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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.

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.

Concessions: unemployed, pensioners & seniors - upon presentation of ID and members of Darwin Film Society

All films start at the advertised time.

HOW TO BOOK

Online: sff.org.au/katherine
By Phone: 02 8971 2522
In Person: Katherine Star Cinema

Katherine Star Cinema
20 First St, Katherine NT 0850
(08) 8971 2522

PRESENTED BY

Sydney Film Festival

Phone: 02 8220 6600
Email: tff@sff.org.au
Website: sff.org.au/tff

**SYDNEY
FILM
FESTIVAL**

Cover image: Lunana:
A Yak in the Classroom

TRAVELLING FILM FESTIVAL

**BRINGING THE WORLD'S BEST
CINEMA TO THE TERRITORY**



Lunana: A Yak in the Classroom

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



KATHERINE

**KATHERINE
STAR CINEMA**

12 - 14 FEBRUARY 2021

Travelling Film Festival acknowledges the financial assistance of Screen Australia, the Northern Territory Government through Screen Territory and of Screen Australia Indigenous Department.

SCHEDULE

FRIDAY 12 FEBRUARY

7:30 PM FIRESTARTER: THE STORY OF BANGARRA (15+)

SATURDAY 13 FEBRUARY

1:00 PM A SON (M)

Screens with short film AYAAN (15+)

5:00 PM CORPUS CHRISTI (15+)

Screens with short film SAFETY NET (MA15+)

7:45 PM THE CLIMB (M)

Screens with short film GROUNDHOG NIGHT (15+)

SUNDAY 14 FEBRUARY

1:00 PM LUNANA: A YAK IN THE CLASSROOM (All Ages)

4:00 PM THE MOLE AGENT (PG)

6:00 PM THE PERFECT CANDIDATE (15+)

Screens with short film DIVING IN (15+)

STAY IN TOUCH

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



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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: FIRESTARTER: THE STORY OF BANGARRA



FRIDAY 12 FEB 7:30 PM

Directed by Wayne Blair and Nel Minchin | Australia | In English | 90 mins | PG

Directors Wayne Blair (*The Sapphires*, *Top End Wedding*) and Nel Minchin (*Making Muriel*) join forces to bring a story of three Aboriginal boys who took a tiny Australian dance company and turned it into an energetic, revered and world-renowned cultural powerhouse.

Tracking the pivotal year approaching its 30th anniversary, *Firestarter* tells the story of the Bangarra Dance Theatre through the eyes of their long standing and charismatic artistic director, Stephen Page. This captivating documentary celebrates Bangarra's unique signature style of authentic storytelling, technique and deeply moving performances combined with utterly inimitable soundscapes, candid interviews and a treasure trove of archival footage. Bangarra's spectacular rise and triumph against the odds was not without tragedy, an aspect that *Firestarter* portrays with honesty and sensitivity. This brand-new documentary is ultimately a tale of pride, heartbreak, adversity and empowerment – with the transformative strength of Indigenous dance at its centre.

“A modern dance company unlike any other... remarkable, imaginative and richly varied.” – THE NEW YORK TIMES

A SON



SAT 13 FEB 1:00 PM

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

SELECTED: 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 **AYAAN**

CORPUS CHRISTI



SAT 13 FEB 5:00 PM

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

SELECTED: TORONTO FILM FESTIVAL 2020

NOMINATED: BEST INTERNATIONAL FEATURE, ACADEMY AWARDS 2020

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 Bielenia) 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 unfolds a spiritual parable that is uniquely Polish but accessible to all."

-THE GUARDIAN

Screens with short film **SAFETY NET**

THE CLIMB



SAT 13 FEB 7:45 PM

Directed by Michael Angelo Covino | USA | In English | 98 mins | M

SELECTED: UN CERTAIN REGARD, CANNES 2019

Written and performed by actual friends Kyle Marvin and Michael Angelo Covino, this delightful and funny story is a fresh take on adulthood, treachery and the lure of toxic relationships.

Kyle (Kyle Marvin) and Mike (Michael Covino) are on a cycling holiday in France in the run-up to Kyle's wedding. Mike is actually going to be Kyle's best man, but that's all thrown into chaos when Mike makes a jawdropping confession. The scene, shot in one long take, is both painful and hilarious. So begins this splendid comedy-drama, packed with comic set pieces (a family Christmas, a disastrous bachelor party) and genuine cinematic flair. In a series of pivotal segments, co-writers Covin and Marvin follow the ins and outs of this co-dependent male relationship, embracing the toxic, the slapstick and the wince-inducing.

"Mixing broad farce with fine-grained character study, Michael Angelo Covino's debut feature is a smart, moving anatomy of a toxic friendship."

-VARIETY

Screens with short film **GROUNDHOG NIGHT**

LUNANA: A YAK IN THE CLASSROOM



SUN 14 FEB 1:00 PM

Directed by Pawo Choyning Dorji | Kingdom of Bhutan | In Dzongkha with English subtitles | 109 mins | PG

SELECTED: BERLINALE 2020

WINNER: AUDIENCE AWARD, PALM SPRINGS INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL 2020

Shot with solar powered batteries in the Himalayan village of Lunana (population 56), this glorious directorial debut takes place in one of the most secluded and undeveloped areas of the entire world.

Ugyen is an aspiring singer living in Bhutan's capital. He dreams of moving to Australia but first he must finish his final year of teaching service. Slacking on his duties, he is punished by being assigned to "the world's most remote school". After an eight-day trek, Ugyen reaches the high-altitude village with more yak dung than people, few amenities, and a bunch of eager-to-learn kids who've never seen a car. He's determined to leave as soon as he can despite the local community's warm welcome. As winter approaches, he slowly succumbs to the charm of the community and its traditions.

"The amazing Bhutanese landscapes combined with the cutest children with the broadest smiles guarantee a feel-good film with strong crossover potential."

-SCREENDAILY

THE MOLE AGENT



SUN 14 FEB 4:00 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 solace 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

THE PERFECT CANDIDATE



SUN 14 FEB 6:00 PM

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

SELECTED: VENICE FILM FESTIVAL 2019

WINNER: AUDIENCE AWARD, TOKYO 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 travelling to Dubai in search of a better job, a bureaucratic mixup leads her to run for the local elections. Maryam enlists her two younger sisters to plan her campaign. She becomes a phenomenon, first via social media, then by appearing on an interview show and refusing to answer questions on so-called "women's subjects". Despite, her father and her community's struggle to accept her as their town's first woman candidate, Maryam's journey becomes a symbol for a larger movement.

"Deeply thrilling - possibly one of the most exhilarating moments you'll see in a film all year."

-THE TIMES

Screens with short film **DIVING IN**

SHORT FILMS

AYAAN

Directed by Alios Sluiter | Australia | 17 mins | 15+

SELECTED: SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL 2020

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

Screens with feature film **A SON**

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

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 **CORPUS CHRISTI**

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 **THE CLIMB**

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 Katherine each year.

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

OUR AUDIENCES SAY:

TFF is one of the highlights of my cinema year...what other excuse to 'film binge' over a weekend?!

Such variation and a wonderful insight to the different cultures.

Thoroughly enjoyed all films and it was great to see the TFF supporting independent Australian cinema

HOW TO BOOK:

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

Book now to avoid disappointment.

Online:
www.sff.org.au/tff/program/katherine

Venue Details
Katherine Star Cinema
20 First St, Katherine NT 0850
(08) 8971 2522