

HEALTH AND SAFETY PROTOCOLS

Safety and comfort is a high priority and our venue partner is working very hard to ensure all health and safety protocols are in place as mandated by NSW Government. We also strongly encourage our patrons to follow all safety precautions as required by the health authorities for a fun and safe festival experience.

TICKETS

SINGLE TICKETS

**\$14.50 Adult \$12.50 Concession
\$10 Kids/Students**

Concessions: unemployed, pensioners & seniors - upon presentation of ID.

All films start at the advertised time.

In the event that a ticket holder is sick/unable to attend/waiting for a test result, please call or email the cinema directly to avail a full refund. In the event that any TFF is cancelled, the full value will be refunded to the credit or debit card used for purchase.

HOW TO BOOK

Capacity strictly limited. Tickets available online, over the phone or in person at the cinema.

Booking enquires:

www.majesticcinemas.com.au

By Phone: (02) 6653 3119

VENUE DETAILS

Majestic Cinemas

25 First Avenue, Sawtell
New South Wales, 2452
(02) 6653 3119

MORE INFO

www.sff.org.au/tff/program/sawtell

PRESENTED BY

Sydney Film Festival

Email: tff@sff.org.au

Website: sff.org.au/tff

Cover image: *Master Cheng*

TRAVELLING FILM FESTIVAL

**BRINGING THE WORLD'S
BEST CINEMA TO NSW!**



Master Cheng

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



Distinguished Partner



Travelling Film Festival acknowledges the financial assistance of Screen Australia, Screen Australia Indigenous Department and Screen NSW and is supported by distinguished partner Princess Cruises

SAWTELL

MAJESTIC CINEMAS
30 Oct - 1 Nov 2020

SCHEDULE

FRIDAY 30 OCTOBER

7:00 PM THE PERFECT CANDIDATE (15+)

SATURDAY 31 OCTOBER

11:45 AM DESCENT (G)
Screens with short film DIVING IN (All Ages)

1:40 PM LITIGANTE (M)

7:00 PM STAGE MOTHER (M)
Screens with short film GROUNDHOG NIGHT (15+)

SUNDAY 1 NOVEMBER

2:00 PM MASTER CHENG (PG)
Screens with short film CLOSED DOORS (15+)

4:30 PM KUESSIPAN (M)
Screens with short film OBSCURA (PG)

STAY IN TOUCH

Keep up to date with program and tour announcements, giveaways and more!



www.sff.org.au/tff



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Sign up to our eNews or to receive a print program in the post next year at sff.org.au/tff

OPENING FILM: THE PERFECT CANDIDATE



FRIDAY 30 OCT 7:00 PM

Directed by Haifaa Al-Mansour | Saudi Arabia, Germany | In Arabic with English subtitles | 101 mins | 15+

NOMINATED: BEST FILM, VENICE FILM FESTIVAL 2019
SELECTED: LONDON FILM FESTIVAL 2019

Oscar nominee and Saudi Arabia's first woman director Haifaa Al-Mansour (*Wadjda* SFF 2012), brings a revealing look at the changing roles of women in Saudi Arabia. Maryam is a doctor in a Saudi hospital, the only one in town with emergency facilities. Despite her qualifications, she struggles to earn the respect of male colleagues and patients every day. After Maryam is prevented from traveling to Dubai in search of a better job, a bureaucratic mixup leads her to run for the local elections. With her musician father away on tour playing the first public concerts allowed in the Kingdom in decades, Maryam enlists her two younger sisters to begin fundraising and planning campaign events. She becomes a phenomenon, first via social media, then by appearing on an interview show and refusing to answer questions on "women's subjects" like gardens.

Despite her father and her community's struggle to accept her as their town's first woman candidate, Maryam's journey starts to become a symbol for a larger movement.

**"A compelling tale by Saudi Arabia's first female director."
- FORBES**

DESCENT



SAT 31 OCT 11:45 AM

Directed by Nays Baghai | Australia | In English and Dutch with English subtitles | 59 mins | G

WINNER: SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL 2020

This unique documentary, winner of Sydney Film Festival's 2020 Documentary Australia Foundation Award, features sublimely beautiful underwater footage (best viewed on the big screen) shot by Australian videographer-marine scientist Stefan Andrews and debut director Nays Baghai.

Kiki Bosch dives into the coldest waters on the planet on one breath without a wetsuit. She's plunged into Finland's frozen lakes, and under icebergs off the Greenland coast. Her initiation into this sub-zero underwater world began as a search for healing, following a debilitating trauma. Ever since discovering the magic of cold-water-freediving, Kiki has travelled far and wide, not only to push her physical and psychological limits, but also to inspire others to harness the power of the cold in similar ways.

"A fascinating portrait of a young Dutch woman finding strength through pushing herself to extremes is stunningly filmed as she dives in Iceland, Greenland, Norway and Finland."

-SYDNEY MORNING HERALD

Screens with short film
DIVING IN

LITIGANTE



SAT 31 OCT 1:40 PM

Directed by Franco Lolli | Colombia | In Spanish with English subtitles | 95 mins | M

SELECTED: CANNES FILM FESTIVAL 2019

WINNER: CHICAGO FILM FESTIVAL 2019

Colombian filmmaker Franco Lolli's (*Gente de bien*, 2014) moving and sensitive drama features towering performances from the two leads. The Cannes' Critic's Week opening film follows an affluent Bogata family in the midst of a scandal. Leticia, an irascible matriarch (played by Leticia Gómez, the director's own mother) and her elder daughter, Silvia (played by the director's cousin), are both outspoken, independent women. Leticia's unstintingly high standards have left careerist-single mother Silvia unsatisfied with much in her life, relationships and parenting. The forthright pair also profoundly disagree about their profession's moral obligations, so when Silvia learns that her boss has awarded illegal construction contracts, tensions reach boiling point. On top of all this turmoil, Silvia has to deal with her mother's failing health. Surprising gentle and humorous, Lolli's film has the ring of authenticity, aided by the leading duo's superbly bickering, yet loving, performances.

"From Colombia, a tender tale of private lives and public scandal."

-THE GUARDIAN

STAGE MOTHER



SAT 31 OCT 7:00 PM

Directed by Thom Fitzgerald | USA | In English | 93 mins | M

WINNER: AUDIENCE AWARD, PALM SPRINGS INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL 2020

A sparkling Jacki Weaver leads as Maybelline, a conservative Texan church-choir director who inherits her recently deceased son's drag club. Defying her conservative husband, she heads to San Francisco where she meets a kaleidoscope of characters. At first shocked by the raucous and stimulating new environment, she begins to open up and find new meaning for her life, even becoming a mother-figure to the club's flamboyant performers. With a fiery supporting cast, including Lucy Liu (*Animals, Kill Bill*), Adrian Grenier (*Entourage*), Calem McDonald (*The Umbrella Academy*) and Mya Taylor (*Tangerine*), director Thom Fitzgerald's lyrical comedy-drama focuses not only on the gleaming cityscape, but on high notes of hope, unity and healing.

"Jacki Weaver is excellent in this colourful culture-clash comedy which ... offers a welcome message about the power of love and acceptance."

-EMPIRE

Screens with short film
GROUNDHOG NIGHT

KUESSIPAN



SUN 1 NOV 4:30 PM

Directed by Myriam Verreault | Canada | In French and Innu with English subtitles | 117 mins | M

SELECTED: TORONTO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL 2019

Adapted from an acclaimed Canadian novel by Naomi Fontaine, *Kuessipan* is the coming-of-age story told through an Indigenous lens of two First Nation girls from a rural Quebec Innu community, Mikuan and Shaniss. The pair have been close friends throughout their childhood years, despite different family backgrounds. But with the end of their teenage years approaching, they clash over differing ambitions. Mikuan, the more studious of the pair, dreams of life beyond their tiny reserve, and embarks on a relationship that puts her at odds with her lifelong companion. As their friendship is put to the test, the 17 year-olds struggle to find their place in the world. Director Myriam Verreault's debut feature, a poignant study of friendship and community, and the bonds of culture, is full of humour, kindness and heartbreak.

"*Kuessipan* is quiet and mesmerizing and tragic and full of hope. It is a triumph, and a privilege to spend time with."

-GLOBE AND MAIL

Screens with short film
OBSCURA

SHORT FILMS

GROUNDHOG NIGHT



Directed by Genevieve Clay-Smith | Australia | 16 mins | 15+

SELECTED: SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL 2020

For carer Gary, moving on and keeping his family together isn't always easy. Tensions run high when his late wife's parents arrive unannounced after he brings home a date. A charming insightful comedy written by multi-disciplinary artist Emily Dash.

Screens with feature film
STAGE MOTHER

OBSCURA



Directed by Emily Jordan, Hannah Jordan | Australia | 9 mins | PG

SELECTED: SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL 2020

An imaginative stop-motion animation that looks inside our cameras at the creatures within, who are living lives defined by what they see through the lens.

Screens with feature film
KUESSIPAN

DIVING IN



Directed by Adam Bowes, Nina Oyama | Australia | 9 mins | All Ages

SELECTED: SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL 2020

Will romance blossom for Alex? The competitive swimmer is madly in love with Jen, who works at the local pool. First, he needs to make a date, but his mischievous friends aren't helping.

Screens with feature film
DESCENT

CLOSED DOORS



Directed by Hunter Page-Lochard, Carter Fred Simpkin | Australia | 14 mins | 15+

Regaining consciousness in a car wreck, a young father finds that his daughter is missing. In order to reconcile what has happened to his child, he must overcome his own fears and past destructive actions.

Screens with feature film
MASTER CHENG

MASTER CHENG



SUN 1 NOV 2:00 PM

Directed by Mika Kaurismäki | Finland, UK, China | In Finnish and Chinese with English subtitles | 114 mins | PG

A mysterious Chinese man (Pak Hon Chu, *My Prince Edward*) and his young son arrive in a remote, idyllic Finnish town on a mission to find a one-time acquaintance. The man's repeated requests of whether anyone knows "Fongtrong", results in only blank stares. After dinner, restaurant owner Sirkka (Anna-Maija Tuokko) takes pity on them and offers them a place to stay. Cheng sees an opportunity to return the favour when a bus load of Chinese tourists pass through looking for a meal. When Sirkka's sausage specialities are rejected, Cheng offers to make chicken noodles, which prove to be a massive hit. Slowly his creative dishes gain favour with the notoriously fickle and adverse-to-change regular clientele.

With a troupe of charming supporting characters, veteran, multiple award-winning Finnish director Mika Kaurismäki's (older brother of renowned director Aki Kaurismäki) lyrical and heartwarming comedy brings to life a tale of culinary love and cultural acceptance.

"It's [Master Cheng] overall message of human connection and empathy wins out, where food and nourishment are literal salves for the human malaise and where compassion and friendship can save lives."

-FILMINK

Screens with short film
CLOSED DOORS

SUPPORT TFF



As a non-profit organization, the Travelling Film Festival exists through support from you—our audience. Your donations are an investment in the Festival's future and enable us to keep bringing the best and most important stories from around the world to Sawtell each year.

Make a tax-deductible donation today at sff.org.au/tff/support

OUR AUDIENCES SAY:

"One of the best. Love the variety and high standard."

"It was wonderful. I feel as if I have been on a long holiday...in just one weekend! All excellent- 5 star event."

"We look forward to the festival returning year after year."

HOW TO BOOK:

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