



MEDIA RELEASE

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SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL FAMILY-FRIENDLY FILMS

The 64th Sydney Film Festival (7-18 June) announces six family-friendly films will screen at the Festival in daytime sessions over the weekend.

Since 2016, changes to classification restrictions have made over 50% of the program accessible to audiences 15+. A new Youth Pass will also introduce cheaper tickets to film lovers aged 18-24. Festival films will now cost young people just \$72 for a bundle of six-tickets. Tickets for under 18s are just \$13.

“Tweens will relish fish out of water features: the world premiere of *Rip Tide*, featuring Disney star Debby Ryan, and home-grown talents Jeremy Lindsay Taylor and Aaron Jeffrey, shot in the Illawarra region; and *The Sun at Midnight*, a mystical First Nations tale about getting lost and finding yourself, set in the Arctic circle during the long days of summer,” said **Family Films Programmer, Clare Sawyer**.

“And for the whole family, delightful animations: *My Entire High School Sinking Into the Sea*, starring the voices of indie heroes Jason Schwartzman, Lena Dunham, John Cameron Mitchell, Reggie Watts, Maya Rudolph, and Susan Sarandon; Oscar-nominated stop-motion *My Life as a Zucchini*; and the superhero crime-fighting adventure *Phantom Boy*, tackle everything from teenage angst to activism in the most unique and entertaining way.”

“Featuring intelligent family films from around the world, these titles will surprise and delight both the child inside and the child beside each audience member,” she said.

A special selection of animated short films from around the world, for children aged three and above, have been curated by the Festival’s animation specialist **Malcolm Turner** and can be seen in the *Kids Animation Showcase*.

MY ENTIRE HIGH SCHOOL SINKING INTO THE SEA (Ages 12 or 13+)

Director: Dash Shaw | USA | 2016 | 76mins | In English

Cult comic artist Dash Shaw directs a kooky end-of-the-world disaster movie for Gen Z featuring a host of indie stars and a colourful blend of animation, painting and collage. Misanthropic high school journalist Dash discovers that his dysfunctional school is built on a fault line. When an earthquake sends the building floating out to sea, where it begins to inevitably sink, Dash tries to lead his fellow students to safety. It’s a snarky and oddball disaster movie that’s part *Titanic* and part *Ghost World*. Featuring the voices of indie heroes Jason Schwartzman, Lena Dunham, John Cameron Mitchell, Reggie Watts and Maya Rudolph, plus Susan Sarandon as Lunch Lady Lorraine, Shaw brings his singular and hilarious POV to teenage angst and activism. With its vibrant handmade and digital animation techniques, *My Entire High School...* won over audiences at the Toronto and Berlin film festivals.



MY LIFE AS A ZUCCHINI (Ages 10+)

Director: Claude Barras | Switzerland, France | 2016 | 88 mins | The Festival will screen the English version, plus the French version with English subtitles

An Oscar-nominated Swiss-French stop-motion family animation that's realistic and life affirming, dealing with real issues in a way that doesn't patronise or traumatise its audience. When nine-year old Zucchini's alcoholic mother dies, he is taken to an orphanage filled with misfits who, like himself, have been dealt a rough hand by life. Little does he know, they will soon become his de facto family, from his crush Camille to the gentle father-figure policeman Raymond. Based on a best-selling young adult novel and adapted for the screen by Céline Sciamma (*Tomboy*, SFF 2011), *My Life as a Zucchini* is an unusual, affirming but honest film that calls on its young audience's ability to empathise with lives far tougher than their own. They'll come out heartened, strengthened and more resilient from the experience – and so will the adults who take them.

PHANTOM BOY (Ages 7+)

Director: Alain Gagnol, Jean-Loup Felicioli | France, Belgium | 2016 | In English

From the French team behind the Oscar-nominated *A Cat in Paris* comes this beautifully animated supernatural crime-fighting adventure, set on the streets of New York. 11-year-old Leo is ill and can't leave the hospital – but he can leave his body and fly around New York. One night, on one of his excursions, Leo comes across a mobster plotting a crime. The dastardly criminal is called The Man With the Broken Face: he wears a mask resembling a Picasso painting and is followed around by Rufus, his sidekick pup. To use his supernatural powers and become a super hero, Leo must team up with wheelchair-bound detective Alex and fearless journalist Mary to fight the super criminal threatening the city. With distinctive and vibrant animation, Leo's is a mission of empowerment as he fights the good fight, as well as his own tougher health battles.

RIP TIDE (Ages 11+)

Director: Rhiannon Bannenberg | Australia | 2017 | 85 mins | English

Disney star Debby Ryan makes her Australian film debut in this perfectly-pitched tween feature about surfing, romance and deciding what to do with your life. There comes a point in everyone's life when you have to make a decision about the direction you're going to take. For newly-18 American fashion model Cora (musician and Disney star Debby Ryan, *Jessie*, *16 Wishes*), that time is now. She's moved to a Australian coastal town to be with her favourite aunt, after a 'fashion faux pas' back home. At first she feels isolated, but soon romance and new friendships start to bloom, and Cora must decide between returning to the modelling career driven by her ambitious mother, or staying with the community that has welcomed her in. A great Aussie cast excels in this local feature by talented director Rhiannon Bannenberg, with surf scenes shot on the Illawarra coast.

THE SUN AT MIDNIGHT (Ages 12+)

Director: Kirsten Carthew | Canada | 2016 | 93 mins | English | Australian Premiere

An urban teen encounters a mystical hunter in this charming debut feature shot in Canada's magnificent, remote Northwest Territory. For teenager Lia (rising star Kawennáhere Devery Jacobs), the only way to truly find herself is to get lost. Lia's father sends the sullen teen to visit her grandmother in a pocket-sized First Nations community in sub-Arctic Canada. With her pink hair, faux fur coat and a dusting of attitude, Lia is immediately a fish out of water. She runs away, stealing a canoe to try and paddle back to the city, but gets lost in the wilds of her ancestral country. A chance meeting with an older hunter, Alfred (played by Duane Howard, *The Revenant*) leads to an unusual mentorship. Alfred is obsessed with finding a lost herd of caribou, and Lia joins him on a semi-spiritual journey to find the missing herd – and also herself.

KIDS ANIMATION SHOWCASE

Short animated gems from all over the world, selected for SFF by Guest Programmer Malcolm Turner. Art, fairytales and folkstories. Felt pens, cotton wool, computers and crayons. Funny, happy,



sad, thoughtful and thought-provoking. Creative, silly, serious, strange and curious! The best animation for younger audiences.

The full Sydney Film Festival program will be announced on Wednesday 10 May at 11am.

Note: Flexipasses and subscriptions to Sydney Film Festival 2017 are on sale now. Please call 1300 733 733 or visit <http://www.sff.org.au> for more information.

MEDIA ENQUIRIES

Amber Forrest-Bisley, Publicity Manager, Sydney Film Festival

E: amber@cardinalspin.com.au P: 02 8065 7363 M: 0405 363 817

Amy Owen, Communications Advisor

E: amy@cardinalspin.com.au M: 0404 977 338

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

ABOUT SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL

From **Wednesday 7 June to Sunday 18 June 2017**, the 64th 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.

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: *Aquarius* (2016); *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 Orpheum Picture Palace Cremorne, Randwick Ritz, Casula Powerhouse, the Festival Hub at Sydney Town Hall and SFF Outdoor Screen in Pitt Street Mall.

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 64th 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.

