

## 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

\$66.50 Adult

\$59.50 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.*

### 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 and Screen Queensland

## HOW TO BOOK

Capacity strictly limited. Tickets available online or at the cinema. Book now to avoid disappointment.

### Online:

[www.eventcinemas.com.au/TravellingFilmFestival](http://www.eventcinemas.com.au/TravellingFilmFestival)

### VENUE DETAILS

BCC Mackay, Mount Pleasant  
13-29 Grandview Dr,  
North Mackay QLD 4740  
(07) 4864 3600

## PRESENTED BY

Sydney Film Festival

Email: [tff@sff.org.au](mailto:tff@sff.org.au)

Website: [sff.org.au/tff](http://sff.org.au/tff)

More info: [www.sff.org.au/tff/program/mackay](http://www.sff.org.au/tff/program/mackay)

Cover image: *The Perfect Candidate*

# TRAVELLING FILM FESTIVAL

BRINGING THE WORLD'S  
BEST CINEMA TO QUEENSLAND!



*The Perfect Candidate*

## MACKAY

BCC MACKAY  
MOUNT PLEASANT

13 - 15 November 2020

# SCHEDULE

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## FRIDAY 13 NOVEMBER

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

## SATURDAY 14 NOVEMBER

12:15 PM MASTER CHENG (PG)  
3:15 PM ADAM (15+)  
Screens with short film AYAAN (15+)  
6:30 PM CORPUS CHRISTI (15+)

## SUNDAY 15 NOVEMBER

11:00 AM THE MOLE AGENT (PG)  
Screens with short film OBSCURA (PG)  
2:00 PM A SON (M)  
Screens with short film SAFETY NET (M)  
5:00 PM ONLY THE ANIMALS (M)

# STAY IN TOUCH

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



[www.sff.org.au/tff](http://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](http://sff.org.au/tff)

# OPENING FILM: THE PERFECT CANDIDATE

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FRIDAY 13 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 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**

## MASTER CHENG



**SAT 14 NOV 12:15 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. When a bus load of Chinese tourists looking for a meal reject Sirkka's sausage specialities, Cheng offers to make chicken noodles, which prove to be a massive hit. Slowly his creative 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

## ADAM



**SAT 14 NOV 3:15 PM**

*Directed by Maryam Touzani | Morocco | Arabic with English subtitles | 98 mins | 15+*

**SELECTED:** CANNES FILM FESTIVAL 2019

A remarkably beautiful story set in Casablanca's old city, directed by first-time filmmaker Maryam Touzani, features two superb performances in the lead roles. Lubna Azabal (*Paradise Now, The Honourable Woman*) plays Abba, a solemn widow, with a lively young daughter, scraping a living selling baked goods. A pregnant young woman from the country, Samia (Nisrin Erradi), knocks on her door seeking work and shelter. Abba's not unsympathetic to her plight, but she's anxious to maintain her good reputation, so shuts the door in Samia's face. Inevitably Abba's compassion wins out, with a little nudging from her daughter Warda, and Samia joins the household revealing herself to be warm-hearted, pragmatic and an expert baker. With a few hiccups along the way, she gradually breaks down Abba's stern and bitter shell, and in return Abba encourages Samia to love her unborn child.

"Set in a poor quarter of Casablanca and its tale of a country girl who shelters with a shrewish local woman is 100 percent heart."

-HOLLYWOOD REPORTER

## CORPUS CHRISTI



**SAT 14 NOV 6:30 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 Bielienia) 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

## THE MOLE AGENT



**SUN 15 NOV 11:00 AM**

*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. 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

Screens with short film  
**OBSCURA**

## A SON



**SUN 15 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 Bouajila, *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

Screens with short film  
**SAFETY NET**

## ONLY THE ANIMALS



**SAT 15 NOV 5:00 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, then coolly brushing it away.

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 Evelyne (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

## SHORT FILMS

### AYAAN



*Directed by Alies Sluiter | Australia | 17 mins | 15+*

**SELECTED:** SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL 2020

An escaped asylum seeker (Babetida Sadjo) encounters an Aboriginal man (Trevor Jamleson) on a remote Australian beach. She must decide whether to trust him or journey on alone.

Screens with feature film  
**ADAM**

### DIVING IN



*Directed by Adam Bowes, Nina Oyama | Australia | 9 mins | 15+*

**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 | 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  
**THE MOLE AGENT**

### SAFETY NET



*Directed by Anthea Williams | Australia | 12 mins | M*

**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  
**A SON**

## 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 Mackay each year.

**Make a tax-deductible donation today at [sff.org.au/tff/support](http://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."

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