

PRESS RELEASE – April, 2024

NICOLE KIDMAN, AC WOMEN'S GIVING COLLECTIVE

Sydney Film Festival is honoured to announce Nicole Kidman AC as the Ambassador for the SFF Women's Giving Collective, a key strand of the Festival's philanthropic program. Kidman has been a generous supporter and Festival Patron for many years.

Nicole Kidman said, "I'm honoured to become the Ambassador for Sydney Film Festival's Women's Giving Collective. I look forward to working alongside a group of women who are as passionate as I am in empowering the careers of women and non-binary filmmakers."

The Women's Giving Collective seeks to redress gender inequity that persists across the screen sector. The Collective began in 2019 as an SFF Board and Donor initiative to empower women within the film industry, and support has been steadily growing over the years. The Festival has signed onto the 5050x2020 initiative, joining international festivals including Cannes and Venice in a pledge to make gender parity a priority.

Raised on Sydney's North Shore, Kidman is an Oscar-winning actress and producer and has been a long-time supporter of women in the industry, working with emerging female directors, authors and screenwriters through her production company, Blossom Films. Sydney Film Festival has a long history of screening her films including local productions like Kim Farrant's *Strangerland* (SFF 2015), and internationally acclaimed hits like Sofia Coppola's *The Beguiled* (SFF 2017).

Kidman said, "Film Festivals are such special occasions to celebrate cinema and show a snapshot of our global industry. It's encouraging to see that snapshot include women more and more, but there is still work to be done. SFF is a great example of the celebration and the change we need to see in the industry – and of course I'm proud that it's in my hometown of Sydney".

Kidman has long sought out women directors including Lulu Wang and Andrea Arnold. Last year, SFF screened 1996's *The Portrait of a Lady*, which marked Kidman's first collaboration with Jane Campion, the subject of the Festival's 2023 retrospective.

Frances Wallace said, "SFF is absolutely thrilled to welcome Nicole as the Ambassador of SFF's Women's Giving Collective. It means the world to have someone of Kidman's stature join the Festival at this level of support and really raise the profile of women in the industry. Together we are working hard to create gender parity within the screen sector and I'm proud that SFF is a leader in this space."

The Academy Award-winning Kidman is the first Australian actor to receive the AFI Lifetime Achievement Award. She also serves as a UN Women Goodwill Ambassador.

SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL PROGRAM GUIDE STORY – April, 2024

NICOLE KIDMAN, AC **WOMEN'S GIVING COLLECTIVE** **(with photo)**

Nicole Kidman, the iconic Hollywood star, steps into a new role as Ambassador for the Sydney Film Festival's Women's Giving Collective. Kidman has joined forces with the Festival to empower women and non-binary filmmakers, addressing gender inequity in the industry.

The Women's Giving Collective strives for gender parity, aligning with the 5050x2020 initiative, with SFF's goal to each year achieve 50% of all Festival films directed or co-directed by women. With her brilliance, infectious energy and unwavering dedication, Nicole Kidman is the perfect fit to champion the cause. Raised in Sydney, she continues to inspire generations of filmmakers and audiences around the world.

Kidman has consistently elevated female filmmakers via her production company Blossom Films. As she joins forces with the Festival, that dedication to female voices resonates deeply. Together with Kidman, SFF aims to reshape the industry, fostering inclusivity and diversity. Kidman's appointment signifies a significant step forward, drawing attention to the vital importance of women in cinema.

"As the Ambassador for Women's Giving Collective, we strive towards a cinematic landscape where diversity thrives, and creativity knows no bounds."

CTA: Join Nicole Kidman and the SFF Women's Giving Collective in rewriting the future of cinema. Together, let's amplify the voices of underrepresented film creatives and pave the way for a more equitable industry. Join us in our mission to make a difference today.

SOCIAL MEDIA COPY: **NICOLE KIDMAN, AC** **WOMEN'S GIVING COLLECTIVE**

Sydney Film Festival is honoured to announce Nicole Kidman AC as the Ambassador for the SFF Women's Giving Collective, a key strand of the Festival's philanthropic program that seeks to redress gender inequity that persists across the screen sector.

Nicole Kidman said, "I'm honoured to become the Ambassador for Sydney Film Festival's Women's Giving Collective. I look forward to working alongside a group of women who are as passionate as I am in empowering the careers of women and non-binary filmmakers."

We sincerely thank Nicole Kidman for her ongoing support!