

MEDIA RELEASE

EMBARGOED UNTIL 11.00am WEDNESDAY 10 MAY 2017

CANADA, FROM COAST TO COAST

The 64th Sydney Film Festival announces Canada as this year's country of focus, to celebrate its 150th anniversary of Confederation. In partnership with the Government of Canada, the Festival will showcase seven films which represent the best of new Canadian cinema.

"The themes for Canada's 150th anniversary are diversity, inclusion, reconciliation, environment and youth, and we believe the selection of films curated by the Sydney Film Festival highlights all of these," said **Canadian Consul-General, Angela Bogdan**.

Four Canadian filmmakers will attend as guests of the Festival to present the screening of their films: director-animator Ann Marie Fleming, director Simon Lavoie, director Kirsten Carthew, and producer Christina Fon.

Also attending is Apache musician **Steve Salas** – named one of the world's top 50 guitarists of all time – who will present his film, alongside Canadian producer Christina Fon, *RUMBLE: Indians Who Rocked the World*.

"Sydney Film Festival is proud to present **seven** innovative feature-length films, including two titles by First Nation filmmakers, to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Canadian Confederation," said **Festival Director Nashen Moodley**.

"Six Canadian short films will also screen in the festival: the Cannes-selected *The Tesla World Light*; *Hand.Line.Cod*; *Sigismond Imageless*; and, *Casino*, *The Head Vanishes*, and *Scratchy* in our animation program."

"These outstanding features and documentaries demonstrate the creativity and craft of Canadian storytellers from the Pacific to the Atlantic," he said.

"We're delighted to have a focus on Canadian film at the 2017 Sydney Film Festival in what is such an important year for Canada – the 150th anniversary of our Confederation," said **Canadian Consul-General, Angela Bogdan**.

"Canadian film is blossoming, and we hope the selections this year give Sydney the opportunity to get just a taste of what Canada has to offer in this medium," she said.

Focus on Canada screenings and guests include:

- **Angry Inuk (screens with Hand.Line.Cod)**
Saturday 17 June, 2.30pm, Dendy Opera Quays
- **Maliglutit**
Thursday 8 June, 6.15pm, Dendy Newtown
Sunday 18 June, 6.30pm, Dendy Opera Quays

- **Maudie**
Saturday 10 June, 1.35pm, Event Cinemas George St
Thursday 15 June, 6.15pm, HOC
- **RUMBLE: Indians Who Rocked the World | Introduced by Canadian producer Christina Fon and Apache musician Stevie Salas**
Wednesday 14 June, 6.30pm, Dendy Newtown
Friday 16 June, 6.00pm, Event Cinemas George St
- **The Sun at Midnight | Introduced by Canadian filmmaker Kirsten Carthew**
Sunday 11 June, 12.45pm, Event Cinemas George St
Saturday 17 June, 11.45am, Event Cinemas George St
- **Those Who Make The Revolution Only Halfway Dig Their Own Graves | Introduced by Canadian filmmaker Simon Lavoie**
Thursday 15 June, 7.30pm, Dendy Newtown
Sunday 18 June, 6.40pm, Dendy Opera Quays
- **Window Horses: The Poetic Persian Epiphany of Rosie Ming | Introduced by Canadian filmmaker Ann Marie Fleming**
Friday 9 June, 2.35pm, State Theatre
Saturday 17 June, 4.00pm, Dendy Opera Quays

Sydney Film Festival runs 7 – 18 June 2017.

Tickets for Sydney Film Festival 2017 are on sale now. Please call 1300 733 733 or visit sff.org.au for more information.

MEDIA ENQUIRIES

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***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.



FEATURES

MALIGLUTIT

Director, Screenwriter: Alethea Arnaquq-Baril | Canada | 85mins | In Inuktitut and English with English Subtitles | Australian Premiere

Kunuk masterfully reimagines classic cinema to bring his people and their history to the forefront. Set in 1913, *Maliglutit* has a timeless quality, and patiently provides insight into Inuit life before a pivotal event. When Kuanana's home is attacked by raiders, relatives are killed and his wife and daughter kidnapped. The Inuk man has no option but to seek revenge and rescue his family. Setting out across the Arctic, aided by his family's spirit helper, the loon, he begins an arduous chase. Taking full advantage of the spellbinding landscape and casting members of his First Nations community, Kunuk weaves a magical and expressive tale.

MAUDIE

Director: Aisling Walsh | Canada, Ireland | 115mins | In English | Australian Premiere

Bad-natured loner Everett (Hawke) places an ad for a housekeeper and doesn't know what to make of the applicant. Maudie (Hawkins) is hunched over with hands gnarled by arthritis, but she's eager to take the unappealing job. Gruff and boorish, Everett treats Maudie poorly, but she patiently chips away at his tough exterior. Her arthritis makes painting difficult but it's liberating for Maudie; soon, she's painted every corner of their house, and her paintings develop a loyal following that leads to her eventual fame. Sally Hawkins is superb as Maudie in a performance that transcends the physical, while Hawke disguises his natural on-screen charm in an unusual and distinctive role. *Maudie* is a moving celebration of the power of art and a tender, complex love story.

THE SUN AT MIDNIGHT

Director, Screenwriter: Kirsten Carthew | Canada | 93mins | In English | Australian Premiere

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.

WINDOW HORSES – THE POETIC PERSIAN EPIPHANY OF ROSIE MING

Director, Screenwriter: Ann Marie Fleming | Canada | 90mins | In English, Chinese, German and Farsi with English Subtitles | Australian Premiere

When we first meet Rosie (voiced by Sandra Oh, also executive producer) she's flipping burgers in Canada and living with her overprotective Chinese immigrant grandparents. She dreams of travelling, going so far as to self-publish a book of poems in praise of France. Her Iranian father disappeared when she was a child, so when she's unexpectedly invited to a poetry festival in PB285Shiraz, Rosie is over the moon. The journey will take her further than she could ever imagine, as she discovers her heritage and the Persian love of poetry. Fleming (*The Magical Life of Long Tack Sam*, SFF 2004) tells the story of Rosie's journey, both inward and outward, with great humour and colour-filled imagery inspired by a myriad of cultures.

DOCUMENTARIES

ANGRY INUK

Director, Screenwriter: Alethea Arnaquq-Baril | Canada | 85mins | In Inuktitut and English with English Subtitles | Australian Premiere

Stories in the media of brutality and exploitation were at odds with Arnaquq-Baril's childhood memories of seal hunting with her family on remote Baffin Island. Her people were accused of terrible things, which didn't reflect her experience. Environmental groups used footage of baby seals



being clubbed decades after this was banned, and falsely claimed that the seal population was endangered. Arnaquq-Baril believes the Inuit approach is ethical and sustainable, but when trying to discuss this with activists, no one returns her calls. This passionate documentary examines the challenges faced by the Inuit community – not least when wealthy nations make the rules that negatively impact their way of life. Screens with: *Hand.Line.Cod*

RUMBLE: THE INDIANS WHO ROCKED THE WORLD

Director, Screenwriter: Catherine Bainbridge, Alfonso Maiorana | Canada | 103mins | In English | Australian Premiere

Bainbridge and Maiorana's Sundance winner kicks off with the thumping riffs of Shawnee guitarist Link Wray's 1950s classic 'Rumble'; a track that E Street Band's Steven Van Zandt tagged "the theme song of juvenile delinquency". We hear how Native American musicians and rhythms influenced the South from North Carolina to the streets of New Orleans. Fascinating interviews and archival clips tell stories of music greats like jazz singer Mildred Bailey, guitar genius Jesse Ed Davis, and Native Canadians Buffy Sainte-Marie and The Band's Robbie Robertson. Executive produced by Apache guitarist Stevie Salas, this engaging documentary expertly reveals how Native American musicians are consistently left out of the story.

THOSE WHO MAKE THE REVOLUTION ONLY HALFWAY DIG THEIR OWN GRAVES

Director, Screenwriter: Mathieu Denis, Simon Lavoie | Canada | 183mins | In English and French with English Subtitles | Australian Premiere

The Maple Spring was a 2012 student protest against a rise in fees in Quebec which ended after negotiations. Filmmakers Mathieu Denis and Simon Lavoie daringly imagine four rebels who refuse to compromise, following these leftist revolutionaries years after the protests. The gang live together, committing increasingly dangerous acts of defiance in order to overthrow the government and the capitalist system. Announcing its boldness with an overture of a black screen for several minutes, the film fuses documentary and news footage with the narrative. Over its extended running time, this innovative fusion of fiction and documentary is a consistently vibrant and imaginative exploration of youthful revolutionary zeal.

SHORTS

HAND.LINE.COD

Canada | 2016 | 13 mins | In English | Australian Premiere

Director, Screenwriter: Justin Simms | Producer: Annette Clarke

On Fogo Island, fishers catch cod live by hand, by hook and line, they're on a sustainability mission to drive up prices.

