

TRAVELLING FILM FESTIVAL

MEDIA RELEASE

EMBARGOED UNTIL WEDNESDAY 8 MAY 2019

NINE KNOCKOUT FILMS ANNOUNCED FOR TRAVELLING FILM FESTIVAL NEWCASTLE

The Travelling Film Festival (TFF), the regional tour of Sydney Film Festival, will return to Newcastle from **21–23 June 2019**. The program will showcase eight incredible feature films and one fascinating documentary direct from the 66th Sydney Film Festival, at **Event Cinemas Kotara**.

“We can’t wait to bring the Festival back to the local community in Newcastle!” said **Festival Manager, Sanam Rodrigues**. “From a darkly comic feminist revenge tale, to enthralling accounts of true stories, this selection of nine fantastic films includes some of the most exciting films from this year’s Sydney Film Festival.”

Opening the Festival is acclaimed Australian writer-director Mirrah Foulkes’ *Judy & Punch*. Starring Mia Wasikowska and Damon Herriman, this visceral and dynamic live-action reinterpretation of the famous 16th century puppet show turns the traditional story of Punch & Judy on its head and brings to life a fierce and epic female-driven revenge story.

The Festival closes with *Daffodils*, a musical romance starring New Zealand pop star Kimbra, brimming with covers of beloved Kiwi classic songs by artists like Dave Dobbyn, Bic Runga, The Mutton Birds and Crowded House. The songs frame a tale of romance, hardships and heartbreak and are filled with nostalgia for New Zealand life in the ‘60s, ‘70s and ‘80s.

Other highlights are *Skin*, the true story of a white supremacist who transforms for love, starring up-and-coming Australian actress Danielle Macdonald (*Patti Cake\$, SFF 2017*) directed by Oscar winner Guy Nattiv; and *Slam*, a tense mystery set in Western Sydney tackling Islamophobia, by Sydney-based French director Partho Sen-Gupta (*Sunrise, SFF 2015*).

True stories include: *Kursk*, a gripping account of the Russian submarine disaster starring Colin Firth, Matthias Schoenaerts and Léa Seydoux; *Yuli*, a moving biography of Cuban ballet luminary Carlos Acosta, the first black principal dancer of the prestigious Royal Ballet; and Audience award winning documentary *The Biggest Little Farm*, which follows filmmaker John Chester, his wife and dog as they lovingly chase their dream to set up a sustainable farm in harmony with nature.

Also screening will be *Photograph* by Ritesh Bhatra (*The Lunchbox, SFF 2014*), a whimsical love story following a Mumbai street photographer who convinces a shy stranger to pose as his fiancé; and the stunningly cinematic *The Third Wife*, the story of an arranged marriage in 19th century Vietnam.

Additionally, this year all short films included in the TFF Newcastle program (*Deluge, Magnetic and Prone To The Drone*) are created by filmmakers with disability; part of a Create NSW initiative to boost participation of underrepresented groups in the screen industry and grow participation with a range of industry professionals, showcasing films by filmmakers with disability in a festival context.

Tickets to Australia’s longest running travelling film festival are now on sale with ‘Subscribe and Save’ packages offering great value for multiple ticket purchases, with tickets from just \$9.50.

Travelling Film Festival acknowledges the financial assistance of Screen Australia and the New South Wales Government through Create NSW, Destination NSW and is supported by Media Partner ABC Newcastle and Distinguished Partner Princess Cruises.

About the Festival:

The Travelling Film Festival, started by David Stratton in 1974, tours 18 regional locations year-round, including six Queensland centres, eight in New South Wales and three in the Northern Territory, as well as TFF At Sea.

The Program:

Opening Night: Friday 21 June

- ***Judy & Punch*** – Mirrah Foulkes's astonishing, indefinable feature debut reimagines the Judy & Punch puppet show as a darkly comic feminist revenge tale starring Mia Wasikowska and Damon Herriman.

Saturday 22 June

- ***The Biggest Little Farm*** – A genuine crowd-pleaser that follows filmmaker John Chester, his wife and dog as they chase their dream to set up a sustainable farm, with plenty of enthusiasm but zero experience.
- ***Skin*** – Jamie Bell (*Billy Elliot*) and Australian actress Danielle Macdonald (*Patti Cake\$, SFF2017*) star in this remarkable true story of a white supremacist who transforms for love.
- ***The Third Wife*** – Set in late 19th century Vietnam, Ash Mayfair's exquisite feature debut focuses on a teenager in an arranged marriage, who learns quickly about her world's suffocating patriarchy. Screens with short film ***Deluge***.
- ***Slam*** - A young Muslim activist and slam poet goes missing in this tense Sydney-set mystery with a sharp perspective on Islamophobia by Partho Sen-Gupta (*Sunrise, SFF 2015*).

Sunday 23 June

- ***Yuli*** – Cuban ballet luminary Carlos Acosta is both star and subject of this moving and unusual fusion of biography and dazzling dance, by Spanish director Icíar Bollain (*The Olive Tree, SFF 2016*). Screens with short film ***Magnetic***.
- ***Kursk*** - Matthias Schoenaerts, Colin Firth and Léa Seydoux star in director Thomas Vinterberg's (*The Commune, SFF 2016*) gripping account of the K-141 Kursk submarine disaster in 2000.
- ***Photograph*** – Ritesh Bhatra (*The Lunchbox, SFF 2014*) returns with a whimsical love story about a Mumbai street photographer who convinces a shy stranger to pose as his fiancé. Screens with short film ***Prone to the Drone***.
- ***Daffodils*** – A stirring musical romance brimming with decades of New Zealand hits from Crowded House to Bic Runga; and a box office hit at home.

WHAT:	Travelling Film Festival Newcastle
WHEN:	Friday 21 June – Sunday 23 June, 2019
WHERE:	Event Cinemas Kotara (Westfield Kotara Rooftop), Corner of Northcott Dr & Park Ave, NSW 2289
SINGLE TICKETS:	\$14.50 Adult / \$12.50 Concession / \$10 Student/Kids
SUBSCRIBE AND SAVE:	9-FILM FULL SUBSCRIPTION: \$85.50 Adult / \$76.50 Concession 5-FILM FLEXIPASS: \$55 Adult / \$50 Concession

HOW TO BOOK: Book tickets online in advance at sff.org.au/newcastle

For ticket enquiries please contact Sydney Film Festival on 02 8220 6600 or contact the cinema box office.

TRAVELLING FILM FESTIVAL VISITS...

NT Alice Springs, Darwin, Katherine **QLD** Bundaberg, Cairns, Mackay, Nambour, Toowoomba, Townsville

NSW Huskisson, Newcastle, Port Macquarie, Sawtell, Tamworth, Ulladulla, Wagga Wagga, Wollongong

TFF AT SEA to New Caledonia & Vanuatu roundtrip Sydney

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