

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 QLD 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.

SUBSCRIBE & SAVE

Save 30% and see the entire Festival with a subscription.

FULL SUBSCRIPTION

\$95 Adult \$85 Concession

SINGLE TICKETS

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

Subscriptions are transferable but admit only one person per film.

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

All films start at the advertised time.

In the event that a pass-holder is sick/unable to attend/waiting for a test result, please call or email the cinema 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 or at the cinema. Book now to avoid disappointment.

Online:

www.eventcinemas.com.au/TravellingFilmFestival

VENUE DETAILS

Cairns Central Cinema
Cnr McLeod & Spence Sts,
Cairns City, QLD 4870
(07) 4057 0020

PRESENTED BY

Sydney Film Festival

Email: tff@sff.org.au

Website: sff.org.au/tff

More info: www.sff.org.au/tff/program/cairns

Cover image: *Paper Champions*

TRAVELLING FILM FESTIVAL

BRINGING THE WORLD'S BEST CINEMA TO QUEENSLAND!



Paper Champions

CAIRNS

CAIRNS CENTRAL CINEMA
6 - 10 November 2020

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



Travelling Film Festival acknowledges the financial assistance of Screen Australia, Screen Australia Indigenous Department, Screen Queensland and Queensland Government

SCHEDULE

FRIDAY 6 NOVEMBER

7:00 PM THE PERFECT CANDIDATE (15+)
Screens with short film DIVING IN (All Ages)

SATURDAY 7 NOVEMBER

2:00 PM THE MOLE AGENT (PG)
4:30 PM CORPUS CHRISTI (15+)
7:30 PM PAPER CHAMPIONS (PG)
Screens with short film SAFETY NET (MA15+)

SUNDAY 8 NOVEMBER

11:00 AM WHITE RIOT (M15+)
2:00 PM A SON (M)
4:30 PM KUESSIPAN (M)
7:30 PM MONSOON (M)
Screens with short film GROUNDHOG NIGHT (M15+)

MONDAY 9 NOVEMBER

6:30 PM ONLY THE ANIMALS (M)

TUESDAY 10 NOVEMBER

6:30 PM MASTER CHENG (PG)
Screens with short film OBSCURA (M)

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 6 NOV 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, than 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

Screens with short film
DIVING IN

THE MOLE AGENT



SAT 7 NOV 2:00 PM

Directed by Maite Alberdi | Chile, USA, Germany, Netherlands, Spain | In Spanish with English subtitles | 89 mins | PG

SELECTED: SUNDANCE FILM FESTIVAL 2020

Chilean director Maite Alberdi's delightful character study follows sweet-natured elderly widower, Sergio, as he infiltrates a nursing home at the behest of a private detective agency. Unfortunately, Sergio is a truly terrible spy. He answers phone calls on speaker in front of other residents, asks the carers blatant and obvious questions, breaks spy camera equipment and more. Although no James Bond, he's a kind-hearted man who brings solace and the frisson of attention to the mostly female residents with tender patience and platonic affection. Alberdi's films have long been popular on the festival circuit, including Sydney Film Festival, for their remarkable warmth and humanity. Her latest work, *The Mole Agent*, is no exception. Her compassionate, often humorous, never judgmental, approach, paints a poignant portrait of life in a Chilean care home and perils of being a spy.

"One of the most heartwarming spy movies of all time — a rare combination of genres that only works so well because it sneaks up on you"

-INDIEWIRE

CORPUS CHRISTI



SAT 7 NOV 4:30 PM

Directed by Jan Komasa | Poland and France | In Polish with English subtitles | 116 mins | 15+

NOMINATED: BEST FOREIGN FILM, ACADEMY AWARDS 2019

With 36 awards on the festival circuit, including an Oscar nomination, Polish director Jan Komasa's third feature is inspired by real events.

Daniel (a magnetic Bartosz Bielonia) leaves a correctional center at age 20 after serving time for unnamed crimes. Having experienced a spiritual epiphany behind bars, he wants to pursue a career in the clergy, but is told that this is impossible because of his conviction. However, rather than reporting for his new job at a small-town sawmill, Daniel walks into the Catholic church, kneels down in a pew and begins praying. In no time, the same streetwise survival instincts that got him into trouble as a kid kick in and he ends up being the "new priest" who brings a certain relief to a town grieving a major tragedy.

Audacious and compelling, this moving drama ultimately raises intriguing questions about conscience and morality.

"Often moving but also disquieting and even intermittently funny, this drama unfurls a spiritual parable that is uniquely Polish but accessible to all."

-THE GUARDIAN

PAPER CHAMPIONS



SAT 7 NOV 7:30 PM

Directed by Jo-Anne Brechin | Australia | In English | 83 mins | PG

An uplifting Australian comedy from screenwriter-producer-actor, Luka Saliba, who was inspired by New Zealand's comedy genius Taika Waititi. Luka, wrote the script and, much like his Kiwi idol, also plays the central role of Rey, a goofy guy who's lost his get-up-and-go – or perhaps he's never found it? Living with his mum, working with photocopiers, too scared to dance, and perhaps even worse, according to his islander mates, he's hopeless at backyard rugby. Egged on by his best mate, the beefy Wade (John Tui), and his mum's boyfriend, former wrestling champion Terry (Gary Sweet), he sets out to impress a girl – the delightful and determined Holly (Tessa de Josselin). This warm-hearted feature, directed by Jo-Anne Brechin, is just the tonic for our troubled times.

Screens with short film
SAFETY NET

ONLY THE ANIMALS



MON 9 NOV 6:30 PM

Directed by Dominik Moll | France, Germany | In French with English subtitles | 116 mins | M

SELECTED: VENICE FILM FESTIVAL 2019
WINNER: AUDIENCE AWARD, TOKYO FILM FESTIVAL 2019

A highly memorable opening scene, introduces us turn by turn to five characters each confessing a secret. In a rural plateau in southern France caught in the grip of a snowy winter, Alice (Laura Calamy), a farmer's wife sells insurance to – and is having an affair with – Joseph (Damien Bonnard, *Les Misérables*). Meanwhile, prominent Parisian Evelynne (Valeria Bruni Tedeschi) has gone missing on the plateau, with only her abandoned car offering any clue. Does Alice's grumpy husband Michel (Denis Ménochet, *Inglorious Bastards*) know anything about it? With exceptional performances that take you across continents, Dominik Moll's constantly engaging film is a cleverly structured, non-linear thriller, that will keep your synapses firing.

"The film's constituent parts... interlock like the workings of an intricate and malign musical box, creating dashes of melodrama, erotic obsession and even soap opera, and all superbly performed."

-THE GUARDIAN

WHITE RIOT



SUN 8 NOV 11:00 AM

Directed by Rubika Shah | UK | In English | 80 mins | M15+

WINNER: BERLIN FILM FESTIVAL

White Riot, the winner of the 2019 Documentary Prize at the London Film Festival, tells the story of the birth of an inspirational grassroots movement, Rock Against Racism (RAR). In 1970s Britain racism was rife, the National Front was on the rise, and even musician Eric Clapton declared his support of politician Enoch Powell's anti-immigration policy. All this inspired photographer and theatre activist Red Saunders to form RAR and to stage demonstrations and concerts protesting against far-right politics. Director Rubika Shah, using archival footage, animations and contemporary interviews, traces RAR's path, culminating in an extraordinary march by 100,000 people across London to the site of an outdoor music gig in East End's Victoria Park headlined by punk rockers The Clash and Sham 69, reggae icons Steel Pulse and '70s fave the Tom Robinson Band.

"Rubika Shah's prizewinning documentary commemorates the movement that put anti-racist politics at the heart of punk rock."

-HOLLYWOOD REPORTER

MASTER CHENG



TUE 10 NOV 6:30 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 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
OBSCURA

A SON



SUN 8 NOV 2:00 PM

Directed by Mehdi Barsaoui | Tunisia, France, Lebanon, Qatar | In Arabic and French with English subtitles | 95 mins | M

WINNER: BEST ACTOR, VENICE FILM FESTIVAL 2019

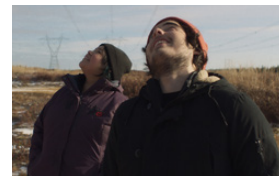
A compelling family drama set in the warm southern countryside of Tunisia where a wealthy couple, Ben Fares Youssef (Sami Bouajja, *Indigènes*) and his wife Meriem (Najla Ben Adallah) answer their son Aziz's demand to sing his favourite song one more time. As they drive down the dusty roads to their weekend holiday destination, they are ambushed by a group of radicals. They manage to escape but not without a fatality and a subsequent blood test that confirms a long buried secret.

Supported by its superb leads, this tight directorial debut by Tunisian filmmaker Mehdi Barsaoui, cleverly captures emotions of masculinity and personal ego within a complex political climate. Ultimately this is a story that portrays the fierce love of a parent and how far they are willing to go to protect their own.

"An exciting debut from a new voice in Arab cinema."

-HOLLYWOOD REPORTER

KUESSIPAN



SUN 8 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

MONSOON



SUN 8 NOV 7:30 PM

Directed by Hong Khaou | UK | English and Vietnamese with English subtitles | 85 mins | M

SELECTED: KARLOVY VARY INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

Henry Golding, star of *Crazy Rich Asians*, delivers a stellar performance in this moving drama set in Vietnam. Golding plays Kit, a British-Vietnamese man returning to the country of his birth for the first time in decades. He was only six years old when his family escaped to Hong Kong as 'boat people', before finally settling Britain. It's inevitable that he feels like a tourist as he roams Ho Chi Minh City scouting a suitable site for his long-dead parents' ashes. Kit encounters a young tour guide, arranges an online hook-up with the son of a Vietnam vet, and reunites with his childhood friend, his cousin Lee. Cambodian-British filmmaker Hong Khaou's story of a homecoming that isn't really a homecoming, of a history unconquered, is skillfully crafted, filled with the bustle and beauty of former Saigon, of longing and loss.

"A thoughtful, deeply felt movie of great sweetness, unfolding at an unhurried pace."

-GUARDIAN

Screens with short film
GROUNDHOG NIGHT

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
MONSOON

DIVING IN



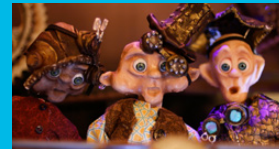
Directed by Adam Bowes, Nina Oyama | Australia | 9 mins | All Ages

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
THE PERFECT CANDIDATE

OBSCURA



Directed by Emily Jordan and Hannah Jordan | Australia | 9 mins | 15+

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
MASTER CHENG

SAFETY NET



Directed by Anthea Williams | Australia | 12 mins | MA15+

SELECTED: SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL 2020

Thirteen-year-old Terry is in emergency care with guardians after his mother's arrest. Cheeky and living with a disability, he's able to outwit one guardian while finding exactly the connection he needs from the other
Screens with feature film
PAPER CHAMPIONS