



## MEDIA RELEASE

**EMBARGOED UNTIL 11:00 WEDNESDAY 6 MAY 2015**

# SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES DOCUMENTARY AUSTRALIA FOUNDATION AWARD FINALISTS

The 62<sup>nd</sup> Sydney Film Festival announces 10 finalists for the Documentary Australia Foundation Award for Australian Documentary.

The **Documentary Australia Foundation** will award \$10,000 to the winner amongst the 10 outstanding Australian documentaries selected to screen at the Festival in June. The Festival's Australian documentary prize is now in its seventh year; and the second year the prize has been supported by the Foundation. The winner is announced at the **Closing Night Gala on Sunday 14 June**, held at the **State Theatre**.

"Since inception in 1954, Sydney Film Festival has showcased Australian documentary filmmaking," said **Documentary Australia Foundation CEO Dr Mitzi Goldman**. "The Documentary Australia Foundation is proud to support that tradition for the second year. Documentary filmmaking is a very strong and internationally regarded sector of the Australian film industry and this award honours the passion and commitment of our documentary filmmakers. It is their vision and tenacity that enables Australian audiences to connect with the meaningful and often untold stories of our lives, our history and the world today."

Previous winners of the Australian documentary prize at Sydney Film Festival include: *35 Letters* (2014), *Buckskin* (2013), *Killing Anna* (2012), *Life in Movement* (2011) and *The Snowman* (2010). In 2009 the inaugural prize was shared between *Contact* and *A Good Man* (each film received a \$10,000 cash prize).

Winners of all Sydney Film Festival are presented with the Festival's signature mesmeric swirl award, designed and handmade in Sydney by our partners Dinosaur Designs.

## The 10 finalists for the 2015 Sydney Film Festival Documentary Australia Foundation Award for Australian Documentary are:

- **THE BOLIVIAN CASE** Australia, Bolivia, Colombia, USA | 2015 | 81 mins | In English, Spanish and Norwegian with English subtitles | Documentary  
*Director: Violeta Ayala | Producers: Dan Fallshaw, Violeta Ayala*
- **THE CAMBODIAN SPACE PROJECT – NOT EASY ROCK 'N' ROLL** Australia, UK | 2015 | 81 mins | In English and Khmer with English Subtitles | Documentary  
*Director: Marc Eberle | Producer: Richard Kuipers*
- **FREEDOM STORIES** Australia | 2015 | 99 mins | In English | Documentary  
*Director: Steve Thomas | Producer: Lisa Horler*
- **GAYBY BABY** Australia | 2015 | 85 mins | In English | Documentary

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*Director: Maya Newell | Producer: Charlotte Mars*

- **THE LOST AVIATOR** Australia | 91 mins | In English | Documentary  
*Director: Andrew Lancaster | Producers: Noni Couell, Andrew Lancaster*
- **ONLY THE DEAD** Australia | 2015 | 78 mins | In English and Arabic | Documentary  
*Directors: Bill Guttentag, Michael Ware | Producers: Patrick McDonald, Michael Ware*
- **SONGLINES ON SCREEN** Australia | 2015 | 81 mins | In Indigenous languages with English subtitles
  - **BULUNU MILKARRI** Australia | 2015 | 25 mins | In Djambarrpungu with English subtitles | World Premiere | Documentary  
*Director: Sylvia Nulpinditj | Producer: Gaia Osborne*
  - **TJAWA TJAWA** Australia | 2015 | 11 mins | In Kukatja with English subtitles | World Premiere | Documentary  
*Director: Mark Moora | Producer: Neil Turner*
  - **FOOTPRINTS** Australia | 2015 | 13 mins | In English | World Premiere | Documentary  
*Director: Cornel Ozies | Producers: Nganyamea Nagarra (Eileen) Torres & Eloise Schnierer*
  - **GOORRANDALNG: BROLGA DREAMING** Australia | 2015 | 10 mins | In English and Miriwoong with English subtitles | World Premiere | Documentary  
*Director: Ju Ju Wilson | Producer: Robyn Marais*
  - **NAJI** Australia | 2015 | 9 mins | In English | World Premiere | Documentary  
*Director: Kimberley West | Producer: Jodie Bell*
  - **WURRAY** Australia | 2015 | 15 mins | In Yolngu with English subtitles  
*Director: Keith Lapulung | Producer: Paul Williams*
- **TYKE ELEPHANT OUTLAW** Australia | 2015 | 78 mins | In English | Documentary  
*Directors, Producers: Susan Lambert, Stefan Moore | Co-Producer: Megan McMurchy*
- **WIDE OPEN SKY** Australia | 2015 | 79 mins | In English | Documentary  
*Director: Lisa Nicol | Producers: Lisa Nicol, Anna Craney*
- **WOMEN HE'S UNDRESSED** Australia | 2015 | 100 mins | In English | Documentary  
*Director: Gillian Armstrong | Producer: Damien Parer*

**Sydney Film Festival runs 3 – 14 June 2015.**

**Tickets for Sydney Film Festival 2015 are on sale now. Please call 1300 733 733 or visit [sff.org.au](http://sff.org.au) for more information.**

## ABOUT SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL

From **Wednesday 3 June** to **Sunday 14 June 2015**, the 62<sup>nd</sup> Sydney Film Festival offers Sydneysiders another exciting season of cinema amidst a whirlwind of premieres, red-carpet openings, panel discussions, international guests and more. Each year the Festival's programming team curates 12 days of cinema sourced from world-famous film festivals, including Cannes, Sundance, Toronto and the Berlinale; as well as Australia's finest local productions.

Sydney Film Festival also presents an Official Competition of 12 films that vie for the Sydney Film Prize, a highly respected honour that awards a \$60,000 cash prize based on the decision of a jury of international and Australian filmmakers and industry professionals. Previous Sydney Film Prize winners are: *Two Days, One Night* (2014); *Only God Forgives* (2013); *Alps* (2012); *A Separation* (2011), which went on to win an Academy Award; *Heartbeats* (2010); and *Bronson* (2009).

The Festival takes place across greater Sydney: at the State Theatre, Event Cinemas George Street, Dendy Opera Quays, Dendy Newtown, Art Gallery of NSW, Hayden Orpheum Picture Palace Cremorne, Casula Powerhouse, the Festival Hub at Sydney Town Hall and SFF Outdoor Screen.

The Festival is a major event on the New South Wales cultural calendar and is one of the world's longest-running film festivals. For more information visit: [www.sff.org.au](http://www.sff.org.au).

The 62nd Sydney Film Festival is supported by the NSW Government through Screen NSW and Destination NSW, the Federal Government through Screen Australia and the City of Sydney.

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## **ABOUT DOCUMENTARY AUSTRALIAN FOUNDATION (DAF)**

Documentary Australian Foundation (DAF) brings philanthropists and filmmakers together to create social change. With storytelling we forge new pathways to audiences through collaborations with the social sector, and amplify the profile and impact of community-focused themes and issues through documentary. DAF provides expertise, information, guidance and resources to help each sector work together to achieve their goals, amplifying the issues they represent. DAF receives and manages grants and donations that are directed either towards our own programs or to specific film projects. For more information visit: [www.documentaryaustralia.com.au](http://www.documentaryaustralia.com.au).

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