

SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL

05–16 JUNE 2019

MEDIA RELEASE

EMBARGOED UNTIL 00.01am TUESDAY 28 MAY 2019

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE OF ROCK 'N' ROLL COMEDY YESTERDAY TO CLOSE SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL 2019

The 66th Sydney Film Festival (5 – 16 June) announces the Australian Premiere of *Yesterday*, a rock 'n' roll comedy by Academy Award-winning director Danny Boyle (*Slumdog Millionaire*) as the Closing Night Film at the State Theatre on Sunday 16 June. Tickets are on sale now via sff.org.au.

Yesterday follows a struggling singer-songwriter who wakes after a mysterious blackout, to discover that The Beatles have never existed. Performing songs by the greatest band in history to a world that has never heard them, Jack's fame explodes – at the risk of losing the one person who always believed in him.

Written by Oscar-nominated screenwriter Richard Curtis (*Love Actually*, *Notting Hill*), the film stars Himesh Patel (*EastEnders*) alongside Lily James (*Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again*), and appearances by English singer-songwriter Ed Sheeran and television host James Corden.

"The Festival is delighted to close with *Yesterday*," **Sydney Film Festival Director Nashen Moodley** said. "It's exciting to see such internationally-renowned filmmakers joining forces for this joyous film that explores music, dreams and friendship that will resonate with Festival audiences."

The Closing Night Gala will include an awards ceremony announcing the winners of the Sydney Film Prize, the Documentary Australia Foundation Award, Dendy Awards for Australian Short Films, the Event Cinemas Australian Short Screenplay Award and the UNESCO, Sydney City of Film Award.

The full Sydney Film Festival 2019 program can be found online at sff.org.au.

Sydney Film Festival runs 5 – 16 June 2019. Tickets to Sydney Film Festival 2019 are on sale now. Please call 1300 733 733 or visit sff.org.au for more information.

MEDIA ENQUIRIES

Amber Forrest-Bisley, Publicity Manager

E: amber@originalspin.com.au P: 02 8065 7363 M: 0405 363 817

Amy Owen, Communications Project Manager

E: amy@originalspin.com.au M: 0404 977 338

Genvin In, Communications Advisor

E: genvin@originalspin.com.au M: 0449 939 864

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



EDITOR'S NOTES

ABOUT SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL

From Wednesday 5 June to Sunday 16 June 2019, the 66th Sydney Film Festival offers Sydneysiders another exciting season of cinema amidst a whirlwind of premieres, red-carpet openings, in-depth discussions, international guests and more.

Sydney Film Festival also presents an Official Competition of 12 films that vie for the Sydney Film Prize, a highly respected 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: *The Heiresses* (2018), *On Body and Soul* (2017); *Aquarius* (2016); *Arabian Nights* (2015); *Two Days, One Night* (2014); *Only God Forgives* (2013); *Alps* (2012); *A Separation* (2011); *Heartbeats* (2010); *Bronson* (2009); and *Hunger* (2008).

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: sff.org.au.

The 66th Sydney Film Festival is supported by the NSW Government through Create NSW and Destination NSW, the Federal Government through Screen Australia and the City of Sydney. The Festival's Strategic Partner is the NSW Government via its tourism and major events agency, Destination NSW.

