



**MEDIA RELEASE**

**THURSDAY 12 JUNE**

## **SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL: CLOSING WEEKEND AT THE FESTIVAL**

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**Don't miss your last chance to experience the 61<sup>st</sup> Sydney Film Festival before it draws to a close this Sunday.** There are still dozens of films, talks and free events happening across nine venues around Sydney until midnight on Sunday 15 June.

“As the 61<sup>st</sup> Sydney Film Festival draws to a close, we urge audiences to make the most of the special ‘due to popular demand’ extra sessions, Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> spooky events and the chance to see a film in one of our beautiful Art Deco picture houses at the State Theatre and the Hayden Orpheum Palace Cremorne,” said **SFF Festival Director Nashen Moodley**.

There are two Official Competition films still to screen at the magnificent State Theatre: the World Premiere of the stunning debut Australian film ***Fell*** on Friday 13 June at 6pm and Saturday 14 June at 12pm; and the spectacular futuristic feature ***Snowpiercer*** featuring Tilda Swinton on Saturday 14 June at 6:45pm and Sunday 15 June at 12pm. Also at the State, but not in Competition, is an entertaining documentary about cult filmmaker Alejandro Jodorowsky called ***Jodorowsky's Dune*** on Saturday 14 June at 2:15pm.

Catch the final films in the Festival at the beautifully restored Art Deco cinema on the North Shore, the **Hayden Orpheum Picture Palace Cremorne**. There are still tickets available to films including award-winning director Ira Sachs' moving and beautifully tender romance ***Love is Strange*** on Thursday 12 June at 6:30pm; Southern Gothic drama ***Joe*** from David Gordon Green and starring Nicolas Cage on Friday 13 June at 8:30pm; award-winning Argentine director Daniel Burman's thoughtful comedic drama about midlife crises, ***The Mystery of Happiness*** on Saturday 14 June at 6:15pm; and winner of Best Film at this year's Canadian Screen Awards, ***Gabrielle***, an uplifting story about contemporary relationships, on Sunday 15 June at 6:15pm (*Gabrielle* also screens at the State Theatre on Friday 13 June at 8:35pm and at Events Cinema George Street on Saturday 14 June at 7pm).

Experience **Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>** in horrifically good style at the Festival with the special screening of ***The Texas Chain Saw Massacre*** at the retro Skyline Drive-In Blacktown at 11pm; or the black-comic tragedy ***Love Eternal*** at Event Cinemas George Street at 10:20pm; or come down to our Festival Hub and join in the monster mash! Or the **Junkee debate** on The Death of Horror, asking can cinema still scare us, or has the genre become a joke?

Due to Popular Demand, an extra session of ***Finding Fela!*** – a film about the life of the pioneer of Afrobeat, Fela Kuti, by Oscar-winning director Alex Gibney (*We Steal Secrets: The Story of Wikileaks* - SFF 2013) – screens at Event Cinemas, George Street on Friday 13 June at 8:30pm.

Other must-see closing weekend sessions include the sensual Danish coming-of-age werewolf romance ***When Animals Dream***, screening at Dendy Opera Quays on Saturday 14 June at 8:45pm and Sunday 15 June at 9.15pm; a searing and moving portrait of a village outside Timbuktu in Mali under siege by foreign religious fundamentalists called ***Timbuktu***, screening at Event Cinemas George Street on Sunday 15 June at 10am; and ***Mommy***, directed by **Xavier Dolan** (whose film *Tom at the Farm* also screens at SFF 2014) which won the Jury Prize at Cannes and screens at Dendy Opera Quays on Sunday 15 June at 7.10pm.

On Saturday and Sunday, SFF presents a three-film retrospective on avante-garde filmmaker **James Benning**, who will introduce each film with guest programmer Gabe Klinger. See the filmmaker's key work and personal favourite ***American Dreams (lost and found)*** on Saturday 14 June at 1pm, and the stunning black-and-white and colour re-telling of Utah's history in ***Deseret*** on Saturday 14 June at 3pm, both at the AGNSW; and ***Nightfall***, a 98-minute dusk tableau, filmed in a wooded area high up in California's Sierra Nevada mountains, in which audiences are gradually immersed into the profoundest of black at Dendy Opera Quays on Sunday 15 June at 11am.

James Benning is also subject of a documentary by Gabe Klinger about Benning and fellow movie maverick Richard Linklater, ***Double Play: James Benning and Richard Linklater*** on Friday 13 June at 6:30pm at Dendy Opera Quays.

For tickets and full up-to-date program information please visit [sff.org.au](http://sff.org.au)

**The 61<sup>st</sup> Sydney Film Festival runs 4-15 June 2014 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 please visit [sff.org.au](http://sff.org.au)

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