Director, Screenwriter: Alex Feggans
Producer: Megan Ayers | Cast: Boris Brkic, Nick Burton, Manuel Caputo | Rights Holder: Alex Feggans

An Italian backpacker stops at a remote gas station in Australia and is confronted with a strange situation.

SNARE



Australia | 2018 | 14 mins | In English
Director: Madeleine Gottlieb | Screenwriters: Madeleine Gottlieb, James Fraser
Producer: Madeleine Gottlieb, Tom Slater
Cast: Steve Rodgers, James Fraser
Rights Holder: Grand Illusions

In a schmaltzy late-90s Chinese restaurant, a father and his punk-rock son struggle with their familial roles.

SOHRAB AND RUSTUM



Australia | 2018 | 14 mins | In English
Director, Screenwriter: Lee Whitmore | Producer: Lee Whitmore, Mark Stiles, Jingjing Ma
Rights Holder: Susan Lane Studio

A teacher reads a poem to a class of teenage girls, transporting the students to ancient Persia to witness a legendary fight between two warriors.

Also screens in International Animation Showcase (page 41)

TASH



Australia | 2019 | 6 mins | In English
Directors: Amelia Phillips, Natasha Anderson
Screenwriter: Natasha Anderson | Producer: Amelia Phillips | Rights Holder: Saxall

23-year-old Tash has spent her short life as a witness to, and survivor of, violence. This is Tash's story, as told and illustrated by her.

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The ultimate Sydney Film Festival experience is watching a film at the spectacular and iconic State Theatre. The grand theatre celebrates its 90th birthday this Festival, having opened on 7 June 1929.

The State Theatre was the vision of Stuart Doyle, owner of Union Theatres and the esteemed architect Henry White. It was to be seen as "The Empire's Greatest Theatre" and was designed as a picture palace when such monuments to movies were at their grandest and most spectacular.

At the 2019 Festival, you can experience everything from family-friendly anime (such as *Children of the Sea*) to powerful documentaries (such as *The Final Quarter*), indie hits (such as *The Dead Don't Die* and *High Life*) and all the boundary-pushing Official Competition films in spectacular surrounds (and all for the price of a movie ticket!).

THE BIGGEST LITTLE FARM



WED 5 JUN 6:15 PM DOQ2
SAT 8 JUN 4:30 PM STATE

ALL AGES

USA | 2018 | 91 mins | In English | Australian Premiere
Director: John Chester | Producer: Sandra Keats
Distributor: Madman Entertainment

A genuine crowd-pleaser that follows filmmaker John Chester, his wife and dog as they chase their dream to set up a sustainable farm, with plenty of enthusiasm but zero experience.

It all started with rescue dog, Todd. He just didn't like living downtown, so cameraman John and caterer Molly decided to up sticks and move to a rundown homestead an hour outside the city. Their aim was to farm in harmony with nature – but the snails, coyotes and bugs etc., had other ideas. Restoring the soil, fighting off infestations, nursing pregnant pigs, coping with fire and drought – it's all in a day's work for the determined couple. By year eight, the natural world is rebounding – barn owls, bobcats, gopher snakes and more – and Apricot Lane Farm is alive with infinite possibilities. Beautifully crafted, *The Biggest Little Farm* is an ode to goodhearted idealism and the beauty of the natural world.

Screens with *Tungus*

BLINDED BY THE LIGHT



SAT 8 JUN 9:00 PM STATE
SUN 9 JUN 8:20 PM HOC
SAT 15 JUN 6:35 PM RITZ

ALL AGES

UK | 2019 | 114 mins | In English | Australian Premiere
Director: Gurinder Chadha | Screenwriters: Sarfraz Manzoor, Gurinder Chadha, Paul Mayeda Berges | Producers: Gurinder Chadha, Jane Barclay, Jamal Daniel | Cast: Viveik Kalra, Kulvinder Ghir, Hayley Atwell | Distributor: Universal Pictures International Australasia

In *Bend It Like Beckham* director Gurinder Chadha's joyful celebration of Bruce Springsteen's music, discovering *The Boss* radically changes one British-Pakistani teenager's life.

In 1987 Luton, Javed (Viveik Kalra) wants nothing more than to escape the dreary town, its racism and lack of opportunity. Though Javed is drawn to music and writing, his domineering father expects him to pursue a sensible career. When Javed comes across the music of Springsteen, he finds that the working-class poet speaks directly to his situation and his life – and inspires him to push forward and pursue his dreams. Based on *The Guardian* journalist Sarfraz Manzoor's memoir, *Greetings from Bury Park* – and made with Springsteen's blessing and full access to his catalogue – *Blinded by the Light* is an uplifting testament to the power of art to change lives.

CHILDREN OF THE SEA KAIJU NO KODOMO



SAT 15 JUN 4:15 PM HEQ15
SUN 16 JUN 4:30 PM STATE

ALL AGES

Japan | 2019 | 110 mins | In Japanese with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director: Ayumu Watanabe | Producer: Eiko Tanaka | Cast: Mana Ashida, Hiro Ishibashi, Goro Inagaki | Distributor: Madman Entertainment

Young Ruka and her supernaturally gifted friends go on a magical adventure under the sea, in this gorgeous anime adaptation of Daisuke Igarashi's manga of the same name.

When Ruka is suspended from her school handball team, she decides to visit her father, who works at an aquarium. She soon meets and befriends Urui, a boy who seems at one with the ocean and has the ability to communicate with sea creatures. She also meets his older brother, the sickly and haughty Sora. Together they notice a song of the sea that's luring all types of sea creatures away from their natural habitats. And Ruka discovers that her affinity with the sea is far greater than she imagined. Director Ayumu Watanabe (*Doraemon the Movie: Nobita's Dinosaur*) has crafted a film of great beauty, depicting a magical seascape setting for this fantastic adventure. Selected for the Contrechamp Competition at the prestigious Annecy Festival.

THE DEAD DON'T DIE



FRI 14 JUN 6:30 PM STATE 18+
SAT 15 JUN 8:45 PM RITZ
SUN 16 JUN 6:45 PM EV4

USA | 2019 | 103 mins | In English | Australian Premiere
 Director, Screenwriter: Jim Jarmusch | Producers: Joshua Astrachan, Carter Logan | Cast: Adam Driver, Chloe Sevigny, Bill Murray and Chloë Sevigny as International Australasia

Straight from Cannes: Jim Jarmusch's hilarious, philosophical zombie film stars Bill Murray, Adam Driver and Chloë Sevigny as small-town cops battling the undead.

It's hard to argue with *The Dead Don't Die's* claim to have "the greatest zombie cast ever disassembled". With a roster of stars including Tilda Swinton, Danny Glover, Selena Gomez, Luka Sabbat, Iggy Pop, RZA and Tom Waits, the scene is set for all manner of mayhem. Centerville, population 738, is a close-knit town where not a lot ever happens. A series of unnatural occurrences triggers widespread panic and, even worse, the dead start rising from their graves, with an appetite for living flesh. As ever, the rule "if you've got to kill the dead, kill the head" applies, but these are resilient zombies, and constantly growing in number. Jarmusch handles the well-trodden genre with levity and extreme strangeness – and the result is a joy to behold.

THE FINAL QUARTER



FRI 7 JUN 8:45 PM STATE ALL AGES
SAT 8 JUN 7:00 PM CASULA
SUN 9 JUN 9:30 AM STATE
SAT 15 JUN 11:45 AM HEQ15

Australia | 2019 | 78 mins | In English | World Premiere
 Director: Ian Darling AO | Screenwriters: Ian Darling AO, Mark Monroe | Producers: Ian Darling AO, Mary Macrae Photo®: Fairfax | World Sales: Shark Island Institute

Cheers turned to boos in the final years of AFL champion footballer Adam Goodes' career when he publicly called out racism. This impassioned film tracks Australia's heated response.

The Indigenous leader and Sydney Swans player became a lightning rod for an intense public debate and widespread media commentary that divided the country. In the last three years of his career, Goodes was named Australian of the Year, accused of staging for free kicks, and performed an on-field war dance celebration. When the football crowds turned on him, the Brownlow medalist left his beloved game. The film is crafted using only archival footage aired at the time, which has been expertly edited. The result is a powerful film that holds a mirror to Australia and suggests we reconsider what happened on and off the football field.

Festival guests: Ian Darling and members of the film team

HIGH LIFE



MON 10 JUN 8:45 PM STATE 18+
FRI 14 JUN 8:45 PM RITZ
SAT 15 JUN 8:45 PM EV5

France, Germany, UK | 2018 | 110 mins | In English
 Director: Claire Denis | Screenwriters: Claire Denis, Jean-Pol Fargeau, Geoff Cox | Producers: Claudia Steffen, Christoph Friedel, Laurence Clerc, Olivier Thery Lapiney, Oliver Dungey, Klaudia Smieja, Andrew Lauren, D.J. Gugenheim | Cast: Robert Pattinson, Juliette Binoche, André Benjamin | Distributor: Madman Entertainment

Robert Pattinson, Juliette Binoche and André Benjamin (OutKast's André 3000) star in this bold, sexually charged sci-fi thriller from acclaimed French director Claire Denis.

Reminiscent of visionary sci-fi classics like Stanley Kubrick's *2001: A Space Odyssey* and Ridley Scott's *Alien*, Claire Denis' latest work takes us on an extraordinary and sometimes shocking journey into deep space. Pattinson plays an introverted convict on a penal starship who comes to grips with convict-doctor Binoche's bizarre, controlling sex games and her mad-scientist experiments with human reproduction. As the ship approaches a black hole and time begins to warp and lose meaning, the convicts and crew abandon any semblance of discipline or social norms, and the bodily fluids – and blood – start to flow.

Screens with *Doug the Human*

MARIGHELLA



SUN 9 JUN 1:30 PM STATE 15+
MON 10 JUN 3:30 PM EV3

Brazil | 2019 | 158 mins | In Portuguese with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
 Director: Wagner Moura | Screenwriters: Wagner Moura, Felipe Braga | Producers: Bel Berlinck, Andrea Barata Ribeiro, Wagner Moura, Fernando Meirelles | Cast: Seu Jorge, Bruno Gagliasso, Adriana Esteves World Sales: Elle Driver

Actor Wagner Moura's (Narcos, Praia do Futuro, SFF 2014) directorial debut is a thrilling biopic of revolutionary Marighella (actor/musician Seu Jorge).

After its Berlinale premiere, *Marighella* was roundly criticised in Brazil – including by President Jair Bolsonaro – despite the film not being released there. This absorbing thriller is a celebration of Carlos Marighella, played brilliantly by Jorge (*The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou, City of God*). In 1960s Brazil, ruled by a violent military dictatorship, Marighella leads a small group of guerrillas in an armed struggle against the regime. The government's number one enemy, Marighella cleverly evades capture, further enraging his pursuers. With exhilarating action sequences, this rousing historical film has powerful resonance in the present, in Brazil and beyond.

Festival Guest: Wagner Moura

MYSTIFY: MICHAEL HUTCHENCE



THU 6 JUN 8:45 PM STATE 18+
FRI 7 JUN 4:00 PM VMAX1 **DOLBY ATMOS**

Australia | 2019 | 110 mins | In English
 Australian Premiere
 Director: Richard Lowenstein | Producers: Maya Gryp, John Battsek, Sue Murray | Distributor: Madman Entertainment

Richard Lowenstein's highly anticipated documentary on the INXS lead singer: a cornucopia of rarely-seen footage, Hutchence's home videos and astounding music.

From childhood, Michael Hutchence's onscreen charisma is palpable, so it comes as no surprise when his career takes off. With his exuberant voice and pulsating stage presence, he gathered fans by the thousands and sold records by the millions. His sensuality pops off the screen, and his love affairs with women such as Helena Christensen, Kylie Minogue and Paula Yates appear super-heated and achingly romantic. But a traumatic brain injury and growing drug problem brought the dream to a tragic end in Sydney, 1997. It's rare for a music documentary to feel so firmly rooted in time and place. Lowenstein does this by keeping us in the heat of the moment, on stage or backstage, and the result is nothing short of magnetic.

Festival guest: Richard Lowenstein and members of the film team

PHOTOGRAPH



SUN 9 JUN 6:30 PM STATE ALL AGES
MON 10 JUN 4:30 PM HOC
FRI 14 JUN 4:25 PM STATE
SUN 16 JUN 7:00 PM CASULA

India, USA, Germany | 2018 | 110 mins
 In Hindi, English and Gujarati with English subtitles
 Australian Premiere

Director, Screenwriter: Ritesh Batra | Producers: Ritesh Batra, Viola Fügen, Neil Kopp, Michael Merkt, Vincent Savino, Anish Savjani, Michael Weber | Cast: Nawazuddin Siddiqui, Sanya Malhotra, Farrukh Jaffer Distributor: Madman Entertainment

Ritesh Batra's (The Lunchbox, SFF 2014) returns with a whimsical love story about a Mumbai street photographer who convinces a shy stranger to pose as his fiancée.

Nawazuddin Siddiqui (*Manto*, SFF 2018) plays the photographer. An impending visit from his demanding grandmother means that Rafi must make good on his promise to settle down, and he convinces Miloni (Sanya Malhotra), a stranger he photographed, to pretend to be his fiancée so as to satisfy his grandmother. The extremely shy Miloni is from a different social milieu to Rafi and is herself being pressured into marriage by her parents. The deception leads to many funny incidents, but also genuine tenderness between Rafi and Miloni.

ROLLING THUNDER REVUE: A BOB DYLAN STORY BY MARTIN SCORSESE



TUE 11 JUN 8:45 PM STATE 18+

USA | 2019 | 142mins | In English | Australian Premiere
 Director: Martin Scorsese | Producers: Lauren Belfer, Margaret Bodde, April Hayes, Jeff Rosen, David Tedeschi, Rick Yom | Rights Holder: Netflix

Truth and myth blur in Scorsese's thrilling, playful film about the 1975 Rolling Thunder Revue tour, featuring new interviews with Dylan and incredible gig footage.

Capturing the troubled spirit of '70s America and the joyous music that Dylan and friends performed on tour, Scorsese's film looks back on those heady days. Revealing documentary footage blends with contemporary interviews (including with a mysterious filmmaker claiming the original footage as his). At the height of his fame and influence, Dylan created a travelling troupe of some of the key artists of the time – Joni Mitchell, Joan Baez, Patti Smith, Mick Ronson, Emmylou Harris and Allen Ginsberg to list just a few – to play small, atmospheric venues. The genius onstage was matched by behind-the-scenes drama and offstage political activism, and Scorsese brings these fertile elements together into a glorious musical adventure.

SKIN



THU 6 JUN 6:15 PM EV4 15+
SAT 8 JUN 7:00 PM RITZ
SUN 9 JUN 1:30 PM HOC
MON 10 JUN 11:20 AM STATE

USA | 2018 | 118 mins | In English | Australian Premiere
 Director, Screenwriter: Guy Nattiv | Producers: Jaime Ray Newman, Guy Nattiv, Oren Moverman, Celine Rattray, Trudie Styler, Dillon D Jordan | Cast: Jamie Bell, Danielle Macdonald, Daniel Henshall Distributor: Madman Entertainment

Jamie Bell (Billy Elliot) and Australian actress Danielle Macdonald (Patti Cake\$, SFF 2017) star in this remarkable true story of a white supremacist who transforms for love.

Bell plays Byron Widner, a young man taken in by a group of racist skinheads led by the sinister Fred "Hammer" Krager and his wife, Shareen (Vera Farmiga). Raised as a white supremacist, Byron is an eager adherent and a fearless fighter, capable of terrifying acts of violence. When he meets and falls for Julie (Macdonald), a mother of three girls who's had her own history with white supremacists, Byron is faced with a difficult choice. Bell is brilliant as the tormented man trying to do the right thing, going to the extent of undertaking years worth of excruciating removal of his racist tattoos. *Skin* takes us into a world of violent hatred and shows the difficulty and possibility of finding a different path.

SLAM



SAT 15 JUN 2:05 PM STATE
SUN 16 JUN 4:00 PM CASULA
SUN 16 JUN 7:15 PM RITZ

MA15+

Australia, France | 2018 | 115 mins | In English and Arabic with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Partho Sen-Gupta | Producers: Michael Wrenn, Tenille Kennedy, Marc Imer | Cast: Adam Bakri, Rachael Blake, Rebecca Breeds
Distributor: Bonsai Films

A young Muslim activist and slam poet goes missing in this tense Sydney-set mystery with a sharp perspective on Islamophobia by Partho Sen-Gupta (*Sunrise*, SFF 2015).

Adam Bakri (*Omar*, SFF 2014) stars as Ricky, a Sydney café owner and Muslim refugee who is proudly assimilated into Australian culture. Ricky is distant from his sister Ameena (Danielle Horvat), a hijab-wearing, politicised slam poet who is unafraid to air her views on Australian society. When Ameena disappears after a gig one night, Ricky is forced to revisit his internal conflicts over his identity. When the right-wing media seizes on the story, speculating that Ameena has fled the country to join the Islamic State, the family suffers a barrage of scrutiny – even as they fear it could be true.

Festival guests: Partho Sen-Gupta and members of the film team

SO LONG, MY SON

DI JIU TIAN CHANG



THU 13 JUN 8:35 PM STATE
FRI 14 JUN 8:15 PM EV5

China | 2019 | 180 mins | In Mandarin Chinese with English subtitles | Australian Premiere

Director: Wang Xiaoshuai | Screenwriters: A Mei, Wang Xiaoshuai | Producer: Liu Xuan
Cast: Wang Jingchun, Yong Mei, Wang Yuan
World Sales: The Match Factory

Winner of the Best Actor and Best Actress prizes in Berlin, this epic Chinese drama spans decades, tracing a group of friends through personal drama and major cultural change.

Yaojun (Wang Jingchun) and Liyun (Yong Mei) were once happy, but when their young son dies in a tragic accident, the couple never truly recovers. They adopt a son who struggles to adapt to his new circumstances and rebels against his anxious parents, culminating in him running away from home. A mainstay of Chinese independent filmmaking, Xiaoshuai (*Beijing Bicycle*, *Shanghai Dreams*) uses this story as the basis for a thorough examination of the effect of the political on the personal in China. The Cultural Revolution, China's One-Child Policy and eventual burgeoning wealth all play out as the backdrop to this immensely emotional story of loss, love and redemption.

STANDING UP FOR SUNNY



WED 12 JUN 8:45 PM STATE
SAT 15 JUN 4:15 PM RITZ
SUN 16 JUN 3:45 PM HOC

15+

Australia | 2018 | 105 mins | In English | World Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Steve Vidler | Producers: Michael Pontin, Jamie Hilton, Drew Bailey | Cast: RJ Mitte, Philippa Northeast, Italia Hunt | Production Company: See Pictures

Breaking Bad's RJ Mitte stars in this charming Australian rom-com about a loner with cerebral palsy who is roped into helping a comedian (Philippa Northeast) overcome her shyness.

Mitte, who has cerebral palsy in real life, gives a winning performance as Travis, a young man living in a ramshackle Sydney rental. When he loses his maintenance job after lashing out at bullies, Travis ends up in a pub, where he puts his withering sarcasm to good use defending Sunny – a reluctant up-and-comer on the comedy circuit – from a sexist heckler. Soon Mikey (Sam Reid), Sunny's overbearing boyfriend, hires Travis to help train Sunny in the art of the comeback, and naturally sparks ensue – along with romance and laughs aplenty.

Screens with *Proned to the Drone* (16 JUN)

Festival Guests: Steve Vidler, RJ Mitte and members of the film team

VARDA BY AGNÈS



SAT 8 JUN 2:10 PM STATE
SAT 15 JUN 4:50 PM D002

France | 2019 | 115 mins | In English and French with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director, Screenwriter, Producer: Agnès Varda | Producer: Rosalie Varda | Distributor: MK2Films

Spellbinding, witty and highly original, Agnès Varda's final film, which premiered just a month before she died, looks back at her remarkable life and exceptional career.

A fitting tribute to Varda's innovative and genre-defying approach, *Varda by Agnès* combines clips from her films and dramatised reconstructions, along with Varda's own priceless musings. Since her debut feature in 1955 (*La Pointe Courte*, screening in the Festival's Viva Varda retrospective on 12 June) the auteur has crafted singular narrative films and documentaries (including the Oscar-nominated *Faces Places* in 2017). Her legacy is profound and far-reaching. While there's sadness at her loss to the living world, it's an absolute pleasure to spend time with this eternally playful filmmaker as she yet again blurs the line between fact and fiction – keeping audiences on their cinematic toes.

For more Varda see the Viva Varda retrospective on pages 44-45.



Animals

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SCREENABILITY



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GO TO PAGE 39 FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE SCREENABILITY PROGRAM

Image still from *Magnetic*.
Photo: Clare Hawley



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AKASHA



SAT 8 JUN 6:15 PM DOQ1
MON 10 JUN 1:45 PM EV5

15+

Sudan, South Africa, Qatar, Germany | 2018
78 mins | In Arabic with English subtitles
Australian Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Hajooj Kuka | Producer:
Steven Markovitz | Cast: Ekrum Marcus,
Kamal Ramadan, Ganja Chakado | World Sales:
Big World Cinema

Hajooj Kuka's gentle but incisive comedy, about a maverick rebel soldier in search of his beloved AK-47, satirises the grim realities of the South Sudanese civil war.

"Akasha" refers to the day of roundup after the rainy season, when rebel forces gather troops to return to the war against the government. Adnan is a young, feckless soldier on extended leave as a reward for shooting down a government drone with Nancy, the Kalashnikov rifle he loves more than anything. When Adnan inadvertently leaves Nancy with an estranged ex-girlfriend, he ends up on the run with Abdi, a pacifist, to avoid punishment for losing the gun. The oddball pair spend the day dodging troops and stumbling into comical misadventures. Director Kuka (*Beats of the Antonov*, SFF 2015) strikes a fine balance between slapstick, harsh truths about war and loving depictions of the Sudanese people. Screens with *Skin*

ALPHA, THE RIGHT TO KILL



SAT 8 JUN 4:30 PM EV5
MON 10 JUN 4:45 PM DOQ1

15+

Philippines | 2018 | 94 mins | In English and Filipino with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director: Brillante Mendoza | Screenwriter: Troy Espiritu
Producer: Carlo Valenzona | Cast: Allen Dizon, Elijah Filamor, Baron Geisler | World Sales: Memento Films International

Filipino President Rodrigo Duterte's controversial war on drugs is the backdrop of this pulsating thriller by Brillante Mendoza. Winner, Special Jury Prize San Sebastian 2018.

The new feature by Brillante Mendoza (*Lola*, SFF 2009; *Foster Child*, SFF 2007) reaffirms his status as one of the most vital and important voices in contemporary Filipino cinema. With characteristic fearlessness, Mendoza takes us to the epicentre of the drug-related violence and extrajudicial executions that have ravaged his country since 2016. Espino is an apparently honest SWAT commander and family man. In reality he's another crooked cop in a hopelessly broken system. Manila slum resident Alpha peddles meth to keep his family fed and acts as Espino's snitch in order to avoid arrest – or worse. Mendoza's stylishly executed thriller provides a memorable picture of a city in the grip of overwhelming fear.

AMERICAN WOMAN



SAT 8 JUN 8:55 PM EV4
SUN 9 JUN 6:00 PM HOC

15+

USA | 2018 | 111 mins | In English | Australian Premiere
Director: Jake Scott | Screenwriter: Brad Ingelsby
Producers: Brad Feinstein, Ridley Scott | Cast: Sienna Miller, Aaron Paul, Christina Hendricks
Distributor: Sony Pictures Releasing

Sienna Miller (*Foxcatcher*, *High-Rise*) gives a career-best performance in this captivating drama about a woman forced to deal with her teenage daughter's disappearance.

Also featuring tremendous performances by Christina Hendricks (*Mad Men*) and Aaron Paul (*Breaking Bad*), *American Woman* spans decades as it tells the moving and inspirational story of Deb (Miller). Having had a child very young, Deb finds herself a grandmother to her teenage daughter Bridget's young son. When Bridget disappears one night, Deb and her other family members conduct a desperate search, to no avail. The film then traces Deb's life over the course of more than a decade: she gets on with life, raising her grandson and encountering disappointments and new love, all the while never giving up hope on her daughter. Delicately depicting resilience and growth in the face of tragedy, *American Woman* will stay with you for a long time.

ANGELO



WED 5 JUN 6:15 PM EV3
FRI 7 JUN 3:45 PM STATE

15+

Austria, Luxembourg | 2018 | 110 mins
In French and German with English subtitles
Australian Premiere

Director: Markus Schleizer | Screenwriters:
Markus Schleizer, Alexander Brom | Producers:
Alexander Glehr, Franz Novotny, Bady Minck,
Alexander Dumreicher-Ivanceanu, Markus Schleizer
Cast: Alba Rohrwacher, Makita Samba, Larisa Faber
World Sales: Playtime

Austrian director Markus Schleizer's visually stunning, scathing drama tells the life story of an 18th century African man kept in a gilded cage by European nobility.

Longtime Michael Haneke collaborator Schleizer's second feature is loosely based on a tragic and disturbing true story. Brought to Europe in captivity as a boy, Angelo Soliman (wonderfully portrayed by Makita Samba) is raised by a seemingly kind noblewoman and accepted in Viennese high society thanks to his education and his musical and dramatic talent. But Angelo will always be at best a curiosity in this brutally racist world. Presented as a series of highly formalistic vignettes, the film's placid detachment and arch irony are an eerie contrast to the story's howl of rage at the dehumanisation of racism and colonialism.

ANIMALS



SAT 8 JUN 8:30 PM RITZ
THU 13 JUN 8:30 PM HOC
SAT 15 JUN 9:00 PM EV4

15+

Australia, Ireland, UK | 2019 | 108 mins | In English
Director: Sophie Hyde | Screenwriter: Emma Jane Unsworth
Producers: Sarah Brocklehurst, Rebecca Summerton,
Cormac Fox, Sophie Hyde | Cast: Holliday Grainger,
Alia Shawkat, Fra Fee | Distributor: Bonsai Films

Holliday Grainger and Alia Shawkat shine as best friends who live in a haze of drink, drugs and one-night stands, in the hilarious new film by Australian Sophie Hyde (*52 Tuesdays*).

Laura (Grainger, *The Borgias*, *Patrick Melrose*) and Tyler (Shawkat, *Arrested Development*, *Blaze*) are entering their 30s but are intent on keeping up the hedonistic lifestyle they've become accustomed to. Utterly confident and fearless, the two friends cut a swathe through Dublin, never letting a responsibility get in the way of a good time. When Laura falls in love with the handsome, and extremely disciplined, classical pianist Jim (Fra Fee), she begins to question her choices, placing strain on the tight bond with Tyler. Adapted from the popular novel by Emma Jane Unsworth, *Animals* convincingly captures the affection, irritations and nuances of a long and firm friendship as it is forced to change.

Festival guests: Sophie Hyde and Rebecca Summerton

BAIT



WED 5 JUN 6:00 PM DOQ1
THU 6 JUN 4:30 PM STATE

15+

UK | 2018 | 88 mins | In English | Australian Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Mark Jenkin | Producers: Kate Byers, Linn Waite | Cast: Edward Rowe, Simon Shepherd, Mary Woodvine | World Sales: The Festival Agency

Mark Jenkin's stunningly handcrafted debut feature centres on Martin, a Cornish fisherman who's fallen on hard times. His resentment of change and rich Londoners reaches boiling point.

Shooting in black-and-white with a spring-wound 16mm Bolex and processing the film himself, Jenkin's work defies easy categorisation. The formally composed and classically edited imagery invoke Soviet silent cinema. Post-synch dialogue and stylised performances hark back to British educational films and kitchen sink dramas of the '50s and '60s. Its atmosphere of simmering violence is reminiscent of *Straw Dogs* (1974). Yet for all its intoxicating retro trappings *Bait* is urgently and powerfully modern, especially in the context of Brexit. Martin's brooding anger speaks for those who feel ignored and powerless in the face of unstoppable social and economic change. Official selection, Berlinale Forum.

BRITTANY RUNS A MARATHON



FRI 7 JUN 6:30 PM EV4
SAT 8 JUN 6:15 PM RITZ
MON 10 JUN 7:00 PM HOC
SUN 16 JUN 4:30 PM EV4

15+

USA | 2019 | 103 mins | In English | Australian Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Paul Downs Colazzo | Producers: Matthew Plouffe, Tobey Maguire, Margot Hand | Cast: Jillian Bell, Michaela Watkins, Utkarsh Ambudkar | Distributor: Transmission Films

Brittany's (Jillian Bell, *Workaholics*, *Rough Night*) hard-partying lifestyle leads to a diagnosis that requires radical – and hilarious – action. Winner, Audience Award, Sundance.

Sharp-witted and very funny, Brittany (the brilliant Jillian Bell) is nearing her 30s but still has a job that barely covers the bills, goes out partying every night and frequently does things she really shouldn't. A doctor visit reveals that Brittany is overweight and has dangerously high blood pressure. Unable to afford a gym membership, Brittany decides to run around her block. Soon, egged on by her seemingly perfect neighbour and other local runners, Brittany is pursuing the dream of running the New York Marathon but her old tendency to self-sabotage takes hold once again. Unpredictable, and defying convention, *Brittany Runs a Marathon* delicately balances humour and pathos in a truly triumphant combination.

CLEAN UP
HO-HEUP

SUN 9 JUN 8:45 PM EV3
TUE 11 JUN 6:30 PM EV5

18+

South Korea | 2018 | 104 mins | In Korean with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Kwon Man-ki | Producer: Hong Jong-hyun | Cast: Kim Dae-gun, Yoon Ji-hye | World Sales: M-line Distribution

Guilt, grief and redemption are the themes of this gripping psychodrama about a kidnapper and her victim, whom fate brings together twelve years later. Best Film, Macao.

Kwon Man-ki's impressive debut is refreshingly different from the high-tempo thrillers South Korean cinema is known for. Low-key visuals and minimal dialogue convey the tale of Jung-je (Yoon Ji-hye, superb), an emotionally-blank cleaner. Her new workmate is Min-gu, an unsettled ex-convict. Min-gu was just a boy when Jung-je and her husband blindfolded and kidnapped him. The question of whether Min-gu will recognise his captor is just one part of Kwon's meticulously arranged screenplay. Jung-je is terrified of being exposed. She also has a desperate desire to reach out and help the troubled young man. What emerges is a suspenseful and emotionally rewarding portrait of damaged souls searching for hope.

Festival guest: Kwon Man-ki

COLD SWEAT
ARAGH-E SARD

SUN 9 JUN 2:00 PM CASULA
SUN 9 JUN 4:00 PM HOC
FRI 14 JUN 6:15 PM DOQ2

15+

Iran | 2018 | 85 mins | In Farsi with English subtitles
Director, Screenwriter: Soheil Beiraghi | Producer: Mehdi Davari | Cast: Amir Jadidi, Baran Kosari, Sahar Dowlatshahi | Distributor: Daricheh Cinema

The lifelong dream of Iran's national women's futsal team captain appears over when her estranged husband uses his legal right to prevent her leaving the country. Based on true stories.

A gripping social drama with particularly strong currency in the era of #TimesUp, *Cold Sweat* is based on real cases of Iranian sportswomen prevented from competing overseas by a law that requires husbands to grant permission. Baran Kosari is dynamite as Afroz, a brilliant futsal (indoor soccer) player who's stopped from boarding the flight to the Asian Cup final in Malaysia. It's the start of a social, legal and bureaucratic nightmare, with Afroz thwarted at every turn by soon-to-be ex-husband Yaser, the smarmy and self-righteous host of a TV show called *The Good Old Days*. Soheil Beiraghi's outstanding second feature is told with tremendous passion, intelligence and urgency.

DANGER CLOSE:
THE BATTLE OF LONG TAN

SAT 15 JUN 6:15 PM EV4
SUN 16 JUN 2:00 PM RITZ

15+

Australia | 2019 | 118 mins | In English
Director: Kriv Stenders | Screenwriter: Stuart Beattie
Producers: Martin Walsh, John Schwarz, Michael Schwarz
Cast: Travis Fimmel, Luke Bracey, Alexander England
Distributor: Transmission Films

An emotional and visceral exploration of a key battle in the Vietnam war – pitting 108 young Australian soldiers against 2500 – by Kriv Stenders (*Red Dog*, *Australia Day*, SFF 2017).

On 18 August 1966, for three and a half hours in a rubber plantation called Long Tan, Major Harry Smith and his inexperienced company, of mainly conscripts, fought for their lives against 2500 seasoned Viet Cong and North Vietnamese soldiers. With their ammunition running out, casualties mounting, and the enemy massing for a final assault, each man searches for the strength to go forward with honour, decency and courage. A tremendous cast – including Travis Fimmel, Luke Bracey, Alexander England, Daniel Webber and Richard Roxburgh – bring the battle and each soldier's heroism vividly to life. An important story of men caught up in a politically unpopular war, whose courage has long been under-acknowledged.

Festival guests: Kriv Stenders and members of the film team

DIVINE LOVE
DIVINO AMOR

WED 5 JUN 8:30 PM EV5
THU 13 JUN 6:00 PM EV4

18+

Brazil, Uruguay, Denmark, Norway, Chile, Sweden
2018 | 100 mins | In Portuguese with English subtitles
Australian Premiere

Director: Gabriel Mascaro | Screenwriters: Gabriel Mascaro, Rachel Ellis, Esdras Bezerra, Lucas Paraizo
Producer: Rachel Ellis | Cast: Dira Paes, Julio Machado, Emilio De Melo
World Sales: Memento Films International

Gabriel Mascaro (*Neon Bull*, SFF 2016) returns with an enigmatic, sensual sci-fi set in Brazil 2027.

Religion in Brazil in 2027 is a little strange. Raves, drive-through churches and group sex sessions are all part and parcel of the evangelical Christian group Divino Amor. Joana works as a civil servant, processing divorces – but instead, she tries to convince the divorcing couples to remain together. She draws them into the arms of Divino Amor, which encourages sexual therapy as a means to renew the marital spark. Meanwhile, Joana's greatest desire is a child, but she is unable to conceive. An unexpected miracle leads to cynicism and hypocrisy, rather than joy. An unsettling, futuristic look at faith and sexuality, *Divine Love* is wildly imaginative, visually spectacular and entrancing, with a sharp political edge.

Screens with *Strangers* (13 JUN)

DOLCE FINE GIORNATA



TUE 11 JUN 7:00 PM EV4
THU 13 JUN 2:00 PM STATE

15+

Poland | 2019 | 96 mins | In Italian, English and Polish with English subtitles
Director: Jacek Borcuch | Screenwriters: Jacek Borcuch, Szczepan Twardoch | Producers: Marta Habiol, Marta Lewandowska | Cast: Krystyna Janda, Vincent Riotta, Antonia Catania | World Sales: Films Boutique

In this intelligent and timely film, a Nobel Prize-winning poet unleashes unexpected consequences when she makes a controversial speech after a terrorist attack.

Maria Linde (Krystyna Janda, winner of the Sundance Acting Award) is a Polish poet living in Tuscany with her family in a comfortable villa. Feted by the small village in which she lives, Maria is free-spirited and independent, living a charmed life. She's also having an affair with a handsome, younger Egyptian immigrant who runs a restaurant in the village. When Maria is granted a local award, and it is presented the day after a terrorist attack in Rome, she refuses to give in to the anti-immigrant hysteria, and makes a statement in her speech that causes national controversy and incurs the wrath of her fellow villagers. *Dolce Fine Giornata* is a smart and complex contemplation of free speech and independent thought in an era of hasty public condemnation.

THE EXTRAORDINARY JOURNEY OF CELESTE
GARCIA | EL VIAJE EXTRAORDINARIO DE CELESTE GARCIA

THU 6 JUN 6:30 PM DOQ2
SUN 16 JUN 4:45 PM EV3

ALL AGES

Cuba, Germany | 2018 | 92 mins | In Spanish with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Arturo Infante | Producers: Claudia Calvino, Ernst Fassbender | Cast: Maria Isabel Diaz, Omar Franco, Néstor Jiménez | World Sales: The Match Factory

Aliens descend to offer Earthlings a chance to visit their planet, and 60-year-old Celeste signs up for the adventure alongside a motley crew, in this delightfully deadpan Cuban sci-fi.

Celeste (Maria Isabel Diaz, *Volter*) takes her job as a Havana Planetarium guide very seriously, sharing the wonders of the universe with visiting children. Like everyone, she is rather surprised to discover that aliens have been living amongst the Cuban people and have now decided to reciprocate by inviting a select few people to visit their planet. Celeste is given a special invitation and along with a ragtag bunch – those escaping crimes, or pursuing impossible romances – prepares to leave Earth. For Celeste, a painful past could give way to a future of happiness and love. With deadpan humour, the film also makes gentle political commentary: the visitors from the planet Gryok, for instance, were just thought to be Russians!

FLATLAND



MON 10 JUN 6:45 PM DOQ2
SAT 15 JUN 8:35 PM EV3

15+

South Africa, Luxembourg, Germany | 2019 | 117 mins
 In English and Afrikaans with English subtitles
Australian Premiere
 Director, Screenwriter: Jenna Bass | Producer: David Horler
 Cast: Faith Baloji, Nicole Fortuin, Izel Bezuidenhout
 World Sales: The Match Factory

A contemporary South African feminist western by the co-writer of *Rafiki* (SFF 2018). Three women get into a thrilling police chase through a desolate and unforgiving region.

After a disastrous wedding night, Natalie flees her policeman husband and her small, rural town with her pregnant best friend Popple. Racing away on horseback, the pair try to evade both Natalie's husband and the law. On their trail is Captain Beauty Cuba, a perceptive, soap opera-loving policewoman. The Captain is not only searching for Natalie but also determined to clear the name of her fiancé, who has been framed for a crime he did not commit. Director Jenna Bass, who co-wrote *Rafiki* (SFF 2018), expertly ramps up the tension while also exploring the gendered and racial hierarchies of South African society. Her three vivid and fascinating characters must navigate not only treacherous situations, but societal expectations.

GHOST TOWN ANTHOLOGY
RÉPERTOIRE DES VILLES DISPARUES

WED 5 JUN 8:45 PM DNEW
WED 12 JUN 9:00 PM EV5

15+

Canada | 2019 | 97 mins | In French with English subtitles
 Director, Screenwriter: Denis Côté | Producer: Ziad Touna
 Cast: Robert Naylor, Josée Deschênes, Jean-Michel Anctil
 World Sales: Films Boutique

Canadian maverick Denis Côté (*Vic + Flo Saw a Bear* SFF 2013, *Joy of Man's Desiring* SFF 2014) returns with a beguiling tale set in a grief-stricken Québécois village.

Filmed in grainy 16mm and featuring superb sound design, *Ghost Town Anthology* takes place in Irénée-les-Neiges, population 215. The violent death of 21-year-old Simon Dubé, has affected everyone and left his family shattered. The mayor angrily rejects offers of help from Montréal welfare workers. "We're all adults here," she says. Côté's elegant screenplay glides into metaphysical territory when dead townsfolk suddenly return to life. Cleverly steering clear of horror movie tropes, Côté creates an absorbing mood piece about collective reaction to trauma and the pressures that can turn thriving communities into ghost towns. Official selection, Berlinale Competition.

Screens with *Man in the Well*

HER SMELL



FRI 7 JUN 8:30 PM RITZ
SUN 9 JUN 6:45 PM EV4
WED 12 JUN 8:05 PM DNEW

15+

USA | 2018 | 135 mins | In English | Australian Premiere
 Director, Screenwriter: Alex Ross Perry | Producer: Elisabeth Moss | Cast: Elisabeth Moss, Dan Stevens, Cara Delevingne | Distributor: Umbrella Entertainment

Alex Ross Perry's virtuosic portrait of a '90s punk star on the path to burn-out. Starring Elisabeth Moss (*The Handmaid's Tale*).

Ross Perry's alt-rock, riot grrrrr bonanza *Her Smell* is powered by an electrifying performance from Moss. Channelling the infamous Courtney Love in her role as Becky Something, Moss is a rock star whose band has reached its use-by date. A self-destructive narcissist, Becky's coke-fuelled trades alienate her bandmates, partner and manager as she hurtles towards impending doom. Rounded out by an all-star cast – Cara Delevingne, Agyness Deyn, Dan Stevens and Amber Heard – *Her Smell* reunites director Alex Ross Perry with regular collaborators, cinematographer Sean Price Williams (*Good Time*, SFF 2017) and editor Robert Greene (director of *Kate Plays Christine*, SFF 2016) for their most robust joint effort to date.

HAPPY NEW YEAR,
COLIN BURSTEAD

FRI 7 JUN 8:50 PM HOC
SAT 8 JUN 7:45 PM DNEW
SAT 15 JUN 9:00 PM DOQ2

15+

UK | 2018 | 95 mins | In English
 Director, Screenwriter: Ben Wheatley | Producer: Andy Starke | Cast: Sam Riley, Neil Maskell, Hayley Squires
 Distributor: Limelight Distribution

The new comedy by British maverick Ben Wheatley (*Kill List*, SFF 2011; *High-Rise*, SFF 2016), reunites a family at a country mansion for a celebration that quickly goes wrong.

A great British ensemble cast, including Neil Maskell (*Kill List*), Sam Riley (*Control*) and Charles Dance (*Game of Thrones*), come together in this biting funny, superbly written catalogue of all the things that can make forced family gatherings awkward. Colin Burstead (Maskell) hires an enormous country mansion to reunite his extended family and some friends to ring in the new year. Nobody seems particularly keen on Colin's gathering, but family is important, he maintains, and they all roll in to the grand old house. "It's like fucking Downton," says one of the new arrivals. But there's nothing genteel about this gathering, particularly when Colin's black sheep brother (Riley) arrives and the drinks get going.

I AM MOTHER



THU 6 JUN 6:30 PM RITZ

15+

Australia | 2018 | 114 mins | In English
 Director: Grant Sputore | Screenwriter: Michael Lloyd Green | Producers: Timothy White, Kelvin Sloris | Cast: Clara Rugaard, Hilary Swank, Rose Byrne | Distributor: StudioCanal

Hilary Swank and Clara Rugaard star in a compelling Australian sci-fi about a human child raised by a robot mother in a post-apocalyptic future. Official Selection, Sundance.

Grant Sputore's exciting feature debut takes the nature vs. nurture debate into a vast underground laboratory. Clara Rugaard gives a star-making performance as Daughter, a young adult whose only companion since birth has been Mother, a caring and compassionate robot programmed to re-establish the human race following cataclysmic events. But Daughter is curious about what lies beyond her hermetically sealed world. The arrival of a wounded woman (Swank) triggers tense and unpredictable events. Visually stunning, emotionally rewarding and with memorable voice work by Rose Byrne as the titular character, *I Am Mother* tells a gripping tale of lineage, loyalty and trust.

IN FABRIC



FRI 7 JUN 6:30 PM DNEW
SAT 15 JUN 8:30 PM EV9

15+

UK | 2018 | 118 mins | In English | Australian Premiere
 Director, Screenwriter: Peter Strickland | Producer: Andrew Starke | Cast: Marianne Jean-Baptiste, Hayley Squires, Gwendoline Christie | World Sales: Bankside Films

British visionary Peter Strickland (*The Duke of Burgundy*, SFF 2015) delivers mesmerising mystery, ravishing horror and deathly dark comedy with the tale of a demonic red dress.

Peter Strickland's reputation as a brilliantly idiosyncratic auteur is further enhanced by this giddy excursion into fashion, fantasy, consumerism and human frailty. *In Fabric* exudes luscious menace from the moment lonely middle-aged bank teller Sheila buys a fetching red frock from a particularly peculiar saleslady at fancy London clothes shop Dentley & Sopers. But Sheila (Jean-Baptiste, *Secrets and Lies*) isn't the first owner of this cursed garment, nor will she be the last. Soaked in the spirit of European arthouse thrillers of the '70s and '80s, *In Fabric* is a fashion-horror statement of rare and intoxicating distinction.

JESUS

BOKU WA IESUSAMA GA KIRAI



FRI 14 JUN 6:10 PM EV5
SAT 15 JUN 4:30 PM EV3

ALL AGES

Japan | 2018 | 77 mins | In Japanese with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
 Director, Screenwriter: Hiroshi Okuyama | Producer: Tadashi Yoshino | Cast: Yura Sato, Riki Okuma, Chad Mullane, Hinako Saeki | World Sales: Nikkatsu Corporation

In Hiroshi Okuyama's strikingly original and playful debut, Jesus is the tiny imaginary friend of a young Japanese boy. Winner of the New Directors competition at San Sebastian.

Nine-year-old Yura moves with his parents from Tokyo to a countryside town to join the boy's grandmother. A shy boy, Yura must adapt to a new school, complicated by the fact that it's a Christian institution. At first Yura struggles with the religious enthusiasm of his classmates but when, in the midst of prayer, a very small Jesus (played energetically by Australian comedian Chad Mullane) manifests himself, the boy quickly comes to the faith. Jesus becomes his entertaining playmate with the added advantage of making Yura's every wish come true. Behind the gentle, humorous and playful veneer, the talented 23-year-old Okuyama makes a pointed commentary on faith and religion.

Festival guests: Hiroshi Okuyama and Chad Mullane

JOURNEY TO A MOTHER'S ROOM
VIAJE AL CUARTO DE UNA MADRE

THU 6 JUN 12:10 PM STATE
MON 10 JUN 1:15 PM EV3

ALL AGES

Spain, France | 2018 | 94 mins | In Spanish with English Subtitles | Australian Premiere
 Director, Screenwriter: Celia Rico Clavellino | Producers: Sandra Tapia, Ibón Cormanzena, Josep Amador, Ignasi Estapé | Cast: Lola Dueñas, Anna Castillo, Pedro Casablanc | World Sales: Loco Films

An intimate yet funny portrait of a close mother-daughter bond unexpectedly transformed when one moves away, from Spanish director Celia Rico Clavellino.

Lola Dueñas and Anna Castillo are wonderful as Estrella and Leonor, a retired mother and her introverted 20-something daughter. They live together, sharing everything from meals to TV series, and the mother dotes on her daughter. When Leonor decides to try her luck as an au pair in London, Estrella is left behind, struggling to occupy her time and remain cheerful in a heartbreakingly empty apartment. Unexpectedly, Estrella soon finds her days fruitfully occupied by an unusual new hobby and even an awkward romantic prospect – both of which spawn much hilarity. As it turns out, new-found independence is a blessing more for the mother than the daughter in this beautiful, touching film.

Screens with *Falling Up*

KURSK



SAT 8 JUN 4:30 PM RITZ
TUE 11 JUN 6:30 PM HOC

France, Belgium, Luxembourg | 2018 | 117 mins
In English | Australian Premiere
Director: Thomas Vinterberg | Screenwriters: Robert Rodat, Robert Moore | Producers: Jérôme de Béthune, Fabrice Delville, Christophe Toulemonde, Patrick Vandenbosch, Ariel Zeitoun | Cast: Matthias Schoenaerts, Léa Seydoux
Distributor: Rialto Distribution

Matthias Schoenaerts, Colin Firth and Léa Seydoux star in director Thomas Vinterberg's (*The Commune*, SFF 2016) gripping account of the K-141 Kursk submarine disaster in 2000.

Personal tragedy and incompetence at the highest level are the potent ingredients of a large-scale drama directed by one-time Dogme 95 minimalist Thomas Vinterberg (*Festen*, 1998). The screenplay by *Saving Private Ryan* writer Robert Rodat focusses on Mikhail Kalekov (Schoenaerts), a submariner trapped on the ocean floor after a calamitous explosion. Seydoux is electrifying as Kalekov's angry wife Tanya, who wants answers about her husband's fate. Rodat and Vinterberg point a furious finger at Russian officials, whose pride and arrogance contributed in no small way to one of the most tragic events in any nation's peacetime naval history.

THE NIGHTINGALE



SUN 9 JUN 8:30 PM RITZ
MON 10 JUN 6:00 PM EV4
SUN 16 JUN 6:15 PM DNEW

Australia | 2018 | 136 mins | In English, Gaelic and Palawa Kani with English subtitles
Director, Screenwriter: Jennifer Kent | Producers: Kristina Ceyton, Bruna Papandrea, Steve Hutensky, Jennifer Kent | Cast: Sam Claflin, Baykali Ganambarr, Aisling Franciosi | Distributor: Transmission Films

Jennifer Kent (*The Babadook*) returns with a searing revenge drama about a young convict woman in Van Diemen's Land, 1825. Winner of the Special Jury Prize at Venice 2018.

Australia's dark colonial past is examined in the story of Clare (Aisling Franciosi, magnificent), an Irish-born convict who's served her sentence. But nothing can stop Clare's abuse at the hands of Hawkins (Sam Claflin), an ambitious and amoral British lieutenant. So begins an unforgettable tale of violence and retribution in which Clare forms an uneasy alliance with a young Indigenous guide named Billy (Baykali Ganambarr, Best Young Actor award, Venice). *The Nightingale* is frequently brutal and shocking – and necessarily so. Transcending traditional boundaries of the revenge thriller, Kent's savagely beautiful film confronts us with uncomfortable truths about the formation of the Commonwealth we call home.

LADYWORLD



MON 10 JUN 6:45 PM EV3
SAT 15 JUN 6:30 PM DNEW

USA | 2018 | 93 mins | In English | Australian Premiere
Director: Amanda Kramer | Screenwriters: Amanda Kramer, Benjamin Sheam | Producers: Leal Naim, Thomas R. Burke, Jamie Dolan | Cast: Ariela Barer, Annalise Basso, Ryan Simpkins | World Sales: The Film Sales Company

In Amanda Kramer's super stylish feminist update to *Lord of the Flies*, a birthday party devolves into chaos when an earthquake traps eight teenage girls alone in a house.

Operatic and aesthetically very "now", Amanda Kramer's impressive debut retells William Golding's classic through a female lens. This generation's conch is a healing crystal, the beastie is a male intruder, and war paint is an extreme Insta-glam makeover. Barely equipped to cope with the perils of a teen birthday party, the mettle of the eight attendees is tested when a mysterious earthquake traps them alone in the house. Bedlam ensues as the girls kick into cake-fuelled survival mode, challenging their friendships, identities, and eventually their grip on reality. The inventive, cacophonous score and pitch-perfect performances of this claustrophobic chamber piece combine to create a truly immersive viewing experience.

Screens with *A Matter of Time* (15 JUN)

ÖNDÖG



SUN 9 JUN 6:30 PM EV3
SAT 15 JUN 7:10 PM DOQ2

Mongolia | 2019 | 96 mins | In Mongolian with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director, Screenwriter, Producer: Wang Quan'an | Cast: Dulamjav Enkhtaivan, Aorigelebu, Norovsambuu Batmunkh | World Sales: ArcLight Films

An offbeat murder mystery twists into an eccentric romantic comedy – and much more – in this gloriously filmed yarn set on the Mongolian steppe.

The seventh feature by Sixth Generation Chinese filmmaker Wang Quan'an marks a triumphant return to the Mongolian landscape so memorably featured in his Berlin Golden Bear winner *Tuya's Marriage* (2006). At first Wang seems to be in crime noir territory. A body is found in the middle of nowhere and a virginal rookie cop is assigned to secure the scene. Entering the picture is a rifle-toting, camel-riding and thoroughly self-sufficient Herdswoman who takes the cop and the story off in delightfully unpredictable directions. Wang's whimsical tale of love, life, death and modernity features staggeringly beautiful imagery and marvellous performances from a non-professional cast.

MANTA RAY
KRABEN RAHU

SAT 8 JUN 8:45 PM DOQ2
SUN 9 JUN 12:00 PM EV5

Thailand, France, China | 2018 | 105 mins | In Thai with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Phuttiphong Aroonpheng | Producers: Mai Meksavon, Jakrawal Nitthamrong, Chatchai Chaiyong, Philippe Avril | Cast: Wanlop Rungkumjad, Aphisit Hama, Rasmee Wayrana | World Sales: Jour2Fête

Winner of the Horizon Prize at Venice, *Manta Ray* is a visually unforgettable and mystical story about the unusual friendship between a Thai fisherman and a Rohingya refugee.

On the coast of Thailand, a site of great misfortune and cruelty for the Rohingya, a local fisherman finds an injured man and nurses him back to health. The stranger does not speak, but that doesn't stop the fisherman from befriending him, naming him Thongchai and involving him in every element of his life. In one lovely scene, not easily forgotten, the two men dance in a makeshift disco. When the fisherman disappears, Thongchai gradually begins to take over his friend's life: his house, his job and even his ex-wife. A striking and relevant meditation on identity, *Manta Ray* is a film of exquisite beauty that finds moments of transcendence amidst a time of brutality. *Manta Ray* won Best Director and Artistic Achievement awards at Cairo and Thessaloniki film festivals.

OUR TIME
NUESTRO TIEMPO

SUN 9 JUN 8:15 PM DOQ1
FRI 14 JUN 8:05 PM DOQ2

Germany, Mexico, France, Sweden, Denmark | 2018 | 177 mins | In English and Spanish with English subtitles
Australian Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Carlos Reygadas
Producers: Jaime Romandia, Carlos Reygadas
Cast: Carlos Reygadas, Natalia López, Phil Burgers
World Sales: The Match Factory

The open marriage of a bull ranch owner and his wife is examined in a searing existential drama by Mexican auteur Carlos Reygadas (*Silent Light*, SFF 2008). Best Director, Havana.

What happens when idealistic notions of sexual freedom intersect with basic human emotions such as desire and jealousy? That's the question asked by Carlos Reygadas in his first feature since winning Best Director at Cannes in 2012 for *Light After Darkness* (aka *Post Tenebras Lux*). The always-provocative Reygadas goes the whole distance here by casting himself and wife Natalia López in the central roles of Juan and Esther. What this experiment delivers is an unflinchingly honest look at a free marriage being put to the test when Esther commences an affair with Phil, a gringo ranch hand. Punctuated by scenes of incredible natural beauty, *Our Time* is a human journey that's not easily forgotten.

THE MOUNTAIN



SUN 9 JUN 6:30 PM RITZ
MON 10 JUN 1:30 PM EV4

USA | 2018 | 108 mins | In English and French with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director: Rick Alverson | Screenwriters: Rick Alverson, Dustin Guy Defa, Colin O'Leary | Producers: Sara Carter Murphy, Ryan Zacarias, Allison Rose Carter, Eddy Moretti | Cast: Tye Sheridan, Denis Lavant, Jeff Goldblum | World Sales: The Match Factory

Jeff Goldblum plays a smooth-talking brain doctor in a hypnotic piece of 1950s weirdness by American outlier Rick Alverson. A beautiful portrait of America's fractured identity.

Get ready for a mind-bending journey to the dark side of 1950s utopianism. Andy (Tye Sheridan) is an extremely introspective young man. His distant, figure-skater father, Frederick (Udo Kier), has refused Andy permission to visit his mother since she was institutionalised for depression. Enter dad's charismatic friend, Dr. Walter Fienness (Jeff Goldblum), an enthusiastic performer of lobotomies on predominantly female patients. The suave medico asks Andy to take photographs on a field trip of American hospitals. So begins a supremely strange and strikingly decorated odyssey, with a show-stopping appearance by Denis Lavant as a particularly demented therapist. It's anything but your average road movie.

PAPI CHULO



SUN 9 JUN 6:45 PM EV9
FRI 14 JUN 6:15 PM EV4

USA, Ireland | 2018 | 98 mins | In English and Spanish
Director, Screenwriter: John Butler | Producers: Rebecca O'Flanagan, Robert Walpole | Cast: Matt Bomer, Alejandro Patifio | World Sales: Bankside Films

A twist on the 'buddy comedy': after an on-air meltdown, a gay TV weatherman (Matt Bomer) hires a straight Latino migrant (Alejandro Patifio) to do odd jobs and be his friend in this charming film.

Following his very public breakdown during a live broadcast, Sean is forced to take leave from work. Scarred from the end of a long-term relationship, lonely and aimless, Sean decides to do some home repairs. Outside a hardware store, he hires Ernesto to carry out the work. Though they have no shared language and can barely communicate, Sean and Ernesto form an unusual friendship, and Sean is soon paying Ernesto to go boating, hiking and attend parties with him – causing much amusement for Ernesto's wife. Gradually the source of Sean's unusual behaviour becomes clear, making the profound bond between the two men all the more poignant, in this funny, empathetic film by John Butler (*Handsome Devil*). Screens with *Between Two Lines*

PIRANHAS

LA PARANZA DEI BAMBINI



FRI 7 JUN 6:00 PM EV5
MON 10 JUN 4:00 PM RITZ

15+

Italy | 2019 | 110 mins | In Italian with English subtitles
Australian Premiere
 Director: Claudio Giovannesi | Screenwriters: Roberto Saviano, Claudio Giovannesi, Maurizio Braucci
 Producers: Carlo Degli Esposti, Nicola Serra
 Cast: Francesco Di Napoli, Mattia Piano Del Balzo, Ciro Vecchione | World Sales: Elle Driver

Italian director Claudio Giovannesi's riveting drama, winner of the Silver Bear for best screenplay at Berlinale, is both a gangster flick and a vibrant tale of adolescence.

Set in Naples, *Piranhas* is based on a book by *Gomorra* writer and investigative reporter Roberto Saviano. Ambitious, charismatic 15-year-old Nicola and his mates go from being petty thieves to gun-toting gangsters virtually overnight. As the gangs' older generations are locked away in prison, the gangsters become younger and younger. The baby-faced protagonists struggle with family, peer pressure and romance, all while swaggering haplessly into a bloody war to control their streets. With detail about the boys' lives, fashions and tragically macho rituals, the film nods at genre classics like *City of God* and Martin Scorsese's *Mean Streets*, while staking out its own complex, thrilling territory.

SCREWDRIIVER

MAFAK



SAT 8 JUN 8:35 PM DOQ1
SUN 9 JUN 7:00 PM CASULA

15+

Palestine, USA, Qatar | 2018 | 108 mins | In Arabic and Hebrew with English subtitles | **Australian Premiere**
 Director, Screenwriter: Bassam Jarbawi | Producers: Bassam Jarbawi, Shihari Sathe, Yasmine Qaddumi
 Cast: Ziad Bakri, Areen Omari, Jameel Khoury, Mariam Basha | Distributor: Potential Films

Bassam Jarbawi's debut feature is a suspenseful and moving drama about a Palestinian political prisoner, released after 15 years, who battles to reintegrate into a very changed society.

Ziad Bakri gives an intense, brooding performance as Ziad, who has spent all his adult life in prison for a bungled act of revenge in the name of a friend who was killed by Israeli settlers. Upon release, he returns to his refugee camp home in Ramallah, where he is greeted as a hero. But Ziad is a mess: withdrawn, bitter, racked by guilt and suffering from PTSD. He's bewildered by a new world of mobile phones, iced lattes and hipster bars; and baffled when a Palestinian-American filmmaker (Yasmine Qaddumi) approaches him to take part in her documentary. Jarbawi's taut screenplay balances suspense, politics, romance and surprising comedy, as Ziad reckons with his trauma, his loneliness and his place in the struggle.

THE PUBLIC



SAT 8 JUN 6:45 PM HOC
SUN 9 JUN 4:20 PM EV4
FRI 14 JUN 6:30 PM RITZ

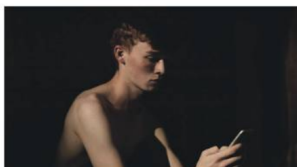
ALL AGES

USA | 2018 | 122 mins | In English | **Australian Premiere**
 Director, Screenwriter: Emilio Estevez | Producers: Emilio Estevez, Alex Lebovici, Lisa Niedenthal, Steve Ponce
 Cast: Christian Slater, Emilio Estevez, Taylor Schilling
 Distributor: Rialto Distribution

Emilio Estevez directs and acts alongside Alec Baldwin, Jena Malone, Christian Slater and Michael K. Williams in this heart-warming film about homeless people who occupy a library to escape freezing conditions.

Estevez plays Stuart, a sympathetic librarian who each day deals with the large group of destitute people who come to the library to access the internet, apply for jobs and, crucially, stay out of the vicious Cincinnati cold. When the group, led by Jackson (Michael K. Williams, *The Wire*'s Omar), insist that they will stay beyond closing time on a particularly icy night, Stuart agrees that it is an emergency and allows it. Soon, cops and ambitious politicians get involved and plan a raid to evict the occupiers. Inspired by the notion that libraries have become far more than places to borrow books, Estevez (*Bobby*, *The Way*) has crafted a humane, funny and moving film about people choosing kindness over apathy.

SEQUIN IN A BLUE ROOM



FRI 14 JUN 8:35 PM EV3
SAT 15 JUN 4:30 PM DNEW

18+

Australia | 2019 | 80 mins | In English | **World Premiere**
 Director: Samuel Van Grinsven | Screenwriters: Samuel Van Grinsven, Jory Anast | Producers: Sophie Hatch, Linus Gibson | Cast: Conor Leach, Jeremy Lindsay Taylor, Anthony Brandon Wong
 Festival Contact: AFTRS

Sexual discovery is on-demand for 16-year-old Sequin, whose hook-up app obsession sends him down a dangerous path in this highly-accomplished queer coming-of-age tale.

Favouring the instant gratification of anonymous, no-strings sexual encounters over meaningful relationships, high schooler Sequin is part of the always logged-on, but never-engaged, hook-up generation. He ghosts ex-partners and remains emotionally unavailable. That's until he finds his way to an anonymous sex party, where a whole new dizzyingly alluring world unfolds before him. In one scene, Sequin connects with a mysterious stranger, but they are separated suddenly. Utterly fixated on this man, Sequin sets off on an exhilarating and perilous mission to track him down.

Festival guests: Samuel Van Grinsven and members of the film team

SATURDAY AFTERNOON

SHONIBAR BIKEL



MON 10 JUN 2:15 PM DOQ1
THU 13 JUN 8:15 PM DOQ1

18+

Bangladesh, Germany | 2019 | 86 mins | In Bengali and English with English subtitles | **Australian Premiere**
 Director, Screenwriter, Rights Holder: Mostofa Sarwar Farooki
 Producers: Abdul Aziz, Anna Katchko, Mostofa Sarwar Farooki
 Cast: Jahid Hassan, Parambrata Chatterjee, Eyad Hourani

Banned in Bangladesh, this audacious film takes us vividly into the horror of a terrorist attack through one astonishing continuous shot, finding heroism in the face of terror.

A pioneer of the Bangladeshi New Wave, Farooki (*Television*, SFF 2013) has, through his films, looked unflinchingly at his country and its people. Here he revisits the Holey Artisan Bakery attack of 2016 in which more than twenty hostages were killed by Islamist extremists. With virtuosic cinematography by Berlinale Silver Bear winner Aziz Zhambakiev, *Saturday Afternoon* takes us graphically into the attack on a Dhaka restaurant, with one impressive continuous shot. But Farooki is more interested here in the solidarity of the hostages: people of different backgrounds and religions who, in the face of abuse and violence, find a way to remain true to their fundamental beliefs, and try to save as many lives as they can.

Festival guest: Mostofa Sarwar Farooki

SIBEL



MON 10 JUN 4:30 PM DOQ2
SAT 15 JUN 2:45 PM DOQ1

15+

France, Germany, Luxembourg, Turkey | 2018
 95 mins | In Turkish with English subtitles
 Directors, Screenwriters: Çağla Zencirci, Guillaume Giovanetti | Producers: Rani Massalha, Marie Legrand, Michael Eckelt, Christel Henon, Marsel Kalvo | Cast: Damla Sönmez, Emin Gürsoy, Erkan Kolcak Köstendil
 World Sales: Pyramide International

A rebellious, mute young woman fights back against religious and social conventions in her remote Turkish village, in this enthralling coming-of-age tale.

The setting for Zencirci and Giovanetti's third feature is Koskoy, a village in northern Turkey with distinct cultural traditions, superstitions and an astonishing whistling language that only its residents can understand. In this remarkable place lives Sibel who is speechless but can still communicate in her highly unusual mother tongue. Sibel's marginalised and loveless life takes a dramatic turn when she meets Ali, an idealistic soldier fleeing Turkey's militaristic regime. What evolves is a deeply moving tale of desire, identity and female emancipation. Ecumenical Jury Award, FIPRESCI (Critics) Prize, Locarno.

Screens with *G.D.P.: Grandma's Dangerous Project* (10 JUN)

SCHOOL'S OUT

L'HEURE DE LA SORTIE



WED 5 JUN 6:30 PM DNEW
TUE 11 JUN 9:00 PM EV5

18+

France | 2018 | 103 mins | In French with English subtitles | **Australian Premiere**
 Director: Sébastien Marnier | Screenwriters: Sébastien Marnier, Elise Griffon | Producer: Caroline Bonmarchand
 Cast: Laurent Lafitte, Emmanuelle Bercot, Gringe
 World Sales: Celluloid Dreams

Teacher Pierre Hoffman arrives at prestigious St Joseph's after his predecessor leaps out of the window during class. The substitute soon suspects something is very wrong with his gifted pupils.

An atmosphere of simmering unease hovers from the moment we enter the corridors of St Joseph's and meet the Year 9 class for intellectually advanced children. Led by alpha brats Apolline and Dimitri, these teenagers are arrogant, secretive and dismissive in ways that initially fascinate and then deeply disturb substitute teacher Hoffman (Laurent Lafitte, excellent). And it's not just the school's elite students that seem strange. The second feature by Sébastien Marnier (*Faultless*, 2016) is a compelling, richly metaphorical generation-gap thriller laced with gallows humour and set to a spine-tingling score by French electro pop outfit Zombie Zombie.

Screens with *Chlorine* (11 JUN)

SUBURBAN WILDLIFE



SAT 8 JUN 8:45 PM EV5
THU 13 JUN 6:15 PM DNEW

15+

Australia | 2018 | 86 mins | In English
Australian Premiere
 Director: Imogen McCluskey | Screenwriters: Imogen McCluskey, Béatrice Barbeau-Scuria | Producers: Imogen McCluskey, Sophie Hatch | Cast: Maddy McWilliam, Alex King, Priscilla Douelhy, Hannah Lehmann
 Production Company: Fat Salmon/Take Two

The highly anticipated hometown debut – after its premiere at Cinequest Film Fest – of this authentic depiction of suburban angst and the struggles of young, post-Uni Australians.

Set in Sydney's suburbs, the staunchly DIY *Suburban Wildlife* introduces writer/director Imogen McCluskey, and an ensemble cast that brings to life the story's protagonists. During the last week of a long, hazy summer, four friends take stock of their lives before the "mother" of the group, Louise, relocates to London. As the reality of post-university life sets in, the once tight-knit group fractures. Nina grapples with her sexual identity, Alice struggles to lower her defences and Kane crumbles under the weight of his friends' expectations. Is their friendship strong enough to survive the next phase of their lives?

Festival guests: Imogen McCluskey and members of the film team

THE SWEET REQUIEM

KYOYANG NGARMO

FRI 14 JUN 6:30 PM DOQ3
SUN 16 JUN 1:45 PM HOC

15+

India, USA | 2018 | 91 mins | In Tibetan with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Directors: Ritu Sarin, Tenzing Sonam | Screenwriter: Tenzing Sonam | Producers: Ritu Sarin, Shrinani Sathe
Cast: Jampa Kalsang, Tenzin Dolker | World Sales: Dialectic

The impressive second narrative feature by Dharamshala-based doco team Ritu Sarin and Tenzing Sonam (*Dreaming Lhasa*) is set among Tibetan exiles in Delhi. NETPAC Award, Kolkata.

The guiding Buddhist notion of impermanence plays a central role in the story of Dolkar, a young woman who embarked on a perilous trek to India with her father when she was a girl. Now firmly part of Delhi's large Tibetan community, Dolkar is helping Gompas, a recent arrival fleeing Chinese security forces in Lhasa. Slowly, Dolkar recognises Gompas as the guide who abandoned her group on a treacherous Himalayan path all those years ago. But is this really him? Dolkar's consuming memories of childhood trauma are artfully threaded into the suspenseful depiction of her desire for revenge. Sarin and Sonam have documented the Tibetan experience for more than 20 years. This is one of their finest films yet.

Festival guests: Ritu Sarin and Tenzing Sonam

A TALE OF THREE SISTERS

KIZ KARDESLER

SAT 8 JUN 12:00 PM DOQ1
MON 10 JUN 11:30 AM HOC

15+

Turkey, Germany | 2019 | 108 mins | In Turkish with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Emin Alper | Producers: Nadir Önerli, Muzaffer Yıldırım | Cast: Cemre Ebruç, Ece Yüksel, Helin Kandemir | World Sales: The Match Factory

A domineering father tries to control his three daughters in this fantasy-tinged feminist drama by leading Turkish filmmaker Emin Alper. In competition, Berlinale.

Emin Alper's follow-up to *Frenzy* (Special Jury Prize, Venice) is an entrancing fairy-tale for adults set in a picturesque village situated between snowy peaks in Anatolia. The story's background is the disappearing tradition of *besleme*, whereby country girls are sent to well-off city families to serve as both foster children and maids. Following unhappy placements, teenager Havva and older sisters Nurhan and Reyhan have returned to live with their widowed father, Sevkett. The patriarch has plans for his children, but these are not the obedient daughters of an old-fashioned fairy-tale. Beautifully filmed and tinged with magic realism, Alper's film glows with the power of female strength.

THE THIRD WIFE

NGUOI VO BA

WED 5 JUN 8:30 PM DOQ2
THU 6 JUN 6:30 PM HOC
FRI 7 JUN 11:45 AM STATE

15+

Vietnam | 2018 | 96 mins | In Vietnamese with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Ash Mayfair | Producers: Tran thi bich Ngoc, Ash Mayfair | Cast: Lê Vũ Long, Nguyễn Phương Trà My, Trần Nữ Yên Khê | Local Distributor: Potential Films

Set in late 19th century Vietnam, Ash Mayfair's exquisite feature debut focuses on a teenager in an arranged marriage, who learns quickly about her world's suffocating patriarchy.

Mayfair's dreamlike feminist tale of repressed desire is filled with passion, beauty and melancholy. May (Nguyễn Phương Trà My) is a teenager who becomes the third wife of prosperous rural landowner Hung. She quickly comes of age, learning what she can about sex, and also about the strict patriarchal hierarchy of her society. May soon pins all her hopes on becoming the first of Hung's wives to bear him a son. Writer/director Mayfair based the tale in part on her own family history, recruiting a splendid cast including the great Trần Nữ Yên Khê (*The Scent of Green Papaya*). *The Third Wife*'s ravishing cinematography brings the pastoral setting to life with a mix of lyricism and bracing immediacy.

Screens with *Shed* (5 and 6 JUN)

THIS IS NOT BERLIN

ESTO NO ES BERLIN

THU 6 JUN 8:10 PM DNEW
MON 10 JUN 3:45 PM EV4

18+

Mexico | 2019 | 105 mins | In Spanish with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director: Hari Sama | Screenwriters: Rodrigo Ordoñez, Hari Sama, Max Zunino | Producers: Ale García, Antonio Urdapilleta, Verónica Valadez, Hari Sama
Cast: Xabiani Ponce de León, José Antonio Toledano, Mauro Sánchez Navarro | World Sales: Latido Films

A stylish leap into the hedonism of '80s Mexican post-punk, pan-sexual counter-culture. An alienated young man finds a whole new world when he's invited to a mythical nightclub.

In 1986 Mexico City, 17-year-old Carlos feels out of place in his world. Not interested in the running battles between his macho school friends, and disaffected at home, he finds solace in electronics. When his expertise enables him to fix a broken keyboard in the nick of time for his best friend's sister, she agrees to take the youngsters to the underground nightclub Azteca. There, Carlos and his best mate Gera discover a world of sexual liberation, drugs, art and music, and he finds himself drawn to the heady world of radical performance art. A dazzling portrait of a counterculture with a great cast and a fantastic soundtrack, based partly on director Hari Sama's life.

THE WEDDING GUEST

WED 5 JUN 6:30 PM EV4
FRI 7 JUN 6:30 PM RITZ

15+

UK | 2018 | 94 mins | In English | Australian Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Michael Winterbottom | Producers: Melissa Parmenter, Michael Winterbottom, Dev Patel
Cast: Dev Patel, Radhika Apte | World Sales: Park Circus Group

Dev Patel (*Lion*, *Slumdog Millionaire*) is a mysterious and compelling presence in Michael Winterbottom's thrilling, modern film noir about a wedding guest with ulterior motives.

British man Jay (Patel) travels to Pakistan ostensibly to attend a wedding, but his multiple passports and proficiency with weapons suggest that he has something very different in mind. After a daring raid, he spirits away the bride-to-be, Samira (Radhika Apte, *Sacred Games*, *Lust Stories*) and flees across the border to India. Winterbottom (*The Killer Inside Me*, SFF 2010; *The Trip*, SFF 2011; *On The Road*, SFF 2017), a prolific director with an astonishing range of films traversing countries and genres, proves himself an expert at thrillers too. He ratchets up the tension as the two characters play a potentially deadly game of deception with each other – and their mutual attraction simmers.

THE WHITE CROW

WED 5 JUN 6:30 PM HOC
SAT 8 JUN 6:15 PM EV4
MON 10 JUN 6:15 PM RITZ

ALL AGES

UK, USA, Serbia | 2018 | 128 mins | In English and Russian with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director: Ralph Fiennes | Screenwriter: David Hare
Producers: Gabrielle Tana, François Ivernel, Andrew Levitas
Cast: Oleg Ivenko, Louis Hofmann, Ralph Fiennes
Distributor: Universal Pictures International Australasia

Ralph Fiennes' film tells the exhilarating story of Rudolf Nureyev's defection to the West, capturing both his exquisite talents and the era's explosive political situation.

In 1961, at age 22, Nureyev travels for the first time outside the Soviet Union, joining the esteemed Kirov Ballet Company on a tour to Paris. There he revels in the city's sophistication, gorging himself on the artistic and cultural offerings, and also finds a refreshingly open attitude to sexuality. Nureyev's eagerness to befriend artists in the Parisian scene begins to anger the zealous KGB officers who strictly monitor the dancers. In a stand-off at an airport, Nureyev is faced with a devastating dilemma. Featuring a fantastic central performance by dancer Oleg Ivenko, the film juxtaposes Nureyev's triumphant tour of Paris with flashbacks to his poor childhood, resulting in a fascinating portrait of the complex ballet legend.

YULI

SAT 8 JUN 9:00 PM HOC
SUN 9 JUN 6:15 PM RITZ
WED 12 JUN 6:00 PM EV4

18+

Spain, Cuba, UK, Germany | 2018 | 112 mins
In English and Spanish with English subtitles
Australian Premiere

Director: Iciar Bollain | Screenwriter: Paul Laverty
Producers: Andrea Calderwood, Juan Gordon | Cast: Carlos Acosta, Keyvin Martínez, Edison Manuel Olvera
Distributor: Limelight Distribution

Cuban ballet luminary Carlos Acosta is both star and subject of this moving and unusual fusion of biography and dazzling dance, by Spanish director Iciar Bollain.

Yuli is the inspiring true story of the UK Royal Ballet's first black dancer, combining a loving account of Acosta's upbringing in his native Havana with glorious dance sequences that flesh out his life story. Framed by present-day rehearsals for an autobiographical production, *Yuli* explores Acosta's impoverished childhood, his early struggles with his monumental talent and his stormy relationship with his father. With his legendary grace and power, lovingly depicted here by Bollain (*Take My Eyes*), Acosta became world-famous but never forgot his roots – as demonstrated by the film's unflinching commentary on racism, classism and politics.

Screens with *Broken Line North* (12 JUN)

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SUN 9 JUN 6:30 PM DOQ2
TUE 11 JUN 6:15 PM EV3

15+

USA | 2019 | 113 mins | In English and Mandarin with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Directors: Steven Bognar, Julia Reichert | Producers: Jeff Reichert, Julie Parker Benello | Rights Holder: Netflix

A fly-on-the-wall account of what happened when a Chinese company opened a factory in America – a fascinating, inadvertently funny look at cross-cultural misunderstanding.

The General Motors plant in Dayton, Ohio, closed in 2008 and since then jobs have been in short supply. So when a Chinese billionaire announces his company will be opening an automobile glass factory on the old GM site, the community is overjoyed. But their optimism and happiness soon founders, as they struggle to reach production targets and worry about worsening safety conditions. In turn, Chinese managers are instructed in the idiosyncratic ways of Americans, as they bemoan their inefficiency. A visit by US managers to the company's Chinese factory only serves to underscore the cultural gap. Winner: Directing Award, Documentary at Sundance 2019.

Screens with *G.D.P. Grandma's Dangerous Project* (11 JUN)

ANTHROPOCENE: The Human Epoch



WED 5 JUN 6:45 PM EV5
TUE 11 JUN 6:45 PM EV9

ALL AGES

Canada | 2018 | 87 mins | In English, Russian, Italian, German, Mandarin, and Cantonese with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Directors: Jennifer Baichwal, Nicholas de Pencier, Edward Burtynsky | Screenwriter: Jennifer Baichwal
Producer: Nicholas de Pencier | Narrator: Alicia Vikander
World Sales: Seville International

A visually stunning cinematic essay on the human race's devastating impact on the earth by the collaborative trio behind multi-award-winners *Manufactured Landscapes* and *Watermark*.

Astonishing in scale and perspective, *Anthropocene* traverses the globe from Kenya, where mounds of illegal elephant tusks are set alight, to colossal mining operations in Russia and Germany, and gaudy evaporation pools in Chile's Atacama Desert. The striking images demonstrate how humans are shaping our planet at an ever-increasing rate; hence the title, for this is the age in which human activity is the dominant influence on the environment. De Pencier's epic cinematography and Alicia Vikander's narration capture the immense power and terrible beauty of our endeavours: this really is a film for the big screen.

APOLLO 11



MON 10 JUN 9:30 AM STATE
SAT 15 JUN 2:00 PM CASULA
SUN 16 JUN 1:45 PM HEQ15

ALL AGES

USA | 2018 | 93 mins | In English | Australian Premiere
Director, Producer: Todd Miller | Distributor: Madman Entertainment

50 years after Neil Armstrong's first steps on the moon, the epic story from lift-off to touchdown is told using never-before-seen footage from July 1969.

This awe-inspiring documentary delivers a very real sense of how truly momentous the Apollo 11 mission was. It's all here – from the colossal rocket rolling to the launch pad at Florida's Cape Canaveral, to the rows of white-shirted men with black ties watching monitors. And from Armstrong's immortal words, to the tense return to land. The director, in partnership with NASA and America's National Archives, sifted through roughly 11,000 hours of uncatalogued materials. By using long-forgotten, often large format, footage and commentary from the era, the film puts us right into the action, and conveys a thrilling picture of how it was experienced at the time by astronauts, technicians, onlookers and the media.

THE BIGGEST LITTLE FARM



WED 5 JUN 6:15 PM DOQ2
SAT 8 JUN 4:30 PM STATE

ALL AGES

USA | 2018 | 91 mins | In English | Australian Premiere
Director: John Chester | Producer: Sandra Keats
Distributor: Madman Entertainment

A genuine crowd-pleaser that follows filmmaker John Chester, his wife and dog as they chase their dream to set up a sustainable farm, with plenty of enthusiasm but zero experience.

It all started with rescue dog, Todd. He just didn't like living downtown, so cameraman John and caterer Molly decided to up sticks and move to a rundown homestead an hour outside the city. Their aim was to farm in harmony with nature; but the snails, coyotes and bugs etc., had other ideas. Restoring the soil, fighting off infestations, nursing pregnant pigs, coping with fire and drought – it's all in a day's work for the determined couple. By year eight, the natural world is rebounding – barn owls, bobcats, gopher snakes and more – and Apricot Lane Farm is alive with infinite possibilities. Beautifully crafted, *The Biggest Little Farm* is an ode to goodhearted idealism and the beauty of the natural world.

Screens with *Tungus*

THE BRINK



SAT 8 JUN 12:45 PM DOQ2
SUN 9 JUN 8:45 PM DOQ2

+15

USA | 2018 | 92 mins | In English | Australian Premiere
Director: Alison Klayman | Producers: Marie Therese Guirgis, Alison Klayman | World Sales: Magnolia Pictures

US filmmaker Alison Klayman takes on the challenge of documenting controversial figure Steve Bannon in the year following his departure from the White House.

In the autumn of 2017, the co-founder of *Breitbart News* and Cambridge Analytica, and former Chief Strategist for Trump, headed to Europe on a mission to promote 'the global populist movement'. Klayman (*Ai Wei Wei: Never Sorry*, SFF 2012) tags along, a fly on the wall, observing his tactics. Bannon meets with right wing leaders and holds court with politicians, donors and supporters – frequently disarming them with his affability and persistence. Klayman skillfully reveals the man's duplicitousness, defusing his questionable charm with her camera lens. In doing so, she provides us with an understanding of his methods. Don't they always say it's better to know your enemy?

BUDDHA IN AFRICA



THU 6 JUN 2:20 PM STATE
THU 13 JUN 6:15 PM DOQ2

15+

Sweden, South Africa | 2019 | 90 mins | In English and Mandarin Chinese with English subtitles
Australian Premiere
Director, Producer: Nicole Schafer | World Sales: Cat & Docs

The poignant story of a Malawian boy raised in a Buddhist orphanage, torn between his motherland and opportunity, as he struggles to retain his cultural identity.

Enock was just six years old when he was taken to a Confucian Buddhist orphanage and given the Chinese name Alu. Home to around 300 orphans, it's a rigorous environment with stringent Buddhist and Mandarin study, and Shaolin Kung Fu training. Enock/Alu becomes extremely proficient in acrobatics – a star performer for the orphanage's world-touring cultural activities. But now, almost 16, he has to make a choice: to reconnect with his African culture and language; or sign up for five years study in Taiwan. Schafer's impressive documentary raises questions about cultural indoctrination and the price of charity.

Screens with *The Ambassador's Wife*

THE EDGE OF DEMOCRACY



SAT 8 JUN 2:45 PM DOQ2
WED 12 JUN 11:45 AM STATE

15+

Brazil | 2019 | 117 mins | In English and Portuguese with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director: Petra Costa | Producers: Shane Boris, Petra Costa, Sara Dosa, Joanna Natasegara, Tiago Pavan | Rights Holder: Netflix

A brilliantly assembled documentary, simultaneously personal and political, that looks at Brazil's tumultuous recent history through the lens of the filmmaker's memory.

Filmmaker Petra Costa is roughly the same age as Brazil's democracy. She was born around the end of military rule and came of age when Worker's Party candidate President Lula da Silva was elected president. Her parents were jailed because of their opposition to the former military dictatorship, but with Lula's election the future finally seems bright. Just 17 years later, Costa films Lula, the embodiment of her mother's political dreams, as he's carted off to jail – convicted of corruption. Simultaneously, his anointed successor, Dilma Rousseff, faces impeachment. How could the democratic dream go so very wrong? Costa's sadness and angry disbelief at the state of her country is palpable in this powerful documentary.

HAIL SATAN?



MON 10 JUN 6:30 PM EV5
THU 13 JUN 8:30 PM DNEW

18+

USA | 2018 | 94 mins | In English | Australian Premiere
Director: Penny Lane | Producer: Gabriel Sedgwick
World Sales: Magnolia Pictures

A thoroughly entertaining, even mischievous, documentary on the new and controversial rise of Satanism in the USA – advocating for religious freedom that mocks the status quo.

The Satanic Temple has become one of the most controversial 'religious' crusades in America. A movement of the modern age, it uses outrageous pranks and social media to attract hundreds of thousands of devotees. One such endeavour involves a campaign to place a nine-foot bronze satanic monument (Baphomet) next to the statue of the Ten Commandments on the lawn of the Arkansas State Capitol. The tenet at the heart of US law – the separation of church and state – is about to get a legal pounding. Director Penny Lane, no stranger to provocative subjects (for example, *Nuts!* – about a goat-testicle cure), discovers that the new generation of Satan followers are not entirely what you'd expect.

HALSTON



THU 6 JUN 6:30 PM EV5
SUN 9 JUN 4:00 PM RITZ
SAT 15 JUN 6:35 PM EV3

15+

USA | 2018 | 106 mins | In English | Australian Premiere
Director: Frédéric Tcheng | Producers: Frédéric Tcheng, Roland Ballester, Stephanie Levy, Paul Dallas
Distributor: Madman Entertainment

Frédéric Tcheng (*Dior & I*, SFF 2014) turns his camera on iconic fashion designer Halston, tracking his hedonistic rise in '70s New York to his crashing fall.

A gay boy in conservative Iowa, Roy Halston Frowick reinvented himself as a suave sophisticate. He started out as a milliner for Bergdorf Goodman's, famously crafting a pillbox hat for Jackie Kennedy for her husband's inauguration, then switched to clothing. His elegant and (according to long time friend Liza Minnelli) very wearable costumes were soon to be seen on the shoulders of the rich and famous. In the era of Studio 54, the notorious Halston partied with them all. His empire grew, everything from luggage to perfume and uniforms. In 1983, he signed a billion-dollar deal with retail chain J.C. Penney – ultimately a poor decision. Tcheng delivers a fascinating portrait of an absolutely fabulous fashion legend.

HONEYLAND



MON 10 JUN 12:15 PM DOQ2
SAT 15 JUN 9:30 AM STATE

ALL AGES

Macedonia | 2019 | 85 mins | In Turkish with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Directors: Ljubomir Stefanov, Tamara Kotevska | Producers: Atanas Georgiev, Ljubomir Stefanov | World Sales: Deckert Distribution GmbH

Winner of the World Cinema Grand Jury Prize at Sundance 2019, *Honeyland* is a sumptuous, poetic and funny portrait of a female beekeeper in the remote Macedonian countryside.

Filmmakers Stefanov and Kotevska filmed Hatidze and her bees over three years. The 50-something apiarist lives in an isolated cottage with her frail elderly mother. She seems content to tend her bees and make the occasional four-hour trip to market. One day, a large family and their herd of cattle move into the otherwise deserted mountain valley and her peaceful life is turned upside down. At first, Hatidze enjoys the company, and willingly shares her special brandy and her ancient beekeeping ways. But her trust is betrayed, and all too soon her bees are in jeopardy. Intimate, humorous and timeless, *Honeyland* also epitomises the delicate balance between humankind and nature. Winner of Sundance's World Cinema Grand Jury Prize and Special Jury Award.

JUST DON'T THINK I'LL SCREAM
NE CROYEZ SURTOUT PAS QUE JE HURLE



THU 6 JUN 6:30 PM DNEW
WED 12 JUN 6:15 PM DNEW

15+

France | 2019 | 75 mins | In French with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director, Producer: Frank Beauvais | Festival Contact: Pascale Ramonda

A haunting, mesmerising ode to lost love composed entirely of hundreds of movie clips, narrated with dreamlike intensity by French filmmaker Frank Beauvais.

Debut director and cinephile Beauvais explains that since his boyfriend left six months ago, he's been living a reclusive life in an Alsatian village. His main activity has been watching films, all day and often through the night. "I quite literally submerge myself in films about others," he says. "I lose all desire to write, to film, or do anything else." As he voices his disgust, helplessness and rage at himself and the world, a stream of movie clips flicker across the screen. Beauvais' hypnotic and indefinable work has been described by *The Hollywood Reporter* as, "like watching Christopher Marlowe's *The Clock* while listening to a highly literary, self-confessional voice-over that's equal parts Knausgaard, Houellebecq and Fernando Pessoa."

THE KLEPTOCRATS



WED 5 JUN 8:15 PM DOQ1
SUN 16 JUN 2:15 PM DNEW

ALL AGES

UK | 2018 | 84 mins | In English and Malay with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Directors: Sam Hobkinson, Havana Marking | Screenwriter: Louise Story | Producer: Mike Lerner | World Sales: Dogwoof

A true-life political scam that plays out like a Hollywood movie, complete with stars, villains and billions of dollars! A jaw-dropping documentary on Malaysia's 1MDB scandal.

In full-on investigative mode, reporters from *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal* and *The Hollywood Reporter* doggedly pursue the story of US \$3.5 billion missing from a Malaysian wealth fund. They trace the dirty money, via real estate deals and movie financing, back to the top tiers of the Malaysian government. Incredibly (but oh, how fitting!), the audacious swindlers chose to back the 2014 blockbuster *The Wolf of Wall Street*. Hollywood A-listers, including Leonardo DiCaprio, attended lavish parties hosted to launch the film. The embezzlement was orchestrated by a flamboyant financier, Jho Low, and Riza Aziz, the stepson of the then-Malaysian Prime Minister. As the truth finally comes to light, assets are frozen and the fall-out begins.

LEFTOVER WOMEN



SAT 15 JUN 12:00 PM EV5
SUN 16 JUN 4:40 PM DOQ1

15+

Israel, Germany | 2019 | 85 mins | In Mandarin Chinese with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Directors, Producers: Hilla Medalia, Shosh Shlam
World Sales: MetFilm Sales

In China, if you're a woman, over 27 and still single you are considered 'leftover'. In this eye-opening film we meet three women on their quest to find a life partner.

In China, such women are called 'sheng nu'. It doesn't matter if they have successful careers and earn a decent wage, their achievements mean little if they don't have a husband. In a country where 30-something men outnumber 30-something women by 20 million, the task shouldn't be difficult. But finding Mr Right is riddled with anxiety – particularly when age-old chauvinism, family traditions and government intervention are involved. Co-directors Shosh Shlam (*Web Junkie*, SFF 2014) and Hilla Medalia follow three urban professionals – HuaMei, Min and Qi – as they attend gruelling marriage markets and government-sponsored dating festivals. Can they reconcile their personal desires with family and societal expectations?

Screens with *Little Miss Sumo*

MAIDEN



SAT 8 JUN 4:15 PM HOC
SUN 9 JUN 2:15 PM EV5
FRI 14 JUN 6:00 PM EV9

15+

UK | 2018 | 97 mins | In English | Australian Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Alex Holmes | Producers: Alex Holmes, Victoria Gregory | Distributor: Rialto Distribution

The gripping story of the first all-female crew to take on the male-dominated Whitbread Round-the-World yacht race: inspiring and remarkably relevant in this Time's Up era.

Skipper Tracy Edwards made history in 1989 when her boat 'Maiden' crossed the start line of this notoriously gruelling race. A former ship's cook, Edwards decided the only way to break into this all-boys club was to take up the challenge with an all-women team. She set about recruiting a crew and raising the money to refurbish and equip a beat-up old boat. Overcoming many setbacks, including resistant sponsors, and with chauvinistic reporters betting on their failure, 'Maiden' – with Edwards at the helm – finally set out on the 33,000-mile voyage. The difficulty of their undertaking is vividly demonstrated in footage shot by sports networks as well as the crew themselves. Their triumphs are equally palpable, and make this documentary exciting, fast-paced and totally engrossing.

Screens with *Connected*

MEETING GORBACHEV



FRI 7 JUN 8:30 PM DOQ2
SAT 8 JUN 12:15 PM EV5

15+

USA, UK, Germany | 2018 | 90 mins | In English, Russian, German and Polish with English subtitles
Australian Premiere
Directors: Werner Herzog, André Singer | Producer: Svetlana Palmer | Distributor: Rialto Distribution

Werner Herzog's fascinating conversations with the last leader of the Soviet Union, Mikhail Gorbachev, illuminate a political legacy that still resonates today.

During Gorbachev's tenure the Cold War ended, Eastern Bloc countries gained their independence, the Berlin Wall fell, Germany was reunified and the Soviet Union collapsed – not to mention the Chernobyl disaster and the slashing of the USSR's stockpile of nuclear weapons. Herzog conducted a series of interviews with 87-year-old Gorbachev, still a consummate politician, over six months. These conversations are intercut with archival footage and interviews with key figures from the era. Herzog (*Into The Abyss*, *Cave of Forgotten Dreams* SFF 2011, *Grizzly Man*) demonstrates a genuine affection for his subject, underlining the poignancy with which they discuss Gorbachev's political reforms, his beloved wife Raisa, and his significant legacy.

MERATA: HOW MUM DECOLONISED THE SCREEN



THU 13 JUN 3:55 PM STATE
SAT 15 JUN 2:00 PM EV5

15+

New Zealand | 2018 | 87 mins | In English
Australian Premiere

Director, Screenwriter: Heperi Mita | Producer: Chelsea Winstanley | Distributor: Rialto Distribution

A fascinating portrait of trailblazing Māori filmmaker, Merata Mita (reportedly the first Indigenous woman to direct a feature), crafted with love by her youngest son.

A film archivist, debut director Heperi Mita is also the son of Merata and New Zealand filmmaker Geoff Murphy. Heperi takes us through his mother's life and work, beginning with her traditional childhood and early marriage in Maketu, Bay of Plenty. A move to Auckland and a fractious relationship follow, and she ends up juggling solo parenting with her burgeoning activism (resulting in police harassment), politicisation and interest in filmmaking. Merata Mita was a barrier-breaking figure, not just as a filmmaker but also as a global mentor for Indigenous people, and inspiration for many (including Taika Waititi). Heperi tells Merata's dynamic story with clips of her work, interviews with family, and also his own touching commentary.

Festival guests: Heperi Mita and Chelsea Winstanley

MIDNIGHT FAMILY



FRI 7 JUN 6:45 PM DNEW
SAT 15 JUN 12:45 PM DOQ1

15+

USA, Mexico | 2019 | 81 mins | In Spanish with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director: Luke Lorentzen | Producer: Kellen Quinn | Distributor: Madman Entertainment

This award-winning doco takes a frenetic night ride through Mexico City with one of the many rough-as-guts private ambulances hustling for trade in the dysfunctional megalopolis.

The Mexican capital is home to over nine million people and is serviced by just 45 government ambulances. The gap is filled by private, untrained paramedics, who race to accident scenes and scabble for business. It's a cut-throat environment, ethically problematic, and subject to much bribery and corruption. The Ochoa family are struggling to keep their ambulance on the road and make a living. Lacking medical skills and equipment but basically good-hearted (and always ready with a hug), the family are forced to negotiate fees with the sick, stressed and insolvent. Director Luke Lorentzen expertly captures their chaotic world, watching scenes unfold with a tough yet affectionate eye. Winner of Best Feature and Best Director at Guadalajara International Film Festival.

MIDNIGHT TRAVELER



THU 13 JUN 6:40 PM EV9
SUN 16 JUN 12:15 PM DOQ2

15+

USA, Qatar, Canada, UK | 2019 | 86 mins | In English and Farsi with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director: Hassan Fazili | Screenwriter: Emelie Mahdavian | Producer: Emelie Mahdavian, Su Kim | World Sales: Doc & Film International

The documentary of the Fazili family's search for a safe haven has moved audiences worldwide and won prizes at Berlinale, San Francisco, Sundance and Thessaloniki film festivals.

Filmmaker Hassan Fazili was forced to leave Afghanistan when he made a television documentary featuring a Taliban leader who'd abandoned violence. Hassan, his filmmaker wife Fatima and their two young daughters fled for their lives. Using mobile phones, the family recorded their experiences as they reeled from one country to another, often waiting months for the outcome of yet another visa application. Nargis, Zahra, and their parents start out buoyant but the pressures of spending day after day in refugee camps soon take their toll. This vérité film reveals the tragedy and the horror of the family's lengthy pursuit of asylum, particularly poignant when seen through the lens of the two young girls.

Screens with *War Mothers: Unbreakable*

THE MIRACLE OF THE LITTLE PRINCE



THU 6 JUN 10:00 AM STATE
SAT 8 JUN 4:00 PM DOQ1

ALL AGES

The Netherlands | 2018 | 90 mins | In French, Tamazight, Nawat, Sámi and Tibetan with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director: Marjolaine Boonstra | Producer: Pieter van Huijstede | World Sales: Films Transit

The nature of language and culture, in particular the world's disappearing indigenous languages, is explored via classic book *The Little Prince*, in this captivating documentary.

Antoine Saint-Exupéry's much-loved novella *The Little Prince*, in which a lonesome boy from a remote star on a quest for love and friendship travels to Earth, is one of the best-selling and most-translated books ever published. This inspiring documentary looks at how four communities use translations of a fabled classic to keep their language and culture alive, at a time when many of the world's indigenous languages are rapidly disappearing. From the desert sands of Morocco to the Sami people on the border of Norway and Finland, exiled Tibetan translators and the ancient Aztec language of the Pipil people of El Salvador, *The Miracle of the Little Prince* explores the nature of language and the significance of Saint-Exupéry's words in 2019.

Festival guest: Marjolaine Boonstra

MONROVIA, INDIANA



SAT 8 JUN 10:00 AM DOQ2
SAT 15 JUN 12:00 PM DOQ2

15+

USA | 2018 | 143 mins | In English
Director: Frederick Wiseman | Producer: Frederick Wiseman, Karen Konicsek | Distributor: Vendetta Films

Multi-award-winning documentarian Frederick Wiseman's 44th film captures life in a small Midwestern town post-Trump: "a real-life American horror story".

The community in Wiseman's latest film is rural, ageing, and overwhelmingly white: in contrast with his most recent productions (*Ex Libris: The New York Public Library*, SFF 2018; *In Jackson Heights*, SFF 2016; *At Berkeley*, SFF 2014). The citizens of Monrovia voted 76% in favour of Trump. In his trademark observational style, the 89-year-old Wiseman patiently films this pro-gun, pro-god farming town as the locals go about their daily lives. He follows them into church, town planning meetings, a masonic ceremony, a funeral, a wedding, barbershops and beauty parlours. He captures the old guys at the diner discussing ill health and dead acquaintances. This is the Middle America frequently referred to in American media, however, it is about as far from fake-news as one could get.

NOTHING FANCY: DIANA KENNEDY



SAT 8 JUN 7:10 PM DOQ2
SUN 16 JUN 2:15 PM DOQ2

15+

USA | 2019 | 80 mins | In English and Spanish with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director: Elizabeth Carroll | Producer: Dan Braun, Elizabeth Carroll | World Sales: Dogwoof

The doyenne of Mexican cooking – best-selling author Diana Kennedy – and the cuisine she adores are the subjects of this prize-winning documentary.

The grand old lady of Mexican cooking, now 95 years old, is still as feisty as a habanero. It's many years since she left England, met an American journalist based in Mexico City, and fell in love with the country and its food. Until she started her substantial research, the cuisine of regional Mexico was little known, celebrated or documented. After her books topped the charts, Kennedy became a regular on US television. Today, she cultivates rare plants, integral to her dishes, at her sustainable home. She drives to country markets and interrogates stallholders about the origins of their produce. Above all, the formidable Diana continues to be a stickler for authentic Mexican cuisine (just listen to her lecture on guacamole!).

ON THE INSIDE OF A MILITARY DICTATORSHIP
SCENER FRA ET MILITÆRDIKTATUR

TUE 11 JUN 8:30 PM DOQ2
SUN 16 JUN 10:00 AM DOQ1

15+

Denmark, France | 2019 | 97 mins | In English and Burmese with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director Festival Contact: Karen Stokkendal Poulsen
Producer: Vibeke Vogel | The Danish Film Institute

This engrossing film attempts to unravel the complexities of power in Aung San Suu Kyi's homeland; tracing Myanmar's problematic transition from military rule to democracy.

For many decades Myanmar was closed to the outside world. The military dictatorship, which took over in 1988, held the reins of power in a tight grip. When they finally embarked on a calculated seven steps to 'a disciplinary democracy' it seemed as if times would change. Nobel Prize-winner Aung San Suu Kyi was released from house arrest, and the rest of the world applauded. But as this film demonstrates, both history and power are not so easily discarded. Director Karen Stokkendal Poulsen talked to leading figures in Myanmar, including National League of Democracy spokesperson Win Htein, former President Thein Sein and Cabinet Speaker Shwe Mann. Their interviews illustrate Myanmar's challenging path: does democracy have any hope of taking root in a country that has no democratic tradition?

ONE CHILD NATION



FRI 7 JUN 1:45 PM STATE
SUN 9 JUN 4:30 PM EV3

15+

China, USA | 2019 | 85 mins | In English and Mandarin Chinese with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director: Nanfu Wang, Jialing Zhang | Producer: Nanfu Wang, Jialing Zhang, Julie Goldman, Christoph Jorg, Christopher Clements, Carolyn Hepburn
World Sales: Dogwoof

The underreported consequences of China's One-Child Policy are exposed in this utterly compelling Grand Jury Prize winner at Sundance 2019.

From 1979 to 2015, China's mandatory policy was an attempt to curb the country's looming population crisis. Co-directors Nanfu Wang (*Hooligan Sparrow*, 2016) and Jialing Zhang grew up in 1980s China. As a child, Wang recalls seeing relentless propaganda reinforcing the government's strategy. Now a first-time mother living in America, she returns to China to investigate the devastating impact of the program. In shocking interviews with journalists, officials and family members, she documents a horrendous trail of social destruction, from forced sterilisation to child abandonment (nearly all girls) and state-sponsored kidnappings. This important and uncompromising documentary challenges widespread assumptions.

Festival guest: Jialing Zhang

PICTURE CHARACTER



MON 10 JUN 4:15 PM DNEW
SAT 15 JUN 5:15 PM DOQ1

15+

USA, Germany, Japan, Argentina, Austria, UK, Scotland | 2019 | 80 mins | In English, Japanese, Arabic and Spanish with English subtitles
Australian Premiere
Director: Ian Cheney, Martha Shane | Producer: Ian Cheney, Martha Shane, Jennifer Lee | World Sales: Submarine Entertainment

A fun and thought-provoking look at the evolution of emojis (Japanese for 'picture character') – from heart-eyed faces and thumbs up to smiling poops!

The fascinating story of emojis begins with their creator Shigetaka Kurita in late '90s Japan and his original 176 symbols. "I find it hard to believe what they have become," Kurita says. A hit in Japan, within a decade emojis were in global use. Today, boffins at the Unicode Consortium, who are responsible for approving new emoji requests, struggle to keep up with demand. How do you make sure a new language isn't unintentionally chauvinist or xenophobic? Meet Rayouf, schoolgirl campaigner for the hijabi emoji; Katrina, who pushed for a diversity of skin tones; and Florencia, who's trying to represent Argentina's iconic mate tea with just a few pixels. You'll never look at emojis in quite the same way again.

REASON



SUN 9 JUN 1:45 PM DOQ1
WED 12 JUN 6:15 PM DOQ1

15+

India | 2018 | 236 mins | In Hindi, Marathi, English, Gujarati, Telugu and Kannada with English subtitles
Australian Premiere
Director, Producer: Anand Patwardhan
World Sales: Cinephil

Winner of IDFA's prestigious Best Feature Length Documentary prize, Anand Patwardhan's latest is an epic exploration of the battle between faith and reason in today's India.

Patwardhan is renowned for his films chronicling injustice in his homeland, with documentaries such as *Jai Bhim Comrade* (SFF 2012), *Father, Son and Holy War* (SFF 1995) and *In the Name of God* (SFF 1993). In *Reason*, he addresses India's slide from a secular democracy to a more divisive society, fractured by power, caste and religious belief. He charts the rise of right-wing Hindu extremists driven by media-fuelled populism, who habitually accuse minority groups of 'treason against Mother India' or 'eating cow meat' – violence frequently ensues. In eight chapters – using interviews, captured footage and archive sequences – Patwardhan depicts and deplores this frightening shift in the world's largest democracy.

SCHOOL OF SEDUCTION –
THREE STORIES FROM RUSSIA

WED 12 JUN 8:20 PM DNEW
FRI 14 JUN 6:15 PM DNEW

15+

Denmark | 2019 | 94 mins | In Russian with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Alina Rudnitskaya | Producer: Sigrid Jonsson Dyekjær | World Sales: Autlook Filmsales

In Putin's Russia, women invest in workshops that purport to teach the skills necessary to seduce wealthy men. Award-winning filmmaker Alina Rudnitskaya follows three graduates.

Each of these 30-something Russian women is desperately seeking a better life. Lida, who is dating a married man, hates living with her mum. Vika is riddled with anxiety about her situation. A lonely single mother, Diana, wants a relationship – but the guy must have money. A sleazy middle-aged man runs the workshop; "what a nightmare," says one pupil, as he hip-grinds with the class. Rudnitskaya follows the women for seven years as they chase their dreams of success. In a society where money and prestige are everything, it's not surprising that happiness means designer clothes and a nice apartment. This absorbing documentary delivers outrage and comedy, while providing a sharp insight into the gender gap in 21st century Russia.

SEA OF SHADOWS



SAT 8 JUN 2:15 PM EV5
SUN 9 JUN 6:45 PM DNEW

ALL AGES

Austria | 2018 | 104 mins | In English and Spanish with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director: Richard Ladkani | Producers: Wolfgang Knöpfner, Walter Köhler | Distributor: Submarine Entertainment / National Geographic

The dramatic battle to save a tiny whale from extinction off the Mexican coast, as greed and corruption stymie environmentalists. Audience Award winner, Sundance 2019.

The vaquita is found only in the Sea of Cortez, an extraordinarily biodiverse environment that Jacques Cousteau called 'the aquarium of the planet'. The region is also home to the totoaba, a fish whose swim bladder is a highly prized Chinese delicacy. Fishermen using illegal gill nets trap totoaba (aka the 'cocaine of the sea') for the black market – vaquita are just collateral damage. It's a multi-million-dollar business involving Mexican drug cartels and Chinese smugglers. Against these odds, Sea Shepherd activists, the military, scientists and others are battling to save this endangered creature. Director Richard Ladkani (*The Ivory Game*) documents their urgent undertakings in this heartrending eco-thriller.

SHOOTING THE MAFIA



SUN 9 JUN 6:15 PM DOQ1
SUN 16 JUN 10:15 AM DOQ2

15+

Ireland, USA | 2019 | 94 mins | In English and Italian with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director: Kim Longinotto | Producer: Niamh Fagan
World Sales: MetFilm Sales

The life and powerful work of gutsy Italian photojournalist Letizia Battaglia is captured in this bold documentary from prizewinning UK filmmaker Kim Longinotto.

Born in Palermo, Sicily, Battaglia took up photojournalism in her 30s, after a teenage marriage ended in divorce. She began to focus on the activities of the Cosa Nostra in her hometown. Battaglia's stark black and white photographs captured the victims; not just the corpses strewn on the street, but also the grief-stricken relatives. In the mid-1980s to '90s, as the Mafia's campaign of violence and intimidation grew (culminating in the death of investigating magistrate Giovanni Falcone), she switched her focus to politics, working as a Green Party councillor. Filmmaker Longinotto (*Salma, Rough Aunties*, SFF 2009; *Sisters in Law*, SFF 2005) has found a laudable addition to her chronicle of vibrant women in the impassioned and fiercely independent 80-something Battaglia.

TALKING ABOUT TREES



SUN 9 JUN 2:30 PM DOQ2
SAT 15 JUN 10:15 AM DOQ2

15+

France, Germany, Sudan, Chad, Qatar | 2019 | 90 mins | In Arabic with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Suhail Gasmelbari
Producers: Marie Baldocchi, Mélanie Andermach, Mahamat Saleh Haroun | World Sales: Wide House

The love of cinema pervades this Berlinale Audience Award winner: the story of four Sudanese filmmakers determined to bring an old movie theatre back to life in difficult times.

Ibrahim, Manar, Soliman and Eltayeb are members of the Sudanese Film Club. Reluctantly retired, all four men studied film overseas (poignant excerpts of their films feature in the documentary). They live in a country controlled by Islamic fundamentalists where public screenings are banned. Sudanese people watch pirated movies on their small screens, never in public. The determined foursome has a plan to restore an outdoor theatre in a city just outside Khartoum, but a lack of money and equipment, red tape and official censorship thwart their plans. Sudan-born director Gasmelbari contemplates the demise of Sudan's once-budding film industry and the communal cinema experience with a melancholic eye, but not without humour and hope.

TRIXIE MATTEL: MOVING PARTS



FRI 7 JUN 8:45 PM EV5
SUN 16 JUN 2:30 PM EV4

18+

USA | 2019 | 91 mins | In English | Australian Premiere
Director: Nick Zeig-Owens | Producer: David Silver
World Sales: Cinetic Media

Behind the scenes with 'Skinny Legend'

Trixie Mattel, the *RuPaul's Drag Race All Stars 3* winner who's very serious about drag, and very serious about being funny.

Trixie is the drag persona of Milwaukee-born country musician Brian Firkus. We meet as she's recording a new album and struggling to keep her TV comedy spin-off, *The Trixie & Katya Show*, together. As Trixie admits, she did a really shitty job on her first season of *RuPaul's Drag Race*. When she's approached to join the *All Stars* season, she feels she has nothing to lose – and yet much to prove. A whirlwind tour follows – Dublin-Manchester-Los Angeles-Chicago – with hardly a moment to pull on her Parton-like gown or paint her signature face. Not just an on-the-road-with-Trixie film, this is also a surprisingly revealing portrait of the life of a professional performer – one with heels, humour and heart.

UNTITLED AMAZING JOHNATHAN DOCUMENTARY



WED 5 JUN 6:15 PM DNEW
SUN 16 JUN 4:15 PM EV5

18+

USA | 2019 | 91 mins | In English | Australian Premiere
Director: Ben Berman | Producer: Miranda Bailey, Ben Berman, Russell Groves, Amanda Marshall, Jacob Perlin
World Sales: Submarine Entertainment

The bizarre, hilarious and totally twisted tale of a magician; and the attempts by one increasingly puzzled filmmaker to document his end-of-life story.

Amazing Johnathan, "the Freddie Kreuger of magicians", was diagnosed with a heart condition and given just one year to live. Told to retire from the stage, three years later he's still alive and bored, and so elects to go on tour. Filmmaker Ben Berman decided to shoot the magician's improbable comeback, but he clearly hadn't taken into account what it would be like to film a self-proclaimed prankster. After all, as a documentarian you're looking for the truth, but when you're filming an illusionist, just what can you believe? Things get increasingly bizarre, and in the process Ben is forced to question his filmmaking ethics. The result is a strangely entertaining and weird ride.

UNTOUCHABLE



MON 10 JUN 4:00 PM EV5
THU 13 JUN 6:30 PM DNEW

18+

USA | 2019 | 98 mins | In English | Australian Premiere
Director: Ursula Macfarlane | Producer: Simon Chinn, Jonathan Chinn, Poppy Dixon | Distributor: Transmission Films

The rise and public fall of Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein: with accusations going back 30 years, how did he get away with his deplorable behaviour for so long?

Weinstein was a ruthless movie mogul and influential producer, for decades one of the most dominant figures in showbiz. He used his power to make and break careers: and to bully women to his will. The truth finally emerged in 2017 and the monster was subsequently toppled. In Ursula Macfarlane's empowering documentary (produced by Academy Award-winner Simon Chinn) Weinstein's former employees, as well as journalists and actors such as Rosanna Arquette, Nannette Klatt and Paz de la Huerta, speak directly to the camera about their experiences. You may think that you've heard it all, but the frank interviews with the women he abused paint an agonising, less tabloid, and more complex picture.

UP THE MOUNTAIN
HUO SHAN

SAT 8 JUN 4:05 PM EV9
MON 10 JUN 2:00 PM DOQ2

ALL AGES

China | 2018 | 126 mins | In Mandarin Chinese with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Zhang Yang | Producer: Zhang Yang, Youzheng Cheng | World Sales: Fortissimo Films

Exquisitely framed like the paintings it features, this meditative work about an artist, his community and mountain village in China documents a fast-disappearing way of life.

Master painter and teacher Shen Jianhua moved from Shanghai to a mountaintop Yunnan village years ago. He offers drawing lessons to numerous guests, including elderly village ladies who produce colourful folk canvases. The women are delightful, chattering as they paint and cook, revealing much about their calm approach to the ups and downs – the very rhythms – of life. One of Shen's pupils is less serene: newly married, he's torn between staying and leaving for the big city. His story exemplifies the clash between modernity and tradition in today's China. Using an aspect ratio similar to a painting, director Zhang Yang (Festival favourite *Shower*, SFF 1999) has crafted an exquisite, unhurried portrait of a community and the joy of creating.

VARDA BY AGNÈS



SAT 8 JUN 2:10 PM STATE
SAT 15 JUN 4:50 PM DOQ2

15+

France | 2019 | 115 mins | In French and English with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director: Agnès Varda | Producer: Rosalie Varda
Distributor: MK2Films

Spellbinding, witty and highly original, Agnès Varda's final film, which premiered just a month before she died, looks back at her remarkable life and exceptional career.

A fitting tribute to Varda's innovative and genre-defying approach, *Varda by Agnès* combines clips from her films and dramatised reconstructions, along with Varda's own priceless musings. Since her debut feature in 1955 (*La Pointe Courte*, screening in the Festival's Viva Varda retrospective on 12 June) the auteur has crafted singular narrative films and documentaries (including the Oscar-nominated *Faces Places* in 2017). Her legacy is profound and far-reaching. While there's sadness at her loss to the living world, it's an absolute pleasure to spend time with this eternally playful filmmaker as she yet again blurs the line between fact and fiction – keeping audiences on their cinematic toes.

THE WANDERING CHEF

108 PLATES



SAT 15 JUN 4:30 PM EV9
SUN 16 JUN 6:30 PM EV9

15+

South Korea | 2018 | 90 mins | In Korean with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director: Hye Ryeong Park | Producer: Min Jung Huh
World Sales: Wide House

The belly-warming story of a celebrated Korean chef and forager, who crafts meals that unite people, providing sustenance, comfort and joy to those he meets on his travels.

Jiho Im is known as 'The Wandering Chef', and his journeys take him across the Korean peninsula. He forages for unique ingredients, mosses, herbs and roots recognised for their medicinal properties. As he traverses the country, he encounters locals, carries their burdens and prepares meals for them. He meets Soon-Gyu, an elderly woman who offers him a bowl of soup. In return, he prepares a meal, which she and her husband relish. So, he returns, this time conceiving and creating innumerable dishes. Jiho Im never knew his mother, and his longing for maternal connection imbues his relationship with Soon-Gyu. Hye-Ryoung Park's poignant documentary illustrates the deep connection between food, ritual and memory.

WHAT WILL BECOME OF US



SUN 9 JUN 4:45 PM EV5
MON 10 JUN 2:00 PM RITZ
SAT 15 JUN 6:15 PM HOC

15+

USA | 2019 | 75 mins | In English and Hebrew with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director: Steven Cantor | Producer: Jamie Schutz, Nina Chaudry, Steven Cantor, Dani Drusin | Festival Contact: Paradigm Talent Agency

Sir Frank Lowy – Holocaust survivor, Sydneysider and founder of shopping giant Westfield – reflects on his past as he considers his future in retirement.

When I think back on that young Jewish boy fleeing the Nazis, I find it hard to believe how I ended up here," says Sir Frank. He recalls those challenging times as he visits his childhood home in former Czechoslovakia. Fleeing to Budapest to escape the Nazi occupation, his family's life hung on a thread. Post-war, after living as a refugee, Lowy immigrated to Australia. He opened a shop in Blacktown – the beginning of his corporate empire – and married his beloved Shirley. Today, in his late 80s, Sir Frank faces a difficult choice – whether or not to merge his company and ultimately retire. The story of a remarkable life, and of a man who, like many, has to swim the tide of history as he grapples with family, work and ageing.

XY CHELSEA



TUE 11 JUN 6:30 PM DNEW
SUN 16 JUN 6:45 PM EV3

18+

UK | 2019 | 92 mins | In English | Australian Premiere
Director: Tim Travers Hawkins | Producer: Julie Nottingham, Lucas Ochao, Thomas Benski, Isabel Davis
World Sales: Dogwoof

A compelling new (and freshly poignant) insight into the world of military whistle-blower Chelsea Manning, as she leaves prison and endeavours to start a new life.

In January 2017, Chelsea's lawyer takes the call: President Obama, in his last days in office, has commuted her client's sentence to time served plus 120 days. Chelsea, who began gender transitioning while in prison, had been sentenced to 35 years for passing on nearly 750,000 classified US documents to WikiLeaks. The leaked information revealed illegal practices, including torture and abuse, engaged in by the US military in Iraq. After serving time, Chelsea now has to adjust to life outside jail – and as a woman. In this revealing documentary, she talks openly about her motivation behind releasing the documents, about her difficult years behind bars, her mental health, and finally her need to be herself.



A DOG CALLED MONEY



WED 5 JUN 8:30 PM DNEW
MON 10 JUN 4:00 PM DNEW
FRI 14 JUN 8:30 PM EV4

UK, Ireland | 2019 | 89 mins | In English
Australian Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Seamus Murphy | Producer:
Isabel Davis, Katie Holly, James Wilson, Seamus Murphy
Distributor: Madman Entertainment

British rock star PJ Harvey's restless, probing creative genius shines in this beautifully impressionistic documentary that combines travelogue and multimedia performance art.

Director and Irish war reporter Seamus Murphy, who previously collaborated with Harvey on her award-winning 2011 album *Let England Shake*, accompanies her on a tour of forsaken places: Afghanistan, Kosovo and a disadvantaged neighbourhood in Washington, DC. Finding hope and humanity as well as devastation, Harvey meets people, writes poetry and gathers inspiration. Back in London, she and her band record the album, *The Hope Six Demolition Project*, in a specially built studio that doubles as a live performance-art space, for the public to peer in at them as they work. The resulting film is a rich tapestry of stunning location footage, wrenching on-the-ground experiences and unusually intense and personal music.

Screens with *Jadal: The Broome Brawler* (14 JUN)

INNA DE YARD:
THE SOUL OF JAMAICA

FRI 7 JUN 8:45 PM DNEW
SAT 8 JUN 5:45 PM DNEW

France | 2018 | 97 mins | In English
Australian Premiere
Director: Peter Webber | Producer: Gaël Nouaille,
Laurent Baudens, Laurent Flahaut | Distributor:
Vendetta Films

Jamaican music gets its own version of *The Buena Vista Social Club*, complete with legendary performers, unplugged roots music and a whole lotta of chillin' in the yard.

Director Peter Webber (*Girl with a Pearl Earring*) filmed musicians Ken Boothe, Winston McAnuff, Kiddus I, Cedric Myton and others, in a house on a hill above Kingston. Bob Marley may have hit the big time overseas, but there were plenty of other Jamaican musicians who, while loaded with talent and locally popular, didn't make it internationally. For some, life and family got in the way, others were perhaps a little too fond of the 'erb. But they haven't given up on music, and when they get the call they head on over, more than ready to jam, creating a great new unplugged album. We're talking reggae, ska and rocksteady from the '60s and '70s, but it's never nostalgic – their music is vibrant and still full of relevance today.

AMAZING GRACE



SUN 9 JUN 4:45 PM STATE
MON 10 JUN 4:15 PM RITZ

USA | 2019 | 87 mins | In English | Australian Premiere
Realised and Produced by Alan Elliott
Distributor: StudioCanal

"Spine-tingling", "sensational", "rousing": just a few of the words used for Aretha Franklin's show-stopping performance in this previously unreleased film of her 1972 concert.

The legendary singer and daughter of a Detroit preacher was raised on gospel music. After a string of hits, at age 29 she returned briefly to her roots. Over two days at L.A.'s New Temple Missionary Baptist Church, accompanied by the Southern Californian Community Choir, Aretha sang from the heart and her astounding performance was captured by filmmaker Sydney Pollack. The resulting recording, *Amazing Grace*, became her most successful album, but the film of her performance – for multiple reasons – was never released...until now. In the audience her father, legendary gospel singers and Mick Jagger are squished alongside camera crew and sound technicians. But all eyes and ears are on the Queen of Soul herself – and she's never been more mesmerising.

DAVID CROSBY:
REMEMBER MY NAME

THU 13 JUN 8:45 PM EV5
SAT 15 JUN 6:30 PM EV9

USA | 2018 | 95 mins | In English | Australian Premiere
Director: A.J. Eaton | Producer: Cameron Crowe,
Michele Farinola, Greg Mariotti | Distributor:
Sony Pictures Releasing

David Crosby of Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young looks back at his music-filled, drug-fuelled years – not with regret, but with frankness and fervour, in this outstanding documentary.

Crosby has been battling ill health and addiction issues for decades; it's amazing he's still on his feet, let alone in fine voice and touring. As he says, he loves singing, but he hates being old. In a confessional mood, he discusses the many opportunities and fine women (Joni Mitchell included) that he turned down in favour of coke or heroin. He recalls the Laurel Canyon parties, the hippy scene, and his collaborators – Stephen Stills, Graham Nash and Neil Young. In the 1970s, when the band was riding a wave, the songwriter-singer-guitarist persistently wore out his welcome with his wild man antics. Outspoken, irascible Crosby was never going to be an easy man to document, but first-time director A.J. Eaton does an impressive job of showing the man behind the distinctive mo'.

MARIANNE & LEONARD:
WORDS OF LOVE

SUN 9 JUN 2:30 PM EV3
SUN 16 JUN 6:45 PM DOQ1

UK | 2018 | 102 mins | In English | Australian Premiere
Director: Nick Broomfield | Producer: Nick Broomfield,
Kyle Gibbon, Marc Hoferlin, Shari Hinton | World Sales:
Kew Media Distribution

The love affair that began on an idyllic Greek island between Leonard Cohen and his muse, Marianne, inspired one of his most adored songs.

"I wrote this song for Marianne, I hope she's here," said Cohen at the 1970 Isle of Wight music festival. The couple met on the bohemian island of Hydra in 1960, when Cohen was a struggling poet-writer and Norwegian Marianne Ihlen a single mother recovering from an unhappy marriage. Cohen eventually left to pursue his writing career, and by chance to become a musician. Their relationship ebbed and flowed over successive decades. The documentary traces Cohen's career and their love story, using wonderful archival footage and interviews, to the bittersweet end. Pertinently, director Nick Broomfield (*Whitney: Can I Be Me*, SFF 2017) met Marianne on Hydra in 1968, and she inspired him to make his first film.

MILES DAVIS:
BIRTH OF THE COOL

WED 5 JUN 6:30 PM DNEW
SAT 8 JUN 6:35 PM EV3

USA, UK | 2019 | 115 mins | In English
Australian Premiere
Director: Stanley Nelson | Producer: Nicole
London, Stanley Nelson | Narrator: Carl Lumbly
Distributor: Piece of Magic Entertainment

An insightful bio-doc of the legendary Miles Davis, the man and musician, packed with revealing newly released archival footage and interviews with friends like Quincy Jones.

For Miles Davis, music was always there – it came before everything. Born in small town "racist to the bone" Illinois, he was gifted a trumpet as a young teen. In 1944, he headed to New York: studying, frequenting clubs and meeting his idols (including Dizzy and Bird). A stay in post-war Paris (where jazz was on a high and segregation non-existent) changed his thinking, but on returning to America, depression and drugs held sway, until he played a career-changing set at the 1955 Newport Jazz Festival. The story of his musical development and fierce creativity, life and loves is vividly and movingly told using the iconic musician's own words (read by Carl Lumbly) from his much-admired 1989 autobiography.



Zombie-fighting sisters confront the undead while unpacking their own complicated past. A desperate housewife escapes into vivid fantasy as she attempts to cope with patriarchal dominance. A woman juggles family commitments with helping victims of domestic violence. A teenage mother-to-be shows pluck and determination in trying to thwart her seemingly destined path.

In Sydney Film Festival's fourth annual Europe! Voices of Women in Film program, proudly co-presented by European Film Promotion and Sydney Film Festival with media partner Screen International since 2016, these stories and more are thrust into the spotlight.

In an industry still struggling to achieve gender parity and inclusivity, still reluctant to champion female filmmakers in general, but overflowing with pioneering women, it remains crucial to showcase the essential talents behind them — directors from Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Denmark, Germany, Greece, Iceland, the Netherlands, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

Sarah Ward Film Critic, Screen International

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THE FEATURED FILMS AND FILMMAKERS VISIT EFP-ONLINE.COM AND SFF.ORG.AU

SFF WELCOMES THE FOLLOWING FILM ARTISTS TO THE 2019 FESTIVAL: **MARIANNA ECONOMOU, CAROLINA HELLSGÅRD, ÁSTHILDUR KJARTANSDÓTTIR, TONIA MISHALI, ESTHER ROTS, ELENA TIKHONOVA**

PROJECT PARTNER



MEDIA PARTNER



FADE
TO
HER.

THE BEST OF DORIEN B.



FRI 7 JUN 6:00 PM DOQ2
TUE 11 JUN 6:00 PM DOQ2

15+

Belgium, The Netherlands | 2019 | 106 mins | In Dutch with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director: Anke Blondé | Screenwriters: Anke Blondé, Jean-Claude Van Rijckeghem | Producers: Dries Phlypo, Jean-Claude Van Rijckeghem, Marleen Slot | Cast: Kim Snauwaert, Jelle De Beule, Dirk Van Dijk
World Sales: Be For Films

Dorien is a suburban veterinarian and mum whose life is turned upside down in short order. She finds out her parents are breaking up; her husband has been hanging out with the colleague he cheated with a year ago; and she has a tumour in her breast. Belgian filmmaker Anke Blondé's first feature is a splendidly observant and funny comedy-drama, powered by a luminous star performance by newcomer Kim Snauwaert.



Anke Blondé is a Belgian director whose previous short films, *Mister Frits* (1998), *Buiten Adem* (1999) and *Dura Lex* (2011) all received awards at international film festivals.

KAVIAR

KAVIAR



SAT 8 JUN 8:45 PM EV3
SUN 9 JUN 12:15 PM DOQ2

18+

Austria | 2019 | 90 mins | In German and Russian with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director: Elena Tikhonova | Screenwriters: Elena Tikhonova, Robert Buchschwenter | Producers: Ursula Wolschläger, Franz Novotny, Alexander Glehr | Cast: Margarita Breitkreiz, Daria Nosik, Sabrina Reiter | World Sales: Media Luna New Films

Nadja, a Russian living in Vienna, is a translator for boorish billionaire oligarch Igor. When Igor impulsively resolves to build an ostentatious villa on the Danube Canal, he sets out to bribe local officials into redeveloping the area. Meanwhile Nadja, her girlfriend and her hipster nanny plot to do them in and steal the bribe money. In her debut feature, director Elena Tikhonova doesn't hold back on the raunchy hijinks.



Elena Tikhonova studied at Moscow Film Institute VGIK and has written and directed award-winning short films and documentaries. *Caviar* is her first feature film.

THE DEPOSIT

TRYGGÐ



SAT 8 JUN 2:00 PM HOC
SUN 9 JUN 4:15 PM DOQ2

15+

Iceland | 2019 | 88 mins | In English, Swahili and Icelandic with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Ásthildur Kjartansdóttir
Producers: Ásthildur Kjartansdóttir, Eva Sigurðardóttir
Cast: Elma Lisa Gunnarsdóttir, Enid Mbabazi, Raffaella Brizuela Sigurðardóttir | Festival Contact: Icelandic Film Centre

Kjartansdóttir's intelligent adaptation of Auður Jónsdóttir's 2006 novel looks at the relatively new phenomenon of immigration in Iceland. After quitting her newspaper job, Gisella decides to write about meaningful topics, such as the terrible living conditions of migrant women Marisol, Abeba and Luna. Her decision to invite them into her house frames a rewarding drama about idealism, respect and the priceless human quality of empathy.



Ásthildur Kjartansdóttir is an Icelandic director, screenwriter and producer. Her debut short film *Palli alone in the world* was released in 1997; *The Deposit* is her follow-up and feature debut.

ENDZEIT – EVER AFTER



FRI 7 JUN 8:30 PM EV3
SUN 9 JUN 6:30 PM DNEW

15+

Germany | 2018 | 90 mins | In German with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director: Carolina Hellsgård | Screenwriter: Olivia Vieweg
Producers: Ingelore König, Claudia Schröder | Cast: Maja Lehrer, Gro Swantje Kohlfot, Trine Dyrholm
World Sales: Picture Tree International

It's two years since a devastating plague almost obliterated humanity. Frightened 20-something Vivi and fearless zombie killer Eva embark on a desperate journey to what they believe is a safe haven. Created by a cast and crew consisting almost entirely of women, *Endzeit – Ever After* usurps zombie film conventions and creates a gripping, unpredictable and emotionally powerful fairy-tale in which nature itself is a central character.



Carolina Hellsgård is a writer and director living in Stockholm and Berlin. Her films have been screened and awarded at numerous venues and film festivals internationally.

ONLY YOU



FRI 7 JUN 8:20 PM EV9
SAT 8 JUN 6:15 PM DNEW
MON 10 JUN 1:45 PM HOC

15+

UK | 2018 | 119 mins | In English | Australian Premiere
 Director, Screenwriter: Harry Wootliff | Producers: Tristan Goligher, Matthieu de Braconier, Rachel Dargavel, Claire Mundell | Cast: Josh O'Connor, Laia Costa, Bobby Rainsbury | World Sales: The Bureau Sales

Elena is a 35-year-old Spanish resident of Glasgow whose New Year's Eve fling with Jake, 10 years her junior, unexpectedly leads to love – and to Jake moving in. Soon they are trying to have a baby, and their young relationship is strained by disappointment and agonised doubt. Director Harry Wootliff brings exceptional immediacy and intimacy to this heartfelt, mature romance; the delicate performances from the two leads are outstanding.



Harry Wootliff is a BAFTA-nominated director whose short films have screened at more than 30 festivals worldwide, including Berlinale. *Only You* is her debut feature.

PAUSE

PAFSI



SAT 8 JUN 5:00 PM DOQ2
SUN 9 JUN 12:15 PM EV3

15+

Cyprus, Greece | 2018 | 97 mins | In Greek with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
 Director: Tonia Mishiaili | Screenwriters: Tonia Mishiaili, Anna Fotiadou | Producers: Tonia Mishiaili, Andros Achilleos, Stelana Kliris | Cast: Stella Fyrogeni, Andreas Vassiliou, Popi Avraam | World Sales: Film Republic

Cypriot director Tonia Mishiaili's striking debut feature centres on a working-class housewife going through menopause and suddenly fed up with the everyday oppression of domestic servitude. Stella Fyrogeni is marvellous as the subdued, tragically stifled Elpida, who chafes at the exhausting drudgery and emptiness of her life and actively fantasises about violence against her brutishly uncaring and frequently cruel husband. Spiked with black humour, the banality of this domestic drama escalates to a satisfying final twist.



Tonia Mishiaili is a Cyprus-based director, screenwriter and producer. Her debut feature *Pause* premiered at the 2018 Karlovy Vary IFF and won the FIPRESCI prize at Thessaloniki 2018.

QUEEN OF HEARTS

DRONNINGEN



THU 6 JUN 8:30 PM EV5
FRI 7 JUN 6:15 PM HOC
FRI 14 JUN 2:00 PM STATE

18+

Denmark, Sweden | 2019 | 128 mins | In Danish and Swedish with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
 Director: May el-Toukhy | Screenwriters: Maren Louise Käehne, May el-Toukhy | Producers: Caroline Blanco, René Ezra | Cast: Trine Dyrholm, Magnus Krepper, Gustav Lindh | Festival Contact: Danish Film Institute

A successful lawyer initiates a sexual affair with her teenage stepson, in one of the year's most controversial films. May el-Toukhy's precision-tooled melodrama stars Danish icon Trine Dyrholm (*The Collective*, SFF 2016; *Nico 1988*, SFF 2018) as Anne, a mother and lawyer specialising in child abuse cases who throws caution, ethics and everything else to the wind by seducing troubled stepson Gustav. Audience Award winner, Sundance World Cinema Dramatic competition.



May el-Toukhy graduated from the National Film School of Denmark in 2009, and her first feature film *Long Story Short* was a success with audiences and critics, winning her and cast members numerous awards.

RETROSPEKT



THU 6 JUN 8:35 PM DOQ1
SAT 8 JUN 6:35 PM EV9

15+

Netherlands, Belgium | 2018 | 102 mins | In Dutch and French with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
 Director, Screenwriter: Esther Rots | Producers: Esther Rots, Hugo Rots, Gijss van de Westelaken, Chantal van der Horst, Ellen De Waele | Cast: Cécile Lethem, Lien Wildemeersch, Martijn van der Veen | World Sales: Some Shorts

Dutch director Esther Rots' drama about domestic violence, trauma and memory is part psychological thriller, part experiment in dislocated narrative. Stars Cécile Lethem and Lien Wildemeersch are electrifying as a caregiver and her charge, an unstable survivor of abuse, who develop an unhealthy co-dependency. This tragic but enigmatic story, told over multiple fragmentary timelines, is as riveting as it is unsettling.



Esther Rots' work revolves mostly around the tricks of the mind and the intense difference between knowing and feeling. Her first feature *Can Go Through Skin* won many awards, including a FIPRESCI prize.

SCHEME BIRDS



THU 6 JUN 6:15 PM DNEW
SUN 9 JUN 10:00 AM DOQ1

18+

Sweden, UK | 2019 | 90 mins | In English
 Australian Premiere
 Directors, Screenwriters: Ellen Fiske, Ellinor Hallin
 Producers: Mario Adamson, Ruth Reid | World Sales: Syndicado Film Sales

"I don't run away from nothing. I run to it." Gemma's opening words set the tone for an amazingly intimate and at times heartbreaking chronicle of her life in a place blighted by broken promises since the steelworks closed almost 40 years ago. Violence and disappointment are the constants of life here. But Gemma's a "scheme bird", whose courage and determination is memorably captured by co-directors Ellen Fiske and Ellinor Hallin.



Ellen Fiske is a writer, producer and director of the award-winning Scottish short films *Keep Me Safe* and *Lone Dads*. Ellinor Hallin is a Swedish director and cinematographer with a background in documentary.

WHEN TOMATOES MET WAGNER



FRI 7 JUN 10:00 AM STATE
SAT 8 JUN 2:05 PM DOQ1
SUN 9 JUN 10:15 AM DOQ2

15+

Greece | 2019 | 72 mins | In Greek, English and French with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
 Director: Marianna Economou | Producers: Spiros Mavrogenis, Rea Apostolides, Yuri Averof | World Sales: Rise And Shine World Sales

Aleco and Christo are cousins who run an organic farm in rural Greece, growing tomatoes with the help of some hard-working old ladies – and classical music blasted across the fields. Packing their lovingly grown produce as expensive specialty meals for overseas consumers, they struggle to compete in a trendy market. Marianna Economou's documentary is an engaging, funny and melancholy study of hope amidst financial crisis.



Marianna Economou studied anthropology, photojournalism and film in London. Since 2000, she has directed and produced award-winning documentary series and independent films.

OPENING THE DOORS TO GERMAN CINEMA



SYDNEY







FOCUS ON NEW ZEALAND

THE CHILLS: THE TRIUMPH & TRAGEDY OF MARTIN PHILLIPPS



FRI 14 JUN 9:00 PM DNEW
SUN 16 JUN 2:00 PM EV5

15+

New Zealand | 2019 | 96 mins | In English
Australian Premiere
Director: Julia Parnell | Producer: Julia Parnell,
Nicola Peeperkoom, Tim Riley | Distributor:
Madman Entertainment

The ups and many downs of one of
New Zealand's most beloved bands as
seen through their eccentric bandleader
and his personal struggles.

In the '80s, isolated Dunedin on New Zealand's South Island produced a lively postpunk scene that punched above its weight. The Chills defined the Dunedin sound; powered by introverted founder Martin Phillips' brilliant songwriting, the local heroes became critical darlings and toured the world. But beset by tragedy, bad blood and constant personnel changes, they slid into obscurity as Phillips sank into addiction. A sober, humbled Phillips attempts once again to revive his career in this emotional documentary, facing a harrowing struggle with hepatitis and sorting through his obsessively hoarded collectibles. Packed with bracing archive footage of the glory years, it's an invigorating, intimate tribute to a great band.

Festival guests: Julia Parnell and
Martin Phillips

DAFFODILS



WED 12 JUN 8:45 PM EV4
FRI 14 JUN 8:30 PM HOC

ALL AGES

New Zealand | 2018 | 93 mins | In English
Australian Premiere
Director: David Stubbs | Screenwriter: Rochelle Bright
Producer: Richard Fletcher, David Stubbs | Cast:
Rose McIver, George Mason, Kimbra | Distributor:
Transmission Films

A stirring musical romance brimming with
decades of New Zealand hits from *Crowded
House* to *Bic Runga* – a box office smash.

New Zealand pop star Kimbra stars as Maisie, a singer whose dying father (George Mason) opens up about his life before she has to rush off to a gig. Moved by his revelations about the joys and sorrows of his relationship with her mother (Rose McIver), Maisie guides us through her parents' wistful story with covers of beloved Kiwi classics by artists like Dave Dobbyn, Bic Runga, The Mutton Birds and Crowded House. The songs frame a tale that begins with a whirlwind teen romance in 1966 and continues through years of ups and downs, hard times and heartbreak. Filled with nostalgia for New Zealand life in the '60s, '70s and '80s, *Daffodils* is a quintessential Kiwi love story, and a powerhouse of iconic tunes.

Screens with *The Gravedigger of Kapu*

Festival guests: David Stubbs

Across the Tasman,
filmmakers are producing
a vibrant range of
movies that celebrate
New Zealand's history
and community, as well
as its rich Māori and
Pacific Island culture.

We're proud to be presenting three dramas (including the World Premiere of *Bellbird* screening in the Official Competition, see page 10), four documentaries and six creative shorts in our New Zealand focus.

Don't miss this unique opportunity to see the very best of cinema from our island neighbours. As well as the titles listed on this page, check out Berlinale-selected *Vai* (screening in First Nations, page 37).

FOR DETAILS OF THE NEW ZEALAND
SHORT FILMS SEE PAGES 48 AND 49.

SUPPORTED BY



Te Tumu Whakaata Taonga

CAPITAL IN THE 21ST CENTURY



THU 13 JUN 6:15 PM EV5
FRI 14 JUN 6:30 PM DNEW

15+

New Zealand | 2019 | 110 mins | In English
Australian Premiere
Director: Justin Pemberton | Producer: Matthew Metcalfe
Distributor: Transmission Films

A film adaptation of French economist
Thomas Piketty's ground-breaking global
bestseller of the same name: an eye-opening
journey through wealth and power.

Director Justin Pemberton (*The Nuclear
Comeback*, *Chasing Great*) criss-crosses the
world, interviewing thinkers such as Faiza Shaheen,
Gillian Tett and Joseph Stiglitz, to interpret Piketty's
thesis (No. 1 *The New York Times* bestseller and
over 1.5 million sales) in a cinematic manner. As
it riffs through history, Pemberton's documentary
exposes the fraud at the heart of global economics:
the popular assumption that the accumulation of
capital runs hand in hand with social progress.
Travelling through time from the French Revolution
and other huge global shifts, two world wars and
through to the rise of new technologies today,
the film delivers an insightful and empowering
journey through the past and into our future.

Festival guest: Justin Pemberton

THE HEART DANCES



FRI 14 JUN 9:30 AM STATE
SUN 16 JUN 11:00 AM HOC

15+

New Zealand | 2018 | 98 mins | In English
Director: Rebecca Tansley | Producer: Rebecca Tansley,
Robin Laing | Distributor: Rialto Distribution

The re-imagining of the iconic feature, *The
Piano*, by two Czech dancers working with
the Royal New Zealand Ballet: uncharted
territory for all involved.

In 2015, celebrated Czech choreographer
Jirí and his twin brother production designer
Otto Bubenicek created a one-act performance
inspired by Jane Campion's 1993 film. Three years
later, the Royal New Zealand Ballet commissioned
them to extend the work, aiming for a premiere
performance in just four weeks. The twins had
never been to New Zealand before, and it's clear
they knew little of its history or Māori culture
before arriving. The stage is set for a clash of
cultural misunderstandings, despite the best
efforts of Māori advisor Moss Patterson. The
progress of the production, documented from
audition (including casting the Anna Paquin role)
to opening night, is filled with intense drama,
expressive dance moves, and stunning imagery.

Screens with *Hinekura*

Festival guest: Rebecca Tansley

MERATA: HOW MUM DECOLONISED THE SCREEN



THU 13 JUN 3:55 PM STATE
SAT 15 JUN 2:00 PM EV5

15+

New Zealand | 2018 | 87 mins | In English
Australian Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Heperi Mita
Producer: Chelsea Winstanley | Rights Holder:
Arama Pictures

A fascinating portrait of trailblazing Māori
filmmaker, Merata Mita, reportedly the first
Indigenous woman to direct a feature, crafted
with love by her youngest son.

A film archivist, debut director Heperi Mita
is also the son of Merata and New Zealand
filmmaker Geoff Murphy. Heperi takes us through
his mother's life and work, beginning with her
traditional childhood and early marriage in Maketu,
Bay of Plenty. A move to Auckland and a fractious
relationship follow, and she ends up juggling solo
parenting with her burgeoning activism (resulting
in police harassment), politicisation and interest in
filmmaking. Merata Mita was a barrier-breaking
figure, not just as a filmmaker but also as a global
mentor for indigenous people, and inspiration for
many (including Taika Waititi). Heperi tells Merata's
dynamic story with clips of her work, interviews
with family, and also his own touching commentary.

Festival guests: Heperi Mita and
Chelsea Winstanley



Sydney Film Festival's program of First Nations' filmmaking is overflowing with diverse ideas and themes, unique perspectives and traditional stories. Two feature films will be presented, one (*Vai*) by nine women directors from the South Pacific, and the other (*The Body Remembers When the World Broke Open*) by two Canadian filmmakers (one from a Blackfoot woman, and the other from Kainai First Nation as well as Sámi from northern Norway).

Two documentaries in the program focus on strong Indigenous women filmmakers, Freda Glynn from Australia (in *She Who Must Be Loved*, a film directed by her daughter and produced by her granddaughter) and Merata Mita from New Zealand (in a documentary directed by her son, Hēpari Mita, and produced by Chelsea Winstanley).



Another key element in the line-up is the environment, a unifying force in *Vai*, and under threat in two brand-new documentaries from Australia; *Saving Seagrass* and *Warburdar Bununu: Water Shield*. Rounding out this outstanding program are short films from New Zealand (this year's Country of Focus in the festival), and five from Australia (see pages 48 and 49 for Short Films).

Thank you to the New Zealand Film Commission

Two documentaries from Screen Australia's special documentary initiative, *State of Alarm*, focusing on how traditional practices of Indigenous people are being used to protect the environment.

MON 10 JUN 6:30 PM DOQ1
TUE 11 JUN 6:45 PM DNEW

SAVING SEAGRASS



Australia | 2019 | 27 mins | In English | All Ages
Director: Gary Hamaguchi | Screenwriters: Gary Hamaguchi, Bessy May Taylor | Producer: Jodie Bell | Production Company: Ramu Productions

An exploration of the priceless environment of Roebuck Bay, Western Australia – the traditional lands of the Yawuru people – now under threat on many fronts.

The immense bay is home to dugong and turtles, myriads of migrating birds and countless shellfish. It's also been the food bowl for generations of the Yawuru people. It's a complex chain of survival for the saltwater animals and plants. The seagrass on which much of this diverse ecosystem relies is a bio indicator of the state of the environment. Today, the seagrass is disappearing at an astonishing rate and the local community is doing all it can to monitor the worrying trend and raise awareness. The necessity for science and cultural knowledge to unite and save this special place is at the forefront of Gary Hamaguchi's visually sumptuous documentary.

WARBURDAR BUNUNU: WATER SHIELD



Australia | 2019 | 26 mins | In English | All Ages
World Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Jason De Santolo | Producer: John Harvey | Production Company: Brown Cabs

In the late '70s, Borroloolool elders co-produced a landmark film to expose the threat from mining development. In 2019, the eco-battle re-ignites.

Scott Wurjuki McIlenny's grandparents were involved in the making of the documentary, *Two Laws* (SFF premiered the restored film in 2017), as they stood up to protect their Country. 40 years on, the Gulf Country region is in peril again, as the area's sacred waterways are becoming more and more contaminated. Inspired by his forefathers and using ancient song and dance, Garrawa song man Scott is determined to shield his homelands from mining. Director Jason De Santolo follows the trail of the heavy metal pollution, which has made the community's water unfit to drink, fish or swim in. Screens with *Elders*

Filmmaker guests in attendance for both films

THE BODY REMEMBERS WHEN THE WORLD BROKE OPEN



THU 6 JUN 6:15 PM DOQ1
SUN 9 JUN 4:30 PM DNEW

Canada, Norway | 2019 | 105 mins | In English
Australian Premiere
Directors, Screenwriters: Elle-Máijá Tailfeathers, Kathleen Hepburn | Producer: Tyler Hagan, Lori Lozinski, Alan Milligan | Cast: Elle-Máijá Tailfeathers Violet Nelson

A chance-encounter between two Indigenous women on a Vancouver street initiates this affecting story of women, violence and social inequality. Selected for Berlinale 2019.

Rosie (Violet Nelson) is barefoot, crying and standing in the rain, having barely escaped a violent assault by her boyfriend. When Áila comprehends her plight, she takes young Rosie to her flat just around the corner. As she makes tea and finds dry clothes, the reality of Rosie's situation hesitantly unfolds. Although both are indigenous women, it becomes clear that their lives are worlds apart. Their conversation, filmed mostly in real time and close-ups, touches on motherhood, self-care and inequity. The film is inspired by a real, transformative event in co-director Elle-Máijá Tailfeathers' life (a Blackfoot woman from the Kainai First Nation as well as Sámi from northern Norway), who also appears in the film as Áila.

Screens with *Rú*

DARK PLACE



SAT 15 JUN 8:45 PM DNEW
SUN 16 JUN 6:30 PM DNEW

Australia | 2019 | 75 mins | In English | World Premiere
Directors and Screenwriters: Björn Stewart, Perun Bonser, Kodie Bedford, Liam Phillips, Rob Braslin | Producers: Majhid Heath, Hayley Johnson | Cast: Clarence Ryan, Charlie Garber, Leonie Whyman | Production company: Noble Savage Productions

A very special SFF and FMO presentation: the world premiere of Australia's first-ever Indigenous horror anthology. Five terrifically twisted tales by five Indigenous filmmakers.

Australian genre cinema takes an exciting leap forward with *Dark Place*, a quintet of tales that approach post-colonial Indigenous history through the lenses of horror and fantasy. Björn Stewart brings outback zombies into the frame in the rollicking splatter comedy *Killer Native*. An insomniac questions her sanity in Liam Phillips's suspenseful *Foe*. Supernatural forces visit a housing commission estate in the gritty *Vale Light* by Rob Braslin. Gothic horror shrouds the woods in Perun Bonser's atmospheric *The Shore*, and female oppression and revenge take centre stage in Kodie Bedford's punchy *Scout*.

Also screens in *Freak Me Out*

Filmmaker guests in attendance

SHE WHO MUST BE LOVED



FRI 14 JUN 6:00 PM EV3
SAT 15 JUN 7:00 PM DOQ1

Australia | 2018 | 88 mins | In English and Alyawarre with English subtitles
Director, Screenwriter: Erica Glynn | Producer: Tanith Glynn-Maloney | Production Company: Sancti788 Productions

A celebration of the life and work of the trailblazing Alfreda Glynn, a history-maker, mother, and a central figure in Indigenous filmmaking from the heart of the country.

Freda Glynn was born north of Alice Springs in 1939. As a child she lived under the Aboriginal Protection policies; as a young mother of five she carved out a career as a stills photographer. In the early 1970s she channelled her formidable energy into establishing the Central Australian Aboriginal Media Association and later *Imparja* TV. Not just a bio-pic, it's part social history and part detective story, as the mystery behind her grandmother's death is tracked down. Three Indigenous women representing three generations made this splendid documentary: behind the camera is Freda's daughter, director Erica Glynn; and her granddaughter is producer Tanith Glynn-Maloney. Screens with *Ties That Bind*

Filmmaker guests: Erica and Freda Glynn, Tanith Glynn-Maloney

VAI



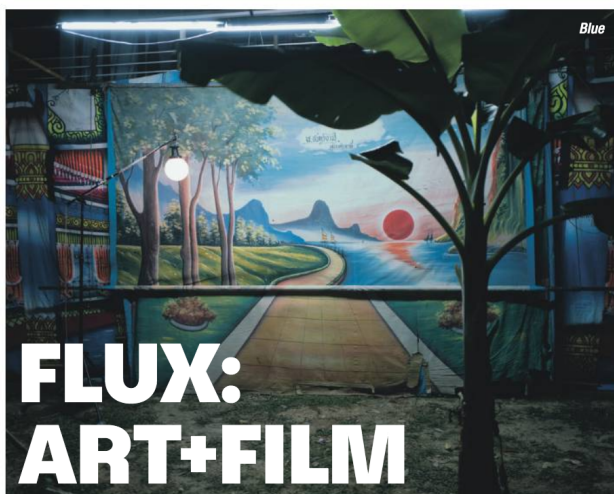
FRI 14 JUN 8:30 PM DOQ1
SAT 15 JUN 7:30 PM CASULA
SUN 16 JUN 2:30 PM DOQ1

New Zealand | 2019 | 90 mins | In Fijian, Tongan, Roviana (Solomon Islands) Samoan, Cook Islands Māori, Niuean, English and Māori (NZ) with English subtitles | Australian Premiere

Directors: Nicole Whippy, 'Ōla-Ki-Levuka Guttenbeil-Likiliki, Matasila Freshwater, Amberley Jo Aumua, Miria George, Marina Alofagia McCartney, Dianna Fumana, Becs Arahanga | Producers: Kerry Warkia, Kiel McNaughton | Distributor: Vendetta Films
See website for full credits

Fabulously rich storytelling from the South Pacific: the imaginary figure *Vai* is every woman of every age.

A beautifully crafted portmanteau feature by nine women filmmakers, shot in Fiji, Tonga, Solomon Islands, Kuki Airani (Cook Islands), Samoa, Niue and Aotearoa (New Zealand). In each location, a different Indigenous actress plays *Vai* at singular stages in her life, over a single day: beginning as a seven-year-old girl in Fiji (Mereani Tui Matanisiga) and ending in New Zealand as a great-grandmother (Hintu Dell) to the next generation. The producers have assembled an impressive team of directors and actors to deliver a delightful, passionate portrait of an environment, culture, community and its womenfolk. Filmmaker guests in attendance



FLUX: ART+FILM

FLUX: ART+FILM explores the fertile ground between art and cinema, with radical and innovative films and videos by artists who challenge or transform our experience of what cinema can be.

Bridget Ikin Guest Curator

FOR DETAILS OF THE FLUX SHORTS, SEE *SHORTS* ON PAGES 48 AND 49.

MINOR HISTORY



SAT 8 JUN 10:00 AM DOQ1
THU 13 JUN 6:30 PM DOQ1

15+

USA | 2019 | 71 mins | In English | Australian Premiere
Director, Producer: Asad Raza | Producers:
Olivia Fairweather, Carina Susen | Rights Holder:
Asad Raza

New York-based artist Azad Raza turns the camera on his eccentric, fascinating 90-year-old uncle, exploring the major world changes that have taken place through his life.

Uncle Wahid has seen the world undergo a series of radical changes of consciousness in his 90 years, and artist Azad Raza (recently in Sydney for Kaldor Public Art Project #34) explores those critical moments of history through the personal recollections of this "unimportant" man. Born in India in the 1920s, Wahid fled to Pakistan where he served in the army, before immigrating to the chilly climes of Buffalo, New York, in the 1980s, where he's now a well-known figure in the local pool halls. Juxtaposing prosaic footage of Wahid's everyday life with candid interviews, *Minor History* weaves a much larger tale about the extreme global events of the 20th and 21st century, as told through the lens of one individual's poignant and personal recollections.

Screens with *Blue* and *The Amorous Indies*

MY NUDITY MEANS NOTHING MA NUDITÉ NE SERT À RIEN



MON 10 JUN 12:00 PM DOQ1
WED 12 JUN 6:00 PM DNEW

18+

France | 2019 | 85 mins | In French and English with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Marina de Van | Producer:
Jean-Luc Orlmiegues | Cast: Marina de Van,
Serge Chojnowski, Juliana de Van | World Sales: Stray Dogs

Parisian writer, actor and director Marina de Van bares all in this raw and emotional self-portrait about personal image in the age of apps and digital dating.

Underground diva Marina de Van blurs the boundaries between fiction and documentary in *My Nudity Means Nothing*, expanding on her previous work that challenges taboos and pushes her personal comfort zone. Lo-fi and self-shot mostly at home, de Van candidly answers her own questions about her self-image and her experience as a 40-something "wandering soul". Her often naked body becomes inconsequential next to the bravery with which she bares her soul and reveals her fears and fantasies about lust, love and relationships in an age of digital dating and online relationships.

Screens with *I Hope I'm Loud When I'm Dead*

PRESENT.PERFECT.



TUE 11 JUN 8:35 PM DOQ1
SUN 16 JUN 4:00 PM EV9

15+

USA, Hong Kong | 2019 | 124 mins
In Mandarin Chinese with English subtitles
Australian Premiere
Director, Producer: Shengze Zhu | World Sales:
Burn The Film | Festival Contact: Pascale Ramonda

A fascinating view of modern China created from 800 hours of live stream footage selected from 422 million Chinese regular uploaders. Winner of the Rotterdam Film Festival's Tiger Award.

More than 400 million Chinese regularly livestream footage of themselves, both their everyday lives and extreme activities: especially popular are videos of the bizarre, like a boy who eats live worms or paint-covered wrestlers. It's an industry worth billions of dollars, dwarfing the Western trend of vlogging and YouTubers. Zhu chose not to follow the big stars but the marginal characters – a disfigured man, a paralysed girl, a bored crane driver, a dancer with a lousy sense of rhythm. Streaming online, they find the human contact that eludes them in real life – a world where the online and offline are inextricably merged.

RAY & LIZ



THU 6 JUN 8:45 PM DOQ2
SUN 16 JUN 12:05 PM DOQ1

15+

UK | 2018 | 107 mins | In English | Australian Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Richard Billingham | Producer:
Jacqui Davies | Cast: Ella Smith, Justin Sallinger,
Patrick Rorer | World Sales: Luxbox

Celebrated UK photographer Richard Billingham's award winning debut – a raw and poignant portrait of his working class British family.

Billingham's feature debut, stunningly shot in 16mm, expands upon his early video and photographic works that captured the bleak familial travails of his hard-drinking and smoking parents Ray and Liz. Recalling the kitchen-sink British social realism of early Ken Loach or Andrea Arnold – but with a vision all his own – Billingham's loving gaze flicks between the immensely sad, the loving, the hilarious and the shocking. The vignettes of *Ray & Liz* paint an affecting portrait of a working class family and the film was the winner of the British Independent Film Award (Directorial Debut) 2018.

Screens with *A Drone Opera*

WALDEN



FRI 7 JUN 6:30 PM DOQ1
SAT 15 JUN 10:00 AM DOQ1

15+

Switzerland | 2018 | 106 mins | No Dialogue
Director, Screenwriter: Daniel Zimmermann
Producer: Aline Schmid | Production Company:
Beauvoir | Films Festival Contact: Pascale Ramonda

A meditative and virtuosic 'slow road movie' by Swiss artist Daniel Zimmermann, exploring human impact on the environment through a series of elegantly composed 360-degree tableaux.

A fir tree is felled in Austria and its transportation across the world to the Brazilian rainforest is documented in a series of 13 slow-panning 360-degree shots, composed by Swiss artist and documentarian Zimmermann and cinematographer Gerald Kerketz. The unhurried and precisely choreographed landscape pans allow the viewer time to contemplate the impact of industrialisation on the natural world, as the camera catches the tiniest details of the logged timber's seemingly senseless journey from a European forest to the verdant jungles of South America. Winner, Special Jury Prize, Karlovy Vary Film Festival.

Screens with *Take*

WITKACY & MALINOWSKI: A CINEMATIC SEANCE IN 23 SCENES



SUN 9 JUN 12:00 PM DOQ1
SAT 15 JUN 6:30 PM DOQ3

15+

Australia | 2017 | 40 mins | In English and Polish with English subtitles
Director, Screenwriter, Producer: John Gillies | Screenwriter:
Stanislaw Ignacy Witkiewicz | Producer: Laura Turner
Cast: Matej Basic, Tom Pelik, Pollyanna Nowicki
Rights Holder: Jon Gillies

An "experimental docudrama" by Australian artist and filmmaker John Gillies that recreates a real-life argument between two great Polish thinkers on a train to Toowoomba.

Haunted by the recent suicide of his lover, the artist and visionary playwright Stanislaw Ignacy Witkiewicz (known as Witkacy) took a train through the Australian countryside in 1914 with his friend, the rationalist anthropologist Bronislaw Kasper Malinowski. WWI had just been declared, and the pair have a heated, friendship-ending argument about the political, the personal, and the power of rationality versus the transcendent power of art. Intercut with the expertly acted and beautifully shot experimental drama, unfolding on the train are scenes from Witkacy's own avant-garde play *The Crazy Locomotive*, as both the speeding train and the relationship between the two friends hurtle inevitably towards disaster.

Screens with *Freedom of Movement*



MY NAME IS DANIEL

MEU NOME É DANIEL



FRI 14 JUN 6:00 PM DNEW
SUN 16 JUN 4:00 PM HEQ14

15+

Brazil | 2018 | 83 mins | In Portuguese with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director: Daniel Gonçalves | Producers: Daniel Gonçalves, Roberto Berliner, Rodrigo Letier | World Sales: SeuFilme Produções Audiovisuais

Brazilian filmmaker Daniel Gonçalves shares his journey to seek a diagnosis for his disability in this honest, often humorous documentary.

Gonçalves' physical disability may seem obvious, but doctors have so far failed to find a diagnosis. He did not learn to walk until the age of six, and today he still asks 'why?' Through a series of home videos, Daniel shares fragments of his life, including the love and support of his family, as he undergoes diagnostic testing and continues challenging himself to achieve his aspirations. He shares his utter frustration as he attempts to make an omelette, and the triumph of successful indoor rock climbing. Gonçalves also questions the privilege of his social position: what if he wasn't a white, heterosexual male from one of Rio de Janeiro's wealthiest neighbourhoods?

Screens with *Deluge*

SANDGIRL

SANDMÄDCHEN



THU 13 JUN 6:00 PM DNEW
SAT 15 JUN 2:00 PM HEQ14

15+

Germany | 2017 | 84mins | In German with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director: Mark Michel | Screenwriters: Veronika Raila, Mark Michel | Producer: Peter Zom | Production Company: Work Lights Media Production

An award-winning and beautifully animated journey into the creative world of Veronika Raila. As a child her IQ tested as zero – she now creates as a poet and cross-platform artist.

Veronika Raila has lived with Asperger syndrome and physical disabilities since her childhood, using assisted communication to express her thoughts. In *Sandgirl*, the young author invites you on a subtle and poetic journey inside the secret, captivating creative world of her heightened imagination, expressed through beautiful sand art work and animation. Weaved throughout the film is Raila's shared communication with director and fellow screenwriter Mark Michel, illustrating the love, care and trust shared between Raila and her family, and giving the audience a rare glimpse of her inner world and thoughts.

Screens with *Magnetic* (15 JUN) and *A Matter of Time* (13 JUN)

Sydney Film Festival welcomes back the Screenability program, presented in partnership with Create NSW, showcasing filmmakers with disability and their provocative and startling films.

This international program showcases the best of 2019, spanning dramatic shorts and documentaries from Australia, Brazil, Canada, USA, Germany and New Zealand.

Sofya Gollan
Guest Programmer

Screenability includes the premiere of three short films developed through the Create NSW Screenability Filmmakers Fund, and a Meet the Filmmakers event on Saturday 15 June at Hoyts Entertainment Quarter. For full details, see page 52.

Screenability is funded by the NSW Government through Create NSW



SFF gratefully acknowledges Vivienne Selwyn's generous support to make the Festival a more inclusive workplace and event.

All films on this page are accessible:



VISION PORTRAITS



WED 12 JUN 4:05 PM STATE
SAT 15 JUN 6:30 PM HEQ15

15+

Canada, Germany, USA | 2019 | 78 mins | In English
Australian Premiere
Director: Rodney Evans | Producers: Rodney Evans, Rob Wunder | World Sales: The Film Collaborative

Award-winning US filmmaker Rodney Evans contemplates his loss of vision, as he meets fellow artists and seeks to understand the way they too, deal with a loss of sight.

Evans (*The Happy Sad, Brother to Brother*) explores what it means to be a working visual artist who is also visually impaired, cleverly using multicoloured images and abstract animations to represent his experience. In this very personal and moving film he follows three creatives as they discuss how they manage life, work and their disability through art. Dancer Kayla Hamilton, writer Ryan Knighton and photographer John Dugdale reveal how they find new ways to reimagine and create. Insightful and engaging, the film presents viewers with an understanding of some of the day to day and career challenges facing people with vision impairments.

Screens with *Deluge*, *Magnetic*, and *Prone to the Drone* (12 JUN)

SCREENABILITY SHORTS

(ALL CLASSIFIED 15+)

A MATTER OF TIME

THU 13 JUN 6:00 PM DNEW
SAT 15 JUN 6:30 PM DNEW

New Zealand | 2018 | 16 mins | In English
World Premiere | Director, Screenwriter: Paula Whetu Jones | Producer: Tanya Hailoua-Cathro
Cast: Steven Glyde, Conor Gray, Collin Renju
Festival Contact: The New Zealand Film Commission

A confronting and dynamic film following five teenagers as they juggle school while trying to cope with their own personal hardships.

Screens with *Sandgirl* (13 JUN) and *Ladyworld* (15 JUN)

CREATE NSW SHORTS

DELUGE

WED 12 JUN 4:05 PM STATE
FRI 14 JUN 6:00 PM DNEW
SUN 16 JUN 4:00 PM HEQ14

Australia | 2019 | 13 mins | In English
World Premiere | Director: Clouidy Rhodes
Screenwriter: Llewellyn Michael Bates | Producer: Jessica Carrera | Cast: Tysan Towney, Sophie Lowe, Kayla Donaldson | Production Company: Dollhouse Pictures

Three spirited women (played by Sophie Lowe, Kayla Donaldson and Sky Wansey) usurp a religious commune.

Screens with *Vision Portraits* (12 JUN) and *My Name Is Daniel* (14, 16 JUN)

MAGNETIC

WED 12 JUN 4:05 PM STATE
SAT 15 JUN 2:00 PM HEQ14

Australia | 2019 | 14 mins | In English | World Premiere | Director, Screenwriter: Nicole Delprado
Producer: Joanna Beveridge
Cast: Gemma Dart, Vicki Gard, Ivy Mak
Production Company: Sighence Projects

Bella walks the fine line between mental illness, creativity and identity, as her road to diagnosis jumps from cured to complicated.

Screens with *Vision Portraits* (12 JUN) and *Sandgirl* (15 JUN)

PRONE TO THE DRONE

WED 12 JUN 4:05 PM STATE
SUN 16 JUN 3:45 PM HOC

Australia | 2019 | 12 mins | In English
World Premiere | Director: Daisy Montalvo
Screenwriter: Shawn Spina | Producers: Miranda Aguilar, Vanessa Hyde | Cast: Shawn Spina, Nelson Montalvo, Marley Earl
Production Company: CuriousWorks

Sam, a lonely introvert stuck in the darkness of his home, is confronted with a problem when two young boys drop a drone in his backyard.

Screens with *Vision Portraits* (12 JUN) and *Standing Up for Sunny* (16 JUN)



Minuscule –
Mandibles From Far Away

FAMILY FILMS

Sydney Film Festival isn't just for the so-called 'adults'! Find all the film festival fun for under-18s here, with our top picks from across the globe. Experience what the kids of the world are watching right now and enjoy the ride!

Clare Sawyer
Guest Programmer

MINUSCULE – MANDIBLES FROM FAR AWAY

MINUSCULE – LES MANDIBULES DU BOUT DU MONDE



SUN 9 JUN 10:00 AM HEQ15 ALL AGES
MON 10 JUN 12:30 PM HEQ15

France, Guadeloupe | 2018 | 92 mins | No Dialogue
Australian Premiere
Directors, Screenwriters: Thomas Szabo, Hélène Giraud
Producer: Philippe Delarue | Production Company: Futurikon

Be transported into the hilarious and delightful world of animated insects with the second *Minuscule* feature; hugely popular tales of bug derring-do with millions of fans.

An adventurous young ladybird is accidentally shipped around the world to an unspoilt tropical island a long way from his snowy forest home. His dad sets out to bring him home, with a little help from some googly-eyed insects and a music-loving spider. Beautifully animated and dialogue-free, *Minuscule – Mandibles from Far Away* is crafted with love by the same duo (French animators Thomas Szabo and Hélène Giraud) that brought you the award-winning television series and debut *Minuscule* feature. Be guided by the myriad of creatures including ants, spiders, praying mantises and ladybirds as they take you on an adventure into a great, big, wilder world. Brimming with gentle humour, this enchanting animation will delight adults and kids aged three and up.

RINGSIDE



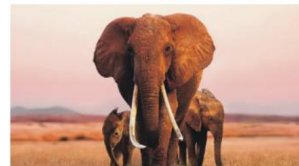
SUN 9 JUN 4:30 PM HEQ15 15+
SAT 15 JUN 2:00 PM HEQ15

USA | 2019 | 94 mins | In English | Australian Premiere
Director: André Hörmann | Producers: Ingmar Trost, Julie Goldman, Christopher Clements
Production Company: Motto Pictures

Shot over eight years, *Ringside* captures the travails and triumphs of two young would-be professional boxers from Chicago's volatile and impoverished South Side.

Recalling basketball documentary *Hoop Dreams* (SFF 1994), over eight years *Ringside* director André Hörmann follows two young African American men – Destyne Jr. and Kenny Jr. – and their trainer/fathers as they fight to make boxing their way out of a life of poverty, crime and violence. Both boxers are remarkably gifted but their paths take radically different directions. The film focuses in on the emotional relationships between the young men and their families – especially their fathers, who do their best to make sure their sons have better opportunities than they did. *Ringside*, which premiered this year in the prestigious Berlinale Generation strand, is an affecting exploration of family, life choices and hurdles in a volatile world, recommended for ages 12 and above.

THE ELEPHANT QUEEN



SAT 8 JUN 2:15 PM HEQ15 ALL AGES
SUN 9 JUN 12:00 PM HEQ15
MON 10 JUN 11:00 AM HEQ15

UK, Kenya | 2018 | 96 mins | In English
Australian Premiere
Directors: Victoria Stone, Mark Deeble | Screenwriter: Mark Deeble | Producers: Victoria Stone, Lucinda Englehart
Cast: Chiwetel Ejiofor (Narrator) | World Sales: Mister Smith Entertainment

Join elephant mother Athena as she leads her family on an epic journey across the African plains in search of a new home. Narrated by Chiwetel Ejiofor.

This stunningly shot documentary by Emmy award-winning filmmakers Victoria Stone and Mark Deeble has all the character development and narrative twists and turns of a fictional feature. The elephant matriarch must save her family, including a bunch of boisterous youngsters, from drought and famine, by leading them on a long and perilous quest through the dry savannah. Athena's knowledge of the complex ecosystem is the only thing ensuring the family's survival, but some challenges are beyond even the mighty matriarch. A timeless tale of a caring family united by loss and endurance, *The Elephant Queen* will enrapture audiences aged seven and older.

Festival guest: Victoria Stone

EMU RUNNER



SAT 8 JUN 4:30 PM HEQ15 ALL AGES
SUN 9 JUN 2:15 PM HEQ15

Australia | 2018 | 95 mins | In English
Director, Screenwriter: Imogen Thomas | Producers: Victor Evatt, Imogen Thomas, Antonia Barnard, John Fink, Gabriel Barber-Shipton | Cast: Wayne Blair, Rhae-Kye Waites, Rob Carlton | Distributor: Umbrella Entertainment

In an outback NSW town a young Indigenous girl forms a very special bond with a wild emu, in a unique Australian story of love and loss.

Director Imogen Thomas's debut was made over 15 years, in close collaboration with the Indigenous community of Brewarrina in western NSW. Newcomer Rhae-Kye Waites shines as Gem, a nine-year-old girl who deals with the grief of her mother's death by secretly befriending a wild emu. However, her need to source tasty snacks for her new friend, and her absence from school, attract the attention of family and authorities. Gem's loving father (played by Wayne Blair, *The Sapphires*) is at a loss to know how to handle his wayward daughter. A lyrical and poetic film grounded in social realism and emphasising the importance of Country, community and storytelling, *Emu Runner* is recommended for ages eight and up.

Festival guests: Imogen Thomas and members of the film team

STUPID YOUNG HEART

HÖLMÖ NUORI SYDÄN



MON 10 JUN 2:30 PM HEQ14 15+
SUN 16 JUN 1:45 PM HEQ14

Finland, The Netherlands, Sweden | 2018 | 102 mins
In Finnish with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director: Selma Vilhunen | Screenwriter: Kirsikka Saari
Producers: Elli Toivoniemi, Venla Hellstedt | Cast: Jere Ristseppä, Rosa Honkonen, Pihla Viitala
World Sales: The Yellow Affair

A fresh and edgy drama tackling first love and politics in Northern Europe. Winner of best film in the Berlinale's Generation program.

15-year-old skateboarder Lenni is just a wisp of a boy, but he's about to become a father with his on-again, off-again girlfriend Kirra – a popular girl with a chaotic home life. But the bond between the young lovers is tested when Lenni starts looking for a father figure in all the wrong places, and falls in with a far right group and its charismatic leader. With insight and self-assurance, director Selma Vilhunen (*Little Wing*) charts Lenni's rollercoaster ride through xenophobia and racism to a place of love and tolerance. This kitchen-sink portrait of families stuck in a cycle of poverty, making dodgy decisions and searching for love and intimacy, is recommended for ages 12 and above.

Screens with *Hush*

TITO AND THE BIRDS

TITO E OS PÁSSAROS



SAT 8 JUN 12:30 PM HEQ15 ALL AGES
SUN 16 JUN 12:15 PM HEQ15

Brazil | 2018 | 73 mins | In English
Directors: Gustavo Steinberg, Gabriel Bitar, André Catoto
Screenwriters: Eduardo Benaim, Gustavo Steinberg
Producers: Daniel Greco, Gustavo Steinberg, Felipe Sabino, Brenda Wooding | Cast: Denise Fraga, Otávio Augusto, Mateus Nachtergaele | World Sales: Indie Sales

In the tradition of Roald Dahl and Tim Burton, this colourful Brazilian animation tells the magical story of 10-year-old Tito and his feathered friends as they save the world from fear.

This unique Brazilian film brings together oil paintings, digital drawings and graphic animation with an equally singular storyline. Tito's homeland is in dark times: when people get scared, they suddenly fall sick. Wicked forces are exploiting this epidemic, but courageous 10-year-old Tito and his friends think they've found a cure, involving a strange contraption built by Tito's exiled father that allows people to understand bird song. Can Tito and his crew rebuild this improbable machine and free the masses, not just from fear but also from the shackles of their minds? *Tito and the Birds* is a lively and funny animated romp suitable for ages six and above.



THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS 2

RED CARPET AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE ON THURSDAY 6 JUNE AT HOYT'S ENTERTAINMENT QUARTER

THU 6 JUN 6:00 PM RED CARPET ALL AGES
6:30 PM SCREENING HEQ1

USA | 2019 | 90 mins | In English | Australian Premiere
Director: Chris Renaud | Screenwriter: Brian Lynch
Producers: Janet Healy, Chris Meledandri
Cast: Lake Bell, Hannibal Buress, Dana Carvey, Harrison Ford, Tiffany Haddish, Kevin Hart
Distributor: Universal Pictures Australia

The sassy, furry friends of 2016's animated smash hit return for new adventures while their owners are away, voiced by an all-star cast of comedians.

The highly-anticipated sequel to the record-breaking family hit brings writer Brian Lynch (*Minions*) back together with director Chris Renaud (*Despicable Me* series, *Dr. Seuss' The Lorax*) and an all-star cast of voice talent, including Kevin Hart, Tiffany Haddish, Harrison Ford, Patton Oswalt, Eric Stonestreet, Jenny Slate and more. Terrier Max (Oswalt) is battling separation anxiety, while Pomeranian Gidget (Slate) is on a mission to rescue a toy from a posse of cliquey cats, and adorably wacky bunny Snowball (Hart) becomes convinced he's a superhero. Packed with subversive and irreverent humour that will delight both kids and adults, *The Secret Life of Pets 2* is a hilarious visit back to the world of Max, Snowball and the gang.

Festival guests: Kevin Hart and Tiffany Haddish

SCREEN DAY OUT



SFF's secondary school education program Screen Day Out presents films in the historic State Theatre, with ATOM Study Guides available for each title.

The two documentaries specially selected for 2019 will inform, amaze and engage students (and teachers) across a range of curriculums; *Eternity*, the story of Sydney icon Arthur Stace, who famously chalked the word 'Eternity' on the city's streets (see page 42 for more); and *The Miracle of the Little Prince* (see page 30).

High school groups can book Screen Day Out screenings during the Festival for \$10 a ticket. For more information see sff.org.au/program/strands/screen-day-out.

Screen Day Out is generously supported by Sydney Film Festival donors.



THE BOX SET

LAMBS OF GOD



WED 12 JUN 6:00 PM DQ02

15+

Australia | 2019 | 217 mins | In English | Australian Premiere
Director: Jeffrey Walker | Screenwriter: Sarah Lambert | Producers: Jason Stephens, Sarah Lambert, Elisa Argenzi, Helen Bowden, Penny Win, Mark Fennessy, Carl Fennessy | Cast: Sam Reid, Ann Dowd, Essie Davis | Distributor: Foxtel

Jeffrey Walker's (*Ali's Wedding* SFF 2017) dark, gothic and twistedly-erotic Foxtel mini-series, is about a secluded nunnery threatened by the arrival of a handsome young priest.

Forgotten by the rest of the world, the nuns live a humble life inside a dilapidated monastery: working, praying and telling each other dark fairy tales. One day, Father Ignatius (Sam Reid, *The Railway Man*, *Standing Up for Sunny*, playing at SFF 2019), stumbles upon them. The three sisters of St Agnes, played superbly by Ann Dowd (*The Handmaid's Tale*), Essie Davis (*Game of Thrones*, *The Babadook*) and Jessica Barden (*The Lobster*) must defend their lives, existence and beliefs when the priest attempts to sell their land from under them. What follows is macabre, blackly comic and disturbingly erotic, delivering a provocative and compelling mini-series.

Festival guests: Jeffrey Walker and members of the film team

ANIMATION



Short animated gems from all over the world, selected for SFF by Guest Programmer Malcolm Turner

INTERNATIONAL ANIMATION SHOWCASE

MON 10 JUN 6:15 PM DNEW

Fascinating, beautiful, challenging – independent animation has never been more vibrant nor diverse. The showcase opens with a tribute to Rostko, one of animation's most daring exponents.

ANIMATION AFTER DARK

THU 6 JUN 8:30 PM DNEW

Our annual haul of the most pungent pieces slid under our door. Sit back, open your olfactory senses and take in the full-bodied aroma of Animation After Dark.



ETERNITY



WED 12 JUN 6:45 PM EV9
THU 13 JUN 10:00 AM STATE

1994 | 56 mins | In English
Director, Screenwriter: Lawrence Johnston | Producer: Susan MacKinnon | Presented by the National Film and Sound Archive's digital restoration program – NFSA Restores – reviving our cinema icons

Lawrence Johnston's 1994 award-winning film tells the story of Sydneysider Arthur Stace, who famously chalked the word 'Eternity' in elegant copperplate handwriting on the streets of his hometown.

Stace had a hard life, growing up in inner-city poverty, working as a stretcher bearer in World War I, returning to Sydney a chronic alcoholic. In 1930, however, he embraced Christianity, sobered up, and started his life's work - going out each night to write his anonymous message on Sydney's pavements. Today, his message is a Sydney icon, and emblazoned across Sydney Harbour Bridge as part of the 2000 New Year's Eve celebrations. The film, using interviews, and with haunting images of the city's once grand architecture (vividly filmed in black and white by Oscar-winning cinematographer Dion Beebe), recreates Stace's extraordinary story.

Festival guests: Lawrence Johnston and Susan MacKinnon

THE GOLEM: HOW HE CAME INTO THE WORLD DER GOLEM



SAT 15 JUN 3:00 PM AGNSW

Germany | 1920 | 76 mins | No Dialogue
Director, Screenwriter: Paul Wegener | Cast: Paul Wegener, Albert Steinrück, Lyda Salmonova | Rights Holder: Friedrich-Wilhelm-Murnau-Stiftung

A restored 1920 classic of German Expressionist horror – one of the silent era's most haunting films – with a new live score performed by Lucrecia Dalt.

Pioneering Expressionist filmmaker and actor Paul Wegener co-directed this thriller based on a medieval Jewish legend. He also stars as the title character: a fearsome, towering creature made of clay and animated by a spell cast by a mystical rabbi to protect his people from an anti-Semitic emperor. Like other Expressionist horror classics, including *Nosferatu* and *The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari*, despite its quaintness it retains a profoundly eerie and hypnotic quality; and it proved a seminal influence on *Frankenstein*, and indeed the entire horror pantheon.

The screening of this remarkable and beautifully restored film will be accompanied by a live score, performed by Berlin-based electronic composer Lucrecia Dalt.

SÁTÁNTANGÓ



FRI 7 JUN 10:00 AM DOQ1
SAT 15 JUN 10:30 AM DOQ3

Hungary, Germany, Switzerland | 1994 | 450 mins
In Hungarian with English subtitles
Australian Premiere
Director: Béla Tarr | Screenwriter: László Krasznahorkai
Producer: György Fehér | World Sales: MK2 Films

Béla Tarr's black-and-white masterpiece unfolds in a desolate village visited by a messiah-like figure. Don't miss this magnificent restoration of this iconic work.

Superbly photographed and choreographed images reveal a remote farming community on the precipice of economic and spiritual oblivion. Morality and compassion have all but evaporated. Time seems to be standing still. Some residents want to steal whatever they can and make a run for it. Others have put their faith in Irimias, a charismatic villager who was presumed dead and has now returned with persuasive messages of hope. Beautiful, grotesque, suspenseful and darkly comic, *Sátántangó* is an unforgettable study in human behaviour and a rich allegory for the death throes of Hungarian Communism. Rarely, if ever, has seven-hours-plus of cinema been as compulsively and magnificently watchable as this.

SHORTSTACKS
SHORT FILM FESTIVAL

Enjoy an exclusive screening of the 10 most imaginative entries shortlisted for the State Library of NSW's inaugural short film prize.

Established and emerging filmmakers were invited to create a short film referencing one or more items selected from Library's collection. The judges considered all genres, produced on any device.

The winners of the \$15,000 open category and \$5,000 youth prize will be announced on the night by Australian film industry royalty Margaret Pomeranz and fellow Shortstacks judges Michael Caulfield, Jason Di Rosso and Nick Ward.

WED 12 JUN 5:30 PM
METCALFE AUDITORIUM
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Ever wonder where
they started?

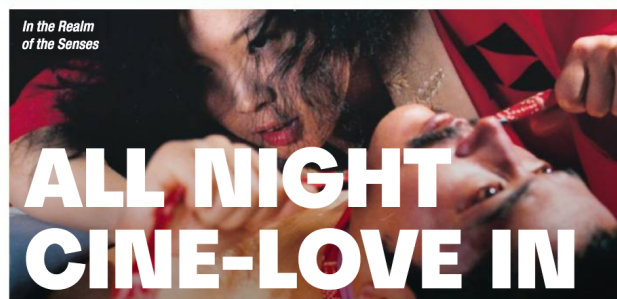
Behind every great story is a great network.

Behind every great network is a great story.



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To celebrate her 30 editions at Sydney Film Festival, programmer Jenny Neighbour has curated an all-night extravaganza of weird and wonderful films that changed her cinematic world.

As an arts student in the early '80s, new to big city life, I found my way to the Scala Cinema in North London. A repertory cinema from the days when films weren't accessible online, there were only three TV channels, and home video stores were yet to open, it was a movie treasure trove. The Scala presented a mix of Hollywood classics, world cinema, martial arts, music, camp and queer films, and regular all-night screenings. It was as notorious as it was influential. Until then, cinema for me had been entertaining or edifying, but seldom shocking or outrageous. At the Scala, I discovered that films could be provocative, trashy, surreal, troubling, and not always in English. Looking back with 30 Sydney Film Festivals under my belt, I wanted to celebrate that time; the moment when cinema truly opened its doors to me. This All Night Cine-Love In may change your cinematic world, and if it doesn't... well, it's going to be a great night at the movies.

Jenny Neighbour Head of Programs & Documentary Programmer

SAT 8 JUN DNEW \$49 PACKAGE

SESSION TIMES: 10:00 PM ERASERHEAD; 12:05 AM IN THE REALM OF THE SENSES; 2:00 AM O LUCKY MAN!; 5:10 AM FEMALE TROUBLE

IN THE REALM OF THE SENSES

AI NO KORIDA



France, Japan | 1976 | 102 mins
In Japanese with English subtitles

Director, Screenwriter: Nagisa Oshima | Cast: Tatsuya Fuji, Eiko Matsuda | Print Owner: Tamasa Distribution

One of the most controversial films in cinema history, this uncompromising '70s study of sexual obsession from radical director Nagisa Oshima is based on a true incident.

A servant and former geisha, Sada (Eiko Matsuda), becomes sexually obsessed with her married employer, a businessman called Kizochi (Tatsuya Fuji). He in turn becomes captivated with her, until their every waking hour is spent making love. However, as the relationship intensifies, their sexual acts become more and more dangerous and aggressive, culminating in a shockingly fatal undertaking. Oshima's (*Merry Christmas Mr Lawrence*) taboo-breaking film, notorious for its actual sex scenes, was screened at the 1977 Sydney Film Festival, but was subsequently cut by the censors and given an R-rating. Decades after its initial release *Ai No Korida* (literally translated as 'bullfight of love') retains the power to provoke and offend.

R18+

O LUCKY MAN!



UK | 1973 | 178 mins | In English

Director: Lindsay Anderson | Screenwriter: David Sherwin, based on an original concept by Malcolm McDowell
Producers: Michael Medwin, Lindsay Anderson | Cast: Malcolm McDowell, Helen Mirren, Ralph Richardson
World Sales: Warner Bros. Copyright 1973 Warner Bros. All Rights Reserved.

Malcolm McDowell stars in this more-than-twisted tale of a man's rise to the top (and down again) by UK Free Cinema legend Lindsay Anderson.

Anderson's debut film, *If*, was a scorching critique of 1960s Britain and his follow-up, *O Lucky Man!* doesn't pull any punches either. McDowell plays Mick, a principled young man who travels the country, encountering corruption everywhere, from genetic engineering to gunrunning. Mick soon joins in with the capitalist fun, before falling foul of the crooked system. Chock-full of venom and sour British humour, *O Lucky Man!* features a brilliant soundtrack from Alan Price (ex-The Animals, he also appears in the film) and menacing imagery from Miroslav Ondříček (*Amadeus*). Helen Mirren, who starred alongside McDowell, said she "loved" Anderson because he was always, "the pepper in the arse of the establishment" – one can't help but agree!

M

ERASERHEAD



USA | 1977 | 89 mins | In English
Director, Screenwriter, Producer: David Lynch
Cast: Jack Nance, Charlotte Stewart, Joseph Allen
World Sales: MK2 Films

David Lynch's 1977 cult classic almost defies description: beautiful yet strange, filled with dark humour, gore and eroticism, all wrapped up in glorious black and white imagery.

In a grungy dystopian age, the nerdy Henry Spencer (Jack Nance) is invited to dinner by his bizarre girlfriend, Mary X (Charlotte Stewart) to meet her parents. It's a very strange evening, featuring the now-infamous spurting chickens and a peculiar premature 'baby'. The young couple take the squealing bundle home, but Mary soon departs leaving Henry to handle the nightmarish nipper alone. What follows has been described as indescribable – suffice to say it's brilliant! Lynch's debut feature was made over several years on a shoestring budget. Shot by the great Frederick Elmes (*Blue Velvet*) with an amazing soundscape of industrial noise and Fats Waller music.

M

FEMALE TROUBLE



USA | 1974 | 98 mins | In English
Director, Screenwriter, Producer: John Waters
Cast: Divine, David Lochary, Mary Vivian Pearce
A Dreamland Production from Salva Films, INC A Division of New Line Cinema Corp.

John Waters' 1974 low budget trash spectacular, starring the fabulously foul Divine, oozes camp and depraved splendour. "Demolishes the boundaries of good taste!"

Female Trouble is a biopic of a debauched criminal Dawn Davenport from her wild-child days to the electric chair. Along the way, Dawn conceives a child, Taffy (Mink Stole), grosses out the modelling world, and finds notoriety before succumbing to a shocking end. Divine, arrayed with mega-cosmetic effects and weird-as outfits, is magnificently anarchic. The "Auteur of Outrage", Waters (who has been quoted as calling this his own favourite film), pokes fun at femininity, family and fame (not to mention Hollywood). If you've never seen *Female Trouble*, sign up now: if you have, prepare to be shocked anew!

R18+

YOUNG HENRYS DENDY SPECIAL

TREAT YOURSELF IN THE INTERVALS TO A SPECIAL \$10 COMBO DEAL: A CAN OF YOUNG HENRYS NEWTOWNER AND A SMALL POPCORN.

Presented by Instagram in partnership with Sydney Film Festival and VICE

ENTER THE IGTV FILM FESTIVAL

The first ever IGTV Film Festival is a chance for young Australians to capture their version of the country's future, using Instagram's ground-breaking video platform IGTV.

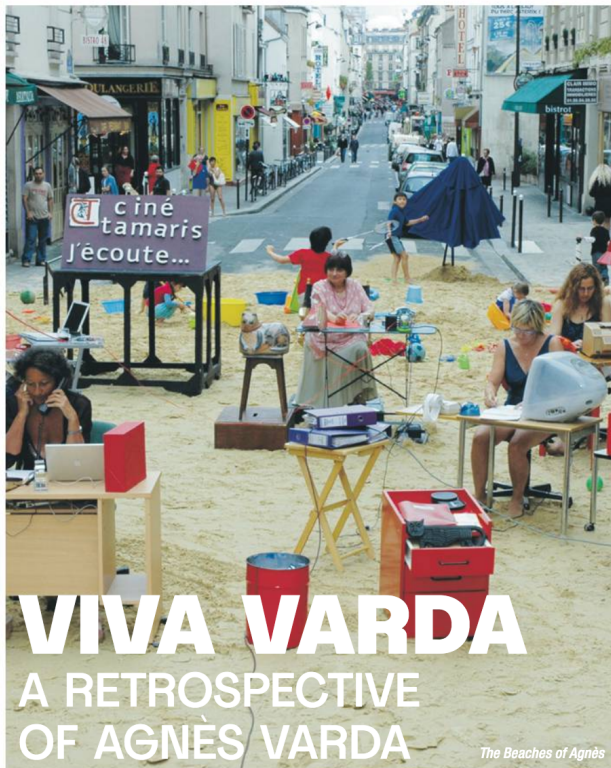
Aspiring filmmakers aged 34 and under are invited to submit a vertical short film on IGTV which reflects their vision for Australia's future through the lens of the people, passions and issues they care about most. A selection of the top films will be screened at The Hub, with the winning film selected by an industry jury and awarded \$5000 during the 2019 Sydney Film Festival. Be sure to check out these innovative storytellers and visit The Hub to vote for your favourite as People's Choice!



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VIVA VARDÀ

A RETROSPECTIVE OF AGNÈS VARDÀ

The Beaches of Agnès

"IN MY FILMS I ALWAYS WANTED PEOPLE TO SEE DEEPLY. I DON'T WANT TO SHOW THINGS, BUT TO GIVE PEOPLE THE DESIRE TO SEE."

Seamlessly inhabiting the worlds of fiction, documentary and contemporary art, Agnès Varda explored the world with a tireless curiosity for people and the places they inhabit.

This season traverses the French countryside, the Parisian streets Varda called home and the sunny climes of California where she made some of her most astounding and singular works as a director.

Born in Brussels in 1928 to a Greek father and Belgian mother, her family relocated to France during the Occupation. With the exception of a few brief stints in America, Paris was the city that Agnès Varda called home until her passing on March 29, 2019.

As a young woman Agnès studied philosophy at the Sorbonne and art history at Ecole du Louvre. Photography was her first medium and taking Santa pictures at Galeries Lafayette her first job. In her role at the Théâtre National Populaire, she documented some of France's most prestigious stage talents, but in 1951 she met Alain Resnais and her interest in cinema began to bloom.

"I thought of all my films as a woman, because I didn't want to be a 'false man' making films. I was trying to make films about what I knew."

A vital presence in the cinematic landscape during her lifetime and beyond, Varda's artistic endeavours paid witness to times of great social revolution. The personal is political in Varda's world, alongside the humanity, wonder and endless artistic experimentation.

As Daniel Trilling noted in *Sight & Sound*, "the blurring of the boundaries between art and life is absolutely crucial to Varda's work. To watch one of her films is to be drawn gently into an entire world."

See her final work *Varda* by Agnès in the International Documentaries section, **page 32**.

Kristy Matheson,
Director, Film Programs, ACMI

Presented by **acmi** **NFSA**

All sessions introduced by Kristy Matheson

LA POINTE COURTE



WED 12 JUN 7:15 PM AGNSW 15+

France | 1956 | 80 mins
In French with English subtitles
Director, Screenwriter, Producer: Agnès Varda | Cast: Philippe Noiret, Silvia Monfort | World Sales: MK2 Films

Varda's debut, described as "the first nouvelle vague film", was inspired by the style of William Faulkner's *The Wild Palms* and is infused with philosophy and politics.

Charting two different stories, respected theatre actors Philippe Noiret and Silvia Monfort play an intellectual Parisian couple at a crossroads; and in the alternate story, the villagers of Sète, on the southeast coast of France, enact scenarios drawn from their own reality. An unforgettable work of stark contrasts and filmic complexity, *La Pointe Courte* was credited by film historian Georges Sadoul as "genuinely the first film of the nouvelle vague." It's exhilarating to consider that Varda had no formal training, and had seen virtually no other films, before embarking on filming *La Pointe Courte*.

CLÉO FROM 5 TO 7 CLÉO DE 5 À 7



THU 13 JUN 8:30 PM DOQ2 15+

France, Italy | 1962 | 90 mins
In French with English subtitles
Director, Screenwriter, Producer: Agnès Varda | Cast: Corinne Marchand, Antoine Bourseiller, Dorothee Blank | World Sales: MK2 Films

Selected for Competition at the 1962 Cannes Film Festival, *Cléo from 5 to 7* became immediately emblematic of the French New Wave and the burgeoning feminist movement.

Agnès Varda described her second feature as "a portrait of a woman painted onto a documentary about Paris". A coquettish pop star Cléo (the stunning Corinne Marchand) is riddled with anxiety as she awaits medical results. Restless and alone, she takes to the streets, observing the city and its inhabitants. As Cléo moves through the hours of 5 to 7pm, Varda's heroine shifts from being an object of others' attentions to an active participant in the world. An enduring film within Varda's wider filmography, *Cléo From 5 to 7* remains an example of her distinctive artistic style and a radical break with social, gender and cinematic traditions.

LIONS LOVE (...AND LIES)



FRI 14 JUN 6:00 PM DOQ1 18+

France, USA | 1969 | 113 mins | In English
Director, Screenwriter: Agnès Varda | Producers: Agnès Varda, Max L. Raab | Cast: Viva, James Rado, Jerome Ragni | World Sales: MK2 Films

In this quintessential '60s, uber-cool and trippy 'film within a film', *Hair* creators Jerome Ragni and James Rado and Warhol superstar Viva are actors waiting for their big break.

In the Hollywood Hills, Varda's 'Lions' (Ragni, Rado and Viva) spend their days lounging by the pool, lazing in their giant bed and contemplating how to achieve spiritual enlightenment. When a frenetic New Yorker arrives, played by director Shirley Clarke (*Portrait of Jason*), their carefree existence starts to warp. Employing non-traditional actors and various film styles and approaches to performance, Agnès Varda dubbed *Lions Love (...and Lies)* a "film collage". Set against a backdrop of the Warhol assassination attempt and the Bobby Kennedy shooting, Varda's far-out tale gives way to a deeper statement on Hollywood and the American Dream.

DAGUERRÉOTYPES



SAT 15 JUN 10:15 AM AGNSW 15+

Germany, France | 1976 | 79 mins
In French with English subtitles
Director, Screenwriter, Producer: Agnès Varda
World Sales: MK2 Films

This early documentary is an enchanting essay about Agnès Varda's home street in Paris and its community, paying homage to what Varda refers to as "the silent majority".

Rue Daguerre, in the 14th arrondissement of Paris, served as office, editing suite and home for Agnès Varda from 1951. People and place form the bedrock of Varda's filmmaking, and both are beautifully exemplified in this cinéma vérité documentary: an investigation of community and body politics that reveals the dreams and illusions of the residents of this humble French high street. The film opens with Mystag the magician, who acts as narrator, alongside Varda, for an illuminating stroll on the Rue Daguerre. In her observations of the baker, grocer, butcher, perfumer and laundress, Varda is unobtrusive but inquisitive, gleaning information about the shopkeepers' histories and hopes, presenting an enchanting vision of the beauty and universality of daily life.

Screens with *Réponse de Femmes*

MUR MURS



SAT 15 JUN 2:35 PM DOQ2

15+

France, USA | 1980 | 81 mins
In French & English with English subtitles
Director, Screenwriter: Agnès Varda | World Sales: MK2 Films

A portrait of Los Angeles and its inhabitants through street murals, charting political protest, artistic tributes and laments for lost love.

Presented in Un Certain Regard at the 1981 Cannes Film Festival, *Mur Murs* evolved from Varda's love of the people and art of the city she temporarily called home. The vast diversity of Los Angeles comes to the fore as artists from different walks of life speak to Varda about their work and the communities that inspire it, offering an alternate history of the city. From Latino street gangs to a wedding shop owner who dreamed of immortalising his love sky high, *Mur Murs* gives warmth and neutrality to a space so often charged with political and social assumptions. *Mur Murs* mirrors some of Varda's most beloved documentaries such as *The Gleaners and I* and the recent *Faces Places*: celebrating humanity and finding the extraordinary in the everyday.

Screens with *Black Panthers*

DOCUMENTEUR



SAT 15 JUN 12:15 PM AGNSW

15+

France, USA | 1981 | 63 mins
In English and French with English Subtitles
Director, Screenwriter, Producer: Agnès Varda
Cast: Sabine Mamou, Mathieu Demy, Tom Taplin
World Sales: MK2 Films

Separated temporarily from husband Jacques Demy, Agnès Varda directed this deeply autobiographic tale of a young mother and her son living a transient existence in Los Angeles.

Single mother Émilie (played by Varda's editor, Sabine Mamou) and her son Martin (played by Varda's real-life son Mathieu Demy) are struggling to make ends meet in Los Angeles. Life in their rented apartment brings challenges alongside moments of joy: Émilie works as a secretary for a film star but struggles as a newly single woman in a foreign city. Varda infuses *Documenteur* with the authenticity of a woman who has known heartbreak but has not fallen prey to self-pity. Émilie is down but far from broken and watching her interpret the city offers a refreshingly rare onscreen heroine, and a fascinating take on life in the "City of Angels".

Screens with *Uncle Yanco*

VAGABOND

SANS TOIT NI LOI



SUN 16 JUN 10:15 AM AGNSW

18+

France | 1985 | 106 mins
In French with English subtitles
Director, Screenwriter, Producer: Agnès Varda
Cast: Sandrine Bonnaire, Macha Méril, Stéphane Freiss
World Sales: MK2 Films

Winner of the Venice Golden Lion, *Vagabond* is a potent meditation on freedom, capitalism and female representation, charting the final weeks of a young vagrant's life.

The film opens with the discovery of a corpse frozen in a vineyard, her face covered in the harvest dregs. Varda resurrects her mysterious young heroine 'Mona' through the recollections of those who paid witness to the last weeks of her life. What transpires is a portrait of a defiant, headstrong young woman, played with steely-eyed authenticity by Sandrine Bonnaire. Purposefully living on the margins of society, Mona elicits strong reactions: from the young men who see her as 'easy prey' to those who see sorrow and others a beacon of freedom. Varda infuses Mona with such complexity that it's impossible not to feel vindicated, shamed and inspired all at once; the film remains one of her most complex and masterful works.

JANE B. PAR AGNÈS V.

JANE B. PAR AGNÈS V.



SUN 16 JUN 12:30 PM AGNSW

18+

France | 1987 | 97 mins
In French with English subtitles
Director, Screenwriter, Producer: Agnès Varda
Cast: Jane Birkin, Jean-Pierre L  aud, Philippe L  otard
World Sales: MK2 Films

Varda's portrait of Jane Birkin offers a playful and kaleidoscopic view of the pop icon, presented in Competition at the Berlin Film Festival.

When Varda met Birkin their lives were in a similar orbit, as artists and mothers of teenage children. Birkin expressed trepidation about her upcoming 40th birthday and Varda responded by proposing to film her portrait as a gift to commemorate the milestone year. Uninterested in crafting the usual bio-pic full of famous faces and historical pictures, Varda opted to view Birkin through her various roles, from Jeanne d'Arc to Calamity Jane. By exploring Birkin's life through a sideways glance at her filmography, Varda also illuminates her own life. The resulting film is unlike any other biography – unpredictable, insightful and deeply personal; a charming exploration of femininity and identity from one of cinema's most curious and playful directors.

THE GLEANERS AND I
LES GLANEURS ET LA GLANEUSE

SUN 16 JUN 2:45 PM AGNSW

G

France | 2000 | 82 mins
In French with English subtitles
Director, Screenwriter, Producer: Agnès Varda
World Sales: MK2 Films | Print Source: NFSA

One of Varda's most political and universally adored films is a celebration of resourcefulness, tradition, art and humanity, spotlighting people living on the fringes of society.

At the turn of the century, Varda moved into digital filmmaking. The lightweight equipment offered new freedoms and, inspired by Jean-Fran  ois Millet's painting *The Gleaners*, she traversed France in search of modern-day gleaners. Gleaning is a long-standing form of 'rural welfare', whereby commoners were allowed to collect left-over crops after the harvest. Today, gleaners can be found dumpster diving and salvaging televisions, fridges and furniture. From jolly groups of oyster hunters to those living on the edge of society, Varda offers an engaging audience with those who are often invisible. Selected for the Official Competition at the 2000 Cannes Film Festival, Varda's multi-award-winning film endures for its warmth, humour and film curiosity.

Screens with *Salut Les Cubains*

THE BEACHES OF AGNÈS
LES PLAGES D'AGNÈS

SUN 16 JUN 6:20 PM DOQ2

15+

France | 2008 | 112 mins
In French & English with English subtitles English
Director, Screenwriter, Producer: Agnès Varda
World Sales: MK2 Films

On the eve of her 80th birthday, Varda delighted fans with an inventive cinematic memoir. Loves, struggles, triumphs and films are all filtered through her gentle, ironic gaze.

In this vibrant documentary, Varda's thoughts ebb and flow through beaches both real and imagined; seamlessly interweaving her history, inspirations and quotidian observations. Much of the film's deep emotional core rests in memories of her late husband Jacques D  my and their love story, which Varda recalls with heartrending honesty. Premiering at the 2008 Venice Film Festival, *The Beaches of Agn  s* garnered universal critical acclaim and numerous accolades, including the C  sar for Best Documentary at the 2008 French national film awards. *The New York Times* described it as, "a remarkable history, rich in comedy and occasionally heartbreaking, filled with wise reflections and strange digressions about the wonders of life."

SHORT FILMS BY AGN  S VARDA

Across six decades Agn  s Varda made over twenty short films. The titles represented in this season are perfect capsules of the times in which she lived and showcase the vast creativity that she brought to films – large and small.

BLACK PANTHERS



FRANCE | 1968 | 30 MINS

Agn  s Varda's observational documentary captures the essence and impetus behind the Black Panther movement.

Screens with *Mur Murs*

R  PONSE DE FEMMES



FRANCE | 1975 | 8 MINS

In 1975 Agn  s Varda assembled a group and asked, "what it means to be a woman". This is their reply.

Screens with *Dagu  rotypes*

SALUT LES CUBAINS



FRANCE | 1963 | 30 MINS

In 1963 Agn  s Varda travelled to Cuba to photograph life under Fidel Castro: a celebration of culture, rhythm and the women of the revolution.

Screens with *The Gleaners and I*

UNCLE YANCO



FRANCE | 1967 | 19 MINS

Agn  s Varda's encounter with a long-lost relative brims with joy and playfulness.

Screens with *Documenteur*



ESSENTIAL AUSTRALIAN WOMEN DIRECTORS

10 TRAILBLAZERS SELECTED BY DAVID STRATTON

Sydney Film Festival retrospectives have usually focused on the work of one significant filmmaker, and so far, those filmmakers have all been men. This year, rather than highlighting the work of one director, we're looking at the work of ten remarkable women.

The key woman director of the late silent and early sound period in Australia was Paulette McDonagh (1901-1978) who made four features between 1926 and 1933, one of which, *The Cheaters* (1929), is included in this retrospective.

After *Two Minutes Silence* (1933), the last of McDonagh's films, we had to wait 46 years for another feature to be directed by a woman in this country – the film was *My Brilliant Career* (1979), and the director was Gillian Armstrong. Armstrong has gone on to a brilliant career, and this retrospective includes *High Tide* (1987), the film that reunited her with Judy Davis.

In the years since Armstrong's trailblazing debut, a great many very talented women have directed important and enduring films in this country. This retrospective is a tribute to all of them, and not just to the ten women represented here.

The recurring theme of the 10 films in this retrospective is that of family. Mother and daughter are reunited in *High Tide*, sisters feature in both *Sweetie* (1989) and *Love Serenade* (1996), mothers and children of both sexes in *Blessed* (2008), mother and son in *The Babadook* (2014). *Beautiful Kate* (2009) is about a family reunion, *Waiting* (1991) is a film in which close friends become surrogates for family, and in *Malcolm* (1986), two very different men form an almost fraternal relationship.

In the era of the #MeToo movement, the barriers that once faced women filmmakers are perhaps crumbling at a quicker pace. Hopefully it won't be long before the annual film production in this country is truly representative of its population. In the meantime, let's celebrate this tribute to some of our great women filmmakers.



David Stratton Guest Programmer

Film critic, lecturer and author David Stratton AM is a former director of the Sydney Film Festival and former host of ABC TV's *At the Movies*. He is a recipient of the Raymond Longford Award and was named Commander of the Ordre des Arts et des Lettres. He has served on the juries in Venice and Berlin and as a President of the FIPRESCI (International Film Critics) jury in Cannes. He recently published his fourth book *101 Marvellous Movies You May Have Missed* (2018).

THE CHEATERS



WED 5 JUN 7:15 PM AGNSW

Australia | 1929 | 94 mins | Silent
Director, Screenwriter: Paulette McDonagh | Producers: Isabel McDonagh, Paulette McDonagh, Phyllis McDonagh
Cast: Marie Lorraine, Arthur Greenaway, John Faulkner
Print Owner: National Film and Sound Archive, Australia
Presented by The National Film and Sound Archive's digital restoration program – NFSA Restores – reviving our cinema icons

Paulette McDonagh's pioneering romantic melodrama, silent with live score performed by Jan Preston, is set in Sydney and stars the director's sister as the daughter of a criminal mastermind.

The McDonagh sisters made four feature films between 1926 and 1933, as well as some documentaries – most of these films are, sadly, lost today. Paulette, the driving force, was the director and screenwriter; Isabel, using the stage name Marie Lorraine, was the leading actress; Phyllis was the producer and production designer. We are screening the original silent version with live musical accompaniment from composer and pianist Jan Preston.

Piano kindly sponsored by **RON OVERS** Sydney artisan grand piano builder and designer.

MALCOLM



G SAT 8 JUN 10:15 AM AGNSW

PG

Australia | 1986 | 90 mins | In English
Director: Nadia Tass | Screenwriter: David Parker
Producers: Nadia Tass, David Parker | Cast: John Hargreaves, Colin Friels, Lindy Davies | Production Company: Cascade Films

The first feature by director Nadia Tass is a delicious comedy starring Colin Friels as an introverted inventor and John Hargreaves as a resourceful criminal.

Nadia Tass's debut, with screenplay and photography by her husband David Parker, is a genuinely fresh comedy about the unlikely friendship between a reclusive orphan, Malcolm (Colin Friels, brilliant), and Frank (John Hargreaves), a resourceful criminal. Malcolm avoids human and even animal contact. He spends his time making elaborate models, mechanical devices – including a home-made tram, or the car that splits into two – that appear to have no practical use, until Frank dreams up a way to use them for criminal purposes. The robbing of a bank via remote control is a highlight. Lindy Davies is a splendid heroine and the supporting cast includes such stalwarts as Chris Haywood, Charles Tingwell and John Stanton. The film's entertainment value ensured its commercial success, belying its modest budget.

Festival guest: Nadia Tass

HIGH TIDE



SAT 8 JUN 12:30 PM AGNSW

M

Australia | 1988 | 103 mins | In English
 Director: Gillian Armstrong | Screenwriter: Laura Jones
 Producer: Sandra Levy | Cast: Judy Davis, Claudia Karvan,
 Colin Friels | World Sales: IFM Film Associates

Gillian Armstrong and Judy Davis collaborated again on this emotionally rich multi-generational drama. Claudia Karvan plays Davis' daughter and Jan Adele is the grandmother.

Eight years after the trailblazing *My Brilliant Career*, Gillian Armstrong and Judy Davis collaborated again on *High Tide*, with Davis winning the New York Film Critics' award for Best Actress. The setting is Eden on the NSW South Coast where Lilli (Davis), a back-up singer for Elvis imitator Frankie J Holden, becomes stranded. This provides an opportunity for her to be reunited with Ally (Claudia Karvan), her long-lost daughter, who lives with her grandmother (Jan Adele). The screenplay by Laura Jones avoids any hint of cheap sentimentality – instead this is a raw and deeply felt movie in which the fractured relationships are painfully real. Colin Friels makes a strong impression in a key supporting role, but it's the links between the three women that make the film unforgettable.

Festival guest: Gillian Armstrong

SWEETIE



SAT 8 JUN 2:55 PM AGNSW

M

Australia | 1989 | 97 mins | In English
 Director: Jane Campion | Screenwriters: Jane Campion,
 Gerard Lee | Producers: John Maynard, Billy MacKinnon
 Cast: Genevieve Lemon, Karen Colston, Tom Lycos
 Production Company: Arenafilm

One of the most original films ever made in this country, Jane Campion's story about a pair of very eccentric sisters caused a sensation at Cannes.

Born in New Zealand, Jane Campion studied film in Sydney, made a telemovie for the ABC, and then directed this startlingly bold feature, which caused a sensation at Cannes. It's the story of two sisters, Kay (Karen Colston), a shy factory worker who is scared of trees but trusts fortune tellers, and Dawn aka Sweetie (Genevieve Lemon), who invades the suburban home where Kay is living with Louis (Tom Lycos), accompanied by her spaced-out 'producer', Bob (Michael Lake). Filled with eccentric characters and situations – the dancing jackaroos are a hoot! – and all of it superbly photographed by Sally Bongers, this remarkable slice of Australiana, with its choral music and quirky mood shifting, is a genuine original from one of the world's great contemporary filmmakers.

Festival guest: Genevieve Lemon

WAITING



SUN 9 JUN 10:15 AM AGNSW

M

Australia | 1990 | 95 mins | In English
 Director, Screenwriter: Jackie McKimmie | Producer:
 Ross Matthews | Cast: Noni Hazlehurst, Helen Jones,
 Deborra-Lee Furness | Production Company:
 Filmside Productions

Noni Hazlehurst plays a surrogate mother about to give birth, who welcomes her closest friends to her isolated rural shack. McKimmie's second feature is a gem.

Jackie McKimmie's second feature stars the luminous Noni Hazlehurst as Clare, a pregnant woman awaiting the birth of her first baby. She has no intention of keeping the child, but is acting as a surrogate for her friends Sandy (Helen Jones) and Michael (Frank Whitten). Clare lives in an isolated shack somewhere in rural NSW and has invited her closest friends to help her celebrate the birth, including Diane (Deborra-Lee Furness), who arrives with her latest lover. It's a frank and beautifully-made film about friendship, sexual politics and infidelity, with beautifully photographed scenes of chaos as the little house fills with people. Hazlehurst gives one of her finest performances.

Festival guest: Jackie McKimmie

BEDEVIL



SUN 9 JUN 12:30 PM AGNSW

PG

Australia | 1993 | 90 mins | In English
 Director, Screenwriter: Tracey Moffatt | Producers:
 Anthony Buckley AM, Carol Hughes | Cast: Tracey Moffatt,
 Lex Marinos, Diana Davidson | World Sales: Ronin Films

Indigenous artist and photographer Tracey Moffatt's only feature to date consists of three ghost stories told in a thrillingly original, highly stylised fashion.

The only feature made to date by Indigenous photographer and artist Tracey Moffatt, this distinctive and original work consists of three ghost stories staged on studio sets. The ghosts include an American soldier, a blind child killed on the railway tracks, and a pair of young lovers. Moffatt, who appears in one of the stories, is experimenting here with a fresh and unusual narrative style. None of the stories are told in a traditional way. The use of painted backdrops combined with spectacular actuality footage, plus the stirring use of music, adds up to a strange and very beautiful movie. One great sequence involves the preparation of a meal of yabbies with Chardonnay and Hollandaise sauce followed by snake terrine.

LOVE SERENADE



SUN 9 JUN 2:45 PM AGNSW

M

Australia | 1996 | 103 mins | In English
 Director, Screenwriter: Shirley Barrett | Producer:
 Jan Chapman AO | Cast: Miranda Otto, Rebecca Frith,
 George Shevtsov | Rights Holder: Jan Chapman Films/
 Umbrella Entertainment

Winner of Camera d'Or at Cannes, Shirley Barrett's whimsical and very offbeat comedy stars Miranda Otto and Rebecca Frith as small-town sisters.

Shirley Barrett's utterly endearing first feature deservedly won the Camera d'Or (best first feature) in Cannes. Miranda Otto and Rebecca Frith play sisters who share a house in the small town of Sunray. Their lives are turned upside down by the arrival in town of a 'celebrity' – a lazy, self-indulgent ex-hippy (George Shevtsov) – "virgins are my specialty!" – who takes over the local one-man radio station. The other principal character is the owner of the local Chinese restaurant (John Alansu), who practises nudism. Barrett's keenly whimsical approach to this eccentric material is enhanced by Mandy Walker's splendid photography, but it's the unexpectedly surreal elements that stay in the memory.

Festival guest: Shirley Barrett

BLESSÉD



MON 10 JUN 10:15 AM AGNSW

MA15+

Australia | 2008 | 113 mins | In English
 Director: Ana Kokkinos | Screenwriters: Andrew Bovell,
 Melissa Reeves, Patricia Cornelius, Christos Tsiolkas
 Producer: Al Clark | Cast: Frances O'Connor,
 Miranda Otto, Deborra-Lee Furness | Production Company:
 Blessed Film Productions

This achingly moving, harshly powerful film takes us into the world of four mothers whose children are in serious trouble. Frances O'Connor leads a fine cast.

Ana Kokkinos's film is divided into two parts. In the first, *The Children*, we follow a group of kids who get into trouble in various different ways. In the second, *The Mothers*, we cover the same time frame but from the perspective of the mothers. The latter are superbly portrayed by Miranda Otto, Deborra-Lee Furness, Frances O'Connor and Victoria Haralabidou, while the cast also includes Wayne Blair, Monica Maughan and William McInnes. Kokkinos sometimes depicts the same incident as seen from two different perspectives, and her sympathy for all of these characters, flawed as some of them are, is palpable. Confronting at times, but honest and powerful, this is surely one of the greatest Australian films of recent years.

Festival guest: Ana Kokkinos

BEAUTIFUL KATE



MON 10 JUN 12:45 PM AGNSW

MA15+

Australia | 2008 | 90 mins | In English
 Director, Screenwriter: Rachel Ward | Producers:
 Bryan Brown, Leah Churchill-Brown | Cast:
 Ben Mendelsohn, Bryan Brown, Maeve Dermody
 Rights Holder: Beautiful Kate Productions/Newtown Films

In Rachel Ward's feature debut, Ben Mendelsohn plays a man who returns to the isolated property where he grew up, to see his dying father (Bryan Brown).

For her feature film debut as director, Rachel Ward adapted an American book written by Newton Thornburg in 1984. It's a story of a family torn apart by feelings of guilt about the events that occurred one summer several years ago. Ben Mendelsohn is Ned, who returns from the city to the isolated property, together with his girlfriend (Maeve Dermody), to see his father (Bryan Brown in one of his finest roles), who is dying. There Ned meets his sister, Sally (Rachel Griffiths), who has stayed at home to look after things. The reunion triggers painful memories of Ned's twin sister, "beautiful" Kate (Sophie Lowe). The hothouse atmosphere of the remote homestead is superbly captured in this evocative, sometimes erotic, movie.

Festival guest: Rachel Ward

THE BABADOOK



MON 10 JUN 3:00 PM AGNSW

M

Australia | 2013 | 94 mins | In English
 Director, Screenwriter: Jennifer Kent | Producers:
 Kristina Ceyton, Kristian Moliere | Cast: Noah Wiseman,
 Essie Davis, Daniel Henshall | Distributor:
 Umbrella Entertainment

In Jennifer Kent's thrilling debut, a single mother (Essie Davis) and her six-year-old son (Noah Wiseman) are haunted by the mysterious 'Mr. Babadook'.

Jennifer Kent's Sundance Festival sensation is a superior suspense movie set almost entirely in a shadowy suburban house in Adelaide, where Amelia (Essie Davis), a single mother, lives with her hyperactive six-year-old son, Samuel (Noah Wiseman). Still grieving over the loss of her husband in a car crash the night Sam was born, Amelia's troubles begin when the boy asks her to read a bedtime story about Mr. Babadook, a creepy character who apparently has the powers to emerge from the book and haunt the pair. Davis and Wiseman give exceptional performances under Kent's assured direction, and though the film was made on a modest budget, it succeeds in delivering the promised thrills far more successfully than similar Hollywood product.

Festival guest: Kristina Ceyton



An amazing array of short films screen before features and documentaries. See Australian short films in the Dendy Awards on [page 16](#); Lexus Short Film Fellowship winners on [page 8](#). See also Screenability short films on [page 39](#) and Agnès Varda shorts in the Viva Varda retrospective on [pages 44 and 45](#).

The Short Film Program is proudly supported by the Director's Lab (SFF's Young Patron Program).

KEY

- First Nations
- FLUX: Art+Film
- Focus on New Zealand
- Freak Me Out

THE AMBASSADOR'S WIFE



Screens with *Buddha In Africa*, page 29

Sweden | 2018 | 20 mins | In French with English subtitles

Director, Producer, Festival Contact: Theresa Traore Dahlberg

The privileged life of the French Ambassador's wife in Ouagadougou — a witty and critical perspective on neo-colonial relations, power, class and gender disparities.

THE AMOROUS INDIES •

LES INDES GALANTES



Screens with *Blue* and *A Minor History*, page 38

France | 2018 | 16 mins | No dialogue Australian Premiere

Director: Clément Cogitore | Producers: Philippe Martin, Dimitri Krassoulia, Laurent Métiévier | Production Company: Les Films Pelléas

Video artist Clément Cogitore delivers a powerful fusion of krumping (high-energy, non-violent hip hop dance style and language of resistance) and an operatic track.

BETWEEN TWO LINES •



Screens with *Papi Chulo*, page 24

Australia | 2019 | 15 mins | In English and German | Australian Premiere

Director, Screenwriter: Jack Steele | Producer: Mitchell Stanley | Cast: Clarence Ryan, Julian Felix | Production Company: No Coincidence Media

When two First World War enemy soldiers become stranded in no man's land, an unlikely bond is formed. Will they still be able to pull the trigger if the time comes?

BLUE •



Screens with *Depraved*, page 50

USA | 2018 | 15 mins | In English Australian Premiere

Director, Screenwriter, Rights Holder: Samantha Severin | Producer: Andrew Nisinson | Cast: Veronika Vilim

A nameless girl spends her nights alone speaking to strangers on her webcam.

BLUE •



Screens with *The Amorous Indies* and *Minor History*, page 38

France, Thailand | 2018 | 13 mins

No dialogue | Australian Premiere

Director: Apichatpong Weerasethakul | Producers: Philippe Martin, Dimitri Krassoulia-Vronsky, Laurent Métiévier | Cast: Jenjira Pongpas Widner | World Sales: Les Films Pelléas

A hushed, somnolent, yet unsettling short by Thai master Apichatpong Weerasethakul.

CONNECTED POLACZENI



Screens with *Maiden*, page 30

Poland | 2018 | 19 mins | In Polish with English subtitles | Australian Premiere

Director, Screenwriter: Aleksandra Maciejczyk | Producer: Agata Golanska | KFF Sales & Promotion, Polish National Film School in Lodz

Blind Krzysztof goes skiing with Wiola, who is his wife and guide; a touching short documentary about love and passion.

THE DEAD ONES •



Screens with *Here Comes Hell*, page 50

UK | 2018 | 19 mins | In English

World Premiere

Director: Stefan Georgiou | Screenwriter: Fred Armesto | Producers: Elettra Pizzi, Ed Bugge | Cast: Olivia Hallinan, Sebastian Armesto, Vinette Robinson, Jim Conway | Production Company: 130 Elektra Films

Once you kill, you won't be alone anymore.

DOUG THE HUMAN •



Screens with *High Life*, page 19

Australia | 2019 | 13 mins | In English World Premiere

Director, Screenwriter: Gary Hamaguchi | Producer: Jodie Bell | Cast: Gabriel Willie | Production Company: Ramu Productions

An alien kidnaps a man (Gabriel Willie) and turns him into a pet.

A DRONE OPERA •



Screens with *Ray & Liz*, page 38

Australia | 2019 | 16 mins | In English World Premiere

Director, Rights Holder: Matthew Sleeth | Screenwriters, Producers: Matthew Sleeth, Kate Richards | Cast: Paul Hughes, Hamish Gould, Judith Dodsworth

A self-contained and uniquely seductive world, featuring custom built drones and live video feeds, laser set design, opera singers and an original libretto: a narrative of desire, fear and destruction.

ELDERS •



Screens with *Saving Seagrass* and *Warburda Bununu: Water Shield*, page 37

Australia | 2019 | 10 mins | In English

Australian Premiere

Director: Tony Briggs | Screenwriter: Tracey Rigney | Producer: Damien Pradier | Cast: Muraany Andy Harrison, Uncle Wayne Atkinson, Uncle Rob Briggs | Prod Co: Typecast

Two Elders feel that their grandson is old enough to start learning important lessons about his Country.

FALLING UP •



Screens with *Journey to a Mother's Room*, page 23

New Zealand | 2018 | 14 mins | In English Australian Premiere

Director, Rights Holder, Screenwriter: Chelsie Preston Crayford | Producer: Andrew Marshall | Cast: Chelsie Preston Crayford, Olive Crayford Edwards, Anton Tenet

To survive the emotional wake of a family breakup, a young mother must learn the power of letting go.

FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT •



Screens with *Witkacy & Malinowski: a cinematic séance in 23 scenes*, page 38

Germany, Italy | 2018 | 30 mins In English and Italian with English subtitles Australian Premiere

Directors, Screenwriters: Maroan el Sani, Nina Fischer | Producer: Maroan el Sani | Cast: Soumaila Makadi, Charles Onyedieke | Production Company: Fischer & el Sani, Berlin

A re-contextualising of Africa's first Olympic gold medal winner, in present-day Rome.

G.D.P.: GRANDMA'S DANGEROUS PROJECT



Screens with *American Factory*, page 28 and *Sibel*, page 25

Macao | 2019 | 22 mins | In Cantonese with English subtitles | International Premiere

Director: Peeke Wong | Screenwriter: Kwok Chui Yi, Yuen Wan Shan, Peeke Wong | Producer: Rita Wong | Cast: May, Cheok Mei Leong, Mei Kun Sam, Clara, Hang Chu

Three disillusioned grannies have a crazy idea. They plan to rob a bank so that they are sent to jail, and won't need to worry about anything anymore.

THE GRAVEDIGGER OF KAPU •



Screens with *Daffodils*, page 36

New Zealand | 2018 | 16 mins | In English and Māori with English subtitles Australian Premiere

Director, Screenwriter: Libby Hakaraia | Producer: Tainui Stephens | Cast: Jim Moriarty, Tanira Cooper, Julia Wanu | Festival Contact: New Zealand Film Commission

Hone is the last of the old-time grave diggers, linking the living with the dead and keeping their secrets, but he's worried his apprentice may not be up to the task.

HEARTH •



Screens with *Why Don't You Just Die!*, page 50

Canada | 2019 | 11 mins | In French with English subtitles | Australian Premiere

Director, Screenwriter: Sophie B Jacques | Producers: Charlotte Beaudoin-Poisson, Sophie Ricard-Harvey | Cast: Marilyn Castonguay, Marianne Farley, Joël Marin | World Sales: H264 Distribution

When Emilie returns home after renting her house to strangers, we witness what actually happened during her absence.

HINEKURA • •



Screens with *The Heart Dances*, page 36

New Zealand | 2019 | 18 mins | In Māori with English subtitles
 Director, Screenwriter: Becs Arahanga
 Producers: Sharlene George, Kath Akuhata-Brown | Cast: Te Ohorene Reneti, Kahumaka Rameka, Jarod Rawiri | Rights Holder: Awa Films Ltd

A young woman's rite of passage as she faces her destiny, finally understanding her place as a protector of her people.

HOW TO BE ALONE •



Screens with *The Wind*, page 50

USA | 2018 | 13 mins | In English
 Australian Premiere
 Director, Screenwriter: Kate Trefry
 Producers: John Trefry, James Mitchell, David Carrico | Cast: Maika Monroe, Joe Keery | World Sales: 4WT Media

One woman's simple, three-step guide to surviving a night on your own.

HUSH •



Screens with *Stupid Young Heart*, page 40

New Zealand | 2019 | 15 mins | In English
 Australian Premiere
 Director: Amağan Ballantyne | Screenwriters: Amağan Ballantyne, María Inés Manchego
 Producer: Larisa Tiffin | Cast: Anthony Crum, Margaret Sydenham, Marshayla Christie
 Distributor: New Zealand Film Commission

Young woman Ava surprises her brother and friends when she suddenly turns up in her small home town with a secret.

I HOPE I'M LOUD WHEN I'M DEAD •



Screens with *My Nudity Means Nothing*, page 38

USA, Italy, UK | 2018 | 20 mins | In English
 Australian Premiere
 Director, Screenwriter: Beatrice Gibson
 Producer: Denna Cartamkhoob

By turns raucous and reserved, Beatrice Gibson's film ponders the future of a world in flux as seen through the eyes of motherhood accented by poets CACConrad and Eileen Myles.

LITTLE MISS SUMO



Screens with *Leftover Women*, page 29

UK | 2018 | 18 mins | In Japanese with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
 Director: Matt Kay | Producers: Andrew Carver, Didi Mae Hand | Festival Contact: David Magdai

Female sumo wrestling champion Hiroyi confronts obstacles both inside and outside the ring in an attempt to change Japan's national sport forever.

MAN IN THE WELL
JING LI DE REN

Screens with *Ghost Town Anthology*, page 23

China | 2018 | 16 mins | In Chinese with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
 Director, Screenwriter: Hu Bo | Producer: First International Film Festival | Cast: Xiaoqian Zhang, Yi Qi, Tiegung Gao
 World Sales: Rediance

Apocalypse. Two starving kids find a dead body in the ruins... Directed by Hu Bo (*A Elephant Sitting Still*, SFF 2018).

A MATTER OF TIME •



Screens with *Sandgirl*, page 39 and *Ladyworld*, page 24

New Zealand | 2018 | 16 mins | In English
 World Premiere
 Director, Screenwriter: Paula Whetu Jones
 Producer: Tanya Haitoua-Cathro | Cast: Steven Glyde, Connor Gray, Collin Renju
 Festival Contact: New Zealand Film Commission

A confronting and dynamic film following five teenagers as they juggle school while trying to cope with their own personal hardships.

RŪ • •



Screens with *The Body Remembers When the World Broke Open*, page 37

New Zealand | 2019 | 16 mins | In English and Māori with English subtitles
 World Premiere
 Director: Awanui Simich-Pene | Screenwriters: Awanui Simich-Pene, Sebastian Hurrell
 Producers: Lindsay Gough, Awanui Simich-Pene
 Cast: Miriama McDowell, Richard Te Are
 Festival Contact: New Zealand Film Commission

An anxious mother-to-be driving through the night has to find strength in adversity.

SHED •



Screens with *The Third Wife*, page 50

Australia | 2019 | 15 mins | In English
 Australian Premiere
 Director, Screenwriter: Chantelle Murray
 Producer: Dena Curtis | Cast: Magnolia Maymuri, Thomas Weatherall, Todd Susic
 Production Company: Inkey Media

An Aboriginal girl held captive and at the mercy of the station's stockmen makes an unlikely friend and finds the courage to set herself free.

SKIN



Screens with *aKasha*, page 21

USA | 2018 | 21 mins | In English
 Australian Premiere
 Director: Guy Nattiv | Screenwriters: Guy Nattiv, Sharon Maymon | Producers: Guy Nattiv, Jaime Ray Newman, Andrew Carlberg, Tim Harris | Cast: Jonathan Tucker, Danielle Macdonald | World Sales: Salaud Morisset

In a small-town supermarket, a black man smiles at a white boy at the checkout. This innocuous moment has a shocking outcome. Academy Award, Best Live Action Short Film 2019.

TAKE •



Screens with *Walden*, page 38

Australia | 2019 | 10 mins | No dialogue
 Australian Premiere
 Director: Victoria Hunt | Screenwriters: Margot Nash, Victoria Hunt | Producer: Margot Nash | Cast: Victoria Hunt
 Production Company: As If Productions

A dancer enters the liminal spaces between history and emotion to retell the story of her ancestral Māori meeting house Hinemihi o te Ao Tawhito.

TIES THAT BIND •



Screens with *She Who Must Be Loved*, page 37

Australia | 2019 | 12 mins | In English
 Australian Premiere
 Director, Screenwriter: Michael Hudson
 Producer: Gillian Moody | Cast: Kamil Ellis, Elaine Crombie | Rights Holder: Kalori Productions

A young man (Kamil Ellis) is at odds with his single mother (Elaine Crombie), who pushes him away with her bullying ways.

TUNGRUS



Screens with *The Biggest Little Farm*, page 18, 28

India | 2018 | 13 mins | In English and Hindi with English subtitles
 Director, Screenwriter, Festival Contact: Rishi Chandra

A bolshy pet rooster turns the domestic life of a Mumbai family upside down.

WAR MOTHERS:
UNBREAKABLE

Screens with *Midnight Traveller*, page 30

Australia, Ukraine | 2019 | 16 mins
 In Ukrainian with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
 Director: Stefan Bugryn | Screenwriter: Steven Zelko | Producers: Steven Zelko, Stefan Bugryn | Cast: Yana Zinkewych
 Festival Contact: Steven Zelko

As Ukraine goes to war, 18-year-old Yana puts aside her dreams of becoming a doctor and creates a national movement that almost costs her life.

MORE
SHORT
FILMS

- Australian short films in competition for the Dendy Awards on page 16
- Lexus Short Film Fellowship winners on page 8
- Screenability short films on page 39
- Agnès Varda shorts in the Viva Varda retrospective on pages 44 and 45



The Festival's outdoor screen returns to Pitt St Mall for 12 days of SFF. Catch trailers for must-see Festival films, footage from the red carpet, bite-size animation and more on the giant double-sided screen. Catch SFF TV in the Pitt St Mall between 8am and 10pm during the Festival.



THE FALLS

AUSTRALIA | 2019 | 12 mins loop | World Premiere | Director, Screenwriter, Producer: Dr Gregory Ferris
The Falls is the new immersive cinema project by Dr Gregory Ferris (*Only at the Air, Only at Each Other*, SFF 2017). The cinematic installation will screen as a continual loop in the UTS Data Arena at the University of Technology, Sydney, on Friday 14 June. Using a 360-degree, stereoscopic, panoramic projection system, the work mixes 3D imagery, live action and computer visualisations. Part Kubrick, part Lynch, *The Falls* is an immersive experimental drama that loops in and around the last few minutes of the life of an aging stuntman (Cameron Stewart), as he reflects on the past, the present, and his many near death experiences.

OPEN FRI 14 JUN 10:00 AM TO 5:30 PM | UTS DATA ARENA | FREE – BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL
 See sff.org.au for more information and to book



Freak Me Out rolls out the blood-red carpet once again with a carefully curated collection of strange delights from the wild side of contemporary cinema.

Richard Kuipers
Guest Programmer

COME TO DADDY



FRI 14 JUN 8:45 PM DNEW
SUN 16 JUN 6:30 PM EV5

18+

New Zealand, Canada, Ireland | 2019 | 95 mins
In English

Director: Ant Timpson | Screenwriter: Toby Harvard
Producers: Emma Slade, Laura Tunstall, Mette-Marie Kongsved, Daniel Beckerman, Katie Holly | Cast: Elijah Wood, Martin Donovan, Stephen McHattie
Distributor: Umbrella Entertainment

The directorial debut of ace Kiwi genre producer Ant Timpson (*Deathgasm*, SFF 2015) tells a fiendishly funny tale of crime, cadavers and father-son "issues".

35-year-old Norval (Elijah Wood) hasn't seen his dad since he was five. Out of the blue he receives a heartfelt letter asking him to visit. What's a nerdy and needy son to do except drop everything and trek out to dad's funky, flying saucer-shaped house in the middle of nowhere? It's an understatement to say that Norval's desperately longed-for bonding with his father gets off to a rather shaky start. Featuring a stellar cast including Wood, Madeleine Sami (*The Breaker Upperers*, SFF 2018) and indie film legends Stephen McHattie and Martin Donovan, *Come to Daddy* is a "family film" with a demented, deadly and freakin' funny difference.

Festival guest: Ant Timpson

DANIEL ISN'T REAL



FRI 7 JUN 8:30 PM DNEW
SUN 9 JUN 9:00 PM EV9

15+

USA | 2019 | 96 mins | In English | Australian Premiere
Director: Adam Egypt Mortimer | Screenwriters: Adam Egypt Mortimer, Brian DeLeeuw | Producers: Daniel Noah, Josh C. Waller, Lisa Whalen, Elijah Wood
Cast: Patrick Schwarzenegger, Miles Robbins, Sasha Lane
World Sales: Voltage Pictures

An imaginary childhood friend returns with malevolent intentions in a scary and stylish psycho-horror that wowed audiences and critics at SXSW.

Adam Egypt Mortimer (*Some Kind of Hate*) nails it with a mind-bending adaptation of co-writer Brian DeLeeuw's novel *In This Way I Was Saved*. As a troubled boy, Luke's bestie was imaginary playmate Daniel. That's before Luke's mentally ill mother forced him to lock Daniel away. Luke's now a socially awkward student whose counsellor suggests he "unlock" his old friend. It seems like a great idea – at first. Daniel's become a smooth talkin' cool cat who helps Luke hook up with artist Cassie. But there's something much deeper and darker on Daniel's extremely twisted mind. This exercise in emotional duality and urban paranoia is a cosmic fever-dream that lingers long after the end credits have rolled.

DARK PLACE



SAT 15 JUN 8:45 PM DNEW
SUN 16 JUN 6:30 PM DNEW

15+

Australia | 2019 | 75 mins | In English | World Premiere
Directors: Björn Stewart, Perun Bonser, Kodie Bedford, Liam Phillips, Rob Braslin | Producers: Majid Heath, Hayley Johnson | Production Company: Noble Savage Productions | For full credits, visit sff.org.au

A very special SFF and FMO presentation: the world premiere of Australia's first-ever Indigenous horror anthology. Five terrifically twisted tales by five Indigenous filmmakers.

Australian genre cinema takes an exciting leap forward with *Dark Place*, a quintet of tales that approach post-colonial Indigenous history through the lenses of horror and fantasy. Björn Stewart brings outback zombies into the frame in the rollicking splatter comedy *Killer Native*. An insomniac questions her sanity in Liam Phillips's suspenseful *Foe*. Supernatural forces visit a housing commission estate in the gritty *Vale Light* by Rob Braslin. Gothic horror shrouds the woods in Perun Bonser's atmospheric *The Shore*, and female oppression and revenge take centre stage in Kodie Bedford's punchy *Scout*. New voices with fresh and highly imaginative perspectives light up this *Dark Place*.

Festival guests: members of the film teams

DEPRAVED



WED 5 JUN 8:15 PM EV9
MON 10 JUN 8:15 PM DNEW

18+

USA | 2019 | 114 mins | In English | Australian Premiere
Director, Screenwriter, Producer: Larry Fessenden
Cast: David Call, Joshua Leonard, Alex Breau
World Sales: Yellow Veil Pictures

The Frankenstein story comes alive in 21st century New York. Genre icon Larry Fessenden hands the surgical tools to a PTSD-afflicted doctor in this stunning new take.

Mary Shelley's classic has inspired countless films since 1910. It's to the enormous credit of indie horror king Larry Fessenden (*Wendigo*) that *Depraved* feels so fresh. Frankenstein Castle is now a warehouse in Brooklyn occupied by Henry, a doctor haunted by memories of soldiers he couldn't save in Iraq. Bankrolling Henry is his ambitious businessman buddy Polidori. Then there's Alex, who wakes up after being stabbed and slowly realises he's the brain inside a stitched-together body named Adam. But is Adam any different from every other lost soul in New York? A scary, tense and darkly comic tale laced with hallucinatory imagery and driven by powerful emotion, *Depraved* is one hell of a horror movie.

Screens with *Blue*

HERE COMES HELL



SAT 8 JUN 9:00 PM EV9
TUE 11 JUN 8:30 PM DNEW

15+

UK | 2018 | 76 mins | In English | Australian Premiere
Director: Jack McHenry | Screenwriters: Alice Sidgwick, Jack McHenry | Producer: Olivia Loveridge | Cast: Tom Bailey, Timothy Renouf, Jessica Webber
Production Company: Trashhouse Films

Downton Abbey meets *The Evil Dead* in a fabulously funny and delightfully gruesome British romp set in a crumbling mansion in the 1930s.

I say now, what the Dickens is this? A tip-top comic horror pastiche, I'll be bound! The awfully good debut by director Jack McHenry and co-writer Alice Sidgwick unfolds in a classic Old Dark House. Cravat-wearing toff Victor just bought the decrepit pile and has invited his chums for the weekend. Delightfully drawn archetypes in attendance include acid-tongued socialite Christine, dishy tennis player Teddy and his nervous new girlfriend Elizabeth. The thing is, you see, Victor's new digs are supposedly haunted, and he thinks it'd be simply capital fun to hold a séance. What follows is wonderfully witty and bloody entertainment with a jolly good bolt of modern girl-power lightning, to be sure.

Screens with *The Dead Ones*

THE WIND



THU 6 JUN 8:35 PM EV9
WED 12 JUN 8:30 PM EV9

15+

USA | 2018 | 86 mins | In English | Australian Premiere
Director: Emma Tammi | Screenwriter: Teresa Sutherland
Producers: Christopher Alender, David Grove Churchill Viste
Cast: Caitlin Gerard, Julia Goldani Telles, Ashley Zukerman
Distributor: Umbrella Entertainment

When a woman moves to the Western frontier to settle in with her husband, an evil presence roaming the plains soon begins to torment her.

We're not riding the range with cowboys in this highlight of Toronto's Midnight Madness programme. We're inside one of those cabins in the middle of a windswept nowhere, where women fended for themselves while men conquered the land and other men. Caitlin Gerard (*Insidious: The Last Key*) is superb as Lizzy Macklin. Her grip on reality begins to crumble in the long absences of husband Isaac, as she battles isolation, madness and spiritual demons. Flashbacks and flashes-forward show the couple's intriguing relationship with neighbour Gideon and his flighty and superstitious wife Emma, who believes demons roam the prairie. This beautifully photographed tale grabs you from its explosive opening scenes and never lets go.

Screens with *How to Be Alone*

WHY DON'T YOU JUST DIE!

PAPA, SDOKHNI



SUN 9 JUN 8:50 PM DNEW
THU 13 JUN 8:45 PM EV9

18+

Russia | 2019 | 100 mins | In Russian
with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Kirill Sokolov | Producer: Sofiko Kiknavelidze | Cast: Vitaliy Khaev, Aleksandr Kuznetsov, Evgeniya Kregzhde
World Sales: White Mirror Film Company

The first feature by young Russian director Kirill Sokolov is a jaw-dropping crime-thriller with gallons of gore, super-stylish visuals and a very wicked sense of humour.

Revenge, blackmail and spectacularly dysfunctional family dynamics are the dishes served up in 29-year-old Kirill Sokolov's dazzling debut. The deceptively simple story centres on Matvei, a nervous young guy who arrives at a Moscow apartment with a hammer in his hand and murder on his mind. Inside is Andrei, a hulking police detective and father of Matvei's girlfriend, Olya. It's not long before all blood-spurring hell breaks loose and Sokolov's non-linear screenplay gives us the meticulously mapped-out dope on everyone involved in the mounting mayhem. This furiously-paced fireball is fabulously performed by a game cast and marks the arrival of an exciting new talent on the world cinema stage.

Screens with *Hearth*



SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL HUB

Ben Mendelsohn in conversation with David Caesar,
at the Hub at SFF 2017

The Sydney Film Festival Hub at Town Hall is the heart of the Festival. Drop by the bar between films and grab a drink from our partners Archie Rose Distilling Co., Handpicked Wines and Young Henrys.

While you're there, join in with filmmaker talks and Q&As, extend your film moment with themed parties, and pick up discounted tickets at the Hub box office. In a first for the Festival, The Hub will screen shortlisted films from the inaugural IGTV Film Festival.

ARCHIE ROSE
DISTILLING CO.

HANDPICKED
WINES

YOUNG
HENRYS

DISCOUNT TICKETS

Purchase \$10 tickets (with no booking fee!) to selected SFF screenings, only in person at the Hub Box Office (open daily from 4:30pm to 8:30pm weekdays and 11:30am to 8:30pm weekend and public holiday Monday 10 June).

OPEN DAILY 6-16 JUNE

Tuesday to Friday: 4:30pm until late
Saturday 8 and 15 June: 11:30am until late
Sunday 9 June: 11:30am until late
Monday 10 June: 11:30am until late
Sunday 16 June: 11:30am to 6pm

ALL EVENTS ARE FREE

HAPPY HOUR!

Stop by the Hub between 4:30pm to 6pm on weekdays for drink specials, along with tastings and special experiences.

PARTIES AT THE HUB

Extend your film experience with a party at the Hub alongside your screening, with live music and entertainment immersing you inside the world of the Festival. Hurl yourself headfirst into parties celebrating riot grrrl punk rock, the tunes of Bruce Springsteen, a celebration of the IGTV Film Festival, Jim Jarmusch's *Zombie Jam*, an under-20s hang-out with filmmakers, and more.

SEE THE HUB SCHEDULE BELOW FOR DATES AND TIMES AND SFF.ORG.AU FOR MORE INFO.

INSTAGRAM LOUNGE

Watch the IGTV Film Festival finalists

Explore the Instagram Lounge and watch the finalists of the first-ever IGTV Film Festival – a competition for young filmmakers to submit their vision of Australia's future using IGTV's ground-breaking vertical video format. One film will be announced as the winner during the festival, and you can vote for your favourite in the People's Choice Award! The IGTV Film Festival is presented by Instagram in partnership with Sydney Film Festival and VICE.

SEE PAGE 43 FOR COMPETITION DETAILS.

TALKS AND PARTIES AT THE HUB

WEEK 1

KEY • Special Events • Party

FRI 7 JUN

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM Q&A: JIALING ZHANG

SAT 8 JUN

1:00 PM – 3:00 PM **MEET THE FILMMAKERS**
A chance for under-20s to hear from the creatives behind *Suburban Wildlife* and *Sequin in a Blue Room* and hang out after

4:30 PM – 5:30 PM **AN AUDIENCE GUIDE TO VARDA**

7:30 PM – 9:00 PM **SPINNING SPRINGSTEEN**
(BEFORE *BLINDED BY THE LIGHT*)

SUN 9 JUN

11:30 AM – 12:30 PM **THE FINAL QUARTER**

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM **MEET THE FILMMAKERS: JUDY & PUNCH**

3:00 PM – 4:00 PM **IN CONVERSATION: EUROPE! VOICES OF WOMEN IN FILM**

5:00 PM – 6:00 PM **EXTENDED Q&A: WAGNER MOURA**

9:30 PM – 12:00 AM **GRRRL'S PUNK RIOT (AFTER *HER SMELL*)**

MON 10 JUN

6:30 PM – 7:30 PM **ANNUAL IAN MCPHERSON LECTURE**
David Stratton interviews Rachel Ward

WEEK 2

TUES 11 JUN

6:15 PM – 7:15 PM **EXTENDED Q&A: FLORIAN HENCKEL VON DONNERSMARCK**

8:00 PM – 9:00 PM **ONE HEAT MINUTE @ SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL**

8:00 PM – 12:00 AM **THE IGTV FILM FESTIVAL PARTY**

FRI 14 JUN

8:15 PM – 9:15 PM **THE WORK OF FREDA GLYNN AND MERATA MITA**

8:30 PM – 12:00 AM **JIM JARMUSCH'S ZOMBIE JAM**
(AFTER *THE DEAD DON'T DIE*)

SAT 15 JUN

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM **MEET THE FILMMAKERS FROM OUR SCREENABILITY PROGRAM**

4:15 PM – 5:15 PM **TALKING EDITING**

7:00 PM – 8:00 PM **POETRY SLAM IN THE HUB**

SUN 16 JUN

11:30 AM – 12:30 PM **MEET THE FILMMAKER: BEN LAWRENCE**

2:15 PM – 3:15 PM **MEET THE FILMMAKER: BONG JOON-HO**



TALKS AT THE HUB

MEET THE FILMMAKERS AT THE FESTIVAL HUB

Check out sff.org.au/festival-hub for late additions.

AN AUDIENCE GUIDE TO VARDA



SAT 8 JUN 4:30 PM

Join the curator of our Viva Varda retrospective, ACMI's Kristy Matheson, and other experts as they look at the influence and impact of the French director's extraordinary body of work.

MEET THE FILMMAKERS: JUDY & PUNCH



SUN 9 JUN 1:30 PM

Following the screening of *Judy & Punch*, join director Mirrah Foulkes, producers Nash Edgerton and Michele Bennett, and cast members Mia Wasikowska and Damon Herriman, as they discuss the making of this new Australian film.

IN CONVERSATION: EUROPE! VOICES OF WOMEN IN FILM



SUN 9 JUN 3:00 PM

While gender parity has proven an important topic of discussion in the film industry in recent years, has anything really changed? Filmmakers from Sydney Film Festival's Europe! Voices of Women in Film program discuss their experiences.

POETRY SLAM IN THE HUB



SAT 15 JUN 4:45 PM

Following the screening of the new Australian film *Slam*, directed by Sydney-based Partho Sen-Gupta, and shot in Bankstown, join us in the Festival Hub for a poetry slam.

AFTER THE MOVIE DISCUSSIONS IN THE MARCONI ROOM (Up the Steps at SFF Hub, Town Hall)

JIALING ZHANG



FRI 7 JUN 4:00 PM

Hosted by The University of Sydney and following the screening of *One Child Nation*, join co-director Jialing Zhang to discuss the making of this award-winning documentary.

ONE HEAT MINUTE @ SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL



TUES 11 JUN 8:00 PM

Voted in *New York Magazine's* Vulture's "Top 100 Podcasts", Blake Howard's minute-by-minute podcast examining Michael Mann's 1995 crime opus is back to the Festival for another year, and another live episode.

EXTENDED Q&A: WAGNER MOURA



SUN 9 JUN 5:00 PM

Meet *Narcos* actor turned director Wagner Moura, following the screening of his feature *Marighella* in an extended Q&A with film journalist Sandy George.

EXTENDED Q&A: FLORIAN HENCKEL VON DONNERSMARCK



TUES 11 JUN 6:15 PM

Join film critic David Stratton and Festival guest Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck to discuss his unique film, *Never Look Away*, and his approach to making it.

THE WORK OF FREDA GLYNN AND MERATA MITA



FRI 14 JUN 8:15 PM

Hosted by UNSW Arts & Social Sciences: the filmmakers behind *She Who Must Be Loved* and *Merata: How Mum Decolonised the World* discuss the ground-breaking work of trailblazers Freda Glynn and Merata Mita.

VIVID IDEAS AND SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL PRESENT A SERIES OF FILMMAKER TALKS

Vivid Ideas is thrilled to be partnering with SFF to present a number of talks celebrating Australian talent and exploring the future direction of the Australian film industry.

In 2019 Vivid Ideas investigates the impact of technology on human behaviour and relationships and turns the spotlight on how storytelling can create a more empathetic and harmonious society. *The Final Quarter* by Ian Darling and *Heart and Bones* by Ben Lawrence are powerful examples of how film can move the conversation forward.

Proudly owned, managed
and produced by



Vivid Collaborator



THE FINAL QUARTER



SUN 9 JUN 11:30 AM | MARCONI ROOM,
UP THE STEPS AT SFF HUB @ TOWN HALL

Following the screening of *The Final Quarter*, join *Margrook Footy Show's* Shelley Ware and a panel featuring director Ian Darling, Indigenous and non-Indigenous media, political and sporting commentators to discuss the implications of this powerful film.

ANNUAL IAN MCPHERSON MEMORIAL LECTURE



MON 10 JUN 6:30 PM
SFF HUB @ TOWN HALL

David Stratton's annual Ian McPherson Lecture invites renowned Australian actor, director and screenwriter Rachel Ward to the stage to discuss her long and diverse career to date.

MEET THE FILMMAKERS FROM OUR SCREENABILITY PROGRAM



SAT 15 JUN 4:00 PM
HOYTS EQ

Join our Screenability Programmer, Sofya Gollan, filmmakers from our Screenability Program and Festival Guest actor RJ Mitte (*Breaking Bad*; *Standing Up for Sunny*, SFF 2019) to discuss the importance of authenticity in film.

TALKING EDITING



SAT 15 JUN 4:15 PM | MARCONI ROOM,
UP THE STEPS AT SFF HUB @ TOWN HALL

In conjunction with the Australian Screen Editors we meet the master editors behind some of this year's Festival features, to discuss the role of editing in story-telling.

MEET THE FILMMAKER



SUN 16 JUN 11:30 AM | MARCONI ROOM,
UP THE STEPS AT SFF HUB @ TOWN HALL

Following the screening of *Heart and Bones*, join director Ben Lawrence (last year's winner of the Documentary Australian Foundation Award) to discuss his debut feature with *SMH's* Garry Maddox.



RESTAURANT PARTNERS

Hungry? Every year, the Festival teams up with some of Sydney's favourite restaurants to offer great savings exclusively for Festivalgoers.

Whether you've worked up an appetite after a full day of film or looking for a pre-premiere bite near a cinema, a meal at one of SFF's 13 Restaurant Partners will enhance your Festival experience.

HOW IT WORKS:

Book ahead and mention Sydney Film Festival Restaurant Partners or show your ticket on arrival to get the deal.

Cafe Sydney is a proud partner of SFF and welcomes Festivalgoers throughout the Festival. Deals are valid during Sydney Film Festival 5-16 June 2019, and are not available in conjunction with any other offers.

ABODE BISTRO & BAR



\$39PP

TWO COURSE PRE-THEATRE SET MENU INCLUDING A MAIN AND DESSERT. AVAILABLE FROM 5PM, BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL

150 Day Street
(02) 9260 2945 | www.abodebistro.com
Sunday & Monday 3:30pm – late
Tuesday to Saturday 11:30am – late

Sydney's award-winning restaurant, located at PARKROYAL Darling Harbour, offers diners and hotel guests a stylish and contemporary restaurant and bar. The menu revolves around modern Australian cuisine with a focus on fresh flavours and locally sourced produce, and a drinks menu that's sure to quench your thirst with a range of boutique wines, craft beer and signature cocktails.

Accessible bathrooms and wheelchair access available.

AZUMA



\$60PP

ASSORTED SASHIMI, SUSHI AND MISO SOUP WITH A DRINK. AVAILABLE 5.45PM – 7.30PM (MUST VACATE TABLE BY 7:30PM)

Level 1 Chifley Plaza, 2 Chifley Square
(02) 9222 9960 | www.azuma.com.au
Monday to Friday 12pm – 2:30pm
Monday to Saturday 6pm – 10pm
Closed Monday 10 June

Enjoy Kimikata Azuma's spectacular Japanese dishes during the Festival. Celebrating 24 years of success in 2019, this stylish restaurant owes its white hat status to dishes that elevate Japanese fare to high art. Visit for a dining experience with a real sense of occasion.

Wheelchair accessible with accessible restrooms. Restrooms are located outside of the restaurant but on the same floor.

BARREL BAR & DINING



BUY THREE PLATES AT THE BAR AND GET ONE FREE

3/362 Military Road, Cremorne
(02) 9904 5687 | www.barrelbar.com.au
Monday to Friday 5pm – 11pm
Saturday 12pm – 11pm | Sunday 12pm – 10pm

Barrel Bar & Dining is situated just a few doors down from Cremorne's iconic Orpheum theatre, and has established itself as one classy watering hole. Owners and sommeliers Tony Binning (Gordon Ramsay's, London) and Alex Searle (Momofuku) joined forces with head chef Jeremy Pace (Guillaume at Bennelong) for this wonderful bar/eatery. The menu features modern Australian cooking and changes regularly. With an eclectic mix of snacks, substantial share plates and a three or five course dining option, there's something to suit all appetites.

Accessible bathrooms and wheelchair access available.

BENTLEY RESTAURANT + BAR



27 O'Connell Street
(02) 8214 0505 | www.thebentley.com.au
Monday to Friday 12pm – 3pm
Monday to Saturday 6pm – 12am

Bentley Restaurant + Bar offers creative, innovative food by Brent Savage and an extraordinary wine list by Nick Hildebrandt. Set in an industrial-chic space in Sydney's CBD, Bentley Restaurant offers both a-la-carte and tasting menus including a vegetarian tasting menu, whilst the Bentley Bar has a fun menu that's perfect for pre- or post-film dining. Bentley Restaurant + Bar has retained two chefs hats for the past 12 years.

Accessible bathrooms and wheelchair access available.

BOPP & TONE



\$55PP

A DELICIOUS SHARED FEAST INCLUDING OUR CHEF'S SELECTIONS FROM THE MENU

60 Carrington St
(02) 9299 9997 | www.boppandtone.com.au
Monday to Saturday 11.30am – late
Sundays closed

This CBD restaurant & bar is a tribute to the Applejack founders' grandfathers, Keith 'Bopp' Evans and Anthony 'Tone' Adams, reflecting the nostalgic and optimistic post WWII era they lived in. Embodying every day opulence and grandeur, the style is lived-in luxury, with a welcoming and relaxed atmosphere. The Australian menu centres around honest and generous share food with Mediterranean influences, predominantly cooked on the in-house wood grill or charcoal oven.

Accessible bathrooms and wheelchair access available.

FIX WINE BAR + RESTAURANT



\$45PP

HOUSE-MARINATED OLIVES AND A MAIN COURSE WITH A GLASS OF WINE, LUNCH OR DINNER

111 Elizabeth Street
(02) 9232 2767 | www.fixwine.com.au
Monday to Wednesday 12pm – 9pm
Thursday 12pm – 9:30pm
Friday 12pm – 10pm
Closed public holidays

Fix Wine Bar + Restaurant is a small, 60-seat spot with a great little front bar where you can eat, drink and chat to the team. The focus is on quality seasonal produce in the kitchen, and the 250+ wine list showcases handcrafted – often natural – wines from around the globe.

No accessible restrooms.

GOWINGS BAR & GRILL



\$85
SELECTED ENTRÉE AND MAIN COURSE
WITH A GLASS OF WINE OR COFFEE

QT Sydney, 1/49-51 Market St
(02) 8262 0062
www.qthotelsandresorts.com/sydney-cbd/eat-drink/gowings-bar-grill
Monday to Friday 12pm – 10pm
Saturday to Sunday 6pm – 10pm

Set on the first floor of QT Sydney, Gowings Bar & Grill is a bustling dining room featuring a market-type alley for the freshest of Australian ingredients, mixed with hand-picked products by artisan producers and the edgiest art in the restaurant world.

Accessible bathrooms and wheelchair access available.

LONG CHIM



\$45PP
FIVE DISHES FROM THE MAA LONG CHIM
MENU, WITH A GLASS OF WINE, BEER
OR SOFT DRINK

Cnr Pitt Street and Angel Place
(02) 9223 7999 | www.longchimsydney.com
Monday to Friday 11:30am – 10pm
Saturday 5pm – 10pm

'Long Chim' means come and try. With acclaimed chef David Thompson at the helm, the restaurant is faithful to the energy and flavours of Bangkok street food. Long Chim's food offerings are shared, and the menu offers a vibrant selection of fragrant, aromatic and spicy dishes to excite your taste buds.

We have full wheelchair access with an entrance on Angel Place that has a ramp into the venue, and a chair lift to allow people down to the lower dining room and accessible toilets.

LOTUS AT THE GALERIES



\$30PP
BASKET OF EIGHT MIXED DUMPLINGS WITH
A GLASS OF WINE; ADD ANOTHER GLASS OF
WINE FOR \$9

Level 1, 500 George Street
(02) 9267 3699 | www.lotusdining.com.au
Monday to Wednesday 12pm – 3pm,
5.30pm – 10pm
Thursday to Saturday 12pm – 3pm,
5.30pm – 11pm
Sunday 12pm – 3pm, 5.30pm – 9pm

A rich tapestry of the new world of Shanghaiese cuisine with a nod to Cantonese cuisine. Experience their famed Lotus dumplings with a selection of modern Chinese dishes showcasing the best Australian produce.

Accessible bathrooms and wheelchair access available.

MÉJICO



\$55PP
MÉJICO'S CLASSIC 'FEED ME' MENU
PLUS A BEER, WINE OR SOFT DRINK

105 Pitt St
(02) 9230 0119 | www.mejico.com.au
Monday to Saturday 12pm – 10pm
Sunday 9 June open for dinner only

From Mexico City to the Yucatan Peninsula, regional flavours and techniques are united in the dishes at Méjico, creating some of the finest modern, market-to-table Mexican food in Australia. From mouth-watering margaritas to guacamole made right before your eyes, this isn't your everyday Mexican street food. With an electric and lively atmosphere, one of the largest selections of tequila in the world and a menu that caters to every whim, Méjico is Sydney's go-to Mexican destination.

Wheelchair accessible.

PLATFORM 818



\$55PP
TWO COURSES AND A DRINK (HOUSE
SIGNATURE HIGHBALL COCKTAIL, WINE
OR BEER). TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY;
BOOKINGS RECOMMENDED.

818 George Street, Chippendale
(02) 9217 6708 | www.platform818.com.au
Monday to Sunday 6pm – 9.30pm

Experience a modern take on classic Australian dishes made with locally sourced produce that once would have travelled from railway towns along the NSW goods line. Enjoy these dishes with our meticulous all-Australian wine list or carefully crafted highball cocktails. Hop on board as we take a palatable excursion through time.

RESTAURANT HUBERT



15 Bligh Street
(02) 9232 0881 | www.restauranthubert.com
Monday to Wednesday 5pm – 1am
Thursday and Friday 12am – 3pm, 5pm – 1am
Saturday 5pm – 1am

Hubert is a French restaurant in the heart of downtown Sydney, perfect for pre- or post-film dining. Live music every Wednesday and Thursday until late. *Steak-frites, escargots, crème caramel, Burgundy* and good times await.

Restaurant Hubert has wheelchair access.
Please call Hubert in advance to arrange access.

THE RITZ BAR



**\$5 FOR ANY HOUSE BEER, SPIRIT AND
WINE BY THE GLASS; \$10 FOR SELECTED
COCKTAILS; \$9 CHEESE PLATTER WITH
ANY DRINK PURCHASE**

Level 1 The Ritz Cinema Complex,
45 St Pauls Street, Randwick
(02) 8324 2500 | www.ritzcinema.com.au
Monday to Friday 8pm to 9.30pm
Saturday 2pm – 9.30pm
Sunday 2pm – 9.30pm

The Ritz Bar, upstairs at The Ritz Cinema, is open daily offering a wide range of craft beers, wines and spirits on the beautiful balcony. The staff are experienced in the art of mixology, with an incredible cocktail menu catering for the movie-loving crowd.

For information about accessibility at The Ritz Bar please call (02) 8324 2500.

SOCIALTABLE



www.socialtable.co/sydney

New experiences can be daunting at the best of times. Dinner with a group of strangers is beyond the bounds of most people's comfort zones. SocialTable hosts dinners that are focused on good people, genuine connections and nights to remember. We're a social dining platform that connects like-minded people over dinner – by allowing an individual to book and pay for a single seat at a group table as a way of meeting others. Think dining with strangers, but leaving with new friends. Our events are carefully planned, low-pressure, fun-filled and one you'll never forget. So whether you're an experienced film buff, a lover of rom-coms, want to make new friends, or maybe even meet that special someone, there's always a seat at our table with your name on it!

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WE WOULD LIKE TO CONGRATULATE AND THANK ALL OF OUR VOLUNTEERS, THE FILMMAKERS AND FESTIVAL GUESTS, FESTIVAL PARTNERS AND ALL OF THEIR TEAMS FOR THEIR HARD WORK AND GENEROSITY IN HELPING US PRESENT THE 2019 FESTIVAL.

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Retrospective Curator: Kristy Matheson

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Screenability Programming Intern: Rebecca McCormack

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Philanthropy Manager: Georgina Shepherd

Philanthropy Coordinator: Mel Piu

Development Coordinator: Todd Sutherland

Development Events Coordinator: Luisa Machielse

Development Intern: Jovan Tomasevic, Patrick Mckenzie

INDUSTRY

Industry and Guest Manager: Lisa Kitching

Industry Coordinator: Lies Bruines

Guest Coordinators: Ben Army, Bridget Geraghty,

Linus Gibson

Jury Coordinator: Maaike Allard

Industry Events Coordinator: Christel Meijel

Guest Assistant: Charlotte Youtlen

Transport Coordinator: Jamie Corson

Credits – Industry/Marketing: Linus Gibson

Industry Guests Interns: Rhea Thomas

PRODUCTION

Operations Manager: Amanda Baysari

Production Coordinator: Maeve Cunningham

Technical Consultant: Martin Van Broekhoven

CORPORATE

Finance and Administration Manager: Tracey Hurt

Assistant Accountant: Julie Gifford

Festival Administrator: Lauren Rendell

FILM ADVISORY PANEL

Simon Anlezark, Martha Ansara, Harry Avramidis, Conor Bateman, Jodi Brooks, Jessica Ellicott, Pat Fiske, Alissar Gazal, Helen Grace, Sam Griffin, Elena Guest, Enno Hermann, Zach Karpinelison, Karina Libbey, Susan Mackinnon, Jane Mills, Sevana Ohandjanian, Alyssa Orvis, Julia Overton, Andrew Perkin, Melba Proestos, Paul Robson, Katherine Rogers, Liz Stevens, Toni Stowers, Ashley Walker, Julian Wood, Tom Zubrycki.

DENDY AWARDS PRE-SELECTORS

Emily Avila, Kikki Dillon, Andrew Goldsmith, Kate Henshaw, Dominique Hinger, Jonathan Page

PRODUCTION

The Event Department: Natalie Butler

Event Technology Consulting: Peter Puchner Technical

Technical Direction Company: Michael Hassett,

Alex Rendell

Technical Event Services: Liz Astey, Andy Lysie

Constant Security: Andrew Constantinou

Constant Logistics: Eliza Ocana

Edge Digital: Scott Hayton, Glenn Butler

Chief Projectionists: Alan Butterfield, Phoebe Neil

TICKETING & APP

FERVE TICKETING:

Simon Mawdesley, Rob Raulings, Hanh Nguyen, Jacob

Evlington, Sarena Strong, Raymond Andrews, Maynard Payne

WEBSITE

ED.

Producer: Darla Smith

Designer: Elliot Schultz

Lead Developer: Daniel Lever

Developer: Bryn Shanahan

IT SUPPORT

eNEROS

Chief Technical Officer: Tristan Warner

Technical Operations Manager: Greg Krzeszkowski

Senior Projects Engineer: Jason Hill

Systems Engineer: Brendan Jeff

Project Manager: Thomas Kaestel

Client Services Manager: Nikki Mudge

CAMPAIGN CREATIVE

Creative Direction & Design: For The People

Creative Director: Jason Little

Design Director: Melissa Baillache

Strategy Director: Amanda Gordon

Designers: Rebecca Cini, Pete Conforto

Writer: Mat Groomie

SFF 2019 TVC

Produced by: Never Sit Still

SFF 2019 LAUNCH VIDEO

Director: William Suen

Producer/Assistant Director: Shiyang Zheng

Cinematographer: Benjamin Powell

Production Designer: Esther Rosenberg

Costume Designer: Alvina Chung

Talent: Natalie Tran

SFF 2019 SIZZLE REEL

Produced by: The Solid State

Project and Materials Coordination for SFF: Brock Taffe

SFF 2019 PHILANTHROPY TVC

SFF 2019 PHILANTHROPY TVC

Handcrafted by Animal Logic

Directed By: David Scott

Produced By: Amber Naismith

Narrated By: Rachel Ward AM

Composed By: Antony Partos

Concept, Animation and Production: Animal Logic

Illustrated By: Don Walker, Toby Grime, Felicity Coonan,

Michael Halford, David Scott

Edited By: Jonathan Tappin, David Scott

Picture Post: Alex Holcombe

Music and Sound Post: Sonar Music

Sound Design and Mix: Timothy Bridge

Executive Producer: Sophie Haydon

Producer: Haylee Poppi

Sound studios provided by: Soundfirm Australia

CEO: Roger Savage

Post Producer: Alex Doering

VO Recording Engineer: Will Carroll

TRAVEL AGENT

Showgroup (Film): Kerry Luxford, Carolyn Dean

International Event Coordinator Network (IECN): Iris Bartley

FREIGHT HANDLER

Trek Couriers: Neil Angwin

EVENTS HOSPITALITY AND ENTERTAINMENT LTD

Chief Executive Officer: Jane Hastings

STATE THEATRE

General Manager: Mark Harris

Theatre Manager: Jillian Belfield

Office and Finance Manager: Maddison Honeyman

Front of House Manager: Beaver Garland

Food and Beverage Manager: Stuart Greene

Maintenance Manager: Zulfikri Shahran

Production Manager: Scott Milander

Production Coordinator: Clark O'Neill

EVENT CINEMAS GEORGE STREET

General Manager Content Australia: Claire Gandy

General Manager, Film Festivals: Anthony Kierann

General Manager: Prakash Prabhakaran

Assistant General Manager: Ryan Lockard

Marketing Manager: Elizabeth Eid

Events and Group Booking Manager: Callie Hughton

Technical Manager: Tim O'Connell

DENDY CINEMAS

CEO: Sharon Strickland

Financial Controller Dendy/Icon: Leanne Brett

Head of Sales and Acquisitions – Theatrical: Nick Hayes

National Content & Programming Manager: Dom Irlinger

Marketing and Comms Manager: Gemma Mumford

National Operations Manager: Kathy Craig

General Manager, Newtown: Kilian Beaurand

General Manager, Opera Quay: Ellen Harvey

Facilities & Content Manager Sydney: Doug Munro

HOYTS ENTERTAINMENT QUARTER

Event Manager: Sam Barrow

Event Manager: Monique Crawford

Hoyts Cinema Technology Group: Dean Turner

HAYDEN ORPHEUM PICTURE PALACE CREMORNE

Deputy General Manager: Alex Temesvari

General Manager: Paul Dravet

Events Manager: Rachell Baker

Operations Manager: Sam Hanson

CASULA POWERHOUSE ARTS CENTRE

Director: Craig Donarski

Festival and Events Producer: Nikki Akbar

Technical Producer: Leigh Perrett

RITZ CINEMA

Cinema Owners: Lindy and Eddie Tamir

General Manager: Lachlan McLeod

Technical Manager: John Wilson

ART GALLERY OF NSW

Director: Michael Brand

Venue Manager: Caroline Harvey

Curator, Film: Ruby Arrowsmith-Todd

Projectionist: Jayson Richards

RESTAURANT PARTNERS

ABODE Bar & Bistro, Azuma, Barrel Bar & Dining, Bentley Restaurant + Bar, Bopp & Tone, Fix Wine Bar & Restaurant, Gownings Bar & Restaurant, Long Chim, Lotus at the Galleries, Mójico, Platform 818, Restaurant Hubert, The Ritz Bar

AND THE FOLLOWING COMPANIES

130 Elektra Films, 4WT Media, A. B. Seahorse Film Productions, ACMI, Apple, Arclight Films, Arenafilm, As If Productions, Autlook Filmsales, Banksio Films, Be For Films, Big World Cinema, Blessed Film Productions, Bonsai Films, Brown Cabs, Bunya Productions, Cascade Films, Cat & Docs, Celluloid Dreams, Cinephil, Cinetic Media, CJ Entertainment, Closer Productions, Cornerstone, CuriousWorks, Daricheh Cinema, Dark Matter, Decker Distribution Gmbh, Dialectic, Doc & Film International, Dogwoof, Dreamland/Salva Films, Inc., Eagle Rock Entertainment, Elle Driver, Experimental Forest Films, Fat Salmon, Felix Media, Festival de Cannes, Film Republic, Films Boutique, Films Transit, Filmside Productions, Fortissimo Films, Foxtel, Futurikon, Gittos Films, Good Egg Creative, Grand Illusions, H264 Distribution, IFM Film Associates, Illumination, Independent, Indie Sales, Inkey Media, International Film Festival & Awards, Macao, John Gillies, Jour2lets Sales, Jungle Entertainment, Kew Media Distribution, Latido Films, Les Films Peléas, Limelight Distribution, Lingo Pictures, Loco Films, Lucki Stipetic, Yolanda Lukowski, Luxbox, M-line Distribution, Madman Entertainment, Magnet Releasing, Magnolia Pictures, Media Luna, Memento Films International, MetFilm Sales, Mister Smith Entertainment, MK2 Films, Motto Pictures, National Film and Sound Archive, New Line, New Town Films, New Zealand Film Commission, New Zealand International Film Festival, Nikkatsu Corporation, No Coincidence Media, No Labels Media, Nobel Savage Productions, Ô Films, Oration Films, Palace Films, Park Circus Group, Picture Tree International Gmbh, Piece of Magic Entertainment, Potential Films, Projector Films, Pyramide International, Ramu Productions, Redance, Riatto Distribution, Rise and Shine World Sales, Roadshow Films, Ronin Films, Salaud Morisset, Saxal, Sbs International, See Pictures, SeuFilm/TVZero, Seville International, Shark Island Institute, Shark Island Productions, Sharp As Knives, Sighence Projects, Simpatico Films, Since1788 Productions, Sky Vision, Some Shorts, Somszech, Sony Pictures Releasing, Soul Vision Films, Steven Zeiko, Stick Figure Productions, Stray Dogs, Ben Stokes Studio/Canal, Submarine Entertainment, Susan Lane Studio, Syndicated Film Sales, Take Two Productions, The Bureau Sales, The Festival Agency, The Film Collaborative, The Film Sales Company, The Match Factory, The Works International, The Yellow Affair, Torstan Schulze, Transmission Films, Trashhouse Films, Typecast Pty Ltd, Umbrella Entertainment, Universal Pictures International, Universal Pictures Australasia, Vendetta Films, Voltage Pictures, Warner Bros., White Mirror Film Company LLC, Wide House, Wild Bunch, Work Lights Media, XYZ FILMS, Yellow Veil Pictures, Zipporah Films, and all the filmmakers who have supported SFF this year.

CALENDAR

TIMES DO NOT INCLUDE Q&AS

WEDNESDAY 5 JUNE													
VENUE	9AM	10AM	11AM	12PM	1PM	2PM	3PM	4PM	5PM	6PM	7PM	8PM	9PM
STATE												PALM BEACH 7:30 PM - 9:55 PM	p9
EV3											ANGELO 6:15 PM - 8:05 PM	p21	
EV4											THE WEDDING GUEST 6:30 PM - 8:04 PM	p26	
EV5											ANTHROPOCENE 6:45 PM - 8:12 PM	p28	
EV9												DIVINE LOVE 8:30 PM - 10:10 PM	p22
DOQ1											BAIT 6:00 PM - 7:28 PM	p22	
DOQ2											THE BIGGEST LITTLE FARM 6:15 PM - 8:00 PM	p18	
DNEW											UNTITLED AMAZING JOHN... 6:15 PM - 7:49 PM	p32	
DNEW											SCHOOL'S OUT 6:30 PM - 8:19 PM	p25	
DNEW											MILES DAVIS: BIRTH OF THE COOL 6:30 PM - 8:25 PM	p33	
HOC											THE WHITE CROW 6:30 PM - 8:37 PM	p26	
AGNSW												THE CHEATERS 7:15 PM - 8:48 PM	p46
THURSDAY 6 JUNE													
VENUE	9AM	10AM	11AM	12PM	1PM	2PM	3PM	4PM	5PM	6PM	7PM	8PM	9PM
STATE		THE MIRACLE OF THE... 10:00 AM - 11:55 AM	p30		JOURNEY TO A... 12:10 PM - 1:57 PM	p23	BUDDHA IN AFRICA 2:20 PM - 4:08 PM	p28	BAIT 4:30 PM - 5:58 PM	p22		THE SOUVENIR 6:15 PM - 8:15 PM	p13
EV3											LULU 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM	p15	
EV4											SKIN 6:15 PM - 8:13 PM	p19	
EV5											HALSTON 6:30 PM - 8:16 PM	p29	
EV9												QUEEN OF HEARTS 8:30 PM - 10:38 PM	p35
DOQ1											THE BODY REMEMBERS WHEN... 6:15 PM - 8:16 PM	p37	
DOQ2											THE EXTRAORDINARY... 6:30 PM - 8:02 PM	p22	
DNEW											JUST DON'T THINK... 6:30 PM - 7:46 PM	p29	
DNEW											SCHEME BIRDS 6:15 PM - 7:42 PM	p35	
HOC											THE THIRD WIFE 6:30 PM - 8:27 PM	p26	
RITZ											I AM MOTHER 6:30 PM - 8:39 PM	p23	
HEQ3											THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS 2 6:00 PM - 8:05 PM	p41	
FRIDAY 7 JUNE													
VENUE	9AM	10AM	11AM	12PM	1PM	2PM	3PM	4PM	5PM	6PM	7PM	8PM	9PM
STATE		WHEN TOMATOES... 10:00 AM - 11:17 AM	p35		THE THIRD WIFE 11:45 AM - 1:21 PM	p28	ONE CHILD NATION 1:45 PM - 3:15 PM	p31	ANGELO 3:45 PM - 5:35 PM	p21		PAIN AND GLORY 6:00 PM - 8:20 PM	p12
EV3											WHITE LIGHT 6:15 PM - 7:56 PM	p15	
EV4											BRITANNY RUNS A... 6:30 PM - 8:13 PM	p22	
EV5											PIRANHAS 6:00 PM - 7:57 PM	p25	
EV9												TRIXIE MATEL... 8:45 PM - 10:18 PM	p32
VMAX1												ONLY YOU 8:20 PM - 10:19 PM	p35
DOQ1		SATÁNTANGÓ 10:00 AM - 5:30 PM - INCLUDES INTERVALS										WALDEN 6:30 PM - 8:36 PM	p38
DOQ2												THE BEST OF DORIAN B. 6:00 PM - 7:46 PM	p34
DNEW												MIDNIGHT FAMILY 6:45 PM - 8:06 PM	p30
DNEW												DANIEL ISNT REAL 8:30 PM - 10:11 PM	p50
HOC												IN FABRIC 6:30 PM - 8:28 PM	p23
RITZ												QUEEN OF HEARTS PM - 8:23 PM	p35
RITZ												THE WEDDING GUEST 6:30 PM - 8:04 PM	p26
RITZ												LULU 6:15 PM - 7:45 PM	p15
RITZ												HER SMELL 6:30 PM - 10:45 PM	p23

SECTION

- Opening Night
- Closing Night
- Official Competition
- Documentary Australia Foundation Award
- Features
- Dendy Short Film Awards
- Special Presentations
- International Documentaries
- Sounds on Screen
- Europe! Voices of Women in Film
- Focus on New Zealand
- First Nations
- FLUX: Art+Film
- Screenability
- Family
- Classics Restored
- All Night Cine-Love In
- Viva Varda
- Essential Australian Women Directors
- Short Films
- Freak Me Out
- Animation
- Daytime Subscribers
- Evening Subscribers
- Flexipass not accepted
- Family Fun
- Screenability

VENUES

STATE

State Theatre

EV3, EV4, EV5, EV9, VMAX

Event Cinemas

George St

DOQ1, DOQ2, Dendy Opera Quays

DNEW

Dendy Newtown

AGNSW

Art Gallery of New South Wales

HOC

Hayden Orpheum

Cremorne

RITZ

The Ritz Cinema

Randwick

CASULA

Casula Powerhouse

Arts Centre

HEQ3, HEQ14, HEQ15

Hoyts Entertainment Quarter

No one under 18 is admitted to 18+ films. Children under 15 will only be admitted to 15+ films with a parent or guardian.

SATURDAY 8 JUNE															
VENUE	9AM	10AM	11AM	12PM	1PM	2PM	3PM	4PM	5PM	6PM	7PM	8PM	9PM	10PM	11PM
STATE	THE SOUVENIR 9:30 AM - 11:25 AM	p13	PAIN AND GLORY 11:45 AM - 1:40 PM	p12		YARDA BY ACNES 2:10 PM - 4:10 PM	p20		THE BIGGEST LITTLE FARM 4:30 PM - 6:15 PM	p18 & 28	JUDY & PUNCH 6:35 PM - 8:30 PM	p11	BLIND BY THE LIGHT 8:00 PM - 10:34 PM	p18	
EV3											MILES DAVIS: BIRTH OF THE... 8:35 PM - 8:30 PM	p33	CAVIAR 8:45 PM - 10:23 PM	p34	
EV4											THE WHITE CROW 6:15 PM - 8:22 PM	p26	AMERICAN WOMAN 8:55 PM - 10:46 PM	p21	
EV5				MEETING GORBACHEV 12:15 PM - 1:47 PM	p30	SEA OF SHADOWS 2:15 PM - 4:00 PM	p31	ALPHA, THE RIGHT TO KILL 4:30 PM - 6:04 PM	p21	MARTHA A PICTURE... 6:30 PM - 7:24 PM	p15	SUBURBAN WILDLIFE 8:45 PM - 10:18 PM	p25		
EV9								UP THE MOUNTAIN 4:05 PM - 6:11 PM	p32	RETROSPEKT 6:35 PM - 8:22 PM	p35	HERE COMES HELL 9:00 PM - 10:40 PM	p50		
DOQ1		MINOR HISTORY 10:00 AM - 11:40 AM	p38	A TALE OF THREE SISTERS 12:00 PM - 1:48 PM	p26	WHEN TOMATOES... 2:05 PM - 3:22 PM	p35	THE MIRACLE OF THE... 4:00 PM - 5:38 PM	p30	AKASHA 6:15 PM - 7:53 PM	p21	SCREWDRIVER 8:35 PM - 10:23 PM	p25		
DOQ2		MONROVIA, INDIANA 10:00 AM - 12:23 PM	p30	THE BRINK 12:45 PM - 2:17 PM	p28	THE EDGE OF DEMOCRACY 2:45 PM - 4:42 PM	p29	PAUSE 5:00 PM - 6:42 PM	p35	NOTHING FANCY... 7:10 PM - 8:30 PM	p30	MANTA RAY 8:45 PM - 10:31 PM	p24		
DNEW										INNA DE YARD: THE SOUL 5:45 PM - 7:24 PM	p33	HAPPY NEW YEAR, COLIN... 7:45 PM - 9:20 PM	p23	ALL NIGHT ONE LOVE-IN 10:00 PM - 6:48 AM	
DNEW										ONLY YOU 6:15 PM - 8:14 PM	p35	WHITE LIGHT 9:00 PM - 10:41 PM	p15		
HOC										THE PUBLIC 6:45 PM - 8:47 PM	p25				
HOC						THE DEPOSIT 2:00 PM - 3:33 PM	p34	MAIDEN 4:15 PM - 6:13 PM	p30				YULI 9:00 PM - 10:52 PM	p26	
AGNSW		MALCOLM 10:15 AM - 11:55 AM	p46	HIGH TIDE 12:30 PM - 2:24 PM	p47	SWEETIE 2:55 PM - 4:42 PM	p47								
RITZ										BRITTANY RUNS A... 7:00 PM - 7:58 PM	p22	ANIMALS 8:30 PM - 10:25 PM	p21		
RITZ								KURSK 4:30 PM - 6:27 PM	p24	SKIN 7:00 PM - 8:58 PM	p19				
HEQ15				TITO AND THE BIRDS 12:30 PM - 1:49 PM	p40	THE ELEPHANT QUEEN 2:15 PM - 3:56 PM	p40	EMU RUNNER 4:30 PM - 6:11 PM	p40						
CASULA											THE FINAL QUARTER 7:00 PM - 8:18 PM	p19			
SUNDAY 9 JUNE															
VENUE	9AM	10AM	11AM	12PM	1PM	2PM	3PM	4PM	5PM	6PM	7PM	8PM	9PM	10PM	11PM
STATE	THE FINAL QUARTER 9:30 AM - 10:58 AM	p19	JUDY & PUNCH 11:15 AM - 1:10 PM	p11	MARGHERELLA 1:30 PM - 4:13 PM	p19		AMAZING GRACE 4:45 PM - 6:13 PM	p33	PHOTOGRAPH 6:30 PM - 8:20 PM	p19	NEVER LOOK AWAY 8:35 PM - 11:54 PM	p12		
EV3				PAUSE 12:15 PM - 1:57 PM	p35	MARIANNE & LEONARD... 2:30 PM - 4:12 PM	p33	ONE CHILD NATION 4:30 PM - 6:00 PM	p31	ÖNDÖG 6:30 PM - 8:11 PM	p24	CLEAN UP 8:45 PM - 10:34 PM	p22		
EV4								THE PUBLIC 4:20 PM - 6:22 PM	p25	HER SWELL 6:45 PM - 9:00 PM	p23				
EV5				MANTA RAY 12:00 PM - 1:46 PM	p24	MAIDEN 2:15 PM - 4:13 PM	p30	WHAT WILL BECOME... 4:45 PM - 6:05 PM	p32	IN MY BLOOD IT RUNS 7:00 PM - 8:35 PM	p14				
EV9										PAPI CHULO 6:45 PM - 8:42 PM	p24	DANIEL ISN'T REAL 9:00 PM - 10:41 PM	p50		
DOQ1		SCHEME BIRDS 10:00 AM - 11:32 AM	p35	WITKACY &... 12:00 PM - 1:20 PM	p38	REASON 1:45 PM - 5:41 PM	p31	SHOOTING THE MAFIA 6:15 PM - 7:49 PM	p31	OUR TIME 8:15 PM - 11:12 PM	p24				
DOQ2		WHEN TOMATOES... 10:15 AM - 11:32 AM	p35	CAVIAR 12:15 PM - 1:53 PM	p34	TALKING ABOUT TREES 2:30 PM - 4:05 PM	p31	THE DEPOSIT 4:15 PM - 5:48 PM	p34	AMERICAN FACTORY 6:30 PM - 8:21 PM	p28	THE BRINK 8:45 PM - 10:17 PM	p28		
DNEW								THE BODY REMEMBERS WHEN... 4:30 PM - 6:31 PM	p37	SEA OF SHADOWS 6:45 PM - 8:30 PM	p31	WHY DON'T YOU JUST DIE! 8:50 PM - 10:41 PM	p50		
DNEW										ENDZEIT - EVER AFTER 6:30 PM - 8:05 PM	p34				
HOC										AMERICAN WOMAN 6:00 PM - 7:51 PM	p21	BLIND BY THE LIGHT 8:20 PM - 10:14 PM	p18		
HOC						SKIN 1:30 PM - 3:28 PM	p19	COLD SWEAT 4:00 PM - 5:28 PM	p22						
AGNSW		WAITING 10:15 AM - 12:00 PM	p47	BEDEVIL 12:30 PM - 2:07 PM	p47	LOVE SERENADE 2:45 PM - 4:38 PM	p47								
RITZ										YULI 6:15 PM - 8:07 PM	p26	THE NIGHTINGALE 8:30 PM - 10:31 PM	p24		
RITZ								HALSTON 4:00 PM - 5:46 PM	p29	THE MOUNTAIN 6:30 PM - 8:18 PM	p24				
HEQ15		MINUSCULE - MANDIBLES... 10:00 AM - 11:37 AM	p40	THE ELEPHANT QUEEN 12:00 PM - 1:41 PM	p40	EMU RUNNER 2:15 PM - 3:49 PM	p40	RINSIDE 4:30 PM - 6:09 PM	p40						
CASULA						COLD SWEAT 2:00 PM - 3:28 PM	p22				SCREWDRIVER 7:00 PM - 8:48 PM	p25			
MONDAY 10 JUNE															
VENUE	9AM	10AM	11AM	12PM	1PM	2PM	3PM	4PM	5PM	6PM	7PM	8PM	9PM	10PM	11PM
STATE	APOLLO 11 9:30 AM - 11:03 AM	p28	SKIN 11:20 AM - 1:18 PM	p19	SYNONYMS 1:45 PM - 3:48 PM	p19		PALM BEACH 4:15 PM - 6:00 PM	p19	MONOS 6:20 PM - 8:07 PM	p12	HIGH LIFE 8:45 PM - 10:53 PM	p19		
EV3				JOURNEY TO A MOTHER'S... 1:15 PM - 3:03 PM	p23	MARGHERELLA 3:30 PM - 6:13 PM	p23			LADYWORD 6:45 PM - 8:23 PM	p24				
EV4						THE MOUNTAIN 1:30 PM - 3:18 PM	p24	THIS IS NOT BERLIN 3:45 PM - 5:30 PM	p26	THE NIGHTINGALE 6:00 PM - 8:21 PM	p24				
EV5						AKASHA 1:45 PM - 3:29 PM	p21	UNTOUCHABLE 4:00 PM - 5:37 PM	p32	HAIL SATAN? 6:30 PM - 8:10 PM	p29				
DOQ1			MY NUDITY MEANS NOTHING 12:00 PM - 1:55 PM	p38	SATURDAY AFTERNOON 2:15 PM - 3:40 PM	p25	ALPHA, THE RIGHT TO... 4:45 PM - 6:19 PM	p21	SAVING SEAGRASS... 6:35 PM - 7:47 PM	p30					
DOQ2			HONEYLAND 12:15 PM - 1:41 PM	p29	UP THE MOUNTAIN 2:00 PM - 4:07 PM	p32	SIBEL 4:30 PM - 6:32 PM	p25	FLATLAND 6:45 PM - 8:42 PM	p23					
DNEW						PICTURE CHARACTER 4:15 PM - 5:35 PM	p31	MARTHA A PICTURE... 6:00 PM - 7:27 PM	p15	DEPRIVED 8:15 PM - 10:29 PM	p50				
DNEW								A DOG CALLED MONEY 4:00 PM - 5:29 PM	p33	INTERNATIONAL ANIMAL... 6:15 PM - 7:46 PM	p41				
HOC								PHOTOGRAPH 4:30 PM - 6:20 PM	p19						
HOC			A TALE OF THREE SISTERS 11:30 AM - 1:18 AM	p26	ONLY YOU 1:45 PM - 3:44 PM	p35				BRITTANY RUNS A... 7:00 PM - 8:43 PM	p22				
AGNSW		BLESSED 10:15 AM - 12:21 PM	p47	BEAUTIFUL KATE 12:45 PM - 2:35 PM	p47	THE BABADOOK 3:00 PM - 4:44 PM	p47								
RITZ								AMAZING GRACE 4:15 PM - 5:43 PM	p33	THE WHITE CROW 6:15 PM - 8:22 PM	p26				
RITZ						WHAT WILL BECOME... 2:00 PM - 3:20 PM	p32	PIRANHAS 4:00 PM - 5:52 PM	p25						
HEQ14						STUPID YOUNG HEART 2:30 PM - 4:32 PM	p40								
HEQ15				MINUSCULE - MANDIBLES... 12:30 PM - 2:07 PM	p40										
CASULA				THE ELEPHANT QUEEN 12:00 PM - 1:55 PM	p39										

TUESDAY 11 JUNE															
VENUE	9AM	10AM	11AM	12PM	1PM	2PM	3PM	4PM	5PM	6PM	7PM	8PM	9PM	10PM	11PM
STATE		NEVER LOOK AWAY 10:00 AM - 1:14 PM			p12	IN MY BLOOD IT RUNS 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM	p14	MONOS 4:00 PM - 5:47 PM	p12		BELBIRD 6:30 PM - 8:11 PM	p10		ROLLING THUNDER REVUE: A BOB DYLAN... 8:45 PM - 11:07 PM	p19
EV3											AMERICAN FACTORY 8:15 PM - 8:31 PM	p28			
EV4												DOLCE FINE GIORNATA 7:00 PM - 8:36 PM	p22		
EV5											CLEAN UP 6:30 PM - 8:19 PM	p22		SCHOOL'S OUT 8:30 PM - 11:05 PM	p25
EV9											ANTHROPOCENE... 6:45 PM - 8:12 PM	p28			
DOQ1											LEXUS FELLOWSHIP 7:00 PM - 8:14 PM		PRESENT PERFECT 8:35 PM - 10:49 PM		p38
DOQ2								THE BEST OF DORIAN B. 6:00 PM - 7:46 PM	p34				ON THE INSIDE OF A... 8:30 PM - 10:07 PM	p31	
DNEW											XY CHELSEA 6:30 PM - 8:02 PM	p32		HERE COMES HELL 8:30 PM - 10:05 PM	p50
DNEW											SAVING SEAGRASS... 6:45 PM - 7:57 PM	p37			
HOC											KURSK 6:30 PM - 8:27 PM	p24			
WEDNESDAY 12 JUNE															
VENUE	9AM	10AM	11AM	12PM	1PM	2PM	3PM	4PM	5PM	6PM	7PM	8PM	9PM	10PM	11PM
STATE		SYNONYMS 9:30 AM - 11:33 AM	p13	THE EDGE OF DEMOCRACY 11:45 AM - 1:42 PM	p29	BELBIRD 1:30 PM - 3:36 PM	p10	VISION PORTRAITS 4:05 PM - 6:11 PM	p39		DIRTY GOD 6:30 PM - 8:20 PM	p11		STANDING UP FOR SUNNY 8:45 PM - 10:35 PM	p20
EV3											SANCTUARY 6:15 PM - 7:45 PM	p15			
EV4											YULI 6:00 PM - 8:14 PM	p26		DAFFODILS 8:45 PM - 10:40 PM	p36
EV5														GHOST TOWN ANTHOLOGY 9:00 PM - 10:53 PM	p23
EV9											ETERNITY 6:45 PM - 7:51 PM	p42		THE WIND 8:30 PM - 10:14 PM	p50
DOQ1											REASON 6:15 PM - 10:11 PM				p31
DOQ2											LAMBS OF GOD 6:00 PM - 10:10 PM - INCLUDES INTERVAL				p41
DNEW											JUST DON'T THINK... 6:15 PM - 7:31 PM	p29		HER SMELL 8:05 PM - 10:20 PM	p23
DNEW											MY NUDDY MEANS NOTHING 6:00 PM - 7:45 PM	p38		SCHOOL OF SEDUCTION... 8:20 PM - 9:54 PM	p31
HOC											NEVER LOOK AWAY 6:30 PM - 9:44 PM				p12
AGNSW												LA POINTE COURTE 7:15 PM - 8:45 PM	p44		
THURSDAY 13 JUNE															
VENUE	9AM	10AM	11AM	12PM	1PM	2PM	3PM	4PM	5PM	6PM	7PM	8PM	9PM	10PM	11PM
STATE		ETERNITY 10:00 AM - 11:01 AM	p16		DIRTY GOD 11:45 AM - 1:30 PM	p11	DOLCE FINE GIORNATA 2:00 PM - 3:36 PM	p22	MERATA: HOW MUM... 3:55 PM - 5:27 PM	p30		GOD EXISTS, HER NAME... 6:15 PM - 8:00 PM	p11	SO LONG, MY SON 8:35 PM - 11:35 PM	p20
EV3															
EV4											DIVINE LOVE 6:00 PM - 7:58 PM	p22			
EV5											CAPITAL IN THE 21ST CENTURY 6:15 PM - 8:10 PM	p36		DAVID CROSBY: ... 8:45 PM - 10:20 PM	p33
EV9											MIDNIGHT TRAVELER 8:40 PM - 8:22 PM	p30		WHY DON'T YOU JUST DIE! 8:45 PM - 10:38 PM	p50
DOQ1											MINOR HISTORY 6:30 PM - 7:59 PM	p38		SATURDAY AFTERNOON 8:15 PM - 9:46 PM	p25
DOQ2											BUDDHA IN AFRICA 6:15 PM - 8:03 PM	p29		CLÉO FROM 5 TO 7 8:30 PM - 10:10 PM	p44
DNEW											SUBURBAN WILDLIFE 6:15 PM - 7:46 PM	p25		HAIL SATAN? 8:30 PM - 10:05 PM	p29
DNEW											UNTOUCHABLE 6:30 PM - 8:07 PM	p32			
DNEW											SANDGIRL 6:00 PM - 7:50 PM	p39			
HOC											PALM BEACH 6:30 PM - 8:15 PM	p9			
HOC														ANIMALS 8:30 PM - 10:24 PM	p21
RITZ											JUDY & PUNCH 6:30 PM - 8:20 PM	p11			

SECTION

- Opening Night
- Closing Night
- Official Competition
- Documentary Australia Foundation Award
- Features
- Dendy Short Film Awards
- Special Presentations
- International Documentaries
- Sounds on Screen
- Europe! Voices of Women in Film
- Focus on New Zealand

- First Nations
- FLUX: Art+Film
- Screenability
- Family
- Classics Restored
- All Night Cine-Love In
- Viva Varda
- Essential Australian Women Directors
- Short Films
- Freak Me Out
- Animation

- Daytime Subscribers
- Evening Subscribers
- Flexipass not accepted
- Family Fun
- Screenability

VENUES
STATE
State Theatre

EV3, EV4, EV5, EV9, VMAX
Event Cinemas
George St

DOQ1, DOQ2,
Dendy Opera Quays

DNEW
Dendy Newtown

AGNSW
Art Gallery of
New South Wales

HOC
Hayden Orpheum
Cremorne

RITZ
The Ritz Cinema
Randwick

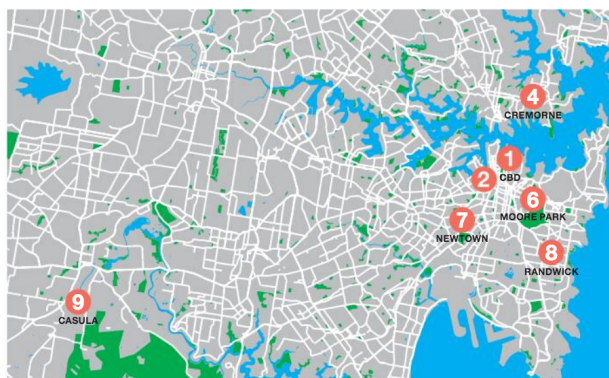
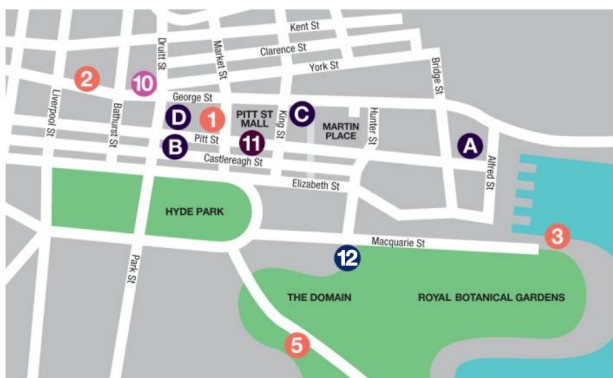
CASULA
Casula Powerhouse
Arts Centre

HEQ3, HEQ14, HEQ15
Hoyts Entertainment
Quarter

No one under 18 is admitted to 18+ films. Children under 15 will only be admitted to 15+ films with a parent or guardian.

FRIDAY 14 JUNE															
VENUE	9AM	10AM	11AM	12PM	1PM	2PM	3PM	4PM	5PM	6PM	7PM	8PM	9PM	10PM	11PM
STATE	THE HEART DANCES 9:30 AM - 11:14 PM			GOD EXISTS, HER NAME... 11:45 AM - 1:30 PM		QUEEN OF HEARTS 2:00 PM - 4:08 PM		PHOTOGRAPH 4:25 PM - 6:15 PM			THE DEAD DON'T DIE 6:30 PM - 8:22 PM		BACURAU 8:45 PM - 11:02 PM		
EV3										SHE WHO MUST BE LOVED 6:30 PM - 7:46 PM			SEQUIN IN A BLUE... 8:35 PM - 9:59 PM		
EV4										PAPI CHULO 6:15 PM - 8:13 PM			A DOG CALLED MONEY 8:30 PM - 10:16 PM		
EV5										JESUS 6:10 PM - 7:32 PM			SO LONG, MY SON 8:15 PM - 11:15 PM		
EV9										MAIDEN 6:00 PM - 7:58 PM					
DOQ1										LIONS LOVE (-AND LIES) 6:00 PM - 8:03 PM			VAI 8:30 PM - 10:05 PM		
DOQ2										COLD SWEAT 6:15 PM - 7:43 PM			OUR TIME 8:05 PM - 11:02 PM		
DOQ3										THE SWEET REQUIEM 6:30 PM - 8:36 PM					
DNEW										CAPITAL IN THE 21ST CENTURY 6:30 PM - 8:25 PM			THE CHILLS... 9:00 PM - 10:41PM		
DNEW										SCHOOL OF SEDUCTION 6:15 PM - 7:49PM			COME TO DADDY 8:45 PM - 10:39 PM		
DNEW										MY NAME IS DANIEL 6:00 PM - 7:44 PM					
HOC										THE SOUVENIR 6:15 PM - 8:10 PM			DAFFODILS 8:30 PM - 10:25 PM		
RITZ										THE PUBLIC 6:30 PM - 8:32 PM			HIGH LIFE 8:45 PM - 10:53 PM		
SATURDAY 15 JUNE															
VENUE	9AM	10AM	11AM	12PM	1PM	2PM	3PM	4PM	5PM	6PM	7PM	8PM	9PM	10PM	11PM
STATE	HONEYLAND 9:30 AM - 10:55 AM		BACURAU 11:15 AM - 1:32 PM			SLAM 2:05 PM - 4:05 PM			IT ALL STARTED WITH A... 4:35 PM - 6:15 PM		HEARTS AND BONES 6:45 PM - 8:37 PM		PARASITE 9:10 PM - 11:21 PM		
EV3								JESUS 4:30 PM - 5:52 PM			HALSTON 6:35 PM - 8:21 PM		FLATLAND 8:35 PM - 10:32 PM		
EV4											ANGER CLOSE: THE BATTLE OF... 6:15 PM - 8:20 PM		ANIMALS 9:00 PM - 10:49 PM		
EV5				LEFTOVER WOMEN 12:00 PM - 1:43 PM		MERATA: HOW MUM... 2:00 PM - 3:32 PM			DENDY SHORTS PROGRAM 4:15 PM - 6:20 PM		I AM NO BIRD 6:45 PM - 8:07 PM		HIGH LIFE 8:45 PM - 10:53 PM		
EV9									THE WANDERING CHIEF 4:30 PM - 6:00 PM		DAVID CROSBY... 6:30 PM - 8:05 PM		IN FABRIC 9:00 PM - 10:28 PM		
DOQ1		WALDEN 10:00 AM - 11:56 AM			MIDNIGHT FAMILY 12:45 PM - 2:06 PM		SIBEL 2:45 PM - 4:21 PM		PICTURE CHARACTER 5:15 PM - 6:35 PM		SHE WHO MUST BE LOVED 7:00 PM - 8:45 PM				
DOQ2		TALKING ABOUT TREES 10:15 AM - 11:45 AM		MONROVIA, INDIANA 12:00 PM - 2:23 PM			MUR MURS 2:35 PM - 4:36 PM		VARDA BY AGNÈS 4:50 PM - 6:55 PM		ONDÖG 7:10 PM - 8:46 PM		HAPPY NEW YEAR, COLIN... 9:00 PM - 10:35 PM		
DOQ3		SATANTANGÓ 10:30 AM - 6:00 PM - INCLUDES INTERVALS									WITKACY &... 6:30 PM - 7:40 PM				
DNEW											LADYWORLD 6:30 PM - 8:23 PM		DARK PLACE 8:45 PM - 10:20 PM		
DNEW								SEQUIN IN A BLUE... 4:30 PM - 5:54 PM			MONOS 6:45 PM - 8:27 PM				
HOC											WHAT WILL BECOME... 6:15 PM - 7:35 PM		PAIN AND GLORY 8:30 PM - 10:25 PM		
HOC									GOD EXISTS, HER NAME IS... 3:45 PM - 5:30 PM						
AGNSW		DAGUERRÉTYPES 10:15 AM - 11:32 AM		DOCUMENTEUR 12:15 PM - 1:47 PM			THE SOLEM: HOW HE... 3:00 PM - 4:31 PM								
RITZ											BLINDED BY THE LIGHT 6:35 PM - 8:29 PM		THE DEAD DON'T DIE 8:45 PM - 10:37 PM		
RITZ						DIRTY GOD 2:00 PM - 3:50 PM			STANDING UP FOR SUNNY 4:15 PM - 6:05 PM						
HEQ14						SANDGIRL 2:00 PM - 3:49 PM									
HEQ15				THE FINAL QUARTER 11:45 AM - 1:08 PM			RINGSIDE 2:00 PM - 3:39 PM		CHILDREN OF THE SEA 4:15 PM - 6:05 PM		VISION PORTRAITS 6:30 PM - 7:54 PM				
CASULA						APOLLO 11 2:00 PM - 3:33 PM					VAI 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM				
SUNDAY 16 JUNE															
VENUE	9AM	10AM	11AM	12PM	1PM	2PM	3PM	4PM	5PM	6PM	7PM	8PM	9PM	10PM	11PM
STATE	HEARTS AND BONES 9:30 AM - 11:22 PM		PARASITE 11:35 AM - 1:51 PM			THE LEUING FRAGMENTS 2:15 PM - 3:57 PM		CHILDREN OF THE SEA 4:30 PM - 6:25 PM				CLOSING NIGHT GALA 7:30 PM - 10:00 PM			
EV3						DENDY SHORTS PROGRAM 2:00 PM - 4:05 PM			EXTRAORDINARY... 4:45 PM - 6:17 PM		XY CHELSEA 6:45 PM - 8:17 PM				
EV4						TRIXIE MATTEL... 2:30 PM - 4:02 PM			BRITTANY RUNS A... 4:30 PM - 6:13 PM		THE DEAD DON'T DIE 6:45 PM - 8:37 PM				
EV5						THE CHILLS: THE TRIUMPH... 2:00 PM - 3:41 PM			UNTITLED AMAZING... 4:15 PM - 5:49 PM		COME TO DADDY 6:30 PM - 8:10 PM				
EV9								PRESENT PERFECT 4:00 PM - 6:04 PM			THE WANDERING CHIEF 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM				
DOQ1		ON THE INSIDE OF A... 10:00 AM - 11:37 AM		RAY & LIZ 12:05 PM - 2:08 PM			VAI 2:30 PM - 4:05 PM		LEFTOVER WOMEN 4:40 PM - 6:23 PM		MARIANNE & LEONARD... 6:45 PM - 8:27 PM				
DOQ2		SHOOTING THE MAFIA 10:15 AM - 11:49 AM		MIDNIGHT TRAVELER 12:15 PM - 1:57 PM			NOTHING FANCY... 2:15 PM - 3:35 PM		IT ALL STARTED WITH A... 4:30 PM - 6:13 PM		THE BEACHES OF AGNÈS 6:30 PM - 8:22 PM				
DNEW						THE KLEPTOCRATS 2:15 PM - 3:39 PM		I AM NO BIRD 4:00 PM - 5:23 PM			THE NIGHTINGALE 6:15 PM - 8:31 PM				
DNEW											DARK PLACE 6:30 PM - 8:05 PM				
HOC								STANDING UP FOR SUNNY 3:45 PM - 5:47 PM							
HOC		THE HEART DANCES 11:30 AM - 1:03 PM				THE SWEET REQUIEM 1:45 PM - 3:21 PM									
AGNSW		VACABOND 10:15 AM - 12:11 PM		JANE B. PAR AGNÈS V. 12:30 PM - 2:17 PM			THE GLEANERS AND I 2:45 PM - 4:47 PM								
RITZ						ANGER CLOSE: THE BATTLE OF... 2:00 PM - 4:05 PM		THE SOUVENIR 4:45 PM - 6:40 PM			SLAM 7:15 PM - 9:15 PM				
HEQ14						STUPID YOUNG HEART 1:45 PM - 3:47 PM		MY NAME IS DANIEL 4:00 PM - 5:39 PM							
HEQ15			TITO AND THE BIRDS 12:15 PM - 1:34 PM			APOLLO 11 1:45 PM - 3:18 PM									
CASULA								SLAM 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM			PHOTOGRAPH 7:00 PM - 8:50 PM				

LOCATIONS



VENUES & BOX OFFICE HOURS

Sydney Film Festival box offices open one hour before the first screening and close 15 minutes after the last screening begins, unless otherwise stated. Cash sales will only be available at venues 1, 2 and 10.

- 1 STATE THEATRE**
49 Market St, Sydney
5 June: SFF box office 6pm-9pm
6 June – 16 June: SFF box office opens 9am,
closes 15 minutes after last screening begins
- 2 EVENT CINEMAS
GEORGE STREET**
505-525 George St, Sydney
- 3 DENDY OPERA QUAYS**
2 East Circular Quay, Sydney
- 4 HAYDEN ORPHEUM PICTURE
PALACE CREMORNE**
380 Military Rd, Cremorne
- 5 ART GALLERY OF NSW**
Art Gallery Rd, The Domain, Sydney.
SFF box office located outside the Domain
Theatre on Lower Level 3, open 15 minutes
prior to first screening
- 6 HOYTS ENTERTAINMENT
QUARTER**
Entertainment Quarter, 206 Bent St, Moore
Park. SFF box offices open one hour before
first screening and close 15 minutes after the
last screening begins, unless otherwise stated.
- 7 DENDY NEWTOWN**
261-263 King St, Newtown. SFF box office
opens 30 minutes prior to first screening
- 8 THE RITZ CINEMA**
45 St Pauls St, Randwick. SFF box office
hours 9:45am to 9:45pm
- 9 CASULA POWERHOUSE**
1 Powerhouse Rd, Casula. SFF box office open
seven days. Visit casulapowerhouse.com
for more information
- 10 SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL
HUB @ TOWN HALL**
483 George St, Sydney
(Downstairs bar via Druitt St;
Talks up the steps, entry via Druitt St).
SFF Hub box office open weekdays
4:30pm-8:30pm; public holiday weekend
and Saturday 15 June noon-8:30pm.
Discount tickets available – see page 51.
- 11 PITT ST MALL**
Pitt St, between Market and King St, Sydney
- 12 STATE LIBRARY OF NSW**
Macquarie St, Sydney

PARKING

PLAN BEFORE YOU PARK

BOOK ONLINE AND SAVE ON PARKING WITH SECURE-A-SPOT!

Secure-a-Spot is an online booking service that
offers a stress free way of securing a parking spot.

Once you've booked your Festival tickets online,
click through to the dedicated section of the
Secure Parking website to book your parking.

\$10* NIGHT & WEEKEND PARKING

USE PROMO CODE: SFF2019

Visit secureaspot.secureparking.com.au/login
to book your parking.

*Booking Fee of \$1.00 will apply to each
Secure-a-Spot transaction.

Available to book from 8 May for Festival
dates 5-16 June 2019.



FOUR LOCATIONS TO CHOOSE FROM:

- A 109 PITT ST CAR PARK**
For Dendy Opera Quays and State Theatre
- B PICCADILLY,
137 CASTLEREAGH ST
CAR PARK**
For State Theatre and Event Cinemas
- C NO 1 MARTIN PLACE
CAR PARK**
For State Theatre
- D HILTON, 259 PITT ST
CAR PARK**
For State Theatre and Event Cinemas

SFF 2019 APP



SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL AND
FERVE TICKETS PRESENT
THE OFFICIAL SFF 2019 APP
– YOUR ONE-STOP POCKET
GUIDE TO THE ENTIRE
FESTIVAL.

Go paperless with the FREE SFF APP
for your iPhone or Android!

- Browse or filter the program by date,
venue, language, classification, country,
director, genre and program strand
- Watch film trailers
- Buy tickets
- Find your nearest Restaurant Partners deal
- Vote in the Audience Awards
(see page six for more information)
- Find your way to screenings with venue maps
- Link directly to SFF's Facebook, Twitter,
Instagram and YouTube accounts
- Go paperless and conveniently
present your tickets via the app



PLAN YOUR TRIP

Make the most of your SFF
experience by planning ahead
and taking advantage of the public
transport services conveniently
located near all Festival venues.

Visit transportnsw.info or
phone 131 500 for information
about Sydney's bus, ferry, train
and light rail networks.

TICKET PRICING

SINGLE TICKETS

ADULT	\$21
CONCESSION (see below for concession info)	\$18
YOUTH (17 and under)	\$14
GROUP OF 10+	\$15.50

FLEXIPASSES SAVE YOU UP TO \$200!

- Purchase in bundles of 10, 20 or 30 tickets
- Redeem online against any SFF sessions (exceptions in 'Policies')
- Share with friends – redeem up to four tickets per session

FLEXIPASS 10 (SAVE \$40)	\$162.50
FLEXIPASS 20 (SAVE \$100)	\$305
FLEXIPASS 30 (SAVE \$200)	\$420
YOUTH PASS 6 (SAVE \$30) (18–24 YEARS OLD)	\$75

OPENING AND CLOSING NIGHT

OPENING NIGHT (FILM & PARTY)	\$130
OPENING NIGHT (FILM ONLY)	\$30/ \$28 CONC
CLOSING NIGHT (FILM ONLY)	\$30/ \$28 CONC
BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND	\$21/ \$18

SPECIAL SESSIONS

10 TRAILBLAZERS SELECTED BY DAVID STRATTON	\$135
10 FILM PACKAGE: AGNÈS VARDA RETROSPECTIVE	\$135
IAN MCPHERSON MEMORIAL LECTURE	FREE
CASULA POWERHOUSE SESSIONS	\$17.50
CASULA POWERHOUSE SESSIONS (CONCESSION)	\$14.50
THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS 2	\$25
ALL NIGHT CINE-LOVE IN	\$49
SÁTÁNTANGÓ	\$35

P.L.A.Y.W.A.V.E

Sydney Film Festival partners with Playwave, a membership platform offering Young People aged 15–20 unprecedented access to the arts through discounted tickets, exclusive events and more sweet features. More at playwave.com.au.

BOOK TICKETS

1300 733 733

UNTIL 4 JUNE: CALL 9AM-6PM MONDAY TO FRIDAY
9AM-2PM ON WEEKENDS

In person before the Festival: SFF Office, Level 2, 10 Hickson Rd,
The Rocks. 9am-6pm weekdays; 10am-3pm weekends.

DURING THE FESTIVAL

5-16 JUNE CALL 9AM-9PM DAILY

In person during the Festival – see venues for SFF box office hours.

SFF.ORG.AU

SFF 2019 APP

FOR IPHONE AND ANDROID

ACCESS AND INCLUSION

Sydney Film Festival endeavours to make its events a welcoming and inclusive experience for all audiences. For expanded details on the Festival's accessibility and inclusion practices and additional venue information including bathroom access and parking options, visit www.sff.org.au/access.

Contact Us

Most access and inclusion bookings can be made online. You can also make a booking or an enquiry by calling 1300 733 733 or emailing tickets@sff.org.au. Please contact us directly to book a wheelchair bay, as spaces are limited. If you are making a booking on the day of the session, please contact us directly to advise us of your requirements.



Companion Cards

Sydney Film Festival proudly accepts Companion Cards to all sessions. For guests who require assistance of a companion or carer, a second ticket is issued at no cost to the Companion Card holder. Companion Card tickets can be booked online by adding them to your cart and then entering your Companion Card number on checkout.



Wheelchair Access

All SFF auditoriums are wheelchair accessible and offer designated wheelchair spaces. Please contact 1300 733 733 or email tickets@sff.org.au when booking to confirm space.



Assistive Listening

All auditoriums have an induction hearing loop system or hearing aid transmitters. See the auditorium specific information on our website for details.



Assistance Animals

Assistance animals are welcome at all Festival events and venues. Bookings are essential so the venue can be advised, call 1300 733 733 or email tickets@sff.org.au.



Subtitled Screenings

All foreign language screenings are subtitled in English. This does not include full open captions.

Screenability



Screenability is designed to boost the participation of under-represented groups in the screen industry. Sydney Film Festival is proud to present the following films with Auslan interpreted filmmaker introductions and Q&As, Open Captioning and Audio Description.

- *Vision Portraits* screens with once with *Magnetic*, *Prone to the Drone* and *Deluge*
- *Sandgirl* screens once with *A Matter of Time* and once with *Magnetic*
- *My Name is Daniel* screens with *Deluge*
- *Standing Up For Sunny* (not in Screenability) screens once with *Prone to the Drone* (see page 20 for film details)

For information on accessibility features for individual sessions, please see page 39.

Restaurant Partners

Most of the venues for the Restaurant. Partner deals are fully accessible. For information on each venue visit sff.org.au/access.

POLICIES

- All purchases incur a transaction fee based on the amount spent:

\$20.00 or under	\$1.60
\$20.01 – \$40.00	\$3.40
\$40.01 – \$60.00	\$6.50
\$60.01 – \$120.00	\$17.00
\$120.01 – \$200.00	\$7.50
\$200.01 or more	\$8.00
At Venue	\$1.00
- Exchanges incur a fee per ticket and can be made at an SFF box office, online, or by calling 1300 733 733. Exchanges can be made up until one hour before the start time and are not available for discount tickets or special events.
- Please carefully check that your sessions and times are correct prior to payment as no refunds are possible.
- Concessions are available to full-time students, pensioners, healthcare card holders, unemployed, seniors. Industry concessions are available for MEAA, AACTA, AFI, SPAA, ACS, ADG, AWG, ASE. Concession cards must be shown at the box office, cinema doors and on request.
- No one under 18 is admitted to 18+ films. Children under 15 will only be admitted to 15+ films with a parent or guardian. Most films in the Family section are classified for All Ages, but please note age recommendations for each film.
- Flexipasses are not redeemable against special screenings, including Opening Night and Closing Night films and all special sessions. A maximum of four tickets per session can be redeemed on Flexipasses, and a maximum of two tickets per session can be redeemed for Youth Passes.
- Program times and details are subject to change without notice.
- Your ticket guarantees admission if you are seated five minutes before the session begins. Latecomers may not be admitted once the session has started.
- If a short film is screening before the feature, latecomers will be asked to wait until it has finished before taking their seats.
- In the event of a cancelled screening, Flexipass holders will have that ticket refunded onto their pass. Single tickets will be replaced by tickets of equal value, subscribers will not be refunded.
- The use of cameras and other recording devices during SFF sessions constitutes a breach of copyright and is strictly prohibited. Any person caught in the act of filming a Festival session will be immediately expelled, and the material will be seized. Such persons may also be subject to legal action.
- Cash sales will only be available at the State Theatre, Event Cinemas George St and the Hub.

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