

**SYDNEY
FILM
FESTIVAL**

SEE IT ALL AT THE 70TH SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL

**7-18
JUNE
2023**

SFF



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YOUR GUIDE TO THE 2023 SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL



**SYDNEY
FILM
FESTIVAL**

70

**7-18
JUNE
2023**

SEE

THUNDER

RACHELS FARM

RUN RABBIT RUN

20,000 SPECIES OF BEES

BIOSPHERE

SHIN ULTRAMAN

SCRAPPER

PAST LIVES

RED, WHITE & BRASS

SCARYGIRL

BAD BEHAVIOUR

I LIKE MOVIES

THE DEFENDERS

**BLIND WILLOW,
SLEEPING WOMAN**

**ORLANDO,
MY POLITICAL
BIOGRAPHY**

THE NEW BOY

PASSAGES

BIRDEATER

BLUE JEAN

PRETTY RED DRESS

SUNFLOWER

KEEPING HOPE

REALITY

ASTEROID CITY

LIMMENSITÀ

JORAM

MONSTER

CARMEN

GLEE DESIRE GLORY CHILLS PRIDE NERVE

SEE

IT

ALL

**SFF
GLEE
DESIRE
NERVE
GLORY
PRIDE
CHILLS**

WELCOME

“THE FILMS AND FILMMAKERS OF OUR TIME, BUT ALSO OF OUR FUTURE.”

—NASHEN MOODLEY, FESTIVAL DIRECTOR

NASHEN MOODLEY

FESTIVAL DIRECTOR

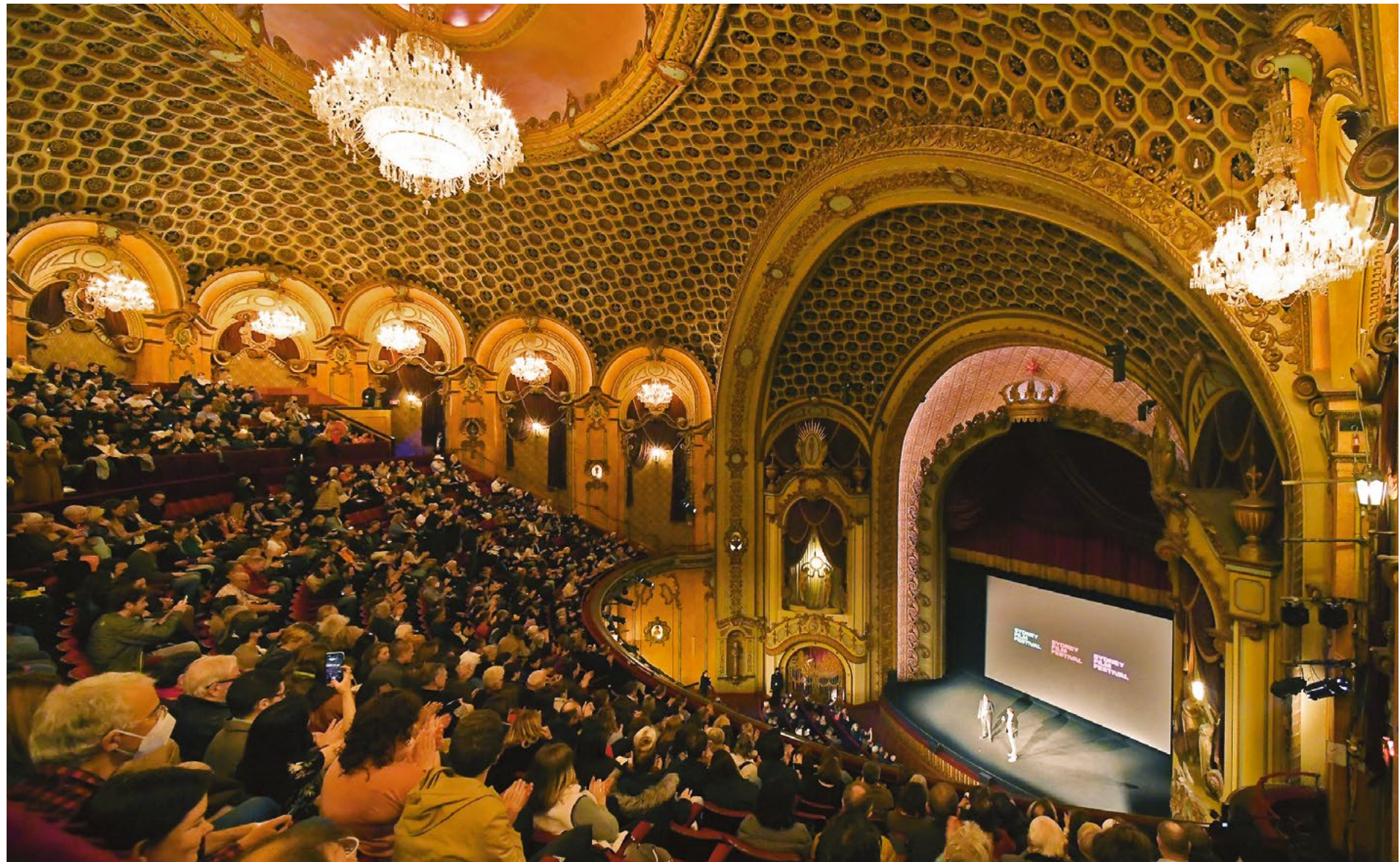


Cinema is a remarkable snapshot of the time in which it's made and absorbed by an audience. Sydney Film Festival has been fortunate to document and reflect those times for 70 years now. We celebrate this milestone with all of Sydney, as it's the ever-curious cinema culture of Sydney that has allowed us to reach this momentous occasion and made it such a welcoming event for films and filmmakers. We thank you all deeply for that.

SFF's 2023 edition is no different. We're sharing remarkable films from all corners of the globe – many with filmmakers as guests. They're the films and filmmakers of our time, but also of our future. The program celebrates cutting-edge cinema that speaks to who we were, are and can be.

The cinema experience is always special, but there's something to be said for the specific film festival experience where the atmosphere is electric with a shared passion for cinema – with all the communal gasps, laughs and big feelings that you share.

Welcome to the 70th Sydney Film Festival. Whether it will be at the cinema, at a talk or at a party in The Hub, it will a pleasure celebrating cinema with you.



DEANNE WEIR

FESTIVAL CHAIR

Welcome to SFF 2023, where we will honour our 70-year history while celebrating the world's great filmmakers of today and tomorrow.

We look forward to welcoming many of those filmmakers to share some incredible stories on the big screen with our passionate audiences.

We are very thankful to our government, corporate and philanthropic partners including the NSW Government through Screen NSW; the Federal Government through Screen Australia; and our major Local Government partner, the City of Sydney. Please patronise the services of all our supporters listed in the program.

My sincere thanks to our SFF team who are excited to present you with a fabulous festival experience. Enjoy!



FRANCES WALLACE

FESTIVAL CEO

Welcome to SFF 2023, it is my honour to be the new CEO here and what an extraordinary Festival, Board, team and community. The passion for SFF is simply unmatched.

The 70th program is outstanding in its breadth and diversity of subject matter and storytelling, and what we invite our dedicated SFF audience to do is bring in a new film-goer – someone who hasn't experienced the magic before – as we build up our cinema going audience, create that festival buzz and celebrate the sheer joy of cinema for another 70 years to come!

I look forward to meeting you all at what will be a tremendous celebration of film at SFF70.



THE HON. JOHN GRAHAM MLC

MINISTER FOR THE ARTS

The NSW Government proudly supports the Sydney Film Festival, one of the world's longest running film festivals. Celebrating its 70th year, the Festival continues to connect audiences with world-class cinema, showcase established and emerging filmmakers, and enrich the cultural life of the people of NSW.

Once again, Screenability showcases the talent of filmmakers with disability, including world premieres of three short films, supported by Screen NSW.

The prestigious Sydney UNESCO City of Film Award acknowledges a NSW-based screen practitioner whose innovation and imagination makes an extraordinary impact.

I hope you enjoy many courageous, audacious and cutting-edge films and events and celebrate everything our premier film festival has to offer.



CLOVER MOORE

LORD MAYOR OF SYDNEY

Sydney Film Festival, now in its 70th year, does our city proud.

This iconic, world-class festival celebrates the diversity and richness of global cultures, informs and debates the most important issues of our time, expands our minds and challenges our thinking... and all while entertaining us.

Audiences will find much to love among this year's Australian and international feature films, documentaries and shorts screening in some of Sydney's best venues.

The City of Sydney is a proud partner of the launch of the SFF Living Archive project this year and a long-time supporter of the Festival – which has become a truly essential part of the creative, cultural and economic life of our city.

SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL

70

7-18 JUNE 2023

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- sff.org.au

We acknowledge Australia's First Nations People as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the land, and pay respect to the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation, upon whose Country SFF offices are based. We honour the storytelling and culture of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities across Australia.



The New Boy

OPENING NIGHT

OPENING GALA

The Sydney Film Festival Opening Night Gala is Australia's most stylish celebration of cinema. Kick off your experience of the momentous 70th Festival with all the glamour of a red-carpet Australian Premiere of *The New Boy*, featuring international and Australian film industry guests, followed by the exclusive Opening Night afterparty at Sydney Town Hall. Feel that post-premiere buzz with complimentary canapes, cocktails and curated DJ sets. Prior to the film enjoy the classic sound of the State Theatre's restored Wurlitzer played by 'Australia's First Lady of the Theatre Organ', Margaret Hall.

A strictly limited number of tickets are available so grab yours today! This event is strictly 18+

OPENING NIGHT (FILM + AFTERPARTY) _____ \$150

OPENING NIGHT (FILM ONLY) _____ \$50/\$42 CONC



Warwick Thornton was born and raised in Alice Springs. His short films *Green Bush* (SFF 2005) and *Nana* (SFF 2007) premiered at Berlinale. His debut *Samson and Delilah* won the 2009 Cannes Caméra d'Or. Other films as director: *The Darkside* (2013), *We Don't Need a Map* (SFF 2017) and *Sweet Country* (2017).

OTHER SCREENINGS:
SAT 10 JUN 6:40PM STATE
SUN 11 JUN 11:45AM STATE

THE NEW BOY

WED 7 JUN 7:00 PM

Australia | 2023 | 110 mins | In English | Australian Premiere
 Director Screenwriter: Warwick Thornton | Producers: Kath Shelper, Cate Blanchett, Andrew Upton, Georgie Pym, Lorenzo De Maio, Coco Francini, Gretel Packer | Cast: Cate Blanchett, Aswan Reid, Deborah Mailman, Wayne Blair | Australia Distributor: Roadshow Entertainment

CTC

Warwick Thornton's Cannes-selected new film stars Cate Blanchett, Deborah Mailman, Wayne Blair and newcomer Aswan Reid in a beguiling story of spirituality and survival set in 1940s Australia.

In an exhilarating start to the film, a brave Aboriginal boy (Reid) is engaged in a battle with police, fighting with all his might. Eventually subdued, he is sent off to a remote monastery – and home to orphaned boys – run by Sister Eileen (Blanchett). The kindly nun has a calming effect on the new boy, and he also forms connections with Sister Mum (Mailman) and George (Blair) who manages the farmlands. An attempt at bullying the new boy falls flat, and he soon becomes an established, unique presence at the monastery. But he possesses unusual powers, and as Sister Eileen's religious zeal intensifies, things begin to unravel. Thornton's elegant and concise storytelling is augmented with spectacular images and a uniformly superb cast – including a group of very promising actors playing the boys at the monastery. But it is the magnetic on-screen presence of young Aswan Reid that astonishes. A film of great symbolism and impact, *The New Boy* finds Thornton at the height of his cinematic powers: it is intoxicating and magical.

CLOSING NIGHT AND AWARDS CEREMONY

Find out which films take out the top prizes at Sydney Film Festival's Awards Ceremony at the State Theatre, followed by a yet-to-be-announced Closing Night film. A buzzing evening full of entertainment and the culmination of the Festival's momentous 70th journey, this is a night not to be missed!

Before the film, enjoy the classic sound of the State Theatre's restored Wurlitzer played by one of the world's foremost theatre organists, Neil Jensen.

Book early as tickets are limited.

CLOSING NIGHT _____ \$35

CLOSING NIGHT CONCESSION _____ \$30



Tjanpi Desert Weavers artists Imuna Kenta and Elizabeth Dunn, winners of the 2022 Yoram Gross Animation Award and AFTRS Craft Award for *Tangka* (Doykey), with Creative Emma Franklin

FESTIVAL AWARDS

THE OFFICIAL COMPETITION AND SYDNEY FILM PRIZE

A prize awarded to the most "audacious, cutting-edge and courageous" film in the Official Competition. Endorsed by FIAPF, the regulating body for international film festivals, this prize is judged by a jury of international and Australian filmmakers and industry professionals, who award a \$60,000 prize to the winning filmmaker.

DOCUMENTARY AUSTRALIA AWARD FOR AUSTRALIAN DOCUMENTARY

Supported by Documentary Australia, this prize acknowledges excellence in Australian documentary production. As well as receiving a \$20,000 cash prize, the winning film becomes Academy Award eligible.



SUSTAINABLE FUTURE AWARD

The Sustainable Future Award, with a cash prize of \$40,000, is now the largest environmental film prize in the world. It is made possible through philanthropic support from a syndicate of passionate climate activists. The award recognises a narrative or documentary film of any length that deepens our knowledge and awareness of the impact of the global climate emergency.



KEY:
 Films shortlisted for the Sustainable Future Award.

DENDY AWARDS FOR AUSTRALIAN SHORT FILMS

SFF's prestigious Australian Short Film Awards were established in 1970 and have been sponsored by Dendy Cinemas since 1989.

- The Dendy Live Action Short Award, sponsored by Dendy Cinemas, provides a \$7,000 cash prize to the best Australian short film. Winners are Academy Award eligible.

- The Rouben Mamoulian Award, sponsored by Dendy Cinemas and named after the director who first presented the award in 1974, provides a \$7,000 cash prize to the best direction of an Australian short film.



- The Yoram Gross Animation Award, sponsored by Sandra and Guy Gross in memory of the late Yoram Gross, provides a \$5,000 cash prize to the best Australian animated short film. Winners are Academy Award eligible.



- The AFTRS Craft Award, sponsored by the Australian Film Television and Radio School, provides a \$7,000 cash prize for demonstrated excellence by a craft practitioner in an Australian short film.

50/AFTRS

- The Event Cinemas Rising Talent Award recognises an emerging short filmmaker with a cash prize of \$7,000. Open to film creatives, directors and screenwriters who have had no more than five short film credits.



As well as presenting the best filmmaking from around the world, Sydney Film Festival celebrates the remarkable talents of emerging and esteemed filmmakers with the presentation of nine illustrious awards – and a record-breaking prize pool of more than \$160,000.

THE SYDNEY UNESCO CITY OF FILM AWARD

Chris Godfrey is this year's recipient of the Sydney UNESCO City of Film Award, which recognises a trailblazing NSW-based screen practitioner whose work stands for innovation, imagination and high impact, with a \$10,000 cash prize awarded by Screen NSW. See Godfrey in conversation on Mon 12 Jun, 1:00pm, at The Hub. (more info [page 46](#)).



DINOSAUR DESIGNS

All Sydney Film Festival Award winners are presented with the Festival's signature mesmeric swirl award, designed and handmade in Sydney by SFF's partners Louise Olsen and Stephen Ormandy of Dinosaur Designs.



OFFICIAL JURY PARTNER

PARKROYAL Darling Harbour, Sydney is proud to be the official home away from home for SFF's Awards Juries.



VOTE + WIN!

GIO AUDIENCE AWARDS

Have your say! Rate the feature-length films you see at the Festival and you could win the chance to host your own private screening for 50 friends of an audience award winning film, courtesy of GIO, or other fantastic prizes from Crumpler, SFF cinema venues and restaurant partners.

The GIO Audience Awards for Best International Narrative Feature, Best International Documentary, Best Australian Narrative Feature and Best Australian Documentary are announced after the Festival.

HOW TO VOTE

Visit sff.org.au/vote and use the code at the bottom of your ticket to rate each film out of a possible 10 stars.

Or log in to the official **SFF 2023 App**, go to 'My Tickets', select a title and rate it out of 10 stars.

You can only vote once per ticket.

Voting closes midnight 18 June 2023.

GET THE SFF 2023 APP



OFFICIAL COMPETITION

In 2023, the Official Competition celebrates 15 years of awarding the prestigious Sydney Film Prize to each year's most "audacious, cutting-edge and courageous" film.

Sydney Film Prize winners to date: *Close* (2022), *There Is No Evil* (2021), *Parasite* (2019), *The Heiresses* (2018), *On Body and Soul* (2017), *Aquarius* (2016), *Arabian Nights* (2015), *Two Days, One Night* (2014), *Only God Forgives* (2013), *Alps* (2012), *A Separation* (2011), *Heartbeats* (2010), *Branson* (2009), and *Hunger* (2008).



AFIRE

ROTER HIMMEL



WED 14 JUN 6:00 PM STATE | THU 15 JUN 12:30 PM STATE | FRI 16 JUN 8:30 PM PNORT3 | 15+

Germany | 2023 | 103 mins | In German with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Christian Petzold | Producers: Florian Koerner von Gustorf, Michael Weber, Anton Kaiser | Cast: Thomas Schubert, Paula Beer, Langston Uibel | Australian Distributor: Madman Entertainment

Silver Bear winner at the Berlinale, Christian Petzold (*Undine*, SFF 2021; *Barbara*, SFF 2012) returns with a tragicomic romp about four young people trapped at a holiday house as a fire draws near. Friends Leon (Thomas Schubert) and Felix (Langston Uibel) head to an idyllic seaside home for the summer. They look forward to relaxation, but also must work on their creative projects. Leon to finish the manuscript of his anticipated second novel, Felix to complete a photography portfolio. On arrival they find an unexpected guest Nadja (Paula Beer, *Undine*), whose loud sex with local lifesaver Devid (Enno Trebs) elicits irritation... among other feelings. Soon Leon is smitten with Nadja, and Felix taken with Devid – and the summer holiday is filled with lust, jealousy, competition and creativity. All the while the forest fires, once distant, encroach and grow, leading to a shocking climax. Following *Undine*, in which water and architecture were pivotal, Petzold now grapples with fire, literature and photography. Filled with mischievous humour, and the heady matters of artistic value and creation, ultimately *Afire* is preoccupied with love.



Christian Petzold is a German director who won the Silver Bear at the Berlinale for *Barbara* (2012) and *Afire* (2023) and has had six films in Competition there. He has won the German Film Critics Association Award for Best Film several times, and his most celebrated films include *Wolfsburg* (2003), *Ghosts* (2005), *Yella* (2007), *Phoenix* (SFF 2015) and *Transit* (SFF 2018).

ART COLLEGE 1994



MON 12 JUN 6:45 PM STATE | TUE 13 JUN 3:45 PM STATE | THU 15 JUN 6:00 PM DNT1 | 15+

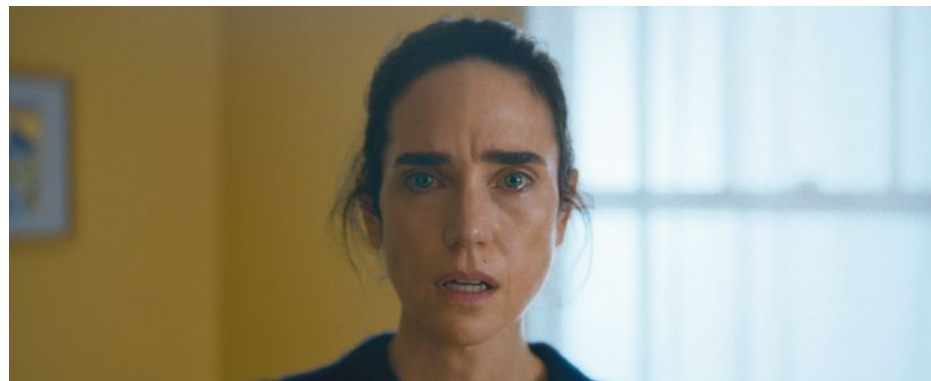
China | 2023 | 118 mins | In Mandarin with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director: Liu Jian | Screenwriters: Lin Shan, Liu Jian | Producer: Yang Cheng | Cast: Dong Zijian, Zhou Dongyu, Jia Zhangke
Sales Agent: Memento International

Liu Jian's gorgeous animation is a slacker comedy-drama about a group of art students in China in the '90s – a time of great change for the nation that is instrumental to their futures. On the campus of the Chinese Southern Academy of Arts, the students – Xiaojun, Rabbit, Lili, Hong and others – learn, create, argue, fall in love, smoke too many cigarettes and contemplate what will come. As China undergoes an extreme change – moving to a market-driven economy and greater engagement with the outside world – the art world too grapples with whether to maintain traditional methods or further pursue a modern mode of artistic creation. This seismic societal shift is a matter of preoccupation for the students and has a great influence on not only their artistic direction but their future lives. With his follow-up to *Have a Nice Day*, featuring an incredible voice cast including the filmmakers Jia Zhangke and Bi Gan, along with Dong Zijian, Zhou Dongyu and Ren Ke, Liu has created an incredibly detailed and immensely rewarding snapshot of a crucial juncture in recent Chinese history.



Liu Jian graduated with a degree in Chinese painting in 1993 and has been working in animation since 1995. His feature debut, *Piercing 1*, won the 2010 Asia Pacific Screen Award for Best Animated Feature Film and *Have a Nice Day* (2017) premiered at the Berlinale.

BAD BEHAVIOUR



SUN 11 JUN 6:15 PM STATE | MON 12 JUN 11:20 AM STATE | THU 15 JUN 6:15 PM RITZ5 | 15+

New Zealand | 2023 | 108 mins | In English | Australian Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Alice Englert | Producers: Molly Hallam, Desray Armstrong | Cast: Jennifer Connelly, Alice Englert, Ben Whishaw | Australian Distributor: Ahi Films

Alice Englert's Sundance-selected debut stars Jennifer Connelly, Ben Whishaw, Dasha Nekrasova and Englert herself, in a dark New Zealand-produced comedy about spiritual retreats and a turbulent mother-daughter relationship. Lucy (Connelly) is a former child actor trying to resolve some of her traumas by attending a therapeutic sanctuary run by new-age guru Elon (Whishaw). Before going off the grid, Lucy reaches out to her stunt-performer daughter Dylan (Englert), who's shooting a film in New Zealand and experiencing her own set of challenges. From the outset, Lucy struggles to find tranquillity – she's irritated by the other attendees and is particularly rankled by the celebrity model Beverly (Nekrasova), and is poised to explode. Meanwhile, Dylan has her own difficulties on set, particularly with the leading actor. Mother and daughter must find each other for mutual support, and confront the realities of their own relationship. Established actor Englert draws engaging, committed performances from this impressive cast in what is an intelligent, incisive and very funny first feature film.

Festival guest: Alice Englert



Alice Englert is an Australian-New Zealand actor and filmmaker who starred in *Ginger & Rosa* (SFF 2013) and *Beautiful Creatures* (2013). Her films as director include *The Boyfriend Game* and *Family Happiness* (SFF 2017). Englert's debut feature *Bad Behaviour* premiered at Sundance earlier this year.

THE DARK EMU STORY



SAT 17 JUN 4:40 PM STATE | SUN 18 JUN 12:15 PM STATE | ALL AGES

Australia | 2023 | 95 mins | In Gamilaraay, English, Wik-Mungkan and Wik-Ngathan with English subtitles
World Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Allan Clarke | Producers: Darren Dale, Jacob Hickey, Belinda Mravიც | Cast: Bruce Pascoe
Distributor: ABC Commercial

A thought provoking, revelatory and inspiring documentary telling the story of Bruce Pascoe's *Dark Emu* – the publishing phenomenon that challenged Australia to rethink its history and ignited a raging debate. The 2014 best-selling book makes explosive claims that First Nations people were not only hunters and gatherers but also farmers, part of a complex economic system. Inspired by the journals of British explorers, Pascoe prosecutes the contentious argument that First Nations people settled in villages and devised extraordinary methods of aquaculture and astronomy. The author's compelling narrative smashes the orthodoxy and turns the view of 'traditional' Aboriginal life on its head. But *Dark Emu* ignited a fierce debate, sparking searing criticism. Academics and conservative commentators lined up to scorn Pascoe's work and question the knowledge of the First Australians. A public war of words then swirled over the Aboriginality and identity of Pascoe himself. Allan Clarke's *The Dark Emu Story*, produced by Blackfella Films (*First Australians*, *Redfern Now*), delves deep into the controversy, enlightens our understanding of Australian history and provides a platform for First Nations peoples to share their story.

Festival Guest: Members of the film team



Allan Clarke is a Muruwari and Gomeri filmmaker, investigative journalist and writer who has made significant contributions to the representation of Indigenous issues in the media. Projects include: *Blood on the Tracks*; *The Bowraville Murders* (SFF 2021).

COBWEB

GEO-MI-ZIP



SAT 17 JUN 8:50 PM STATE | SUN 18 JUN 9:30 AM STATE | 15+

South Korea | 2023 | 134 mins | In Korean with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director: Kim Jee-woon | Screenwriter: Yeon-shick Shin | Producers: Jae-won Choi, Eun-mi An, Yeon-shick Shin
Cast: Kang-ho Song, Soo-jung Lim, Jung-se Oh | Sales Agent: Barunson E&A

It's the 1970s, Director Kim Ki-yeol (Song) has just completed the shooting of his latest film and each night has dreams about scenes he didn't shoot that would make his film perfect. In a restaurant he is taunted by film critics for always making "trashy, racy dramas". There is only one solution for Director Kim – he needs just two more days for re-shoots and his film will be a masterpiece. But over at the Shinseong Film Studio there is no appetite whatsoever to allow him to do so. And there's also a problem with the censors who would not look kindly upon re-shoots with an unauthorised script, especially one deemed by the studio head to be "anti-establishment, insulting to common decency, and decadent tool". Using all his powers of persuasion, Kim gathers the reluctant cast and crew and begins his reshoot which quickly descends into chaos. Kim – plagued by self-doubt – will have to muster all his will to complete his masterpiece. Reversed for his brilliant action films, director Kim Jee-woon here takes a deeply satisfying swerve into comedy. The result is not only extremely funny, but also a virtuoso portrayal of the torment involved in creating art.



Kim Jee-woon was a theatre actor and director before debuting with *The Quiet Family* (1988). Other films include: *A Tale of Two Sisters* (2003); *A Bittersweet Life* (2005); *The Good, the Bad, the Weird* (2008) and *The Age of Shadows* (2016).

FALLEN LEAVES



SUN 11 JUN 4:20 PM STATE | MON 12 JUN 9:30 AM STATE | 15+

Finland, Sweden | 2023 | 81 mins | In Finnish with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Aki Kaurismäki | Producer: Misha Jaari, Aki Kaurismäki, Mark Lwoff | Cast: Alma Pöysti, Jussi Vatanen
Sales Agent: The Match Factory

Ansa (Alma Pöysti) works at an unpleasant supermarket where the job is so badly paid that she takes home expired sandwiches to eat. Holappa (Jussi Vatanen) is a metalworker, labouring each day in a hazardous job that he is sure will kill him. He drinks through the working day, and then drinks again at night. Meanwhile, on the radio there are constant announcements about the Russian attacks on Ukraine, and on the streets, there are posters about climate protests. Against his will, Holappa is dragged to a karaoke night by a friend. "Tough guys don't sing", he says. But karaoke night is also a night for romance. There, Holappa meets Ansa and there's a spark. Lost phone numbers, Holappa's alcoholism and a variety of obstacles get in their way but still these two remain hopeful. With beautiful performances by Pöysti and Vatanen, *Fallen Leaves* is a vital and welcome addition to Kaurismäki's working-class trilogy (*Shadows in Paradise*, *Ariel* and *The Match Factory Girl*). Kaurismäki's mastery at depicting down-on-their-luck characters in all their complexity, and in finding humour in the unlikeliest of situations, remains undiminished here. In this time of war, economic disparity and turmoil, his message is to still look for love.



Aki Kaurismäki started out writing screenplays and then moved into directing with *Crime and Punishment* (1983). He was the subject of a SFF Retrospective in 2018. His films include: *Hamlet Goes Business* (SFF 1990); *The Match Factory Girl* (SFF 1990); *Take Care of Your Scarf*, *Tatiana* (SFF 1995); *Drifting Clouds* (SFF 1997); *The Man Without a Past* (2002); *Le Havre* (2011) and *The Other Side of Hope* (SFF 2017).

JORAM



THU 15 JUN 8:00 PM STATE | FRI 16 JUN 12:30 PM STATE | SAT 17 JUN 7:30 PM HOC5 | 15+

India | 2022 | 139 mins | In Hindi with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Devashish Makhija | Producer: Shariq Patel, Ashima Avasthi Chaudhuri, Anupama Bose, Devashish Makhija | Cast: Megha Mathur, Manoj Bajpayee, Mohd. Zeeshan Ayyub | Sales Agent: Zee Studios

A labourer in Mumbai goes on the run in this edge-of-your-seat survival thriller that deftly weaves political intrigue with a stylish and propulsive cinematic sensibility. Dasru (Manoj Bajpayee) and Vaano (Tannishtha Chatterjee) are migrant labourers in the sprawling city, doing backbreaking work on a construction site, where they also live with their baby daughter, Joram. A flashback reveals their much happier life five years earlier in the forests of Jhripidi, Jharkhand. A sadness and a sense of loss permeates, interrupted only by the folk songs they hum. The arrival of Phulo Karma (Smita Tambe), a politician from Jharkhand handing out gifts, seems innocent enough at first, but soon sets in motion a devastating series of events. Dasru, with Joram in tow, flees. He is pursued by the jaded, downtrodden Mumbai cop Ratnakar who reluctantly travels across the country in pursuit. Director Devashish Makhija skilfully creates great tension while gradually revealing the political underpinnings of the thrilling action. Ultimately, Joram pointedly questions the cost of development and progress for the powerless – people who have, as Dasru says, “lived here for 2000 years” but can lose it all in a day.

Festival Guests: Devashish Makhija and Megha Mathur



Devashish Makhija is a filmmaker, screenwriter, writer and poet. He won the Fresh Blood Film Award at the Beaune International Thriller Film Festival for his feature, Aiji (2017) and Best Director and Best Screenplay at Asian Film Festival Barcelona for Bhonle (2018).

THE MOTHER OF ALL LIES

KADIB ABYAD



TUE 13 JUN 6:15 PM STATE | WED 14 JUN 2:15 PM STATE | 15+

Morocco, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Qatar | 2023 | 96 mins | In Arabic with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director, Producer: Asmae El Moudir | Sales Agent: Outlook Film Sales

Direct from its Cannes Un Certain Regard premiere, Moroccan filmmaker Asmae El Moudir’s audacious feature melds fact, fiction and captivating figurines to lay bare a hidden personal and national history. Asmae recreates the events around a government atrocity using doll-like figures, akin to Cambodian director Rithy Panh’s 2013 Cannes winner The Missing Picture. But in this instance the focus is Morocco’s 1981 Bread Riots. Asmae’s father helps construct the scene, from crafting a replica of the family’s former home and environs, to creating models of family, friends and former neighbours. Asmae’s mother provides support with needle, thread and fabric scraps. The finely detailed miniatures, and amusing juxtapositions of scale, create a place where memories can roam and long-held secrets can be revealed. Asmae’s fearsome grandmother is mightily dismissive of the process, raging equally against her tiny replica doll and her granddaughter’s ever-present camera. As recollections surface and terrible truths are revealed, the old woman remains stubbornly determined to leave history undisturbed, as all those around her confront the trauma of the past.

Festival Guest: Asmae El Moudir



Asmae El Moudir has been working in the cinema and audio-visual industries since 2010. She has directed three short fiction films, and studied at La Fémis, where she produced the award-winning Thank God It’s Friday. In 2020, she directed and produced The Postcard, her first feature-length documentary.

MONSTER



FRI 16 JUN 6:00 PM STATE | SAT 17 JUN 11:45 AM STATE | SUN 18 JUN 3:15 PM HOC4 | 15+

Japan | 2023 | 127 mins | In Japanese with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director: Kore-eda Hirokazu | Screenwriter: Sakamoto Yūji | Producers: Kawamura Genki, Yamada Kenji, Banse Megumi, Ito Taichi, Taguchi Hijiri | Cast: Ando Sakura, Nagayama Eita, Kurokawa Soya | Australian Distributor: Madman Entertainment

Direct from the Cannes Competition, Monster is an intense, mysterious and morally complex drama from Kore-eda Hirokazu (Shoplifters, SFF 2018; Broker, SFF 2022), told through multiple perspectives. Young Minato starts to behave very strangely. He insists that he is a monster; that his brain was switched with a pig’s, and he also bears physical injuries. His concerned mother, Saori, discovers that a teacher, Hori, is responsible for her son’s distress and storms into the school demanding the truth and that the teacher be disciplined. All she gets in response are robotic apologies and the claim that it has all been a “misunderstanding”. As the battle between mother and school intensifies, Kore-eda deftly switches perspectives, and everything Saori thinks she knows comes into question. Kore-eda, a brilliant director of children as in Nobody Knows, draws nuanced performances from the child actors here, who are sometimes vulnerable and sweet and at other times terrifying. As the intricate details are gradually revealed, and Kore-eda X-rays these characters and community, Monster keeps you on the edge of your seat, weaving a provocative and mesmerising contemporary tale.



Kore-eda Hirokazu’s directorial debut, Maborosi (SFF 1996), won the Venice Film Festival’s Golden Osella. Other films include: After Life (SFF 1999), Distance (2001); Nobody Knows (2004), Hana (SFF 2007); Still Walking (SFF 2009); Air Doll (2009); I Wish (2011); Like Father Like Son (2013); Our Little Sister (SFF 2015); After the Storm (2016); Shoplifters (SFF 2018) and Broker (SFF 2022).

THE NEW BOY



WED 7 JUN 7:30 PM STATE | SAT 10 JUN 6:40 PM STATE | SUN 11 JUN 11:45 AM STATE | CTC

Australia | 2023 | 110 mins | In English | Australian Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Warwick Thornton | Producers: Kath Shelper, Cate Blanchett, Andrew Upton, Georgie Pym, Lorenzo De Maio, Coco Francini, Gretel Packer | Cast: Cate Blanchett, Aswan Reid, Deborah Mailman, Wayne Blair
Australia Distributor: Roadshow Entertainment

Warwick Thornton’s (Samson and Delilah; We Don’t Need a Map, SFF 2017; Sweet Country) Cannes-selected new film stars Cate Blanchett, Deborah Mailman, Wayne Blair and newcomer Aswan Reid in a beguiling story of spirituality and survival set in 1940s Australia. In an exhilarating start to the film, a brave Aboriginal boy (Reid) is engaged in a battle with police, fighting with all his might. Eventually subdued, he is sent off to a remote monastery – and home to orphaned boys – run by Sister Eileen (Blanchett). The kindly nun has a calming effect on the new boy, and he also forms connections with Sister Mum (Mailman) and George (Blair) who manages the farmlands. An attempt at bullying the new boy falls flat, and he soon becomes an established, unique presence at the monastery. But he possesses unusual powers, and as Sister Eileen’s religious zeal intensifies, things begin to unravel. Thornton’s elegant and concise storytelling is augmented with spectacular images and a uniformly superb cast – including a group of very promising actors playing the boys at the monastery. But it is the magnetic on-screen presence of young Aswan Reid that astonishes. A film of great symbolism and impact, The New Boy finds Thornton at the height of his cinematic powers: it is intoxicating and magical.

Festival guests: Members of the film team



Warwick Thornton was born and raised in Alice Springs. His short films Green Bush (SFF 2005) and Nana (SFF 2007) premiered at Berlinale. His debut Samson and Delilah won the 2009 Cannes Caméra d’Or. Other films as director: The Darkside (2013), We Don’t Need a Map (SFF 2017) and Sweet Country (2017).

PAST LIVES



FRI 9 JUN 8:15 PM STATE | SAT 10 JUN 11:45 AM STATE | FRI 16 JUN 6:30 PM RITZ1 | 15+

USA | 2022 | 106 mins | In English, Korean with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Celine Song | Producers: David Hinojosa, Christine Vachon, Pamela Koffler | Cast: Greta Lee, Teo Yoo, John Magaro | Australian Distributor: StudioCanal

In this delicate, spellbinding romance, selected for both Berlinale and Sundance 2023, two school friends explore a lingering, deep connection that appears to transcend time and distance. Na Young and Hae Sung are friends but also academic rivals in their Korean school. A budding childhood romance is prematurely ended when Na Young emigrates with her family to Canada, adopting the name Nora for her new life. Twelve years later, Nora (Greta Lee) is a student in New York working on becoming a writer, while Hae Sung (Teo Yoo) is doing military service in Korea. An intriguing social media query leads to an online reunion for the two. Catching up on a video call leads to further appointments, and love is once again on the cards. Flashing forward a further 12 years sees Hae Sung and Nora finally reunited in New York, when Hae Sung decides to visit the city for a week. By now Nora is happily married to Arthur (John Magaro), but this decades-later reunion raises the inevitable question of destiny and what might have been. Past Lives beautifully reflects on the Korean concept of In-Yun – the idea that interactions in past lives can lead to meaningful or intended connections in the present. Past Lives is a film of great ambition, and deep emotion, and in its intimate tale of two people, it also captures something profound and universal in us all.



Celine Song’s play Endlings received its world premiere at the American Repertory Theater (2019). She has been a finalist for the Susan Smith Blackburn Prize, and also wrote the first season of Amazon’s Wheel of Time. Past Lives is her feature film debut and appeared at both Sundance and the Berlinale earlier this year.

SCRAPPER



THU 8 JUN 6:00 PM STATE | FRI 9 JUN 10:00 AM STATE | SUN 18 JUN 5:45 PM HOC5 | ALL AGES

UK | 2022 | 84 mins | In English | Australian Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Charlotte Regan | Producer: Theo Barrowclough | Cast: Harris Dickinson, Lola Campbell, Alin Uzun
Australian Distributor: Madman Entertainment

Winner of the Sundance Grand Jury Prize (World Cinema Dramatic), Charlotte Regan’s joyous, inventive debut follows Georgie (Lola Campbell), a 12-year-old girl who lives happily alone in London until her estranged father (Harris Dickinson, Triangle of Sadness, SFF 2022) turns up. When her mother dies, resourceful Georgie manages to convince social workers and the surrounding community alike that she is in the care of her uncle ‘Winston Churchill’. Within her home, Georgie has created a magical lair, and to get by she steals bicycles with her friend Ali (Alin Uzun). Her recent bereavement aside, all seems to be going quite well for Georgie. But then her long absent father Jason (Dickinson) arrives, unannounced. Georgie resists this unwanted, belated paternal attention, and Jason is more man-child than parent. Regan brings a fresh and vibrant approach to this British working class story – her film is filled with vibrant colours, witty dialogue and a propulsive energy. Says Regan: “I wanted it to be joyful and funny. I’ve seen films about working class lives where the characters get one minute of happiness in the whole film, where no-one is funny, everyone’s miserable. But that wasn’t my experience.”



Charlotte Regan is a filmmaker from London who grew up making low-budget music promos for local rappers. Her first short film, Standby, was nominated for a BAFTA. Her second short, Fry-Up, screened at Sundance and Berlinale. She was named as a 2020 Screen International Star of Tomorrow.

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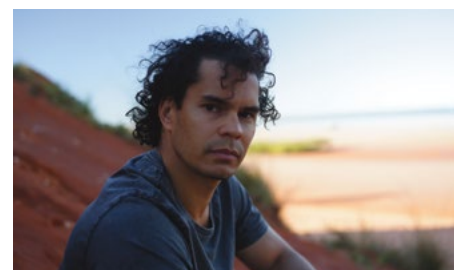


Previous winners include: *Keep Stepping* (2022), *I'm Wanita* (2021), *Descent* (2020), *She Who Must Be Loved* (2019), *Ghosthunter* (2018), *The Pink House* (2017), *In the Shadow of the Hill* (2016), *Only the Dead* (2015), *35 Letters* (2014).



Luke Cornish, winner of the 2022 Documentary Australia Award for *Keep Stepping*

KEEPING HOPE



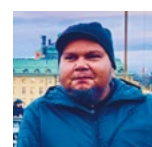
MON 12 JUN 4:15 PM EV5 **15+**
TUE 13 JUN 6:00 PM DNT3

Australia | 2022 | 52 mins | In English
Director: Tyson Mowarin | Producer: Darren Hutchinson
Australian Distributor: SBS/NITV

If the Kimberley was a country, at times it would have the highest suicide rates in the world. The vast majority are young Indigenous men. Mark Coles Smith, an Indigenous actor who grew up in the Kimberley, returns to try to discover why this is the case. It's a subject that's close to Mark's heart – his best friend committed suicide at just 23. On his journey, Mark meets some remarkable people directly affected by suicide who are now making a real and hopeful difference in its prevention.

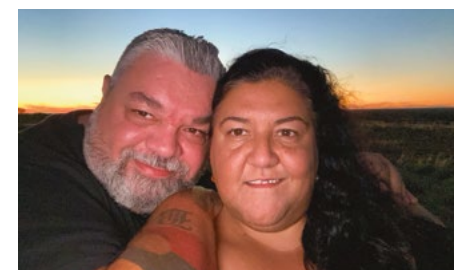
Screens with *Marungka Tjalatjunu (Dipped In Black)*

Festival Guests: Tyson Mowarin and Mark Coles Smith



Tyson Mowarin's award-winning films include *Undiscovered Country* (SFF 2019) and *Connection to Country* (SFF 2017). For over 10 years, he's produced innovative digital projects plus factual and drama content in WA's Pilbara.

KINDRED

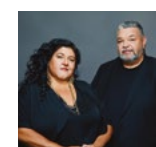


FRI 16 JUN 6:00 PM EV5 **15+**
SAT 17 JUN 9:30 AM STATE

Australia | 2023 | 88 mins | In English | World Premiere
Directors: Adrian Russell Wills, Gillian Moody | Producers: Tom Zubrycki, Gillian Moody | Production Company: Jotz Productions

When Wodi Wodi woman Gillian Moody and Wonnarua man Adrian Russell Wills met making their first short film together, little did they know that 25 years later they would be best friends. The pair turned to each other in navigating the emotional rollercoaster of being adopted into white families, and when connecting back with their bloodlines. *Kindred* explores the importance of discovering your place in the world, and realising that home and love truly can be found in the people and places your heart connects to.

Festival guests: Gillian Moody and Adrian Russell Wills



Gillian Moody, a Wodi Wodi woman from NSW, has worked in management and production in the Australian screen industry. Adrian Russell Wills, writer and director, is a Wonnarua man originally from Bourke NSW.

THE LAST DAUGHTER



THU 8 JUN 6:15 PM EV3 **ALL AGES**
SAT 10 JUN 2:00 PM EV11

Australia | 2022 | 87 mins | In English
Directors: Brenda Matthews, Nathaniel Schmidt | Producers: Simon Williams, Brendon Skinner | Australian Distributor: Bonsai Films

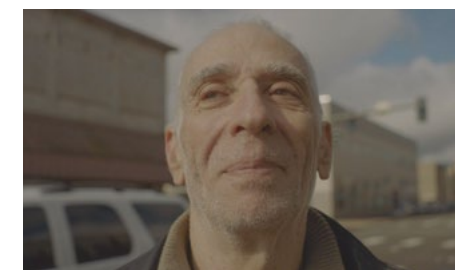
As a child, Wiradjuri woman Brenda Matthews was handed over to a white family to be raised, before eventually being returned to the Aboriginal family she no longer knew. She remembers her white parents with fondness, especially their daughter who was around her age. Now an adult, Brenda searches for her foster family and the truth behind her government-ordered abduction. In the process she uncovers long-buried secrets, whilst reconciling her past and the two sides of her family. Winner, Audience Documentary Award, Adelaide Film Festival 2022.

Festival guests: Brenda Matthews and members of the film team



Brenda Matthews is a proud Wiradjuri woman living in Bundjalung Country, Queensland. She co-directed her debut feature film *The Last Daughter* with Australian/American filmmaker Nathaniel Schmidt.

MAN ON EARTH

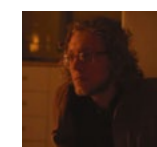


WED 14 JUN 6:05 PM EV9 **18+**
SUN 18 JUN 3:30 PM DNT3

Australia | 2022 | 97 mins | In English
Director: Amiel Courtin-Wilson | Producers: Amiel Courtin-Wilson, Alice Jamieson-Dowd, John Baker
Production Company: Flood Projects

Australian filmmaker Amiel Courtin-Wilson has spent four years researching the current trends in society's approach to death and dying. He is then approached by a man, Bob, who wants his last week on earth documented. The result, *Man on Earth*, combines highly intimate, direct-to-camera interviews, with a real-time observation of Bob's last seven days as he makes peace with his family, the love of his life and himself. As the days go by, the dying man and the filmmaker become dear friends. A moving portrait of a funny, flawed man, reflecting on his life with profound, irreverent pathos.

Festival guest: Amiel Courtin-Wilson



Amiel Courtin-Wilson has directed over 20 short films and seven feature films, including *Chasing Buddha* (SFF 2000, Dendy Award winner), *Bastardy* (SFF 2009), *Cicada* (SFF 2009), *Hail* (SFF 2011) and *Ruin* (SFF 2014).

THE CAPE

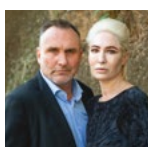


FRI 9 JUN 6:15 PM EV9 **15+**

Australia | 2023 | 77 mins | In English
Directors: Michael Ware, Justine A. Rosenthal
Screenwriters: Michael Ware, Justine A. Rosenthal
Producers: Richard Finlayson, Jude Troy, Alexandra Cameron
Production Company: Wooden Horse for STAN

A chilling documentary about the mysterious tragedies befalling an isolated fishing community in Australia's frontier-like Cape York Peninsula, as revealed in interviews with family, locals and officials. When a 10-year-old boy and his father vanish while checking their shark nets, it unravels a dynastic alliance between powerful fishing clans. A mother and son are accused of murder, while a love triangle gone horribly wrong raises questions of guilt and complicity that ripple out far beyond the alleged killers.

Festival guest: Members of the film team



Michael Ware and Justine Rosenthal are the Emmy-nominated creators of *Only the Dead* (SFF 2015). Michael is a former CNN war correspondent and Justine the executive editor of *Newsweek* magazine.

THE CARNIVAL



SAT 10 JUN 6:00 PM EV5 **ALL AGES**
SUN 11 JUN 9:30 AM STATE
MON 12 JUN 3:45 PM HOC5

Australia | 2023 | 85 mins | In English | World Premiere
Director: Isabel Darling | Producers: Tom Zubrycki, Isabel Darling | Production Company: Jotz Productions

The Carnival captures the intimate moments of the sixth-generation carnival family, the Bells, as they haul their convoy of trucks, rides and workers from Batemans Bay to Darwin and back. Filmed over seven years, their journey includes pandemic shutdowns, bushfires, persistent rain and rising fuel costs – with a dwindling economy thrown in. The close-knit family battles not only to keep Australia's oldest show on the road, but ultimately to keep their carnival legacy alive.

Festival guests: Isabel Darling and members of the film team



Isabel Darling worked as an offline editor before directing. Her films include *Being Frank* (2015, selected for festivals locally and overseas) and *Corey the Warrior* (2017, selected for Cannes Festival on International Disability).

CLIMATE CHANGERS



SAT 17 JUN 3:30 PM EV5 **ALL AGES**
SUN 18 JUN 4:00 PM RITZ5

Australia | 2023 | 62 mins | In English | World Premiere
Director: Johan Gabrielsson | Screenwriter, Producer: Mark Forstmann | Australian Distributor: Antidote Films

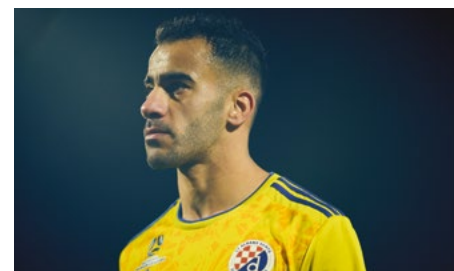
Australian scientist and conservationist Tim Flannery is on a global search for genuine leadership on climate change. Interviewing everyone from CEOs to politicians and activists, he poses the question: Do we have what it takes to get out of this mess? This investigation traces Tim's journey back from his early days as a palaeontologist piquing his interest in climate change, to his tireless – but fruitless – efforts at the 2009 Copenhagen COP, before returning to the 2021 Glasgow COP. His ongoing fight for change brings with it geopolitical troubles, adversity from a fossil fuel industry reluctant to change, as well as personal attacks from deniers and right-wing media.

Festival Guests: Johan Gabrielsson and Tim Flannery



Johan Gabrielsson has made short films, commercials and documentaries, many of which have been broadcast worldwide. He's worked mainly in Sweden and Australia.

THE DEFENDERS



THU 15 JUN 6:15 PM EV5 **M**

Australia | 2023 | 81 mins | In English and Arabic with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Matthew Bate | Producer: Gal Greenspan, Alice Burgin | Australian Distributor: Amazon Studios

When talented Australian refugee footballer Hakeem al-Araibi steps off the plane in Thailand for his honeymoon, he finds himself facing an Interpol arrest order for alleged terrorism offences. What unfolds is the gripping true story of a heroic whistle-blower who, on speaking out about his own torture, sets off a revenge plot involving three countries, two royal families and the world's most powerful sporting body, FIFA. As Hakeem awaits extradition back to Bahrain, a group of campaigners led by a retired Australian football captain Craig Foster fight for his release.

Festival guests: Matthew Bate, Craig Foster and Hakeem al-Araibi



Matthew Bate's debut feature film *Shut Up, Little Man!* (SFF 2011) premiered in competition at Sundance 2011. Other projects include 2014 Dendy Award winner, *I Want to Dance Better at Parties*.

MARUNGKA TJALATJUNU (DIPPED IN BLACK)

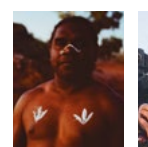


MON 12 JUN 4:15 PM EV5 **15+**
TUE 13 JUN 6:00 PM DNT3

Australia | 2022 | 24 mins | In Yankunytjatjara with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Directors, Screenwriters: Derik Lynch, Matthew Thorne
Producers: Matthew Thorne, Patrick Graham
Festival Contact: Matthew Thorne

Yankunytjatjara artist Derik Lynch escapes the oppressive white city life of Adelaide, taking a road trip back to Country (Aputa), his remote Anangu community. There, he seeks spiritual healing and performs on sacred Inma ground. Inma is a traditional form of storytelling using the visual, verbal and physical. It is how Anangu Tjukurpa (myths) have been passed down for more than 60,000 years. *Marungka Tjalatjunu* won the Silver Bear Jury Prize (Short Film) and a Teddy Award for best queer short film at the 2023 Berlinale.

Festival guests: Derik Lynch and Matthew Thorne



Matthew Thorne is an Australian artist and filmmaker. Derik Lynch is an initiated Yankunytjatjara man born in Alice Springs.

RACHEL'S FARM



SUN 11 JUN 2:15 PM STATE **ALL AGES**
MON 12 JUN 6:00 PM HOC5
SAT 17 JUN 5:30 PM PNORT3

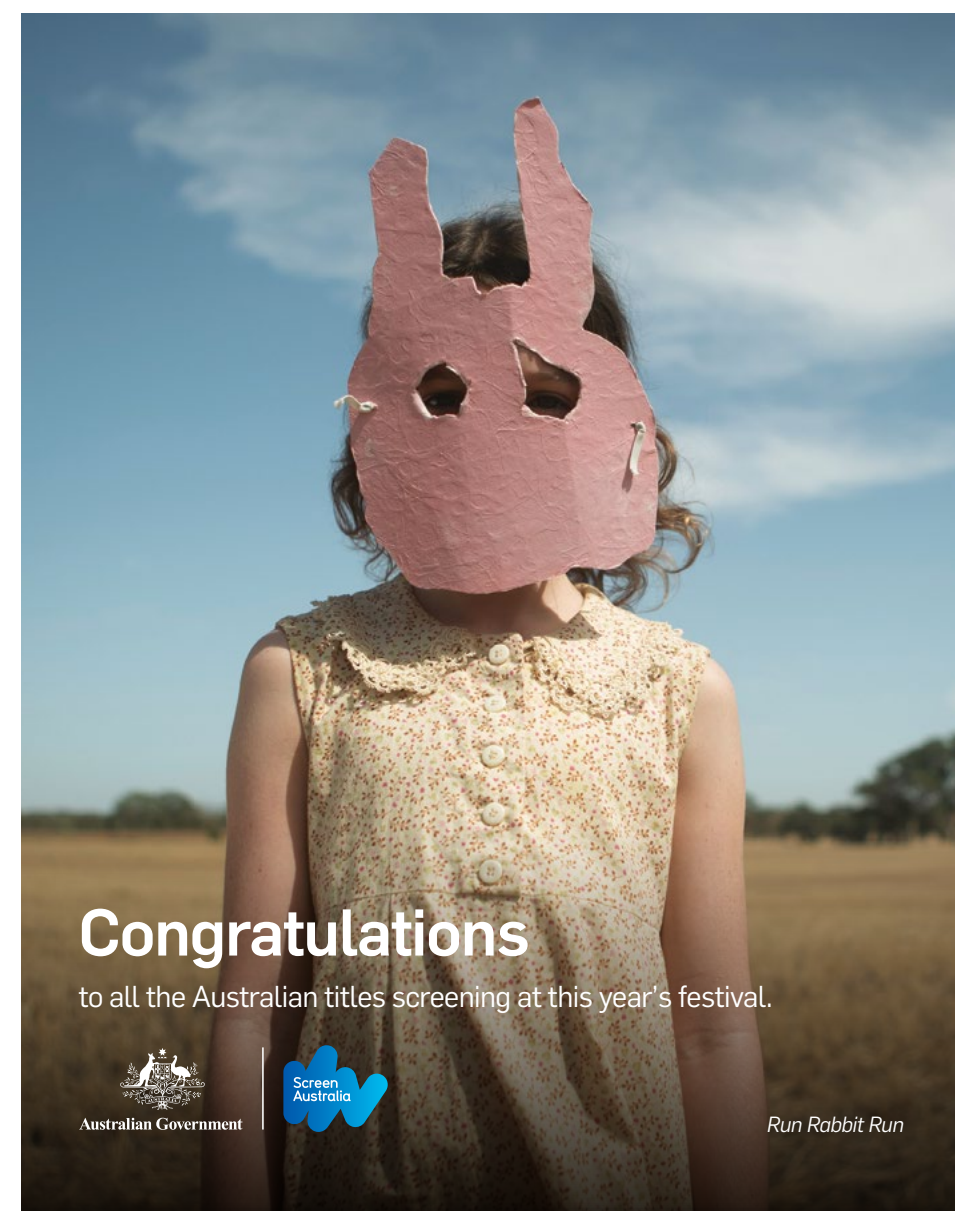
Australia | 2022 | 91 mins | In English
Australian Premiere
Director: Rachel Ward | Producer: Bettina Dalton
Australian Distributor: Madman Entertainment

In this uplifting documentary, actor-director Rachel Ward sets out to regenerate her northern NSW beef farm. For years, the property was a family retreat, conventionally farmed by her neighbour Mick, but the 2019 Black Summer fires and a first grandchild sets her thinking about the future. Mick encourages Rachel to take a new approach, starting from the soil up. It's hard yakka, but she's determined, and her joy at finding solutions – not to mention dung beetles – is palpable. *Rachel's Farm* is about environmental threats, but it's also the story of how one person can tackle them head on.

Festival guests: Rachel Ward and members of the film team



Rachel Ward's directing work includes the features *Beautiful Kate* (SFF 2009) and *Palm Beach* (SFF 2019) and episodes of the AACTA award-winning series *The Devil's Playground*.



Congratulations

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SAT 17 JUN 2:45 PM EV4 15+
SUN 18 JUN 3:30 PM EV5 15+



Tanya Modini and Luisa Martiri, winners of the 2022 Dendy Live Action Short Award and the Rouben Mamoulian Award for Best Director for *The Moths Will Eat Them Up*

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 Film still (Hans Richter, *Filmstudie*, 1926)

THE ZIC



Australia | 2023 | 9 mins | In English
World Premiere
 Director: Henry Stone | Screenwriters: Henry Stone, Greg Larsen | Producer: Haley Dinnison | Cast: Sam Campbell, Greg Larsen, Henry Stone | Festival Contact: Henry Stone

A hopeful candidate goes through an excruciatingly absurd job interview led by a rogue businessman.

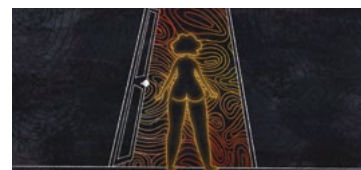
THE DANCING GIRL AND THE BALLOON MAN



Australia | 2023 | 21 mins | In English and Mandarin with English subtitles
World Premiere
 Director, Screenwriter: David Ma | Producer: Georgia Noe | Cast: Jonathan Lo, Robyn Liu | Festival Contact: Georgia Noe

Romance blooms between a dim sum shop assistant and a street performer in Chinatown, who carries them in the safety of his balloon on a rainy night.

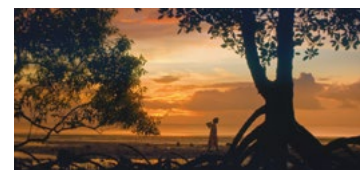
KARIWA



Australia | 2022 | 2 mins | In English and Wanarruwa
 Director, Screenwriter, Producer: Kiara Rodriguez-Hextall
 Cast: Kiara Rodriguez-Hextall, Auntie Sharon Edgar-Jones, Zac Duczynski | Festival Contact: Kiara Rodriguez-Hextall

With her pride always being challenged by the views of others, a young Indigenous woman must come to terms with her identity and relearn to be proud of her culture.

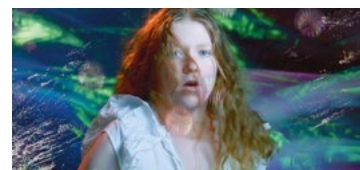
KATELE MUDSKIPPER



Australia | 2022 | 13 mins | In English and Kala Kawa Ya with English subtitles
 Director: John Harvey | Screenwriters: Walter Waia, John Harvey | Producers: Gillian Moody, John Harvey | Cast: Elma Kris, Waangenga Blanco | Festival Contact: John Harvey

Martha, an Indigenous woman, works tirelessly in a laundromat, until her monotonous routine is interrupted by a mysterious visitor who reminds her of the life she left behind.

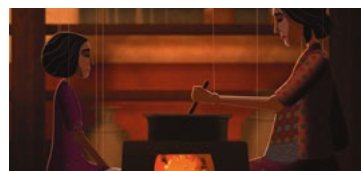
LINDA 4 EVA



Australia | 2022 | 14 mins | In English
World Premiere
 Director, Screenwriter: Sophie Somerville
 Producer: Courtney Bombell | Cast: Shaelyn Connor, Charlotte Smith, Perry Moon | Festival Contact: Sophie Somerville

An angst-riddled teenager tries to survive a day at the beach with her friends.

MARIONETTES (AND THE VIRTUE OF A LOTUS FLOWER)



Australia | 2022 | 10 mins | In English
 Director, Screenwriter, Producer: Prajdnik Awasthi | Cast: Namrata Shrestha, Anoushka Pandey | Festival Contact: Prajdnik Awasthi

Unaware of the strings of suffering that manipulate her world, a young girl seeks to understand why her mother is the way she is.

TEACUPS



Australia | 2023 | 8 mins | In English
 Directors, Screenwriters: Alec Green, Finbar Watson | Producers: Alan Holly, Alec Green, Finbar Watson, Carla Vulpiani | Cast: Hugo Weaving | Sales Agent: Varicoloured

Encapsulates the legacy of Don Ritchie, who for almost half a century comforted people contemplating suicide at the edge of a cliff near his home.

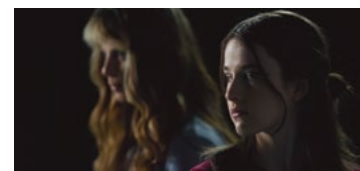
TO FLY A KITE



Australia | 2023 | 15 mins | No Dialogue
 Director, Screenwriter: Bernice Jiang
 Producers: Bernice Jiang, Ricky Perdec | Cast: May Li, Wei Jie Jiang, Chu Min Jiang | Festival Contact: Bernice Jiang

Lily, a second-generation Chinese teenager, discovers a kite while helping at her parents' restaurant, and in her quest to fly it high she journeys through Australian suburbia and terrain.

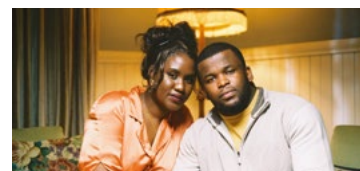
WE CIRCLE SILENTLY



Australia | 2022 | 8 mins | In English
 Director, Screenwriter: Kate Blackmore
 Producer: Colm O'Callaghan | Cast: Grace Truman, Amber McMahon, Charlie Garber | Festival Contact: Kate Blackmore

Judith and her mother share a bond forged through their experience with an abusive man; is it strong enough to set them free?

WHAT'S IN A NAME?



Australia | 2022 | 10 mins | In English
 Director: Kalu Oji | Screenwriters: Kalu Oji, Faro Musodza, Makwaya Masudi | Producers: Mimo Mukii, Ivy Mutuku | Cast: Faro Musodza, Makwaya Masudi | Festival Contact: Kalu Oji

Meet Igor and Jamila, a young couple rediscovering fractures from their past while the camera is rolling.

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SAT 10 JUN 4:20 PM STATE **ALL AGES**
SUN 11 JUN 5:45 PM EV5

Singapore, South Korea | 2022 | 90 mins | In Mandarin and Korean with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director: He Shuming | Screenwriters: He Shuming, Kris Ong | Producers: Anthony Chen | Cast: Hong Huifang, Jung Dong-Hwan, Kang Hyung Suk | Sales Agent: Rediance Films

A Singaporean widow obsessed with Korean soap operas embarks on a crazy adventure in this feelgood winner starring national treasure Hong Huifang.

Writer-director He Shuming's first feature has charmed its way around the world since it debuted at Busan and earned four nominations including Best New Director and Best Actress in the prestigious Golden Horse Awards. Leading lady Hong Huifang shines as Mrs Lim, whose closeted son suddenly drops out of their package holiday visiting locations of Korean TV dramas. Plucking up the courage to bust out of her cautious comfort zone for the first time, Mrs Lim decides to go anyway and promptly becomes stranded in Seoul. There's a beautifully warm heart beating beneath this breezy comedy of mishaps and misadventure. A journey that proves that life and love can be wonderfully strange at any age.

Festival guest: He Shuming

ASTEROID CITY



THU 8 JUN 8:00 PM STATE **15+**
FRI 9 JUN 6:00 PM HOC4
SAT 10 JUN 8:15 PM RITZ1

USA | 2023 | 139 mins | In English | Australian Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Wes Anderson | Producers: Wes Anderson, Steven Rales, Jeremy Dawson | Cast: Jason Schwartzman, Scarlett Johansson, Tom Hanks, Australian Distributor: Universal Pictures International

Wes Anderson's stylish, delightful and meticulously designed Cannes Competition contender features wit, romance and tribulations at a stargazing convention.

The tiny desert town of Asteroid City (population 87) plays host to brilliant students and their parents as they gather for the 1955 Junior Stargazer/Space Cadet convention encouraging fellowship and scholarly competition. Amongst the parents are photographer Augustine (Jason Schwartzman), who's avoiding dealing with a family crisis, and the glamorous film star Midge (Scarlett Johansson). The students, while geniuses, have to overcome social awkwardness as they show off their incredible inventions. The inevitable flirtations and fledgling romances are rudely disrupted by a shocking world-changing event. Featuring a stacked cast including Steve Carrell, Maya Hawke, Tilda Swinton, Bryan Cranston, Margot Robbie, and many more!

BIOSPHERE



WED 7 JUN 6:30 PM DNT1 **15+**
FRI 9 JUN 8:30 PM RITZ5
SUN 11 JUN 8:45 PM STATE

USA | 2022 | 106 mins | In English | Australian Premiere
Director, Screenwriters: Mark Duplass, Mel Eslyn | Producers: Zackary Drucker, Mel Eslyn, Maddie Buis, Shuli Harel | Cast: Mark Duplass, Sterling K. Brown | Australian Distributor: The Reset Collective

Mark Duplass (*The Morning Show*) and Sterling K. Brown (*This is Us*) play the last men on Earth in this unconventional twist-filled comedy. TIFF 2022.

Welcome to the end of the world. In the first feature directed by producer Mel Eslyn (*The One I Love*, *Room 104*), life on Earth appears to have been obliterated by an unexplained catastrophe. All that's left is a bio-dome where Billy (Duplass) and Ray (Brown) are left to ponder things, with just a few fish and their memories for company. This funny, smart and imaginative comedy is best entered knowing as little as possible. The perfectly paired actors sparkle through every moment, including a jaw dropping twist.

Festival guest: Anurag Kashyap

KENNEDY



WED 14 JUN 8:15 PM STATE **18+**
SAT 17 JUN 3:25 PM EV3

India | 2022 | 143 mins | In Hindi, English, Marathi with English Subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director: Anurag Kashyap | Producers: Shariq Patel, Ranjan Singh, Kabir Ahuja | Cast: Rahul Bhat, Sunny Leone | Production Company: Good Bad Films

Direct from Cannes, Anurag Kashyap's (*Gangs of Wasseypur*, SFF 2012) incendiary, noirish thriller follows Kennedy, an assassin working for a corrupt police force with scores to settle.

Kennedy (Rahul Bhat) poses as a driver but is actually an expert assassin, extortionist and blackmailer. Beset by insomnia, he does job after grisly job on the instructions of corrupt Police Commissioner Rasheed Khan. For the cops, their position is a means to make money – the higher the rank, the greater the expectation of income. During one of his jobs, Kennedy meets the mysterious Charlie (Sunny Leone) and together they become embroiled in a drama that reaches the upper echelons of society. In his 27th film, award winning director Kashyap fashions a gripping, visually arresting thriller set in Mumbai's underworld: where the cops, businessmen, gangsters, film stars and politicians collude, backstab and try to advance at any cost.

Festival guest: Anurag Kashyap

L'IMMENSITÀ



WED 7 JUN 6:30 PM PNORT3 **15+**
FRI 16 JUN 6:00 PM HOC4
SAT 17 JUN 2:30 PM STATE

Italy, France | 2022 | 98 mins | In Italian with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director: Emanuele Crialese | Screenwriters: Emanuele Crialese, Francesca Manieri, Vittorio Moroni | Producers: Mario Gianani, Lorenzo Gangarossa | Cast: Penélope Cruz, Luana Giuliani, Vincenzo Amato | Sales Agent: The Festival Agency

Penélope Cruz is dazzling in this family drama – with exquisite song and dance sequences – as a mother facing marital troubles and her child embracing his gender identity in 1970s Rome.

The incomparable Cruz (*Parallel Mothers*, SFF 2021) plays Spanish expat Clara, who has married into a sprawling, affluent Italian family. Her husband, Felice, is unaffectionate and unfaithful but won't consider divorce. When their 12-year-old (incredible newcomer Luana Giuliani) begins to identify as a boy and takes on the name Andrea, the parents react in very different ways. As Andrea develops his first crush, and Clara struggles under the strain of her relationship turmoil, the two form an increasingly strong bond. A deeply autobiographical work for director Emanuele Crialese, inspired by his own childhood journey, *L'immensità* embraces the musical and the fantastical in its tender tale of maternal love.

PICTURES OF GHOSTS

RETRATOS FANTASMAS



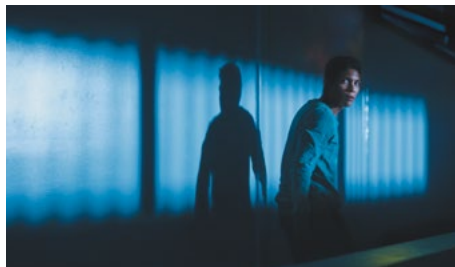
THU 15 JUN 6:00 PM STATE **18+**
FRI 16 JUN 8:45 PM PALC1

Brazil | 2023 | 100 mins | In Portuguese with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director: Kleber Mendonça Filho | Producer: Emilie Lesclaux | Production Company: CinemaScópio

SFF favourite Kleber Mendonça Filho's (*Aquarius*, Sydney Film Prize, 2016) Cannes-selected cinematic essay explores the once hallowed cinemas in his hometown in Brazil, his family, filmmaking... and ghosts.

The Brazilian city of Recife has been home to Mendonça Filho's family since the 1970s. The family's coastal apartment is where the director grew up, made his earliest films and even shot portions of his first feature *Neighbouring Sounds* (SFF 2012). And Recife is where he discovered cinema in the grand picture palaces of the time, now mostly shuttered, or converted into tacky shopping centres. Shot over decades, the film cleverly intercuts archival and contemporary footage with scenes from *Neighbouring Sounds* and *Aquarius*. And then there's the ghost of course, and a curious cab driver with an unusual power. With a delightful, humorous narration by Mendonça Filho himself, *Pictures of Ghosts* is a glorious love letter to his historian mother Joselice, his neighbourhood and the films and cinemas that made him.

LOST IN THE NIGHT



MON 12 JUN 9:15 PM STATE **18+**
SAT 17 JUN 7:30 PM EV5

Mexico, Germany, Netherlands | 2023 | 140 mins | In Spanish with English Subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Amat Escalante | Producers: Nicolás Celis, Fernanda de la Peza | Cast: Juan Daniel García, Ester Exposito, Barbara Mori | Sales Agent: The Match Factory

Straight from Cannes, Amat Escalante's (*The Untamed*, SFF 2017) tense Mexican thriller follows a young man taking justice into his own hands in the search for his missing activist mother.

Emiliano lives in a small Mexican town where the local mine has a dominant effect on the entire community. Years before, his mother, Professor Paloma disappeared after leading a protest against the exploitative mining company. With the case being ignored by the police, Emiliano determinedly seeks justice. A clue leads him to the wealthy Aldama family where he meets and begins to work for a famous artist, his celebrity actor/singer wife, and their social media-obsessed teenage daughter. As he conducts his secretive investigation, Emiliano gets embroiled in a wild conspiracy involving a vengeful religious cult, the contemporary art world, corrupt cops, violent narcos and a highly dysfunctional family. With his trademark panache, Escalante weaves a compelling and potent tale.

RACHEL'S FARM



SUN 11 JUN 2:15 PM STATE **ALL AGES**
MON 12 JUN 6:00 PM HOC5
SAT 17 JUN 5:30 PM PNORT3

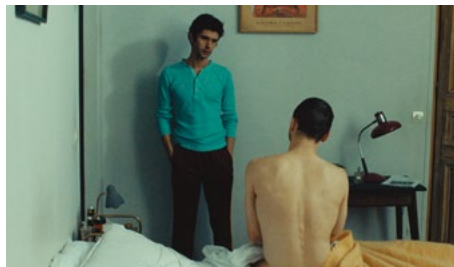
Australia | 2022 | 91 mins | In English | Australian Premiere
Director: Rachel Ward | Producer: Bettina Dalton | Australian Distributor: Madman Entertainment

In this uplifting documentary, actor-director Rachel Ward sets out to regenerate her northern NSW beef farm, with the help of experts and neighbours.

For many years, her Nambucca Valley property was a family retreat, conventionally farmed by Rachel's neighbour Mick. The 2019 Black Summer fires spared the farm, but the near-miss – and a first grandchild – sets Rachel thinking hard about the future. Mick encourages Rachel to challenge established farming practices, and take on a new approach which starts from the soil up. Its hands-on hard yakka, but she's determined, and her joy at finding solutions – not to mention dung beetles – is palpable. Rachel's Farm is about the environmental threats we face, but it's also the story of one woman's resolve to tackle them head on, intent on making a difference.

Festival guests: Rachel Ward and members of the film team

PASSAGES



SAT 10 JUN 9:15 PM STATE **18+**
FRI 16 JUN 8:30 PM RITZ3

France | 2023 | 91 mins | In English and French with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director: Ira Sachs | Screenwriters: Ira Sachs, Mauricio Zacharias | Producers: Said Ben Said, Michel Merkt | Cast: Franz Rogowski, Ben Whishaw, Adèle Exarchopoulos | Sales Agent: SBS Productions

Ira Sachs (*Love is Strange*, SFF 2014) returns with this sexy Sundance/Berlinale highlight about a thorny ménage à trois. Featuring knockout performances from Franz Rogowski, Ben Whishaw and Adèle Exarchopoulos.

Rogowski plays a charismatic, self-involved film director, Tomas, who leaps back and forth between the Parisian apartments of artist husband Martin (Whishaw) and school teacher Agathe (Exarchopoulos). It all unravels when a disinterested Martin leaves Tomas's movie wrap party early, and Tomas hits it off with the younger Agathe on the dancefloor – which continues to the bedroom. Proudful and oblivious, Tomas immediately confesses his affair, triggering an ever-teetering love triangle. Sachs's and Mauricio Zacharias's bitterly funny script is a whirlwind of raunch, revelations and relapses, exploring the trappings of indulging the impulsiveness of a narcissist.

PERFECT DAYS

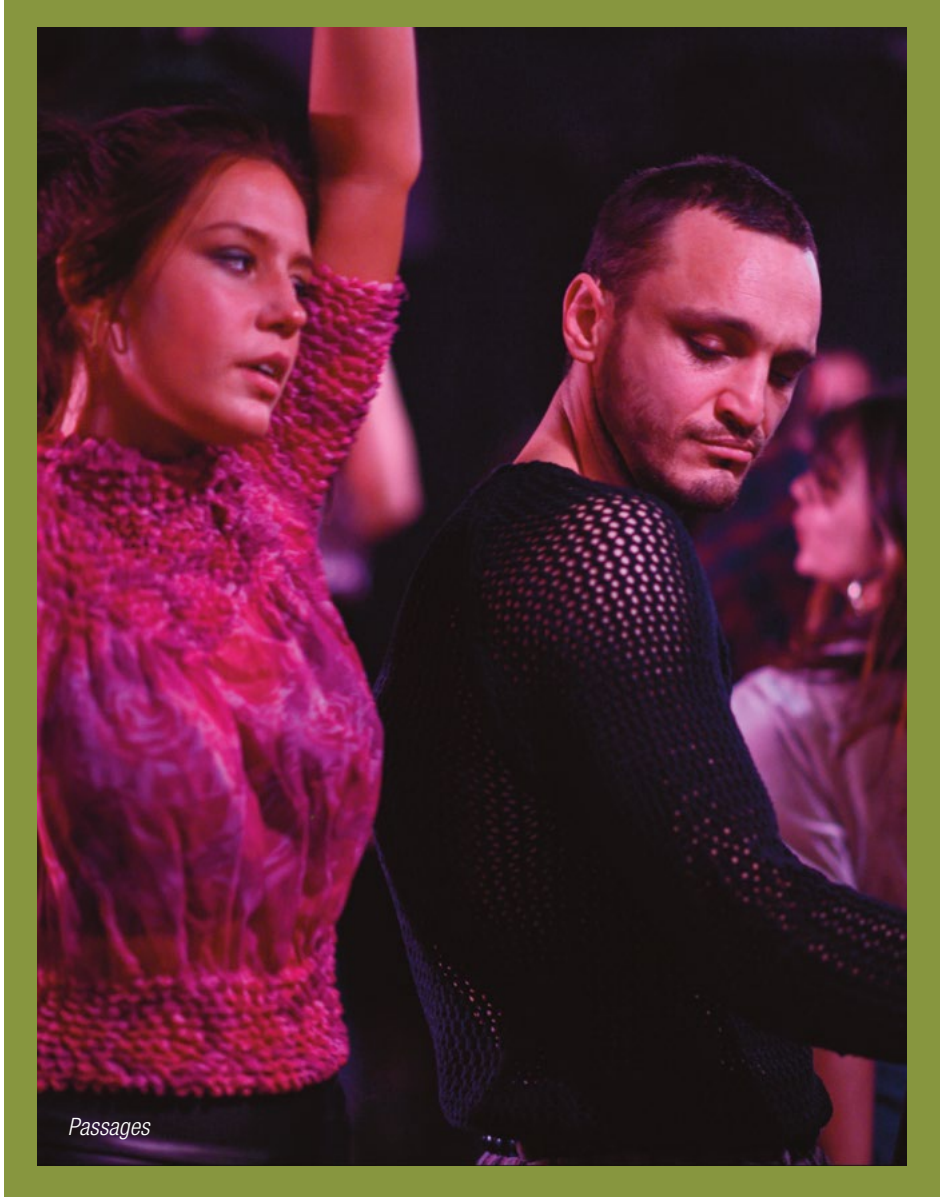


MON 12 JUN 4:15 PM STATE **15+**
TUE 13 JUN 6:15 PM RITZ5

Japan, Germany | 2023 | 123 mins | In Japanese with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director: Wim Wenders | Screenwriters: Wim Wenders, Takuma Takasaki | Producers: Takuma Takasaki, Wim Wenders, Koji Yanai | Cast: Koji Yakusho, Arisa Nakano, Tokio Emoto | Sales Agent: The Match Factory

Straight from the Cannes Competition, Wim Wenders' Japan-set charmer is a deeply moving and poetic reflection on the beauty to be found in the everyday.

Hirayama (Koji Yakusho, *Shall We Dance?, Babel*) is a meticulous man of routine. Each day he awakes, grooms himself, waters his plants and looks up at the sky with a smile as he leaves home. And then he sets to his work as a toilet cleaner in Shibuya, Tokyo. In his car, he listens to classic rock tunes on cassettes – the music of The Velvet Underground, The Kinks, Prince and Van Morrison serving as the soundtrack to his day. Appearing to be utterly content with his life, Hirayama also finds pleasure in photographing trees and reading. The appearance of a young woman at his doorstep leads to revelations about Hirayama's past. Filled with surprising delight, and with a soaring lead performance by Koji Yakusho, *Perfect Days* is a gentle, inspirational ode to simple but profound pleasures.



Passages

RADICAL



TUE 13 JUN 8:35 PM STATE
SAT 17 JUN 5:00 PM HOC5

USA | 2022 | 126 mins | In Spanish with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Christopher Zalla | Producers: Ben Odell, Eugenio Derbez, Joshua Davis | Cast: Eugenio Derbez, Daniel Haddad, Jennifer Trejo | Sales Agent: Film Sales Corp

Based on true events. An inspirational teacher (Eugenio Derbez, *CODA*) takes a radical approach when he arrives at a poor-performing school in Mexico, in this 2023 Sundance Audience award winner.

It's no wonder that the students of the school in Matamoros are not thriving. In the northeastern Mexican border town, the children are faced with random violence, poverty, and expectations that they take on adult responsibilities. And the school itself is terribly neglected; plundered by unscrupulous officials. Enter Sergio Juarez (Derbez), the new teacher who uses innovative methods to engage the troubled children, and finds clever methods to navigate a malevolent bureaucracy. Along the way, he discovers that some of the children have extraordinary talents, particularly Paloma (Jennifer Trejo) who dreams of becoming an aerospace engineer. Finely balancing the tragedies inevitable in these circumstances with an infectious sense of optimism, *Radical* is an incredible tale of possibility and hope.

REALITY



SUN 11 JUN 8:00 PM RITZ5
MON 12 JUN 8:00 PM DNT1
SAT 17 JUN 7:00 PM STATE

USA | 2023 | 83 mins | In English | Australian Premiere
Director: Tina Satter | Screenwriters: Tina Satter, James Paul Dallas | Producers: Noah Stahl, Brad Becker-Parton, Riva Marker, Greg Noble | Cast: Sydney Sweeney, Josh Hamilton, Marchánt Davis
Australian Distributor: Kismet Movies

Sydney Sweeney (*Euphoria*, *The White Lotus*) plays an American veteran turned yoga teacher who would become the first whistleblower of the Trump era, in this tense Berlinale-premiering docudrama.

When a 25-year-old named Reality Winner (Sweeney) pulls into the driveway of her Augusta, Georgia, rental on a Saturday afternoon in June 2017, she is met by two FBI agents in possession of a search warrant. Seemingly unfazed, Winner hands over her mobile phone, tends to her animals and packs away her perishables before leading Agents Garrick (Josh Hamilton) and Taylor (Marchánt Davis) to a dingy backroom of her house where an hour-long interview unfolds. Using dialogue taken entirely from the FBI's actual transcript of the interrogation, debut filmmaker Tina Satter creates a tense thriller that offers an unobstructed view of one of the most polarising political events in recent US history.

RED, WHITE & BRASS



FRI 9 JUN 6:00 PM STATE
SAT 10 JUN 8:00 PM CASULA
SUN 11 JUN 6:00 PM RITZ5
FRI 16 JUN 6:30 PM HOC5

New Zealand | 2023 | 85 mins | In English and Tongan with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director: Damon Fepulea'i | Screenwriters: Halaifonua Finau, Damon Fepulea'i | Producers: Georgina Conder, Morgan Waru, Halaifonua Finau | Cast: John-Paul Foliaki, Dimitrius Schuster-Koloamatangi, Michael Falesiu
Australian Distributor: Madman Entertainment

This hilarious true story sees Tongan rugby superfans trick their way to the Rugby World Cup by forming a marching band — despite having never played.

After failing miserably in his efforts to secure tickets to the much-anticipated Tonga-France match, Maka (John-Paul Foliaki) rushes head-first into his last resort. He offers to provide a Tongan brass band for the pre-match entertainment. The thing is, the band doesn't exist and Maka and an assortment of friends and family, most with no musical experience, have four weeks to build a credible band and routine. This with no instruments but plastic bottles and tin cans, and Tongan community elders staunchly against this potentially embarrassing stunt. But Maka is nothing if not persistent, and along this remarkable journey he gains a great deal more than tickets to a game. Festival guest: Damon Fepulea'i

SHORTCOMINGS



SAT 10 JUN 6:40 PM DNT1
WED 14 JUN 6:30 PM EV5
FRI 16 JUN 9:00 PM STATE

USA | 2022 | 92 mins | In English | Australian Premiere
Director: Randall Park | Screenwriter: Adrian Tomine
Producers: Randall Park, Hieu Ho, Michael Golamco, Margot Hand, Jennifer Berman, Howard Cohen, Eric d'Arbeloff | Cast: Justin H. Min, Ally Maki, Sherry Cola
Australian Distributor: Sony Pictures Releasing

Actor Randall Park's (*Veep*, *WandaVision*) directorial debut is a hilarious, biting comedy about race, identity and desire, bringing Adrian Tomine's graphic novel to the screen.

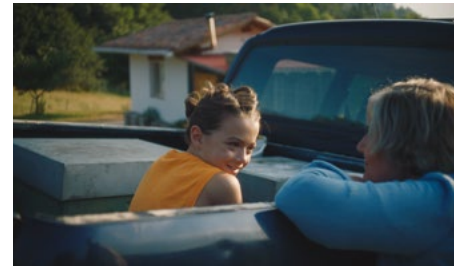
Ben (Justin H. Min, *After Yang*) is a filmmaker who hasn't made a film for some time. He lives with his girlfriend Miko (Ally Maki), who works at an Asian American film festival. Ben has unrestrained views on identity and the depiction of Asian Americans on screen — and is scathing about films that don't meet his ideals of representation. But, as both Miko and Ben's queer best friend Alice (Sherry Cola) point out, Ben's roving eye (and pornographic interests) usually settle on white women. When Miko goes off on a suspiciously spontaneous internship, Ben sees the opportunity to pursue what he thinks he really desires. Park, the brilliant comedic actor, makes an auspicious debut with this sharp, wildly funny and irreverent film.

FEATURES



20,000 Species of Bees

20,000 SPECIES OF BEES
20.000 ESPECIES DE ABEJAS



SAT 10 JUN 2:15 PM HOC5
MON 12 JUN 6:20 PM PALC1
SUN 18 JUN 5:00 PM PNORT3

Spain | 2023 | 128 mins | In Spanish, Basque and French with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Estibaliz Urresola Solaguren
Producers: Lara Izagirre Garizurieta, Valérie Delpierre
Cast: Sofia Otero, Patricia López Amaiz, Ane Gabarain
Sales Agent: Luxbox Films

A stirring coming-of-age story about a girl exploring her gender identity among a Basque beekeeping matriarchy, featuring an astonishing performance from the youngest Silver Bear winner in history.

Her birth name is Aitor, and she has the nickname Coco, but neither represent who she really is. Sofia Otero's lead performance of a girl in search of her own name is masterfully portrayed against a backdrop of bickering mothers and aunts reflecting on their own past and the mistakes they have made. Beehives and gorgeous sun-soaked landscapes add to the film's gentle tapestry evoking the importance of heritage, community, being nurtured and finding peace in yourself. Estibaliz Urresola Solaguren's accomplished debut echoes the current wave of exceptional Spanish dramas, akin to last year's Golden Bear winner *Alcarràs* (SFF 2022).

AUTOBIOGRAPHY



FRI 9 JUN 8:15 PM EV3
SUN 11 JUN 6:30 PM EV9

Indonesia, France, Singapore, Poland, Philippines, Germany, Qatar | 2022 | 115 mins | In Indonesian with English subtitles
Director, Screenwriter: Makbul Mubarak
Producer: Yulia Evina Bhara | Cast: Kevin Ardilova, Arswendy Bening Swara, Yusuf Mahardika | Sales Agent: Alpha Violet

A naive young housekeeper is tempted into corruption and violence in this outstanding first feature from Indonesian filmmaker Makbul Mubarak. FIPRESCI prize, Venice 2022.

Mubarak has made an impressive transition from film critic to filmmaker with this thriller about the seductive and sinister faces of power. For as long as anyone can remember, the family of 18-year-old Rakib have served the wealthy family of Purna, a retired general now running for political office on a pro-development platform. At first Rakib feels honoured to be Purna's servant, driver and standover man. That's until an act of violence forces Rakib to question everything he has accepted in his young life. Informed by his memories of growing up during Indonesia's 1967-98 military dictatorship, Mubarak's film is a chilling drama and a haunting allegory for a nation's deep and enduring trauma.

Festival Guest: Makbul Mubarak

BEYOND THE WALL
SHAB, DAKHELI, DIVAR



WED 7 JUN 8:30 PM EV9
MON 12 JUN 2:00 PM PALC1

Iran | 2022 | 126 mins | In Farsi with English subtitles
Australian Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Vahid Jililvand | Producer: Ali Jililvand | Cast: Navid Mohammadzadeh, Diana Habibi, Amir Aghaee | Sales Agent: The Match Factory

In Iranian director Vahid Jililvand's gripping psychological thriller, a near-blind man hides a terrified mother from the police after a protest turns into a riot.

Ali (Navid Mohammadzadeh, *No Date, No Signature*, SFF 2018) is a deeply depressed man confined to a dank flat in a vast, forbidding apartment block. His life is suddenly interrupted when he is questioned by police about Leila (Diana Habibi), a fugitive implicated in an officer's death during a protest by factory workers. But Leila is already hiding in Ali's home. She is desperate to find her young son who was lost during the riot, and Ali becomes a willing accomplice. But as they reveal their stories to each other, the truth seems ever more elusive. Jililvand's depiction of contemporary Iran is dystopian, even nightmarish, with gritty realism offset by an unsettling mood of horror.

THE BIG DOG



FRI 9 JUN 6:30 PM EV5
THU 15 JUN 8:20 PM DNT1
SUN 18 JUN 3:45 PM HOC5

Australia | 2023 | 83 mins | In English | World Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Dane McCusker | Producer: Jessica Murphy, Claudia Shepherd | Cast: Julian Garner, Felicity Price, Asha Boswarwa | Australian Distributor: Pivot Pictures

A married Sydney stockbroker with a financial domination fetish has one day to save his life from ruin in this acidic Aussie comedy from writer-director Dane McCusker.

Screwball comedy and corrosive social commentary are the juicy ingredients of a very modern tale that unfolds one sunny day in upper middle-class Aussie suburbia. A few hours before his despondent son's graduation party, alpha stockbroker Richard (Julian Garner, *Underbelly: Vanishing Act*) has his bank accounts drained by his "findom" mistress, Princess Paige (Asha Boswarwa, *Lambs of God*). That's a (usually) non-sexual dominatrix hired by wealthy men to spend their money and humiliate them. Frantic farce and raw drama follow as Richard attempts to gather a mountain of cash that will prevent his unsuspecting wife Kelly (Felicity Price, *Last King of the Cross*) from discovering the truth.

Festival guests: Dane McCusker and members of the film team

Brix Rum is the proud sponsor of the 'Independent in Spirit' film selection at the 2023 Sydney Film Festival



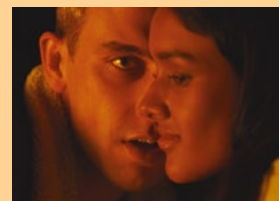
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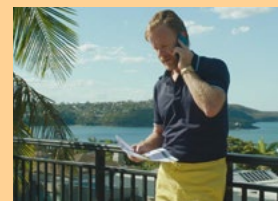
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Brix is proud to be championing independent films and bold new Australian voices, through its presentation of the Independent In Spirit film selection. Featuring exciting new Australian talent, these films celebrate our uniquely independent Australian spirit and exemplify Brix Rum's passion for discovery and adventure.

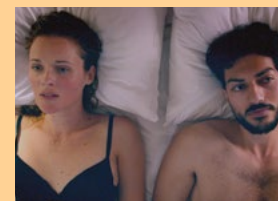
So sit back, relax, and enjoy the best that Australia has to offer.



BIRDEATER
Session details on pg 18



THE BIG DOG
Session details on pg 17



LOVE ROAD
Session details on pg 20

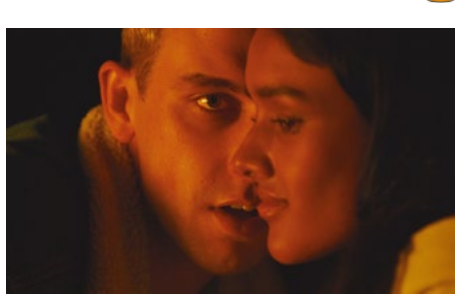


SUNFLOWER
Session details on pg 22



TENNESSEINE
Session details on pg 22

BIRDEATER



SUN 11 JUN 8:00 PM EV5 **18+**
WED 14 JUN 6:15 PM RITZ5
SUN 18 JUN 4:30 PM DNT1

Australia | 2023 | 113 mins | In English | World Premiere
 Directors, Screenwriters: Jack Clark, Jim Weir | Producers: Ulysses Oliver, Stephanie Troost | Cast: Shabana Azeez, Mackenzie Fearnley, Ben Hunter | Production Company: Breathless Films

The world premiere of a homegrown psychological thriller in which a bride-to-be reluctantly attends her fiancé's buck's party, triggering a feral response from the groomsmen.

Recently engaged Irene (Shabana Azeez, also in *Run Rabbit Run*, SFF 2023) has been roped into joining her awkward but loving fiancé Louie's (Mackenzie Fearnley) buck's party weekend out in the sticks. Louie's deadbeat groomsman, however, have more in mind than just a quiet glass of pinot by the fire, and as night falls the celebration nosedives into a feverish, drug-fuelled train wreck. Inspired by the likes of *Wake in Fright*, directing duo Jack Clark (*Threshold*, SFF 2021) and Jim Weir present a challenging, darkly comic portrait of young Aussie men that strikes a little too close to home.

Festival Guests: Jack Clark, Jim Weir and members of the film team

CARMEN



THU 8 JUN 6:30 PM RITZ1 **15+**
SAT 10 JUN 6:30 PM HOC4
TUE 13 JUN 6:30 PM PNORT3

Australia, France | 2022 | 117 mins | In English, and Spanish with English subtitles
 Director: Benjamin Millepied | Screenwriters: Benjamin Millepied, Alex Dinelaris, Loïc Barrère
 Producers: Dimitri Rassam, Rosemary Blight | Cast: Melissa Barrera, Paul Mescal, Rossy de Palma
 Australian Distributor: Madman Entertainment

Starring Paul Mescal and Melissa Barrera, this visionary retelling of *Carmen* is an exhilarating thriller combining dance, politics and music, and features Sydney Dance Company artists.

Carmen (Barrera, *In the Heights*) is forced to go on the run from Mexico when her mother is killed. Crossing the border into the US, she encounters ruthless vigilantes. Following a violent incident, she escapes with troubled marine Aidan (Mescal, *AfterSun*). The pair head to LA to seek refuge with Carmen's mother's friend Masilda (Rossy de Palma) at her nightclub – the site of some of the film's most impressive dance sequences. All the while the police are tracking down the lovers. Shot in NSW, acclaimed choreographer Benjamin Millepied's debut feature finds contemporary resonance for this classic story.

Festival Guests: Rosemary Blight and members of the film team

BLIND WILLOW, SLEEPING WOMAN

SAULES AVEUGLES, FEMME ENDORMIE



WED 14 JUN 6:00 PM DNT1 **15+**
FRI 16 JUN 8:30 PM EV3

France, Canada, Netherlands, Luxembourg | 2022
 109 mins | In English
 Director, Screenwriter: Pierre Földes | Producers: Pierre Baussaron, Tom Dercourt, Emmanuel-Alain Raynal
 Cast: Ryan Bommarito, Shoshana Wilder, Marcelo Arroyo
 Sales Agent: The Match Factory

Haruki Murakami's short stories come to life in this fantastical animation about a giant talkative frog, a lost cat, an existential banker and more peculiar characters in Tokyo.

It is 2011 and the city has been struck by a tragic earthquake and tsunami. Anxious banker, Katagiri, is enlisted by a gregarious humanoid frog to slay a giant angry worm that is hell-bent on wreaking more havoc. Meanwhile, apathetic Komura is on a mission to hand-deliver a mysterious package, while also undergoing a divorce and losing his job. In a series of enigmatic vignettes, we follow surreal tales where dreams and reality playfully blur into one. Director Pierre Földes's musing, pastel-rich debut stands strong against other recent award-winning Murakami adaptations like *Burning* (SFF 2018) and *Drive My Car* (SFF 2021).

CHEVALIER



WED 7 JUN 6:30 PM HOC5 **M**
SUN 11 JUN 6:15 PM RITZ3
SUN 18 JUN 7:35 PM PNORT3

USA | 2022 | 107 mins | In English | Australian Premiere
 Director: Stephen Williams | Screenwriter: Stefani Robinson
 Producers: Ed Guiney, Andrew Lowe, Stefani Robinson, Dianne McGunigle | Cast: Kelvin Harrison Jr., Samara Weaving, Lucy Boynton | Australian Distributor: The Walt Disney Company

This sumptuous historical drama is based on the true story of Black composer Joseph Bologne (Kelvin Harrison Jr., *Waves*, *Elvis*) whose musical mastery led to his rise in the 18th century French court.

Mozart is performing a concert when he is suddenly interrupted by a confident young man who asks to join on violin – and completely outshines him. The man is Joseph Bologne, the illegitimate son of an African slave and French plantation owner who makes his way to the upper echelons of French society, counting Marie Antoinette as a friend. As he enters a passionate romance with the married Marie-Josephine (Samara Weaving) and confronts the racism underlying the facade of civility, Bologne is forced to reassert his independence. Beautifully staged by director Stephen Williams (*Lost*, *Watchmen*) and with a compelling performance by ever-impressive Harrison, *Chevalier* is both provocative romantic drama and historical redress.

BLUE JEAN



THU 8 JUN 8:35 PM HOC5 **15+**
SAT 10 JUN 7:45 PM DNT2
FRI 16 JUN 10:00 AM STATE

UK | 2022 | 97 mins | In English | Australian Premiere
 Director, Screenwriter: Georgia Oakley | Producer: Hélène Siffre | Cast: Rosy McEwen, Kerrie Hayes, Lucy Halliday | Australian Distributor: Madman Entertainment

Anti-gay laws in Thatcher-era '80s England see a closeted lesbian (a captivating Rosy McEwen) walk the tightrope between her teaching job and her love life in this BAFTA-nominated drama.

Jean (McEwen) is content in her double-life routine: teaching PE by day and visiting her secret girlfriend, Viv (BAFTA winner Kerrie Hayes), by night. Now that the notorious Section 28 has passed, prohibiting the promotion of homosexuality in schools, the already reticent Jean retreats further into secrecy. But when a pupil, 15-year-old Lois, who is being bullied herself for being gay, spots her at a lesbian bar, Jean has to decide if getting involved is worth putting her job on the line and risk being outed herself. Elegantly shot on 16mm, writer-director Georgia Oakley has made an incisive debut with a story that remains utterly potent today. Premiered in Venice Critics' Week; winner British Independent Film Awards.

Screens with *Love Forever*

A COUPLE

UN COUPLE



SAT 10 JUN 4:00 PM DNT2 **ALL AGES**
SUN 11 JUN 3:30 PM PNORT3

France, USA | 2022 | 63 mins | In French with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
 Director: Frederick Wiseman | Screenwriters: Frederick Wiseman, Nathalie Boutefeu | Producers: Frederick Wiseman, Karen Konicek | Cast: Nathalie Boutefeu
 Sales Agent: Zipporah Films

A rare narrative work from legendary documentarian Frederick Wiseman explores the fractious relationship between the literary couple Leo and Sophia Tolstoy.

The Tolstoys were married for 36 years, had 13 children and each kept a diary, alongside constant correspondence with each other through letters – all while living in the same house. Wiseman, the great chronicler of institutions, here looks unflinchingly at the institution of marriage. Through a searing monologue, drawn from the diaries and letters of the Tolstoys, Sophia (played brilliantly by Nathalie Boutefeu) describes a tumultuous marriage to the mercurial *War and Peace* author – one of great sadness and intense passion. Shot on the beautiful, flower-filled Belle Île, an island off the coast of Brittany, the mesmerising *A Couple* shows that the 93-year-old maestro (the subject of SFF's 2022 retrospective) still has something exceptional up his sleeve.

THE BURDENED

AL MURHAQOON



THU 8 JUN 10:00 AM STATE **15+**
SUN 11 JUN 7:15 PM DNT3
SAT 17 JUN 7:00 PM EV11

Yemen, Sudan, Saudi Arabia | 2023 | 91 mins
 In Arabic with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
 Director: Amr Gamal | Screenwriter: Mazen Refaat, Amr Gamal | Producers: Mohsen Alkhalifi, Amr Gamal
 Cast: Khaled Hamdan, Abeer Mohammed, Samah Alamrani
 Sales Agent: Films Boutique

Based on a true story, this rare drama from Yemen invites us to follow a loving family forced to make some tough decisions to survive. Amnesty International prize, Berlinale 2023.

Isra'a (Abeer Mohammed) and her husband Ahmed (Khaled Hamdan) are adoring parents to their three young children. But times are tough in Aden during Yemen's civil war, Ahmed hasn't been paid for months, and they're struggling to make ends meet. Then Isra'a finds out she's pregnant. Reluctantly, they decide on an abortion and approach a friend – a female doctor – for help. Director Amr Gamal and co-writer Mazen Refaat based the film on a true story, one that offers a glimpse of a little-seen society, but also resonates widely in the context of women's rights and the enduring impact of conflict.

Screens with *Love Forever*

THE DELINQUENTS

LOS DELICUENTES



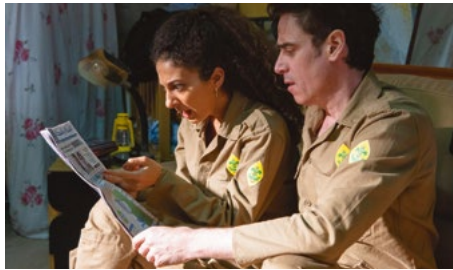
TUE 13 JUN 10:00 AM STATE **18+**
THU 15 JUN 7:45 PM EV11

Argentina, Luxembourg, Chile, Brazil | 2023 | 180 mins
 In Spanish with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
 Director, Screenwriter: Rodrigo Moreno | Producer: Ezequiel Borovinsky | Cast: Esteban Bigliardi, Margarita Molino, Daniel Elias | Sales Agent: Magnolia Pictures International

Direct from Cannes Un Certain Regard, Rodrigo Moreno's Argentinian comedic drama is a delightfully unconventional bank heist film, fascinating love story and treatise on the meaning of life.

Amongst his duties at the small bank at which he works, Morán deposits large amounts of cash into the bank vault daily. One day, in full view of the surveillance cameras, he packs up a large amount of that cash and casually walks out of the bank. He arranges a meeting at a bar with his colleague Román, making him an unwilling accomplice. More than a simple robbery, Morán has a plan and a short stint in jail is only the first step. Complicating matters, Morán falls in love during a brief interlude prior to his imprisonment. Román, guilt-ridden in his complicity, also comes upon a romantic opportunity as he contemplates his own life choices. With an appealingly amusing spirit, award winning director Moreno takes us on an epic multi-faceted journey where a bank robbery is just the beginning.

A GAZA WEEKEND



MON 12 JUN 6:45 PM EV5 **15+**
WED 14 JUN 8:30 PM EV5

Palestine, UK | 2022 | 93 mins | In English, Arabic, Hebrew, and French with English subtitles
 Australian Premiere
 Director: Basil Khalil | Screenwriters: Basil Khalil, Daniel Chan | Producers: Amina Dasmal | Cast: Adam Bakri, Stephen Mangan, Mouna Hawa | Sales Agent: Protagonist Pictures

Gaza suddenly becomes the safest – and funniest – place on Earth during a pandemic in this uproarious comedy from Palestinian-British filmmaker Basil Khalil. FIPRESCI award, Toronto.

Khalil's knockout feature debut is a hugely entertaining mix of caper comedy hijinks and sharp political satire. A virus has plunged Israel into lockdown, leaving British journalist Michael and his stressed-out Israeli girlfriend Keren stranded. The desperate couple hire inept Palestinian hustlers Waleed and Emad to smuggle them to Europe via the Gaza Strip, which ironically has been made safe from the virus by the separation wall. Naturally everything goes spectacularly wrong before the bickering bunch realise everyone's survival depends on putting differences aside and devising a new plan that's so crazy it might just work. This heartfelt satire is loaded with zingy dialogue and sparkling performances.

HEROIC

HEROICO



THU 8 JUN 8:15 PM DNT2 **18+**
SUN 18 JUN 6:15 PM EV9

Mexico, Sweden | 2021 | 86 mins | In Nahuatl and Spanish with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
 Director, Screenwriter: David Zonana | Producers: Eréndira Núñez Larios, Michel Franco, David Zonana
 Cast: Santiago Sandoval Carbajal, Fernando Cuautle, Esteban Caicedo | Sales Agent: Goodfellas

David Zonana's explosive drama takes aim at corruption and coercion at a Mexican military academy. Berlinale (Panorama) 2023, Sundance (World Cinema Dramatic Competition) 2023.

When asked why he wants to enrol in Mexico's Heroic Military College, Indigenous 18-year-old Luis says, 'it's an opportunity to be someone in life'. Inspired less by idealism than a desire to support his girlfriend and sick mother, Luis is soon confronted by the brutal culture underpinning the institution. Zonana tells a very different story from the one we often see in movies. Instructor Sgt Sierra doesn't want to break Luis's will by the usual methods. This smiling psychopath instead shows favouritism, making Luis a bystander who dares not intervene. Stunning surreal sequences illustrating Luis's inner torment punctuate this incendiary statement about perverted patriotism and toxic male power structures.

THE HAPPIEST MAN IN THE WORLD

NAJSREKNIOT ČOVEK NA SVETOT



SAT 17 JUN 5:00 PM EV11 **15+**
SUN 18 JUN 3:00 PM PNORT3

North Macedonia, Belgium, Slovenia, Denmark, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina | 2022 | 95 mins
 In Bosnian with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
 Director: Teona Strugar Mitevska | Screenwriters: Elma Tataragić, Teona Strugar Mitevska | Producer: Labina Mitevska | Cast: Jelena Kordić Kuret, Adnan Omerović, Labina Mitevska | Sales Agent: Pyramide International

A speed-dating day in Sarajevo sparks this bold drama about the trauma of war and the power of love, from Teona Strugar Mitevska (*God Exists, Her Name is Petrunya*, SFF 2019). Venice (Horizons) 2022.

The ironic title of Mitevska's sixth feature refers to Zoran, a downcast bank employee who attends a matchmaking day for Sarajevo singles. His assigned partner for the event is Asja, a successful lawyer. But Zoran is not seeking romance. He has come here to confess to Asja that they share a dark connection – dating back to 1993 during the Bosnian War. Based on the amazing true story of co-writer Elma Tataragić, this incisive drama opens the emotional wounds of both victim and perpetrator. As their souls are laid bare they're surrounded by amusing banter and fun games played by other singles seeking a new start in life and love.

HOW TO BLOW UP A PIPELINE

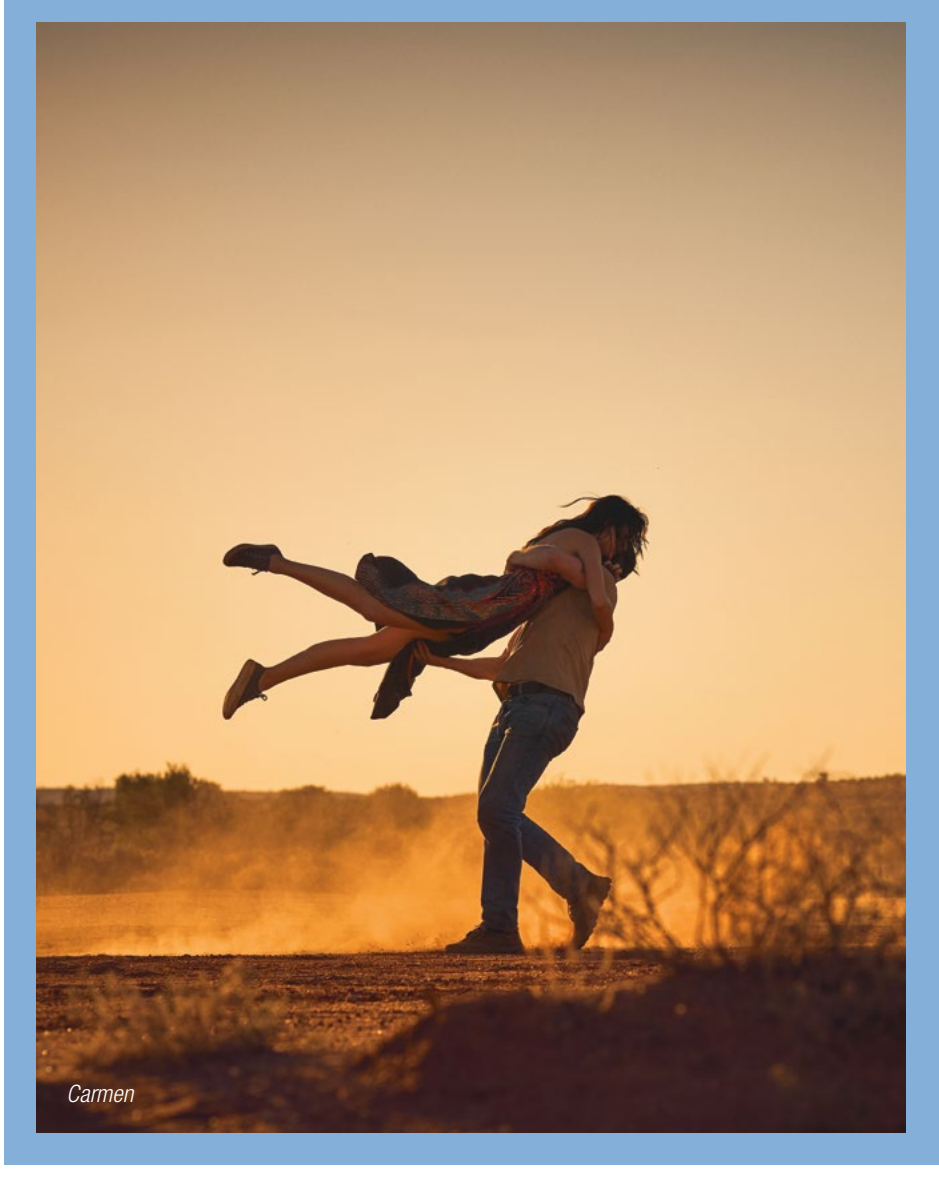


FRI 9 JUN 6:15 PM RITZ5 **15+**
MON 12 JUN 5:45 PM DNT1
WED 14 JUN 8:10 PM EV3

USA | 2022 | 104 mins | In English | Australian Premiere
 Director: Daniel Goldhaber | Screenwriters: Ariela Barer, Jordan Sjol, Daniel Goldhaber | Producers: Isa Mazzei, Daniel Goldhaber, Ariela Barer, Adam Wyatt Tate, David Grove Churchill Viste, Alex Black, Alex Hughes
 Cast: Lukas Gage, Ariela Barer, Kristine Froseth
 Australian Distributor: Madman Entertainment

A taut, compulsive Tarantino-esque thriller, inspired by Andreas Malm's controversial book, in which a group of environmental activists set out to sabotage an oil pipeline.

A slick young cast, including Lukas Gage (*White Lotus*), Sasha Lane (*American Honey*) and Marcus Scribner (*Black-ish*) star as eight committed protestors, each with their own eco-agenda. They come together with a plan to blow up a west Texas pipeline and disrupt the oil trade. The motley crew are made up of a Native American bomb specialist; two women whose lives have been impacted by pollution (with a partner in tow); a Texan gun enthusiast; a filmmaker; and two seasoned campaigners. Director Daniel Goldhaber's award winner has all the trappings of a heist movie, with a hectic pace, nail-biting tension and plenty of real cliff-hangers.



Carmen

I LIKE MOVIES



THU 8 JUN 6:30 PM DNT1 **M**
SAT 10 JUN 6:15 PM RITZ5
SAT 17 JUN 8:45 PM EV3

Canada | 2022 | 99 mins | In English
 Director, Screenwriter: Chandler Leveck | Producers: Lindsay Blair Goeldner, Evan Dubinsky, Chandler Leveck
 Cast: Isaiiah Lehtinen, Romina D'Ugo, Krista Bridges
 Australian Distributor: Icon Distribution

Chandler Leveck's hilarious ode to cinephiles and video stores balances a fragile coming-of-age story in the mid-2000s with wicked humour. A warm-hearted hit at TIFF 2022.

Small-town highschooler and insufferable film lover Lawrence Kweller dreams of attending NYU's Tisch School of the Arts to become a filmmaker. His ambitions are even more unrealistic when he decides to get a job at his local video store to save for the expensive tuition fees. Lawrence's film-bro elitism faces a reality check when he starts alienating the most important people in his life, all while developing a complicated friendship with his older manager. Littered with movie references and homages, Leveck's darkly funny, mid-2000s tribute is equal parts nostalgia and cringe, all while maintaining compassion and pathos.

Screens with *Ratbag*

THE LESSON



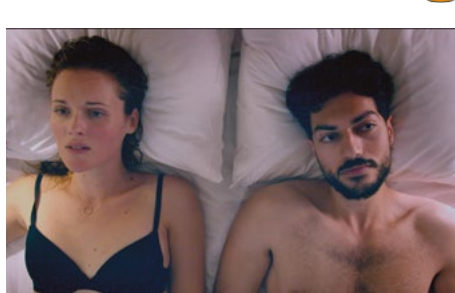
FRI 16 JUN 8:10 PM HOC4 **15+**
SAT 17 JUN 6:00 PM RITZ1

UK, Germany | 2023 | 102 mins | In English
 Australian Premiere
 Director: Alice Troughton | Screenwriters: Alex MacKeith
 Producers: Camille Gatín, Cassandra Sigsgaard,
 Judy Tossell, Fabien Westerhoff | Cast: Richard E Grant, Julie Delpy, Daryl McCormack | Australian Distributor: Universal Pictures International

Richard E. Grant, Julie Delpy and Daryl McCormack shine in this literary thriller in which a young writer takes a job tutoring the son of a wealthy literary giant.

McCormack (*Good Luck to You, Leo Grande*, SFF 2022) plays Liam, an aspiring novelist and superb academic, who's brought in to tutor the son of famed novelist J.M. Sinclair (Grant) and his art curator wife Hélène (Delpy). Moving in with the family on their plush estate, Liam, who's a fan of Sinclair's writing, also sees the opportunity to work on his own novel – and to learn from the master himself. But all is not well within the family Sinclair. The father is an unrepentant bully; charming at one moment and vicious the next. No one is spared, although his talented son Bertie (Stephen McMillan) takes the brunt of his malice. Director Alice Troughton ratchets up the tension as family secrets are revealed, leading to a thrilling, and exhilarating, climax.

LOVE ROAD



THU 8 JUN 8:45 PM DNT1
FRI 9 JUN 6:30 PM RITZ3

Australia | 2023 | 86 mins | In English | World Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Ulysses Oliver | Producers: Ulysses Oliver, Ben Ferris | Cast: Shalane Connors, Ishak Issa, Aileen Beale | Production Company: Breathless Films

Ulysses Oliver's feature directorial debut is an intense relationship drama, jumping across three time periods, detailing the highs and lows of a tempestuous relationship.

Early one morning Jaz (Shalane Connors) flees her fractured relationship with Daniel (Ishak Issa), taking her mother's ashes with her to return them to the family's country property. Daniel is utterly confused by Jaz's departure, feeling that their difficulties could be resolved. He sets off in pursuit, determined to talk it over despite her steadfast refusal to engage. Jaz, along her journey, reflects on their shared moments, and with the distance between them begins to re-evaluate elements of their relationship. Traversing three time periods of this complex romance, and remarkably shot in just two weeks in the middle of the NSW bushfires, *Love Road* is an incisive and moving drama of love and loss.

Festival guest: Ulysses Oliver and members of the film team



Shin Ultraman

MIDWIVES

SAGES-FEMMES



FRI 9 JUN 8:30 PM HOC5
SAT 10 JUN 4:00 PM RITZ5
FRI 16 JUN 6:15 PM PNORT3

France | 2023 | 100 mins | In French with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director: Léa Fehner | Screenwriters: Catherine Pallié, Léa Fehner | Producers: Grégoire Debailly | Cast: Khadija Kouyaté, Héroïse Janjaud, Myriem Akheddiou | Sales Agent: Pyramide International

Two rookie midwives are thrown into the hectic deliveries ward of a French hospital. Winner of the Ecumenical Prize in Berlinale 2023, this is a triumphant film about often unsung hospital heroes.

Best friends and flatmates Sofia and Louise (Khadija Kouyaté and Héroïse Janjaud, both superb), are thrown into the deep end on their first day as midwives. Both must stay afloat amid the extensive monitors, understaffed delivery rooms and dizzying corridors. With compassion and humour, writer-director Léa Fehner tackles the personal and professional sacrifices they make in an under-financed health system that's bursting at the seams. Featuring real childbirth scenes, *Midwives* captures the broad spectrum of emotions on the ward – from screaming labour pains to the relaxed laughs of late-night camaraderie.

Screens with *Cathy's Doll*

MUSIC



SAT 10 JUN 8:35 PM PALC1
SAT 17 JUN 6:15 PM DNT2

Germany, France, Serbia | 2023 | 108 mins | In Greek and English with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Angela Schanelec | Producer: Kirill Krasovski | Cast: Aliocha Schneider, Agathe Bonitzer, Marisha Triantafyllidou | Sales Agent: Shellac Films

Angela Schanelec (*I Was at Home, But...*) deconstructs the myth of Oedipus and rearranges it into a song all of her own in this 2023 Berlinale Silver Bear (Best Screenplay) winner.

Fittingly, this contemporary rendering of the familiar tragedy starts in the mountains of Greece, where a baby boy is rescued by a local paramedic who together with his wife, adopts him and names him Jon. The couple raise him as their own, until an incident at age 20 again changes the course of Jon's life. Jon is incarcerated after committing manslaughter in response to a perceived attack by a stranger. In prison, he finds himself inextricably drawn to prison officer Iro, who shows him great affection and with whom he shares many moments of tenderness. In true Schanelec fashion, the story is told elliptically, in an austere but sensuous manner that recalls the work of French master Robert Bresson, and the film's beauty lies in the unspoken passages, where subtext becomes elegantly and unexpectedly illuminated.

NO BEARS

KHERS NIST



SUN 11 JUN 6:15 PM EV4
WED 14 JUN 12:00 PM STATE

Iran | 2022 | 107 mins | In Farsi, Azeri and Turkish with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director, Screenwriter, Producer: Jafar Panahi | Cast: Jafar Panahi, Naser Hashemi, Mina Kavani | Sales Agent: Pascale Ramonda

Though banned from making films in Iran, Jafar Panahi won the Venice Special Jury Prize for his bold take on two parallel love stories thwarted by superstition and power.

Panahi (*Tehran Taxi*, SFF 2015; *Three Faces*, SFF 2018), only recently released from an Iranian prison on bail, both directs and stars in *No Bears*. What results are two powerful sagas unfolding onscreen. Panahi plays a fictionalised version of himself directing a film remotely from a small border village in Iran. Banned from leaving the country, his assistant director instead oversees the shoot in nearby Türkiye. In the film he's making, a couple desperately tries to secure fake passports to escape to France. Whilst filming Panahi is swept up in a scandal surrounding another young couple's forbidden romance. In this searing blend of truth and fiction, Panahi questions the role of an artist in societies only too willing to scapegoat them.

OMEN

AUGURE



TUE 13 JUN 8:15 PM DNT1
FRI 16 JUN 6:25 PM EV3

Belgium, France, Netherlands, Democratic Republic of Congo, South Africa, Germany | 2023 | 90 mins
In French, Swahili, Lingala, English with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director: Baloji | Screenwriters: Baloji, Thomas Van Zuylen | Producers: Benoît Roland | Cast: Marc Zinga, Marcel Otete Kabeya, Lucie Debay, Yves-Marina Gnahoua, Eliane Umuhire. | Sales Agent: Memento International

Cannes Un Certain Regard. A man banished from the Congo, accused of sorcery, returns fifteen years later in this visually resplendent debut from rapper and artist Baloji.

Koffi (Marc Zinga) was banished from Congo and sent to relatives in Belgium because he was considered a sorcerer. Fifteen years later, he is about to have his first child with partner Alice (Lucie Debay). They travel to the Congolese city of Lubumbashi to reconcile with his family, bearing a cash offering. But Koffi receives a welcome that's anything but warm. His father is nowhere to be found, his mother wants little to do with him, and one of his sisters accuses him of trying to curse her young child. In telling this compelling story, Baloji takes fascinating diversions through the streets of vibrant Lubumbashi. The result is filled with astonishing, unforgettable images, and marks the emergence of an incredible filmmaking talent.

PIAFFE



THU 8 JUN 7:50 PM PALC1
TUE 13 JUN 8:30 PM DNT3

Germany | 2022 | 86 mins | In English and German with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Dionne Edwards | Producer: Georgia Goggin | Cast: Natey Jones, Alexandra Burke, Temilola Olatunbosun | Sales Agent: Protagonist Pictures

An inverted Foley artist unexpectedly grows a horsetail, sparking a sexual awakening, in Ann Oren's astonishing debut. Screened at Locarno, San Sebastian and London Film Festivals.

When her sibling suffers a nervous breakdown, Eva (Simone Bucio, *The Untamed*, SFF 2017) covers for her as a Foley artist designing a client's commercial. Initially, Eva struggles to create the correct sounds for a trotting horse. But she immerses herself in the process, and eventually finds herself growing a horsetail of her own. Instead of fear or shame, Eva is liberated by her new appendage and initiates a kinky power relationship with a mysterious botanist. Ethereal and mystifying, Oren's experimental film expands on her visual art practice of performing fantasies. Oren's aesthetics, coupled with Carlos Vasquez's 16mm cinematography, makes this imaginative gem a sensuous feast for the eyes and ears.

Screens with *The Beginning*

RUN RABBIT RUN



SAT 10 JUN 8:15 PM EV5
THU 15 JUN 8:35 PM RITZ5

Australia | 2022 | 100 mins | In English
Australian Premiere
Director: Daina Reid | Screenwriter: Hannah Kent | Producers: Anna McLeish, Sarah Shaw | Cast: Sarah Snook, Lily LaTorre, Damon Herriman | Sales Agent: Netflix

Sarah Snook (*Succession*) stars in a spine-tingling Australian psychological thriller as a troubled single mother whose daughter grows distant... and disturbing. Official selection, Sundance.

This chilling feature debut from Emmy-nominated Australian filmmaker Daina Reid (*The Handmaid's Tale*) is a fantasy and horror tinged journey into the stark reality of a fractured mother-daughter relationship. Sarah (Snook) is a divorced fertility doctor whose daughter, Mia, begins acting strangely on the eve of her seventh birthday. The girl's disturbing drawings, fierce attachment to a cardboard rabbit face mask and sudden insistence that her name is Alice drive Sarah to despair and towards a reckoning with her troubled past. Outstanding performances by Snook and amazingly talented newcomer Lily LaTorre make this a memorable expedition down the rabbit hole of memory, guilt and family secrets and lies.

Festival Guests: Daina Reid

PRETTY RED DRESS



WED 7 JUN 6:00 PM EV11
MON 12 JUN 6:15 PM DNT3

UK | 2022 | 110 mins | In English | Australian Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Dionne Edwards | Producer: Georgia Goggin | Cast: Natey Jones, Alexandra Burke, Temilola Olatunbosun | Sales Agent: Protagonist Pictures

An exhilarating South London journey about finding power in self-expression, confronting truths and a glorious red dress, from writer-director Dionne Edwards.

Recently out of prison, Travis slowly finds his place amongst family and friends. His partner Candice is set to audition for a career-changing part as Tina Turner in a stage musical, and he buys her a stunning red dress to embody the role. But the thoughtful gift threatens to thrust his family into uncharted territory when Travis finds himself compelled to try it on. Tensions escalate as their daughter is caught in the crossfire, and all three fumble their way through their own buried secrets. Travis must confront his innermost fears to reconcile his family. Warm and deeply human, *Pretty Red Dress* questions notions of masculinity, the uncovering of identity and gender expression with honesty and insight, portrayed beautifully by the cast.

Screens with *Lumber*

SAND

MUNNEL



THU 15 JUN 10:00 AM STATE
SAT 17 JUN 6:20 PM EV3

Sri Lanka | 2023 | 101 mins | In Tamil, English and Sinhalese with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director, Screenwriter, Producer: Visakesa Chandrasekaram | Cast: Sivakumar Lingeswaran, Kamala Sri Mohan Kumar, Thurkka Magendran | Festival Contact: Visakesa Chandrasekaram

An ex-Tamil Tiger and survivor of the Sri Lankan Civil War, just released from military detention, searches for his missing lover in this searing drama. Special Jury Award winner, Rotterdam.

Director Visakesa Chandrasekaram's deeply authentic story features a quietly intense performance from Sivakumar Lingeswaran (in his exceptional screen debut) as Rudran – a young militant who has lost so much due to the war, at the hands of the military. Now freed, Rudran returns home to his mother (Kamala Sri Mohan Kumar), a Hindu soothsayer both respected and feared in the community. As he goes through therapy, faces trial over his wartime activities and tries to reconnect with his old flame Vaani (Thurkka Magendran), Rudran struggles to accept all that has been lost. Though a powerful narrative with tinges of mysticism, at times the film has a documentary feel – the cast includes many survivors of the war.

Festival guest: Visakesa Chandrasekaram

RHINEGOLD

RHEINGOLD



THU 15 JUN 8:30 PM EV3
SAT 17 JUN 1:30 PM DNT3

Germany, Netherlands, Morocco, Mexico | 2022 | 138 mins | In German, Kurdish, Turkish, Arabic, English and Dutch with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Fatih Akin | Producers: Nurlan Şekerçi-Porst, Fatih Akin, Herman Weigel | Cast: Emilio Sakraya, Kardo Razzazi, Mona Pirzad | Sales Agent: The Match Factory

Fatih Akin (*Head-On*, SFF 2004; *In the Fade*, SFF 2017) tells the extraordinary true life story of Kurdish refugee-turned-gangster-turned-German rap star Gıvar 'Xatar' Hajabi.

In a career dotted with Cannes, Venice and Berlinale award-winners including *Head-On*, *Soul Kitchen* and *The Edge of Heaven*, *Rhinegold* is Akin's biggest box office hit. Executed with all the style, swagger, humour and intellectual smarts that are found in it its subject, this amazing-but-true biopic soars from the start, with Gıvar Hajabi born in a cave during the Iranian Revolution. What follows is an astonishing story that takes Gıvar to Germany as a refugee who later becomes a gangster wanted for crimes including a brazen gold heist. Emilio Sakraya is dynamite as the adult Gıvar, whose deep love of music and emergence as rapper Xatar serves as the film's powerful emotional core.

THE SHADOWLESS TOWER

BAI TA ZHI GUANG



FRI 9 JUN 8:25 PM PALC1
SUN 18 JUN 4:00 PM EV3

China | 2023 | 144 mins | In Mandarin with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Zhang Lu | Producers: Zhang Jian, Han Mei, Xu Jiahao, Peng Jin | Cast: Xin Baiqing, Huang Yao, Tian Zhuangzhuang | Sales Agent: Films Boutique

A divorced food critic and a free-spirited photographer stroll down the road to possible romance in Zhang Lu's charming slice-of-life dramedy. Berlinale 2023.

Beijing's White Pagoda has such an unusual design that it never seems to cast a shadow. Local legend says the temple's shade can only be found in far-away Tibet. The 13th century landmark is a constant presence in the tale of Gu Wentong, a middle-aged father and modestly successful food writer. Rather like the tower, Gu doesn't seem to be casting a shadow as he drifts along invisibly in life. Relaxed pacing and wonderfully natural dialogue cast a warm glow as Gu begins to think about his difficult past and contemplate a possible future with Ouyang, a sparky young photographer with a zest for life. Novelist turned filmmaker Zhang Lu (*Love And...* SFF 2016) has created an enchanting and tender film to savour.

RICEBOY SLEEPS



THU 8 JUN 2:30 PM STATE
SAT 10 JUN 5:30 PM EV9
SUN 18 JUN 5:45 PM RITZ5

Canada | 2022 | 117 mins | In English and Korean with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Anthony Shim | Producer: Bryan Demore, Rebecca Steele, Anthony Shim | Cast: Choi Seung-yoon, Ethan Hwang, Dohyun Noel Hwang | Australian Distributor: Icon Distribution

A strong-willed Korean single mother and her young son start a new life in 1990s Canada. Anthony Shim's semi-autobiographical drama has won more than 20 international awards.

Seoul-born Canadian filmmaker Anthony Shim's second feature is an achingly intimate portrait of a mother's love for her son. With delicacy and tenderness that never tips into sentimentality, Shim charts the difficulties faced by So-young and Dong-hyun as they attempt to fit into Canadian suburbia in a time when virtually no support was available. Years later we meet Dong-hyun (now known as David) as a wayward teenager who's grown distant from his mother until a critical event takes them on an unpredictable journey into their Korean past. This shot-on-16mm treasure, drawing laudatory comparisons with *Minari* (SFF 2021), is superbly performed by dancer-turned-actor Choi Seung-yoon in her first feature role and 2022 TIFF Rising Star award winner Ethan Hwang.

Festival guests: Anthony Shim and Choi Seung-yoon

SHIN ULTRAMAN



THU 8 JUN 8:30 PM DNT3
THU 15 JUN 8:20 PM EV5

Japan | 2022 | 113 mins | In Japanese with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director: Shinji Higuchi | Screenwriter, Producer: Hideaki Anno | Cast: Takumi Saitoh, Masami Nagasawa, Hidetoshi Nishijima | Australian Distributor: Madman Entertainment

A raucous, rip-roaring kaiju film, awash with cosmic twists, campy villains and giants of all species. From the creators of *Shin Godzilla* and *Neon Genesis Evangelion*.

When Japan's SSSP kaiju defence taskforce finds itself in the midst of a particularly challenging kaiju encounter, a giant silver robot descends from the sky to rescue the country. Dubbed Ultraman, this robot's identity and purpose are a mystery. As further alien forces arrive on earth, the taskforce, led by Kimio Tamura (Hidetoshi Nishijima, *Drive My Car*, SFF 2021), attempt to identify their true intentions. Mixing the optimistic retro-futurism of the '60s television show with modernist pop-art aesthetics, *Shin Ultraman* is destined for future cult classic status, a delightful reimagining of one of Japan's classic superheroes with a healthy dose of large-scale city-smashing combat to leave you cheering.

SILVER HAZE



FRI 9 JUN 6:00 PM EV3
FRI 16 JUN 6:15 PM RITZ3

Netherlands, UK | 2023 | 103 mins | In English
Australian Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Sacha Polak | *Producers: Marleen Slot, Michael Elliot* | *Cast: Vicky Knight, Esmé Creed-Miles, Archie Brigden* | *Sales Agent: New Europe Film Sales*

Director Sacha Polak (*Dirty God*, SFF 2019) reunites with **Vicky Knight** in the semi-autobiographical role of a burn survivor obsessed with revenge. Selected **Berlinale 2023**.

Fifteen years ago Franky (Knight) was severely burned when the East London pub where she slept as a child caught fire – an incident mirroring Knight’s real experience. Now a nurse, she is unable to let go of the past and becomes obsessed with exacting revenge on the suspected arsonist. At the same time, she begins a whirlwind romance with outpatient Florence (Esmé Creed-Miles) that changes the course of her life. Along the way, the new family Franky makes helps her find a way back to her own roots. Knight, in a performance that won her the Teddy Jury Award at this year’s Berlinale, is exceptional in this vibrant social-realist drama that recalls the work of directors Andrea Arnold and Lynne Ramsay.

SORCERY

BRUJERIA



WED 7 JUN 6:15 PM DNT3
SAT 17 JUN 1:45 PM EV9

Chile, Mexico, Germany | 2023 | 101 mins
In Mapuche, Spanish and German with English subtitles | **Australian Premiere**
Director: Christopher Murray | *Screenwriters: Christopher Murray, Pablo Paredes* | *Producers: Juan de Dios Larraín, Pablo Larraín, Rocío Jadue, Nicolás Celis* | *Cast: Daniel Antivilo, Valentina Véliz Calleo, Sebastian Hülk* | *Sales Agent: The Match Factory*

In 1880s Chile, a 13-year-old Indigenous girl seeks supernatural retribution for the murder of her father at the hands of German settlers in this tale of grief and resistance. Sundance 2023.

Director Christopher Murray drew inspiration from a real-life witchcraft trial in his atmospheric decolonial folk horror, set on Chiloe Island. Rosa (a luminous Valentina Véliz Calleo) is a Huilliche girl and Christian convert who works as a servant for a pious German farmer (Sebastian Hülk). When the farmer’s sheep are all mysteriously killed, he blames witchcraft and takes out his rage on Rosa’s father (Francisco Nuñez). Abandoned by the authorities, the stricken girl turns to a gruff Indigenous fisherman and mystic (Daniel Antivilo) for help finding justice. Soon Rosa is pulled into the uncanny world of those who fiercely protect the island with spirit powers.

SIRA



SUN 11 JUN 3:15 PM DNT3
SAT 17 JUN 3:00 PM PNORT3

Burkina Faso, France, Germany, Senegal | 2023
122 mins | **In French and Fulani with English subtitles**
Australian Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Apolline Traoré | *Producers: Denis Cougnaud, Apolline Traoré, Souleymane Kebe*
Cast: Nafissatou Cissé, Lazare Minoungou, Mike Danon
Sales Agent: Wide

The Berlinale Panorama Audience Award 2023 went to this revenge saga from Burkina Faso, in which a young Muslim woman must survive her terrorist kidnapping and get retribution along the way.

Sira (Nafissatou Cissé) is travelling with her nomadic Fulani Muslim family in the Sahel region of Africa, introduced strikingly in vibrant colour against the arid orange dunes. She’s palpably excited to meet her intended Christian husband, until the family is confronted and gunned down by a militant group; the leader, Yere, has received advance word of the forbidden union, and abducts and assaults Sira. Left alone in the vast desert, she embarks on a gruelling quest for survival that transforms into a story of female solidarity and revenge, in this empowering and visually stunning blend of social realism and rousing adventure melodrama.

SUBTRACTION

TAFRIGH



FRI 9 JUN 8:45 PM RITZ3
SAT 10 JUN 8:30 PM EV9
THU 15 JUN 8:15 PM HOC5

Iran, France | 2022 | 107 mins | **In Farsi with English subtitles** | **Australian Premiere**
Director: Mani Haghighi | *Screenwriters: Mani Haghighi, Amir Reza Koohestani* | *Producer: Majid Motalebi*
Cast: Navid Mohammadzadeh, Taraneh Alidoosti, Australian Distributor: Vendetta Films

A married couple meet their doppelgängers in a riveting psychological mystery by leading Iranian filmmaker Mani Haghighi (*Pig*, SFF 2018), **Toronto, 2022.**

Farzaneh is a pregnant driving instructor who believes husband Jalal is being unfaithful. But the man she spotted entering the apartment of another woman was not Jalal. It was Mohsen, his doppelgänger. Farzaneh soon discovers Mohsen’s wife, Bitá, is her doppelgänger. A heavy air of doubt and apprehension hovers once working-class Farzaneh and Jalal meet their much wealthier doubles and come to grips with an almost other-worldly new reality. As the quartet look deeper into each other’s eyes and learn more about their lives, hidden fears and desires slowly take hold. Superbly performed by Taraneh Alidoosti (*The Salesman*) and Navid Mohammadzadeh (*No Date, No Signature*, SFF 2018), this elegantly executed mystery keeps you guessing all the way.

SLOW



THU 8 JUN 6:15 PM RITZ5
SUN 11 JUN 5:45 PM DNT3

Lithuania, Spain, Sweden | 2023 | 108 mins
In English and Lithuanian with English subtitles
Australian Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Marija Kavtaradze | *Producer: Marija Razutė* | *Cast: Kęstutis Cicėnas, Greta Grinevičiūtė*
Sales Agent: Totem Films

A contemporary dancer enters into an uncharted romance with an asexual sign language interpreter, requiring the invention of their own kind of intimacy, in this thoughtful winner of a directing award at Sundance.

Elena (Greta Grinevičiūtė) is a contemporary dancer whose craft involves using her body uninhibitedly to express her inner emotions, desires and demons. She’s similarly carnal in her intimate life, until the commencement of a relationship with reserved sign language interpreter Dovyda (Kęstutis Cicėnas) presents a compatibility challenge to both parties when he tells her that he’s asexual. They ultimately find it to be a challenge worth undertaking. Shot in appropriately tactile 16mm cinematography, this thoughtful and moving romantic drama offers a compelling look at a relationship rarely portrayed on screen, let alone with such candour and sensitivity.

SUNFLOWER



THU 15 JUN 6:30 PM RITZ3
SAT 17 JUN 8:30 PM DNT2

Australia | 2023 | 82 mins | **In English** | **World Premiere**
Director, Screenwriter: Gabriel Carrubba | *Producers: Zane Borg, Gabriel Carrubba* | *Cast: Liam Mollica, Luke J. Morgan, Daniel Halmarick* | *Production Company: Pancake Originals*

This classic queer coming of age tale set in the outer Melbourne suburbs is elevated by a heartfelt authenticity from debut filmmaker Gabriel Carrubba, and tender performances.

Seventeen-year-old Leo has his life together in the high school hierarchy: drunken parties, decent grades, the popular girlfriend; and comes home to the loving bickering only a family can provide. But Leo experiences an identity crisis as he becomes increasingly attracted to his best friend, Boof. His well-groomed facade begins to crack and with every step Leo takes towards embracing his sexuality, he must also overcome the incessant, socialised homophobia of the boy’s locker room. Hopeful and romantic, this is an enticing drama about growing up with your heart stuck in your mouth. Featuring performances from fresh hot talent including Liam Mollica, Luke J. Morgan and a supporting turn from Elias Anton (*Of an Age*).

Festival guest: Gabriel Carrubba and members of the film team

SNOW AND THE BEAR

KAR VE AYI



THU 15 JUN 2:45 PM STATE
SAT 17 JUN 4:15 PM DNT3

Türkiye, Germany, Serbia | 2022 | 93 mins | **In Turkish with English subtitles** | **Australian Premiere**
Director: Selcen Ergun | *Screenwriters: Selcen Ergun, Yeşim Aslan* | *Producers: Nefes Polat, Selcen Ergun* | *Cast: Merve Dizdar, Saygın Soysal, Asiye Dinçsoy* | *Sales Agent: Arthood Entertainment*

A young nurse embarking on a new assignment in a small Turkish village becomes embroiled in mysteries that lie beneath the snow, in this engrossing, slow-burning noir.

Selcen Ergun’s impressive directorial debut begins with a car driving through a snowy Turkish hinterland, setting an ominous note of isolation and paranoia that continues right up to the haunting final shot. The car’s driver is headstrong young nurse Asli (Merve Dizdar), who has arrived in a small village for compulsory service despite her family’s consternation. The men of this patriarchal town look down upon Asli, but their condescension proves to be the least of her worries when a townsperson disappears and the local consensus settles with conspicuous certainty on a bear attack as the cause.

Festival guest: Selcen Ergun

TENNESSINE



TUE 13 JUN 6:15 PM EV3
FRI 16 JUN 6:00 PM DNT1

Australia | 2023 | 85 mins | **In English and Farsi with English subtitles** | **World Premiere**
Director: Amin Palangi | *Screenwriter: Osamah Sami*
Producers: Ben Ferris, Ulysses Oliver, Amin Palangi | *Cast: Osamah Sami, Faezeh Alavi, Robert Rabiah* | *Production Company: Breathless Films*

Amin Palangi’s (*Love Marriage in Kabul*, SFF 2014) debut narrative feature is a sensual psychological drama in which an Iranian arrives in Australia to reunite with his lover.

Arash (Osamah Sami, *Ali’s Wedding*, SFF 2017) defies his family’s wishes and travels from Iran to Australia. While he is ostensibly in Sydney to study, his main motivation is to be with the love of his life, Nazanin (Faezeh Alavi). Nazanin fails to fetch him at the airport but all is forgiven when she whisks him away for a romantic weekend in a cabin in the country. But there are bemusing signs that a jetlagged and confused Arash struggles with. The arrival of Nasser (Robert Rabiah), Nazanin’s academic supervisor, further elevates Arash’s paranoia, setting the scene for a showdown. *Tennessee* is a thoughtful drama with the taut energy of a thriller.

Festival guests: Amin Palangi and members of the film team

A THOUSAND AND ONE



WED 7 JUN 8:15 PM RITZ5
SUN 11 JUN 6:00 PM DNT1
THU 15 JUN 6:00 PM EV3

USA | 2022 | 116 mins | **In English** | **Australian Premiere**
Director, Screenwriter: A.V. Rockwell | *Producers: Eddie Vaisman, Julia Lebedev, Lena Waithe, Rishi Rajani, Brad Weston* | *Cast: Teyana Taylor, Josiah Cross, Will Catlett*
Australian Distributor: Universal Pictures International

Winner of the Sundance Grand Jury Prize, this sweeping story of love follows Inez (R&B star Teyana Taylor) as she kidnaps her six-year-old son Terry from the foster care system.

Inez, herself an orphan who experienced New York’s foster care system, is at times volatile and impulsive, but also incredibly caring and protective. Recently released from prison and unwilling to leave Terry to the vagaries of an uncaring bureaucracy, Inez makes an impulsive decision that will greatly influence their lives. Growing up with fake papers, Terry thrives and Inez carefully protects their secret. Around them New York changes and gentrifies and all the while the threat of exposure hangs heavily. A.V. Rockwell’s perceptive direction keeps the focus tightly on this family while tracing the transformation of the city over decades. Anchored by an astonishing Taylor as Inez, *A Thousand and One* is an unforgettable film of great power.

Screens with *How Can I Help You*

THE WINTER WITHIN

MAAGH



FRI 9 JUN 12:00 PM STATE
SAT 10 JUN 6:30 PM EV11

India, France, Qatar | 2022 | 99 mins | **In Kashmiri and Urdu with English subtitles** | **Australian Premiere**
Director: Aamir Bashir | *Screenwriters: Aamir Bashir, Shanker Raman* | *Producer: Claire Lajoumard* | *Cast: Zoya Hussain, Shabir Ahmad Lone, Manzoor Ahmad Bhat*
Sales Agent: Diversions

A young Kashmiri woman searches for her husband, a militant who has been ‘disappeared’ by occupying forces, in this compelling drama from actor-turned-director Aamir Bashir.

Years of documented human rights abuses by the Indian army in Kashmir are the real-life basis for this intimate tale of the personal cost of state violence. Zoya Hussain is outstanding as Nargis, a poor villager who struggles with social stigma as the wife of a missing rebel militant while pursuing her desperate search for him. She is also a highly skilled weaver; the intricate shawl she is making is emblematic of her fragile hope. Meanwhile the frigid winter of the Himalayan foothills, beautifully captured by cinematographer and co-writer Shanker Raman, underscores the film’s exploration of trauma, fear and oppression. But despite the chill, there is a burning heart of anger and defiance in this powerful drama.

Festival guest: Aamir Bashir

TORA'S HUSBAND



SAT 10 JUN 6:00 PM PALC1
WED 14 JUN 6:15 PM PNORT3

India | 2022 | 135 mins | **In Assamese with English subtitles** | **Australian Premiere**
Director, Screenwriter, Producer: Rima Das | *Cast: Abhijit Das, Tarali Kalita Das, Bhumani Bhargav Das*
Sales Agent: Pascale Ramonda

Award-winning Indian filmmaker Rima Das’s drama invites audiences into the beautifully detailed and complex life of a young family in Assam straining under the impacts of the Covid pandemic. TIFF 2022

“He’s a good person, but he’s not a good husband,” says Tora (Tarali Kalita Das) about her husband Jaan (Abhijit Das). Jaan is struggling to keep his restaurant and bakery afloat amidst the pandemic. He’s generous and altruistic – he went into debt paying his workers during lockdown. But he’s also arrogant, impatient and argumentative – and, as he buckles under stress, his drinking is getting worse. Every night he leaves Tora with their young children while he parties with his buddies. Abhijit Das is quietly magnificent as Jaan, making him a difficult and complicated, but ultimately endearing person. Day-to-day joys and heartaches, and a looming sense of crisis, make up this enticing and rich slice of family life.

WORLD WAR III

JANG-E JAHANI SEVOM



SUN 11 JUN 8:15 PM DNT2
MON 12 JUN 5:50 PM PNORT3

Iran | 2022 | 107 mins | **In Farsi with English subtitles**
Australian Premiere
Director: Houman Seyedi | *Screenwriters: Houman Seyedi, Arian Vazir Daftari, Azad Jafarian* | *Producer: Houman Seyedi*
Cast: Mohsen Tanabandeh, Mahsa Hejazi, Navid Nosrati
Sales Agent: Iranian Independents

A filmset labourer becomes an unlikely movie star in Iranian filmmaker Houman Seyedi’s sweeping tragi-comic drama. Best Film, Best Actor, Venice (Horizons) 2022.

While doing menial tasks on a trashy big-budget film about history’s worst dictators, widower Shakib is suddenly cast as Hitler. As his status and income rise, Shakib is visited by Ladan, the sex worker he loves. Ladan’s violent pimp is searching for her, so Shakib hides her in a fancy house constructed for the film. Seyedi masterfully uses the film-within-a-film format to initially poke fun at the movie business, before Shakib’s pent-up anger at the system and his longing for happiness with Ladan propel the tale to a darker and utterly compelling directions. This stunning allegory for power, corruption and inequality features a magnificent lead performance by Mohsen Tanabandeh (*A Hero*, SFF 2021).

WHEN THE WAVES ARE GONE

KAPAG WALA NANG MGA ALON



WED 7 JUN 6:00 PM DNT2
SUN 11 JUN 2:00 PM PALC1

Philippines, France, Portugal, Denmark | 2022
187 mins | **In Tagalog with English subtitles**
Australian Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Lav Diaz | *Producers: Blanca Balbuena, Bradley Liew, Jean-Christophe Simon, Joaquim Sapinho, Marta Alves* | *Cast: John Lloyd Cruz, Shamaine Centenera-Buencamino, Ronnie Lazaro*
Sales Agent: Films Boutique

Amid the Philippines’ war on drugs, two policemen are on a deadly collision course in this searing drama by master director Lav Diaz (*Season of the Devil*, SFF 2018).

Known for his incisive looks into the issues being faced in the Philippines, Lav Diaz has delivered one of his most thrilling dramas with this study of two policemen. Lieutenant Hermes is renowned as the nation’s best detective. Ex-sergeant Macabantay was Hermes’s mentor and superior until Hermes had him jailed for corruption ten years ago. Now released from prison and fuelled by a religious fervour that manifests in performing bizarre baptisms on strangers, Macabantay is determined to hunt and kill his former protégé. Diaz’s essay on life and death during the Duterte presidency is superbly filmed in 16mm monochrome but there is nothing black and white about this complex and compelling drama.

THE BOX SET

BAY OF FIRES



SAT 17 JUN 6:15 PM EV9
15+

Australia | 2023 | 111 mins | **In English** | **World Premiere**
Director: Natalie Bayley | *Screenwriter: Andrew Knight, Max Dann* | *Producer: Yvonne Collins, Marta Dusseldorp* | *Cast: Marta Dusseldorp, Toby Leonard Moore, Stephen Curry* | *Production Company: Archipelago Productions & Fremantle for the ABC.*

In this darkly comic crime series, a mother (Marta Dusseldorp) must flee her comfy city life to hide. But her ‘refuge’ in the wilds of Tasmania has its own quirks, dramas and mysteries.

Stella’s fall from grace is less swan dive and a more a graceless plummet into a darkly comic nightmare. From the top of the corporate food chain to being chased by Chechen hitmen, Stella and her two children are forced to take refuge in the breathtaking Tasmanian wilderness in a town among people the world chose to forget. Surrounded by neighbours every bit as dangerous as anything the outside world can hurl at her, Stella must locate survival skills she never knew she had and quickly. With uniformly fantastic performances, *Bay of Fires* – co-created by Dusseldorp (*Janet King, Jack Irish, A Place to Call Home*), and written by Andrew Knight (*SeaChange, Jack Irish, Rake, Hacksaw Ridge*) and Max Dann (*Spotswood, Siam Sunset, Dance Academy*) is one tense, gripping and dangerously funny series, every bit as wild as the landscape in which it is set.

The first two episodes, of eight, will be presented

Festival guests: Natalie Bailey, Marta Dusseldorp and members of the film team

A WILD ROOMER

GOE-IN



FRI 16 JUN 6:15 PM EV9
SAT 17 JUN 8:00 PM DNT1

South Korea | 2022 | 136 mins | **In Korean with English subtitles** | **Australian Premiere**
Director, Screenwriter: Lee Jeong-hong | *Producer: Chung Hyun-jung* | *Cast: Park Gi-hong, Choi Kyung-jun, Kim Jeon-gil* | *Sales Agent: M-Line Distribution*

Lee Jeong-hong’s delightfully unconventional South Korean comedy of manners won the prestigious New Currents competition and the NETPAC Award at Busan.

The not-so-wild ‘roomer’ of this offbeat charmer is Gi-hong, a goateed 30-ish carpenter who rents a room in the fabulously spacious but desperately sterile house of his landlord and drinking buddy Jung-hwan. Whilst he’s on the up financially, he’s much less adept socially. Gi-hong spends most of his free time hanging out with Jung-hwan and his enigmatic wife, Hyung-jun – which unexpectedly becomes a foursome when a stranger from the fringes of society steps onto the scene. Lee’s carefully composed visuals and the cast’s finely calibrated performances create an intriguing and wryly humorous portrait of a domestic dynamic being gently pushed beyond its comfort zone. Lee’s outstanding debut feature asserts him as a filmmaker to watch.

Festival guest: Lee Jeong-hong and members of the film team

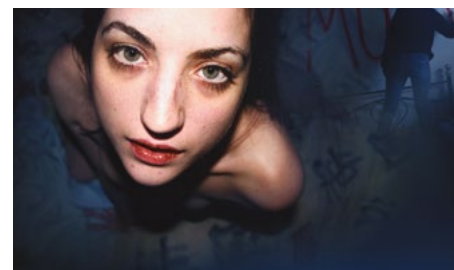


The Echo

INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTARIES

Prize-winning, controversial, mesmerising, eye-opening and visually stunning; it's all there in this year's International Documentary line-up.

BLUE BAG LIFE



SAT 10 JUN 4:00 PM PALC1 18+
WED 14 JUN 6:30 PM DNT3

UK | 2022 | 92 mins | In English | Australian Premiere
Directors: Rebecca Lloyd-Evans, Lisa Selby, Alex Fry
Screenwriters: Josie Cole, Lisa Selby | Producer: Natasha Dack Ojumu | Production Company: Tiger Lily Productions

By turns frank, funny and heartbreaking, this deeply-personal multi-award winner from the UK about addiction and love, explodes the form of documentary filmmaking.

To say this film is about the troubled life of a heroin addict's daughter is to diminish its power and resonance. Even though her mother abandoned her as a baby, Lisa Selby idolised her glamorous yet addicted parent. Flicking through photo albums and searching online she tries to find a connection, but now her mother is dying. What's more, her partner is then jailed for drug dealing. All this trauma is captured on her iPhone and multiple hard drives. A collective of filmmakers, including co-director Rebecca Lloyd-Evans and director-editor Alex Fry, worked with artist-lecturer Lisa to assemble the images into an emotionally raw and striking film – an Audience Award winner at London Film Festival.

BOBI WINE: THE PEOPLE'S PRESIDENT



SAT 10 JUN 4:15 PM DNT1 18+
THU 15 JUN 6:15 PM PALC1

Uganda, UK, USA | 2022 | 114 mins | In English and Luganda with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Directors: Christopher Sharp, Moses Bwayo | Producers: Christopher Sharp, John Battsek | Sales Agent: Dogwoof Sales

The gripping story of a Ugandan pop star turned politician and his determination to end his country's brutal dictatorship. Premiered at Venice Film Festival.

Oozing charisma, style and energy, Bobi Wine, a hero of Kampala's slums, starts out using his music to protest Uganda's brutal regime. After successfully winning a seat in parliament, campaigning against corruption, injustice and poverty, Bobi decides to run for president against the 40+ years incumbent Yoweri Museveni. The campaign of intimidation and violence that follows is shocking – the authoritarian Museveni won't give up power without a fight. Filmmakers Christopher Sharp and Moses Bwayo trailed Bobi and his wife Barbie over eight years, from the ghetto to the campaign trail, all against the soundtrack of Bobi's pumping beats and empowering lyrics.

CANNES UN CUT



THU 8 JUN 6:30 PM PNORT3 ALL AGES
MON 12 JUN 2:15 PM EV5

UK | 2023 | 90 mins | In English | Australian Premiere
Directors: Roger Penny, Richard Blanshard | Producers: Colin Burrows, Mark Adams, Christopher Pickard, Richard Blanshard | Sales Agent: Outlook Film Sales

A luminary-packed tribute that lifts the curtain on the Cannes Film Festival in its 75th year – for as they say in France, 'the story of Cannes is the story of cinema'.

Cannes Uncut covers it all, from the festival's birth and first awards, to the 1968 protests, its numerous controversies and glorious excesses, triumphs and failures. It celebrates the glamour, red carpets, films, stunts, deals, parties and personalities. Plus, the Palm Dog Award for best canine performance, of course. What results is an exhilarating, behind-the-scenes look at 75 years of cinema history. Featuring interviews with festival head Thierry Frémaux; Cannes regulars Tilda Swinton, Juliette Binoche and Léa Seydoux; filmmakers such as Lynne Ramsay, Mike Leigh, Quentin Tarantino, Sean Baker, Ken Loach and Wim Wenders; photographers, programmers, fashion designers and more.

A COOLER CLIMATE



SAT 10 JUN 4:50 PM HOC5 15+
MON 12 JUN 4:35 PM EV9

UK | 2022 | 72 mins | In English | Australian Premiere
Directors: James Ivory, Giles Gardner | Screenwriter: James Ivory | Producer: Bertrand Faivre | Sales Agent: The Bureau

Oscar-winning filmmaker James Ivory revisits the long-untouched footage he shot in Afghanistan, 1960, to deliver a richly evocative portrait of a time, a place, a life and career.

Ivory's celebrated filmography includes *A Room With a View*, *Maurice*, *Howard's End*, *The Remains of the Day* and his Oscar-winning script for *Call Me by Your Name* (SFF 2017). Fresh out of university, Ivory received funding to make two documentaries: one in India, the other 'somewhere close by' – he chose Afghanistan because of the 'cooler climate'. The haunting, colourful images he shot of Kabul and Bamiyan were never crafted into a film. Instead, Ivory focussed on the India-based documentary, before a life-changing moment when he met his life and work partner, Ismail Merchant. The glorious Afghanistan footage, accompanied by Ivory's memories of travelling, growing up in Oregon, and coming to terms with his sexuality, is at the heart of this beautifully insightful film essay.

AGAINST THE TIDE



THE ARC OF OBLIVION



WED 14 JUN 6:00 PM EV3 ALL AGES
SAT 17 JUN 2:00 PM DNT1

India, France | 2023 | 97 mins | In Koli, Marathi and Hindi with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director: Sarvnik Kaur | Producers: Koval Bhatia, Sarvnik Kaur | Sales Agent: Deckert Distribution

Two fishermen from Mumbai's Indigenous Koli community confront the impact of the changing environment – and the toll on their friendship – in this intimate doc. Special Jury Award, Sundance 2023.

Proud new father Rakesh fishes the shallows of the bay in the traditional way, physically hauling in his catch, just like his father before him. His close friend Ganesh has taken a different path, heading out to deeper water in a power boat, using new and sometimes illicit technologies. The fish are declining due to pollution, amongst other things, and both men are struggling to make ends meet. Filmed over six years, Sarvnik Kaur's intimate documentary celebrates the durability of their relationship, despite their differences, through weddings, births and financial crises. A touching, humanistic portrait that also reflects on the fragility of our ongoing relationship with the environment.



SUN 11 JUN 5:30 PM PALC1 ALL AGES
FRI 16 JUN 6:30 PM DNT2

USA | 2023 | 99 mins | In English and French with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Ian Cheney | Producers: Meredith DeSalazar, Manette Pottle, Rebecca Taylor | Production Company: Sandbox Films

Filmmaker Ian Cheney's plan to build an ark takes him on a wonderfully whimsical journey that involves unexpected twists and turns, and surprise guests (Werner Herzog included).

The physical ark is built, with the help of a wood-savvy neighbour, on the filmmaker's parents' farm in rural Maine. His mission to find out what's worth saving, or whether anything truly lasts, takes him around the globe. Award-winning director Cheney (*Picture Character*, SFF 2019) talks to a dendrologist, geologist, ceramicist, cosmologist, mycologist, palaeontologist and more. He films in a salt mine, on Arctic fjords, in the ruins of an ancient Saharan library – and finally, within the smooth panelled walls of his newly constructed ark. Cheney's quest to illuminate the world of archives, record-keeping and memory is an unconventional documentary delight.

BETWEEN REVOLUTIONS

ÎN TRE REVOLUȚII



THU 15 JUN 6:10 PM EV11 15+
SUN 18 JUN 4:30 PM PALC1

Romania, Croatia, Qatar, Iran | 2023 | 68 mins | In Romanian and Farsi with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director: Vlad Petri | Screenwriters: Lavinia Braniște, Vlad Petri | Producer: Monica Lăzurean-Gorgan | Sales Agent: CAT&Docs

The poignant story of two women – an Iranian and a Romanian – and their deep friendship that survives distance and upheaval in revolutionary times. FIPRESCI winner, Berlinale Forum 2023.

Zahra and Maria became friends while studying medicine at university in 1970s Bucharest. Before graduating, however, Zahra returned to Iran to join the popular movement against the Shah. Eventually, Zahra's dreams of controlling her own destiny fade, along with the hope of a political transformation. She never returns to Bucharest. Meanwhile Romanian Maria is working in a hospital during the rigid Ceausescu regime; her own revolution is some way off. As their correspondence reveals, fitting into society's expectations is never easy for either woman. Director Vlad Petri's hybrid film, neither documentary nor fiction, uses archival footage alongside their 'letters' to draw parallels between revolutions, whilst questioning the nature of their enduring relationship.

BEYOND UTOPIA



FRI 9 JUN 6:25 PM DNT1 15+
SAT 17 JUN 3:50 PM EV9

USA | 2023 | 115 mins | In Korean and English with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director: Madeleine Gavin | Producers: Jana Edelbaum, Rachel Cohen, Sue Mi Terry | Australian Distributor: Madman Entertainment

A family of five attempt a dramatic journey from North Korea to freedom, painting a devastating portrait of life under an oppressive regime. Audience Award winner, Sundance 2023.

South Korean Pastor Seungeun Kim uses an underground network to rescue North Korean defectors who've made the hazardous trip across the Yalu River into China. Time is of the essence – if the Chinese authorities find them, they will be returned to face severe punishment. When the pastor hears of a family, including two children and a grandparent, in hiding he rushes to help. The family embarks on a treacherous journey wherein their understanding of the West is consistently challenged, revealing much about their repressive homeland. Director Madeleine Gavin's prize-winning documentary, packed with hidden camera footage, is consistently gripping and totally unforgettable.

THE CORRIDORS OF POWER



SUN 11 JUN 6:00 PM EV3 15+
FRI 16 JUN 6:00 PM PALC1

USA, France, Germany, Israel | 2022 | 135 mins | In English | Australian Premiere
Director: Dror Moreh | Screenwriters: Dror Moreh, Oran Adar, Stephan Krumbiegel | Producers: Dror Moreh, Estelle Fialon, Vanessa Cieciewski, Sol Goodman | Australian Distributor: Madman Entertainment

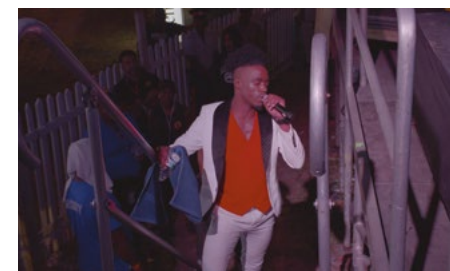
Oscar nominee Dror Moreh (*The Gatekeepers*) interrogates the consistent failure of US foreign policy to challenge genocide, using interviews with heavyweight politicians and diplomats.

From Bosnia and Kosovo, to Rwanda, Darfur and Syria, the US government and its allies have failed to avert humanitarian disasters. This disturbing history is discussed in interviews with everyone in the 'corridors of power', including Madeleine Albright, George Shultz, Hillary Clinton, Condoleezza Rice, Colin Powell and Henry Kissinger. Former US Ambassador to the United Nations under President Obama, Samantha Power – author of a Pulitzer Prize winning book on genocide – describes her own experiences and struggle to change the conversation, providing emotional heft to Moreh's enlightening documentary.

Presented by Amnesty International



DALTON'S DREAM



SAT 17 JUN 5:30 PM EV5 18+
SUN 18 JUN 5:50 PM DNT3

UK | 2023 | 90 mins | In English | Australian Premiere
Directors: Kim Longinotto, Franky Murray Brown | Producer: Lorine Plagnol | Sales Agent: Dogwoof Sales

After winning UK's *The X Factor*, young queer man Dalton Harris receives prejudiced backlash from his home country Jamaica. Award-winning director Kim Longinotto beautifully captures Dalton's search for love and acceptance.

Velvet-voiced Dalton Harris thought his dreams had come true when he won one of the world's top talent competitions. He was the first non-British and Black man to win, and it came with a million-pound recording deal. But the thrill of a lavish lifestyle and new boyfriend, and the launch of his first single soon sours. He becomes the target of homophobic death threats, predominantly from Jamaica – a nation with one of the highest rates of anti-LGBTQ violence in the world. Directors Kim Longinotto (*Shooting the Mafia*, SFF 2019) and Franky Murray Brown filmed Dalton over two years, as he faced very difficult choices, but also the opportunity to truly be himself.

EASTERN FRONT

SHIDNIY FRONT



WED 7 JUN 6:15 PM PALC1 18+
SUN 11 JUN 1:45 PM DNT2

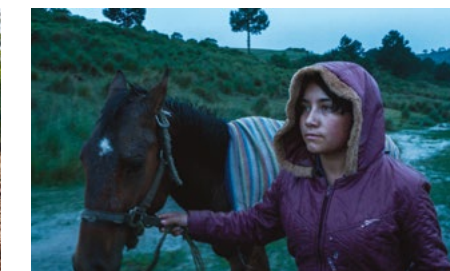
Latvia, Ukraine, Czech Republic, USA | 2023 | 98 mins | In Ukrainian and Russian with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Directors: Vitaly Mansky, Yevhen Titarenko | Producers: Natallia Manskala, Natallia Khazan | Sales Agent: Deckert Distribution

The brutal reality of the conflict in Ukraine is captured in Vitaly Mansky (*Under the Sun*, SFF 2016) and fellow Ukrainian director Yevhen Titarenko's essential doc. Berlinale 2023.

Titarenko has been a member of the Hospitaliers, a volunteer medical battalion, for nearly 10 years. Tasked with retrieving the injured from the frontlines, the poorly equipped medics scramble over trenches and ruins, frequently under shell fire. Using his body camera, camcorder and mobile phone, Titarenko captures one harrowing situation after another. Briefly on leave, the men and their families enjoy a rare respite from the carnage – a scene disturbing in its serenity. The co-directors aim in making this documentary was to alert the world to the reality of what's happening in Ukraine; society should know the brutal truth.

THE ECHO

EL ECO



SAT 10 JUN 4:15 PM EV11 15+
SUN 18 JUN 4:15 PM DNT2

Mexico, Germany | 2023 | 102 mins | In Spanish with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Tatiana Huezo | Producers: Tatiana Huezo, Dalia Reyes | Sales Agent: The Match Factory

A mesmerising, lyrical portrait of life in a rural Mexican village from the director of Cannes Uncut Certain Regard winner, *Prayers for the Stolen* (SFF 2021). Berlinale 2023 winner.

Director Tatiana Huezo filmed the tiny village of El Eco (a few hours from Mexico City) for 18 months, capturing the shift of seasons, from pouring rain to sunshine. She observed the lives of its residents, focussing on perpetually busy mothers, a frequently absent father, abundant children, a frail grandmother. Beautifully poetic scenes give audiences a warm glimpse into daily life: a young girl caring for her elderly relative or playing school with her dolls, labouring in the fields, or listening to folk stories. Huezo records the pattern of the villagers' lives, outwardly static – but change is on the way. Winner of the Documentary Award and Encounters Award for Best Director at Berlinale 2023.

THE ETERNAL MEMORY



WED 14 JUN 10:00 AM STATE
THU 15 JUN 6:15 PM PNORT3

Chile | 2023 | 85 mins | In Spanish with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director: Maite Alberdi | Producers: Maite Alberdi, Juan de Dios Larrain, Pablo Larrain, Rocío Jadue
Australian Distributor: Madman Entertainment

Oscar-nominated filmmaker Maite Alberdi won Sundance's World Cinema Grand Jury Prize for this heart-wrenching yet humour-filled documentary about a devoted Chilean couple facing a challenging future together.

Chilean filmmaker Alberdi returns to the themes of ageing and memory following her acclaimed *The Mole Agent* and *Tea Time* (SFF 2015). Augusto, a former journalist and TV presenter, and Paulina, an actress and politician, are a devoted long-married couple. Eight years ago, Augusto was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease, and Paulina is now his full-time carer. As Augusto struggles to hold onto his identity, Paulina tenderly leads him through each day with laughter and grace. Ultimately, Alberdi's masterful film touches on the notion of memory itself, both individual and collective, echoing Augusto's role in recording the truth of Pinochet's dictatorship.

JOONAM



MON 12 JUN 5:00 PM EV3
SAT 17 JUN 6:15 PM PALC1

USA | 2022 | 103 mins | In Farsi and English with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director: Sierra Ulrich | Producers: Keith Wilson, Sierra Ulrich
Sales Agent: The Film Collaborative

With warmth and humour, filmmaker Sierra Ulrich uncovers her family's complex history through the stories of her Iranian-born mother and grandmother in this 2023 Sundance hit.

Sierra grew up in rural Vermont and has never been to the homeland of her mother, Mitra, and grandmother, Behjat. She is determined to learn more about her heritage. With a little nudging and translating, Behjat tells of her pre-teen marriage and family traumas, while Mitra discloses her troubled teens during the Iranian Revolution. Sierra is inspired to travel to Iran, but her mother is set against it, given the regime's current attitude towards women. Flitting between past and present Sierra unearths a rich and compelling history, undoubtedly paralleled by other migrant communities, as she strives to make sense of her identity.

FANTASTIC MACHINE



WED 7 JUN 6:15 PM RITZ5
MON 12 JUN 6:45 PM DNT2

Sweden, Denmark | 2023 | 88 mins | In Swedish, English, Arabic, French and German with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Directors: Axel Danielson, Maximilien Van Aertryck | Australian Distributor: Sharmill Films

Take an enthralling trip through 200 years of image making, from the camera and German with the selfie. A Berlinale and Sundance 2023 winner from the company behind *Triangle of Sadness* (SFF 2022).

Director Axel Danielson, a production partner with Ruben Östlund, makes his directorial debut, along with co-director Maximilien Van Aertryck. The duo received an Academy Award nomination for their short film, *Ten Meter Tower* (SFF 2016). With *Fantastic Machine* they take a deep dive into the history of the photographic image. Starting with the first such known picture (a 10-hour exposure), they use a vast array of archival footage to bring us to the present day, encompassing a zillion technological developments and iconic pictures on the way. The result is a clever, fascinating and at times shocking look at the changing influence of imagery across time.

KIM'S VIDEO



SAT 10 JUN 8:20 PM DNT3
FRI 16 JUN 6:15 PM DNT3
SUN 18 JUN 6:50 PM EV3

USA | 2023 | 88 mins | In English, Korean and Italian with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Directors: David Redmon, Ashley Sabin | Producers: Ashley Sabin, David Redmon, Deborah Smith, Dale Smith, Francesco Galavotti, Rebecca Tabasky
Production Company: Camivalesque Films

A thoroughly enjoyable, seemingly impossible tale involving a New York video store, 55,000 missing VHS tapes, a sleepy Sicilian town and a Korean businessman. Sundance 2023.

When geeky filmmaker David Redmon moved to the Big Apple, he became obsessed with the legendary Kim's Video store in Lower Manhattan. This ramshackle treasure trove packed with classic and obscure movies sadly fell victim to changing times and was forced to close. Owner Mr Kim decided to give away the entire collection – free to a good home. But just who took up the offer? Redmon and co-director Ashley Sabin's quest to find the missing archive takes us to Seoul and Sicily, with stranger-than-fiction results. By turns funny and dumbfounding, *Kim's Video* is a charming tribute to the power and endurance of cinema.

FREE MONEY



MON 12 JUN 2:00 PM DNT1
SUN 18 JUN 6:00 PM PALC1

Kenya, USA | 2022 | 78 mins | In Swahili, Luo and English with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Directors: Sam Soko, Lauren DeFilippo | Producers: Amanda Pollak, Jordan Fudge, Jeremy Allen, Lauren DeFilippo, Sam Soko | Sales Agent: Dogwoof Sales

Can the concept of a universal basic income work? This timely documentary follows a long-term charitable initiative that offers adults in an impoverished Kenyan village a regular income.

According to GiveDirectly co-founder Michael Faye the NGO system of offering "seeds and bicycles" hasn't worked, so he's formulated a plan to redistribute wealth bankrolled by a megadollar donation from Silicon Valley. The rural village of Kogutu is chosen for the 12-year pilot scheme in which \$US22 per month is delivered via phone to all over 18. At first there's a great deal of scepticism amongst the villagers, but as the money starts rolling in, the debate quickly shifts to how the dollars should be spent – and inevitably friction arises. Filmmakers, American Lauren DeFilippo and Kenyan Sam Soko interview locals and organisers over three years, illuminating the realities of this big idea.

NAM JUNE PAIK:
MOON IS THE OLDEST TV

FRI 9 JUN 6:15 PM PALC1
SUN 11 JUN 3:45 PM DNT1
THU 15 JUN 8:30 PM PALC1

USA, South Korea | 2023 | 107 mins | In Korean, German and English with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director: Amanda Kim | Producers: Jennifer Stockman, David Koh, Amanda Kim, Amy Hobby, Jesse Wann, Mariko Munro | Australian Distributor: Madman Entertainment

An distinctively creative portrait of the father of video art, the trailblazing Korea-born Nam June Paik, with actor Steven Yeun (*Minari*, SFF 2021) reading Paik's own words.

Nam June Paik was studying classical music in Germany when his exposure to the work of avant-garde composer John Cage changed the direction of his life. He joined the experimental art group, Fluxus, and continuously extended the boundaries of performance and art. Moving to New York in the late 1960s, he credits his 'non-success' with giving him the opportunity to continue experimenting with performance (including topless cello playing), television and video art. Amanda Kim's debut documentary celebrates the work of this most playful, forward-looking (he coined the term 'electronic superhighway') and highly inventive artist.

FREEDOM IS BEAUTIFUL



SUN 11 JUN 4:30 PM EV9
SUN 18 JUN 2:30 PM DNT1

Australia | 2023 | 67 mins | In English and Kurdish with English subtitles | World Premiere
Director: Angus McDonald | Producers: Angus McDonald, Mélita Toscan Du Plantier | Production Company: Howling Eagle Productions

Two remarkable Kurdish Iranian asylum seekers, both musicians and artists, long imprisoned on Manus Island, use their voices in the struggle against the Federal Government's inhumane refugee policy.

Farhad Bandesh and Mostafa Azimitabar were finally freed from detention after being imprisoned for almost eight years under Australia's brutal offshore processing regime. Each fled persecution in Iran, searching for safety, freedom and a brighter future, only to be treated callously by the Australian government. Forming a close friendship while detained, they used music and art as a form of peaceful resistance to promote humanity and tirelessly advocate on behalf of all those who remained held. Australian artist Angus McDonald's passionate documentary, whilst not shying away from the brutality of their experience, embraces their extraordinary resilience and optimism.

Presented by Amnesty International



Festival guest: Angus McDonald

ON THE ADAMANT
SUR L'ADAMANT

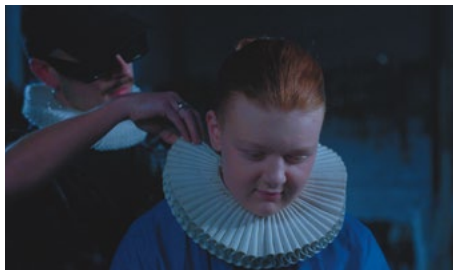
TUE 13 JUN 1:25 PM STATE
WED 14 JUN 6:30 PM HOC5
SAT 17 JUN 1:00 PM EV3

France, Japan | 2023 | 109 mins | In French with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director: Nicolas Philibert | Producers: Miléna Poylo, Gilles Sacuto, Céline Loiseau | Australian Distributor: Madman Entertainment

Berlinale's 2023 Golden Bear was awarded to documentary Nicolas Philibert (*To Be and To Have*) for his moving portrait of a floating Parisian day-care centre for people with mental health difficulties.

The Adamant is moored on the Seine in the centre of Paris. An unusual setting for a health centre but perhaps one that suits its distinctive approach. Visitors to the light-filled vessel will find a respectful and compassionate environment, a place to sing or discuss movies, and everyone has a say in the day-to-day activities. This sense of hearing every voice, of seeing people as individuals, has long been an element of Philibert's work in films such as *In the Land of the Deaf* (SFF 1994) and *Every Little Thing* (SFF 1997). So too his patient observations, usually over a long period of time, building trust along with remarkable insight.

Screens with *Handmade Happiness*

ORLANDO, MY POLITICAL BIOGRAPHY
ORLANDO, MA BIOGRAPHIE POLITIQUE

FRI 9 JUN 6:00 PM DNT3
SUN 11 JUN 2:30 PM EV9

France | 2023 | 98 mins | In French with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Paul B. Preciado | Producers: Yaël Fogiel, Laetitia Gonzalez | Sales Agent: The Party Sales

Virginia's Woolf's 1928 novel provides the spark for this strikingly inventive exploration of gender and identity. Winner, Teddy Award, Best Documentary, Berlinale 2023.

Woolf's classic – the story of Orlando, a young nobleman who grows up to be a woman and lives for centuries – has inspired countless adaptations, but arguably none quite so innovative as this playful hybrid. Director Paul B. Preciado melds dramatisations of the story and his imaginary correspondence with Woolf alongside interviews in which trans and non-binary people face the camera, donning neck ruffles and introducing themselves as modern-day Orlando. Philosopher and writer Preciado's (*Countersexual Manifesto*, *Testo Junkie*, *Pornotopia*) intelligent, playful and fluid directorial debut won four awards at Berlinale 2023.

PARADISE
PARADIS

TUE 13 JUN 6:15 PM PALC1
SUN 18 JUN 6:30 PM DNT2

France, Switzerland | 2022 | 88 mins | In Yakut with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Alexander Abaturov | Producers: Rebecca Houzel, Alexander Abaturov, Luc Peter
Sales Agent: The Party Sales

In this gripping IDFA 2022 award-winning doc, an immense wildfire barrels across the Siberian landscape – and the villagers are left to defend their homes on their own, completely abandoned by Russian authorities.

As one of the largest tracts of virgin forests in the world, the taiga region is sparsely populated and hard to access. In 2015 the Russian federal government decreed that northeast Siberia is a 'control zone', meaning that local authorities will no longer help fight wildfires in this area because the cost of the effort exceeds that of the economic damage. Abandoned, the inhabitants of Shologon village face down the raging inferno with little equipment or training. Russian director Alexander Abaturov documents their determination and heroism, as prize-winning French cinematographer Paul Guilhaume (*Paris, 13th District*, SFF 2021) captures the scene's perverse beauty, in this critical reminder of the impacts of global warming.



Free Money

PRAY FOR OUR SINNERS



SAT 10 JUN 2:15 PM RITZ5
SUN 18 JUN 2:15 PM EV3

Ireland | 2022 | 82 mins | In English | Australian Premiere
Director: Sinéad O'Shea | Producers: Sinéad O'Shea, Maya Derrington | Sales Agent: Dogwoof Sales

Irish filmmaker Sinéad O'Shea returns to her hometown to explore the historically shameful treatment of women and children by church and state in this intensely moving documentary.

The town of Navan, just west of Dublin, like many other communities in recent Irish history lived under the iron control of the Catholic church and officialdom. Contraception and abortion were banned, pregnant teens faced harsh punitive treatment, beatings were the norm for wayward kids. Award-winning director O'Shea is no stranger to difficult topics, as evidenced by her previous film *A Mother Brings Her Son to Be Shot* (SFF 2018). Nonetheless, amongst the brutality and hurt, O'Shea uncovers stories of kindness and resistance, from doctors who surreptitiously helped young mothers-to-be to impassioned campaigners against corporal punishment.

QUEENDOM



FRI 9 JUN 8:00 PM DNT3
SAT 10 JUN 5:45 PM EV3

France, USA | 2023 | 98 mins | In Russian with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director: Agniia Galdanova | Producers: Igor Myakotin, Agniia Galdanova | Sales Agent: The Film Collaborative

Non-conformity in Putin's Russia is a risky business, as experienced by queer artist and activist Gena Marvin. Winner, NEXT: WAVE Award at CPH:DOX 2023.

Gena was raised by her grandparents in the Soviet-era industrial city of Magadan. It's far from being a compatible environment for an artist like Gena, as seen in footage of her teetering across the frozen ground in mega-heels and white face paint. She leaves to study in Moscow, but her radical performances and otherworldly costumes aren't tolerated in the Russian capital either. She's expelled, and now faces military conscription – just as the conflict in Ukraine looms. Queer Russian filmmaker Agniia Galdanova filmed Gena over four years, skilfully capturing both the defiance and vulnerability of this vibrant young activist.

STEPHEN CURRY: UNDERRATED



SAT 10 JUN 7:50 PM EV3
MON 12 JUN 4:15 PM RITZ5

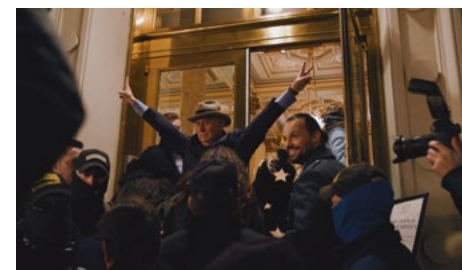
USA | 2023 | 110 mins | In English | Australian Premiere
Director: Peter Nicks | Producers: Peter Nicks, Ryan Coogler, Sean Havey, Erick Peyton, Marissa Torres Ericson, Ben Cotner | Australian Distributor: Apple

A thrilling portrait of American NBA superstar Stephen Curry's against-the-odds rise from high school basketball player to a legend of the sport. Sundance-selected 2023.

Even as a youngster, Stephen Curry understood that when it came to basketball, he was different. Though tall by most standards, he was considered undersized for a shooting position. With the help of his dad (a former NBA player) he doubled down on strength, speed and accuracy, shrugging off his lack of centimetres and playing his own game. It paid off, getting recruited by the small-town Davidson College, earning a tournament spot, to becoming a four-time NBA champion. Curry even returns to study as an adult to fulfil a long-held promise, another example of his dogged persistence. Director Peter Nicks uses video footage of the young athlete, as well as intimate interviews with his family, team and coach to tell this inspiring story. Produced by Ryan Coogler.



A STORM FORETOLD



FRI 9 JUN 2:30 PM STATE 15+
SAT 10 JUN 6:00 PM DNT3

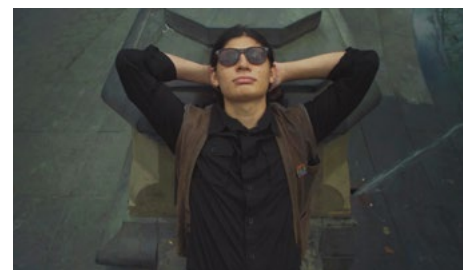
Denmark | 2023 | 97 mins | In English
Australian Premiere
Director: Christoffer Guldbrandsen | Producers:
Christoffer Guldbrandsen, Peter Engel, Henrik Veileborg
Production Company: Wingman Media

A jaw-dropping, no-holds-barred portrait of Donald Trump's former adviser, Roger Stone, filmed over three years in the lead-up to the 6 January storming of the US Capitol.

A trickster, a prince of darkness, a thug and a bully. They're just a few of the words that have been used to describe Roger Stone. In Danish filmmaker Christoffer Guldbrandsen's fly-on-the-wall documentary Stone is all of these and more – on display when he parties with the far-right Proud Boys, explains how he 'managed' the President, or applauds his brainchild, the 'Stop the Steal' campaign. Guldbrandsen's camera captures all of Stone's toxicity and shameless contempt for the opposition. The rotten underbelly of American politics is on full display in this disturbing, transfixing portrayal.

Festival guest: Christoffer Guldbrandsen

SUBJECT

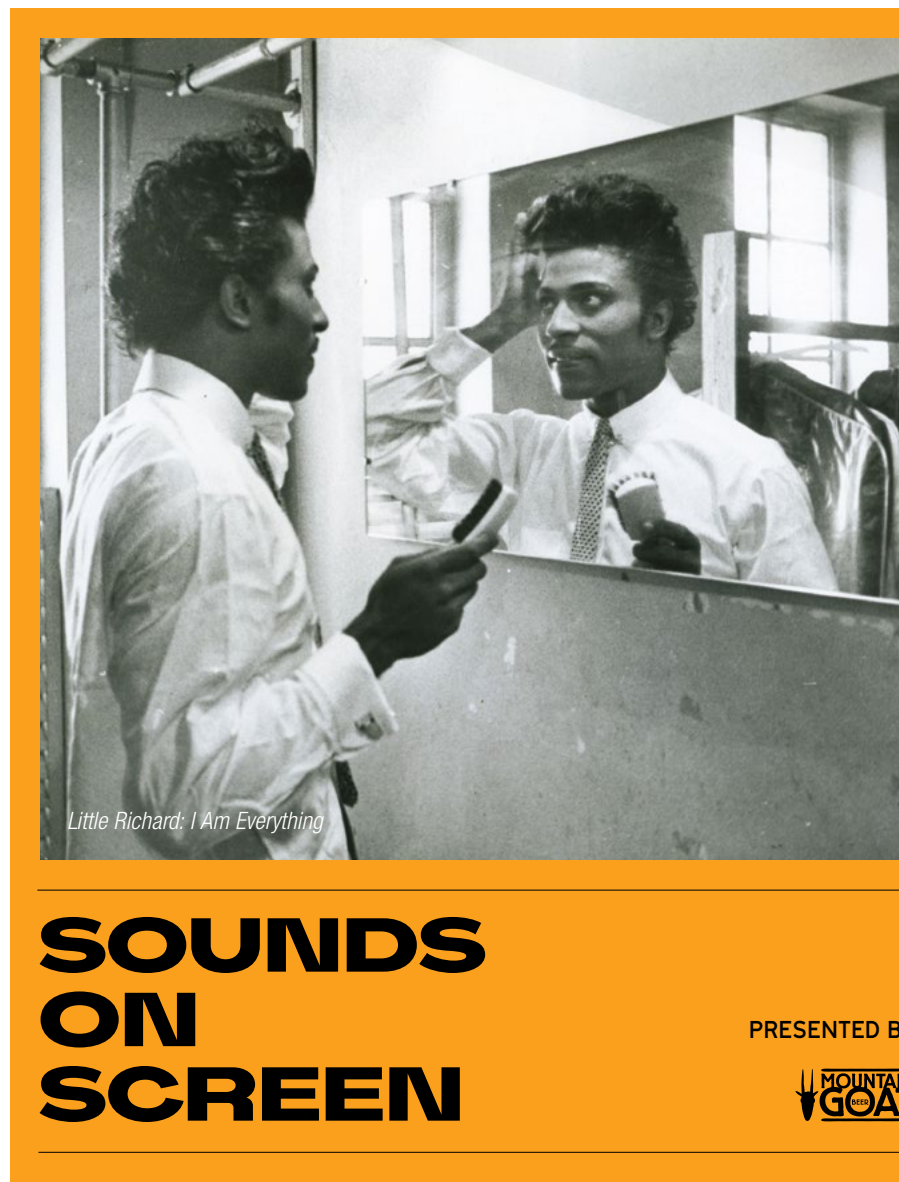


FRI 16 JUN 3:40 PM STATE 15+
SUN 18 JUN 2:00 PM EV9

USA | 2022 | 93 mins | In English | Australian Premiere
Directors: Jennifer Tiexiera, Camilla Hall | Screenwriters:
Jennifer Tiexiera, Camilla Hall, Lauren Saffa
Producers: Camilla Hall, Jennifer Tiexiera, Joe Caterini
Australian Distributor: Madman Entertainment

The impact of high-profile documentaries on their onscreen participants, in films including *The Staircase* and *The Wolfpack*, is put under the spotlight in this thought-provoking investigation.

What happens after the cameras have left and your story is in the public domain? Margie Ratliff (the victim's daughter from *The Staircase*), Jesse Friedman (*Capturing the Friedmans*), Mukunda Angulo (*The Wolfpack*, SFF 2015), aspiring basketball player Arthur Agee (*Hoop Dreams*, SFF 1994) and freedom fighter Ahmed Hassan (*The Square*) discuss the painful, liberating, sometimes life-changing experience of being the subject of a documentary. In the process, *Subject* raises highly pertinent questions about the duty of care and ethical responsibility documentarians have towards their participants. Essential viewing for filmmakers and non-fiction fans alike.



SOUNDS ON SCREEN

PRESENTED BY



JOAN BAEZ | AM A NOISE



WED 7 JUN 6:30 PM EV9 15+
SUN 11 JUN 4:00 PM HOC5

USA | 2023 | 113 mins | In English | Australian Premiere
Directors: Karen O'Connor, Miri Navasky, Maeve O'Boyle
Producers: Karen O'Connor, Miri Navasky | Production
Company: Mead Street Films

Legendary US folk musician and activist Joan Baez ('Diamonds & Rust') reflects on her life, on and off the stage, battling demons and defending civil rights.

With a career spanning over 60 years, Baez has a lifetime of stories and secrets to share, but she also has boxes of never-before-seen home movies, diaries, paintings and audio recordings. This treasure trove forms the basis of a compelling doco-portrait, alongside archival footage and revealing interviews with the now 82-year-old. Baez unveils the gamut of her extraordinary life both public and private: her childhood, ongoing anxieties, relationship with a young Bob Dylan, friendship with Martin Luther King Jr. and, of course, her enduring activism. Directors Miri Navasky, Maeve O'Boyle and Karen O'Connor (a long-time friend of Baez) have delivered a surprisingly intimate film (selected for Berlinale and SXSW) of this iconic artist and campaigner.

LITTLE RICHARD:
I AM EVERYTHING

TUE 13 JUN 6:30 PM EV5 15+
FRI 16 JUN 8:10 PM DNT1
SAT 17 JUN 6:30 PM RITZ5

USA | 2023 | 101 mins | In English | Australian Premiere
Director: Lisa Cortés | Producers: Caryn Capotosto,
Lisa Cortés, Robert Friedman, Liz Yale Marsh | Australian
Distributor: Madman Entertainment

The queer Black origins of rock 'n' roll and its ultimate architect – Richard Penniman – are honoured in this illuminating doc that sets the white-washed history straight.

From Macon, Georgia, to the rock 'n' roll hall of fame, Lisa Cortés's documentary traces Little Richard's resounding impact through music history and uncovers a portrait of a man torn between the forces of music, sex and religion. His strict religious upbringing left an indelible mark and set him on a complicated road fuelled by contradictions. But it also propelled him to a new life, to find his true self and inspire others in ways that he was unable to do for himself. Featuring interviews with Little Richard, his family, Black and queer scholars, and legends of the industry – Billy Porter, John Waters, Mick Jagger – and complete with electrifying live performances, *I Am Everything* is a celebration of the impact of an indefinable star.

TOTAL TRUST



TUE 13 JUN 6:15 PM DNT1 15+
SUN 18 JUN 4:15 PM EV9

Germany, Netherlands | 2023 | 97 mins | In Mandarin with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director: Jialing Zhang | Producers: Knut Jäger, Michael Grotenhoff, Saskia Kress, Zhang Jialing
Production Company: Filmtank

Filmmaker Jialing Zhang (*One Child Nation*, SFF 2019) delivers another unsettling depiction of China today, exposing the country's extensive and insidious surveillance.

For more than two decades the Chinese government has been using smart technology, such as voice and face recognition, to collect data and test each citizen's trustworthiness. Zhang follows three stories of ubiquitous surveillance and control: a human rights lawyer who's been imprisoned for just doing his job; an independent journalist whose activities are beginning to attract police attention; and a lawyer who's been released from prison but finds his activities are strictly curtailed. After co-directing *One Child Nation*, Chinese-born US-based Zhang was unable to return to China. She directed *Total Trust* remotely, and many of the crew are listed as 'anonymous' – driving home the sinister nature of state surveillance.

TRANSITION



SAT 17 JUN 6:05 PM DNT1 15+
SUN 18 JUN 6:00 PM EV5

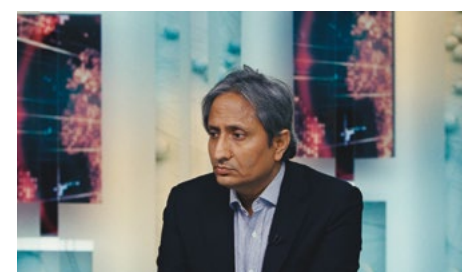
Australia, Iran, Afghanistan | 2023 | 84 mins
In Dari, Farsi and English with English subtitles
Australian Premiere
Directors: Jordan Bryon, Monica Villamizar | Producer:
Monica Villamizar | Sales Agent: AGC Studios

Australian filmmaker Jordan Bryon documents his own gender transition while embedded with Taliban forces in Afghanistan. In Competition, Tribeca 2023.

Jordan has been living and working as a journalist and filmmaker in Afghanistan for more than six years. After the departure of US forces, he stays to document Afghan life under the male-centric Taliban leadership. With his colleague, Teddy, he heads to a Taliban stronghold in the north-west of the country, shortly after he started transitioning. If the Taliban knew he was trans, they would likely kill him. It's a chaotic time, for the country and for Jordan, as he navigates his transformation and looks to the future.

WHILE WE WATCHED

NAMASKAR! MAIN RAVISH KUMAR



THU 8 JUN 12:00 PM STATE ALL AGES
SUN 11 JUN 3:45 PM EV3

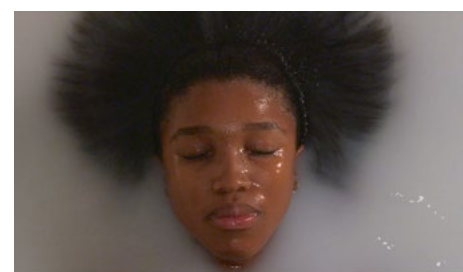
UK | 2022 | 92 mins | In English and Hindi with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director: Vinay Shukla | Producers: Vinay Shukla, Khushboo Ranka, Luke W. Moody | Sales Agent: CAT&Docs

Indian TV journalist Ravish Kumar fights to keep independent reporting alive in the age of misinformation. A prize winner at Toronto and Busan – essential viewing for media watchers everywhere.

Kumar, a veteran with India's NDTV, is committed to accountability and the facts. He asks the most difficult questions of those in power and, in an age of fake news, clashes with India's political powermongers and populist movement. Facing threats and advertising boycotts, with loyal staff resigning, his network is in deep financial trouble. Despite the grim news, Kumar remains optimistic, inspiring a new generation of reporters. Director Vinay Shukla (*An Insignificant Man*, SFF 2017) follows Kumar's increasingly desperate situation, offering perseverance and hope, and mirroring the issues facing independent journalism worldwide.

Festival guest: Vinay Shukla

WHO I AM NOT



THU 8 JUN 6:00 PM DNT3 15+
SUN 11 JUN 8:00 PM DNT3

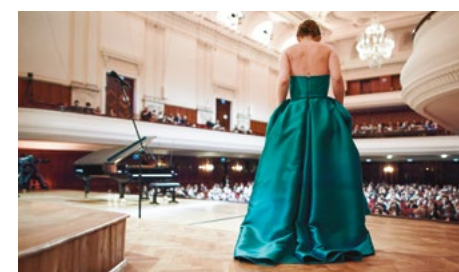
Romania, Canada | 2023 | 105 mins | In English, Italian, Russian, Slovenian with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director: Tünde Skovrán | Producer: Andrei Zinča
Sales Agent: CAT&Docs

Follow the trials and triumphs of two intersex people, beauty queen Sharon-Rose Khumalo and male-presenting activist Dimakatso Sebidi – a winner at Thessaloniki and a hit at SXSW and CPH:DOX.

Living in a binary world is a challenge for South Africans Sharon-Rose and Dimakatso, as they are constantly faced with questions of definition from within family and society. Dimakatso is now in a caring relationship and the ebullient Khumalo is supported by a loving family, but it hasn't been an easy path. Working closely, over almost five years, with debut director Romanian Tünde Skovrán, the pair reveal their parallel but divergent struggles, some societal, others medical or personal. By telling their stories with such honesty, intimacy and openness, they hope to educate a wider audience on what it means to be intersex.

Festival guest: Tünde Skovrán

PIANOFORTE



SAT 10 JUN 4:30 PM PNORT3 ALL AGES
SAT 17 JUN 3:00 PM HOC5

Poland | 2023 | 89 mins | In Polish, English, Chinese, Italian, Russian, Slovenian with English subtitles
Australian Premiere
Director: Jakub Piątek | Producer: Maciej Kubicki
Festival Contact: KFF Sales & Promotion

Young pianists from around the world compete in a legendary piano competition in this Sundance-selected documentary packed with tension, talent and Chopin's glorious music.

21 days, 80 participants, 10 finalists. Warsaw's International Chopin Piano competition, held every five years, has launched the careers of many piano virtuosos. *Pianoforte* follows seven hopefuls as they progress – or maybe not – through four gruelling competition stages. The stakes are high and the pressure is intense – at times too intense for some. From rehearsals to performance, backstage and at home, the camera captures what it takes to make it in this highly competitive world. It's a case of *Spellbound* meets *Tár* in filmmaker Jakub Piątek's enthralling documentary.

THREE CHORDS AND THE TRUTH



FRI 16 JUN 8:15 PM EV5 15+
SAT 17 JUN 4:00 PM DNT1

Australia | 2022 | 80 mins | In English
Director, Screenwriter: Claire Pasvolsky | Producers:
Steve Pasvolsky, Bin Li | Cast: Jackie Marshall,
Maisie Owens, Matt L. Heys | Australian Distributor:
Bonsai Films

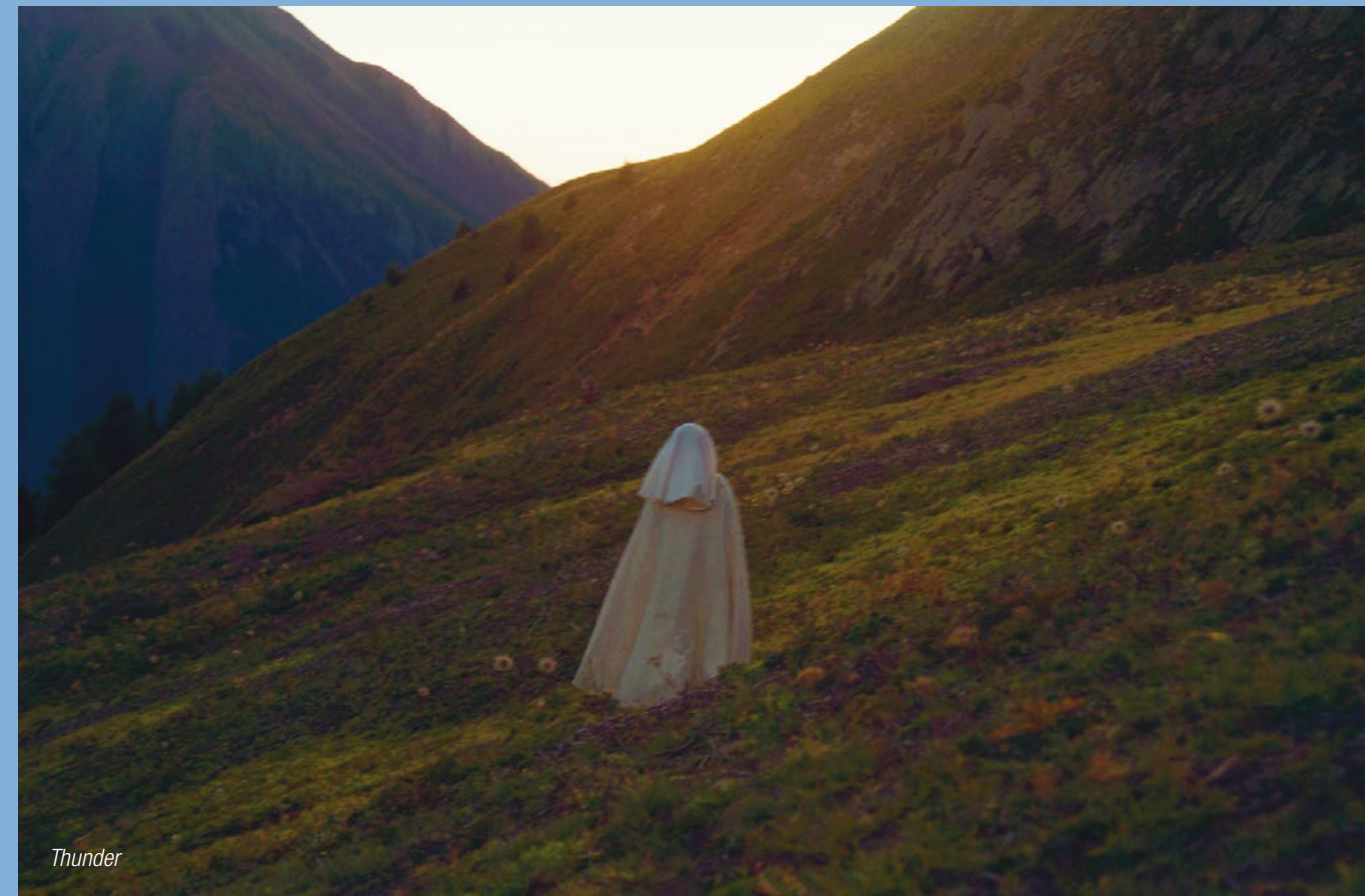
An emotive Aussie indie, inspired by the real-life story of singer-songwriter Jackie Marshall, including a dynamo performance from the musician herself.

Angie (Marshall) could have been one of Australia's leading musicians, but she sabotaged her own career. Now in her forties, she's dying and alone – but determined to record one last album. Money is tight and the odd gig at the local pub doesn't exactly fill the coffers. When she meets teenage runaway Ruby (Maisie Owens), the pair form an unlikely bond. Angie teaches her to play the guitar and write songs, but despite their closeness Angie just can't bring herself to tell Ruby the truth about her illness. Marshall's own songs, and resonant voice, alongside the Newcastle setting, bring a tender authenticity to this rebellious music-driven drama.

Festival guests: Claire Pasvolsky and members of the film team



EUROPE! VOICES OF WOMEN IN FILM



Thunder

BAND



THU 8 JUN 8:25 PM EV3 **15+**
SAT 10 JUN 5:30 PM DNT2

Iceland | 2022 | 88 mins | In Icelandic with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Álfurinn Örnólfsson | Producers: Heather Millard, Þórhur Jónsson | Sales Agent: Alief

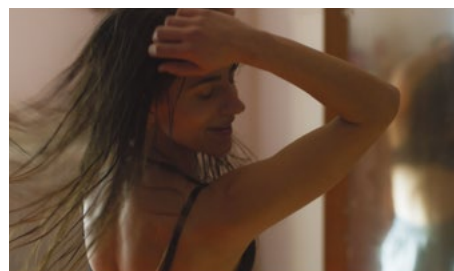
The three women of the Post Performance Blues Band (PPBB) have never made it big. Their shows are avant-garde and unclassifiable, playing to dive bars with half-empty crowds. Their lyrics are about everything from waffles and coffee to their mothers. And they're about to turn 40. *Band*, directed by PPBB member Álfurinn Örnólfsson, thrums with madcap creative passion, as the band gives themselves one last year to make it or break it. Evoking *Spinal Tap*'s rollicking absurdity, the film borders on mockumentary, grounded by profound reflections on parenthood, failure and dauntless friendship.



Álfurinn Örnólfsson is an Icelandic actress and director, known for *Pity the Lovers* (2019) and *Cold Fever* (1995). Her feature debut *Band* premiered at Hot Docs Festival in 2022.

BEHIND THE HAYSTACKS

PISO APO TIS THIMONIES



SAT 10 JUN 6:30 PM PNORT3 **15+**
SUN 11 JUN 12:30 PM DNT3

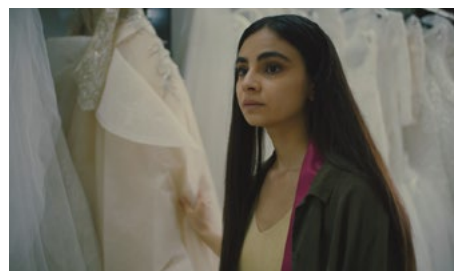
Greece, Germany, North Macedonia | 2022 | 120 mins | In Greek, Macedonian and Albanian with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Asimina Proedrou | Producers: Ioanna Bolomyti, Markus Halberschmidt, Vladimir Anastasov, Angela Nestorovska | Cast: Stathis Stamoulakatos, Lena Ouzounidou, Evgenia Lavda | Sales Agent: TVCO

Amongst the reeds of Doiran Lake, a group of children make a tragic discovery with wide-reaching consequences. Debt-ridden fisherman Stergios has been using the lake, which divides North Macedonia and Greece, to smuggle refugees for profit – a decision that draws him and his family into an intense moral quagmire. Told through an elliptical, *Rashomon*-esque narrative, director Asimina Proedrou gradually reveals the consequences of self-motivated desires and prejudices. Intense and visually lyrical, *Behind the Haystacks* is an exploration of religious hypocrisy, xenophobia and constrictive borders.



Asimina Proedrou is from Greece. Her short *Red Hulk* (2013) won a Golden Dionysus at Drama International Short Film Festival and the Best Short Film Award at Athens International Film Festival.

ELAHA



FRI 9 JUN 6:15 PM DNT2 **15+**
MON 12 JUN 3:30 PM PNORT3

Germany | 2023 | 110 mins | In Kurdish and German with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director: Milena Aboyan | Screenwriter: Milena Aboyan, Constantin Hatz | Producers: Matthias Greiving, Igor Dovgal | Cast: Bayan Layla, Derya Durmaz, Nazmi Kirik | Sales Agent: Pluto Film

ElaHa (Bayan Layla), a 22-year-old student, is on the cusp of becoming a bride. As her community buzzes with excitement, ElaHa struggles with the hidden knowledge that she's no longer a virgin. Knowing this would cause shame to her family and fiancé, she desperately searches for options to 'restore' her virginity. There's the costly surgery of hymen reconstruction, or blood capsule kits that assist with deception. But will any of it work? Director Milena Aboyan ratchets up the tension, while depicting her young protagonist's struggle for sexual self-determination with heart-rending grace.



Milena Aboyan, a Yazidi Kurd born in Armenia, has worked on the German ARD TV channel and studied screenwriting at the Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg. *ElaHa* is her feature debut.

Welcome to EUROPE! Voices of Women in Film's class of 2023: Milena Aboyan, Malene Choi, Claire Dix, Anna Hints, Carmen Jaquier, Tia Kouvo, Nafiss Nia, Álfurinn Örnólfsson, Asimina Proedrou and Marta Savina. In 2023, these 10 female filmmakers join the 70-plus before them who've stood in the celebratory spotlight that this essential Sydney Film Festival program strand has highlighted annually since 2016.

Their features and documentaries span everything from personal stories about life as a refugee to being an adopted teen torn between two worlds, and explore battling the patriarchy while trying to remain a dutiful daughter, tearing down sexist traditions, and fighting gender and age bias as well.

The bulk of this year's talented women directors grace the lineup with their debut films, too, sharing their pivotal voices with cinema lovers for the first time. As returning co-presenters, European Film Promotion and *Screen International* couldn't be more proud and delighted to champion their work in Sydney.

Sarah Ward, Film Critic, *Screen International*



For additional information on the featured films and filmmakers visit efp-online.com and sff.org.au

SFF welcomes the following film artists to the 2023 festival: Álfurinn Örnólfsson, Asimina Proedrou, Marta Savina, Anna Hints and Nafiss Nia.

FAMILY TIME

MUMMOLA



SAT 10 JUN 6:00 PM RITZ3 **15+**
THU 15 JUN 6:15 PM DNT3

Finland, Sweden | 2023 | 116 mins | In Finnish with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Tia Kouvo | Producers: Jussi Rantamäki, Emilia Haukka | Cast: Tom Wentzel, Leena Uotila, Elna Knihtilä | Sales Agent: The Match Factory

Beneath the sheen of holiday cheer, family gatherings can be stews of private resentments, regret and unspoken histories. Finnish director Tia Kouvo turns her camera's unsparring gaze on an extended family, who converge at a rustic cottage at the edge of a gorgeous, snow-capped wood for the Christmas season. Droning everyday chatter and mundane family rituals give way to a hothouse of deeper tensions, in this surgical exploration of suffocating private spaces. Sidestepping the usual salacious reveals, *Family Time* instead mines deadpan comedy and melancholy from things that cannot be easily said.



Tia Kouvo is a Finnish director-screenwriter who studied social psychology before attending the HDK-Valand Academy of Art and Design in Gothenburg. *Family Time* is her feature debut.

THE GIRL FROM TOMORROW

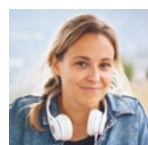
PRIMADONNA



THU 8 JUN 6:10 PM HOC5 **18+**
FRI 9 JUN 6:30 PM PNORT3

Italy, France | 2022 | 101 mins | In Italian with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Marta Savina | Producer: Virginia Valsecchi | Cast: Claudia Gusmano, Fabrizio Ferracane, Francesco Colella | Sales Agent: Vision Distribution

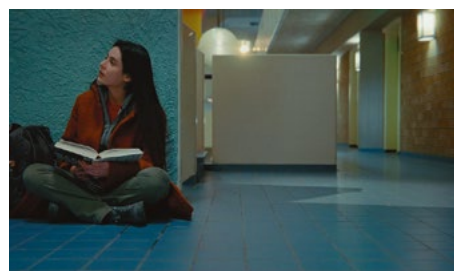
Based on true events in Sicily, 1965. Spirited daydreamer Lia finds her life derailed when her flirtation with a handsome local, Lorenzo, takes a horrific turn. Lia and her family take her case to the courts, battling intimidation from Lorenzo's powerful family, along with the immense social and legal pressures demanding Lia to marry her assailant. Marta Savina's assured debut has a contemporary feel as she tackles this revolutionary true story with immense skill and sensitivity. *The Girl from Tomorrow* is an urgent tale of self-determination and family love.



Marta Savina is a director and screenwriter who graduated from UCLA with an MFA in directing. Her Emmy-winning short film *Viola, Franca* premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival in 2017.

THAT AFTERNOON

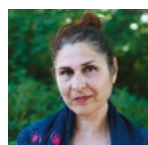
DIE MIDDAG



SAT 10 JUN 2:00 PM PALC1 **18+**
SUN 11 JUN 6:30 PM DNT2

Netherlands | 2023 | 76 mins | In Dutch, Farsi and English with English subtitles | International Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Nafiss Nia | Producer: Gijs Kerbosch | Cast: Hoda Niku, Ailin Wishka | Production Company: HALAL

Iranian refugee Roya is at an asylum seekers' facility, but her status has been rejected and she is to be sent back to Iran. She flees to her last hope – a nearby photographer known for offering a safe haven. But when Roya arrives, all is not so straightforward. She is denied entry by a man claiming to be the photographer's brother. Separated by a door, the two strike up a conversation, revealing their perspectives on trauma, displacement and the future. Though at first mistrustful of each other, they may be each other's last hope. Moving and complex, *That Afternoon* is a tale about boundaries and finding human connection in our darkest hour.



Nafiss Nia is Dutch-Iranian filmmaker. Since 2012, she's been the artistic director of the Granate Foundation, an organisation that promotes inclusivity in Dutch film and poetry.

THE QUIET MIGRATION

STILLE LIV



TUE 13 JUN 6:30 PM DNT2 **15+**
SAT 17 JUN 4:05 PM PALC1

Denmark | 2023 | 102 mins | In Danish with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director: Malene Choi | Screenwriters: Malene Choi, Sissel Dalsgaard Thomsen | Producer: Maria Møller Kjeldgaard | Cast: Cornelius Won Riedel-Clausen, Bjarne Henriksen, Bodil Jørgensen | Festival Contact: Danish Film Institute

An unspoken yearning for homeland simmers in this lush social drama. Carl, a South Korean adoptee, lives a dutiful existence in the picturesque Danish countryside, tending to the family farm he'll inherit one day. A quiet wound festers at his centre: Carl lives in a land where nobody looks like him, where family members openly decry migration. Director Malene Choi, also a South Korean adoptee, heightens Carl's emotional world through surreal flourishes, as he glimpses phantom impressions of his birth mother, and an ominous crack threatens to split the seemingly idyllic farmhouse in two.

Winner, FIPRESCI Prize, Panorama, Berlin.



Malene Choi was born in South Korea and raised in Denmark. Her debut feature, the hybrid docudrama *The Return*, received a Special Mention at Göteborg Film Festival in 2018.

THUNDER

FOUDRE



FRI 9 JUN 8:30 PM DNT2 **18+**
SAT 17 JUN 4:30 PM RITZ5

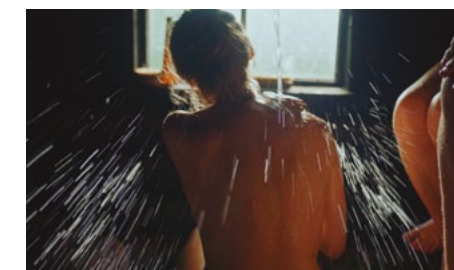
Switzerland | 2022 | 93 mins | In French with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Carmen Jaquier | Producer: Flavia Zanon | Cast: Liilth Grasmug, Mermoz Melchior, Benjamin Python | Sales Agent: WTFilms

In the summer of 1900, pious 17-year-old Elisabeth learns of the death of her sister, Innocente. Ripped away from the nunnery where she planned to spend her life, she returns home to the Valais valley, where her sister's name has become taboo. Then, an encounter with three village boys and Innocente's hidden diary awakens something fresh and wild in the touch-starved Elisabeth. Reminiscent of Jane Campion's *The Piano*, Carmen Jaquier's debut draws on the staggering beauty of the mountains and rivers, in an elemental portrayal of youth caught between restriction and discovery, desire and God.



Carmen Jaquier, born in Geneva, studied at the Ecole cantonale d'art de Lausanne. She directed the shorts *The Girls' Grave* (2011), *The Waves* (2012) and *At the Mermaid Parade* (2013).

SMOKE SAUNA SISTERHOOD



SAT 10 JUN 9:30 AM STATE **15+**
SUN 11 JUN 5:00 PM PNORT3
MON 12 JUN 3:45 PM DNT1

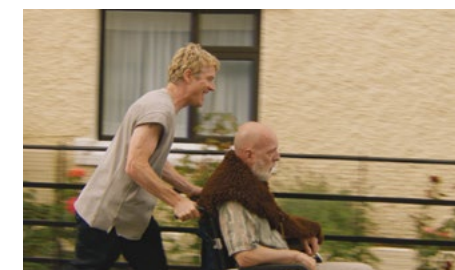
Estonia, France, Iceland | 2023 | 89 mins | In Estonian, Seto and Võro with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Anna Hints | Producer: Marianne Ostrat | Australian Distributor: Madman Entertainment

The practice of gathering in woodland smoke saunas is age-old tradition in Southern Estonia. In Anna Hints's engrossing documentary, the setting takes on a transcendent character, acting as a spiritual refuge for feminine intimacy. Women can comfortably exist in their nakedness, sharing their innermost thoughts on everything from family to self-esteem, traumatic births, and sexual assault. The intensity of their communion is balanced within the restorative atmosphere, where steam hisses over rocks and Edvard Egißson's score heightens this choral portrait of contemporary womanhood. Sundance 2023 Directing Award: World Cinema Documentary.



Anna Hints is an Estonian director. Hints's short documentary *For Tomorrow Paradise Arrives* (2021) initiated public awareness and grassroots movements against food waste in Estonia.

SUNLIGHT



SUN 11 JUN 6:15 PM HOC5 **15+**
SAT 17 JUN 2:30 PM RITZ5

Ireland | 2023 | 94 mins | In English | Australian Premiere
Director: Claire Dix | Screenwriter: Ailbhe Keogan | Producer: Roisin Geraghty | Cast: Barry Ward, Liam Carney, Maureen Beattie | Production Company: Keeper Pictures

How can you part with the person who makes life worth living? Former addict Leon sunnily bounces through life, brushing off the dealers who once had him in their thrall. He owes it all to his best friend, Viking enthusiast Iver. But Leon is destabilised when he discovers Iver has received a terminal diagnosis and is planning to pursue euthanasia. Determined to prolong his mentor's last days, Leon ropes Iver into one last romp across Dublin. Bolstered by the crackling chemistry between Barry Ward and Liam Carney, *Sunlight* is a poignant and hilarious ode to the power of friendship and change.



Claire Dix is a Dublin-based director and screenwriter. Her award-winning feature documentary *Broken Song* premiered at the Jameson Dublin International Film Festival in 2013.

FFS x SFF PLATFORM/ DEVELOPING PASSION PROJECTS PROCESS

Five years is a really long time. Five years ago Corona was a type of beer, TikTok was Musical.ly and neither Disney+ or Apple TV+ existed. In the same amount of time the average filmmaker will develop just one feature length film. But filmmakers need to keep pace with changes to their industry and audience, making upgrades essential for their creative projects as well as their creative processes.

Supported by the Screenrights Cultural Fund, For Film's Sake and the Sydney Film Festival are thrilled to launch Platform - a groundbreaking development incubator for emerging or established Australian filmmakers. Led by international experts and guests of the 70th edition of the Festival, ten outstanding talents will be challenged to form new creative partnerships to generate brand new projects within just four days. What they come up with will be pitched live within the SFF Hub to an expert industry jury and the general public. Maybe you'll spot the next dynamic duo, the next competition title or just a glimpse into film development done fast, furious and fearlessly. Either way, Platform is here for a good time, not a long time.

To read more, head to forfilmssake.org/platform





FIRST NATIONS

Sydney Film Festival is proud to present 13 titles directed or written by First Nations creatives. It's an impressive line-up of films from debut filmmakers to multi-award winners, from the Tiwi Islands to Tasmania and Taiwan, with an equally diverse range of stories.

In addition to the titles on these pages don't miss *The New Boy*, and the First Nations shorts screening across the Festival: *Babanil*, *Katele*, *Mamimikuwi*, *Marungka Tjalatju*, *Nyarpararla Malaju*, *Power to Country*.



GAGA

HA YONG JIA



SAT 10 JUN 3:00 PM EV3
MON 12 JUN 3:30 PM DNT3

15+

Taiwan | 2022 | 111 mins | In Atayal, Mandarin, English, Taiwanese Hokkien with English and Mandarin subtitles
Director: Laha Mebow | Screenwriters: Laha Mebow, Hsieh Hui Ching | Producer: Eric Liang | Cast: Lalin Wilang, Ali Batu, Noming Wilang | Sales Agent: Swallow Wings Films Co.

An Indigenous Taiwanese family is caught between traditions and modern challenges in this warm drama-comedy from Atayal filmmaker Laha Mebow. Best Director, Golden Horse Awards 2022.

Grandpa Hayung has spent his life following *gaga* – the spiritual traditions of the Indigenous Atayal people. Few others in the village outside of his family abide by *gaga* nowadays. That includes Mayor Toli, who has started encroaching on Hayung's land. Frustrated by the act of disrespect, eldest son Pasang runs for mayor, hoping to reclaim his family's status. However, competitive politics, an unexpected pregnancy and marital quarrels threaten the campaign – and further divides the community. Featuring a big-hearted ensemble of non-professional actors, Mebow beautifully depicts the complexities of modern family life that retains a connection to ancient culture.

Festival Guest: Laha Mebow

TWICE COLONIZED



SUN 11 JUN 4:00 PM DNT2
WED 14 JUN 7:40 PM PALC1

15+

Denmark, Canada, Greenland | 2023 | 92 mins | In Greenlandic, Inuktitut, English and Danish with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director: Lin Alluna | Screenwriters: Aaju Peter, Lin Alluna
Producers: Emilie Hertling Péronard, Alethea Arnaquq-Baril, Stacey Aglok MacDonald, Bob Moore | Sales Agent: Outlook Films

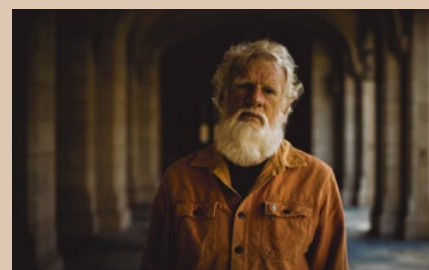
Renowned Greenlandic Inuit lawyer and activist Aaju Peter tells the story of her peoples' struggles, as well as her own, in this noteworthy documentary. Sundance and CPH:DOX selected.

Throughout her life, Aaju has experienced the insidious impact of colonisation on Indigenous societies. As a child, she was forced to attend school in Denmark, a long way from her family. She lost connection with her culture, as well as her native language. As an adult, she recognised the same patterns of colonisation whilst living in Iqaluit, Arctic Canada. Determined to fight for justice, she campaigned to create a permanent European Union forum to give a voice to all Indigenous peoples. Filmed over seven years, a period that included some dark times for Aaju, who is forced to face her own demons as she strives to create a better future for her community.

Screens with *To Be Silent*
Festival Guest: Lin Alluna

MORE FIRST NATIONS FILMS AT SFF

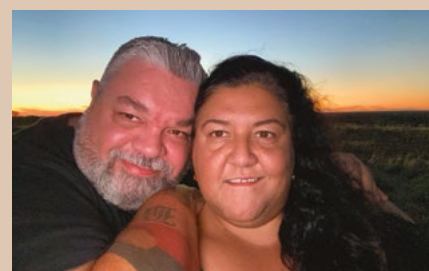
THE DARK EMU STORY



A thought provoking, revelatory and inspiring documentary telling the story of Bruce Pascoe's *Dark Emu* – the publishing phenomenon that challenged Australia to rethink its history and ignited a raging debate.

See page 7

KINDRED



A journey into the emotional landscape of family, love and loss of two close friends, both Aboriginal, who were adopted by white families and have connected back with their bloodline families.

See page 11

KEEPING HOPE



Mark Coles Smith, an Indigenous actor from the Kimberley, returns to interrogate the alarming suicide rates there and meet remarkable people now making a real difference in its prevention.

See page 11

THE LAST DAUGHTER



A poignant documentary co-directed by and featuring Wiradjuri woman Brenda Matthews on a journey to find her white family – and uncover the truth about her abduction.

See page 11

FAMILY

Everyone remembers the trip to the cinema as a kid that made them fall in love with movies! Share your love of cinema and all the film festival fun with the whole family, at these two big-hearted and entertaining animated films!



Elemental

ELEMENTAL



MON 12 JUN 2:00 PM STATE

ALL AGES

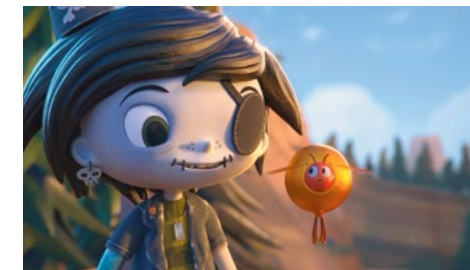
USA | 2023 | 102 mins | In English | Australian Premiere
Director: Peter Sohn | Screenwriters: John Hoberg, Kat Likkel, Brenda Hsueh | Producer: Denise Ream | Cast: Leah Lewis, Mamoudou Athie, Catherine O'Hara | Australian Distributor: The Walt Disney Company

Disney and Pixar's all-new feature introduces Ember, a tough, quick-witted and fiery young woman, whose friendship with a fun, sappy, go-with-the-flow guy named Wade challenges her beliefs about the world they live in.

Welcome to Element City, where fire-, water-, land- and air- residents live together. The story introduces Ember (voiced by Leah Lewis), a tough, quick-witted and fiery young woman, whose friendship with a fun, sappy, go-with-the-flow guy named Wade (Mamoudou Athie) challenges her beliefs about the world they live in. Directed by Peter Sohn (*The Good Dinosaur*), *Elemental* was created by the production team behind such iconic films as *Monsters Inc*, *The Incredibles*, *Up* and *Finding Nemo*.

Screens with short film *Carl's Date*: When Carl Fredrickson reluctantly agrees to go on a date with a lady friend, Dug steps in to calm Carl's pre-date jitters and offer some tried-and-true tips for making friends – if you're a dog.

SCARYGIRL



SAT 17 JUN 1:30 PM EV5
SUN 18 JUN 2:00 PM RITZ5

ALL AGES

Australia | 2023 | 90 mins | In English | World Premiere
Directors: Ricard Cusó, Tania Vincent | Screenwriters: Polly Watkins, Matt Everitt, Les Turner, Craig Behenna
Producers: Sophie Byrne, Nadine Bates, Kristen Souvlis
Cast: Jillian Nguyen, Sam Neill, Deborah Mailman
Australian Distributor: Madman Entertainment

Having a tentacle arm won't stop 12-year-old Arkie from rescuing her father from space bandits and saving the planet. An adventurous Australian animation featuring the voices of Sam Neill, Deborah Mailman, Tim Minchin and more.

Free spirited and cheerful Arkie (Jillian Nguyen) lives with her adoptive octopus father, Blister (Rob Collins), on a flourishing, colourful peninsula. Together they help regenerate plant life using their magical tentacles, with the help of friendly mechanical bees powered by sunrays. That's until space bandits invade and kidnap Blister – so that an evil scientist, Dr Maybee, can use his powers to sap the planet's life force and discover the key to immortality. Can Arkie rescue Blister in time to save her home from devastation? Based on the graphic novel, toy and game brand, and featuring a stellar celebrity voice cast, *Scarygirl* is a visual treat.

Festival guests: Members of the film team

Breakfast for your brain
with James Valentine



Radio SYDNEY

TUNE IN 702AM
listen

FREAK ME OUT

Freak Me Out is SFF headquarters for weird and wondrous motion picture entertainment. You're invited to enter our gallery of other-worldly delights where classy European fantasy, no-holds-barred action-exploitation epics, stunning satanic Aussie horror and a special double bill of supremely

strange South Korean creations are primed to take you on a wild ride to the far reaches of imagination.

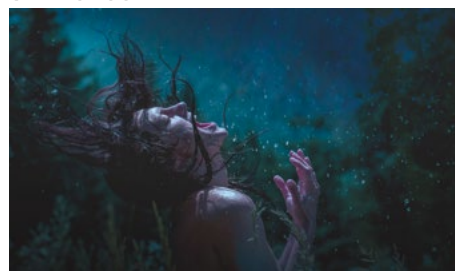
Richard Kuipers
Guest Programmer



Unidentified

NIGHTSIREN

SVETLONOC



MON 12 JUN 7:15 PM EV3 **18+**
SAT 17 JUN 6:30 PM DNT3

Slovakia, Czech Republic | 2022 | 109 mins | In Slovak with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director: Tereza Nvotová | Screenwriters: Barbora Námerová, Tereza Nvotová | Producer: Miloš Lochman | Cast: Natália Germáni, Eva Mores, Juliána Brůtvošková
Sales Agent: Intramovies

Ancient beliefs and modern fears collide in Tereza Nvotová's beguiling folk horror set in a remote Slovak mountain village. Best European feature, Sitges Fantastic FF 2022.

A shimmering, other-worldly atmosphere surrounds the tale of Šarlota, a 30-year-old nurse returning to her isolated hometown to claim an inheritance. Shunned by locals who remember her role in a tragedy 20 years ago, Šarlota, arrives to find her mother's house burned to the ground. The only friend in town is Mira, a free-spirited herbalist who forms an instant and powerful bond with Šarlota. As the women become closer, disturbing events start to occur and rumours take hold. In this male-dominated place where superstition runs deep, Šarlota and Mira are accused of witchcraft, with devastating consequences. Themes of misogyny, trauma and patriarchy are potently examined in this spellbinding modern horror film.

RAGING GRACE



THU 8 JUN 8:30 PM EV9 **18+**
TUE 13 JUN 8:30 PM EV9

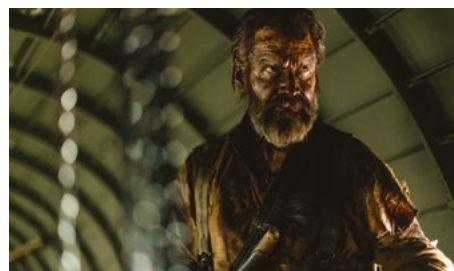
UK | 2023 | 99 mins | In English and Tagalog with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Paris Zarcilla | Producer: Chi Thai
Cast: Maxine Eigenmann, Jaeden Boadilla, David Hayman
Sales Agent: Blue Finch Films

A Filipino single mother becomes the housekeeper at a creepy British mansion in Paris Zarcilla's suspenseful debut thriller. SXSW Grand Jury Award, Narrative Feature.

A rich vein of social and political commentary runs through this spooky haunted house tale. Joy is almost invisible to the rich Londoners whose houses she cleans. With cheeky young daughter Grace to support and huge visa fees to pay if she wants to avoid deportation, Joy has to take any work she can find. Zarcilla's intelligent screenplay hits high gear when Joy lands a job as live-in caretaker at the musty manor of Mr Garrett, a terminally ill aristocrat with a haughty and patronising adult niece. Stark reality and scary fantasy are memorably combined as revelations about Garrett's family history and Grace's curiosity about her strange new home bring all kinds of demons into the open.

Screens with *AliEN0089*

SISU



SAT 10 JUN 8:40 PM DNT1 **18+**
MON 12 JUN 6:30 PM RITZ5
SUN 18 JUN 8:05 PM EV9

Finland | 2022 | 91 mins | In English, Russian and German with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Jalmari Helander | Producer: Petri Jokiranta | Cast: Jorma Tommila, Aksel Hennie, Jack Doolan | Australian Distributor: Sony Pictures Releasing

Stand aside Rambo, here's the one-man army to end them all! In Lapland, 1944, an old prospector exacts bloody revenge on Nazis who stole his gold.

Executed with dazzling modern flair while tipping its hat to no-nonsense action movies that dominated drive-ins in the '70s and home video in the '80s, *Sisu* is another triumph for Finnish filmmaker Jalmari Helander (*Rare Exports: A Christmas Tale*). Winner of Best Picture, Cinematography, Music and Best Actor (Jorma Tommila) at Sitges genre film festival, Helander's thunderous revenge tale has an irresistible simplicity and purity of purpose. All we need for a rollicking non-stop thrill ride is to watch grizzled old geezer Aatami (Tommila) change from mild-mannered miner into an unstoppable fighting machine. These nasty Nazis picked on the wrong guy.

Screens with *A.S.M.ortal*

LATE NIGHT WITH THE DEVIL



FRI 9 JUN 8:45 PM DNT1 **18+**
SUN 11 JUN 8:30 PM RITZ3
THU 15 JUN 6:30 PM EV9

Australia, UAE | 2023 | 92 mins | In English | Australian Premiere
Directors, Screenwriters: Colin Cairnes, Cameron Cairnes
Producers: Derek Dauchy, Mat Govoni, Steven Schneider, Roy Lee, Adam White, John Molloy | Cast: David Dastmalchian, Laura Gordon, Ian Bliss
Australian Distributor: Ahi Films

All demonic hell erupts on a US TV talk show in 1977. This brilliantly executed, documentary-style horror from Aussies Colin and Cameron Cairnes knocked 'em dead at SXSW.

For six long years late-night TV host Jack Delroy (the superb David Dastmalchian) has been runner-up in the ratings. Even belonging to shadowy power society, The Grove hasn't helped. But tonight is Halloween, and Jack plans to claim top spot with his guests including a sceptic, a famous psychic and a disturbed teenager who survived a Satanic death cult and claims to be hosting a demon called 'Mr Wiggles'. That's just the basics of a richly detailed and brilliantly assembled tale presented as the recently rediscovered master tape and behind-the-scenes footage of that fateful night. This spooky, gory and wickedly satirical snapshot of the post-*Exorcist* 'Satanic Panic' 1970s is a triumph for its Aussie creators.

Festival guests: Colin & Cameron Cairnes

THE WRATH OF BECKY



WED 7 JUN 8:40 PM DNT1 **18+**
WED 14 JUN 8:45 PM EV9

USA | 2022 | 83 mins | In English | Australian Premiere
Directors, Screenwriters: Matt Angel, Suzanne Coote
Producers: Russ Postemak, Raphael Margules, JD Lifshitz, Tracy Rosenblum, Chadd Harbold | Cast: Lulu Wilson, Seann William Scott, Denise Burse | Australian Distributor: Sony Pictures Releasing

This SXSW hit follows Becky, a 16-year-old waitress who takes spectacularly bloody revenge on the right-wing misogynist scumbags who murdered her friend and stole her dog.

Hell hath no fury like the heroine of this fast and ferocious revenge film. Lulu Wilson is dynamite as Becky, who's been laying low and honing her fighting skills since surviving violent events two years ago. But no peace is possible for her once a bunch of neo-Nazi morons calling themselves 'Noble Men' murder the only adult she trusts and kidnap her loyal hound. Executed with flair by directors Matt Angel and Suzanne Coote, this top-notch exploitation film delivers delightfully outlandish violence and snappy deadpan humour. The blood-soaked excitement never stops once Becky tracks down fascist leader Darryl (Seann William Scott) and teaches his gormless goons a thing or two about urban combat.

SOUTH KOREAN STRANGENESS
DOUBLE FEATURE:

UNIDENTIFIED & THE FIFTH THORACIC VERTEBRA

SUN 11 JUN 8:45 PM DNT1 **18+**
FRI 16 JUN 8:20 PM DNT3

A celebration of weird and wonderful Korean cinema. Jude Chun's absurdist sci-fi *Unidentified* and Park Syeyoung's beautifully bizarre body horror *The Fifth Thoracic Vertebra*.

Alongside recent Korean commercial hits there's a wave of extraordinary indie fantasy features. In the marvellously eccentric *Unidentified*, UFOs have been hovering over major cities since 1993. Have extraterrestrials silently infiltrated Seoul since then? That might explain why everyone from office workers to fortune tellers is behaving very strangely. Alien nation or alienation?

In *The Fifth Thoracic Vertebra* (Best Director, Audience Award, Bucheon 2022), a fungus that feeds on human spines attaches itself to a mattress. This outré horror takes us to provocative and unexpectedly touching places as the mattress moves from owner to owner and the creature inside begins to grow. Strange bedfellows, indeed.

UNIDENTIFIED

MI-HWAK-IN



South Korea | 2022 | 80 mins | In Korean, Turkish, Polish, Khmer, Yoruba, German, Chinese and French with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Jude Chun | Producers: Ahn Hyeon Jun, Yena Gim | Cast: Jang Sun, Kim Hyeon, Jeon Hohyeon
Festival Contact: Jude Chun

THE FIFTH THORACIC VERTEBRA

DASEOS BEONJAE HYUNGCHU



South Korea | 2022 | 65 mins | In Korean with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Park Syeyoung | Producers: Park Syeyoung, Park Jihyeon | Cast: Park Jihyeon, Moon Hyein, Haam Seokyoung | Sales Agent: Indiestory Inc.

LATE NIGHT PARTY WITH THE DEVIL

THU 15 JUNE 6:30PM
SCREENING - EVENT CINEMAS GEORGE ST
POST-PARTY - THE HUB, LOWER TOWN HALL

Tickets \$45 inc film and party.

For all those freaks who love Freak Me Out! A late night party to worship all things that go bump in the cinema, following a screening of *Late Night With the Devil*. This possessing line-up includes magic, music and occult-inspired delights. Dressing freaky encouraged. Holy water not available, but there will be a drink on arrival.



Late Night With the Devil

Proud to play our part

The City of Sydney is proud to partner with Sydney Film Festival.

We are committed to supporting arts and culture in our city.

CITY OF SYDNEY

SCREENABILITY

Celebrate the talent of film creatives with disability with this outstanding line-up featuring the Australian premieres of SXSW Grand Jury Prize-winning *Angel Applicant*; powerful documentary *Is There Anybody Out There?*;

the fiction-non-fiction exploration of sound *The Tuba Thieves*; and the world premieres of three homegrown short films. **Rebecca McCormack**, Screenability Programmer

All films on this page are accessible:

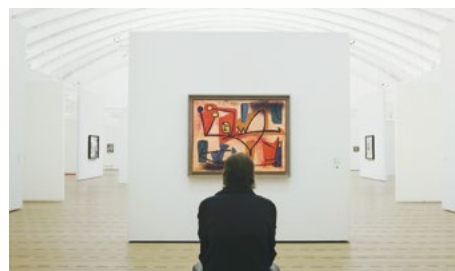


Check sff.org.au for access details, including audio description and captioning.



Chum

ANGEL APPLICANT



THU 8 JUN 6:15 PM DNT2 **15+**
SAT 10 JUN 2:00 PM DNT2

USA | 2023 | 75 mins | In English | Australian Premiere
Director: Ken August Meyer | Producers: Ken August Meyer, Jason Roark | Sales Agent: Obscured Pictures

Winner of the SXSW Grand Jury Award, Ken August Meyer brings a unique perspective to the works of artist Paul Klee, drawing parallels between their experiences of a life-threatening illness.

As art director Meyer finds his symptoms from the autoimmune disease systemic sclerosis intensifying, he finds a deep connection in the work of esteemed Swiss-German painter Paul Klee. Forced to flee Nazi Germany, Klee began suffering from a range of mysterious symptoms, which had a powerful impact on his art. Filmed over ten years and titled after one of Klee's last works, *Angel Applicant* is a visually stunning, inventive and often humorous documentary. An immensely personal exploration of the paintings of Klee – and how to find solace in art – told from an enlightening perspective.

Screens with *Chum*

IS THERE ANYBODY OUT THERE?



MON 12 JUN 4:30 PM DNT2 **15+**
THU 15 JUN 6:30 PM DNT2

UK | 2023 | 87 mins | In English | Australian Premiere
Director: Ella Glendining | Producer: Janine Marmot
Australian Distributor: Madman Entertainment

Born with a disability so rare that no reliable statistics about it exist, Ella Glendining goes on a global search for answers and others who share her experience.

While UK filmmaker and writer Ella, who was born without hip joints and with short thigh bones, loves her body fiercely, she has to navigate ableism and discrimination daily. "There is this missing piece of the puzzle in my life... finding someone exactly like me," she says, commencing a search. A revealing and powerful documentary, *Is There Anybody Out There?* chronicles Ella's quest across the globe, combining her personal diaries with conversations with family members, friends, specialists and other individuals with shared experiences. Along the way, Ella continues to challenge societal expectations and finds lasting connections.

Screens with *Fighting*

THE TUBA THIEVES



WED 14 JUN 6:15 PM DNT2 **15+**
SAT 17 JUN 1:45 PM DNT2

USA | 2023 | 91 mins | In English and subtitles
Australian Premiere

Director, Screenwriter: Alison O'Daniel | Producers: Alison O'Daniel, Rachel Nederveld, Su Kim, Maya E. Rudolph
Sales Agent: Cinephil

A wave of tuba thefts in southern Californian schools prompts filmmaker and d/Deaf artist Alison O'Daniel's Sundance-selected fiction-non-fiction exploration into sound – and its absence.

Debut director O'Daniel reframes the impact of the 2011-2013 tuba burglaries into a stunning exploration of sound in this audacious docudrama that premiered in Sundance's NEXT strand. O'Daniel's groundbreaking work, drawing on her own experiences, features debut actor Warren 'Wawa' Snipe and newcomer Nyeisha 'Nyke' Prince alongside Russell Harvard and renowned d/Deaf sound artist Christine Sun Kim. The result challenges the audience to re-evaluate the meaning of sound, using some highly inventive methods, including creative captioning.

Screens with *14 in February*

SCREEN NSW SHORTS

14 IN FEBRUARY

Australia | 2023 | 9 mins | In English
World Premiere

Director, Screenwriter: Victoria Singh-Thompson
Producers: Lily Warland, Pip Smart, Anna Mannix
Cast: Amelia Kroehnert, Julian Garner
Festival Contact: Lily Warland

When Arabella, a hard-of-hearing student, spends time discussing schoolwork with Mr Chapman, she starts to find herself isolated. As her teacher's grooming unfolds, she must hold onto the good energy that surrounds her.

CHUM

Australia | 2023 | 12 mins | In English
World Premiere

Director: Jason King | Screenwriter: Eliza South
Producers: John Larkin, Marisa Zamora, Aaron Bush
Cast: Eliza South, Matt Doran | Festival Contact: Marisa Zamora

When Mary, a fiercely independent woman with vision impairment, has a mishap, a stranger steps in to help. The two bond – but Mary notices all isn't quite as it seems.

FIGHTING

Australia | 2023 | 10 mins | In English
World Premiere

Director, Screenwriter: Xavier Coy | Producer, Festival Contact: Geraldine Coy | Cast: Toby Blome, Matthew Whittet, Emma O'Sullivan

Xavier, a man living with Bipolar, wakes up with a goading presence in his room, soon joined by a more supportive character. As these two presences battle, he must rise above the bickering and ready himself for the day.

in water

mul-an-e-seo



MON 12 JUN 4:30 PM PALC1 **ALL AGES**
SUN 18 JUN 7:45 PM PALC1

South Korea | 2023 | 61 mins | In Korean with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director, Screenwriter, Producer: Hong Sang-soo | Cast: Shin Seok-ho, Ha Seong-guk, Kim Seung-yun | Sales Agent: Finecut Co. Ltd.

A double bill of optical experiments courtesy of prolific South Korean auteur Hong Sang-soo and an eye-popping 3D short set in a Barcelona maze.

"Why is your film blurry, director Hong?" "When it came to the first day of shooting and I was focusing the camera, I just decided to shoot out of focus. I really don't know. It wasn't intentional." Hong Sang-soo's most experimental work to date disassembles cinema's elemental structures with a wink to the spontaneous whims of the artistic process. The story is simple: a young director and two friends spend the weekend on Jeju Island. They wander, search for creative inspiration, drink soju, rinse and repeat. Hong conveys this sparse narrative in shafts of light, daubs of colour and smudged forms along a rocky coastline. Such impressionistic images demand active spectatorship and a recalibrated attentiveness to cinema's sensual pleasures.

Screens with *Laberint sequences*

LAST THINGS



THU 8 JUN 6:15 PM PALC1 **ALL AGES**
WED 14 JUN 6:15 PM PALC1

USA, Portugal, France | 2023 | 50 mins | In English and French with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Deborah Stratman | Producer: Deborah Stratman, Anže Peršin, Gaëlle Boucand | Cast: Valérie Massadian, Marcia Bjørnerud | Production Company: Pythagoras Film

A virtuosic and experimental ode to the mineral kingdom – via early French sci-fi, microscopic footage and polyphonic song.

Acclaimed filmmaker Deborah Stratman's latest work explores the past and future of the earth through some of its most elemental materials. Set to a propulsive soundtrack of alien blips by Brian Eno and Okkyung Lee, *Last Things* tells a 13-billion-year-old story of mineral evolution. Iridescent crystals spin and exquisite fractal patterns bloom. The camera zooms out to lunar landscapes and in on chondrules (droplets of solar nebula) glimmering like stained glass under a microscope. Stratman's camera ekes wonder from seemingly inert matter, celebrating – in her words – the 'delicious candy snack' appeal of the geo-biosphere. Embracing otherworldly visual thrills, *Last Things* downplays the apocalyptic drama of a world without humans to take pleasure in the unknown. Winner of the short film prize at 2023 Cinéma du Réel.

Screens with *How to Build a Forest*

CONNECTION OF THE STICKS



TUE 13 JUN 8:05 PM PALC1
SAT 17 JUN 2:15 PM PALC1

ALL AGES

Australia | 2021 | 82 mins | In an Invented language, Polish and Russian with English subtitles
Director, Screenwriter, Producer: Kuba Dorabalski | Cast: Kuba Dorabalski, Bruno Dorabalski, Roland Dorabalski
Festival Contact: Kuba Dorabalski

Theatrical premiere of one of the most visually arresting works of local artists' cinema in recent years, evoking life in the former Soviet Union.

Shot as a series of stunning vignettes across three countries, Polish-Australian artist Kuba Dorabalski's extraordinary film conjures the mystique and mysticism of the former Soviet Union. A champion ski jumper collides with ball lightning. Witches conduct wartime sabotage. Ecstatic dance resurrects a revolutionary leader. While party apparatchiks promoted socialism as a technologically advanced, 'scientific' project, Dorabalski uncovers a world in thrall to everyday magic and miracles. Narrated in a fictional pan-Slavic language with absurdist flair, *Connections of the Sticks* transports us to the Eastern Bloc as it lives on in retro-futurist fantasies, diasporic nostalgia and half-remembered family legends.

Festival Guest: Kuba Dorabalski

HELLO DANKNESS



FRI 9 JUN 8:30 PM EV9 **15+**
SUN 11 JUN 7:30 PM PALC1

Australia | 2022 | 69 mins | In English
Director, Screenwriter, Producer: Soda Jerk
Festival Contact: Soda Jerk

Straight from sell-out screenings in Berlin and New York, Australia's preeminent pirate archivists Soda Jerk (*Terror Nullius*, SFF 2018) return for a hometown premiere of their latest political parable.

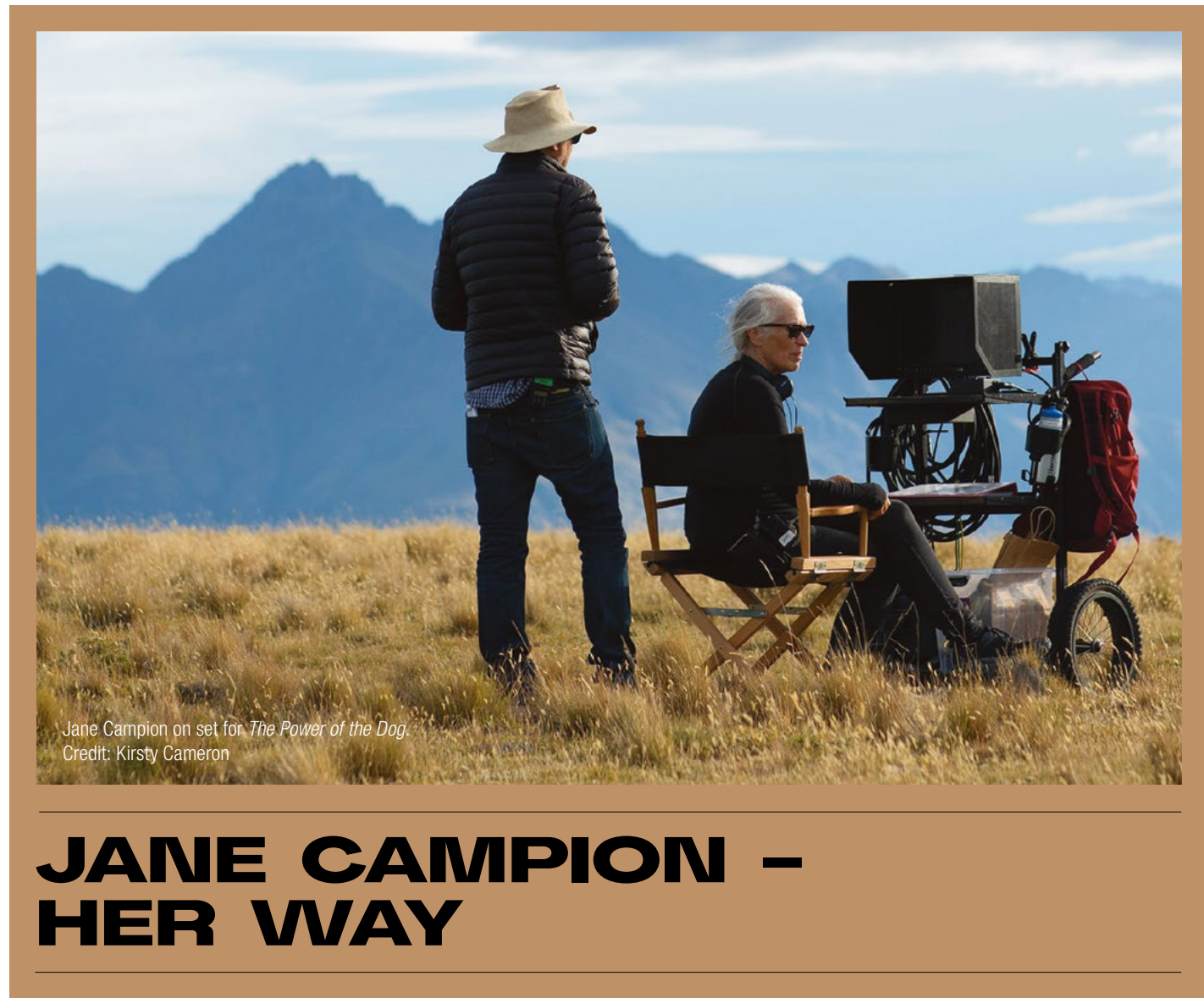
Comprising hundreds of bootlegged samples, *Hello Dankness* is a bent suburban musical that bears witness to the right-wing populist spectacle of Trumpian politics. The film follows a local neighbourhood in the bizarre years of 2016 to 2021 as consensus reality discombobulates into online conspiracies and other social contagions. What unfolds is a rogue retelling of recent history in which hotdogs debate the culture wars, trashcans preach QAnon, political debate is meme-ified, and real events are refashioned as Broadway bangers from *Cats*, *Les Misérables*, *Annie*, and *The Phantom of the Opera*. Begun in 2019 and laboured on throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, *Hello Dankness* never loses sight of the way that apparent unreality is tethered to real material inequalities and deep cultural fissures.

Festival Guests: Soda Jerk



screen.nsw.gov.au

Image still from Screenability film *Chum*.
Photo Adam Edwards



JANE CAMPION – HER WAY

A cursory glance at most biographies of Jane Campion will reveal a focus on the same landmark awards – she was the first woman to win the Palme d’Or at Cannes for *The Piano*, and the only two-time female Oscar nominee (including one win) for Best Director. Certainly, these prizes are monumental, but offer only a glimpse of the full depth of the idiosyncrasy, originality, and stylistic and tonal diversity that characterises her extensive body of work.

From the abrasive comedy of *Sweetie* and *Holy Smoke* to the lyrical melodrama of *An Angel at My Table* and *Bright Star*, to the genre-defying *In the Cut* and *The Power of the Dog*, Campion’s chief trademark as an auteur is her range – despite her unabashed feminism and the recurrence of strong-willed female characters, she proved to be an equally keen observer of masculinity in all its guises.

Born in New Zealand to parents enmeshed in the country’s tightly knit theatre community, Campion grew up with an affinity for actors that would anticipate the surprising casting coups of her later work (Meg Ryan’s darkly carnal role in *In the Cut*, Benedict Cumberbatch as an aggressively macho ranch-owner in *The Power of the Dog*). She entered the Australian film industry while studying at AFTRS, where she made a series of exceptional short films including *Peel*, which won the Palme d’Or for Best Short Film at Cannes in 1986.

From there, Campion began an extraordinary run culminating in the phenomenon of *The Piano*, and even then, used her platform to make films that confounded critics – at least many male ones, who Campion once cheekily described as a “mountain of corduroy you have to get through.”

Always a few steps ahead of the zeitgeist, with a profoundly interconnected body of work, it’s a thrill to offer audiences the chance to experience this diverse range of films that nonetheless tell one extraordinary girl’s own story.

Introduction and film notes by **Melba Proestos**

Presented by Sydney Film Festival in association with ACMI and NFSA



JANE CAMPION, THE CINEMA WOMAN



SAT 10 JUN 2:00 PM STATE ALL AGES
THU 15 JUN 6:00 PM HOC5

France | 2022 | 98 mins | In English | Australian Premiere
Director: Julie Bertuccelli | Producer: Estelle Fialon
Sales Agent: Westend Films

Filmmaker Julie Bertuccelli (*The Tree*, SFF 2010) draws the portrait that Jane Campion deserves in a Cannes-selected documentary that is unapologetically subjective, mirroring Campion’s own indelible body of work.

Brimming with candid anecdotes and a treasure trove of never-before-seen archival footage, this is an insightful and wildly entertaining documentary. César Award-winning director Bertuccelli charts Campion’s extraordinary life journey from her childhood under theatre-world parents in New Zealand, to her young adulthood as a film school pariah in Sydney (“I didn’t want to compete with the [male students]... I just wanted to tell stories that were so private they couldn’t even imagine them”), to Cannes darling and internationally renowned auteur. Campion proves a generous raconteur of her own story – with one of the most infectious laughs in the game – in this treat for Campion devotees and fans of mould-breaking artists alike.

Festival Guest: Jane Campion

TWO FRIENDS



SUN 11 JUN 10:15 AM AGNSW PG

Australia | 1986 | 76 mins | In English
Director: Jane Campion | Screenwriter: Helen Garner
Producer: Jan Chapman | Cast: Kris Bidenko, Emma Coles, Kris McQuade | Rights Holder: ABC Licensing.
16mm Print Source: National Film and Sound Archive

Premiering at Cannes, Campion’s captivating first feature depicts the budding – and unravelling – friendship between two Sydney teenage girls, told in reverse order.

Made for the ABC in 1986 and with a berth in Un Certain Regard at Cannes – three years before *Sweetie* – Campion’s little-seen debut was the first of several feature collaborations with producer Jan Chapman (*Bright Star*, *Holy Smoke*, *The Piano*). Written by renowned Australian novelist Helen Garner, it’s an absorbing tale of adolescence and friendship revealed in reverse. In five episodes, Campion deftly charts the complicated bond between two 15-year-olds, studious Louise (Emma Coles) and defiant Kelly (Kris Bidenko), from their relationship’s painful dissolution to its hopeful beginning.

Screens with *Peel*

SWEETIE



SUN 11 JUN 2:00 PM AGNSW M

Australia | 1989 | 97 mins | In English
Director: Jane Campion | Screenwriters: Jane Campion, Gerard Lee | Producer: John Maynard
Cast: Genevieve Lemon, Karen Colston, Tom Lycos
Rights Holder: Felix Media. 35mm Print Source: National Film and Sound Archive

Campion’s wild side was out in full force in her 1989 breakthrough, about the love-hate relationship between two odd sisters, which over time has lost none of its radical edge.

Greeted with a chorus of impassioned cheers and jeers when it premiered at Cannes in 1989, this bold, bawdy and often harrowing tale of two sisters announced Campion’s arrival as an uncompromising new cinematic voice. Exploring the fractious relationship between the volatile *Sweetie* (Genevieve Lemon in a star making turn) and the introverted Kay (Karen Colston), Campion refuses easy psychology and diagnoses. She challenges audiences to reckon with *Sweetie*’s increasingly erratic behaviour without the benefit of simple answers, just as the characters in her orbit do. As Lemon herself cheerfully admitted, “Campion wanted [audiences] to be bugged by *Sweetie*.”

Screens with *A Girl’s Own Story*

Festival guests: John Maynard and members of the film team

AN ANGEL AT MY TABLE



MON 12 JUN 10:15 AM AGNSW PG

New Zealand, Australia | 1990 | 158 mins | In English
Director: Jane Campion | Screenwriter: Laura Jones
Producer: Bridget Ikin | Cast: Kerry Fox, Alexia Keogh, Karen Fergusson | Rights Holder: Felix Media. Film courtesy of Te Tumu Whakaata Taonga New Zealand Film Commission

Falsely diagnosed with schizophrenia as an adult, Janet Frame was one of New Zealand’s most acclaimed authors. Her extraordinary life was chronicled in three autobiographical novels that were adapted into this enthralling and heartbreaking epic.

Based on three autobiographical novels by Janet Frame about her coming of age from the 1930s onward, Campion’s film (SFF 1990) is a lyrical and heart-wrenching coming-of-age tale. It charts Frame’s life from her childhood through to her time in a psychiatric hospital (following a misdiagnosis of schizophrenia) to international fame. Featuring an outstanding performance from Kerry Fox as the adult Frame, *An Angel at My Table* is a fascinating study of a rare subject: the stigma of female genius. Revered director Claire Denis (*Beau Travail*) said, “this film changed my life as a woman, not simply as a filmmaker.” Grand Special Jury Prize, Venice 1990.

Festival Guest: Bridget Ikin

IN THE CUT



SAT 17 JUN 1:30 PM AGNSW R18+

Australia, UK, USA | 2003 | 119 mins | In English
Director: Jane Campion | Screenwriters: Jane Campion, Susanna Moore | Producers: Nicole Kidman, Laurie Parker
Cast: Meg Ryan, Mark Ruffalo, Jennifer Jason Leigh
Rights Holder: Felix Media. 35mm Print Source: Sony Pictures Releasing

Meg Ryan and Mark Ruffalo toe the line of predator and prey in Campion’s intoxicating and controversial adaptation of Susanna Moore’s erotic novel that defies convention.

Meg Ryan slashes her sweetheart screen persona as a New York City English teacher who becomes dangerously involved with a detective (Ruffalo) investigating the brutal murder of a young woman, in what remains Campion’s most provocative and polarising film. Adapted from Susanna Moore’s novel of the same name and impressionistically shot by Oscar-winning Australian cinematographer Dion Beebe (*Holy Smoke*), Campion uses the erotic thriller as a Trojan horse for her ongoing exploration of female autonomy and desire. The film notoriously divided critics – but not David Stratton and Margaret Pomeranz, who both gave it five stars on *The Movie Show*, with Pomeranz deeming it “absolutely the best film that Jane Campion has ever made.”

Screens with *After Hours*

THE PIANO



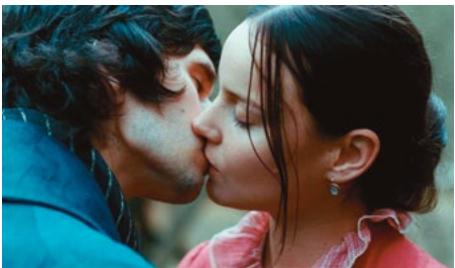
MON 12 JUN 2:00 PM AGNSW M
TUE 13 JUN 6:30 PM HOC5

New Zealand, Australia, France | 1993 | 120 mins | In English and Māori with subtitles
Director: Jane Campion | Screenwriter: Jane Campion
Producer: Jan Chapman | Cast: Holly Hunter, Anna Paquin, Harvey Keitel | Australian Distributor: Icon Distribution

A haunting love triangle between a non-verbal pianist, her arranged husband and a reclusive sailor only scratches the surface of the film that made Campion a household name – and won her a Palme d’Or and an Oscar.

Campion’s previous films put her on the map; *The Piano* launched her into the stratosphere. In her Oscar-winning role, Holly Hunter is unforgettable as Ada, a non-verbal pianist who arrives on the shores of 1850s New Zealand with her young daughter (Oscar winner Anna Paquin) and the beloved piano in tow, for an arranged marriage to a man (Sam Neill) she’s never met. When Ada’s new husband trades her piano to their neighbour (Harvey Keitel), she agrees to a deal to buy it back, key by key. A blend of sweeping period melodrama and overt feminist allegory that made Campion the first ever woman Palme d’Or recipient, also winning three Oscars and becoming a box office juggernaut, this masterpiece recently ranked in the top 50 of *Sight and Sound*’s critics’ poll of the greatest films of all time.

BRIGHT STAR



SUN 18 JUN 10:15 AM AGNSW PG

Australia, UK | 2009 | 119 mins | In English
Director, Screenwriter: Jane Campion | Producers: Jan Chapman, Caroline Hewitt | Cast: Abbie Cornish, Ben Whishaw, Paul Schneider | Rights Holder: Roadshow Entertainment. 35mm Print Source: National Film and Sound Archive

Ben Whishaw and Abbie Cornish shine in this achingly beautiful love story between poet John Keats and Fanny Brawne, shot with lyricism by Oscar-winning DP Greig Fraser (*Dune*).

After a six-year gap between features, Campion returned with an intimate but emotionally walloping romantic tragedy about the love affair between legendary poet John Keats (Whishaw) and Fanny Brawne (Cornish). Shot in gorgeous naturalistic hues by cinematographer Greig Fraser and featuring delicate, empathetic performances from Cornish and Whishaw, it makes an apt companion piece to *An Angel at My Table*, focusing on the inner torment of artists and reuniting Campion with Kerry Fox in the role as Fanny’s mother. *Bright Star* is a visual and poetic wonder.

Screens with *The Water Diary*

THE PORTRAIT OF A LADY



WED 14 JUN 7:00 PM AGNSW PG

UK, USA | 1996 | 144 mins | In English
Director: Jane Campion | Screenwriter: Laura Jones
Producers: Monty Montgomery, Steve Golin | Cast: Nicole Kidman, Barbara Hershey, John Malkovich
Rights Holder, Print Source: Park Circus

Henry James’s classic tale becomes as much Campion’s own, with a star-studded cast led by Nicole Kidman. A lavish period drama of innocence lost, told through a searing contemporary lens.

From its opening montage featuring images of contemporary womanhood, Campion’s follow-up to *The Piano* similarly defies expectations of the ‘period drama’, turning the heroine of Henry James’s 1881 novel into a classic Campion subject. Kidman plays Isabel Archer, a naive heiress who falls for the dashing Gilbert Osmond (John Malkovich) only to find herself trapped in a loveless marriage and subject to the manipulations of Madame Serena Merle (an Oscar-nominated Barbara Hershey). With sumptuous cinematography and an extraordinary cast (Richard E. Grant, Mary-Louise Parker, Christian Bale, Viggo Mortensen, Shelley Winters and Shelley Duvall), this epic boldly defies genre conventions.

THE POWER OF THE DOG



SUN 18 JUN 2:00 PM AGNSW M

New Zealand, Australia | 2021 | 128 mins | In English
Director, Screenwriter: Jane Campion | Producers: Jane Campion, Tanya Seghatchian, Emile Sherman, Iain Canning, Roger Frappier | Cast: Benedict Cumberbatch, Kirsten Dunst, Jesse Plemons | Rights Holder, 35mm Print Source: Netflix

Campion won her second Oscar for this gripping Western exploring masculinity, starring Benedict Cumberbatch, Kirsten Dunst, Jesse Plemons and Kodi Smit-McPhee.

Montana, 1925. The Burbank brothers, Phil (Cumberbatch) and George (Plemons) own a sprawling and successful cattle ranch, and still share a bedroom. Where George is taciturn, Phil is charismatic, hyper-masculine and a bully – constantly taunting his brother. When George secretly marries the gentle, restaurant-owning widow Rose (Dunst), her very presence enrages Phil. He’s even more antagonistic towards her sensitive son Peter (Smit-McPhee). Campion brilliantly ramps up the tension as these characters, at undeclared war with each other, head towards a shocking climax. With a tremendous score by Radiohead’s Jonny Greenwood, both beautiful and unnerving, and uniformly fine performances, *The Power of the Dog* (SFF 2021) is a triumph.

HOLY SMOKE



SAT 17 JUN 10:15 AM AGNSW MA15+

Australia, USA | 1999 | 115 mins | In English
Director: Jane Campion | Screenwriters: Jane Campion, Anna Campion | Producer: Jan Chapman
Cast: Kate Winslet, Harvey Keitel, Pam Grier
Rights Holder: Park Circus. 35mm Print Source: National Film and Sound Archive

The Australian outback sets the scene for a hallucinatory battle of wills between Kate Winslet and Harvey Keitel, in Campion’s stimulating, offbeat blend of spirituality and sexuality.

Returning to the darkly comic territory of *Sweetie* but moving the sibling dynamic offscreen (Campion co-wrote the script with her sister Anna Campion), *Holy Smoke* stars Keitel as a deprogrammer sent to Australia by the parents of Ruth (Winslet, sporting a pitch-perfect Aussie accent), alarmed that their daughter has embraced a guru’s teachings a little too devoutly on her recent trip to India. A battle of the sexes ensues in this wild and surreal film, which Campion says was inspired by her interest in “the question of how you have a spiritual life in the ‘90s and in the connections of spirituality, eroticism, and love.”

Screens with *Passionless Moments*

JANE CAMPION SHORTS

PEEL

Australia | 1982 | 9 mins | In English
Winner of the 1986 Cannes Palme d’Or for Best Short Film, Campion’s first film school project is portrayed by a real family of rambunctious redheads.
Screens with *Two Friends*

A GIRL’S OWN STORY

Australia | 1983 | 27 mins | In English
This ‘60s coming-of-age tale packed with iconic imagery and memorable musical moments won the 1984 Rouben Mamoulian Award at SFF and Best Achievement in Direction at AFI.
Screens with *Sweetie*

PASSIONLESS MOMENTS

Australia | 1983 | 13 mins | In English
Winner of the 1984 AFI Award for Best Experimental Film, Campion’s collection of awkwardly familiar and embarrassing vignettes went on to wow Cannes audiences.
Screens with *Holy Smoke*

AFTER HOURS

Australia | 1984 | 29 mins | In English
After Hours provocatively depicts the gamut of responses when a young office worker reports her boss for sexual harassment. An ahead-of-its-time examination of truth and power.
Screens with *In the Cut*

THE WATER DIARY

Australia, France | 2006 | 18 mins | In English
An extreme drought is seen through the eyes of a young girl in country NSW, narrated by Alice Englert (*Ginger & Rosa*), starring alongside Genevieve Lemon (*Sweetie*).
Screens with *Bright Star*

AMITABH BACHCHAN: BACK TO THE BEGINNING

Last year marked the 80th birthday of Indian screen icon Amitabh Bachchan, whose signature combination of tough-guy charisma and emotional depth has made him one of the most beloved public figures in the country. The occasion prompted a remarkable retrospective of his classic films, curated and restored by the Film Heritage Foundation.

The Bachchan Back to the Beginning Festival screened in 19 Indian cities and was a huge success – a testament to Bachchan's enduring appeal. These four titles selected from that program offer a captivating look at the star's dominance in the 1970s. Bachchan became the 'Angry Young Man' during a decade of social upheaval, and indeed all these films confront issues like class, poverty and bigotry. They are also Hindi cinema at its finest: filled with action, melodrama, life-affirming musical numbers – and Bachchan's enthralling screen presence.

Introduction and film notes by **Jim Poe**



Amar Akbar Anthony

CLASSICS RESTORED



The Driver's Wife

THE DEVIL QUEEN

A RAINHA DIABA



WED 14 JUN 8:30 PM DNT3

18+

Brazil | 1973 | 99 mins | In Portuguese with English subtitles

Director, Screenwriter: Antonio Carlos da Fontoura
Producer: Roberto Farias | Cast: Milton Gonçalves, Stepan Nercessian, Odete Lara | Print/Rights: CinemaScópio

Picture a cross between *City of God* and John Waters: this 1973 Brazilian classic's mix of gangster grit, colourful camp and LGBTQIA+ pride is still ahead of its time.

Antonio Carlos da Fontoura's wild romp through the underbelly of Rio de Janeiro has been beautifully restored for its 50th anniversary. Milton Gonçalves gives an astonishing performance as the titular Devil Queen, an imperious crime boss who is as fabulous as she is feared by her minions. When the Queen allows a treacherous partner (Nelson Xavier) to set up a cocky young rube (Stepan Nercessian) to protect her rackets (and her favorite handsome young dealer) from the cops, all hell breaks loose in a bloodbath of double-crosses and revenge. Pulsing with the tropical soul of Rio, funny and delightful but also lurid and violent, this unrestrained and unforgettable film (screened in Berlinale 2023) is still the wildest of rides.

HAIRSPRAY



THU 8 JUN 7:00 PM EV5

PG

USA | 1988 | 89 mins | In English
Director, Screenwriter: John Waters | Producer: Rachel Talalay | Cast: Ricki Lake, Divine, Ruth Brown
Print/Rights: Roadshow Films

Crack out the teasing comb and a fresh can of hairspray for this recently restored cult classic that pops with '60s kitsch, signature John Waters wit and the grooviest moves!

It's the heyday of hairdos, Baltimore 1962, and Tracy Turnblad (Ricki Lake) is desperate for a spot on the local teen dance show. Her successful audition ousts fan favourite and spoiled brat Amber, whose pushy stage parents (Debbie Harry, Sonny Bono) plot revenge. Meanwhile, with her friends and parents (Divine, Jerry Stiller), Tracy uses her newfound fame to rail against racial segregation on the show, causing chaos in the community, bordering on hysteria. *Hairspray* may appear a more mainstream offering from Waters, but this parody of teen and social-issues is underpinned by wickedly funny, subversive messages. Soak up the kitsch costumes, hoppin' soundtrack and performances that drip with camp delight!

A digital restoration of *Hairspray* marking the 100th anniversary of Warner Bros. Studios.

All tickets \$45 includes screening, The Hub party and drink on arrival.

DEEWAAR



WED 7 JUN 7:00 PM AGNSW

15+

India | 1975 | 165 mins | In Hindi with English subtitles
Director: Yash Chopra | Screenwriters: Salim Khan, Javed Akhtar | Producer: Gulshan Rai | Cast: Amitabh Bachchan, Shashi Kapoor, Nirupa Roy
Restored digital print provided by Film Heritage Foundation

This classic drama features iconic performances by Amitabh Bachchan and Shashi Kapoor as brothers who grow up in poverty only to end up on opposing sides of the law.

Bachchan's fame as India's 'Angry Young Man' was certified with this charismatic 1975 star turn. Bachchan is Vijay, whose militant unionist father (Satyendra Kapoor) was betrayed and driven into exile when Vijay was a boy, leaving him, his brother Ravi (Shashi Kapoor) and their devoutly religious mother Sumitra (Nirupa Roy) to starve on the streets of Mumbai. Years later, Vijay survives as a humble dock worker, but his combative spirit impresses a local crime boss (Iftekhar). Soon he is in charge of gang operations and flush with cash. Meanwhile, Ravi has graduated from the police academy with top honors; his first assignment is to investigate Vijay's gang. The resulting fraternal conflict leads to wrenching drama and tragedy.

AMAR AKBAR ANTHONY



SAT 10 JUN 10:15 AM AGNSW
SUN 11 JUN 1:00 PM CASULA

M

India | 1977 | 175 mins | In Hindi with English subtitles
Director: Manmohan Desai | Screenwriters: Prayag Raj, K.K. Shukla, Kader Khan | Producer: Manmohan Desai
Cast: Amitabh Bachchan, Vinod Khanna, Rishi Kapoor
Restored digital print provided by Film Heritage Foundation

Hindi cinema extravaganza at its finest, this genre-busting epic follows the fates of three brothers, separated in childhood and raised as a Hindu, a Muslim, and a Christian – a 'masala film' classic.

This one has it all: a triple serving of melodrama, romance, comedy, fistfights, car chases, miracles – and truly splendid and euphoric musical numbers. Vinod Khanna, Rishi Kapoor and Amitabh Bachchan star as the titular brothers who were lost after their impoverished parents (Pran Sikand, Nirupa Roy) were vindictively attacked by a ruthless gangster (Jeevan Dhar), then raised separately as orphans. Twenty-two years later they are reunited for a series of adventures – unaware that they're related and their parents are still alive. Bachchan is wonderful playing against type in a comic role as a lapsed Christian bar owner and tough guy. The film's themes of religious and cultural unity are more relevant and moving than ever.

DON



SAT 10 JUN 1:45 PM AGNSW
SAT 17 JUN 7:00 PM CASULA

M

India | 1978 | 166 mins | In Hindi with English subtitles
Director: Chandra Barot | Screenwriters: Salim Khan, Javed Akhtar | Producer: Nariman A. Irani | Cast: Amitabh Bachchan, Zeenat Aman, Pran | Restored digital print provided by Film Heritage Foundation

In this action packed classic, Amitabh Bachchan is magnetic in a dual role as a suave crime lord and his lookalike, a poor street performer roped into impersonating him by the police.

The influence of Blaxploitation flicks is apparent in this stylish thriller, with its funky soundtrack, delightful '70s fashions and tangled undercover capers. When notoriously cold-blooded crime boss Don is killed in a police chase, DSP D'Silva (Iftekhar) schemes to cover it up, drafting the hapless Vijay, a humble migrant from the country who happens to look exactly like Don, as an undercover agent. Vijay's dangerous mission is to pass as Don and bust his international cartel. In a feminist twist, Zeenat Aman defies stereotypes as a deadly interloper out to avenge her brother's murder. Tensions between rich and poor in contemporary Mumbai provide rich subtext to the action, intrigue and fantastic musical numbers.

KAALA PATTHAR



MON 12 JUN 1:15 PM EV9

PG

India | 1979 | 171 mins | In Hindi with English subtitles
Director, Producer: Yash Chopra | Screenwriters: Salim Khan, Javed Akhtar | Cast: Amitabh Bachchan, Shashi Kapoor, Shatrughan Sinha | Screening courtesy of Yash Raj Films Pvt. Ltd. | Restored digital print provided by Film Heritage Foundation

Amitabh Bachchan simmers as a coal miner with a dark past in this rousing drama about working class solidarity and overcoming suffering.

Bachchan is Vijay, a disgraced sea captain who once abandoned a sinking ship, leaving hundreds to die. Shattered by guilt and shame, he now works in a notoriously deadly coal mine. Though indifferent to the danger to himself, he looks out for his fellow workers and the residents of the mining town – and kindles a flame with the town's doctor (Rakhee Gulzar). Shashi Kapoor co-stars as a rabble-rousing engineer who organises the miners against their predatory boss (Prem Chopra). When the boss's rapacious greed leads to disaster, Vijay's heroics give him a shot at redemption. The screenplay's unabashed anticapitalism and focus on the power of collective action delivers an underdog story that audiences can root for.

AFTRS 50TH – ALUMNI SHORT FILMS



The Third Note

TUE 13 JUN 6:00 PM EV9

15+

In 1973 when the Australian Film Television and Radio School was founded, their inaugural Chair, Barry Jones, implored that the school must be "a revolutionary force" in Australian culture. To mark their 50th anniversary, AFTRS are celebrating their revolutionary spirit and legacy, on palpable display in this incredible program of short films from their esteemed alumni.

This selection includes restored films from the class of '73 – Gillian Armstrong, Phillip Noyce and Chris Noonan – alongside Ivan Sen, Jane Campion, Cate Shortland, Robert Connolly, Sue Brooks and Catriona McKenzie's remarkable first forays into filmmaking.

SHORT FILMS SCREENING:

Bulls | Chris Noonan | 1973
Caravan Park | Phillip Noyce | 1973
One Hundred a Day | Gillian Armstrong | 1973
Peel | Jane Campion | 1982
The Driver's Wife | Sue Brooks | 1985
Mr Ikegami's Flight | Robert Connolly | 1995
Warm Strangers | Ivan Sen | 1997
The Third Note | Catriona McKenzie | 1999
Joy | Cate Shortland | 2000

50/AFTRS

FILM TRACKS: HAIRSPRAY

THU 8 JUNE 7PM-11PM
Event Cinemas George St, and
The Hub in Lower Town Hall.

All tickets \$45 includes screening, party and drink on arrival

Build your hair to the sky for our *Hairspray* party with our vinyl DJ spinning '60s tracks from the film, go-go dancers, a photobooth and more! Includes one drink on arrival.

Welcome to the '60s! After our *Hairspray* screening, come on down to this special edition of the Corry Collins show.

Whether you're a heartthrob, a hep talker or a head hopper, follow along with Bridie Doll – Sydney's red-lipped, champagne-soaked gogo dancing queen – and her favourite Hairspray-inspired dance moves. Wear your best threads and make John Waters proud for your chance to win Best Dressed, take a snap in our polaroid photobooth, and dust off those dancin' shoes to compete in our dance-off competition.

Ticket includes film screening, exclusive access to the SFF The Hub Party and a drink on arrival. FILM TRACKS is a new event series screening films with great music and a party to dance to the awesome 'tracks.




SHORT FILMS

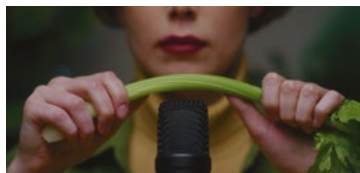


An amazing array of short films screen before features and documentaries. Plus check out more Australian short films in the Dendy Awards on [page 12](#), Screenability short films on [page 36](#), Jane Campion shorts on [page 39](#) and AFTRS 50TH – Alumni short films on [page 41](#).

The Short Film Program is proudly supported by the Director's Lab (SFF's Young Patron Program).



A.S.M.ORTAL

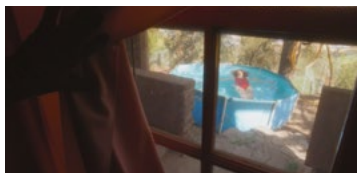


Canada | 2022 | 12 mins | In French with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
 Director, Screenwriter: Maxime S. Girard
 Producers: Maxime S. Girard, Charles Parisé
 Cast: Vanessa Larose, Gabriel Antoine-Roy, Olivier Beauchemin | Sales Agent: Welcome Abroad

All that inner peace is driving Nelly crazy.

Screens with *Sisu*, [page 48](#)

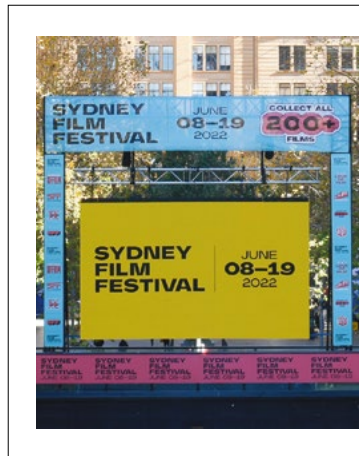
ALIENO089



Chile | 2023 | 22 mins | In Spanish with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
 Director, Screenwriter: Valeria Hofmann
 Producers: Augusto Matte, Daniela Camino, Pascual Mena, Valeria Hofmann | Cast: Mariana di Girolamo | Production Company: Mimbres Films

A video gamer's stalker hacks into her virtual world. Special Jury Award (Short Film Directing), Sundance 2023.

Screens with *Raging Grace*, [page 48](#)



SFFTV

SFFTV at Martin Place (between Pitt and Castlereagh Streets) is taking cinema to the streets! Swing by SFF's giant outdoor screen between 7-18 June to see curated animations from the festival circuit, trailers of SFF 2023 films, and historical footage from the SFF archive.

And make sure to drop by Tue-Fri from 12pm during the Festival for free tech workshops, local bites and beverage sampling, and free lunchtime screenings of curated shorts or a special throwback screening of *The Back of Beyond*.



FEATURE SCREENING: THE BACK OF BEYOND – CELEBRATING 70 EDITIONS OF SFF

Australia | 1954 | 63 min | John Heyer | G
 To honour SFF's 70th edition, SFFTV will host two screenings of the Australian classic *The Back of Beyond*. Screening as a tribute to the film's premiere at the very first Sydney Film Festival in 1954, this documentary traverses the outback, following the steps of mailman Tom Kruse on his journey from Marree to

Birdsville, charting the characters and obstacles he meets along the way. *Courtesy of Umbrella Entertainment.*

Screens with *Four Minute Festival*

THU 8 JUN 12:00PM SFFTV
THU 15 JUNE 12:00PM SFFTV

Find the full program at sff.org.au/sfftv


YOUR PLANET CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENT SHORTS

THU 8 JUN 6:00 PM EV9 **ALL AGES** All films courtesy of ABC Factual.
SUN 11 JUN 2:00 PM AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM

From wildlife defenders to waste warriors, from valleys to reefs, to powerful stories from First Nations filmmakers – these short documentaries will transport you across Australia and showcase people and communities creating solutions to some of the greatest challenges facing our environment. SFF is proud to present two screenings – at Events Cinemas and The Australian Museum.

For information on the post-screening talk at Australian Museum see [page 47](#).

An ABC Factual and Doc Society Initiative supported by Screen Territory, VicScreen, Screen Tasmania, Screen Queensland and Screenwest.



AFTER THE SMOKE



Australia | 2023 | 10 mins | In English World Premiere
 Director: Josie Hess | Screenwriters, Producers: Josie Hess, Stephanie Sabrinskas | Cast: Wendy Farmer

Wendy Farmer, housewife turned activist and founder of Voices of the Valley, recounts how the devastating Hazelwood mine fire led her to find her voice as an activist.

THE BEGINNING

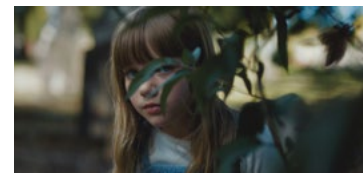


Australia | 2023 | 16 mins | In English Sydney Premiere
 Director, Festival Contact: Jonathan Adams
 Screenwriters: Jonathan Adams, Andrew Boland | Producers: Daniel Green, Jonathan Adams, Andrew Boland | Cast: Kirstyn Niccolle, Michael Budd, Prema Smith

An alien in human form has foreseen the coming apocalypse. One of his followers agrees to sacrifice herself to avert disaster. But Lachlan sees through it – and sets out to save her.

Screens with *Piaffe*, [page 21](#)

CATHY'S DOLL



Australia | 2023 | 9 mins | In English World Premiere
 Director, Screenwriter, Producer, Festival Contact: Taylor Venter | Cast: Evie Rose Bennett, Paul McKenzie, Helen O'Connor

A watchful little girl observes shades of grief at her father's funeral, ultimately coming to terms with death in her own unique way.

Screens with *Midwives*, [page 20](#)

HANDMADE HAPPINESS



Australia | 2022 | 9 mins | In English
 Director, Producer, Festival Contact: Vivien Mason | Screenwriter: Letitia Lamb
 Producers: Georgia Noe, Kristina Ceyton, Samantha Jennings, Alex White | Cast: Thomasin McKenzie, Hunter Page-Lochard
 Production Company: Causeway Films

A passion for craft helps four people overcome adversity, from knitting to yarn making, ceramics to recycling textiles.

Screens with *On the Adamant*, [page 26](#)

HOW CAN I HELP YOU



Australia | 2022 | 10 mins | In English Australian Premiere
 Director, Screenwriter: Eliza Scanlen
 Producers: Georgia Noe, Kristina Ceyton, Samantha Jennings, Alex White | Cast: Thomasin McKenzie, Hunter Page-Lochard
 Production Company: Causeway Films

In an attempt to overcome her incessant guilt complex, a young woman goes a step too far. From actor-director Eliza Scanlen.

Screens with *A Thousand and One*, [page 23](#)

HOW TO BUILD A FOREST

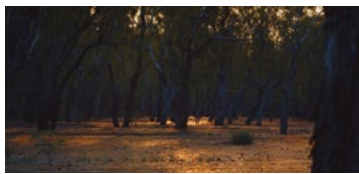


Australia | 2022 | 7 mins | In English World Premiere
 Director, Producer, Festival Contact: Jenn Tran
 Screenwriter: Kelly Bartholomeusz, Jenn Tran
 Cast: Jessica Douglas-Henry

A sci-fi short by Narrm-based animator Jenn Tran, whereby a narrator returns to Earth to discover the ruins of an Agnes Denes' land artwork.

Screens with *Last Things*, [page 37](#)

BABANIL



Australia | 2023 | 7 mins | In English and Nyikina with English subtitles World Premiere
 Director, Screenwriter, Producer: Marikka Perdisat

The beautiful lower Martuwarra Fitzroy River, in the Kimberley region, is a place rich in culture that the Nyikina people have cared for many generations.

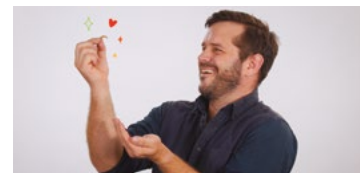
FOR FROGS' SAKE!



Australia | 2023 | 10 mins | In English World Premiere
 Director: Derek Ho | Screenwriters: Patrick Hogan | Producers: Derek Ho, Lynette Plenderleith

The story of two female conservationists fighting against time to save the endangered and elusive Giant Burrowing Frogs in regional Victoria.

MAD ABOUT MAGGOTS



Australia | 2023 | 7 mins | In English World Premiere
 Director: Elsie Shaw | Screenwriter: Patrick Hogan | Producers: Elsie Shaw, Lori Canalini

One third of the food produced every year is thrown away. Because of this, food waste makes up 30 percent of global emissions. Luke Wheat has decided to do something about it.

MAMIRNIKUWI



Australia | 2023 | 10 mins | In English World Premiere
 Director, Screenwriter: Rebecca Parker
 Producers: Antonia Burke, Caro Macdonald

After discovering that her home on the Tiwi Islands is at risk from a huge gas project, Antonia Burke mobilises her community creating the first ever Tiwi Women's Ranger group.

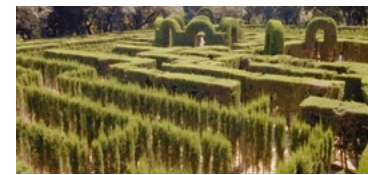
THE NUMBER 2 SOLUTION



Australia | 2023 | 10 mins | In English World Premiere
 Director, Producer: Morgan Pelt | Screenwriter: Armin Dzalic

Brisbane-based scientists build Australia's first facility to transform human waste into renewable energy and a sustainable product called Biochar.

LABERINT SEQUENCES



Canada | 2023 | 21 mins | In English Australian Premiere
 Director, Screenwriter, Festival Contact: Blake Williams | Producers: Marco Gualtieri, Blake Williams | Cast: Deragh Campbell

The latest 3D short by Blake Williams. A structuralist experiment in depth perception and cinematic recursion set in Barcelona's Laberint d'Horta. Contains strobing effects which may be disturbing for some viewers. 3D glasses provided.

Screens with *in water*, [page 37](#)

LOVE FOREVER



Australia | 2022 | 13 mins | In English Australian Premiere
 Director, Screenwriter: Clare Young | Producers: Belinda Mravacic, Rose Ricketson | Cast: Hannah McKenzie, Beau Cram | Production Company: Mravacic Films

A girl from Canberra navigates the treacherous waters of first love with a boy from Sydney's Northern Beaches.

Screens with *Blue Jean*, [page 18](#)

LUMBER



Australia | 2022 | 12 mins | In English
 Director, Screenwriter, Festival Contact: Harry Sabulis | Producers: Jaden Bowen, Harry Sabulis | Cast: Jeremy Johnstone, Christopher O'Leary, Trent Owers

A lonely lumberjack in rural Queensland goes to a gay bar for the first time to find love.

Screens with *Pretty Red Dress*, [page 21](#)

RATBAG



Australia | 2023 | 10 mins | In English World Premiere
 Director, Screenwriter: Andrew Kavanagh
 Producer: Dianna La Grassa | Cast: Timothy Lino, Petula Clark, Ruby Clarke-Davies, Greg Fleet | Production Company: Bus Stop Films

Kyle spends yet another day on school detention waiting for a dressing down. Acts of rebellion get him through it. Created by Bus Stop Films.

Screens with *I Like Movies*, [page 19](#)

TO BE SILENT



Australia | 2022 | 10 mins | In English World Premiere
 Director, Screenwriter: Tace Stevens | Producer: Skye Leon | Cast: Tace Stevens, Lakesha Grant, Nell Nakkari | Australian Distributor: Australian Film, Television and Radio School

Noongar and Spinifex Aboriginal woman Tace Stevens explores the impact of code-switching on her identity, and revealing what led her to embracing who she is.

Screens with *Twice Colonized*, [page 32](#)

NYARRPARARLA MALAJU? WHERE HAVE ALL THE MALA GONE?



Australia | 2023 | 11 mins | In English and Warlpiri with English subtitles World Premiere
 Director, Producer: Anna-Marie Harding
 Screenwriters: Simon 'Japanangka' Fisher Jnr., Anna-Marie Harding

Mala (the Rufous Hare-Wallaby) are very important ancestors in Warlpiri people's Jukurrpa (Dreaming). So what happens when there are no more Mala?

THE OYSTER GARDENER



Australia | 2023 | 11 mins | In English World Premiere
 Director, Screenwriter: Kim Ingles | Producers: Kim Ingles, Julia Lörtsch | Cast: Jolie May

Jolie, a grade-12 student and aspiring marine biologist, joins forces with her community to bring back the lost oyster reefs of the Noosa River.

POWER TO COUNTRY



Australia | 2023 | 10 mins | In English World Premiere
 Director: Josef Jakamarra Egger | Producers: Andrea Elisa Distefano, Libby Collins, Maya Ghattas | Cast: Shirley Simon

A portrait of life thrown into crisis by energy insecurity, *Power to Country* tells the story of Garrwa woman Shirley's displacement from traditional homelands and her yearning to return.

ROAD KILL WARRIORS



Australia | 2023 | 13 mins | In English World Premiere
 Director, Screenwriter, Producer: Lara van Raay
 Cast: Ruth Waterhouse

400,000 animals are killed on Tasmanian roads every year. Meet the women who are tackling this issue in unique and sometimes controversial ways.

WING THREADS



Australia | 2023 | 11 mins | In English World Premiere
 Director, Screenwriter, Producer: Christopher M. McCormack

Zoologist turned microlight pilot, Amellia Formby, is on a mission to share her love for migratory shorebirds, whilst searching for solutions to the many threats they face.

FLEX YOUR FEST

Buy a Flexipass to Sydney Film Festival and save! The more you see, the more you save, and you can book up to four tickets per session so you can share with friends!

Fill your own Flexipass with any films, or if you don't know where to start when choosing from over 200+ films, buy one of our Fast Flexis – containing two tickets to five curated film sessions spread across the Festival. You can also swap out any films or sessions at any time!*

*some fees apply

FLEXIPASS 10	\$170	SAVE \$70
FLEXIPASS 20	\$320	SAVE \$160
FLEXIPASS 30	\$450	SAVE \$270
YOUTH FLEXI 6	\$75	15-24 YR OLDS

Psssst. Did you know that Flexipass holders get treated to special free screenings all year round to keep that film festival feeling rolling?

FAST FLEXIS – TWO TICKETS TO FIVE FILMS FOR \$170 (SAVE \$70!)

THE CONTENDERS

Awards circuit bound films that you'll see first.

Past Lives | 9 June, 8.15pm, State | Page 9
The New Boy | 10 June, 6.40pm, State | Page 8
Radical | 13 June, 8.35pm, State | Page 16
Beyond Utopia | 17 June, 3.50pm, Event Cinemas George St | Page 24
Reality | 17 June, 7.00pm, State | Page 16



Past Lives

FESTIVAL FAVOURITES

Trophy winners at leading international festivals.

Scrapper (Sundance World Cinema Grand Jury Prize) | 8 June, 6pm, State | Page 9
Riceboy Sleeps (Toronto Platform Prize) | 10 June, 5.30pm, Event Cinemas George St | Page 21
Afire (Berlinale Silver Bear) | 14 June, 6pm, State | Page 6
A Thousand and One (Sundance U.S. Grand Jury Prize) | 15 June, 6pm, Event Cinemas George St | Page 23
On the Adamant (Berlinale Golden Bear) | 17 June, 1pm, Event Cinemas George St | Page 26



Scrapper

CONVERSATION STARTERS

Big issues. Big post-film chats.

The Corridors of Power | 11 June 6pm, Event Cinemas George St | Page 25
Art College 1994 | 12 June 6.45pm, State Theatre | Page 6
How to Blow Up a Pipeline | 14 June, 8.10pm, Event Cinemas George St | Page 16
Joram | 15 June, 8.00pm, State Theatre | Page 8
The Dark Emu Story | 17 June, 4.40pm, State Theatre | Page 7



Art College 1994

POPCORN COMPANIONS

Sit back and let us entertain you.

Asteroid City | 8 June, 8pm, State Theatre | Page 14
Red, White & Brass | 9 June, 6pm, State Theatre | Page 16
Biosphere | 11 June, 8.45pm, State Theatre | Page 14
Shortcomings | 16 June, 9pm, State Theatre | Page 16
Cobweb | 17 June, 8.50pm, State Theatre | Page 7



Asteroid City

MASTER FILMMAKERS

Celebrate and see leading international filmmakers.

Jane Campion, The Cinema Woman | 10 June, 2pm, State Theatre | Page 38
Fallen Leaves | 11 June, 4.20pm, State Theatre | Page 7
Perfect Days | 12 June, 4.15pm, State Theatre | Page 15
Monster | 16 June, 6pm, State Theatre | Page 8
Dalton's Dream | 17 June, 5.30pm, Event Cinemas George St | Page 25



Monster

NIDA National Institute of Dramatic Art

Learn more at
nida.edu.au

A SPACE TO IMAGINE

NIDA Open Day 2023

Saturday 17 June
 On campus and online

Register Now



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THE HUB



The Hub at Town Hall is the heart of Sydney Film Festival. Drop by between films to enjoy a bite to eat and a drink from one of SFF's beverage partners – Brix Rum Distillery, Château Tanunda, Lyres and Mountain Goat.

Celebrate your love of cinema and extend your movie moment with filmmaker talks, panels and themed parties. You can also discover a treasure trove of recently uncovered SFF ephemera and digitised historic footage to mark the Festival's 70th birthday.

The Hub is supported by:



OPENING HOURS

Public Holiday Monday: 11:30AM until late
 Tuesday–Friday: 4:30PM until late
 Saturday: 11:30AM until late
 Sunday: 11:30AM until late

All events are free except those noted as ticketed.

WORKED UP A THIRST?

Head down to the SFF Bar for:

- HAPPY HOUR: 4.30PM-6.00PM weekdays
- PRODUCT SAMPLING
- BRIX RUM COCKTAIL MASTERCLASS

Check The Hub page on our website for more info.

Or try the Brix limited edition Mai Tai cocktail made exclusively for SFF's 70th birthday



FESTIVAL ARCHIVE

See and celebrate 70 years of Sydney Film Festival at a special archive exhibition on display at The Hub. Explore the remarkable way in which world and cinema history has gone hand in hand, through SFF treasures and witness the evolution of an iconic and internationally renowned film festival – from its foundation at The University of Sydney, to censorship rows that went all the way to parliament, and the premieres of films that have become cinema legend.

The Archives Project has been supported by:



UNESCO CITY OF FILM AWARD WINNER 2023

MON JUN 12 1:00PM THE HUB

The UNESCO City of Film Award winner for 2023, Chris Godfrey, co-founder of one of the world's leading independent creative digital studios, Animal Logic, and VFX Supervisor extraordinaire in conversation with producer E Bennett Walsh.

The annual Ian McPherson Memorial Lecture is presented each year to celebrate the contribution of the man who helped establish the Sydney Film Festival and acknowledge those who have made significant contribution to our industry.



TALKS AT SFF

SUSTAINABLE SCREENS AUSTRALIA – OFFICIAL LAUNCH

THU 8 JUNE 5:30PM THE HUB

Creating screen content shouldn't come at the expense of the planet. That's why Sustainable Screens Australia (SSA) is on a mission to transform the Australian screen industry into one which integrates sustainability into everyday production practices. In partnership with BAFTA's 'albert' initiative and an extensive list of Australian companies, come celebrate SSA's launch and feel inspired to take action.

GROWING UP OUTSIDE KOREA

THU 8 JUNE 6:00PM KOREAN CULTURAL CENTRE, 255 ELIZABETH ST, SYDNEY

Following the State Theatre screening of *Riceboy Sleeps*, join director Anthony Shim, actress Choi Seung-yoon and a panel of Korean Australians as they explore the significance of Korean culture in the lives of those growing up outside Korea. Korean snacks and beverages will be provided by the Centre.

VOICES FROM EUROPE

SAT 10 JUN 11:30AM THE HUB

Five filmmakers from Europe! Voices of Women in Film program strand in conversation with *Screen International's* Sandy George as they discuss their different approaches to filmmaking and how the landscape for women working in film varies across the continent.

IN CONVERSATION: JANE CAMPION WITH DAVID STRATTON

SAT 10 JUN 4:15PM THE HUB | \$15

Join Jane Campion in conversation with David Stratton about her career following the screening of *Jane Campion, The Cinema Woman*. A remarkable chance to hear from an unparalleled artist who has changed cinema history in conversation with one of cinema history's greatest observers.

TALKING CLIMATE: SPECIAL SCREENING AND PANEL

SUN 11 JUNE 2:00PM AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM THEATRE

Join us for a special screening of the *Your Planet: Climate and Environment Shorts* and meet some of the filmmakers behind these unique films at a post-screening panel presentation with the Museum's Dr Jenny Newell, Curator, Climate Change | Climate Solutions Centre alongside Christopher McCormack (*Wing Threads*), Marilikka Perdrisat (*Babani*) and Elsie Shaw (*Mad About Maggots*) and ABC's Teri Calder. A special presentation in partnership with the Australian Museum and the ABC.

MEET THE FILMMAKERS: RACHEL WARD

SUN 11 JUN 4:15PM THE HUB

Following the Australian premiere of *Rachel's Farm* join Sandy George in conversation with director Rachel Ward and the filmmaking team discussing the issues raised in the film as well as the process of making such a personal film at the same time as dealing with the day-to-day operations of a working farm.

EVENTS AT THE HUB

Keep that post-film buzz going with special events paired with screenings to celebrate cinema.

FILM TRACKS: HAIRSPRAY PARTY

THU 8 JUN 8.45PM | \$45 INC. FILM

Build your hair to the sky for our *Hairspray* party with our vinyl DJ spinning '60s tracks from the film, go-go dancers, a photobooth and more! Dressing divine encouraged. Includes drink on arrival. See [page 41](#).

RED, WHITE & BRASS: SCRUM AT THE HUB

FRI 9 JUNE 8:00PM | FREE

Knock-on from the Australian Premiere screening of *Red, White & Brass* and keep the cheers going. Feel like you've won the Rugby World Cup and get brassy at the bar and on the dance floor.

SFF FILM TRIVIA NIGHT

WED 14 JUN 7:00PM | FREE

Are you film fit? Are you a Champion Champion? Gather your team and join us for a Film Trivia Night filled with prizes – prepare your acceptance speech!

LATE NIGHT PARTY WITH THE DEVIL

THU 15 JUN 8.15PM | \$45 INC. FILM

For all those freaks who love *Freak Me Out!* A late night party to worship all things that go bump in the cinema, following a screening of *Late Night With the Devil*. This possessing line-up includes magic, music and occult-inspired delights. Dressing freaky encouraged. Holy water not available, but there will be a drink on arrival.

KOREAN CINEMA CELEBRATION: GEONBAE!

FRI 16 JUN 8.30PM | FREE

Join us for an unforgettable night celebrating Korean cinema and culture! Open to all, but a perfect companion following a screening of *A Wild Roomer* at Event Cinemas George St, immerse yourself in the vibrant Korean culture with K-Pop cover dance performances, Korean music DJ party, hands-on activities, and complimentary soju and makgeolli.

More to be announced — visit sff.org.au for more info and updates!



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More to be announced — visit sff.org.au for more info and updates!

THE DARK EMU STORY

SUN 18 JUN HUB 2:30PM THE HUB

Following the State Theatre screening of *The Dark Emu Story* join us in conversation with the author Bruce Pascoe. No other Australian book has sparked such passion in both praise and debate over its narrative shaking claims about Aboriginal farming practices.

PLATFORM PITCH – FOR FILM'S SAKE INCUBATOR

SAT 17 JUN 12:30PM THE HUB

Mentored by international guests of the 70th edition of SFF, ten emerging and established filmmakers will be challenged to create partnerships and projects in just four days as part of Platform – For Film's Sake Incubator. The result of their efforts will be pitched live to an expert industry jury who will give Platform teams immediate feedback and insight into their developing works.

MEET THE FILMMAKERS: RACHEL WARD

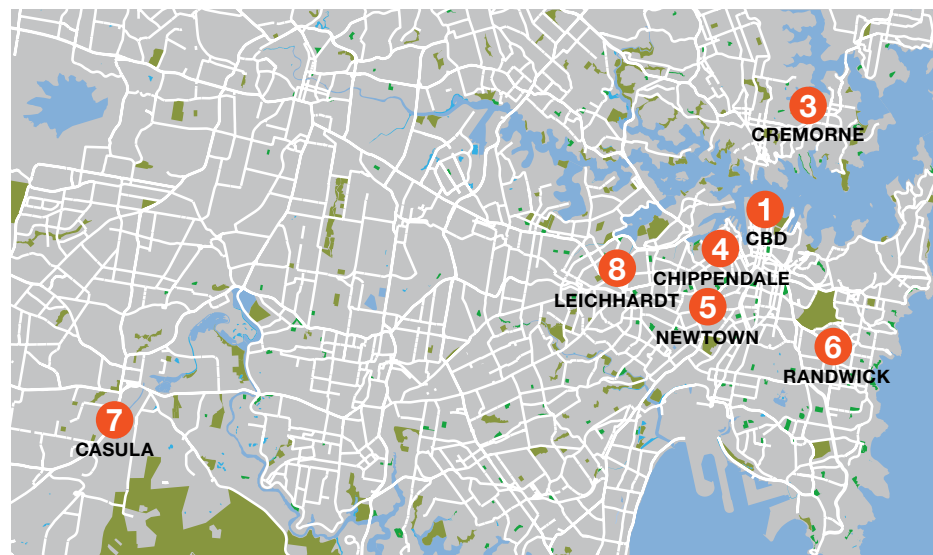
SUN 11 JUN 4:15PM THE HUB

Following the Australian premiere of *Rachel's Farm* join Sandy George in conversation with director Rachel Ward and the filmmaking team discussing the issues raised in the film as well as the process of making such a personal film at the same time as dealing with the day-to-day operations of a working farm.

THE DARK EMU STORY

Nude Tuesday star Jemaine Clement in conversation at The Hub, 2022

LOCATIONS



VENUES & BOX OFFICE HOURS

SFF box offices at all venues open one hour before the first screening and close 15 minutes after the last screening begins, unless otherwise stated. Cashless payments only.

- 1 STATE THEATRE**
49 Market St, Sydney
Box office opens one hour prior to the screening on 7 June, and daily 9 am–9 pm during the Festival
- 2 EVENT CINEMAS GEORGE STREET**
505–525 George St, Sydney
- 3 HAYDEN ORPHEUM PICTURE PALACE CREMORNE**
380 Military Rd, Cremorne
- 4 PALACE CENTRAL CINEMAS**
Level 3, Central Park Mall, 28 Broadway, Chippendale
- 5 DENDY CINEMAS NEWTOWN**
261–263 King St, Newtown
- 6 THE RITZ CINEMAS**
45 St Pauls St, Randwick
- 7 CASULA POWERHOUSE**
1 Powerhouse Rd, Casula
- 8 PALACE NORTON STREET**
99 Norton St, Leichhardt
- 9 THE HUB @ TOWN HALL**
283 George St, Sydney. Entry via Druitt St. No box office onsite
- 10 ART GALLERY OF NSW THEATRETTE (SOUTH BUILDING)**
Art Gallery Rd, The Domain, Sydney
- 11 THE AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM**
1 William St, Darlinghurst

PARKING

BOOK AND SAVE WITH SECURE PARKING

\$20 NIGHT AND WEEKEND PARKING*

USE PROMO CODE: SFF2023

Visit secureparking.com.au/SFF to book. *Booking fee of \$1.50 applies to each transaction. Available to book from 10 May for 7–18 June 2023.



SIX LOCATIONS TO CHOOSE FROM FOR STATE THEATRE, EVENT CINEMAS AND THE HUB:

- A 109 PITT ST CAR PARK**
- B PICCADILLY, 137 CASTLEREAGH ST CAR PARK**
- C NO 1 MARTIN PLACE CAR PARK**
- D HILTON, 259 PITT ST CAR PARK**
- E 255 ELIZABETH ST CAR PARK**
- F 2 MARKET ST CAR PARK**

TICKET PRICING

SINGLE TICKETS

ADULT	\$24
CONCESSION*/SENIORS	\$18.50
YOUTH (17 and under)	\$17
GROUP OF 10+	\$17

FLEXIPASSES SAVE YOU UP TO \$270!

- Purchase in bundles of 10, 20 or 30 tickets
 - Redeem online against any SFF sessions (some exclusions apply, see sff.org.au/flexipass)
 - Share with friends – redeem up to four tickets per session
- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------|
| FLEXIPASS 10 (SAVE \$70) | \$170 |
| FLEXIPASS 20 (SAVE \$160) | \$320 |
| FLEXIPASS 30 (SAVE \$270) | \$450 |
| YOUTH PASS 6 (15–24 YEARS OLD) | \$75 |

OPENING & CLOSING NIGHT

OPENING NIGHT (FILM & PARTY)	\$150
OPENING NIGHT (FILM ONLY)	\$50/\$42 CONC*
CLOSING NIGHT (FILM ONLY)	\$35/\$30 CONC*

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

10 FILM PACKAGE: CAMPION RETROSPECTIVE	\$150
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*Concessions available to full-time students, pensioners, healthcare card holders, unemployed people and seniors. Concession cards must be shown upon admission.

BOOK TICKETS

SFF.ORG.AU SFF 2023 APP	1300 733 733
PRE-FESTIVAL BOX OFFICE HOURS Until 6 June: Call 9am–6pm Monday to Friday 10am–3pm on Saturdays	DURING THE FESTIVAL From 7–18 June: Call 9am–6.30pm daily See venues for in-person box office hours.

AGE RESTRICTIONS

No one under 18 is admitted to 18+ films. Children under 15, including babies, will only be admitted to 15+ films with a parent or guardian. Most films in the Family section are classified for all ages, but please check age recommendations for each film.

CONTENT WARNING

Films rated 18+ may contain elements such as sex scenes, drug use, suicide, aggressive themes, abuse and violent acts including sexual assault that are strong in impact. If you need help, 24/7 assistance is available from:

LIFELINE	13 11 14 Lifeline.org.au
BEYOND BLUE	1300 224 636 Beyondblue.org.au
SUICIDE CALL BACK SERVICE	1300 659 467 Suicidecallbackservice.org.au
MENSLINE AUSTRALIA	1300 789 978 Mensline.org.au

ACCESS AND INCLUSION

Sydney Film Festival endeavours to make its events a welcoming and inclusive experience for all. For expanded details on accessibility and inclusion practices and additional venue information, including bathroom access and parking, visit sff.org.au/access. Sessions are also browsable by access requirements via our website.

SFF gratefully acknowledges Director's Patron Vivienne Selwyn's generous support to make the Festival a more inclusive workplace and event.



COMPANION CARDS



Sydney Film Festival proudly accepts Companion Cards to all sessions. For guests who require assistance of a companion or carer, a second ticket is issued at no cost to the Companion Card holder. Contact **1300 733 733** or email tickets@sff.org.au to book. To access your Companion Card tickets online use promo code **COMPANION23**.

WHEELCHAIR ACCESS



Most SFF auditoriums are wheelchair accessible and offer designated wheelchair spaces. Please call **1300 733 733** or email tickets@sff.org.au when booking to confirm, as spaces are limited.

ASSISTIVE LISTENING



All venues have an induction hearing loop system or hearing aid transmitters. See the auditorium specific information on our website for details. Excludes Australian Museum.

ASSISTANCE ANIMALS



Assistance animals are welcome at all Festival events and venues. Bookings are essential as we need to advise the venue in advance, call **1300 733 733** or email tickets@sff.org.au.

SUBTITLED SCREENINGS



All foreign language screenings are subtitled in English. This does not include full open captions.

SCREENABILITY



Screenability is designed to boost the participation of under-represented groups in the screen industry. Sydney Film Festival is proud to present the following films with **Auslan interpreted** filmmaker introductions and Q&As, **Open Captioning** and **Audio Description**.

ANGEL APPLICANT SCREENS WITH CHUM

THU 8 JUN 6:15 PM DNT2
SAT 10 JUN 2:00 PM DNT2

IS THERE ANYBODY OUT THERE? SCREENS WITH FIGHTING

MON 12 JUN 4:30 PM DNT2
THU 15 JUN 6:30 PM DNT2

THE TUBA THIEVES SCREENS WITH 14 IN FEBRUARY

WED 14 JUN 6:15 PM DNT2
SAT 17 JUN 1:45 PM DNT2

For information on accessibility updates, please see [page 36](#).

SFF APP

YOUR ONE-STOP POCKET GUIDE TO THE FESTIVAL

- Browse the full program and create a wish list
- Go paperless! Show your tickets via the app
- Vote in the GIO Audience Awards (see [page 7](#))



PLAN YOUR TRIP

Take advantage of the public transport services located near all Festival venues. Visit transportnsw.info or phone **131 500** for information. Or use the SFF App for directions. For bike parking refer to cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/cycling

See you at the cinema!



CONTACT US

Most access and inclusion bookings can be made online. You can also make a booking or an enquiry by calling **1300 733 733** or emailing tickets@sff.org.au. If you are booking on the day of the session, please contact SFF directly to advise us of your requirements.

RESTAURANT PARTNERS

Most of the venues for the Restaurant Partner deals are fully accessible. For information on each venue visit sff.org.au/access.

POLICIES

For full terms and conditions, and all our ticket purchase policies, visit sff.org.au.

TUESDAY 13 JUNE															
VENUE	9AM	10AM	11AM	12PM	1PM	2PM	3PM	4PM	5PM	6PM	7PM	8PM	9PM	10PM	11PM
STATE		THE DELINQUENTS 10:00 PM				ON THE ADAMANT 1:25 PM		ART COLLEGE 1994 3:45 PM			THE MOTHER OF ALL LIES 6:15 PM		RADICAL 8:35 PM		
DNT 1											TOTAL TRUST 6:15 PM		OMEN 8:15 PM		
DNT 2												THE QUIET MIGRATION 6:30 PM			
DNT 3											KEEPING HOPE + MARUNGKA... 6:00 PM		PIAFFE 8:30 PM		
EVENT 3											TENNESSEE 6:15 PM				
EVENT 5													LITTLE RICHARD: I AM EV... 6:30 PM		
EVENT 9													AFTRS 50TH ALUMNI SHORT... 6:00 PM		RAGING GRACE 8:30 PM
HOC 5													THE PIANO 6:30 PM		
PALC												PARADISE 6:15 PM		CONNECTION OF THE... 8:05 PM	
PNORT													CARMEN 6:30 PM		
RITZ 5													PERFECT DAYS 6:15 PM		

WEDNESDAY 14 JUNE															
VENUE	9AM	10AM	11AM	12PM	1PM	2PM	3PM	4PM	5PM	6PM	7PM	8PM	9PM	10PM	11PM
STATE		THE ETERNAL MEMORY 10:00 AM			NO BEARS 12:00 PM			THE MOTHER OF ALL LIES 2:15 PM			AFIRE 6:00 PM		KENNEDY 8:15 PM		
DNT 1											BLIND WILLOW, SLEEPING... 6:00 PM				
DNT 2												THE TUBA THIEVES 6:15 PM			
DNT 3											BLUE BAG LIFE 6:30 PM		THE DEVIL QUEEN 8:30 PM		
EVENT 3											AGAINST THE TIDE 6:00 PM		HOW TO BLOW UP A PIPELINE 8:10 PM		
EVENT 5													SHORTCOMINGS 6:30 PM		A GAZA WEKEND 8:30 PM
EVENT 9											MAN ON EARTH 6:05 PM				THE WRATH OF BECKY 8:45 PM
HOC 5											ON THE ADAMANT 6:30 PM				
PALC												LAST THINGS 6:15 PM		TWICE COLONISED 7:40 PM	
PNORT													TORA'S HUSBAND 6:15 PM		
RITZ 5													BIRDEATER 6:15 PM		
AGNSW															THE PORTRAIT OF A LADY 7:00 PM

THURSDAY 15 JUNE															
VENUE	9AM	10AM	11AM	12PM	1PM	2PM	3PM	4PM	5PM	6PM	7PM	8PM	9PM	10PM	11PM
STATE		SAND 10:00 AM			AFIRE 12:30 PM		SNOW AND THE BEAR 2:45 PM				PICTURES OF GHOSTS 6:00 PM		JORAM 8:00 PM		
DNT 1											ART COLLEGE 1994 6:00 PM		THE BIG DOG 8:20 PM		
DNT 2												IS THERE ANYBODY OUT... 6:30 PM			
DNT 3												FAMILY TIME 6:15 PM			
EVENT 3													A THOUSAND AND ONE 6:00 PM		RHINEGOLD 8:30 PM
EVENT 5													THE DEFENDERS 6:15 PM		SHIN ULTRAMAN 8:20 PM
EVENT 9													LATE NIGHT WITH THE DEVIL... 6:30 PM		
EVENT 11													BETWEEN REVOL... 6:10 PM		THE DELINQUENTS 7:45 PM
HOC 5													JANE CAMPION, THE CINE... 6:00 PM		SUBTRACTION 8:15 PM
PALC													BOBI WINE: THE PEOPLE'S... 6:15 PM		NAM JUNE PAIK: MOON IS... 8:30 PM
PNORT													THE ETERNAL MEMORY 6:15 PM		
RITZ 3													SUNFLOWER 6:30 PM		
RITZ 5													BAD BEHAVIOUR 6:15 PM		RUN RABBIT RUN 8:35 PM

SECTIONS

- OFFICIAL COMPETITION
- SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS
- DOCUMENTARY AUSTRALIA
- INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTARIES
- FEATURES
- OTHER

■ Screenability
 ❖ Flexipass not accepted
 👤 Family Fun

VENUES

STATE State Theatre	DNT Dendy Newtown	PNORT Palace Norton Street	RITZ The Ritz Cinema Randwick	AGNSW Art Gallery of NSW
EVENT Event Cinemas George St	PALC Palace Central	HOC Hayden Orpheum Cremorne	CASULA Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre	AUSMUS Australian Museum

No one under 18, including babies, is admitted to 18+ films. Children under 15 will only be admitted to 15+ films with a parent or guardian.

FRIDAY 16 JUNE															
VENUE	9AM	10AM	11AM	12PM	1PM	2PM	3PM	4PM	5PM	6PM	7PM	8PM	9PM	10PM	11PM
STATE		BLUE JEAN 10:00 AM			JORAM 12:30 PM			SUBJECT 3:40 PM		MONSTER 6:00 PM		SHORTCOMINGS 9:00 PM			
DNT 1											TENNESSEE 6:00 PM		LITTLE RICHARD: I AM ... 8:10 PM		
DNT 2												THE ARC OF OBLIVION 6:30 PM			
DNT 3												KIM'S VIDEO 6:15 PM		UNIDENTIFIED 8:20 PM	
EVENT 3													OMEN 6:25 PM		BLIND WILLOW, SLEEPING... 8:30 PM
EVENT 5													KINDRED 6:00 PM		THREE CHORDS AND TH... 8:15 PM
EVENT 9													A WILD ROOMER 6:15 PM		
HOC 4													L'IMMENSITÀ 6:00 PM		THE LESSON 8:10 PM
HOC 5													RED, WHITE & BRASS 6:30 PM		
PALC													THE CORRIDORS OF POWER 6:00 PM		PICTURES OF GHOSTS 8:45 PM
PNORT													MIDWIVES 6:15 PM		AFIRE 8:30 PM
RITZ 1													PAST LIVES 6:30 PM		
RITZ 3													SILVER HAZE 6:15 PM		PASSAGES 8:30 PM

SATURDAY 17 JUNE															
VENUE	9AM	10AM	11AM	12PM	1PM	2PM	3PM	4PM	5PM	6PM	7PM	8PM	9PM	10PM	11PM
STATE		KINDRED 9:30 AM			MONSTER 11:45 AM			L'IMMENSITÀ 2:30 PM		THE DARK EMU STORY 4:40 PM		REALITY 7:00 PM		COBWEB 8:50 PM	
DNT 1								AGAINST THE TIDE 2:00 PM		THREE CHORDS AND THE T... 4:00 PM		TRANSITION 6:05 PM		A WILD ROOMER 8:00 PM	
DNT 2								THE TUBA THIEVES 1:45 PM				MUSIC 6:15 PM		SUNFLOWER 8:00 PM	
DNT 3								RHINEGOLD 1:30 PM		SNOW AND THE BEAR 4:15 PM		NIGHTSIREN 6:30 PM		I LIKE MOVIES 8:45 PM	
EVENT 3								ON THE ADAMANT 1:00 PM				SAND 6:20 PM			
EVENT 4													DENDY AWARDS 2:45 PM		
EVENT 5								SCARYGIRL 1:30 PM		CLIMATE CHANG... 3:30 PM		DALTON'S DREAM 5:30 PM		LOST IN THE NIGHT 7:30 PM	
EVENT 9								SORCERY 1:45 PM		BEYOND UTOPIA 3:50 PM		BAY OF FIRES 6:15 PM			
EVENT 11													THE HAPPIEST MAN IN... 5:00 PM		THE BURDENED 7:00 PM
HOC 5								PIANOFORTE 3:00 PM		RADICAL 5:00 PM		JORAM 7:30 PM			
PALC								CONNECTION OF THE... 2:15 PM		THE QUIET MIGRATION 4:05 PM		JOOAM 6:15 PM			
PNORT								SIRA 3:00 PM				RACHEL'S FARM 5:30 PM			
RITZ 1													THE LESSON 6:00 PM		
RITZ 5								SUNLIGHT 2:30 PM		THUNDER 4:30 PM			LITTLE RICHARD: I AM EV... 6:30 PM		
AGNSW								HOLY SMOKE 10:15 AM		IN THE CUT 1:30 PM					
CASULA													DON 7:00 PM		

SUNDAY 18 JUNE															
VENUE	9AM	10AM	11AM	12PM	1PM	2PM	3PM	4PM	5PM	6PM	7PM	8PM	9PM	10PM	11PM
STATE		COBWEBS 9:30 AM			THE DARK EMU STORY 12:15 PM			TO BE ANNOUNCED 2:30 PM		TO BE ANNOUNCED 5:00 PM		CLOSING NIGHT 07:00 PM			
DNT 1								FREEDOM IS BEAUT... 2:30 PM				BIRDEATER 4:30 PM			
DNT 2												THE ECHO 4:15 PM		PARADISE 6:30 PM	
DNT 3												MAN ON EARTH 3:30 PM		DALTON'S DREAM 5:50 PM	
EVENT 3													PRAY FOR OUR SIN... 2:15 PM		THE SHADOWLESS TOWER 4:00 PM
EVENT 5													DENDY AWARDS 3:30 PM		TRANSITION 6:00 PM
EVENT 9													SUBJECT 2:00 PM		TOTAL TRUST 4:15 PM
HOC 4													MONSTER 3:15 PM		
HOC 5													THE BIG DOG 3:45 PM		SCRAPPER 5:45 PM
PALC													BETWEEN REVOLU... 4:30 PM		FREE MONEY 6:00 PM
PNORT													THE HAPPIEST MAN... 3:00 PM		20,000 SPECIES OF BEES 5:00 PM
RITZ 5													SCARYGIRL 2:00 PM		CLIMATE CHANGERS 4:00 PM
AGNSW													BRIGHT STAR 10:15 AM		THE POWER OF THE DOG 2:00 PM

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RESTAURANT PARTNERS

Make a night of it! Every year the Festival teams up with some of Sydney's favourite restaurants to offer great savings exclusively for Festival-goers.

Cafe Sydney is a proud partner of SFF and welcomes Festival audiences.

HOW IT WORKS:
Book ahead and mention Sydney Film Festival Restaurant Partners or show your SFF ticket on arrival to get the deal.

Deals are valid 7–18 June and are not available in conjunction with any other offers.

THE CHARLES GRAND BRASSERIE & BAR



\$45PP
THE CHARLES BAR: MAIN COURSE AND A GLASS OF WINE/BEER

\$95PP
THE CHARLES BRASSERIE: TWO COURSES AND A GLASS OF WINE/BEER

66 King Street, Sydney
(02) 9265 6068 | thecharles.sydney

Step inside The Charles's art deco reception and choose your adventure. To the left, a cafe and bar that begins with breakfast and coffee and ends on late-night snacks, cocktails and wine. To the right, an indulgent dining experience in the grand brasserie and mezzanine.

Wheelchair access from the Bar (corner York St and King St) or through Sammy Junior (York St).

FIX WINE BAR + RESTAURANT



\$45PP
SMALL SNACK AND CHOICE OF MAIN WITH A GLASS OF WINE OR BRIX PRE-MIXED CAN. AVAILABLE LUNCH AND DINNER TUESDAY-FRIDAY

111 Elizabeth Street, Sydney
(02) 9232 2767 | fixwine.com.au

A small 60-seat spot with a great little front bar where you can eat, drink and chat to the team. The focus is on quality seasonal produce in the kitchen, and the 250+ wine list showcases handcrafted – often natural – wines from around the globe.

Wheelchair accessible. No accessible restrooms.

AALIA



\$70PP
PRE-THEATRE MENU WITH TWO COURSES AND A DRINK, DESIGNED TO SHARE. ADDITIONAL SIDES AND DESSERTS AVAILABLE

Shop 7/25 Martin Place, Sydney
(02) 9182 5880 | aaliarestaurant.com

Dive into a time-travelling odyssey of dishes from the Middle Eastern and North African coastlines. Led by Executive Chef Paul Farag, AALIA's culinary team showcases the diversity of the region, combining ingredients and recipes spanning centuries.

Wheelchair access via lift in the Dexus building. Restrooms located in building next door.

ABODE BISTRO.BAR



\$150PP
CHEFS' FAVOURITE DISHES FOR TWO PEOPLE, SHARED

PARKROYAL Darling Harbour, 150 Day Street, Sydney
(02) 9260 2945 | abodebistro.com

ABODE Bistro.Bar offers diners an award-winning and stylish restaurant and bar. The menu revolves around modern Australian cuisine that features locally sourced products and dishes designed to be shared. The drinks menu is sure to quench your thirst with boutique wines, beer and signature cocktails.

Wheelchair accessible.

LOTUS THE GALERIES



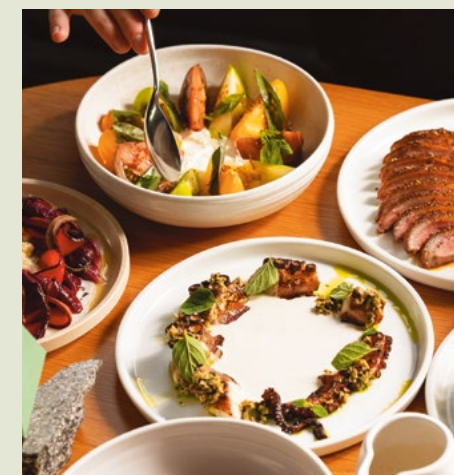
\$65PP
A DELICIOUS FESTIVAL BANQUET (MINIMUM 2 PEOPLE)

The Galleries, Level 1, 500 George Street
(02) 9247 6868
lotusdininggroup.com/the-galleries

A contemporary Asian restaurant, located in the heart of the Sydney CBD and overseeing the heritage-listed Queen Victoria Building. Boasting a selection of private dining rooms, Lotus The Galleries is the ideal destination for any occasion. Don't miss their famed Peking duck.

Wheelchair accessible and restrooms inside the venue.

MONOPOLE



\$55PP
TWO-COURSE MENU (ENTRÉE AND MAIN)

\$65PP
THREE-COURSE MENU
AVAILABLE TUESDAY-FRIDAY 5PM-6PM.
MUST VACATE TABLE BY 6.30PM FRIDAY.
BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL

20 Curtin Place
(02) 8080 9144
bentleyrestaurantgroup.com.au/monopole

A fun, innovative bar and restaurant from the team behind Bentley Restaurant + Bar. The menu boasts classics with a Monopole twist alongside wine-friendly snacks and larger dishes. Plus an exceptional wine list from local and international winemakers.

Wheelchair accessible. Accessible restrooms available.

ODD CULTURE, NEWTOWN



\$76PP
THREE-COURSE MEAL PLUS COMPLIMENTARY TEPACHE SPRITZ ON ARRIVAL

POST-SCREENING DEAL
SHOW YOUR SFF TICKET AFTER YOUR SCREENING AND RECEIVE A COMPLIMENTARY CHICKEN LIVER PATÉ WHEN YOU PURCHASE TWO COCKTAILS OR WINES. VALID ON THE DAY OF YOUR TICKET

266 King St, Newtown (02) 8317 3057 |
oddculture.group/venue/odd-culture-newtown/

Odd Culture is Newtown's watering hole for the weird and wonderful – and an exploration of fermentation. Experience all-day dining that's European at its core with an Asian flare, as well as a natural wine and wild ale bar, accompanied by a seasonal cocktail program.

Ground-floor restaurant and restroom are wheelchair accessible.

RITZ BALCONY BAR



HAPPY HOUR 5-7PM
MONDAY-FRIDAY: \$12 COCKTAILS AND \$7 BEER, HOUSE WINE AND SELECT SPIRITS

Level 1, Ritz Cinemas, 45 St Pauls Street, Randwick
(02) 8324 2500 | ritzcinemas.com.au

The Balcony Bar, upstairs at the Ritz, serves a wide range of cool drinks and hot snacks that go together like Bogart and Bacall. The outdoor balcony is the perfect spot to unwind with a cocktail and a bowl of hot chips or olives while chatting all things movies.

Wheelchair access via lift. Accessible restrooms and all-gender bathrooms available.

glass brasserie



\$57PP
ENJOY A MAIN AND A GLASS OF WINE

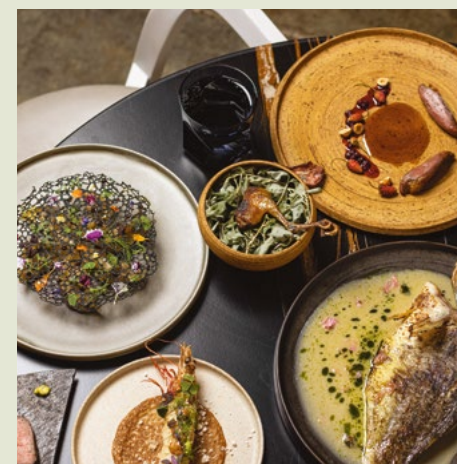
\$68PP
FOR TWO-COURSES (ENTRÉE AND MAIN, OR MAIN AND DESSERT)

Level 2, 488 George Street
(02) 9265 6068 | glassbrasserie.com.au

Combining unique culinary excellence by chef and restaurateur Luke Mangan with exquisite décor and superior service, glass brasserie provides a truly definitive dining experience in the heart of Sydney. The perfect place for delectable modern Australian cuisine.

Wheelchair access via lifts at George St entrance or hotel lifts. Accessible restrooms on level 2 of the hotel.

KURO BAR & DINING



\$45PP MIN SPEND
FRIDAY AND SATURDAY LUNCH SET MENU

\$100PP MIN SPEND
DINNER TUESDAY TO THURSDAY A LA CARTE AND SET MENU AVAILABLE
FRIDAY AND SATURDAY SET MENU AVAILABLE

368 Kent Street, Sydney
(02) 9262 1580 | kurosydney.com

Inspired by Japanese design and executed by artisans, Kuro is a bar and dining experience based on root-to-stem philosophy. Showcasing Japanese flavours and Australian produce, Kuro was recently awarded one hat in the SMH Good Food Guide Awards 2023.

Wheelchair accessible.

FANCY A DRINK?

If you're looking for a pre-film drink or need a forum for a post-film debate, Sydney Film Festival's beverage partners have you covered.

SFF BAR:
Drop by the SFF Bar, in The Hub at Lower Town Hall, for a drink between screenings from our partners Brix Distillery, Lyres, Mountain Goat and Château Tanunda! More info on page 46.

BRIX DISTILLERY



10% OFF
YOUR TOTAL BILL WHEN YOU SHOW YOUR SFF TICKET

350 Bourke Street, Surry Hills
(02) 9360 5441 | brixdistillers.com

Brix offers a unique inner-city distillery experience. Treat yourself to a Brix rum tasting or a rum cocktail – from the Daiquiri to the Dark & Stormy – and soak in the atmosphere with an expansive view of the distillery. Peckish? Grab a bite from the kitchen and kick back.

Wheelchair accessible with accessible restrooms.

CHÂTEAU TANUNDA – SYDNEY CELLAR DOOR



2 FOR 1 OFFER
ON 'BAROSSA WINE TASTINGS' WHEN YOU SHOW YOUR SFF TICKET. VALID UNTIL 31 JULY 2023

Shop 2, Nurses Walk, The Rocks
0452 584 367 | chateautanunda.com

Crowned Best Australian Wine Producer 10 years in a row, Château Tanunda is an icon of the Barossa. At Château Tanunda's Sydney Cellar Door—in the heart of the Rocks—you'll enjoy outstanding wine tastings or wines by the glass, from an exclusive range of rare and collectable wines.

No wheelchair access.

MOUNTAIN GOAT NEWTOWN



\$20
PIZZA AND SCHOONER WHEN YOU SHOW YOUR SFF TICKET

435 King St, Newtown
0413 787 161
goatbeer.com.au/locations/newtown

Make a day – or night – of it in Newtown. Choose from the 12-tap bar pouring Mountain Goat favourites, or select from the carefully curated cocktail menu and wine list. The kitchen menu caters to all tastes, whether you're in the mood for a meal or a small bite.

Access ramp and an accessible restroom.

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The Event Department: Natalie Butler
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Live Production: Ben Elliott, Michael Dal Molin
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Program Consultants: Paul Struthers, Shelly Kraicer
Program Advisors: Felix Hubble, Melba Proestos
Assistant Program Advisors: Lies Bruines, Claire Cao, Kyle Goldfinch, Merryana Salem
Program guide contributors: Claire Cao, Felix Hubble, Richard Kuipers, Karina Libbey, Jim Poe, Melba Proestos and Ian Barr, and the Festival Programming team.

The Shorts Programmer position has been supported by an Animal Logic Entertainment Fellowship with a view to developing the career of an emerging programmer.

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Communications Advisor: Sanika Karnik

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Digital Director: Daniel Lever
Project Manager: Sarina Matrici

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Head Client Services: Simon Gillett
Head Project Services: Matthew Herbert, Luke Swinkels
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Senior Technician: Nick Ramsay
Technician: Patrick Ramsay

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Strategy: Natalie Smith
Creative Director: Richard Davies
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Designers: Danielle de Rome, David Ho
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Senior Digital Campaign Manager: Jasper Childs
Digital Campaign Manager: Olivia Williams

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Produced by: The Post Lounge
Voiceover: Alyson Standen
Partnerships Consultant: Paul Kennedy, Kennedy & Partners

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Showgroup (Film): Carolyn Dean, Carolyn Knox, Shannon Meredith

FREIGHT HANDLER

Trek Couriers: Neil Angwin

AHL

Managing Director: David Seargeant

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Production Coordinator: Narelle Smith

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Marketing Manager: Christopher Marchand
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Technical Manager – Dendy Circuit: Doug Munro

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SFF WOULD LIKE TO CONGRATULATE AND THANK ALL OF OUR VOLUNTEERS, THE FILMMAKERS AND FESTIVAL GUESTS, DIRECTOR'S PATRONS, SUPPORTING CAST DONORS, FESTIVAL PARTNERS AND ALL OF THEIR TEAMS FOR THEIR HARD WORK AND GENEROSITY IN HELPING US PRESENT THE 2023 FESTIVAL.



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 thepostlounge.com

TRAVELLING FILM FESTIVAL

BRINGING THE WORLD'S BEST CINEMA TO REGIONAL AUSTRALIA

Launched in 1974, the Travelling Film Festival is Australia's longest running touring film event. The TFF visits 20 different locations around the country, treating regional audiences to outstanding Australian and international cinema on the big screen.

NEXT STOPS

NEWCASTLE 23-25 June | WARRAWONG 21-23 July

HUSKISSON 25-27 August

[f](#) travellingfilmfestival www.sff.org.au/tff [@travellingfilmfestival](#)



SEE YOUR FESTIVAL THRIVE

For 70 editions Sydney Film Festival has inspired generations of film-lovers and filmmakers, curating ground-breaking programs that platform underrepresented voices. It strives to push back against mono-cultural on-screen representation, with conscious programming that reflects the diversity of our community and celebrates its differences. Each year, SFF brings the best film talent from around the world together, building a creative community of opportunity and expansion.

However, SFF cannot achieve all of this with the income from ticket sales alone – they cover less than 30 percent of the actual cost of producing the Festival. Government and corporate support make up some of the difference, but donations from individuals are a vital contributor to SFF's ability to remain vibrant and viable. The Festival relies on people like you to enable it to continue to program boldly, seek out and showcase new voices and create an engaging and inclusive Festival for all Sydneysiders to share.

It's your Festival – and we invite you to contribute to its success. You can do so by adding a donation when purchasing your ticket to reflect the true cost of your seat, or by becoming even more involved through our patron initiatives.



DONATIONS EMPOWER SFF: Look for this icon across the program guide to see what your support helps make possible.

SUPPORT SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL

Celebrate SFF's milestone birthday with a tax-deductible gift towards its future. Visit sff.org.au/donate to make a donation.

DIRECTOR'S LAB

Led by Ambassadors Nash Edgerton, Mirrah Foulkes, Damon Herriman and Mia Wasikowska, the Director's Lab is a dynamic collective of young philanthropists, filmmakers and film lovers who meet at events throughout the year and during the Festival. Their support enables opportunities for emerging Australian filmmakers and creatives.



WOMEN'S GIVING COLLECTIVE

The Women's Giving Collective brings together a group of dynamic change-makers who provide financial support for the Festival to celebrate, promote and encourage the work of female and non-binary filmmakers through programs, panels, talks, exhibitions and special events.



DIRECTOR'S PATRONS

Take a leading role in securing the Festival's future by becoming a Director's Patron. Your donation will ensure SFF remains an iconic cultural event on Sydney's calendar to connect us with the most interesting and exciting storytellers from around the world. You'll meet filmmaker guests, attend special events and join a passionate cohort of SFF advocates. Director's Patrons enjoy an insider experience of Sydney Film Festival year-round!



MAKE A BEQUEST

Leaving a charitable gift to Sydney Film Festival in your Will is a meaningful way to celebrate your SFF experience and appreciation of film. Such a gift can make a substantial difference to SFF and help ensure the Festival will be around for the next generation of film lovers and filmmakers. Get in touch with the Philanthropy Team to learn more about including SFF in your legacy plans.



THE LIVING ARCHIVE: BRINGING SFF'S HISTORY FORWARD

SFF 70

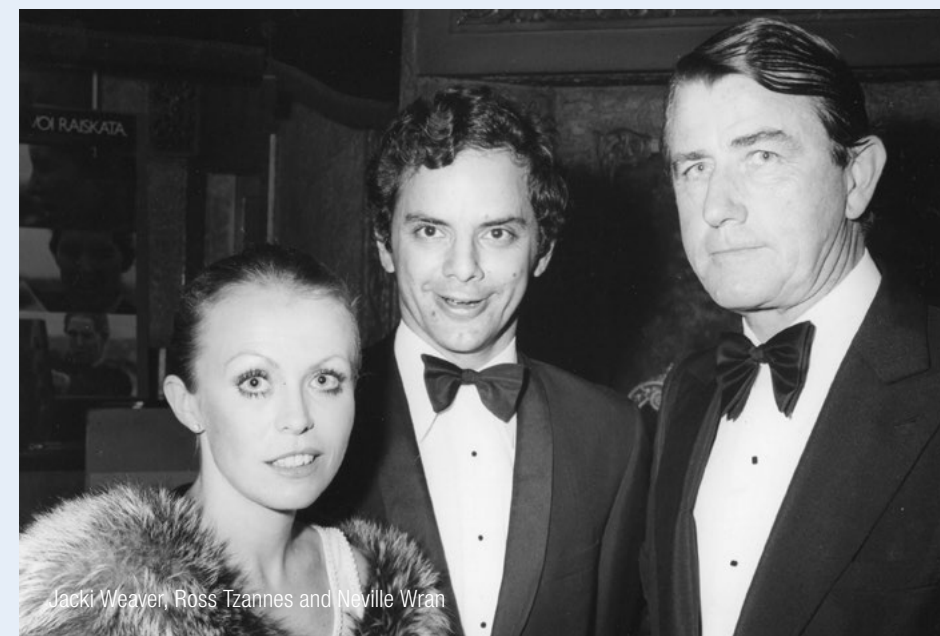
In its 70th edition, SFF celebrates with the launch of the new Living Archive, an evolving, interactive, accessible record of the Festival's progress from day one – available to explore online now.

On 11 June 1954, the inaugural Sydney Film Festival opened to a sold-out crowd of 1200 film enthusiasts at the University of Sydney. First organised by a passionate group representing Sydney's film societies, the Festival has since become one of Sydney's most significant cultural events.

Although film festivals are now held world-over, SFF was one of the first. It aimed to bring the cinephiles together through a shared love of cinema and connected the city to the globe through the exchange of stories and ideas. In 2023, this really hasn't changed, and SFF is looking towards its future by honouring this history and the Festival's evolution, with the relaunched Living Archive.

Commissioned for the Festival's 60th birthday, the original website was a fabulous resource to build from, but it needed a complete technical update – one that would keep the original purpose and vision, but go further, to invite discovery and community contribution. "We've created a modernised framework that's a lot more contemporary and interactive. The Archive functions as a tool for research, as well as a tool for conversation," says Archivist Jess Furlong. "In a way, our Archive is moving to the future with us."

Furlong has worked closely with web designers ED and the SFF Team to create the new easy-to-navigate digital repository, which will eventually capture more than 10,000 films, countless visiting filmmakers and industry and community events from the Festival's history. It now also has the capacity to enable audio and video content from throughout the seven decades of the Festival. Written critical reflections from journalists, academics and the SFF community will continue to be featured through a new partnership with the University of Sydney.



"The Living Archive has already attracted attention from the international community. Over the past 20 years I've been working in the international film festival circuit, I have never seen a resource like this," says SFF's new CEO Frances Wallace. "Witnessing the depth of care and commitment that has carried the Festival through so many years to the venerable position it occupies today, really speaks volumes for all those who have come before us – it's an inspiring story of community and passion"

Drawing from the archive, SFF audiences will be treated to a specially commissioned suite of Festival Flashbacks screening across Festival cinemas in June. They will recall pivotal moments where controversial films ignited outrage, censorship wars went all the way to parliament, Soviet films sparked ASIO's surveillance of David Stratton and SFF staff during the Cold War, and seminal moments in Australian film history, like the premiere of Australian classic *Strictly Ballroom*.

All of this work has been made possible through an SFF philanthropic initiative, along with federal and local government grants. Furlong also recruited an engaged group of volunteers who have collected and catalogued materials from the Festival's own storage, the State Library, National Film and Sound Archive, University of Sydney and new donations brought in from SFF Alumni.

Film remains an important medium for sharing cultures and ideas. The Living Archive preserves a history of international film and programming – particularly underrepresented films – ensuring these moments in time remain in the collective memory. When viewed in its totality, the Archive reveals that world history, community sentiment and cinema have always been in lockstep.

Explore the Living Archive at archive.sff.org.au

Sydney Film Festival thanks the generosity of the Archive lead donors: Charlene and Graham Bradley AM; and Margaret Andrews, David Bruce-Steer, Leo Christie OAM, Davis Property Consulting, Rosalyn Diprose, David Donaldson, Laurie Ferguson, John Gleeson, Sophie Goddard SC, Adam Herron, Richard Keys, Annette Mauer, Joan McDonald OAM, Anthony Mitchell, June Murphy, Jan O'Reilly, Jennifer Hill and Gary O'Reilly, Annie Parnell, in memory of Joe Petranovic, Caroline Pryor, Alex-Oonagh Redmond, Nizza and Max Siano, Ross Tzannes AM, Julie Young, Anonymous (2)

The Archives Project has been supported by:



If you would like to contribute to the evolution of the Living Archive project or learn more, please contact Erin Westhoff at erin.westhoff@sff.org.au

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