

SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL

05-16 JUNE 2019

MEDIA RELEASE

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SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL HUB: FREE TALKS & PARTIES

The 66th Sydney Film Festival announces that the Festival Hub at Town Hall will be an immersive Festival experience, with FREE filmmaker talks, panels, and themed parties.

Open to the public all nights, and select days from 6-16 June, The Hub will feature a Happy Hour special at its pop up bar between 4:30pm and 6:00pm on weekdays, with drinks from Archie Rose Distilling Co., Handpicked Wines and Young Henrys. Discount tickets to Festival films (\$10) can also be snapped up to selected screenings at the Hub Box Office daily.

For the first time, The Hub will screen shortlisted films from the inaugural **IGTV Film Festival**, presented by **Instagram**, Sydney Film Festival and **VICE**. Shot in an innovative vertical format, the films offer insight into the world of young Australians, and what the future of Australia may hold. The public are invited to attend the Instagram Lounge, where they can view finalist films and vote for a People's Choice Award. Entries are open until May 28 at igtvfilmfestival.com.au

The Hub will also host photo exhibition **FRAME: How Asia Pacific Feminist Filmmakers and Artists are Confronting Inequalities**, recently shown at the Australian Embassy during Berlinale. A collaboration between Jane Sloane, director of The Asia Foundation's Women's Empowerment Program, US-based photographers Ariel and Sam Soto-Suver, and artistic advisor Maxine Williamson, the exhibition showcases eight Asia Pacific feminist screen creatives challenging the pervasive influence of patriarchy. Filmmakers include Sydney Film Festival Board Member **Jan Chapman** (*Love Serenade*, SFF 2019), Indigenous Australian filmmaker **Erica Glynn** (*She Who Must Be Obe~~yed~~ Loved*, SFF 2019), and Thai director **Anocha Suwichakornpong** (*By the Time It Gets Dark*, SFF 2018).

"The Hub is the beating heart of the Festival, alongside the filmmakers and guests, whose wide range of knowledge, skills, talents and points of view come together to create films that open a window into other worlds and experiences," said **Festival Director Nashen Moodley**. "The Hub will also host fantastic parties that immerse you in the world of films featured at the Festival: from a zombie jam dedicated to Jim Jarmusch's new film *The Dead Don't Die*, to a raucous celebration of riot grrrl punk rock after *Her Smell*, and a tribute to the tunes of the Boss, Bruce Springsteen, before *Blinded by the Light*."

"The Festival is also very excited to present the inaugural IGTV Film Festival with Instagram and VICE, and encourages visitors of The Hub to vote for their favourite innovative entry showcasing an imagined Australian future in the People's Choice Award," he said.

TALKS

The **FREE Festival Talks** at the Festival Hub create a space for audiences, filmmakers and industry professionals to progress a dialogue about the important topics and issues of the year, addressed in Festival films.



Judy & Punch director **Mirrah Foulkes**, actors **Mia Wasikowska** and **Damon Herriman**, and producers **Nash Edgerton** and **Michele Bennett** will take part in a **Meet the Filmmakers** talk discussing their new feminist revenge tale (Sunday 9 June, 1:30pm).

Following the screening of his debut feature *Marighella*, *Narcos* star **Wagner Moura** will participate in a post-screening **Extended Q&A** (Sunday 9 June, 5:00pm) with film journalist Sandy George.

Korean director Bong Joon-ho (*Okja*, SFF 2017 Closing Night Film) will participate in a **Meet the Filmmaker** talk (Sunday 16 June, 2:15pm) with Festival Director Nashen Moodley after the screening of his satire on income inequality *Parasite*.

Oscar-winning director **Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck** will engage in an **Extended Q&A** with film critic **David Stratton** discussing his approach to making his double Oscar-nominated epic *Never Look Away* (Tuesday 11 June, 6:15pm).

Hosted by UNSW Arts & Social Sciences, **The Work of Freda Glynn and Merata Mita** (Friday 14 June, 8:15pm) will feature filmmakers behind *She Who Must Be Obeyed* and *Merata: How Mum Decolonised the Screen* discussing the ground breaking work of these two trailblazers.

Six emerging women directors from Europe will participate in the public talk **In Conversation: Europe! Voices of Women in Film** (Sunday 9 June, 3:00pm) at the Festival Hub, discussing their experiences, and what steps towards gender parity have been made in recent years with Screen International's Sarah Ward.

The Festival will host **An Audience Guide to Varda** with ACMI's **Kristy Matheson**, curator of the Viva Varda retrospective, at the Festival Hub (Saturday 8 June, 4:30pm).

Hosted by The University of Sydney and following the screening of *One Child Nation*, co-director **Jialing Zhang** will discuss the making of her Sundance Grand Jury Prize-winning documentary (Friday 7 June, 4:00pm).

Following the Australian Premiere of Sydney-based French director Partho Sen-Gupta's *Slam* will be **Poetry Slam in the Hub** (Saturday 15 June, 4:45pm), a thrilling slam showcase featuring poets from across Sydney.

Blake Howard returns to the Festival for another live episode of **One Heat Minute @ Sydney Film Festival**, examining Michael Mann's 1995 crime opus *Heat*, minute by minute (Tuesday 11 June, 8:00pm). The podcast was included in New York Magazine/Vulture's "Top 100 Podcasts."

FILMMAKER TALKS WITH VIVID IDEAS

As part of Vivid Sydney, the largest festival of light, music and ideas in the Southern Hemisphere, Vivid Ideas and Sydney Film Festival present five free Filmmaker Talks.

"It is fantastic to see two of the Sydney's most loved events join forces to provide guests from around NSW, the country and the globe with the chance to hear from some of the industry's thought leaders," said **Minister for Jobs, Investment, Tourism and Western Sydney Stuart Ayres**.

"Both Vivid Sydney and Sydney Film Festival reinforce the Harbour City's position as the creative industries hub of Asia and the Pacific, and these free Filmmaker Talks offer unique insight into the making of masterpieces such as NSW's own *Palm Beach*. As part of Vivid Sydney, Vivid Ideas inspires guests to think beyond the status quo and exchange thoughts about everything from tech and design to culture."



Renowned Australian director **Rachel Ward** will take part in the annual **Ian McPherson Memorial Lecture** at the Festival Hub, hosted by film critic David Stratton (Monday 10 June, 6:30pm). Ward will discuss her long and diverse career to date, including Opening Night film *Palm Beach*.

Australian director **Ian Darling** will take part in a panel on **The Final Quarter** (Sunday 9 June, 11:30am), hosted by Marngrook Footy Show's Shelley Ware. Darling will be joined by Indigenous and non-Indigenous media, and political and sporting commentators, to discuss the implications of this powerful film.

Following the screening of *Hearts and Bones*, director **Ben Lawrence** will discuss his debut feature alongside **Hugo Weaving** at a **Meet the Filmmakers** talk (Sunday 16 June, 11:30am) with Sydney Morning Herald's Garry Maddox.

US actor **RJ Mitte** (*Standing Up for Sunny*) and filmmakers from the Screenability Program will participate in a **Meet the Filmmakers** talk with Screenability Programmer Sofya Gollan at HOYTS Entertainment Quarter (Saturday 15 June, 4:00pm), discussing the importance of authentic representation in film.

In conjunction with the Australian Screen Editors, Nick Meyers (*Palm Beach*, SFF 2019) and Dany Cooper (*Judy & Punch*, SFF 2019) will discuss the role of editing in storytelling with Andrea Lang at **Talking Editing** at the Festival Hub (Saturday 15 June, 4:15pm).

FREE PARTIES AT THE HUB

Jim Jarmusch's Zombie Jam (Friday 14 June, 8:30pm) will celebrate the music-filled world of indie legend Jim Jarmusch's films, including his latest *The Dead Don't Die*, from spooky bops to Wu-Tang Clan.

Festivalgoers can hurl themselves headfirst into the **Grrrl's Punk Riot** party (Sunday 9 June, 9:30pm) after the screening of *Her Smell*, featuring a live performance from Sydney band Good Pash.

Spinning Springsteen (Saturday 8 June, 7:30pm) will be a gloriously blue-collar celebration of Bruce Springsteen's back catalogue, before the screening of *Blinded By the Light*. Pull out your finest cut-off denim vest or flannel and expect back-to-back Boss tunes.

The **IGTV Film Festival Party** (Tuesday 11 June, 8pm) will announce the winner of the People's Choice award, a \$5000 prize for the best film shot using Instagram's vertical format. Visit igtvfilmfestival.com.au for competition details.

The **Meet the Filmmakers: Suburban Wildlife & Sequin in a Blue Room** party (Saturday 8 June, 1pm) will be an opportunity for under-25s to meet the emerging Australian filmmakers behind *Suburban Wildlife* and *Sequin in a Blue Room*. Find out how these young filmmakers got their first features off the ground, and hang around afterwards for a chat and a snack.

The full Sydney Film Festival 2019 program can be found online at sff.org.au.

Sydney Film Festival runs 5 – 16 June 2019. Tickets for Sydney Film Festival 2019 are on sale now. Please call 1300 733 733 or visit sff.org.au for more information.



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

EDITOR'S NOTES

ABOUT SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL

From Wednesday 5 June to Sunday 16 June 2019, the 66th Sydney Film Festival offers Sydneysiders another exciting season of cinema amidst a whirlwind of premieres, red-carpet openings, in-depth discussions, international guests and more.

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: *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); *Bronson* (2009); and *Hunger* (2008).

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: sff.org.au.

The 66th Sydney Film Festival is supported by the NSW Government through Create NSW and Destination NSW, the Federal Government through Screen Australia and the City of Sydney. The Festival's Strategic Partner is the NSW Government via its tourism and major events agency, Destination NSW.

ABOUT VIVID SYDNEY

Vivid Sydney is the largest festival of light, music and ideas in the Southern Hemisphere. Celebrating its eleventh anniversary in 2019, Vivid Sydney is continually setting the benchmark for world class events, creativity and innovation. It will transform the Harbour City into a colourful creative canvas from the 24 May to 15 June, 2019. The Festival features spectacular large-scale light installations and projections; contemporary and cutting-edge music performances and collaborations; public talks by renowned thought leaders, industry seminars, conferences and creativity workshops, all celebrating Sydney's place as the creative industries hub of the Asia-Pacific. Vivid Sydney is owned, managed and produced by Destination NSW, the NSW Government's tourism and major events agency, and in 2018 attracted 2.25 million attendees. For more information visit vividssydney.com

