



## MEDIA RELEASE

SUNDAY 7 JUNE 2015

### **SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES *CEMETERY OF SPLENDOUR***

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The 62nd Sydney Film Festival announces Apichatpong Weerasethakul's new film *Cemetery of Splendour* will screen at the Festival.

"The Festival is thrilled to announce another important film direct from Cannes will join the 2015 Festival line-up," said Festival Director Nashen Moodley. "Multi-award winning Thai filmmaker Weerasethakul's much anticipated *Cemetery of Splendour* is based on the true story of a strange and mysterious outbreak requiring 40 soldiers to be quarantined and hospitalised in northern Thailand. The film is transfixing, hypnotic and quietly overwhelming, a work of true beauty that demands to be seen in a cinema," he said.

Set in Weerasethakul's hometown of Khon Kaen, located in the northeast Thai region of Isan; *Cemetery of Splendour*, arrives at Sydney Film Festival from a rapturous reception in Cannes. Weerasethakul won the Palme d'Or in 2010 for *Uncle Boonmee Who Can Recall His Past Lives*, and is counted as one of the most exciting voices in contemporary cinema.

#### **Synopsis for this special screening:**

#### ***CEMETERY OF SPLENDOUR***

Straight from its rapturous reception in Cannes comes the latest film from Apichatpong Weerasethakul. One of the few directors to have won the Palme d'Or (*Uncle Boonmee Who Can Recall His Past Lives*, 2010), the Prix du Jury (*Tropical Malady*, 2004) and the Un Certain Regard prize (*Blissfully Yours*, 2002) at Cannes, Weerasethakul has established himself as one of the most exciting voices in contemporary cinema. Shot in Weerasethakul's home town of Khon Kaen, located in the northeast Thai region of Isan, *Cemetery of Splendour* centres around a mysterious rural clinic for soldiers suffering from troubled dreams, and the carers who look for ways to heal them. Transfixing, hypnotic and quietly overwhelming, this is a work of true beauty that demands to be seen in a cinema.

Screens Thursday 11 June, 8.30pm, Event Cinemas George Street and Sunday 14 June, 2pm, Event Cinemas George Street.

**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.**

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#### **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

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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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