



## MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday 9 May, 2012

# The 59<sup>th</sup> Sydney Film Festival, 6-17 June, is here!

From 6-17 June 2012, the 59<sup>th</sup> Sydney Film Festival will roll out the red carpet and present **157** films across **8** venues over **12** nights. This year's program features **17 world premieres** (9 features, 8 shorts) and **112 Australian premieres** from **51 countries** in **51 languages**.

“Everything is in place for a fantastic Sydney Film Festival,” said SFF Festival Director, Nashen Moodley in his first year as director. “We have a great program of films, more than 150 local and international filmmakers from all over the world attending, and are looking forward to full cinemas and a great buzz in the city.”

Sydney Film Festival launches today with the **World Premiere SFF Opening Night** film *Not Suitable for Children* at the State Theatre. Actors **Sarah Snook** and **Ryan Corr** will attend with the director of this Australian romantic comedy, **Peter Templeman**, producer **Jodi Matterson** and screenwriter **Michael Lucas**.

Other highlight guests during the Festival include: **Billy Connolly** introducing the Australian premiere of Disney•Pixar's *Brave*, on **Monday 11 June at 6.30pm**, at Event Cinemas George Street; **Deborah Mailman** and **Jimi Bani** presenting the **World Premiere** of *Mabo* on Thursday 7 June at 8.35pm, at the State Theatre; and US director **Colin Trevorrow** presenting the SFF **Closing Night Film – the World Premiere** of American drama *Safety Not Guaranteed* – at the State Theatre on **Sunday 17 June at 8pm**.

In addition, **Rachel Ward will be the 2012 Jury President for the FIAPF-accredited SFF Official Competition**. The internationally recognised **SFF Official Competition**, now in its fifth year, awards a \$60,000 cash prize, Australia's richest cash award for film, in recognition of the most courageous, audacious and cutting-edge film from the 12 features selected. Previous Sydney Film Festival Official Competition winners include: *A Separation* (2011) – which went on to win an Academy Award® – *Heartbeats* (2010), *Bronson* (2009), and *Hunger* (2008).

### Films in this year's SFF Official Competition are:

*Alps* (Greece), *Beasts of the Southern Wild* (USA), *Caesar Must Die* (Italy), *Dead Europe* (Australia), *Gangs of Wasseypur* (India), *The King of Pigs* (South Korea), *Lore* (Australia, Germany), *Monsieur*

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*Lazhar* (Canada), *Neighbouring Sounds* (Brazil), *On the Road* (USA), *Tabu* (Portugal, Germany, Brazil, France) and *Today* (France, Senegal).

This year SFF is proud to announce **Blackfella Films** as a new programming partner to jointly curate and present the best and newest Indigenous work from Australia and around the world. Included in this new joint program will be a **World Premiere** screening of *Mabo* on Thursday 7 June – celebrating the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the High Court decision recognising the rights of Indigenous people to their traditional lands.

SFF screens in eight venues across the city including the State Theatre, Event Cinemas George Street, Dendy Opera Quays, Art Gallery of NSW, Apple Store, Grasshopper Lounge and SFFTV@Martin Place. Also new this year is **Sydney Film Festival Hub @ Lower Town Hall** a few minutes' walk from the Festival's major venues. The Festival Hub will feature FREE exhibitions, talks, panels, parties, live music, performances, DJs and screenings in the Mitsubishi Theatrette throughout the Festival.

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## ABOUT SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL

Sydney Film Festival screens feature films, documentaries, short films and animations across the city at the State Theatre, Event Cinemas George Street, Dendy Opera Quays and the Art Gallery of NSW. 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 <http://www.sff.org.au>

The 59th Sydney Film Festival is supported by the NSW Government through Arts NSW, the Federal Government through Screen Australia, and the City of Sydney. The festival's Strategic partner is the NSW Government through Destination NSW.

**What:** Sydney Film Festival

**When:** 6-17 June, 2012

**Tickets & Info:** 1300 733 733 [www.sff.org.au](http://www.sff.org.au)

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## MEDIA ENQUIRIES

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