

SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL

JUNE 08–19 2022

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SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL AUDIENCE AWARDS ANNOUNCED

The 69th Sydney Film Festival wrapped on Sunday 19 June with the Australian Premiere screening of Cannes award-winning South Korean drama *Broker* at the State Theatre.

Today the Festival announced the winners of the **Audience Award** for Best Narrative Feature and Best Documentary as well as the four runners up in each category. The winners were two Australian World Premiere films at the Festival with Best Narrative Feature awarded to *Evicted! A Modern Romance*, directed by **Rowan Devereux**, and Best Documentary awarded to *Keep Stepping* directed by **Luke Cornish**. This follows *Keep Stepping*'s win for Documentary Australia Award for Australian Documentary on Sunday night at the official closing night ceremony.

Sydney Film Festival Director Nashen Moodley said: "Our audiences have spoken and it is with great pleasure that the Festival announces *Evicted! A Modern Romance* and *Keep Stepping* as the winners of the 2022 Audience Award. The fact that the winners are both Sydney-set and made productions is a testament to the love and pride our city has for our wonderful local storytellers."

"*Evicted! A Modern Romance* is a particular insightful comedy that captures the zeitgeist of the Sydney millennial experience and is the feature debut of regular collaborators director Rowan Devereux and producer Sophie Saville. It's no surprise this relatable film, that follows four housemates on the verge of eviction trawling Sydney's rental market, took home the top prize."

"Delving into the world of Sydney's street dance competitions, *Keep Stepping* captures the journeys of two remarkable female performers training for Australia's biggest competition Destructive Steps. It's a pleasure to see that Sydneysiders loved Luke Cornish's seven-year production as much as our jury did."

THE AUDIENCE AWARDS

The Audience Award for Best Narrative Feature Top Five:

1. *Evicted! A Modern Romance*, directed by Rowan Devereux (Australia)
2. *6 Festivals*, directed by Macario De Souza (Australia)
3. *The Quiet Girl*, directed by Colm Bairéad (Ireland)
4. *Sissy*, directed by Hannah Barlow & Kane Senes (Australia)
5. *Close*, directed by Lukas Dhont (Belgium)

The Audience Award for Best Documentary Top Five:

1. *Keep Stepping*, directed by Luke Cornish (Australia)
2. *Delikado*, directed by Karl Malakunas (Australia)
3. *Everybody's Oma*, directed by Jason van Genderen (Australia)
4. *Navalny*, directed by Daniel Roher (USA)
5. *Young Plato*, directed by Neasa Ní Chianáin & Declan McGrath (Ireland)



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Minister for the Arts the Hon. Benjamin Franklin MLC said: “The Sydney Film Festival is one of the most revered film festivals in the world and I would like to commend each Audience Award winner on their success.”

“The NSW Government is proud to support the Sydney Film Festival once again, and we continue that investment as the Travelling Film Festival prepares to showcase the arts to regional NSW.”

“Congratulations to all those involved who have made it possible for us to come together and enjoy another fabulous Festival.”

Lord Mayor of Sydney, Clover Moore said: “It has been a delight to have the Sydney Film Festival back in town this year. There has been a terrific selection of international and Australian productions drawing crowds back into our theatres and into the city as we re-open post-lockdown.”

“The City provides sponsorship to the Sydney Film Festival every year because we are proud to help bring arts and culture into the heart of Sydney.”

“A hearty congratulations to all this year’s winners, and to the festival for breathing life back into the city,” she said.

Seven feature films, two documentaries and three shorts from this year’s Festival will premiere in Newcastle this weekend when the Travelling Film Festival brings **6 Festivals, Huda’s Salon, The Humans, Nude Tuesday, The Quiet Girl, Where is Anne Frank, The Burning Sea, Everybody’s Oma, My Old School**, AFTRS Craft Award and Yoram Gross Animation Award winner **Donkey, Voice Activated** and Dendy Awards winner **The Moths Will Eat Them Up** to Event Cinemas Kotara from Friday 24 – Sunday 26 June.

What: Travelling Film Festival Newcastle

When: Friday 24 June - Sunday 26 June, 2022

Where: Event Cinemas Kotara, Park Ave, Kotara NSW 2289

Full program details and ticketing information can be found at: sff.org.au/tff/program/newcastle

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***Sydney Film Festival Press Pack and Images Available [HERE](#)



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EDITOR'S NOTES

OTHER 2022 SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL AWARD WINNERS INCLUDE:

The \$60,000 **Sydney Film Prize** for 'audacious, cutting-edge and courageous' film was awarded to **Close**, by Belgian filmmaker **Lukas Dhont** at the Festival's Closing Night Gala awards ceremony and event at the State Theatre. The work was selected from 12 Official Competition films by prestigious jury headed by **David Wenham**.

Australian filmmaker **Luke Cornish** was presented with the [Documentary Australia Award's](#) \$10,000 cash prize for **Keep Stepping**, about two remarkable female performers training for Australia's biggest street dance competition.

The [Dendy Awards for Australian Short Films](#) saw the inaugural AFTRS Craft Award (a \$7,000 cash prize) presented to the character artists behind **Donkey**; Tjunkaya Tapaya OAM; Carolyn Kenta; Imuna Kenta; Elizabeth Dunn; Stacia Yvonne Lewis; Atipalku Intjalki; Lynette Lewis; and Cynthia Burke. The \$5,000 Yoram Gross Animation Award was also awarded to **Donkey**, directed by **Jonathan Daw** and **Tjunkaya Tapaya OAM**. Both the \$7,000 Dendy Live Action Short Award and \$7,000 Rouben Mamoulian Award for Best Director were presented to **Luisa Martiri** and **Tanya Modini** for **The Moths Will Eat Them Up**.

The 2022 recipient of the \$10,000 [Sustainable Future Award](#), made possible by a syndicate of passionate climate activists led by Award sponsor Amanda Maple-Brown, is Australian documentary **Delikado** directed by **Karl Malakunas**, which reveals the tribulations of environmental crusaders on the Filipino island of Palawan.

Filmmaker and performer **Kylie Bracknell** was awarded the 2022 [Deutsche Bank Fellowship for First Nations Film Creatives](#). The Fellowship provides a \$20,000 grant to an Australian First Nations film creative to further develop their skills through international placement or other professional development.

The \$10,000 Sydney-UNESCO City of Film Award, bestowed by Create NSW to a trail-blazing NSW-based screen practitioner, was presented to film composer **Caitlin Yeo**.

ABOUT SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL

From Wednesday 8 June to Sunday 19 June 2022, the 69th Sydney Film Festival offered Sydneysiders another exciting season of cinema amidst a whirlwind of premieres, red-carpet openings, in-depth discussions, film guests and more.

Sydney Film Festival is a major event on the New South Wales cultural calendar and is one of the world's longest-running film festivals. For more information, visit sff.org.au.

The 69th Sydney Film Festival is supported by the NSW Government through Screen NSW, the Federal Government through Screen Australia and the RISE fund and the City of Sydney.

