



MEDIA INFORMATION

SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL PRESENTS A ROBERT ALTMAN RETROSPECTIVE

Eight films from maverick American filmmaker Robert Altman feature in the 61st Sydney Film Festival this June.

This retrospective program showcases a selection of classic hits as well as some of his earlier titles and is introduced by special guest, filmmaker and Altman's eldest son, **Michael Altman**.

Michael Altman will take audiences through his father's filmography, with riveting anecdotes about the Cannes-winning filmmaker's best work, including *Short Cuts* and *M*A*S*H* (whose theme song *Suicide Is Painless* features lyrics the junior Altman wrote at the age of 14). In addition to the retrospective series, Michael Altman will present a talk entitled Altman on Altman.

Altman's career spanned four decades, receiving critical acclaim throughout. In 2006 the Academy Awards panel granted Altman an Honorary Award for a career which "repeatedly reinvented the art form and inspired film-makers and audiences alike".

"Altman's film career was anything but predictable," said guest film programmer **Richard Moore**. "He worked across various film genres and this selection is only a fraction of a remarkably prodigious output that included work in theatre, opera and television. Altman reminds us that there was a time when movie directors had independent voices. At the 2006 Academy Awards Lily Tomlin and Meryl Streep introduced Altman as 'a man who didn't play by the rules or stick to the script,' and that held true through his career."

Richard Moore is a former Executive Producer of TV Arts at ABC TV, and ex-director of the Brisbane and Melbourne International Film Festivals. Richard is still active as a programmer and producer, including programming a film series called ART MATTERS for the Melbourne International Arts Festival, which last year featured a special tribute to John Landis. He also works as head of theatrical distribution for Umbrella Entertainment.

SFF 2014 Altman on Altman films:

That Cold Day in the Park

Director: Robert Altman | USA | 1969 | 113 mins | In English

This early offering is the first and certainly one of the darkest and most disturbing psychological thrillers in the Altman collection, evidencing his honed skills and experience from years of television direction and the influence of Alfred Hitchcock.

*M*A*S*H*

Director: Robert Altman | USA | 1970 | 116 mins | In English

This iconic, irreverent Korean War-set black comedy lit the spotlight on the 50-year feature-film career of Robert Altman as well as its brilliant ensemble cast, including Elliott Gould, Donald Sutherland and Robert Duvall.

McCabe & Mrs Miller

Director: Robert Altman | USA | 1971 | 120 mins | In English

This classic homage to the western features stellar performances from Warren Beatty and Julie Christie in the title roles, stunning Canadian locations and poignant music from Leonard Cohen.

Nashville

Director: Robert Altman | USA | 1975 | 157 mins | In English

A clever romp through the iconic country-music capital, this mockudrama is an unforgettable tapestry of flawed people and troubled lives. Ned Beatty, Lily Tomlin and Keith Carradine lead the brilliant ensemble.

3 Women

Director: Robert Altman | USA | 1977 | 124 mins | In English

Sissy Spacek, Shelly Duvall and Janice Rule star in this surreal, twisted psychological study of the bizarre relationship between three apparently ordinary women in an isolated desert community.

A Wedding

Director: Robert Altman | USA | 1978 | 125 mins | In English

One of the best examples of the 'Altmanesque' style, this 24-character tragic comedy runs several simultaneous plot lines with flawless mastery. Lillian Gish, Carol Burnett, Desi Arnaz Jr. and Mia Farrow are among the stars.

Short Cuts

Director: Robert Altman | USA | 1993 | 187 mins | In English

This ensemble stew of vignettes overlaps and intersects well over half a dozen relationships. The all-star cast includes Lily Tomlin, Robert Downey Jr., Jennifer Jason Leigh, Tom Waits and Julianne Moore.

A Prairie Home Companion

Director: Robert Altman | USA | 2006 | 105 mins | In English

Meryl Streep, Lily Tomlin, Kevin Kline, Woody Harrelson, Lindsay Lohan and John C. Reilly are among the stars of Robert Altman's swan song, set behind the scenes of Garrison Keillor's beloved radio show.

The 61st 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

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

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

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Strategic partner



Government partners

