



MEDIA RELEASE

WEDNESDAY 21 JUNE 2017

64TH SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL COMPLETE

FOXTEL MOVIES AUDIENCE AWARD ANNOUNCED

The 64th Sydney Film Festival wrapped on Sunday 18 June with the Australian premiere screening of Bong Joon-ho's *Okja* at the State Theatre.

Today the Festival announced the **Foxtel Movies Audience Awards**, the list of the people's top five film favourites, and the top spots in both categories went to Australian films. Winner for best narrative feature went to *Ali's Wedding* directed by **Jeffrey Walker**; and winner for best documentary went to *Roller Dreams* directed by **Kate Hickey**.

Sydney Film Festival CEO Leigh Small said, "This year again, the Festival exceeded previous attendance figures – a continuing ten-year trend. There was an average of 72% capacity across all sessions with almost 185,000 attendances. This result marks a fitting end to Chris Freeland's eight year tenure as chairman; during which the number of people attending the Sydney Film Festival almost doubled."

"The Foxtel Movies Audience Awards are the people's choice awards, and the winners reflect the most popular films at the Festival," said **Sydney Film Festival Director Nashen Moodley**.

"It is our delight to report that Sydney Film Festival audiences have spoken, with 20,000 votes revealing two Australian films as the winners of the feature and documentary categories in the Foxtel Movies Audience Awards."

"This year *Ali's Wedding* and *Roller Dreams*, two wonderful films that both take on remarkable true stories, have clearly made a strong impact on audiences."

"The Festival has premiered some fantastic Australian films this year. This result shows the popularity of Australian cinema at the Sydney Film Festival," he said.

"The NSW Government would like to congratulate Chris Freeland, Nashen Moodley, Leigh Small and all of the 64th Sydney Film Festival team, including the hundreds of volunteers, on delivering the most diverse and immersive year yet," said **Minister for the Arts, Don Harwin**.

"It is fantastic to know that the highlights of the Festival will be seen across regional NSW as part of the Travelling Film Festival, and we look forward to the return of the festival for its 65th year under new Chair Deanne Weir."

"Everybody's Sydney Film Festival experience is different. We all chart our own journeys through this incredible program. But the thing I found so lovely about this year's Sydney Film Festival was that feeling of togetherness, social connection and community that emerged. It's those moments of connection that make Sydney Film Festival so special," said **City of Sydney Councillor Jess Scully, representing the Lord Mayor of Sydney**.



Nine feature films and two shorts from this year's Festival will premiere in Newcastle this weekend when the Travelling Film Festival brings *Ali's Wedding*, *My Life as a Zucchini*, *Pop Aye*, *Ingrid Goes West*, *The Teacher*, *I Am Not Your Negro*, *Holy Air*, *We Don't Need a Map* (SFF Opening Night 2017), to Tower Cinemas from Friday 23 – Sunday 25 June.

What: Travelling Film Festival Newcastle

When: Friday 23 June - Sunday 25 June, 2017

Where: Tower Cinemas, 183 – 185 King St, Newcastle NSW 2300

Full program details and ticketing information can be found at:

www.sff.org.au/2017-film-guide/travelling-film-festival-newcastle

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EDITOR'S NOTES

THE FOXTEL MOVIES AUDIENCE AWARDS

Foxtel Movies Audience Award for Best Narrative Feature Top Ten:

1. *Ali's Wedding*, directed by **Jeffrey Walker** (Australia)
2. *Call Me By Your Name*, directed by **Luca Guadagnino** (Italy, France)
3. *Rip Tide*, directed by **Rhiannon Bannenberg** (Australia)
4. *That's Not Me*, directed by **Gregory Erdstein** (Australia)
5. *Brigsby Bear*, directed by **Dave McCary** (USA)
6. *On Body and Soul*, directed by **Ildikó Enyedi** (Hungary)
7. *God's Own Country*, directed by **Francis Lee** (UK)
8. *Sami Blood*, directed by **Amanda Kernell** (Sweden, Denmark, Norway)
9. *The Woman Who Left*, directed by **Lav Diaz** (Philippines)
10. *The Wound*, directed by **John Trengrove** (South Africa, Germany, The Netherlands, France)

Foxtel Movies Audience Award for Best Documentary Top Ten:

1. *Roller Dreams*, directed by **Kate Hickey** (Australia)
2. *The Last Goldfish*, directed by **Su Goldfish** (Australia)
3. *Chauka Please Tell Us the Time*, directed by **Behrouz Boochani** and **Arash Kamali Sarvestani** (The Netherlands, Papua New Guinea)
4. *The Opposition*, directed by **Hollie Fifer** (Australia)
5. *Barbecue*, directed by **Matthew Salleh** (Australia)
6. *The Workers Cup*, directed by **Adam Sobel** (UK)
7. *RUMBLE: The Indians Who Rocked the World*, directed by **Catherine Bainbridge** and **Alfonso Maiorana** (Canada)
8. *The Farthest*, directed by **Emer Reynolds** (Ireland)
9. *The Pink House*, directed by **Sascha Ettinger Epstein** (Australia)
10. *It's Not Yet Dark*, directed by **Frankie Fenton** (Ireland)

OTHER 2017 SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL AWARD WINNERS INCLUDE:

On Body and Soul, directed by **Ildikó Enyedi**, was awarded **Sydney Film Festival's** the prestigious 10th anniversary **Sydney Film Prize**, from a selection of 12 Official Competition films, at the Festival's Closing Night Gala.



Sydney filmmakers Sascha Ettinger Epstein and Claire Haywood were awarded the **Documentary Australia Foundation Award for Australian Documentary**, a \$10,000 cash prize, for *The Pink House*.

The **Dendy Awards for Australian Short Films** were announced; awarding *Adele*, directed by Mirene Igwabi. Sunday Emerson Gullifer was Highly Commended for her short film *Tomorrow, and tomorrow, and tomorrow*. And Daniel Agdag's animation *Lost Property Office* took out both the \$7,000 **Rouben Mamoulian Award for Best Director** and the \$5,000 **Yoram Gross Animation Award**.

The **Event Cinema Australian Short Screenplay Award** was awarded to stop motion animation *After All* by Michael Cusack, who received a \$5,000 cash prize, with a special mention to the writers of Screenability short film *The Milky Pop Kid*, Johanna Garvin and Emily Dash.

The \$10,000 Sydney-UNESCO City of Film Award, bestowed by Create NSW to a trail-blazing NSW-based screen practitioner, went to Indigenous Australian actor, director and writer **Leah Purcell**.

ABOUT SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL

From **Wednesday 7 June to Sunday 18 June 2017**, the 64th Sydney Film Festival offers Sydneysiders another exciting season of cinema amidst a whirlwind of premieres, red-carpet openings, in-depth discussions, international guests and more.

Sydney Film Festival also presents an Official Competition of 12 films that vie for the Sydney Film Prize, a highly respected honour that awards a \$60,000 cash prize based on the decision of a jury of international and Australian filmmakers and industry professionals. Previous Sydney Film Prize winners: *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 Festival takes place across Greater Sydney: at the State Theatre, Event Cinemas George Street, Dendy Opera Quays, Dendy Newtown, Skyline Drive-In Blacktown, Art Gallery of NSW, Hayden Orpheum Picture Palace Cremorne, Randwick Ritz, Casula Powerhouse, the Festival Hub at Sydney Town Hall and SFF Outdoor Screen in Pitt Street Mall.

The Festival is a major event on the New South Wales cultural calendar and is one of the world's longest-running film festivals. For more information visit: www.sff.org.au.

The 64th Sydney Film Festival is supported by the NSW Government through Screen NSW and Destination NSW, the Federal Government through Screen Australia and the City of Sydney. The Festival's Strategic Partner is the NSW Government through Destination NSW.

