



MEDIA RELEASE

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SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS AT THE STATE

The 62nd Sydney Film Festival today announced 15 titles, including World Premieres and award winners, to screen as Special Presentations at the State Theatre.

Presented by Princess Cruises, the program offers audiences the ultimate Festival experience with screenings at the magnificent State Theatre, often with special filmmaker guests in attendance.

“Sydney Film Festival and Princess Cruises both provide guests with memorable escapes and meaningful experiences, so the partnership between the two could not be more fitting,” said **Stuart Allison, Princess Cruises Vice President, Australia**. “We are excited to bring audiences these Special Presentations, and we look forward to joining the festivities at the State Theatre.”

“One of the highlights of any Sydney Film Festival is to be dazzled, moved or totally absorbed by a crucial new work of cinema at prime time in the State Theatre,” said **Festival Director Nashen Moodley**. “The Festival’s Special Presentations are some of the finest and most talked-about new films in the world today, and not to be missed,” he said.

The Festival has announced that a number of award-winning filmmakers and documentarians will attend in 2015 from both at home and abroad. Many of the guests are attached to Special Presentations at the State Theatre and will present their films including: Academy Award-winning documentarian **Alex Gibney**, director of *Going Clear: Scientology and the Prison of Belief*; **Ondi Timoner**, director of *Brand: A Second Coming*, a new documentary on Russell Brand; and **Ramin Bahrani**, director of the financial-crash suspense thriller *99 Homes*.

At home, **Gillian Armstrong** will present *Women He’s Undressed*, her documentary about Australian costume designer to Hollywood, Orry-Kelly; the film will first be screened during the Festival on-board the *Sun Princess*, with a special blue carpet, which will be Australia’s first World Premiere on a ship. *Last Cab to Darwin* will be presented by **Michael Caton**, and director **Jeremy Sims**; and Academy Award-winning **Emile Sherman**, producer of both *Slow West* and *Mr. Holmes*, will attend the Festival to present his two films.

SFF 2015 Special Presentations at the State program:

- **99 HOMES** USA | 2014 | 112 mins | In English
Director: Ramin Bahrani | Screenwriters: Ramin Bahrani, Amir Naderi, Bahareh Azimi | Producers: Ashok Amritraj, Ramin Bahrani, Kevin Turen, Justin Nappi | Cast: Andrew Garfield, Michael Shannon, Laura Dern
- **BRAND: A SECOND COMING** UK | 2015 | 105 mins | In English

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- Director: Ondi Timoner | Producer: Andrew Antonio |*
- **DOPE** USA | 2014 | 105 mins | In English
Director: Rick Famuyiwa | Screenwriter: Rick Famuyiwa | Producer: Nina Yang Boniovi | Cast: Shameik Moore, Tony Revolori, Kiersey Clemons
 - **THE DUKE OF BURGUNDY** UK | 2014 | 106 mins | In English
Director, Screenwriter: Peter Strickland | Producer: Andy Starke | Cast: Sidse Babett Knudsen, Chiara D'Anna, Eugenia Caruso
 - **GOING CLEAR: SCIENTOLOGY AND THE PRISON OF BELIEF** USA | 2015 | 120 mins | In English
Director: Alex Gibney | Producers: Alex Gibney, Lawrence Wright, Kristen Vaurio
 - **LAST CAB TO DARWIN** Australia | 2015 | 123 mins | In English
Director: Jeremy Sims | Screenwriters: Reg Cribb, Jeremy Sims | Producers: Greg Duffy, Lisa Duff, Jeremy Sims | Cast: Michael Caton, Jacki Weaver, Mark Coles Smith
 - **LOVE & MERCY** USA | 2014 | 121 mins | In English
Director: Bill Pohlad | Screenwriters: Oren Moverman, Michael Alan Lerner | Producers: Bill Pohlad, Claire Rudnick Polstein, John Wells | Cast: John Cusack, Paul Dano, Elizabeth Banks
 - **MR. HOLMES** UK, USA | 2015 | 103 mins | In English
Director: Bill Condon | Screenwriter: Jeffrey Hatcher | Producers: Anne Carey, Iain Canning, Emile Sherman | Cast: Ian McKellen, Laura Linney, Milo Parker
 - **OUR LITTLE SISTER** Japan | 2015 | 128 mins | In Japanese with English subtitles
Director, Screenwriter: Kore-eda Hirokazu | Producers: Kaoru Matsuzaki, Hijiri Taguchi | Cast: Ayase Haruka, Nagasawa Masami, Kaho
 - **PEOPLE, PLACES, THINGS** USA | 2014 | 86 mins | In English
Director: James Strouse | Screenwriter: Jim Strouse | Producers: Michael B. Clark, Alex Turteltaub | Cast: Jemaine Clement, Regina Hall, Jessica Williams
 - **PHOENIX** Germany | 2014 | 98 mins | In German with English subtitles
Director: Christian Petzold | Screenwriters: Christian Petzold, Harun Farocki | Producers: Florian Koerner von Gustorf, Michael Weber | Cast: Nina Hoss, Ronald Zehrfeld, Nina Kunzendorf
 - **A SECOND CHANCE** Denmark | 2014 | 104 mins | In Danish and Swedish with English subtitles
Director: Susanne Bier | Screenwriter: Anders Thomas Jensen | Producer: Sisse Graum Jørgensen | Cast: Nikolaj Coster-Waldau, Ulrich Thomsen, Maria Bonnevie
 - **THE SECOND MOTHER** Brazil | 2015 | 110 mins | In Portuguese with English subtitles
Director, Screenwriter: Anna Muylaert | Producers: Caio Gullane, Fabiano Gullane, Debora Ivanov, Anna Muylaert | Cast: Regina Casé, Michel Joelsas, Camila Márdila
 - **SLOW WEST** UK, New Zealand | 2015 | 84 mins | In English
Director, Screenwriter: John Maclean | Producers: Iain Canning, Emile Sherman, Conor McCaughan, Rachel Gardner | Cast: Michael Fassbender, Kodi Smit-McPhee, Ben Mendelsohn
 - **WOMEN HE'S UNDRESSED** Australia | 2015 | 100 mins | In English
Director: Gillian Armstrong | Producer: Damien Parer

Sydney Film Festival runs 3 – 14 June 2015.

Tickets for Sydney Film Festival 2015 are on sale now. Please call 1300 733 733 or visit sff.org.au for more information.

ABOUT SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL

From **Wednesday 3 June** to **Sunday 14 June 2015**, the 62nd Sydney Film Festival offers Sydneysiders another exciting season of cinema amidst a whirlwind of premieres, red-carpet openings, panel discussions, international guests and more. Each year the Festival's programming team curates 12

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days of cinema sourced from world-famous film festivals, including Cannes, Sundance, Toronto and the Berlinale; as well as Australia's finest local productions.

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 are: *Two Days, One Night* (2014); *Only God Forgives* (2013); *Alps* (2012); *A Separation* (2011), which went on to win an Academy Award; *Heartbeats* (2010); and *Bronson* (2009).

The Festival takes place across greater Sydney: at the State Theatre, Event Cinemas George Street, Dendy Opera Quays, Dendy Newtown, Art Gallery of NSW, Hayden Orpheum Picture Palace Cremorne, Casula Powerhouse, the Festival Hub at Sydney Town Hall and SFF Outdoor Screen.

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 62nd 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.

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