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Travelling Film Festival acknowledges the financial support of the New South Wales Government and Screen Australia

HOW TO BOOK

Tickets available through TFF, online or in person at the cinema. Book now to avoid disappointment.

Online: sff.org.au/tff

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Murwillumbah, New South Wales



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**SYDNEY
FILM
FESTIVAL** tff@sff.org.au
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Cover Image: Shayda

TRAVELLING FILM FESTIVAL

8-10 SEP 2023



MURWILLUMBAH THE REGENT CINEMA

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

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SCHEDULE

All films start at the advertised time.

FRIDAY 8 SEPTEMBER

7:00 PM SHAYDA (Unclassified 18+)

SATURDAY 9 SEPTEMBER

12:00 PM LET THE RIVER FLOW (Unclassified 15+)

2:30 PM SCRAPPER (M)

Screens with short film CHUM (Unclassified 15+)

4:30 PM PERFECT DAYS (Unclassified 15+)

7:00 PM PAST LIVES (M)

Screens with short film KATELE (Unclassified 15+)

SUNDAY 10 SEPTEMBER

12:00 PM SMOKE SAUNA SISTERHOOD (Unclassified 15+)

Screens with short film 14 IN FEBRUARY (Unclassified 15+)

2:30 PM RICEBOY SLEEPS (M)

5:00 PM ANATOMY OF A FALL (M)

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



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OPENING NIGHT: SHAYDA



FRIDAY 8 SEPTEMBER | 7:00 PM

Directed by Noora Niasari | Australia

In English and Farsi, with English subtitles

118 mins | Unclassified 18+

Iranian woman Shayda finds refuge in a women's shelter with her 6-year-young daughter, Mona, hiding from her estranged husband, Hossein, seeking a permanent separation with divorce. The refuge provides a roof over their heads and kindness through the efforts of the shelter worker (Leah Purcell), while Shayda and Mona attempt a fresh start with the promise of freedom ahead. But when the legal system grants Hossein access rights to their daughter, Shayda's life is once again under threat.

Drawn from personal experiences, Iranian-Australian filmmaker Noora Niasari's powerful debut feature, executive produced by Cate Blanchett, is a beautifully crafted, poetic vérité portrayal of courage and compassion, anchored by a heart-rending performance by Zar Amir Ebrahimi (2022 Cannes' best actress award winner for *Holy Spider*).

sundance
FILM
FESTIVAL

MIFF

LET THE RIVER FLOW



SAT 9 SEP | 12:00 PM

Directed by Ole Giæver
Norway, Finland | In Norwegian, Sámi
with English subtitles | 118 mins
Unclassified 15+

Summer, 1979. Recently graduated, 23-year-old schoolteacher Ester (magnetic newcomer Ella Marie Hætta Isaksen) moves to the north and like many Sámi – the native people of Scandinavia – is ashamed of her heritage and conceals her ethnicity to fit in. When her cousin Mihkkal (Gard Emil), takes Ester to see a riverside camp and demonstration against the government's plan to build a hydroelectricity plant, she slowly begins to understand that the conflict is about more than environmental concerns – her very identity and culture is being challenged. *Let the River Flow* powerfully depicts the events that led to a turning point in the fight for Sámi rights. An award-winning film based on true events that inspired a generation of young Norwegians.

CINEUROPA

"Lively and empathetic. Powerful in cause and historical depiction."

SMOKE SAUNA SISTERHOOD



SUN 10 SEP | 12:00 PM

Directed by Anna Hints
Estonia, France, Iceland | In Estonian,
Seto and Võro with English subtitles
89 mins | Unclassified 15+

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 Egilsson's score heightens this choral portrait of contemporary womanhood.

**2023 DIRECTING AWARD:
WORLD CINEMA DOCUMENTARY**

SCREEN INTERNATIONAL

"Conveys a sense of cleansing that is both physical and spiritual."

SCRAPPER



SAT 9 SEP | 2:30 PM

Directed by Charlotte Regan
UK | In English | 84 mins | M
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 living happily alone in London after her mother dies. Resourceful, bicycle-stealing Georgie manages to convince everyone that she is in the care of her uncle 'Winston Churchill', until her estranged father, (Harris Dickinson, *Triangle of Sadness*, SFF 2022), more man-child than parent, turns up. 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...but that wasn't my experience."

SFF **sundance**
FILM FESTIVAL

INDIEWIRE

"Scrapper is smart, sensitive debut and a promising arrival for its talented director."

RICEBOY SLEEPS



SUN 10 SEP | 2:30 PM

Directed by Anthony Shim
Canada | In Korean and English with
English subtitles | 117 mins | M

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, Shim charts the difficulties faced by So-young and Dong-hyun as they attempt to fit into Canadian suburbia. 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, akin to *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.

SFF **tiff**

EYE FOR FILM

"Punching well above its weight, the film is a triumph of independent filmmaking, and Shim should now be on every serious cinephile's radar."

PERFECT DAYS



SAT 9 SEP | 4:30 PM

Directed by Wim Wenders
Japan, Germany | In Japanese with
English subtitles | 123 mins
Unclassified 15+

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, seeming utterly content reading and photographing trees. 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.

SFF

VARIETY

"Wim Wenders' gentle Japanese character study is his best narrative film in decades."

ANATOMY OF A FALL



SUN 10 SEP | 5:00 PM

Directed by Justine Triet
France | In French, English and German
with English subtitles | 150 mins | M

In Cannes Palme d'Or winner, Sandra Hüller plays Sandra, a successful German writer who has spent the last year living with her French husband Samuel (Samuel Theis) and 11-year-old son Daniel (Milo Machado Graner) in a chalet in the idyllic French Alps. When Samuel is found dead by young Daniel, lying in the snow with a severe head injury, the police begin investigations that gradually reveal a fractious relationship. A year later, Sandra is on trial for murder, with her son's testimony crucial to the outcome. As concerned with ideas around sexuality, art and marriage as with the twists and turns of the investigation and trial, *Anatomy of a Fall* is a searingly intelligent film that lingers in the mind long after the closing credits.

SFF **tiff**

HOLLYWOOD REPORTER

"A gripping and gratifyingly rich drama... A director and actress in peak form."

PAST LIVES



SAT 9 SEP | 7:00 PM

Directed by Celine Song
USA | In English, Korean with English
subtitles | 106 mins | M

Na Young and Hae Sung are friends in Korea. A budding childhood romance ends when Na Young's family emigrates to North America. Twelve years later, Na Young – now Nora (Greta Lee) – is a student, and an online reunion occurs. Then another 12 years later sees Hae Sung and Nora finally reunited in New York, when he decides to visit. 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, evoking something profound and universal in us all.

SFF **sundance**
FILM FESTIVAL

THE GUARDIAN

"Celine Song's remarkable debut is a rare mature adult drama of inexpressible connections and one of the most effective films of the year."

KEY

SFF
Sydney Film Festival

**International
Filmfestival
Berlin**

Berlin International
Film Festival

tiff

Toronto International
Film Festival

sundance
FILM FESTIVAL
Sundance Film Festival

FESTIVAL DE CANNES

Cannes Film Festival

MIFF

Melbourne International
Film Festival

SHORT FILMS

KATELE



Directed by John Harvey
Australia | In English and Kala
Kawa Ya with English subtitles
13 mins | Unclassified 15+

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

SCREENS WITH
PAST LIVES

CHUM



Directed by Jason King
Australia | In English
12 mins | Unclassified 15+

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

SCREENS WITH
SCRAPPER

14 IN FEBRUARY



Directed by Victoria Singh-Thompson
Australia | In English
9 mins | Unclassified 15+

When Arabella, a hard-of-hearing school student, begins spending 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.

SCREENS WITH
**SMOKE SAUNA
SISTERHOOD**