



Sydney Film Festival presents

Sydney Film Festival Hub @ Lower Town Hall

For the first time ever, the **Sydney Film Festival Hub @ Lower Town Hall** will open its doors with free exhibitions, screenings, talks, panels, parties, live music, performances and DJs from 5pm-10pm, 7-17 June.

Thanks to an enhanced partnership with the **City of Sydney**, the 59th Sydney Film Festival is proud to present a new way for audiences to engage with our long-established event. "Sydney has a well-deserved reputation for hosting unforgettable cultural events, from the City's own world-class summer festivals to winter favourites like the Sydney Film Festival," **Lord Mayor Clover Moore** said.

"The City is delighted to support and host the new Festival Hub at Lower Town Hall, an exciting pop-up event that will be a highlight of Sydney's cultural calendar. This event will also boost local businesses and help diversify our night-time economy, as well as giving Sydneysiders and visitors another reason to discover Sydney's booming creative industries."

The Hub's headline attraction will be an exclusive photography exhibition by the renowned European photographer **Fabrizio Maltese**, who has been published in *Elle*, *Cinéaste*, *Sunday Telegraph (UK)*, *Grazia* and *De Filmkrant* among others. This exhibition will feature a series of 25 large-scale photographic portraits of iconic film stars and filmmakers taken at the world's major film festivals including Cannes, Berlin, Venice and elsewhere. For more info on Maltese, who is confirmed to attend Sydney Film Festival, please visit www.fabriziomaltese.com.

Located just a short stroll from Sydney Film Festival's major venues, the Hub will be a space where people can drop in before or after a screening, have a drink at the bar, meet up with fellow festivalgoers and share notes on what they've seen.

Always free, the Hub will also house a **120 seat theatrette** - screening shorts, documentaries and features – and offer a **program of talks and panels** as well as a range of live performance such as **Cinema Burlesque**; a night of cult-film inspired acts by some of Sydney's top burlesque divas Fankie Faux, Delilah DuMoan, Anna Felactic and Dick Savvy. Other events will include VJ **Tom Loud**'s sound+video mashups and many more soon to be announced.

Staffed with welcoming Sydney Film Festival hosts, helping audiences get the most out of their Sydney Film Festival 2012 experience, the Hub will also be the exclusive venue to purchase **discount tickets during the Festival**.

Programmed by **The Festivalists** - the team who create cultural events such as Jurassic Lounge, Kino Sydney and the Possible Worlds Film Festival, with interior design by Justin Nardella from **Bright Young Things** - the Hub will be the new epicentre of Sydney Film Festival.

What: Sydney Film Festival Hub

Where: Lower Town Hall, 483 George Street, Sydney 2000

When: 7-17 June, from 5-10pm

How Much: FREE

More info: www.sff.org.au

ABOUT SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL

From 6-17 June, Sydney Film Festival will showcase the best in cinema from across Australia and around the world, including features, documentaries, short films, retrospectives, restorations, animation and more. Highlights include the much-anticipated announcement of the twelve films that vie for the Official Competition; a highly respected international honour that awards a \$60,000.00 cash prize based on the decision of a jury of international and Australian filmmakers and industry professionals.

A sneak preview of the 2012 program will be announced on the 2nd of April and the full program will be revealed on May 9th.

This year, Sydney Film Festival welcomes a new Festival Director, **Nashen Moodley**, whose impressive career includes roles as Manager/Head of Programming at South Africa's **Durban International Film Festival** (2001–2011) and Director of Asia and Africa programs for **Dubai International Film Festival** (2005–current) as well as curating Tehran's first South African Film Festival (2006).

Each June, Sydney Film Festival screens across the city at venues including the State Theatre, Event Cinemas George Street and Dendy Opera Quays. Patrons are encouraged to choose the way of engaging with the festival that best fits their lifestyle and budget. This means we welcome single-ticket buyers, Flexipass 30, 20 or 10 buyers, or Subscribers to our daytime or evening programs. Flexipass buyers can share their passes with friends and family, making meeting over a movie easier while you save on single-ticket prices. Buying any form of ticket is easier than ever at sff.org.au, via our iPhone or Android App, by phone on 1300 SFF SFF or at any of our cinema Box Offices.

Sydney Film Festival is supported by the NSW Government, through Arts NSW and the Office of Trade, Business and Industry, the Federal Government through Screen Australia, and the City of Sydney.

Since its inception in June 1954 the festival has grown into a well-established and respected event on the international film festival calendar, as well as a flagship cultural event for Sydney and New South Wales. Sydney is a UNESCO designated International City of Film, acknowledgement by the Creative Cities Network of the depth, breadth and vibrancy of the city's film industry and culture. Sydney Film Festival 2012 will roll out the red carpet from 6 – 17 June. For more information visit www.facebook.com/sydneyfilmfestival

MEDIA ENQUIRIES

The logo for Cardinal Spin, featuring the words "cardinal spin" in a lowercase, sans-serif font. The word "cardinal" is in a dark purple color, and "spin" is in a lighter purple. To the right of the text is a circular icon containing a stylized spiral or swirl.

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