



MEDIA RELEASE
Wednesday 9 May, 2012

Sydney Film Festival 6-17 June 2012 Program Launch

The 59th Sydney Film Festival program was officially launched today by

The Hon Barry O'Farrell, MP, Premier of NSW.

"It is with great pleasure that I welcome the new Sydney Film Festival Director, Nashen Moodley, to present the 2012 Sydney Film Festival program," said NSW Premier Barry O'Farrell. "The Sydney Film Festival is a much-loved part of the arts calendar providing film-makers with a wonderful opportunity to showcase their work, as well as providing an injection into the State economy."

SFF Festival Director Nashen Moodley said, "I'm excited to present my first Sydney Film Festival program, opening with the world premiere of the uplifting Australian comedy *Not Suitable for Children*, a quintessentially Sydney film. The joy of a film festival is the breadth and diversity of program, and this year's will span music documentaries, horror flicks and Bertolucci classics; and the Official Competition films made by exciting new talents and masters of the form, will continue to provoke, court controversy and broaden our understanding of the world."

"The NSW Government, through Destination NSW, is proud to support the Sydney Film Festival, one of Australia's oldest film festivals and one of the most internationally recognised as well as a key event on the NSW Events Calendar," said NSW Minister for Tourism, Major Events and the Arts, George Souris. "The NSW Government is committed to supporting creative industries, and the Sydney Film Festival firmly positions Sydney as Australia's creative capital and global city for film."

This year SFF is proud to announce **Blackfella Films** as a new programming partner to jointly curate and present the best and newest Indigenous work from Australia and around the world. Included in this new joint program will be a **World Premiere** screening of *Mabo* on Thursday 7 June - celebrating the 20th anniversary of the High Court decision recognising the rights of Indigenous people to their traditional lands.

SFF screens in eight venues across the city including the State Theatre, Event Cinemas George Street, Dendy Opera Quays, Art Gallery of NSW, Apple Store, Grasshopper Lounge and SFFTV@Martin Place. Also new this year is **Sydney Film Festival Hub @ Lower Town Hall** a few minutes' walk from the Festival's major venues. The Festival Hub will feature FREE exhibitions, talks, panels, parties, live music, performances, DJs and screenings in the Mitsubishi Theatrette throughout the Festival.

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Under the curatorial helm of new **SFF Festival Director Nashen Moodley**, the 12-day Sydney Film Festival will showcase **156 titles: 67 features, 43 documentaries, 33 short films, 13 retrospective titles**, including **18 world premieres** (11 features, 7 shorts), **106 Australian premieres, 31 Australian productions** (5 features, 7 documentaries, 19 short films) and films from **51 countries** in **49 languages**.

And now for some of the 2012 SFF Program Highlights:

Opening Night

The World Premiere of Aussie comedy ***Not Suitable For Children*** – directed by **Peter Templeman** (*The Saviour*) and starring **Ryan Kwanten, Sarah Snook, Ryan Corr** and **Bojana Novakovic** – will kick start the 2012 Sydney Film Festival at the State Theatre on **Wednesday 6 June at 7.30pm**, followed by an afterparty at Bungalow 8 in Darling Harbour.

Closing Night:

The World Premiere of American drama ***Safety Not Guaranteed*** – directed by **Colin Trevorrow** (whose short *Home Base* has received over 20 million hits on YouTube) and starring **Aubrey Plaza, Mark Duplass, Jake Johnson** and **Karan Soni** – will screen at the State Theatre on **Sunday 17 June at 8pm**.

Official Competition

Rachel Ward will be the 2012 Jury President for the FIAPF Accredited SFF Official Competition. The internationally recognised **SFF Official Competition**, now in its fifth year, awards a \$60,000 cash prize, Australia's richest cash award for film, in recognition of the most courageous, audacious and cutting-edge film from the 12 features selected. Previous Sydney Film Festival Official Competition winners include; *A Separation* (2011) – which went on to win an Academy Award®, *Heartbeats* (2010), *Bronson* (2009), and *Hunger* (2008).

This year's Official Competition titles are:

Alps (Greece) | Australian Premiere | Director: **Yorgos Lanthimos** | Cast: Aggeliki Papoulia, Aris Servetalis, Johnny Vekris

Beasts of the Southern Wild (USA) | Australian Premiere | Director: **Benh Zeitlin** | Cast: Quvenzhané Wallis, Dwight Henry

Caesar Must Die (Italy) | Australian Premiere | Directors: **Paolo Taviani, Vittorio Taviani** | Cast: Cosimo Rega, Salvatore Striano

Dead Europe (Australia) | World Premiere | Director: **Tony Krawitz** | Cast: Ewen Leslie, Marton Csokas, Kodi Smit-McPhee

Gangs of Wasseypur (India) | Australian Premiere | Director: **Anurag Kashyap** | Cast: Manoj Bajpayee, Richa Chaddha, Tigmanshu Dhulia, Nawazuddin Siddique, Vineet Singh, Huma Qureshi, Reema Sen

The King of Pigs (South Korea) | Australian Premiere | Director: **Yuen Sang-ho** | Cast: Yang Ik-june, Oh Jeong-se, Kim Hye-na

Lore (Australia) | Australian Premiere | Director: **Cate Shortland** | Cast: Saskia Rosendahl, Nele Trebs, André Frid

Monsieur Lazhar (Canada) | Australian Premiere | Director: **Philippe Falardeau** | Cast: Fellag, Sophie Nélisse, Émilien Néron

Neighbouring Sounds (Brazil) | Australian Premiere | Director: **Kleber Mendonça Filho** | Cast: Irandhir Santos, Gustavo Jahn, Maeve Jinkings

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On the Road (USA) Australian Premiere | Director: **Walter Salles** | Cast: Sam Riley, Garrett Hedlund, Kristen Stewart, Viggo Mortensen, Kirsten Dunst

Tabu (Portugal, Germany, Brazil, France) | Australian Premiere | Director: **Miguel Gomes** | Cast: Teresa Madruga, Laura Soveral, Ana Moreira, Carlotto Cotta

Today (France, Senegal) | Australian Premiere | Director: **Alain Gomis** | Cast: Saül Williams, Djolof M'Bengue, Anisia Uzeyman

Confirmed guests for the International Competition include:

Director **Cate Shortland** will present the Australian Premiere of her feature film **Lore**. Her previous work includes the acclaimed *Somersault* (2004) which premiered at Cannes and won several AFI and IF Awards. Also present will be the producer of **Lore**, **Liz Watts** (also one of the producers of *Dead Europe*). Liz has previously produced stellar offerings such as *Animal Kingdom* (2010) and *Little Fish* (2005).

Philippe Falardeau follows up his three prior award-winning features with **Monsieur Lazhar**, a comedic drama which received an Academy Award® nomination for Best Foreign Language Film.

Tony Krawitz, most noted for his film *Jewboy* (SFF 2005) which premiered at Cannes and won 3 AFI Awards and the acclaimed documentary *The Tall Man* (2011), will present his latest feature **Dead Europe**, a feature-film adaptation of Christos Tsiolkas's novel of the same name. The producer of the film, Academy® Award Winner **Emile Sherman**, will also be at the festival.

Brazilian **Kleber Mendonça Filho** will present the Australian premiere of his first fiction feature film,

Neighbouring Sounds. Over the last decade, his short films *The Little Cotton Girl* (2003), *Green Vinyl* (2004), *Eletrodoméstica* (2005), *Friday Night Saturday Morning* (2006) and *Cold Tropics* (2009) have won over 100 awards in Brazil and abroad.

Director and screenwriter **Miguel Gomes** will be in Sydney for the Australian premiere of his third feature film, the lyrical and expressionistic **Tabu**. His 2008 feature *Our Beloved Month of August* screened in the Directors' Fortnight at the Festival de Cannes, and was subsequently selected for more than 40 international festivals and won over a dozen prizes.

Italian actor **Salvatore Striano** will present the Berlinale Golden Bear winner **Caesar Must Die**, an adaptation of Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar* staged in a prison in modern-day Rome. Striano previously starred in the 2008 Cannes' Film Festival Grand Jury Prize winner *Gomorra*.

BAFTA award nominee and Australian producer **Rebecca Yeldham** will be at the Australian premiere of the film adaptation of Jack Kerouac's beat classic, **On the Road**, starring Sam Riley and Kristen Stewart. Prior to **On the Road**, Yeldham produced a number of critically acclaimed titles including *The Motorcycle Diaries* (2004) and *The Kite Runner* (2007).

Yuen Sang-ho will be in Sydney to present his first feature **The King of Pigs**, also appearing at the Directors Fortnight at the 2012 Festival de Cannes. The South Korean Director will showcase his daring, disturbing and violent animated film about bullying, social status and class difference. Following its screening at the Busan International Film Festival it was hailed as marking a brave new direction for Korean animation.

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FOXTEL Australian Documentary Prize

Now in its fourth year at SFF, the FOXTEL Australian Documentary Prize winner will be awarded a generous cash prize of \$10,000 sponsored by FOXTEL and announced at the SFF Closing Night ceremony on Sunday 17 June.

The eight FOXTEL Australian Documentary Prize Finalists for SFF 2012 are:

Coniston Massacre (World Premiere) Directors: Francis Jupurrurla Kelly & David Batty

Croker Island Exodus (World Premiere) Director: Steven McGregor

Despite the Gods (Australian Premiere) Director: Penny Vozniak

Dr. Sarmast's World Music School (Australian Premiere) Director: Polly Watkins

Killing Anna Director: Paul Gallasch

Missing in the Land of the Gods (World Premiere) Director: Davor Dirlic

Paramedico (World Premiere) Director: Benjamin Gilmour

Utopia (World Premiere) Director: Bruce Petty

The Dendy Awards for Australian Short Films

The **Dendy Awards** celebrate the vibrancy of the short genre and the talent of Australian short film creative. Sponsored by Dendy Cinemas for 24 years, these awards have launched and aided the careers of many Australian filmmakers. The 10 films are competing for three prizes: The Dendy Live Action Short Award, The Yoram Gross Animation Award and the Ruben Mamoulian Award for Best Director. The finalists in this year's awards will screen together in one session on Sat 16 June at 2.30pm and Sun 17 June at 12 noon at Event Cinemas George Street.

The 10 finalists for the SFF 2012 Dendy Awards for Australian Short Films are:

B I N O | Director: Billie Pleffer

Daves Dead (World Premiere) | Director: Alethea Jones

Dance Me to the End of Love (World Premiere) | Director: Martha Goddard

Dumpy Goes to the Big Smoke (World Premiere) | Director: Mirrah Foulkes

Julian | Director: Matthew Moore

Rippled | Director: Darcy Prendergast

The Hunter | Director: Marieka Walsh

The Maker | Director: Christopher Kezelos

The Wilding | Director: Grant Scicluna

Yardbird (Australian Premiere) | Director: Michael Spiccia

Additional Awards

Peter Rasmussen Innovation Award

The 2012 Peter Rasmussen Innovation Award, now in its fourth year, is awarded to **Justin Wight** for his multi-platform, trans-media project ***Double Happy vs. The Infinite Sadness***. Wight will be presented this prestigious award at the Closing Night of the 59th Sydney Film Festival on Sunday 17 June. The Peter Rasmussen Innovation Award is given each year to an Australian whose work in film, machinima or new media embodies a visionary spirit and a relentless determination to create high-quality works for the screen. The recipient's work may be described as fringe or innovative, pushing boundaries in form or mode of production, or being outside the usual categories of film at the festival.

Showtime Movie Channels Audience Awards

The Showtime Movie Channels Audience Awards are the People's Choice awards and the winners reflect the most popular feature-length films at the Festival. After each screening, the audience is

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invited to rate the film they've just seen. Two audience awards are presented, one to the best narrative feature, and one to the best documentary.

Special Presentations at the State

From world premieres to award-winners Special Presentations at the State are a highlight of the SFF 2012 evening program.

The SFF 2012 Special Presentations are:

Amour (Australian Premiere) | France, Austria, Germany | Director: Michael Haneke | Cast: Isabelle Huppert, Jean-Louis Trintignant, Emmanuelle Riva

A Simple Life (Australian Premiere) | Hong Kong, China | Director: Ann Hui | Cast: Andy Lau, Deanie Ip, Qin Hailu

Barbara (Australian Premiere) | Germany | Director: Christian Petzold | Cast: Nina Hoss, Ronald Zehrfeld, Jasna Fritzi Bauer

Brave (Australian Premiere) | USA | Directors: Mark Andrews, Brenda Chapman | Voice Talent: Kelly Macdonald, Billy Connolly, Emma Thompson, Julie Walters, Robbie Coltrane, Kevin McKidd, Craig Ferguson
(Please note: this film will screen at Events Cinemas George Street).

I, Anna (Australian Premiere) | UK, Germany, France | Director: Barnaby Southcombe | Cast: Charlotte Rampling, Gabriel Byrne, Eddie Marsan, Hayley Atwell

Mabo (World Premiere) | Australia | Director: Rachel Perkins | Cast: Jimi Bani, Deborah Mailman, Ewen Leslie, Tom Budge

Moonrise Kingdom (Australian Premiere) | USA | Director: Wes Anderson | Cast: Bruce Willis, Edward Norton, Bill Murray

Polisse | France | Director: Maïwenn | Cast: Karin Viard, JoeyStarr, Marina Fois, Nicolas Duvachelle, Maïwenn

Rampart (Australian Premiere) | USA | Director: Oren Moverman | Cast: Woody Harrelson, Ned Beatty, Ben Foster

The Loneliest Planet (Australian Premiere) | USA, Germany | Director: Julia Loktev | Cast: Gael García Bernal, Hani Furstenberg, Bidzina Gujabidze

The Angel's Share (Australian Premiere) | UK, France | Director: Ken Loach | Cast: Paul Brannigan, Roger Allam, John Henshaw, Daniel Portman

Wuthering Heights (Australian Premiere) | UK | Director: Andrea Arnold | Cast: Kaya Scodelario, James Howson, Solomon Glave, Shannon Beer

Features

There are 67 features in the 2012 Sydney Film Festival Program (this figure includes the previously mentioned Official Competition titles and Special Presentations at the State). This selection brings together the best examples of this artform, showcasing prize-winners from the world's most prestigious festivals alongside new works that deserve to be better known.

The remaining SFF 2012 Features are:

11 Flowers (Australian Premiere) | China, France | Director: Wang Xiaoshuai | Cast: Liu Wenqing, Wang Jingchun, Yan Ni Mandarin

A Royal Affair (Australian Premiere) | Denmark, Sweden, Czech Republic, Germany | Director: Nikolaj Arcel | Cast: Mads Mikkelsen, Alicia Vikander, Mikkel Boe Føesgaard

Beauty | South Africa, France | Director: Oliver Hermanus | Cast: Deon Lotz, Charlie Keegan, Michelle Scott

Being Venice (World Premiere) | Australia | Director: Miro Bilbrough | Cast: Alice McConnell, Garry McDonald, Simon Stone

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Captive (Australian Premiere) | France, Philippines, Germany, UK | Director: Brillante Mendoza | Cast: Isabelle Huppert, Kathy Mulville, Mark Zanetta

Death for Sale (Australian Premiere) | Morocco, France, Belgium, UAE | Director: Faouzi Bensaïdi | Cast: Fehd Benchemsî, Fouad Labiad, Mouchcine Malzi

Faust | Russia | Director: Alexander Sokurov | Cast: Johannes Zeiler, Anton Adasinskiy, Isolda Dychauk

Final Whistle (Australian Premiere) | Iran | Director: Niki Karimi | Cast: Niki Karimi, Shahab Hosseini, Hasti Mohammadifar

For Ellen (Australian Premiere) | USA | Director: So Yong Kim | Cast: Paul Dano, Jena Malone, Jon Heder

Goodbye | Iran | Director: Mohammad Rasoulof | Cast: Leyla Zareh, Hassan Pourshirazi, Behname Tashakor

Hara-Kiri: Death of a Samurai (3D) (Australian Premiere) | Japan | Director: Takashi Miike | Cast: Ebizo Ichikawa, Eita, Hikari Mitsushima

Headshot (Australian Premiere) | Thailand, France | Director: Pen-ek Ratanaruang | Cast: Nopachai Jayanama, Cris Horwang, Chanokporn Sayoungkul

Hemel (Australian Premiere) | Netherlands, Spain | Director: Sacha Polak | Cast: Hannah Hoekstra, Hans Dagelet, Rifka Lodeizen

Jeff, Who Lives at Home (Australian Premiere) | USA | Directors: Jay Duplass & Mark Duplass | Cast: Jason Segel, Ed Helms, Susan Sarandon

Just the Wind (Australian Premiere) | Hungary, Germany, France | Director: Bence Fliegauf | Cast: Katalin Toldi, Gyöngyi Lendvai, Lajos Sárkány Hungarian

La Pirogue (Australian Premiere) | France, Senegal, Germany | Director: Moussa Touré | Cast: Néve Moctar Diop, Bassirou Diakhate

L (Australian Premiere) | Greece | Director: Babis Makridis | Cast: Aris Servetalis, Nota Tsernias, Eleftherios Matthaïos

Liberal Arts (Australian Premiere) | USA | Director: Josh Radnor | Cast: Josh Radnor, Elizabeth Olsen, Richard Jenkins

Love Lasts Three Years (Australian Premiere) | France | Director: Frédéric Beigbeder | Cast: Gaspard Proust, Louise Bourgoin, Joey Starr French

Miss Bala (Australian Premiere) | Mexico | Director: Gerardo Naranjo | Cast: Stephanie Sigman, Noe Hernández, James Russo Spanish |

Modest Reception (Australian Premiere) | Iran | Director: Mani Haghighi | Cast: Taraneh Alidoosti, Mani Haghighi, Esmail Khalaj

Mosquita y Mari (Australian Premiere) | USA | Director: Aurora Guerrero | Cast: Fenessa Pineda, Venecia Troncoso

My Brother the Devil (Australian Premiere) | UK | Director: Sally El Hosaini | Cast: Saïd Taghmaoui, James Floyd, Fady Elsayed

Once Upon a Time in Anatolia | Turkey, Bosnia Herzegovina | Director: Nuri Bilge Ceylan | Cast: Muhammet Uzuner, Yılmaz Erdoğan, Taner Bırsel

Our Homeland (Australian Premiere) | Japan | Director: Yonghi Yang | Cast: Sakura Ando, Arata Iura, Ik-June Yang

Play It Like Godard (Australian Premiere) | France, Belgium | French | Director: Jonathan Zaccâi | Cast: Vincent Lacoste, Elsa Zylberstein,

Policeman (Australian Premiere) | Israel | Director: Nadav Lapid | Cast: Yiftach Klein, Yaara Pelzig, Michael Mushonov

Postcards from the Zoo (Australian Premiere) | Indonesia, Germany, Hong Kong, China | Director: Edwin | Cast: Ladya Cheryl, Nicholas Saputra, Adjie Nur Ahmad

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Tatsumi | Singapore, Japan | Director: Eric Khoo | Cast: Tetsuya Bessho, Yoshihiro Tatsumi, Motoko Gollent
Twilight Portrait (Australian Premiere) | Russia | Director: Angelina Nikonova | Cast: Olga Dihovichnaya, Sergei Borisov, Sergei Golyudov
The Comedy (Australian Premiere) | USA | Director: Rick Alverson | Cast: Tim Heidecker, Eric Wareheim, Jeff Jensen
The Parade (Australian Premiere) | Serbia, Croatia, Macedonia, Slovenia | Director: Srdjan Dragojević | Cast: Nikola Kojo, Milosh Samolov, Hristina Popovic
Where Do We Go Now? (Australian Premiere) | Lebanon, France | Director: Nadine Labaki | Claude Baz Moussawbaa, Layla Hakim, Nadine Labaki

Sounds on Screen

This year's selection includes Academy Award winning director Kevin Macdonald's film about the late reggae great, **Marley**; the Audience Award winning film at South by Southwest Film Festival, **Under African Skies**; Winner of World Cinema Audience Award at Sundance Film Festival, **Searching for Sugar Man**; **Sing Me the Songs that Say I Love You** by Australian director Lian Lunson; the philosophy of Tony Bennett and the last known footage of Amy Winehouse in **The Zen of Bennett**; the fusion of Islamic and Jewish music through Algerian *Chaabi* traditions in **El Gusto** and a special Opera House screening of LCD Soundsystem's **Shut Up and Play the Hits**.

The full SFF 2012 Sounds On Screen program of documentaries:

El Gusto (Australian Premiere) Director: Safinez Bousbia | France, Algeria, Ireland, UAE
LCD Soundsystem's Shut Up and Play the Hits (Australian Premiere) Director: Dylan Southern and Will Lovelace | USA (co-presented with Vivid LIVE 2012)
Marley (Australian Premiere) Director: Kevin Macdonald | UK
Searching for Sugar Man (Australian Premiere) Director: Malik Bendjelloul | Sweden, UK
Sing Me the Songs That Say I Love You: A Concert for Kate McGarrigle (Australian Premiere) Director: Lian Lunson | USA
The Zen of Bennett (Australian Premiere) Director: Unjoo Moon | USA
Under African Skies (Australian Premiere) Director: Joe Berlinger | USA

International Documentaries

There are 43 documentaries in the 2012 Sydney Film Festival program.

Here is the full list of International documentaries:

Ai Weiwei: Never Sorry | Director: Alison Klayman | USA, China
Bachelor Mountain | Director: Yu Guangyi | China
Ballroom Dancer | Director: Christian Bonke, Andreas Koefoed | Denmark
Bully | Director: Lee Hirsch | USA
Crazy Horse | Director: Frederick Wiseman | USA, France
Death of a Japanese Salesman | Director: Mami Sunada | Japan
Dreams of a Life | Director: Carol Morley | UK
First Position | Director: Bess Kargman | USA
Golden Slumbers | Director: Davy Chou | France, Cambodia
High Tech, Low Life | Director: Stephen Maing | USA, China
Last Call at the Oasis | Director: Jessica Yu | USA
Marina Abramovic: The Artist is Present | Director: Matthew Akers | USA
Maori Boy Genius | Director: Pietra Brettkelly | New Zealand
Pink Ribbons, Inc. | Director: Léa Pool | Canada

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Side By Side | Director: Chris Kenneally | USA
Step Up to the Plate | Director: Paul Lacoste | France
The Last Dogs of Winter | Director: Costa Botes | New Zealand
The Imposter | Director: Bart Layton | UK
The Virgin, The Copts and Me | Director: Namir Abdel Messeeh | France, Qatar
The British Guide to Showing Off | Director: Jes Benstock | UK
The Law in These Parts | Director: Ra'anana Alexandrowicz | Israel, USA, Germany
The World Before Her | Director: Nisha Pahuja | Canada
Undefeated | Director: Daniel Lindsay, T.J. Martin | USA
iVivan Las Antipodas! | Director: Victor Kossakovsky | Netherlands, Germany, Argentina, Chile
Whores Glory | Director: Michael Glawogger | Austria
Winter Nomads | Director: Manuel von Stürler | Switzerland
Woody Allen: A Documentary | Director: Robert B. Weide | USA

Bertolucci Retrospective

Eight **Bernardo Bertolucci** films will feature in the **59th Sydney Film Festival**. Highlights include the winner of nine Academy Awards®, *The Last Emperor*, the famously elusive *The Spider's Stratagem* and the Oscar nominated *Last Tango in Paris*, starring a youthful **Marlon Brando**. Bertolucci's career has spanned five decades, receiving critical acclaim throughout. He recently received the inaugural Honorary Palme d'Or at the 2011 Cannes Film Festival and Sydney Film Festival is proud to present an anthology of some of his finest films in this retrospective series.

The full SFF 2012 Bertolucci Retrospective features:

Before the Revolution | 1964 | Feature Film | Italy
The Spiders Stratagem | 1970 | Feature Film | Italy
Last Tango in Paris | 1972 | Feature Film | France, Italy, UK.
1900 | 1976 | Feature Film | Italy, France, West Germany
La Luna | 1979 | Feature Film | Italy, USA
The Last Emperor | 1987 | Feature Film | Italy, China, UK.
The Sheltering Sky | 1990 | Feature Film | Italy, UK.
The Dreamers | 2003 | Feature Film | Italy, France, UK.

Nikkatsu 100 Retrospective

Nikkatsu, the first major vertically integrated Japanese movie studio, is one of the oldest film producers in the world. This year, in time with Nikkatsu's 100 year anniversary, SFF presents four feature-length films from the late 1950's to early 1970s. This retrospective is a chance to sample (in new 35mm prints) Nikkatsu's genre-filmmaking revolt and the eccentricities of directing stylists previously known only to a few Australian cult-movie fans.

The titles in the SFF 2012 Nikkatsu Retrospective are:

Season of the Sun | Director: Takumi Furukawa | Cast: Yoko Minamida, Hiroyuki Nagato, Tatsuya Tsugawa | 1956
A Colt Is My Passport | Director: Takashi Nomura | Cast: Joe Shishido, Jerry Fujio, Chitose Kobayashi | 1967
Retaliation | Director: Yasuharu Hasebe | Cast: Akira Kobayashi, Joe Shishido, Hideaki Nitani | 1968
Stray Cat Rock: Sex Hunter | Director: Yasuharu Hasebe | Cast: Meiko Kaji, Tatsuya Fuji, Jiro Okazaki | 1970

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Focus on India

This year the SFF Film Focus is on the great filmmaking nation of India. These four independent productions reveal an industry creating work far beyond Bollywood, presenting portraits of a nation grappling with rapid change on every level. Please see the 'Official Competition' section of this release for our first-ever Indian film in Official Competition, the epic ***Gangs of Wasseypur***.

The titles in the SFF 2012 Focus On India strand are:

Jai Bhim Comrade | Director: Anand Patwardhan

The Sound of Old Rooms | Director: Sandeep Ray

The Temple | Director: Umesh Vinayak Kulkarni | Cast: Nana Patekar, Dilip Prabhavalkar, Girish Kulkarni

Valley of Saints | Director: Musa Syeed | Cast: Gulzar Bhat, Neelofar Hamid, Afzal Sofi

Freak Me Out

Selected by Guest Programmer Richard Kuipers, and now in its fifth year at SFF, Freak Me Out showcases everything from classy European horror in the haunted-house chiller ***Livid*** to super-sleazy Texas trailer trash crime in ***Killer Joe*** and searing studies in alienation in ***Excision*** and ***OK, Good***, there is something for everyone willing to be tempted by the strange and exciting realms of late-night cinema.

The full SFF 2012 Freak Me Out program features:

Excision (Australian Premiere) Director: Richard Bates Jr | USA

Harold's Going Stiff (Australian Premiere) Director: Keith Wright | UK

Killer Joe (Australian Premiere) Director: William Friedkin | USA

Livid (Australian Premiere) Director: Alexandre Bustillo, Julien Maury | France

Ok, Good (Australian Premiere) Director: Daniel Martinico | USA

The Warped Forest (Australian Premiere) Director: Shunichiro Miki | Japan

Short Films

The 59th Sydney Film Festival presents 32 short films (Including those mentioned in the Dendy Awards category). These are: ***43,000 Feet*** (Campbell Hooper, New Zealand), ***Black Buster*** (S.F.Tusa, Australia), ***Burning Hearts*** (James McFay, Australia, Japan), ***CatCam*** (Seth Keal, USA), ***Lack of Evidence*** (Hayoun Kwon, France), ***Lambs*** (Sam Kelly, New Zealand), ***The Last Ice Merchant*** (Sandy Patch, USA), ***Letter Tape*** (Rowena Crowe, Australia, UK), ***Luminaris*** (Juan Pablo Zaramella, Argentina), ***The Meaning of Style*** (Phil Collins, Malaysia), ***Night Shift*** (Zia Mandivwalla, New Zealand), ***OK Breathe Auralee*** (Brooke Pepion Swaney, USA), ***Playing Ghost*** (Bianca Ansens, UK), ***The Perfect Fit*** (Tali Yankelovich, UK), ***Rauch und Spiegel*** (Nick Moore, Australia), ***She.Say*** (Leah Purcell, Australia), ***Snow in Paradise*** (Justine Simei Barton, New Zealand), ***Unravel*** (Meghna Gupta, India, UK)

Talks Program

Ian McPherson Memorial Lecture: Bryan Brown and David Stratton in Conversation

2pm Monday 11 June, Events Cinemas 9 George Street

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 (and former SFF Festival Director) David Stratton brings his consummate interviewing skills to bear on one of Australia's favourite actors – the iconic Bryan Brown. The Ian McPherson Memorial Lecture is a

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free public event presented every year, commemorating the contribution of the man who helped establish Sydney Film Festival in 1954 and served on the Festival Board until 1977.

Meet the Filmmakers: SFF Talks at the Apple Store

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 screens in competition at this year's SFF.

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 as part of SFF's Official Competition.

Dion Beebe Sunday 17 June, 4-5pm

World-renowned 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.

Visit sff.org.au or apple.com.au/sydney for more information on Meet the Filmmakers speakers and session times.

Hub Expert Talks: SFF Talks Festival Hub @ Lower Town Hall

Confessions of a Festival Photographer Thursday 07 June, 6-6:30pm

Photographer **Fabrizio 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 Fabrizio Maltese is the perfect introduction to his new exhibition **Role / Play**, which brings portraits of some of the world's most talented actors and directors to the Sydney Film Festival Hub for 11 days only.

Anand Patwardhan in conversation with Tom Zubrycki Friday 08 June, 6-7pm

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 and became the subject of litigation by Patwardhan who successfully challenged the censorship rulings in court.

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Stephen Maing in conversation with Joost Den Hartog Saturday 09 June, 5-6pm

Catch filmmaker **Stephen Maing** (*High Tech, Low Life*) in conversation with **Joost Den Hartog**, Executive Director of the Australian International Documentary Conference. 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 the 2008 feature documentary *Lioness*. Stephen also works as a freelance director, cinematographer and editor. Since 2010 he has been teaching summer classes in documentary cinematography and film production at the Massachusetts College of Art in Boston.

AFTRS presents: 5 Films for an Alien Sunday 10 June, 6-730pm

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? Would they be your favourites? The ones that changed cinema the most? Would there be any Australian films on the list? This question, which is both impossible and highly entertaining to speculate about, will be tackled by our special guests: **Bruce Beresford**, director, *Mao's Last Dancer*, *Driving Miss Daisy*, *Breaker Morant*, **John Collee**, screenwriter, *Creation*, *Master and Commander*, *Happy Feet*, **Kriv Stenders**, director, *Red Dog*, *Boxing Day*, *The Illustrated family Doctor*, and **Dr Ruth Harley**, CEO, Screen Australia

Oliver Hermanus in conversation with Tony Krawitz Monday 11 June, 6-730pm

Catch South African filmmaker **Oliver Hermanus** (*Beauty*, SFF 2012) 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* premiered at the Locarno International Film Festival in 2009 and has subsequently been screened in over a dozen countries. His new film *Beauty* premiered in the Un Certain Regard sidebar of 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 as part of the Official Competition at the Sydney Film Festival. Presented in association with the Australian Directors Guild.

Shadowcatchers: Cinematographers Panel & Book Signing Tuesday 12 June, 7-8pm

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

Coming Sooner: The Art of the Movie Trailer Thursday 14 June, 7:30-8:30pm

From the booming voice-overs to the big swooshy sound effects, **Coming Sooner** explores the art, science and hilarity behind the modern movie trailer. Movie trailers are a big business. We view 10 billion trailers online every year. Hollywood studios spend millions of dollars on matching the right gravelly-voice to each film and tweaking effects shots to get maximum buzz for that all-important opening weekend. Hell, film trailers even have their own awards (The Golden Trailer Awards). So, what makes a good trailer? And how do they work? Or, more importantly, how do they work on us? Join **Marc Fennell**, **Nick Hayden** and **Nick McDougall** as they take you through the history of modern movie trailer in an incisive and cheeky way. Marc Fennell, Nicholas Hayden and Nicholas McDougall were part of the team behind the ABC's Walkley, AFI and AATCA-nominated television series *Hungry Beast*. Fennell is better known as 'That Movie Guy' across triple j, ABC Radio and Network Ten. Hayden is an award winning television producer and host of *Hungry Beast*. McDougall is an equally awarded editor and, let's face it, the true brains of the operation.

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The Cinema According to Bertolucci Friday 15 June, 5-7pm

Scholar and Italian cinema specialist **Dr. Andrea Rizzi** speaks to Radio National's **Julie Rigg** about the life and work of Bernardo Bertolucci. The conversation will be preceded by a screening of *The Cinema According to Bertolucci*, a riveting 1976 documentary by Gianni Amelio that imaginatively explores the making of Bertolucci's political epic *1900* (which screens in SFF's *The Dreamer: A Bertolucci Retrospective*).

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. The panel will be chaired by AFTRS screen studies lecturer **Mike Jones** (and Head of Story at Portal Entertainment). Hear from: Writer, documentary programmer and filmmaker **Julia Scott-Stevenson** 2012 Rasmussen Award Winner **Justin Wight** (*Double Happy VS. The Infinite Sadness*), **Nick Doherty**, Managing Editor, Television, SBS Online, Producer **Anna Grieve** (*Big Stories Small Town, Croker Island Exodus*)

Introducing the 2012 Dendy Awards Short 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: **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 Piccia** (*Yardbird*).

Festival Hub @ Lower Town Hall

The 59th Sydney Film Festival presents the first **Sydney Film Festival Hub @ Lower Town Hall** offering the public a **free** venue to relax and mingle before or after screenings, see local and international acts, hear filmmaker talks and grab a drink at the Keystone Bar. The Festival Hub will be the only place where \$10 discount tickets for select next day screenings will be available.

Renowned Paris-based photographer **Fabrizio Maltese** will open the **Festival Hub** with a free exhibition of large-scale portraits, featuring iconic film stars and filmmakers. Hear about his experiences shooting one-on-one portraits of celebrities such as Woody Allen, John Hurt and Antonio Banderas in his talk, ***Confessions of a Festival Photographer*** on Thursday 7 June at 6pm.

The full up-to-date schedule of events at Festival Hub is now available as a PDF or at www.sff.org.au

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>

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.

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What: Sydney Film Festival

When: 6-17 June, 2012

Tickets & Info: 1300 733 733 www.sff.org.au

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