

MEDIA RELEASE

EMBARGOED UNTIL THURSDAY 13 OCTOBER 2016



2017 LEXUS AUSTRALIA SHORT FILM FELLOWSHIP SUBMISSIONS OPEN

The Sydney Film Festival and Lexus Australia today announced that submissions are now open for the 2017 Lexus Australia Short Film Fellowship, the largest cash fellowship (AUD\$200,000) for short film in Australia.

For the second year, four Fellowship winners will receive \$50,000 each to produce their next short film in the coming year, to premiere at the **Sydney Film Festival in 2018**. Open from **13 October**, filmmakers have seven weeks to submit their entries before the **1 December 2016** deadline.

Australian screen icon **Judy Davis** who chaired the 2016 **Lexus Australia Short Film Fellowship Jury** said, "The Fellowship offers an incredible investment in nurturing the next generation of Australian film industry achievers. It was an honour to be involved in selecting the four winners of the Fellowship last year: Anya Beyersdorf, Brooke Goldfinch, Alex Murawski and Alex Ryan, who are in the process of creating four incredibly exciting films to premiere at the 2017 Sydney Film Festival."

It's a simple process with no entry fee. All filmmakers are required to do is submit an eligible film and curriculum vitae by 1 December. A Sydney Film Festival panel will select 20 finalists to submit entries to be judged by the 2017 Lexus Australia Short Film Fellowship Jury. The four winning Fellowships will be announced during the 2017 Sydney Film Festival.

Festival Director **Nashen Moodley** said, "The Festival is delighted to again work with Lexus Australia to offer this important Fellowship. The Fellowship is a significant investment in young and emerging Australian filmmakers, providing a level of funding not previously available to local filmmakers to tell their stories through short film."

Adrian Weimers, Corporate Manager, Lexus Australia said, "The Lexus Australia Short Film Fellowship, developed in partnership with Sydney Film Festival, is an expression of Lexus's deep appreciation of creativity, design and craftsmanship. Our support for finding and developing new voices for filmmaking is an investment in innovation, and a way to keep art forms evolving in Australia," he said.

For more information on the Lexus Australia Short Film Fellowship, visit www.sff.org.au/fellowship.

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ABOUT THE LEXUS AUSTRALIA SHORT FILM FELLOWSHIP

The Lexus Australia Short Film Fellowship is a new \$200,000 investment by Lexus Australia, presented by Sydney Film Festival, to support future generations of emerging filmmakers. The Fellowship is the largest cash fellowship for short film in Australia. Up to four Fellowship winners will receive \$50,000 each to produce their next short film in 2017, to premiere at the 65th Sydney Film Festival in 2018.

ABOUT SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL

Sydney Film Festival screens feature films, documentaries, short films and animation across greater Sydney. 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.

MEDIA ENQUIRIES

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

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