

EVERYBODY'S OMA



SAT 25 JUN | 12:30 PM
Directed by Jason van Genderen
Australia | In English | 93 mins | All Ages

SELECTED: SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL 2022

Filmmaker Jason van Genderen is obsessed with making home videos about his family, and their Dutch matriarch, Oma. He and his wife Megan embrace caring for Oma's dementia in increasingly whimsical ways, accidentally turning her into an online celebrity. Their unassuming home videos, shot during the pandemic, attract over 100,000,000 views globally. *Everybody's Oma* follows in the NSW Central Coast family's footsteps as they navigate Oma's failing health under the spotlight of an enthusiastic audience of well-meaning strangers.

SCREENS WITH SHORT FILM

VOICE ACTIVATED

HUDA'S SALON



SAT 25 JUN | 2:30 PM
Directed by Hany Abu-Assad
Palestine, Egypt, Netherlands | In Arabic with English subtitles | 91 mins | Unclassified 18+

SELECTED: SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL 2022
TORONTO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL 2021

A visit to Huda's salon in Bethlehem should give Reem a welcome break from her controlling husband. But Reem's trusted friend Huda is not all she seems. In astonishing scenes based on real events, Reem is blackmailed into becoming an informant for Israel's internal security service. Reem risks shame, and much worse, if she doesn't co-operate. Abu-Assad's gripping drama makes a powerful statement about the oppression of women in occupied Palestine. As Huda remarks under interrogation by Palestinian security agents: "It's easier to occupy a society that's already repressing itself." Maisa Ebd Elhadi (*3000 Nights*, SFF 2015) and Manal Awad give knockout performances as women caught in a conflict with no end in sight.

ROGEREBERT.COM

"Does not stop for one second to take a breath, and the subjects revealed have enormous and urgent philosophical reverberation."

THE HUMANS



SAT 25 JUN | 4:45 PM
Directed by Stephen Karam
USA | In English | 108 mins | Unclassified 15+

SELECTED: SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL 2022
TORONTO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL 2021

Based on writer-director Stephen Karam's Tony Award-winning Broadway play, *The Humans* sees a family gather for Thanksgiving in a pricey but rundown New York apartment. As day passes into night and alcohol flows, simmering tensions and tragic histories are revealed. The knock-out ensemble (including June Squibb, Beanie Feldstein and Jayne Houdyshell) brilliantly navigate unspoken tension. The framing of characters in the gloomy background and eerie talk of bad dreams, give their personal crises a sense of profound existential dread. Brilliant cinematography, editing and sound design create a mood of expressionist horror; the shadows, textures and noises in the old building are almost characters in themselves.

THE GUARDIAN

"The pure, oppressive strangeness of the apartment makes it a seventh character: the spectre at the feast."

NUDE TUESDAY



SAT 25 JUN | 7:15 PM
Directed by Armağan Ballantyne
Australia, New Zealand | In Gibberish with English subtitles | 100 mins | Unclassified 18+

SELECTED: SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL 2022

The comic device at the heart of the film devised by Jackie van Beek (*The Breaker Upperers*, SFF 2018) and director Armağan Ballantyne (*The Strength of Water*) is as unique as it is uproariously hilarious. Actors were given basic pointers before being allowed to run verbally amok and deliver their lines in improvised gibberish. Post-filming, enter British comedian Julia Davis, to supply the funniest and most deliriously rude subtitles you could ever hope to read while falling off the chair laughing. There's a beautiful heart here as well. Damon Herriman and van Beek are perfect as the troubled couple, and Jemaine Clement is hysterical as the smooth, gibberish-spouting sex guru Bjorg at his "disco of sensations".

MY OLD SCHOOL



SUN 26 JUN | 12:15 PM
Directed by Jono McLeod
UK | In English | 104 mins | All Ages

SELECTED: SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL 2022,
SUNDANCE FILM FESTIVAL 2022

In 1993, Brandon Lee enrolled at Bearsden Academy, a secondary school in an upmarket suburb of Glasgow. A bright kid with a tragic background and a taste for retro music, nothing untoward you'd imagine... Lee is at the heart of this documentary, but he didn't want to show his face, so director Jono McLeod used Cumming to lip synch to a recording of Lee. That's just one of the innovative ways, along with animation and archival footage, that McLeod reveals this unbelievable story. If you have British roots, you may be familiar with this story that shocked the nation, if you don't... we won't spoil it for you! The truth will have you gasping in your seat!

VOX

"Watching My Old School is like listening to a bunch of friends tell you about the wildest memory they share, and with flashbacks rendered in animation that recalls '90s shows like *Daria*, it's a romp of a period piece, too."

SCREENS WITH SHORT FILM

DONKEY

THE QUIET GIRL



SUN 26 JUN | 2:30 PM
Directed by Colm Bairéad
Ireland | In English and Irish with English subtitles
94 mins | All Ages

SELECTED: SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL 2022,
BERLIN INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL 2022

The first Gaelic language feature to compete at Berlin, and winner of seven Irish Film and Television Awards including Best Film, *The Quiet Girl* portrays the loneliness of an innocent child oblivious to the damage of grief in the adult world around her. Not a second is superfluous in this precise accumulation of sound and image set in 1980s rural Ireland. Deep emotional undercurrents are present, even in the quietest moments of Bairéad's adaptation of Claire Keegan's 2010 short story *Foster*. Child actor Catherine Clinch is simply superb as Cáit, a nine-year-old shunned at school and treated with indifference by her pregnant mother and a father who cares more about gambling than his wife and four daughters. Cáit experiences love and warmth for the first time after being packed off to spend the summer with Eibhlín and Seán, older relatives with a fairy-tale-like dairy farm in Waterford. Words never spoken and sentences left unfinished are just as powerful as the deliberately sparse dialogue as Cáit begins to blossom in the sunshine and discovers a secret with life-affecting consequences. Small, quiet, perfectly formed films like this are a reason to celebrate cinema.

SCREEN INTERNATIONAL

"An unexpectedly beautiful assembly of narrative, image and sound which takes its cue from the title to build quietly to an emotional catharsis."

WHERE IS ANNE FRANK?



SUN 26 JUN | 4:45 PM
Directed by Ari Folman
France, Belgium, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Israel
In English | 99 mins | All Ages

SELECTED: SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL 2022,
CANNES FILM FESTIVAL 2021

One night in a near-future Amsterdam, in the Anne Frank House – once a secret hideout, now a museum – Anne's world-famous diary opens of its own accord and her imaginary friend Kitty (Ruby Stokes) magically enters the world as a real person. Taking the diary with her – and dodging police as they hunt the thief – Kitty explores the 21st century while reminiscing on the life of her creator (voiced by Emily Carey) via deeply moving flashbacks. Befriending a group of asylum seekers in hiding, Kitty is saddened to find that war, injustice and prejudice are still very much with us. Combining young-adult adventure, fantasy and social commentary, this timely tale is enlivened by wonderfully vivid and dreamlike animation.

THE HOLLYWOOD REPORTER

"Where Is Anne Frank spins around exceptionally engaging central characters, expresses the story's unspeakable sadness with eloquence and sensitivity, and winningly captures the intelligence, humour and adolescent exuberance so evident in photographs of Anne Frank and in her writing."

THE BURNING SEA



SUN 26 JUN | 7:00 PM
Directed by John Andreas Andersen
Norway
In Norwegian with English subtitles 106 mins | M

SELECTED: SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL 2022,
VANCOUVER INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL 2022

The discovery of massive North Sea oil reserves in 1969 brought great prosperity to Norway. But in the scarily believable scenario of *The Burning Sea*, 50 years of drilling have created a fissure on the ocean floor that could trigger an environmental apocalypse. Caught up in the first wave of oil platform disasters are underwater robotics expert Sofia (Kristine Kujath Thorp, excellent) and her partner Stian, a rigger on a stricken facility. After taking the time to establish characters we care about and set up juicy political and corporate intrigue, Andersen lets fly with spectacular visuals and a nerve-wracking race to save lives and prevent the unthinkable. Rattling good, race-against-time big screen entertainment.

SCREENS WITH SHORT FILM

THE MOTHS WILL EAT THEM UP

SCREEN ANARCHY

"I started biting my nails quite early. The pace quickens before too much time passes, and the tension grows deep."

SHORT FILMS

VOICE ACTIVATED



Director: Steve Anthopoulos
13 mins
Unclassified 15+

AUSTRALIA

Passionate florist and deliveryman Trent (Aleks Mikić, *Secret City*), who has a stutter, finds his voice when he is forced to cooperate with a voice activated car. Featuring Becky Lucas and Sam Neill.

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DONKEY



Directors: Jonathan Daw Tjungkaya Tapaya OAM
6 mins
Unclassified 15+

AUSTRALIA

Three Anango women of different generations tell the story of how donkeys came to be valuable friends and helpers in the desert communities in the APY lands of northern South Australia.

SCREENS WITH MY OLD SCHOOL
SUN 26 JUN 12:15PM

THE MOTHS WILL EAT THEM UP



Directors: Luisa Martiri Tanya Modini
14 mins
Unclassified 15+

AUSTRALIA

A woman's ordinary train ride home at night turns into a terrifying game of cat and mouse with a stranger until an unforeseen force is summoned.

SCREENS WITH THE BURNING SEA
SUN 26 JUN 7:00PM

OUR AUDIENCES SAY

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

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