



**MEDIA RELEASE**

**EMBARGOED UNTIL 10:00 WEDNESDAY 7 MAY 2014**

## **SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL RETURNS TO HAYDEN ORPHEUM PICTURE PALACE CREMORNE**

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**The 61<sup>st</sup> Sydney Film Festival expands its presence at the Hayden Orpheum Picture Palace Cremorne this 4-15 June.**

After the successful return to the Hayden Orpheum Picture Palace Cremorne in 2013, this year Sydney Film Festival brings an even larger curated program of films from the 2014 program to this beautifully restored art deco cinema on the North Shore.

“We were thrilled to discover such a voracious appetite for Sydney Film Festival at the Hayden Orpheum Cremorne last year,” said **SFF Festival Director Nashen Moodley**. “It is a beautiful cinema with a smart, savvy film audience and a natural fit for the Festival. We look forward to presenting even more films across every night of the Festival this June.”

“Speaking on behalf of all movie buffs, I am thrilled with the opportunity to see so many movies in this year’s Sydney Film Festival in the lush, beautiful and historic Picture Palace settings of the Hayden Orpheum and the State Theatre. Welcome back!” said **Managing Director, Hayden Orpheum Picture Palace Cremorne, Paul Dravet**.

### **SFF 2014 Hayden Orpheum Picture Palace Cremorne films:**

#### ***Babylon***

UK | 2014 | 74 mins | In English | Australian Premiere

Directors: Danny Boyle, Jon S. Baird | Screenwriters: Jesse Armstrong, Sam Bain | Producers: Robert Jones, Derrin Schlesinger | Cast: Brit Marling, James Nesbitt | Distributor: Entertainment One Australia

Directed by Danny Boyle (*Slumdog Millionaire*, *Trainspotting*) and scripted by Sam Bain and Jesse Armstrong (*Four Lions*, SFF 2010; *Peep Show*), *Babylon* is a witty, fast-paced feature-length TV pilot for a new UK comedy-drama. After giving an impressive TED talk, American PR guru Liz Garvey (indie star Brit Marling) is lured from her old job at Instagram to move to London and serve as director of communications for the Metropolitan Police. But her first day on the job is a tricky one— not least because there’s a sniper on the loose, picking victims off at random, including a police officer. When it’s discovered that the suspect is live-tweeting his moves, Liz faces tough decisions about transparency and public safety as she struggles to control the narrative.

#### ***Begin Again***

USA | 2013 | 101 mins | In English

Director, Screenwriter: John Carney | Producers: Torbin Armbrust, Anthony Bregman | Cast: Keira Knightley, Mark Ruffalo, Adam Levine | Distributor: Roadshow Films

Writer-director John Carney, who made the international hit *Once* (SFF 2007), unites with Keira Knightley and Mark Ruffalo in this uplifting comedy about lost souls making beautiful music together. Gretta (Knightley) and her longtime boyfriend Dave (Adam Levine of Maroon 5) are college sweethearts and songwriting partners who move to New York when he lands on a major label. But the trappings of fame soon tempt Dave to stray, and a reeling Gretta is left on her own. Then Dan (Ruffalo), a disgraced record exec, stumbles upon her performing and is captivated by her raw talent. From this chance encounter emerges enchantment, as the two set about recording a demo album in the open air that embraces the sounds of a bustling New York. The songs are great, Knightley has a lovely voice, and *Begin Again* will have you humming along.

### ***The Captive***

Canada | 2014 | 112 mins | In English | Australian Premiere

Director: Atom Egoyan | Screenwriters: Atom Egoyan, David Fraser | Producers: Simone Urdl, Jennifer Weiss, Stephen Traynor, Atom Egoyan | Cast: Ryan Reynolds, Scott Speedman, Rosario Dawson, Mireille Enos | Distributor: Icon Film Distribution

Direct from Competition at Cannes – his seventh appearance in their Official Selection – Atom Egoyan’s complex psychological thriller is about a kidnapping and how it destroys the relationships of those involved. Matthew (Ryan Reynolds) is the father of an abducted child. Eight years after her disappearance, a series of clues emerge. These lead Matthew to believe that his now 17-year-old daughter is alive, compelling him to desperately search for her. At the same time, two detectives (Scott Speedman and Rosario Dawson) have been attempting to unravel the mystery. Several lives intertwine as dark secrets are gradually revealed. Superbly shot in a barren winter landscape, *The Captive* brings together some of Egoyan’s familiar themes – loss, absence, family, technology and voyeurism – in a film that is at once extremely suspenseful and deeply emotional.

### ***Dior and I***

France | 2014 | 90 mins | In French and English with English subtitles | Australian Premiere

Director, Screenwriter: Frédéric Tcheng | Producers: Frédéric Tcheng, Guillaume de Roquemaurel | CIM Productions

Designer Raf Simons arrived at the House of Christian Dior in 2012 with a reputation for minimalism, a charmingly dedicated right-hand man, and just eight weeks to create his first Dior Haute Couture collection. It’s not just Simon who’s feeling the heat; behind the scenes it’s a pressure cooker of deadlines and detail. The women who lead the extremely talented teams of seamstresses struggle to meet the demands of both the newcomer and their elite clients. The Belgian designer’s day-to-day struggles are interwoven with readings from Christian Dior’s autobiography, revealing how little has changed. Director Frédéric Tcheng (*Valentino: The Last Emperor*, SFF 2009) has crafted a fittingly splendid homage to the rarefied world of haute couture.

### ***The Disappearance of Eleanor Rigby: Him and Her***

USA | 2013 | Him: 89 mins; Her: 100 mins | In English | Australian Premiere

Director, Screenwriter: Ned Benson | Producers: Cassandra Kulukundis, Ned Benson, Jessica Chastain, Todd J. Labarowski, Emanuel Michael | Cast: Jessica Chastain, James McAvoy, William Hurt, Isabelle Huppert, Viola Davis, Ciarán Hinds | Distributor: Transmission Films

A daring cinematic experiment and ambitious first feature, *The Disappearance of Eleanor Rigby: Him and Her* is made up of two separate films that tell the story of a broken relationship from two different perspectives. Jessica Chastain and James McAvoy are stunning in the lead roles; the extraordinary supporting cast includes Isabelle Huppert, William Hurt, Ciarán Hinds, Bill Hader and Viola Davis. Following a tragedy, the marriage of Eleanor (Chastain) and Conor (McAvoy) comes under severe strain, and Eleanor simply opts out and leaves. *Her* is from Eleanor’s perspective and looks at her return to college and her parents’ home. *Him* follows Conor, struggling to keep his bar afloat while desperately trying to reconnect with Eleanor. Emotionally authentic and ultimately life-affirming, these two films are a hopeful look at the endurance of love.

### **Four Corners**

South Africa | 2013 | 120 mins | In English and Cape Afrikaans, Tsotsi Taal, Sabela with English subtitles | Australian Premiere

Director: Ian Gabriel | Screenwriters: Hofmeyr Scholtz, Terence Hammond | Producers: Cindy Gabriel, Genevieve Hofmeyr | Cast: Brendon Daniels, Lindiwe Matshikiza, Irshaad Ally, Jezriel Skei | Production Company: Giant Films

Set in South Africa's Cape Flats, in a community dominated by gangsters and violence, this beautifully made and adrenaline-charged film depicts both brutal violence and a sense of hope that a young man can escape the cycle. Against this treacherous backdrop, four very different lives intersect. 13-year-old Ricardo is a chess prodigy increasingly tempted by the prospect of joining a street gang. Farakhan, a general in the Numbers Gang, is released after a long stint in prison, determined to go straight. There's a cop investigating the disappearance of a series of young boys, and a London-based surgeon who returns home for her father's funeral, only to be drawn into the dangerous world she long left behind. This is an unflinchingly honest and authentic look at a society marred by a culture of violence, while showing a path forward to a more promising future.

### **Gabrielle**

Canada | 2013 | 102 mins | In French with English subtitles | Australian Premiere

Director, Screenwriter: Louise Archambault | Producers: Kim McCraw, Luc Déry | Cast: Gabrielle Marion-Rivard, Alexandre Landry, Mélissa Désormeaux-Poulin | Distributor: Sharmill Films

From the producers of *Monsieur Lazhar*, winner of an Audience Award at SFF 2012, comes another humanist drama that balances sentiment with unflinching honesty and complex characters. Gabrielle, a musically gifted woman with intellectual disability (played by radiant newcomer Gabrielle Marion-Rivard in a semi-autobiographical role) lives in a group home. When she falls in love with Martin (Alexandre Landry), a young man with a similar disability who sings in her choir, she discovers that their families and social workers have concerns. Can these two handle an adult sexual relationship? Refusing to stereotype or infantilise people with disabilities, this wonderful film is an uplifting story about contemporary relationships. *Gabrielle* won Best Film at this year's Canadian Screen Awards; and Marion-Rivard won Best Actress.

### **The Great Museum**

Austria | 2014 | 94 mins | In English and German with English subtitles | Australian Premiere

Director: Johannes Holzhausen | Screenwriters: Johannes Holzhausen, Constantin Wulff | Producer: Johannes Rosenberger | World Sales: WIDE Management

This all-enveloping and elegant movie takes us behind the scenes of a venerable institution as it reinvents itself for the 21st century. The Kunsthistorisches Museum in Vienna houses a vast and varied collection in its magnificent halls and below-stairs storage. The camera takes us into rooms undergoing dramatic refurbishment and drops in on curators discussing the latest branding or exhibition layouts. It peers over the shoulder of restorers as they daub at canvases and tackle aggressive moths in ancient bearskins. We meet the staff from the director to the gallery attendants, and discover the complexities of running a heritage establishment of this scope and scale. This visually stunning film celebrates the intricate and the grand, the stately and the irreverent, with wit and insight.

### **Human Capital**

Italy, France | 2013 | 116 mins | In Italian with English subtitles | Australian Premiere

Director: Paolo Virzì | Screenwriters: Francesco Bruni, Francesco Piccolo, Paolo Virzì | Producers: Marco Cohen, Fabrizio Donvito, Benedetto Habib | Cast: Valeria Bruni Tedeschi, Fabrizio Bentivoglio, Valeria Golino, Luigi Lo Cascio | Distributor: Hi Gloss Entertainment

An intelligent and stylish thriller, Paolo Virzì's adaptation of Stephen Amidon's novel uses the mystery at its core to take an incisive look at class in Italian society. With a star-studded cast including Valeria Bruni Tedeschi (*5x2*), Valeria Golino (*Rain Man*) and Fabrizio Bentivoglio (*Eternity and a Day*), the film begins with a cyclist being driven off the road late one night, and then proceeds to tell the story of two interconnected families in the north of Italy. When middle-class Dino drops his daughter off at her rich boyfriend's house, he ingratiates himself with the boy's banker father. In no time, Dino is committing hundreds of thousands of euros he

doesn't really have in an investment scheme run by the banker. The fates of these two families are intertwined in this scathing look at greed and inequality.

### ***I'm Not Him***

Turkey | 2013 | 124 mins | In Turkish with English subtitles | Australian Premiere

Director, Screenwriter: Tayfun Pirselimoglu | Producers: Veysal Ipek, Nikos Moustakas, Guillaume de Seille, Irfan Demirkol, Inci Demirkol, Mustafa Dok, Konstantina Stavrianou | Cast: Ercan Kesal, Maryam Zaree, Riza Akin | Print Source: Pascale Ramonda

Reminiscent of his countryman Nuri Bilge Ceylan's work, and inspired by Hitchcock's *Vertigo*, Tayfun Pirselimoglu's *I'm Not Him* is a visually stunning existential thriller. Ceylan regular Ercan Kesal (*Once Upon a Time In Anatolia*, SFF 2012) plays a middleaged, unmarried loner named Nihat who works in a hospital canteen. When his attractive colleague Ayse invites him to her house for dinner, he accepts. When Nihat sees a wedding photograph, he realises that Ayse's imprisoned husband looks very much like him. The two embark on a relationship, but an accident sets in motion a bizarre series of events that place the very notion of identity into question. Pirselimoglu, a success as a painter, novelist and filmmaker, has created an entrancing work – a slow-burning mystery that's all the more effective for its patience.

### ***If You Don't, I Will***

France | 2014 | 102 mins | In French with English subtitles | Australian Premiere

Director, Screenwriter: Sophie Fillieres | Producers: Maurice Tinchant, Martine Marignac | Cast: Emmanuelle Devos, Mathieu Amalric, Nelson Delapalme, Anne Brochet | World Sales: Films du Losange

The great Emmanuelle Devos and Mathieu Amalric, two of France's most enduring stars, are superb in this comedy/drama about relationships. They are Pomme and Pierre, who've been together a long time, and the cracks are beginning to show. In beautifully written dialogue, we experience the understanding, frustration and wit they share as they reach an impasse. Even as they denigrate each other, they also cling to each other. One day, when they go out on one of their regular hikes in the forest, Pomme refuses to return home, and the film takes an unexpected turn. It's a pleasure to watch two actors revelling in roles seemingly created just for them, and *If You Don't, I Will* so perfectly captures both the ease and the discomfort of a long-term relationship that it is as stirring as it is honest.

### ***Jimi: All Is By My Side***

UK, Ireland | 2013 | 118 mins | In English | Australian Premiere

Director, Screenwriter: John Ridley | Producers: Sean McKittrick, Jeff Culotta, Danny Bramson, Brandon Freeman, Anthony Burns, Tristan Orpen Lynch, Nigel Thomas | Cast: André Benjamin, Hayley Atwell, Imogen Poots | Distributor: Madman Entertainment

John Ridley, who won an Oscar for his screenplay for *12 Years a Slave*, directs an unconventional biopic of the great Jimi Hendrix. With a wonderfully convincing performance by André Benjamin (better known as André 3000 of OutKast), the film looks at Hendrix before he became a rock legend. Spotted by Linda Keith (Imogen Poots) at a New York club, Hendrix is convinced to make the transition from sideman to master of his own destiny. His new manager, Chas Chandler, suggests a move to London, and it is there that Hendrix comes into his own. The film looks unflinchingly at Hendrix's tempestuous, and sometimes violent, relationship with his girlfriend Kathy (Hayley Atwell), and his encounters with the Beatles and Eric Clapton. *Jimi: All Is by My Side* is an atmospheric and persuasive look at the shaping of a great, and deeply troubled, artist.

### ***Joe***

USA | 2013 | 117 mins | In English | Australian Premiere

Director: David Gordon Green | Screenwriter: Gary Hawkins | Producers: David Gordon Green, Lisa Muskat, Christopher Woodrow, Derrick Tseng | Cast: Nicolas Cage, Tye Sheridan, Gary Poulter | Distributor: Madman Entertainment

David Gordon Green has directed a range of films as diverse as *Pineapple Express*, *Prince Avalanche* (SFF 2013), *George Washington* and *Undertow*, along with episodes of *Eastbound & Down*. In this superb Southern Gothic

drama, he directs Nicolas Cage in a remarkable performance as Joe Ransom, a hard-drinking tough guy with a violent past. A man who has done terrible things, Joe constantly treads a fine line, trying to lead a straight life, when the world around him seems to want to draw him back into his old ways. When he meets 15-year-old Gary (Tye Sheridan, *The Tree of Life*, SFF 2011; *Mud*), who suffers under his abusive alcoholic father, Joe takes the enterprising young man under his wing, and together they navigate a difficult world in search of redemption.

### ***Love Is Strange***

USA | 2014 | 98 mins | In English | Australian Premiere

Director: Ira Sachs | Screenwriters: Ira Sachs, Mauricio Zacharias | Producers: Lars Knudsen, Jay Van Hoy, Lucas Joaquin, Jayne Baron Sherman, Ira Sachs | Cast: John Lithgow, Alfred Molina, Marisa Tomei | Distributor: Rialto Distribution

John Lithgow and Alfred Molina are magnificent in this topical, moving and beautifully tender romance from award-winning director Ira Sachs (*Forty Shades of Blue*, *Married Life*). After 39 years together, Ben (Lithgow) and George (Molina) take advantage of new marriage laws and are wed in New York – a joyous occasion for them, their friends and their families. The celebrations are short-lived, however, as soon after George is fired from his job as a music teacher at a Catholic school. Finally married, the two discover that they can no longer afford to live in their comfortable apartment. They are taken in, separately, by friends and family, and along with the pangs of being apart, each must deal with the sometimes uncomfortable, sometimes humorous, complexities of their new living arrangements. The great supporting cast includes Marisa Tomei.

### ***The Lunchbox***

India, Germany, France, USA | 2013 | 105 mins | In Hindi, English with English subtitles | Australian Premiere

Director, Screenwriter: Ritesh Batra | Producers: Guneet Monga, Anurag Kashyap, Arun Rangachari | Cast: Irrfan Khan, Nimrat Kaur, Nawazuddin Siddiqui | Distributor: Madman Entertainment

This Indian indie hit is a delicious celebration of romance and food featuring star Irrfan Khan (*Life of Pi*, *Slumdog Millionaire*). The story is inspired by Mumbai's remarkable *dabba* (lunchbox) delivery system, in which only one in four million home-cooked meals is ever incorrectly delivered. That one wayward lunch links a housewife with an office worker in the dusk of his life. Ila (Nimrat Kaur) is an eager young wife trying to impress her distant husband through her cooking. Saajan (Khan) is a disillusioned office worker who is about to retire, further emphasising his solitary existence. A correspondence between the two is triggered by the lunchbox, leading them into a rich fantasy. With perfect performances and deft direction by Ritesh Bhatra, *The Lunchbox* is a sweet love story that has charmed audiences around the world.

### ***The Mystery of Happiness***

Argentina, Brazil | 2014 | 92 mins | In Spanish with English subtitles | Australian Premiere

Director: Daniel Burman | Screenwriters: Daniel Burman, Sergio Dubcovsky | Producers: Daniel Burman, Walkiria Barbosa | Cast: Guillermo Francella, Ines Estevez, Alejandro Awada, Fabian Arenillas | Distributor: Potential Films

Award-winning Argentine director Daniel Burman (*Lost Embrace*) has crafted a thoughtful comedic drama about midlife crises. Santiago and Eugenio are lifelong friends, running a small business together for over 30 years. Their day-to-day lives are synchronised to perfection and they seem inseparable, until the day Santiago comes to work and discovers Eugenio has disappeared. The missing partner's wife, Laura ('90s Argentine film and TV star Ines Estevez in her big-screen comeback), is equally blindsided by his vanishing and takes over Eugenio's side of the business, much to Santiago's chagrin. A tenuous balancing act begins between the two, as they come to terms with the man who was the centre of both their lives.

### ***Night Moves***

USA | 2013 | 112 mins | In English | Australian Premiere

Director: Kelly Reichardt | Screenwriters: Jon Raymond, Kelly Reichardt | Producers: Neil Kopp, Anish Savjani, Chris Maybach, Saemi Kim, Rodrigo Teixeira | Cast: Jesse Eisenberg, Dakota Fanning, Peter Sarsgaard, Alia Shawkat | Distributor: Curious Films

One of the most distinctive and talented directors of contemporary American cinema, Kelly Reichardt (*Meek's Cutoff*, SFF 2011; *Wendy and Lucy*; *Old Joy*, SFF 2006) directs Jesse Eisenberg, Peter Sarsgaard and Dakota Fanning in this tense drama. The three play a group of environmental activists who, though from very different backgrounds, are united by their radical politics. Josh (Eisenberg) is a militant who is determined to protect the earth by any means necessary. He leads them in a sabotage plot that will have far-reaching repercussions. In the aftermath, the conspirators are filled with paranoia and dread leading to an inevitable and shocking climax. Marking a change in direction for Reichardt, *Night Moves* is a thought-provoking and chilling film.

### **Omar**

Palestine | 2013 | 98 mins | In Arabic and Hebrew with English subtitles

Director, Screenwriter: Hany Abu-Assad | Producers: Hany Abu-Assad, Waleed F. Zuaiter, David Gerson | Cast: Adam Bakri, Leem Lubany, Waleed F. Zuaiter, Evad Hourani | Distributor: Madman Entertainment

The latest Oscar-nominated drama from Palestinian director Hany Abu-Assad (*Paradise Now*, SFF 2005) is a high-impact thriller packed with suspense and imbued with romance and tragedy. Omar, a young Palestinian baker, regularly scales the separation wall to visit his friends Amjad and Tarek in the Occupied Territories. They are members of the resistance against the Israeli army – but Omar is also motivated by his love for Tarek's sister Nadja. After the trio kills a soldier in a rogue operation, Omar is arrested by Israeli secret police. He refuses to name the triggerman but is tortured and blackmailed into turning informant. When he attempts to double-cross the police and win Nadja's heart, the stage is set for a desperate game of cat and mouse, as Omar fights for love and freedom against impossible odds.

### **The Referee**

Italy, Argentina | 2013 | 92 mins | In Italian with English subtitles | Australian Premiere

Director: Paolo Zucca | Screenwriters: Paolo Zucca, Barbara Alberti | Producer: Amedeo Pagani | Cast: Stefano Accorsi, Geppi Cucciari, Jacopo Cullin | World Sales: Le Pacte

Lower-division Italian soccer, high-level corruption, a blind trainer and the intricate codes of sheep breeding collide in this riotous black-and-white comedy about sport, love and loyalty. In the Sardinian third league, a long-term rivalry exists between Atletico Pababile and Montecrastu, a team led by the arrogant businessman Brai, who enjoys lording it over the inferior club. But when the superb player Matutzi returns to his hometown, Atletico Pababile wins match after match, much to the consternation of Brai. Alongside this story we meet the ambitious referee Cruciani, who's operating at the highest level of the game, but soon finds himself exiled to the Sardinian third league. Add to this the village beauty, Miranda, and a subplot involving a feud over sheep-breeding protocols, and you have a surreal and hilarious experience.

### **Rock the Casbah**

France, Morocco | 2013 | 99 mins | In French and Arabic with English subtitles | Australian Premiere

Director, Screenwriter: Laila Marrakchi | Producer: Stephanie Carreras | Cast: Morjana Alaoui, Nadine Labaki, Omar Sharif, Lubna Azabal, Hiam Abbass | Distributor: Pinnacle Films

The latest from writer/director Laila Marrakchi (*Marock*, SFF 2006) is a lovingly crafted family drama with a warm sense of humour. The film's ensemble cast includes some of the Middle East's finest actors including Morjana Alaoui, Nadine Labaki (*Where Do We Go Now*, SFF 2012), Lubna Azabal and Hiam Abbass (both from *Paradise Now*, SFF 2005), and the legendary Omar Sharif. The death of her father, a successful Moroccan entrepreneur, sees the fiercely independent New Yorker Sofia returning to Tangiers. There she is reunited with her grieving mother and two sisters, the beautiful but naive Miriam and the uptight Kenza. Over the course of the traditional three-day mourning ritual, the four resilient women are forced to confront a host of long-buried family secrets that threaten to tear them apart again.

### **The Skeleton Twins**

USA | 2014 | 93 mins | In English | Australian Premiere

Director: Craig Johnson | Screenwriters: Craig Johnson, Mark Heyman | Producers: Stephanie Langhoff, Jennifer Lee, Jacob Pechenik | Cast: Kristin Wiig, Bill Hader, Luke Wilson, Ty Burrell | Distributor: Sony Pictures

Downbeat meets laugh-out-loud in this fearless drama, winner of the US Dramatic Screenwriting Award at Sundance. Estranged thirtysomething siblings Milo (Bill Hader) and Maggie (Kristin Wiig) hit rock bottom at opposite ends of the country. Once so close, they haven't spoken for 10 years. Now Milo joins Maggie and her painfully upbeat husband Lance (Luke Wilson) in the hometown she never left. While Maggie struggles with married life, Milo reconnects with Rich (Ty Burrell), an older man with whom he shares an illicit history. Former *Saturday Night Live* stars Wiig and Hader bring their comedic skills to strong dramatic performances. Their flawed, destructive characters never lose our sympathy. Watch out for the lip-synch performance of Starship's '80s anthem 'Nothing's Gonna Stop Us Now', one of the funniest scenes of the year.

### ***A Story of Children and Film***

UK | 2013 | 101 mins | In English | Australian Premiere

Director, Screenwriter: Mark Cousins | Producers: Adam Dawtrey, Mary Bell | World Sales: Hanway Films

Innovative filmmaker and critic Mark Cousins (*The Story of Film: An Odyssey*) tackles a rarely considered aspect of film history. This time, in his free-ranging, inimitable style and narration, he's looking at the way children have been depicted in the movies. His idiosyncratic choice of clips includes the familiar such as *E.T. The Extraterrestrial* (Steven Spielberg), *The 400 Blows* (François Truffaut) and *An Angel at My Table* (Jane Campion); the much-loved *The White Balloon* (Jafar Panahi) and *The Spirit of the Beehive* (Victor Erice); and the little-seen *Palu Alone in the World* (Astrid Henning-Jensen) and *The Children in the Wind* (Hiroshi Shimizu). This documentary will make you want to see all of these films and watch just that bit more closely the next time you see a kid in the movies.

### ***The Two Faces of January***

UK, USA, France | 2014 | 97 mins | In English, Greek and Turkish with English subtitles | Australian Premiere

Director, Screenwriter: Hossein Amini | Producers: Tim Bevan, Robyn Slovo, Tom Sternberg, Eric Fellner | Cast: Viggo Mortensen, Kirsten Dunst, Oscar Isaac | Distributor: StudioCanal

Viggo Mortensen, Kirsten Dunst and Oscar Isaac star in this sumptuous, sun-drenched adaptation of the classic novel by Patricia Highsmith (*The Talented Mr Ripley*). Hossein Amini, who wrote *Drive*, makes his directorial debut with this sophisticated, suspenseful story. We meet a glamorous American couple (Mortensen and Dunst), who are holidaying in Athens. While living the high life, they come across a small-time hustler (Isaac) who begins showing them around, extracting cash from them along the way. Soon they are mixed up in a murder, and must rely on the assistance of their shady young tour guide as tensions rise and trust erodes. This is a gripping thriller set in stunning locations with beautiful people doing dangerous things.

### ***Words and Pictures***

USA | 2013 | 115 mins | In English | Australian Premiere

Director: Fred Schepisi | Screenwriter: Gerald DiPego | Producers: Curtis Burch, Gerald DiPego | Cast: Clive Owen, Juliette Binoche | Distributor: Umbrella Entertainment

The great Australian director Fred Schepisi (*The Devil's Playground*, *The Chant of Jimmie Blacksmith*, *Roxanne*) returns with a delightful romantic drama. Clive Owen and Juliette Binoche square off, and sparks fly. He plays Jack Marcus, a wordsmith who drinks too much and suffers from writers' block; while she plays Dina Delsanto, an artist with arthritis who is physically unable to paint. At the elite school where they teach, the two begin a war over which is more powerful: the word or the picture. The school and their students are invigorated by this fun intellectual exercise, enthusiastically taking sides. But there is more at stake, and the two damaged artists must overcome their demons before things can truly be settled. With lovely performances by Owen and Binoche, this is a charming treat.

### ***The Young and Prodigious T.S Spivet (3D)***

France, Canada | 2013 | 105 mins | In English | Australian Premiere

Director: Jean-Pierre Jeunet | Screenwriters: Jean-Pierre Jeunet, Guillaume Laurant | Producers: Frederic Brillion, Gillers Legrand, Jean-Pierre Jeunet, Suzanne Girard | Cast: Kyle Catlett, Helena Bonham Carter, Callum Keith Rennie, Niamh Wilson | Distributor: Madman Entertainment

The latest magical cinematic creation from Jean-Pierre Jeunet, director of much-loved movies like *Amélie* (2001) and *Delicatessen* (1991) is his first in 3D. His trademark mix of madcap characters, rich visuals and surreal stories is a good match for Reif Larsen's book *The Selected Works of T.S. Spivet*. Our hero (played by Kyle Catlett), is a precocious 10-year-old with a vivid, scientific imagination. He lives in a big red house on the prairie, with his mother (Helena Bonham Carter), an insect specialist; his cowboy father (Callum Keith Rennie) and teenage sister (Niamh Wilson). At odds with his family, T.S. takes himself on a trip to the Smithsonian Museum, where he meets an unscrupulous administrator (Judy Davis at her frantic best). This magical story of childhood adventure is told with Jeunet's endearing charm and inventive eye.

**The 61<sup>st</sup> Sydney Film Festival runs 4-15 June and brings a packed program of screenings and special events to even more venues across Sydney.** For tickets and full up-to-date program information visit [sff.org.au](http://sff.org.au)

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#### **ABOUT SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL**

Sydney Film Festival screens feature films, documentaries, short films and animated films across the city at the State Theatre, Event Cinemas George Street, Dendy Opera Quays, the Art Gallery of NSW, Hayden Orpheum Picture Palace Cremorne, the Apple Store, SFFTV at Martin Place, Skyline Drive-In Blacktown, and the Festival Hub at Town Hall.

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](http://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 cash prize based on the decision of a jury of international and Australian filmmakers and industry professionals. Previous Sydney Film Prize winners include: *Only God Forgives* (2013), *Alps* (2012), *A Separation* (2011) – which went on to win an Academy Award, *Heartbeats* (2010), *Bronson* (2009) and *Hunger* (2008).

The 61st 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:** 4-15 June, 2014

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

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#### **MEDIA ENQUIRIES**

**Amber Forrest-Bisley** Director **Cardinal Spin**

E: [amber@cardinalspin.com.au](mailto:amber@cardinalspin.com.au) P: 02 8065 7363 M: 0405 363 817

**Katie Eastment** Communications Advisor **Cardinal Spin**

E: [katie@cardinalspin.com.au](mailto:katie@cardinalspin.com.au) P: (02) 8065 7363 M: 0435 918 466

**Sophie Hodges** Publicity Manager **Sydney Film Festival**

E: [sophie@sff.org.au](mailto:sophie@sff.org.au) P: 02 8220 6619 M: 0403 959 528

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Principal State Government partner



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Government partners

