



**MEDIA RELEASE**

Thursday 31 May, 2012

## Sydney Film Festival, 6-17 June, announces full list of Talks and Q&A sessions

The 59<sup>th</sup> Sydney Film Festival is proud to announce the full program of **over 90 talks and Q&A sessions** to be hosted by filmmakers, writers, actors and industry guests across **7 venues** over **12 days**. There will be over **15** free talks and more than **75** screenings with filmmaker introductions and post-film Q&As at this year's festival.

"We are really pleased to have this amazing line-up of talks and Q&A sessions featuring an extensive array of filmmakers at the Sydney Film Festival this year," said **Nashen Moodley, SFF Festival Director**. "We encourage festivalgoers to take advantage of these sessions which we hope will enhance their experience of the films."

This year's free talks programs encompass the **Meet the Filmmakers: SFF Talks at the Apple Store**, the **Expert Talks** at the **Sydney Film Festival Hub @ Lower Town Hall** as well as the **Ian McPherson Memorial Lecture**.

Highlights of the **SFF Talks at the Apple Store** include **Cate Shortland** discussing her World War II drama, *Lore*; and a discussion of *Dead Europe* by director **Tony Krawitz** (*The Tall Man*), Oscar<sup>®</sup>-winning producer **Emile Sherman** (*The King's Speech*) and producer **Liz Watts** (*Animal Kingdom*).

The **Expert Talks: Festival Hub @ Lower Town Hall** program features the **AFTRS Presents Five Films for an Alien** panel discussion featuring directors **Kriv Stenders** (*Red Dog*) and **Bruce Beresford** (*Mao's Last Dancer*), screenwriter **John Collee** (*Happy Feet*) and Screen Australia CEO **Dr. Ruth Harley**; and the *Confessions of a Festival Photographer* talk by **Fabrizio Maltese**, amongst others.

In addition, the **2012 Ian McPherson Memorial Lecture** will feature **Bryan Brown** in discussion with **David Stratton** on movies and moviemaking. The **Ian McPherson Memorial Lecture** is a **free** public event presented every year, commemorating the contribution of the man who helped establish Sydney Film Festival in 1954 and who served on the Festival Board until 1977.

Highlights of the introductions and Q&A sessions held at screenings include: **Billy Connolly** at Disney•Pixar's *Brave*; **Sarah Snook, Ryan Corr** and director **Peter Templeman** at the World Premiere of SFF Opening Night film *Not Suitable for Children*; and **Bonita Mabo**, actors **Deborah Mailman** and **Jimi Bani** and filmmakers **Rachel Perkins** and **Darren Dale** at the World Premiere of *Mabo*.

For a different type of filmmaker interaction, SFF has also organised a lunch at the Grasshopper Eating House and Bar with two special SFF guests, **Musa Syeed**, screenwriter and director of *Valley of the Saints* and **Miro Bilbrough**, screenwriter and director of the Australian feature *Being Venice*.

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## **Meet the Filmmakers: SFF Talks at the Apple Store – FREE**

To celebrate the 2012 Sydney Film Festival and the spirit of filmmaking, the Apple Store once again hosts its **free Meet the Filmmakers** series, where you can hear esteemed writers, directors, producers and actors discuss their latest project and answer your questions.

### **Cate Shortland**

**Sunday 10 June, 2-3pm**

AFI Award-winning Australian film and TV director **Cate Shortland** (*Somersault, The Secret Life of Us*) will discuss her latest film, the World War II drama **Lore**, which makes its Australian Premiere in SFF's Official Competition.

### **Tony Krawitz, Emile Sherman and Liz Watts**

**Friday 15 June, 2-3pm**

Australian director **Tony Krawitz** (*Jewboy, The Tall Man*), Oscar®-winning Australian producer **Emile Sherman** (*The King's Speech*) and Australian producer **Liz Watts** (*Animal Kingdom*) discuss their latest feature, **Dead Europe**, screening in SFF's Official Competition.

### **Philippe Falardeau**

**Sunday 17 June, 12-1pm**

Acclaimed Canadian director **Philippe Falardeau** (*Congorama, It's Not Me, I Swear!*) talks about his Oscar-nominated schoolroom drama **Monsieur Lazhar**, which screens in SFF's Official Competition.

### **Dion Beebe**

**Sunday 17 June, 4-5pm**

World-renowned, Oscar-winning Australian cinematographer **Dion Beebe** (*Memoirs of a Geisha, Collateral, Chicago*) is on hand to discuss the transition from celluloid to digital filmmaking, as debated in SFF's International Documentaries selection **Side By Side**, in which he is interviewed. Beebe also shot the Tony Bennett documentary **The Zen of Bennett** directed by **Unjoo Moon**, screening in SFF's Sounds on Screen section.

Visit [sff.org.au](http://sff.org.au) or [apple.com.au/sydney](http://apple.com.au/sydney) for more information on the **SFF Talks at the Apple Store** speakers and session times.

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## Expert Talks: Festival Hub @ Lower Town Hall – FREE

### **Fabrizo Maltese, Confessions of a Festival Photographer**

**Thursday 7 June, 6-6.30pm**

Photographer **Fabrizo Maltese** talks about his travels to the world's most prestigious film festivals to shoot intimate, one-on-one portraits, capturing actors and directors when they play themselves... or pretend to.

Full of juicy anecdotes and fascinating insights, this talk by **Fabrizo Maltese** is the perfect introduction to his new exhibition **Role / Play**, which bring portraits of some of the world's most talented actors and directors to the Festival Hub for 11 days only.

### **Anand Patwardhan and Tom Zubrycki**

**Friday 8 June, 6-7:30pm**

Hear Indian director **Anand Patwardhan** (*Jai Bhim Comrade*) in conversation with acclaimed Australian documentary filmmaker **Tom Zubrycki**.

**Anand Patwardhan** has been making political documentaries for three decades, pursuing diverse and controversial issues at the crux of social and political life in India. Many of his films were banned by state television channels in India, Patwardhan successfully challenged the censorship rulings in court. Interviewing **Anand Patwardhan** is **Tom Zubrycki**, who has earned an international reputation for his substantial and widely-respected body of Australian documentaries, tackling diverse issues from immigration and racial prejudice to civil unrest and unionism. Presented in association with the Australian Directors Guild and OzDox.

### **Stephen Maing in conversation with Joost den Hartog**

**Saturday 9 June, 5-6pm**

Catch filmmaker **Stephen Maing** in conversation with **Joost den Hartog**, Executive Director of the Australian International Documentary Conference (AIDC). **Stephen Maing** is a Korean-American filmmaker and artist based in New York. He is the director of several award-winning short films, as well as co-producer and editor of the feature documentary *Lioness*. He received a 2009 Creative Promise Award Honorable Mention at the Tribeca Film Festival and the Special Jury Prize at the 2012 Independent Film Festival of Boston. Stephen brings to Sydney Film Festival his new feature documentary shot in China, **High Tech, Low Life**, which looks at decentralized media and the conflict between personal and political identity.

Before joining AIDC, **Joost den Hartog** was the producer of the Forum for International Co-Financing in Amsterdam. He also worked for the Toronto Documentary Forum and has been involved with AIDC since 2005, first as marketplace coordinator and since 2006 as Executive Director.

**Stephen Maing's** attendance at the festival is made possible by the support of the Australian International Documentary Conference (AIDC)

### **AFTRS Presents Five Films for an Alien**

**Sunday 10 June, 6-7:30pm**

What if you had to explain cinema to someone from another planet using only five films as examples? Which films would you pick, and why? Directors **Kriv Stenders** (*Red Dog*) and **Bruce Beresford** (*Mao's Last Dancer*), screenwriter **John Collee** (*Happy Feet*) and Screen Australia CEO **Dr. Ruth Harley** share their picks in an entertaining panel moderated by AFTRS Head of Screen Studies, **Karen Pearlman**.

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## **Oliver Hermanus and Tony Krawitz**

**Monday 11 June, 6-7:30pm**

Catch South African filmmaker **Oliver Hermanus** (*Beauty*) in conversation with acclaimed Australian director **Tony Krawitz** (*Dead Europe*).

**Oliver Hermanus** studied film at the University of Cape Town, UC Santa Barbara and the London Film School. His debut feature *Shirley Adams* appeared at the Locarno International Film Festival in 2009 and has subsequently been screened in over a dozen countries (including SFF2010). His new film *Beauty* premiered in Un Certain Regard at the 2011 Cannes Film Festival, where it won the Queer Palm.

Interviewing **Oliver Hermanus** is acclaimed Australian director Tony Krawitz (*Jewboy*, *The Tall Man*). His latest film *Dead Europe* premieres in Official Competition at SFF. Presented in association with the Australian Directors Guild.

## **Shadowcatchers: Panel and Book Signing**

**Tuesday 12 June, 7-8pm**

Listen to award-winning cinematographers including **Andrew Commis** (*Mabo*), **Anna Howard** (*South Solitary*, SFF 2010), **Danny Ruhlmann** (*Little Fish*) and **Peter James** (*Mao's Last Dancer*) - share their experience of working in a digital environment, in a panel chaired by **Erika Addis** from AFTRS.

Author **Martha Ansara** and featured cinematographers will be signing copies of the Australian Cinematographers Society's newly published photographic book *The Shadowcatchers: A History of Australian Cinematography*.

## **The Cinema According to Bertolucci**

**Friday 15 June, 5-7pm**

The free screening of Gianni Amelio's 1976 documentary is followed by a discussion with scholar and Italian cinema specialist **Dr. Andrea Rizzi**.

Gianni Amelio's fascinating documentary *The Cinema according to Bertolucci* imaginatively explores the making of Bertolucci's political epic, *1900* and screens in SFF's Bertolucci retrospective. Amelio interviews Bertolucci between takes from key scenes featuring Robert De Niro, Gérard Depardieu and Donald Sutherland, as the director explains his desire to 'speak of the land where [he] was born and the most formative time of [his] life.' In a memorable on-set interview, a Hemingway-esque Sterling Hayden, dressed in character as peasant patriarch Leo Dalcò and sporting a complexion like 'overcooked bread' (according to his director), poetically ruminates on the 'beauty, depth and mystery' of Bertolucci's filmmaking process. It's 'probably the most probing and intimate record of Bertolucci at work,' according to *Cinehouse UK*.

Join us for a free screening at the **Sydney Film Festival Hub @ Lower Town Hall!**

## **Interactive Storytelling: The Shape of Things to Come**

**Friday 15 June, 7-8.30pm**

New digital technologies are transforming the way content producers are writing, producing and delivering new work, opening up exciting opportunities for interactive storytelling. Discover how Australian artists, documentary makers and producers are harnessing these new possibilities to create innovative transmedia stories and interactive web documentaries. Get the lowdown on the latest trends and sneak a peek at some truly groundbreaking work.

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The panel is chaired by **Mike Jones**, AFTRS screen studies lecturer (and Head of Story at Portal Entertainment).

Panelists include:

- **Anna Grieve**, producer (*Croker Island Exodus*, screening in SFF's 2012 FOXTEL Australian Documentary Prize competition; *Big Stories Small Town*)
- **Julia Scott-Stevenson**, writer, documentary programmer and filmmaker
- **Justin Wight**, 2012 Rasmussen Award winner for *Double Happy vs. The Infinite Sadness*
- **Nick Doherty**, Managing Editor, SBS Online
- **Mike Cowap**, Investment Manager, Screen Australia

### **The Future of the Cinema Experience**

**Saturday 16 June, 7-8.30pm**

Will cinemas go the way of the video store? Will our attention span shrink along with the size of screens? Will 3D, 4D or 48fps save the cinema experience? How will we engage with cinema in the future and what's at stake for? If the diversity of what's on our screens is under threat, is there an opportunity to redefine cinephilia as a form of activism or resistance? Join our panel of film buffs and practitioners as we explore the evolving ways in which we view, experience, share and discuss cinema.

The panel will be chaired by Radio National's **Jason Di Rosso**. You'll also hear from:

- **Alice Tynan**, film critic and host of Friday on My Mind at AFTRS
- **Boyd Van Hoeij**, film critic and SFF Official Competition jury member
- **Kleber Mendonça Filho**, writer, programmer and filmmaker (SFF Official Competition film *Neighbouring Sounds*)
- **Richard Sowada**, Head of Film Programs at the Australian Centre for the Moving Image

### **Introducing the 2012 Dendy Awards Filmmakers**

**Sunday 17 June, 2-4pm**

Metro Screen presents a panel discussion featuring the diverse group of Dendy Awards finalists, who will share their experiences and discuss current trends at the vanguard of Australia's short-film industry.

Speakers are: **Billie Pleffer** (*B I N O*), **Martha Goddard** (*Dance Me to the End of Love*), **Alethea Jones** (*Dave's Dead*), **Mirrah Foulkes** (*Dumpy Goes to the Big Smoke*), **Matthew Moore** (*Julian*), **Darcy Prendergast** (*Rippled*), **Marieka Walsh** (*The Hunter*), **Christopher Kezelos** (*The Maker*), **Grant Scicluna** (*The Wilding*) and **Michael Spiccia** (*Yardbird*).

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## Special Events

### Grasshopper lunch

**Wednesday 13 June, 12:00pm for 12:30 start** (\$40 tickets available via [www.sff.org.au](http://www.sff.org.au))

Venue: **Grasshopper Eating House and Bar**, 1 Temperance Lane

Two special SFF guests, **Musa Syeed**, screenwriter and director of *Valley of the Saints* and **Miro Bilbrough**, screenwriter and director of the Australian feature *Being Venice* will discuss their films over the course of the meal and a glass of Eden Road wine. Prepare for a journey of filmmaking and storytelling!

### Ian McPherson Memorial Lecture

**Monday 11 June, 2pm** (Free tickets available via [www.sff.org.au](http://www.sff.org.au))

Venue: **Event Cinemas George Street**, 505-525 George St

Two of the most recognised and respected names in the Australian film business meet on stage to talk about movies and moviemaking in this must-see free event. ABC-TV's *At The Movies* host **David Stratton** brings his consummate interviewing skills to bear on one of Australia's favourite sons, the truly iconic **Bryan Brown**.

## Venues

### Apple Store Sydney

467 George Street

### Art Gallery of NSW

Art Gallery Road

### Dendy Opera Quays

2 East Circular Quay

### Event Cinemas George St

505-525 George St

### Festival Hub @ Lower Town Hall

483 George Street (enter on Druiitt Street)

### Martin Place Amphitheatre

Martin Place between Pitt and Castlereagh Streets

### State Theatre

49 Market Street

### Sydney Film Festival Lounge @ Grasshopper

Grasshopper Eating House & Bar, 1 Temperance Lane

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## ABOUT SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL

Sydney Film Festival screens feature films, documentaries, short films and animations across the city at the State Theatre, Event Cinemas George Street, Dendy Opera Quays and the Art Gallery of NSW. 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 <http://www.sff.org.au>

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The 59th Sydney Film Festival is supported by the NSW Government through Arts 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:** 6-17 June, 2012

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

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