



MEDIA RELEASE

SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL'S INDIGENOUS FILMS, SCREEN: BLACK

The 63rd Sydney Film Festival in partnership with Screen Australia's Indigenous Department announces that **Screen: Black** will return for the fourth year. **Screen: Black** is a platform for Indigenous Australian filmmakers. Two Indigenous directors **Ivan Sen** and **Dylan River** will premiere their latest films at the Festival: *Goldstone* and *Black Chook*.

The Festival will open with the world premiere of *Goldstone*, a stylish and intelligent outback noir from acclaimed Indigenous writer-director **Ivan Sen**. The film has also been selected to compete among 12 films for the prestigious **Sydney Film Prize** and **\$60,000 cash**, awarded by the Festival for courageous, audacious and cutting-edge filmmaking.

Goldstone is the fourth feature by the award-winning filmmaker. With a stellar Australian cast including **Aaron Pedersen**, **Jacki Weaver**, **David Wenham**, and **David Gulpilil**, the film sees Pedersen reprise his role as Indigenous detective Jay Swan, who audiences first met in Sen's *Mystery Road*, which opened the Festival in 2013.

Shot on location in the remote settlement of Middleton (population 3) in outback western Queensland, *Goldstone's* tightly knitted story weaves through a range of issues, including; Land Rights, mining, the Stolen Generations, cultural destruction, people trafficking, greed, loneliness and love.

Black Chook is a short drama from director **Dylan River** (winner of the Foxtel Australian Documentary Prize, SFF 2013). Written by award-winning author **Bruce Pascoe**, it stars **Jack Charles**, **Brendan Cowell**, **Lynette Curran** and **Freda Glynn**. Warwick Thornton is the director of photography.

Penny Smallacombe, Screen Australia Indigenous Department said, "Ivan Sen's *Goldstone* is a sophisticated thriller supported by an all-star cast that delves head first into the issues bombarding Aboriginal people today. He has not shied away from the complexities around the search for identity, the impacts of poverty and the destructive forces of mining, in this beautifully crafted feature. Once again Screen Australia is proud to support these **Screen: Black** presentations," she said.

Since 2013, the Festival has showcased 20 inspiring titles directed by Indigenous filmmakers to enthusiastic audiences - just over 7,500 people. Almost 50 Indigenous creatives, from across the country, have travelled to Sydney to present their films and meet filmmakers from Australia and overseas. The program is presented in partnership with Screen Australia's Indigenous Department for the fourth year.

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Hub Talks and Panels at Town Hall:

Vivid Ideas and Sydney Film Festival present a series of talks upstairs at the SFF Hub at Town Hall, including:

- **AFTRS Black Talk - A Double Bill: Indigeneity And Australian Screen** Sunday 12 June, 4:00pm
The first panel will showcase leading creative voices: producers David Jowsey, Kylie Du Fresne and Ned Lander. The second panel features leading Indigenous auteurs and filmmakers discussing their craft and storytelling approach: filmmakers Ivan Sen, Sterlin Harjo and Dylan River.

The SFF 2016 Screen: Black films:

- **BLACK CHOOK** Australia | 2015 | 11 mins | In English World Premiere
Director: Dylan River
- **GOLDSTONE** Australia | 2016 | 109 mins | In English | World Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Ivan Sen | Producers: Greer Simpkin, David Jowsey | Cast: Aaron Pedersen, Alex Russell, Jacki Weaver | Distributor: Transmission Films

Sydney Film Festival runs 8 – 19 June 2016.

Tickets for Sydney Film Festival 2016 are on sale now. Please call 1300 733 733 or visit sff.org.au for more information.

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***Sydney Film Festival Press Pack and Images Available [HERE](#)

ABOUT SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL

From **Wednesday 8 June** to **Sunday 19 June 2016**, the 63rd 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. 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 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: *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

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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 63rd 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.

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