



## MEDIA INFORMATION

# BIOGRAPHY: NASHEN MOODLEY SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL DIRECTOR

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**2014 marks Nashen Moodley's third year as Festival Director of Sydney Film Festival.**

During his first two years at the helm, the Festival grew significantly. In 2013, the event's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, attendances increased by 17% to 143,000 and ticket sales increased 22% leading to a 20% increase in revenue.

Other highlights in Moodley's first two years as Festival Director include the introduction and development of the popular free public space the **Festival Hub at Town Hall**; a new partnership with Screen Australia's Indigenous Department entitled **Screen: Black**; and geographical expansions to the **Hayden Orpheum Picture Palace Cremorne** and, new in 2014, the **Skyline Drive-In**, Blacktown.

Moodley's impressive career in film programming has encompassed leadership roles as Manager and Head of Programming at the **Durban International Film Festival** (2001–2011) and Tehran's first **South African Film Festival** (2006). Moodley also consults as Director of AsiaAfrica Programs for **Dubai International Film Festival** (2008–present).

During Moodley's 11 years at Durban International Film Festival – South Africa's longest-running film festival – he was responsible for expanding the content and reach of the festival. He also raised the profile of the African film industry by establishing the **Durban FilmMart**, a program that provides African filmmakers with the opportunity to pitch film projects to leading financiers.

In addition to programming, Moodley has advised India's **International Film Festival of Kerala**, South Korea's **Busan International Film Festival** and **Africala** in Mexico City. Moodley has also worked as an Industry Consultant at the **International Film Festival Rotterdam**, and as an expert at the **Berlinale Talent Campus**.

Born in South Africa in 1978, Moodley studied English and Philosophy at the University of Natal and worked as a journalist before turning to film. His film writing and criticism has appeared in newspapers and magazines including **The Guardian**, **GQ**, **the Sunday Tribune**, **the Sunday Independent**, and **Mail & Guardian** (South Africa).

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

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## ABOUT SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL

Sydney Film Festival screens feature films, documentaries, short films and animated films across the city at the State Theatre, Event Cinemas George Street, Dendy Opera Quays, the Art Gallery of NSW, Hayden Orpheum Picture Palace Cremorne, the Apple Store, SFFTV at Martin Place, Skyline Drive-In Blacktown, and the Festival Hub at Town Hall.

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](http://www.sff.org.au)

Sydney Film Festival also presents 12 films that vie for the Official Competition, a highly respected international 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 include: *Only God Forgives* (2013), *Alps* (2012), *A Separation* (2011) – which went on to win an Academy Award, *Heartbeats* (2010), *Bronson* (2009) and *Hunger* (2008).

The 61st Sydney Film Festival is supported by the NSW Government through Screen NSW, the Federal Government through Screen Australia, and the City of Sydney. The Festival's Strategic partner is the NSW Government through Destination NSW.

**What:** Sydney Film Festival

**When:** 4-15 June, 2014

**Tickets & Info:** 1300 733 733 [sff.org.au](http://sff.org.au)

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## MEDIA ENQUIRIES

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### Principal State Government partner



### Strategic partner



### Government partners

