



MEDIA RELEASE

EMBARGOED UNTIL 11:00 WEDNESDAY 6 MAY 2015

SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES 10 FINALISTS FOR DENDY AWARDS FOR AUSTRALIAN SHORT FILMS

The 62nd Sydney Film Festival announces the 10 finalists in the Dendy Awards for Australian Short Films.

The Festival's short-film competition is now in the 46th year; and has been sponsored by **Dendy Cinemas** for 27 years. These ground-breaking awards have kick-started the careers of many prominent filmmakers, with past competitors Warwick Thornton, Ariel Kleiman, Cate Shortland, Jane Campion, Phillip Noyce and Ivan Sen among Dendy Awards alumni.

This year's 10 finalists will be screened twice, on Saturday 13 June and again on Sunday 14 June, in two sessions. The winners will be announced at the Festival's **Closing Night Gala** on **Sunday 14 June**, at the State Theatre.

The 10 finalists compete for three prizes: the **Dendy Live Action Short Award**, which provides a \$5000 cash prize; the **Yoram Gross Animation Award**, which carries a \$5000 cash prize; and the **Rouben Mamoulian Award for Best Director**, which offers a \$5000 cash prize. In addition, each finalist (and all of the Australian shorts in the festival) qualifies for the **Event Cinemas Australian Short Screenplay Award**.

"Dendy is very excited to once again be supporting new and dynamic Australian film makers," said **Dendy Cinemas National Film, Content and Programming Manager, Claire Gandy**. "We look forward to these talented directors becoming a force in the local industry."

The competition for Australian Short Films was established by the Festival in 1970. Winners of the Best Live Action Short Film award and the Yoram Gross Animation award (sponsored by Yoram Gross Films) are **Academy Award-eligible**, opening new pathways for many Australian filmmakers.

Winners of all Sydney Film Festival are presented with the Festival's signature mesmeric swirl award, designed and handmade in Sydney by our partners Dinosaur Designs.

The 10 finalists for the 2015 Dendy Award for Australian Short Films:

- **CHEROKEE** Australia | 2014 | 11 mins | In English
Director, Screenwriter: Jem Rankin | Producer: Frances Wang-Ward | Cast: Jane Allsop, Edwin Royce, Don Bridges
- **DEATH IN BLOOM** Australia | 2014 | 11 mins | In English
Director, Screenwriter: Dael Oates | Producers: Jonas McLallen, Dael Oates | Cast: Robyn Nevin, Ewen Leslie

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- **ERNIE BISCUIT** Australia | 2015 | 21 mins | In English
Director, Screenwriter, Producer: Adam Elliot | Narrator: John Flaus
- **GRACE UNDER WATER** Australia | 2014 | 8 mins | In English
Director, Producer: Anthony Lawrence | Screenwriter: Chrissie McMahon | Cast: Zoe Carides, John Howard, Collette Mann
- **MARKERS** Australia | 2014 | 10 mins | In English
Director: Rhett Wade-Ferrell | Screenwriter: Rhett Wade-Ferrell, Will Howarth | Producer: Carla de Menezes Ribeiro | Cast: Eduard Geyl, Geraldine Hakewill, Leighton Watts
- **THE ORCHESTRA** Australia | 2015 | 15 mins
Director: Mikey Hill | Screenwriters: Mikey Hill, Jennifer Smith | Producer: Melanie Brunt
- **RED ROVER** Australia | 2014 | 15 mins | In English
Director, Screenwriter: Brooke Goldfinch | Producer: Brietta Hague and Apolline Berty | Cast: Natalie Racoosin, Christopher Gray
- **A SINGLE BODY** Australia, France | 2014 | 21 mins | In French with English subtitles
Director, Screenwriter: Sotiris Dounoukos | Producers: François-Pierre Clavel and Alexandre Perrier (Kidam), Julien Gittinger and Lucie Duchêne (Magnetic Films) | Cast: Mexianu Medenou, Doudou Masta, Garba Tounkara
- **THE STORY OF PERCIVAL PILTS** Australia | 2014 | 8 mins | In English
Directors, Screenwriters: Janette Goodey, John Lewis | Producers: John Lewis, Terri Dentry | Narrator: Mark Hedlow
- **WHISPERS AMONG WOLVES** Australia | 2014 | 17 mins | In English
Director, Screenwriter: Kevin Lim | Producer: April Tafe | Cast: Sarah Aubrey, Matthew Backer

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 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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