



MEDIA RELEASE
EMBARGOED APRIL 3, 2013

Sydney Film Festival Reveals First Films for 2013

The 60th Sydney Film Festival today announced a selection of films in advance of the full program launch on Wednesday, 8 May.

“We’re excited to give you a sneak peek of **27** of the **160** films in this year’s program, revealing a real cross-section of the range and quality of features and documentaries you can expect from our **60th Sydney Film Festival**,” said SFF Festival Director **Nashen Moodley**. “These are some of the best productions from all over the world that we have in store for you; the films Australia will be hearing about, talking about and arguing about over the next year. You’ll see them here first. Between them, they capture the mood of the times that make us who and what we are today.”

The Sydney Festival returns to its popular Hub venue at the Lower Town Hall, the State Theatre, Event Cinema George Street, Dendy Opera Quays, Art Gallery of NSW and it is pleased to stretch its precinct to sessions at the much loved Hayden Orpheum Picture Palace in Cremorne.

This first announcement comprises **27** titles including **24** Australian premieres, **16** features and **11** documentaries, produced from **16** countries, as well as the **World Premiere** of Australian performance artist **William Yang**’s documentary **William Yang: My Generation**, screening in partnership with ABC TV Arts and Vivid Ideas.

Today’s announcement also includes the Australian premiere of the highly anticipated neo-Gothic thriller **Stoker**, directed by **Park Chan-Wook** and starring three Australian actresses: **Mia Wasikowska**, **Nicole Kidman** and **Jacki Weaver**.

Principal State Government partner



Strategic partner



Government partners



Award winning films include **The Act of Killing**, the winner of the Audience Award at the 2013 Berlinale; **Prince Avalanche**, winner of a Silver Bear for best direction at the 2013 Berlinale; **Blancanieves**, the winner of Best Film at Spain's prestigious 2013 Goya Awards; **Stories We Tell**, one of 'Canada's Top Ten' films at the 2012 Toronto International Film Festival.

Other early highlights include:

- The digital restoration of the groundbreaking 1981 film **Wrong Side of the Road**, based on the real lives of seminal Australian bands **Us Mob** and **No Fixed Address**, presented in partnership with the National Film and Sound Archive of Australia.
- **Wadjda**, the first-ever feature film shot completely in Saudi Arabia - a country in which cinemas are not permitted - by Saudi Arabia's first women filmmaker, **Haifaa Al Mansour** (University of Sydney graduate). **Wadjda** won the Best Arab Feature Film prize at the 2013 Dubai International Film Festival.
- **Miss Nikki and the Tiger Girls**, the entertaining true story of Burma's first girl band by Australian director **Juliet Lamont** (winner of SFF's FOXTEL Australian Documentary Prize in 2010 with *The Snowman*).
- The Australian Premiere of **Red Obsession** – selected for both the Berlinale and Tribeca Film Festival, and narrated by Russell Crowe – a compelling documentary about high-end Bordeaux wine, screening with a three-course 'Bordeaux-inspired' dinner by top Australian celebrity chef **Luke Mangan** at the **glass brasserie**, Hilton Sydney.
- The retrospective screening of Alfred Hitchcock's **Rear Window**, which was released in 1954, the same year Sydney Film Festival began.
- Tying in with the 60th anniversary screening of **Rear Window**, the Sydney Film Festival Hub will present the Australian premiere of the video installation **Rear Window Loop** by award-winning European artist **Jeff Desom**. Programmed under the theme 'cinema reconstructed', the Hub will return in 2013 with a great series of innovative and entertaining performances, projections and expert talks in the popular pop-up bar at Lower Town Hall.

Full synopsis for all 27 films (in alphabetical order)

The Act of Killing (Australian Premiere)

Directors: Joshua Oppenheimer, Christine Cynn and Anonymous | Denmark, Norway, UK

After the Indonesian government was overthrown in 1965, Anwar Congo, a sharp-dressing small-time gangster, abetted the military regime in the mass slaughter of alleged communists. In this chillingly surreal film, movie-obsessed Anwar and his collaborators re-enact their murderous past in the style of the films they love. Packing a visceral and visual punch, this award-winning festival hit was feted by indie superstars Errol Morris and Werner Herzog. Winner of the Audience Award at the 2013 Berlinale.

Blackfish (Australian Premiere)

Director: Gabriela Cowperthwaite | USA

Blackfish, orca, killer whale: for decades these awesome beasts have been captured, transferred to sea parks and trained to perform for our entertainment. In 2010, a five-tonne male named Tilikum killed one of

Principal State Government partner

Strategic partner

Government partners



his trainers at Florida's SeaWorld. This mesmerising documentary follows his tragic story and that of his fellow captives through interviews with the frequently misled and misinformed workers in this highly profitable industry.

Blancanieves (Australian Premiere)

Director: Pablo Berger | Cast: Maribel Verdú, Daniel Giménez Cacho, Ángela Molina | Spain, France

In this unique and unforgettable tribute to European silent films, the fairy tale of *Snow White* is transposed with great effect into the world of bullfighting in 1920s Spain. Beautifully shot in black and white and featuring fabulous flamenco music, a very evil stepmother, and a band of bullfighting dwarves, *Blancanieves* is a magical retelling of a classic story. Winner of the Audience Award at the 2013 Berlinale.

Comrade Kim Goes Flying (Australian Premiere)

Director: Kim Gwang-hun, Nicholas Bonner, Anja Daelemans | Cast: Han Jong-sim, Pak Chung-guk, Ri Yong-ho | Belgium, UK, North Korea

The first North Korean movie ever to screen at SFF (and the first co-production with capitalist countries in 30 years) is a fabulous romantic comedy about a female coal miner who dreams of becoming a trapeze artist with the Pyongyang Circus. Thoroughly mainstream and made without government interference, the film features communist propaganda imperatives and Western cravings for kitsch coalescing in perfect triple-somersault harmony.

Exposed (Australian Premiere)

Director: Beth B. | USA

New York underground artist Beth B. continues her focus on transgressive topics with this outrageously entertaining exploration of the city's radical burlesque performers. Artists in the spotlight including Dirty Martini, Mat Fraser, Julie Atlas Muz, World Famous *BOB*, Bunny Love, Bambi the Mermaid and Rose Wood embrace vulgarity and camp, challenging notions of gender and body image as they shed their glittering G-strings.

Fallen City (Australian Premiere)

Director: Zhao Qi | China

An earthquake destroyed the city of Beichuan in Sichuan's mountainous north in 2008, leaving thousands dead and millions homeless. The Chinese government decided to rebuild a new, improved city just down the road. As the spacious modern apartments take shape, director Zhao Qi follows three families, quake survivors who struggle with the day-to-day, as well as their country's relentless pursuit of progress.

A Few Hours of Spring (Australian Premiere)

Director: Stephane Brize | Cast: Vincent Lindon, Hélène Vincent, Emmanuelle Seigner | France

Featuring superb performances by Vincent Lindon (*Welcome*) and Hélène Vincent (*Life Is a Long Quiet River*), this is a very powerful and affecting drama about the difficulties of a mother-and-son relationship. At the age of 48, Alain is compelled to move in with his mother, Yvette. Unpleasant enough for both, the forced cohabitation is then compounded by an unexpected discovery.

Principal State Government partner

Strategic partner

Government partners



Frances Ha (Australian Premiere)

Director: Noah Baumbach | Cast: Greta Gerwig, Mickey Summer, Adam Driver | USA

Greta Gerwig (*Greenberg*, *To Rome with Love*) stars in and co-wrote this breezy modern fable by Noah Baumbach (*The Squid and the Whale*, *Kicking and Screaming*). She plays Frances, a trainee in a dance company who has yet to find a clear direction in her life. Exploring Frances' various missteps, her friendships and her thwarted ambitions, *Frances Ha* is as charming as it is funny.

Frankenstein's Army (Australian Premiere)

Director: Richard Raaphorst | Cast: Karel Roden, Joshua Sasse, Robert Gwilym | Netherlands, USA

This cleverly assembled mockumentary is a wonderfully gruesome and comic entry in the long line of movies about crazed Nazi scientists. A descendant of a certain Victor Frankenstein works to create an unstoppable army stitched together from body parts of dead soldiers and machinery – resulting in some of the most imaginative and vicious man-monsters you're ever likely to see.

The Human Scale (Australian Premiere)

Director: Andreas Møl Dalsgaard | Denmark

Danish architect Jan Gehl is on a mission to reclaim our public spaces, throwing out car-driven urban design and building cities for humans. From Copenhagen to New York, Melbourne and Christchurch, his vision is impacting our cityscapes. The director of this documentary, Andreas Dalsgaard, and Gehl Architects partner David Sim will be in Sydney for SFF and for a keynote presentation at Vivid Live.

The Look of Love (Australian Premiere)

Director: Michael Winterbottom | Cast: Steve Coogan, Anna Friel, Tamsin Egerton, Imogen Poots | UK, USA

Steve Coogan's passion project reunites him with longtime collaborator Michael Winterbottom (*The Trip*, *24 Hour Party People*) for the true story of the 'King of Soho', Paul Raymond, who made a fortune ruling a huge nightclub, real-estate and porn empire. Coogan delivers a remarkably complex performance, alongside Anna Friel, Tamsin Egerton and Imogen Poots, in this story of titillation, nihilism, heartbreak and tragedy.

La Maison de la Radio (Australian Premiere)

Director: Nicolas Philibert | France, Japan

Nicolas Philibert, the award-winning director of *To Be and to Have*, has turned his affectionate yet acute gaze on France's national broadcaster. This beautifully crafted documentary, shot in Radio France's bagel-shaped home on the Seine, follows a dawn-to-dusk schedule and is dotted with delightfully quirky characters, including a playful news editor, a charmingly dedicated producer and an archetypal archivist.

Midnight's Children (Australian Premiere)

Director: Deepa Mehta | Cast: Satya Bhabha, Shahana Goswami, Rajat Kapoor | Canada

Salman Rushdie's acclaimed novel is finally brought to the screen by Deepa Mehta (*Fire*, *Earth*) and the result is a stunning epic spanning several decades of Indian history. Written and beautifully narrated by Rushdie himself, *Midnight's Children* is the story of two children born at the moment of India's independence and swapped at birth, following their lives through a tumultuous era.

Principal State Government partner

Strategic partner

Government partners



Miss Nikki and the Tiger Girls (Australian Premiere)

Director: Juliet Lamont | Australia

Winner of SFF's FOXTEL Australian Documentary Prize in 2010 with *The Snowman*, director Juliet Lamont returns with the insightful and entertaining story of Burma's first girl band. The five young girls, led by their Australian mentor Miss Nikki, face all the challenges of a music career, channelling girl power to break with age-old cultural traditions and face the massive changes sweeping their homeland.

Oh Boy (Australian Premiere)

Director: Jan Ole Gerster | Cast: Tom Schilling, Friederike Kempter, Marc Hosemann | Germany

German hit *Oh Boy* is part slacker comedy, part chronicle of Berlin's transition to hipster cool. College dropout Niko has been dumped by his girlfriend, is in trouble with the law, has just been cut off by his father and can no longer buy a cup of 'normal coffee'. Soon a series of chance encounters will have a profound influence on his future.

Outrage Beyond (Australian Premiere)

Director: Takeshi Kitano | Cast: Beat Takeshi, Toshiyuki Nishida, Tomokazu Miura | Japan

The great Japanese director Takeshi Kitano (*Hana-bi*, *Kikujiro*, *Zatoichi*) returns with a thrilling and violent gangster film, in which an ambitious cop ignites a power struggle between the two major yakuza families, exploiting the growing chasm between organized crime's young guns and the old guard. Filled with intrigue, secret plots, dirty tricks, and a great deal of violent vengeance, *Outrage Beyond* is a wild ride through the Japanese underworld.

Prince Avalanche (Australian Premiere)

Director: David Gordon Green | Cast: Paul Rudd, Emile Hirsch | USA

Paul Rudd and Emile Hirsch star in this absurd but moving comedy about an unlikely pair, one straightlaced and the other irresponsible, who spend a summer repainting traffic lines down the centre of a country highway ravaged by wildfire. Director David Gordon Green (*George Washington*, *Pineapple Express*) has crafted a tender and humorous film about an unlikely friendship. Silver Bear for Best Direction at the 2013 Berlinale.

Rear Window (Australian Premiere)

Director: Alfred Hitchcock | Cast: James Stewart, Grace Kelly, Raymond Burr | USA

Catch Jeff Desom's intensely cool timelapse video installation, a dissection of Alfred Hitchcock's 1954 classic, at the Festival Hub, then watch the original on the big screen. James Stewart stars as a voyeuristic invalid and Grace Kelly as his dutiful blonde girlfriend in a thriller considered by many to be the maestro's best. "Watching it, you feel titillated, horrified, and, ultimately, purged." – *New Yorker*

Red Obsession (Australian Premiere) - **Tickets on sale 3 April 2013**

Directors: David Roach and Warwick Ross | Australia

Too valuable to drink? The vintage wines of France's Bordeaux region are now a global commodity, attracting voracious interest from China's new wealthy elite. This fascinating new Australian documentary, selected for both the Berlinale and Tribeca Film Festival, and narrated by Russell Crowe, explores the

Principal State Government partner

Strategic partner

Government partners



impact of our changing international economy and Shanghai's obsession with these illustrious French vineyards. Following the movie, join acclaimed chef Luke Mangan at the Hilton's Glass Brasserie for a Gourmet Cinema experience inspired by the film and the region.

Scatter My Ashes at Bergdorf's (Australian Premiere)

Director: Matthew Miele | USA

Manhattan's Bergdorf Goodman is frequently described as the epitome of luxury, a posh palace, an emporium attracting the most discerning clientele in the world. Giorgio Armani, Karl Lagerfeld, Marc Jacobs, Joan Rivers and the Olsen sisters are just some of the designers and celebrities who contribute stories to this department-store 'biopic' – not to mention the top-notch staff, including an unnerving personal shopper.

Stoker (Australian Premiere)

Director: Park Chan-Wook | Cast: Mia Wasikowska, Matthew Goode, Nicole Kidman, Jacki Weaver | UK, USA

For his first English-language film, Korean master Park Chan-Wook (*Old Boy*, *Joint Security Area*) has made a haunting neo-Gothic thriller filled with unforgettable images. When India Stoker (*Jane Eyre*'s Mia Wasikowska) loses her father in a car accident, her idyllic life is shattered. After long-lost uncle Charlie (Matthew Goode) arrives and moves in with India and her unstable mother Evie (Nicole Kidman), things begin to spiral violently out of control.

Stories We Tell (Australian Premiere) Director: Sarah Polley | Canada

This unusually intimate yet universal real-life story from actor-director Sarah Polley (*Away from Her*, *Take This Waltz*) takes as its subject her extended family, including her actor mother and playwright father. As she journeys through her family's secrets – skilfully mixing past and present, the real and the imagined – Polley exposes the complex ways in which each family member shapes their own narrative. One of Canada's Top Ten' films at the 2012 Toronto International Film Festival.

Wadjda (Australian Premiere)

Director: Haifaa Al Mansour | Cast: Reem Abdullah, Waad Mohammed, Abdullrahman Al Gohani | Saudi Arabia, Germany

The first feature film shot entirely in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, where cinemas are not permitted, and by that country's first woman filmmaker, Haifaa Al Mansour, *Wadjda* is about a 10-year-old girl who wants nothing more than to own a bicycle. In her conservative society, *Wadjda* has little chance of attaining her dream, but she soon comes up with a scheme to do just that. Winner of the Best Arab Feature Film at the Dubai International Film Festival 2013.

What Maisie Knew (Australian Premiere)

Directors: Scott McGehee and David Siegel | Cast: Julianne Moore, Alexander Skarsgård, Onata April | USA

Julianne Moore, Alexander Skarsgård and Steve Coogan star in a darkly comic and emotionally compelling film about a six-year-old girl living through a bitter divorce between her rock icon mother and distracted father. As Maisie is shuttled back and forth between them, she comes to rely more and more on her parents' new partners, who are themselves falling in love.

Principal State Government partner

Strategic partner

Government partners



What Richard Did (Australian Premiere)

Director: Lenny Abrahamson | Cast: Jack Reynor, Róisín Murphy, Sam Keeley | Ireland

From director Lenny Abrahamson (*Garage*), *What Richard Did* follows Richard Karlsen, a golden-boy athlete and the undisputed alpha male of a privileged set of South Dublin teenagers, through the summer between the end of school and the beginning of university. Then one night Richard does something that shatters the lives of the people closest to him.

William Yang: My Generation (World Premiere) - Tickets on sale 3 April 2013

Director: Martin Fox | Australia

In the '70s and '80s, photographer William Yang captured Sydney's emerging artistic, literary, theatrical and queer circles; as well as his friendships with artists, writers and fashion designers such as Brett Whiteley, Patrick White, Linda Jackson and Jenny Kee. With myriad images and his trademark candid narration, Yang leads us through this beguilingly decadent and creative era. SFF, in partnership with ABC TV Arts, will present *William Yang: My Generation* at 7pm on Saturday 8 June at Dendy Opera Quays cinemas, followed by *William Yang: In Conversation* at the Museum of Contemporary Art, hosted by Vivid Ideas, and on ABC1's *Sunday Arts Up Late* at 10:30pm, on Sunday 16 June.

Wrong Side of the Road (Australian Premiere)

Director: Ned Lander | Cast: Ronnie Ansell, Peter Butler, Les Graham | Australia

It's a welcome return to the big screen for an iconic Australian feature *Wrong Side of the Road*, digitally restored to its glory by the National Film and Sound Archive. A heady mix of fact and fiction, the film follows two Aboriginal bands, Us Mob and No Fixed Address, as they travel from one South Australian gig to another. This game-changing 1980s production still packs a punch, and is as relevant now as the year it was made.

Sydney Film Festival celebrates its 60th anniversary this 5-16 June bringing a packed program of screenings and special events to even more venues across Sydney. The full program will be announced on **Wednesday 8 May 2013**. For tickets and full up-to-date program information please visit www.sff.org.au.

For tickets or further info contact: 1300 733 733 / www.sff.org.au. Tickets to all sessions will be on sale at 11am Wednesday 8 May however single sessions are currently available to *William Yang: My Generation* and the special Gourmet Cinema event at \$140 per person.

Flexipasses are now on sale. Buy Flexipasses before 5pm Friday 19 April and you will automatically be entered into the draw to win two tickets to the Gala Opening Night Film at the State Theatre followed by the exclusive afterparty at Bungalow 8.

ABOUT SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL

Sydney Film Festival screens feature films, documentaries, short films and animations across the city at the

Principal State Government partner



Strategic partner



Government partners



State Theatre, Event Cinemas George Street, Dendy Opera Quays, the Art Gallery of NSW and the Hayden Orpheum Picture Palace. 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

Sydney Film Festival also presents 12 films that vie for the 'Official Competition'; a highly respected international honour that awards a \$60,000.00 cash prize based on the decision of a jury of international and Australian filmmakers and industry professionals. Previous Sydney Film Festival Official Competition winners include: *Alps* (2012), *A Separation* (2011) – which went on to win an Academy Award®, *Heartbeats* (2010), *Bronson* (2009) and *Hunger* (2008).

The 60th Sydney Film Festival is supported by the NSW Government through Screen 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: 5-16 June, 2013

Tickets & Info: 1300 733 733 www.sff.org.au

MEDIA ENQUIRIES

Charlotte Greig Publicity Manager **Sydney Film Festival**

E: sophie@sff.org.au P: 02 9690 5314

Amber Forrest-Bisley Director **Cardinal Spin**

E: amber@cardinalspin.com.au P: 02 8065 7363 M: 0405 363 817

Matt Fraser Communications Advisor **Cardinal Spin**

E: matt@cardinalspin.com.au M: 0401 326 007

Principal State Government partner



Strategic partner



Government partners

