



MEDIA RELEASE

EMBARGOED UNTIL 08:30PM SUNDAY 19 JUNE 2016

SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED AT CLOSING NIGHT GALA

The 63rd Sydney Film Festival tonight awarded *Aquarius*, directed by **Kleber Mendonça Filho**, the prestigious **Sydney Film Prize**, out of a selection of 12 Official Competition films.

The \$63,000 cash prize was awarded at the Festival's **Closing Night Gala awards ceremony** and event: the Australian premiere screening of **Whit Stillman's *Love & Friendship***, held at the State Theatre.

Sydney filmmaker **Dan Jackson** was awarded the **Documentary Australia Foundation Award for Australian Documentary**, a \$15,000 cash prize, for *In the Shadow of the Hill*; with a special mention going to *Destination Arnold* directed by **Sascha Ettinger Epstein**.

The **Dendy Awards for Australian Short Films** were announced; awarding *Slapper*, directed and written by **Luci Schroder**, **The Dendy Live Action Short Award**; *The Crossing*, directed and written by **Marieka Walsh**, **The Yoram Gross Animation Award**; and **Goran Stolevski**, the **Rouben Mamoulian Award for Best Director**, for *You Deserve Everything*.

The **Event Cinema Australian Short Screenplay Award** was awarded to *Spice Sisters*, written and directed by **Sheila Jayadev**, who received a \$5,000 cash prize, with a special mention to **Matthew Vesely** for *My Best Friend Is Stuck On The Ceiling*.

The new annual **Sydney UNESCO City of Film Prize** was awarded to **Ms Lynette Wallworth**, who received \$10,000 prize awarded by Screen NSW, presented by **Margaret Pomeranz AM**.

Sydney Film Festival CEO Leigh Small said, "Cinemas were full again this year with an average of 73% capacity across all sessions and more sellouts than ever before. Final attendance figures will exceed last year and reach almost 180,000. We were particularly proud to present even more filmmaker and curator hosted screenings; and to see the introduction of the Lexus Short Film Fellowships."

Sydney Film Festival Director Nashen Moodley said: "The Festival has been bolstered with an incredible line up of important films and filmmakers from around the world, with a strong selection direct from Cannes, including the winning film Kleber Mendonça Filho's *Aquarius*, Xavier Dolan's *It's Only the End of the World*, Oscar winning Spanish filmmaker Pedro Almodóvar's *Julieta*, Singaporean Boo Junfeng's *Apprentice*, and American filmmaker Matt Ross's *Captain Fantastic*, French director Jean-François Richet's *Blood Father* starring Oscar-winning filmmaker and actor Mel Gibson; American filmmaker Jim Jarmusch's *Gimme Danger*, Oscar-winning filmmaker Steven Spielberg's fantasy adventure *The BFG*; prolific contemporary Indian director Anurag Kashyap's *Psycho Raman*; Korean director Park Chan-wook's sensual, twist-filled tale *The Handmaiden* and Jim Jarmusch's popular Cannes hit *Paterson*.

"Important voices for Australian cinema also received their world premieres at the Festival including Ivan Sen with *Goldstone*, Abe Forsythe's *Down Under*, Stephen Sewell's *Embedded* and Craig Boreham's *Teenage Kicks* which screened to critical acclaim."

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“Other highlights included hosting multi Academy Award winning documentarian **Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy** who presented the Australian premiere of her most recent films ***A Girl in the River: The Price of Forgiveness***, and ***A Journey of a Thousand Miles: Peacekeepers*** with co-director Geeta Gandbhir, to a standing ovation. On the final weekend, the festival hosted another Oscar winner, **Morgan Neville** (***20 Feet from Stardom***), with his latest music-inspired documentary ***The Music of Strangers – Yo Yo Ma and the Silk Road Ensemble***.”

“The Festival also announced the inaugural four **Lexus Australia Short Film Fellowship** fellows: **Anya Beyersdorf**, **Brooke Goldfinch**, **Alex Murawski** and **Alex Ryan** at the world premiere of Australian actor and filmmaker Damian Walshe-Howling’s short film ***MESSIAH***, at the State Theatre, followed by the Australian Premiere of ***Blood Father***, where **Mel Gibson** introduced his film, and the next day was in-conversation at a free public talk at the Festival Hub,” he said.

EDITOR’S NOTES

The Sydney Film Prize

Aquarius, directed by **Kleber Mendonça Filho**, was tonight awarded **Sydney Film Festival’s** prestigious **Sydney Film Prize**, from a selection of **12 Official Competition** films, at the Festival’s Closing Night Gala.

The \$63,000 cash prize, now in its ninth year, is awarded for a film’s ‘emotional power and resonance; audaciousness, cutting-edge, courageousness; and capacity to go beyond the usual treatment of the subject matter’.

“The jury was unanimous in its admiration of a strong competition this year, and wishes to award Kleber Mendonça Filho as the recipient of this year’s Sydney Film Prize, for his film ***Aquarius***,” said **Jury President Simon Field**. “***Aquarius*** is a compelling and relevant statement about contemporary Brazil, and the power of an individual standing up for what she believes,” he said.

“Mendonça Filho has created a film that is both political and personal – witty, sexy and playful. A film of effortless verve and intelligence. At the heart of the film is Sonia Braga’s astonishing and brave performance of a fearless character, resisting pressures from her family, and the corporate world,” he said.

Selected to compete for the Palme d’Or at the 2016 Cannes Film Festival, Mendonça Filho’s magnificent second feature is about social justice, with an incredible role crafted for Sonia Braga, thirty years after ***Kiss of the Spider Woman*** first brought her international acclaim. The story unfolds across three chapters, and celebrates the prospect of growing stronger with age.

The Brazilian drama also engages with the paradox of a society so keen on building its future that it steamrolls the past. Mendonça Filho’s meditative filmmaking will be familiar to audiences of his first narrative feature, ***Neighboring Sounds***, which screened at Sydney Film Festival in 2012.

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Accepting from Recife, Brazil; filmmaker Kleber Mendonça Filho was delighted to receive news of the decision. "Aquarius is still very young, Australia was only the second country to get to see it and no one has actually seen it in Brazil, its home country. To get this recognition from Sydney Film Festival means a lot to me and to the film, which is building up momentum for our Brazilian release. Sydney is also a festival of large audiences and cinephilia, and I could not feel prouder to accept this award. Thank you."

Four years after his first feature-length drama, *Neighboring Sounds* was chosen as Brazil's submission for Best Foreign Language Film at the Oscars, and has won 120 awards in Brazil and abroad; his follow up feature continues to bring the Brazilian director accolades. Highly relevant, *Aquarius* comes at a poignant time when Brazil struggles with a real-life political crisis, and speaks to the bigger picture of power politics.

The United Kingdom's international programmer and producer **Simon Field** presided over Sydney Film Festival's 2016 Official Competition Jury. Prolific Australian writer, director and producer **Robert Connolly**, Dublin International Film Festival Director **Grainne Humphreys**, acclaimed Australian producer **Bridget Ikin**, and Japan's innovative documentarian **Kazuhiro Soda** comprised the full Festival jury.

The Festival's Official Competition was established in 2008 and is endorsed by Fédération Internationale des Associations de Producteurs de Films; the regulating organisation for international film festivals.

Previous Sydney Film Prize winners are: *Arabian Nights* (2015); *Two Days, One Night* (2014); *Only God Forgives* (2013); *Alps* (2012); *A Separation* (2011), which went on to win an Academy Award; *Heartbeats* (2010); *Bronson* (2009); and *Hunger* (2008).

The selection of films in Competition for the SFF 2016 Sydney Film Prize were:

Apprentice

Singapore, Germany, France, Hong Kong, Qatar | 2016 | 96 mins | In English and Bahasa Malaysian with English subtitles | Australian Premiere

Director, Screenwriter: Boo Junfeng | Producer: Raymond Phathanavirangoon | Cast: Fir Rahman, Wan Hanafi Su, Mastura Ahmad | World Sales: Luxbox

Aquarius

France, Brazil | 2016 | 141 mins | In Portuguese with English subtitles | Australian Premiere

Director, Screenwriter: Kleber Mendonça Filho | Producers: Saïd Ben Saïd, Emilie Lesclaux, Michel Merkt | Cast: Sonia Braga, Maeve Jinkings, Irandhir Santos | World Sales: SBS International

Certain Women

USA | 2016 | 107 mins | In English | Australian Premiere

Director, Screenwriter: Kelly Reichardt | Producer: Neil Kopp | Cast: Kristen Stewart, Michelle Williams, Laura Dern | Distributor: Sony Pictures

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The Childhood of a Leader

UK, Hungary, France | 2015 | 116 mins | In English and French with English subtitles | Australian Premiere

Director: Brady Corbet | Screenwriters: Brady Corbet, Mona Fastvold | Producers: Chris Coen, Ron Curtis, Antoine de Clermont-Tonnerre, Helena Daneilsson, Istvan Major | Cast: Liam Cunningham, Bérénice Bejo, Robert Pattinson | World Sales: Protagonist Pictures

The Endless River

South Africa, France | 2015 | 110 mins | In English | Australian Premiere

Director, Screenwriter: Oliver Hermanus | Producers: Didier Costet, Marvin Saven, Genevieve Hofmeyr | Cast: Nicolas Duvauchelle, Crystal-Donna Roberts, Clayton Evertson | World Sales: Urban Distribution International

Goldstone

Australia | 2016 | 109 mins | In English | World Premiere

Director, Screenwriter: Ivan Sen | Producers: Greer Simpkin, David Jowsey | Cast: Aaron Pedersen, Alex Russell, Jacki Weaver | Distributor: Transmission Films

It's Only the End of the World

France, Canada | 2016 | 97 mins | In French with English subtitles | Australian Premiere

Director, Screenwriter: Xavier Dolan | Producers: Xavier Dolan, Nancy Grant, Nathanaël Karmitz, Sylvain Corbeil | Cast: Gaspard Ulliel, Vincent Cassel, Marion Cotillard | Distributor: Transmission Films

Land of Mine

Denmark, Germany | 2015 | 101 mins | In English, German and Danish with English subtitles | Australian Premiere

Director, Screenwriter: Martin Zandvliet | Producers: Mikael Chr. Rieks, Malte Grunert | Cast: Roland Møller, Louis Hofmann, Joel Basman | Distributor: Palace Film

Letters From War

Portugal | 2016 | 105 mins | In Portuguese with English subtitles | Australian Premier

Director: Ivo M. Ferreira | Screenwriters: Ivo M. Ferreira, Edgar Medina | Producers: Luís Urbano, Sandro Aguilar | Cast: Miguel Nunes, Margarida Vila-Nova, Ricardo Pereira | World Sales: The Match Factory

Notes on Blindness

UK | 2016 | 87 mins | In English | Australian Premiere

Directors, Screenwriters: Peter Middleton, James Spinney | Producers: Mike Brett, Jo-Jo Ellison, Steve Jamison, Peter Middleton, James Spinney, Alex Osborne | Cast: Dan Skinner, Simone Kirby | World Sales: Cinephil

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Psycho Raman

India | 2016 | 128 mins | In Hindi with English subtitles | Australian Premiere

Director: Anurag Kashyap | Screenwriters: Vasan Bala, Anurag Kashyap | Producer: Madhu Mantena | Cast: Nawazuddin Siddiqui, Sobhita Dhulipala, Vicky Kaushal | World Sales: Stray Dogs

Viva

Ireland | 2015 | 100 mins | In Spanish with English subtitles | Australian Premiere

Director: Paddy Breathnach | Screenwriter: Mark O'Halloran | Producers: Rebecca O'Flanagan, Robert Walpole | Cast: Jorge Perugorria, Luis Alberto Garcia, Héctor Medina | Festivals: Pascale Ramonda

The Documentary Australia Foundation Award for Australian Documentary

The winner of the Documentary Australia Foundation Award for Australian Documentary is awarded a generous cash prize of \$10,000 with an additional donation of \$5,000 from an anonymous SFF Director's Cut Patron to acknowledge excellence in documentary production. 2016 marks the third year the prize has been supported by the Foundation.

Sydney filmmaker **Dan Jackson** was awarded the **Documentary Australia Foundation Award for Australian Documentary**, a \$15,000 cash prize, for *In the Shadow of the Hill*; with a special mention going to *Destination Arnold* directed by **Sascha Ettinger Epstein**.

In a joint statement the DAF Jury said: "After much deliberation the DAF award goes to *In the Shadow of the Hill*, set in Rio De Janeiro's largest slum Rocinha which has been under police occupation since 2011. Dan Jackson's powerful and ambitious first feature follows one family's fight for justice which ignites a global protest movement in the lead up to the 2016 Olympics."

"This is a vibrant, cinematic and masterfully structured film which fully immerses the viewer in the dangerous world of the occupied *favelas*. The judges were unanimous in their praise of Jackson's remarkable and courageous achievement," they said.

Previous winners include: *Only the Dead* (2015), *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*, and each film received a \$10,000 cash prize.

The 2016 Jury for the Documentary Australia Foundation Prize was Australian director-producer **Tom Zubrycki**, Australian director-producer, Head of Documentary at AFTRS, **Rachel Landers** and Irish director-screenwriter-photographer **Conor Horgan**.

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The 10 finalists for the 2016 Sydney Film Festival Documentary Australia Foundation Award for Australian Documentary were:

- **THE BAULKHAM HILLS AFRICAN LADIES TROUPE**
Australia | 2015 | 85 mins | In English | World Premiere
Director, Screenwriter, Producer: Ros Horin | Distributor: Goodship
- **BAXTER AND ME**
Australia | 2016 | 83 mins | In English | World Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Gillian Leahy | Producer: Sue Brooks | Production Company: Gecko Films
- **CONSTANCE ON THE EDGE**
Australia | 2016 | 77 mins | In English | World Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Belinda Mason | Producer: Marguerite Grey | Production Company: Constance on the Edge Pty Ltd
- **DESTINATION ARNOLD**
Australia | 2016 | 72 mins | In English | World Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Sascha Ettinger Epstein | Producer: Michaela Perske | Production Company: Pursekey Productions
- **EMBRACE**
Australia | 2016 | 90 mins | In English | World Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Taryn Brumfitt | Producers: Anna Vincent, Taryn Brumfitt | Distributor: Transmission Films
- **HOTEL COOLGARDIE**
Australia | 2016 | 83 mins | In English, Finland- Swedish with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director: Pete Gleeson | Producers: Melissa Hayward, Kate Neylon | World Sales: Raw And Cooked Media
- **IN THE SHADOW OF THE HILL**
Australia | 2016 | 98 mins | In Portuguese with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director, Screenwriter, Producer: Dan Jackson | Production Company: Future Paradigm Pictures
- **ON RICHARD'S SIDE**
Australia | 2016 | 97 mins | In English | World Premiere
Director, Screenwriter, Producer: Andrew Wiseman | Production Company: Pericles Films
- **THE OPPOSITION**
Australia | 2016 | 74 mins | In English and Tok Pisin with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director: Hollie Fifer | Producers: Rebecca Barry, Madeleine Hetheron | Production Company: Media Stockade
- **ZACH'S CEREMONY**
Australia | 2016 | 96 mins | In English Australian Premiere
Director: Aaron Petersen | Screenwriter, Producer: Sarah Linton | World Sales: Wangala Films Pty Ltd

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The Dendy Awards for Australian Short Films

The 2016 **Dendy Awards for Australian Short Films** were announced; awarding *Slapper*, directed and written by **Luci Schroder**, **The Dendy Live Action Short Award**; *The Crossing*, directed and written by **Marieka Walsh**, **The Yoram Gross Animation Award**; and **Goran Stolevski**, the **Rouben Mamoulian Award for Best Director**, for *You Deserve Everything*.

The 2016 Jury for the Dendy Awards for Australian Short Film was comprised of Australian filmmaker **Craig Boreham** (*Teenage Kicks*, SFF 2016); Australian director-producer **Sue Brooks** (*Baxter and Me*, SFF 2016); and Sri Lankan filmmaker **Vimukthi Jayasundara** (*Dark in the White Light*, SFF 2016).

In a joint statement the Dendy Jury said: “We were all very impressed by the strong creative voices amongst this year’s Dendy Award nominees. It is clear that the filmmaker’s are very engaged and thoughtful about their craft and the stories they are giving to the audience. There were 13 films that felt like unique gifts that we were given to us. We can’t wait to see what they do next.”

“For the **Dendy Live Action Short Award** the jury chose the film which had engaging characters and story world. With outstanding performances from the cast, this powerful short had a surprising cinematic poetry that makes this film a 'stand out' for us.”

“The film the jury has chosen for the **Yoram Gross Animation Award** is an artful and beautifully created piece of animation that explored the craft of animation with a transitory medium that perfectly fit the story being told,” said the jury.

“The jury chose a film that captured an intimate relationship beautifully for the **Rouben Mamoulian Award for Best Director**. This film had strong and believable performances from a lead cast deftly handled by their director. And the film is *You Deserve Everything* directed, produced and written by Goran Stolevski.”

“We are honoured to be the sponsor for Sydney Film Festival’s prestigious Australian Short Film Awards for the last 28 years,” said **Nick Hayes, Icon Film Head of Theatrical Operations**. “The class of 2016 lives up to the long and prodigious history of the Dendy Awards.”

“Industry legend, Yoram Gross, my father, who sadly passed away last year, had been a long time sponsor of the animation award at the Sydney Film Festival and was always so proud to give back to the industry that had been so generous to him for so many years. Now in its 30th year we look forward to continuing this award, in his honour, for many years,” said **Guy Gross, Yoram Gross Films Deputy Chairman**.

The Festival’s short-film competition is now in the 47th year; and has been sponsored by **Dendy Cinemas** for 28 years. Winners of the Best Live Action Short Film award and the Yoram Gross Animation award, sponsored by Yoram Gross Films, are **Academy Award-eligible**, opening new pathways for many Australian filmmakers.

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These ground-breaking awards have kick-started the careers of many prominent filmmakers, with past competitors Warwick Thornton, Ariel Kleiman, Cate Shortland, Jane Campion, Phillip Noyce and Ivan Sen among Dendy Awards alumni.

The 10 finalists for the 2016 Dendy Award for Australian Short Film were:

- **THE ALBATROSS** Australia | 2015 | 7 mins | In English | Australian Premiere
Directors, Screenwriters: Alex Jeremy, Joel Best, Alex Karonis | Production Company: University of Technology Sydney
- **THE CROSSING** Australia | 2016 | 11 mins | In English | World Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Marieka Walsh | Producer: Donna Chang | Cast: Colin Friels | Production Company: Studio Balloon
- **EAGLEHAWK** Australia | 2016 | 22 mins | In English | World Premiere
Director: Shannon Murphy | Screenwriter: Marisa Nathar | Producer: Jessica Carrera | Cast: Tilda Cobham-Hervey, Ryan Corr, Wayne Blair | Production Company: Dollhouse Pictures
- **THE MEEK** Australia | 2015 | 7 mins | In English
Director, Screenwriter: Joe Brumm | Producer: Laura DiMaio | Cast: Danniella Markovic | Narrator: Myf Warhurst Production Company: Studiojoho
- **MY BEST FRIEND IS STUCK ON THE CEILING** Australia | 2015 | 10 mins | In English
Director, Screenwriter: Matt Vesely | Producers: Sophie Hyde, Christine Williams | Cast: Tom Ward, Erin James | Production Company: Closer Productions
- **NATHAN LOVES RICKY MARTIN** Australia | 2016 | 7 mins | In English and Russian | World Premiere
Director: Steven Arriagada | Screenwriters: Llewellyn Michael Bates, Steven Arriagada | Producers: Steven Arriagada, Llewellyn, Michael Bates, Bryan Chau | Cast: Verity Higgins, Dennis Manahan, Albert Goikhman | Production Company: Diverse Films
- **SLAPPER** Australia | 2015 | 15 mins | In English | World Premiere
Director: Luci Schroder | Screenwriters: Luci Schroder, Samuel West | Producers: Luci Schroder, Jason Byrne, Stephanie Westwood, Michael Latham | Cast: Sapphire Blossom, Dylan Peck, Maddy Brady | Production Company: Guilty Content
- **THE SPA** Australia | 2015 | 8 mins | In English | World Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Will Goodfellow | Producer: Lucy Gaffy | Cast: Chris Haywood, Jay Laga'aia, Peter Moalaeua | Production Company: GOONO
- **WELCOME HOME ALLEN** Australia | 2016 | 11 mins | No dialogue | World Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Andrew Kavanagh | Producer: Ramona Telecican | Cast: John Brumpton, Trevor Major, Jane Bayly | Production Company: Radioactive Gigantism Films
- **YOU DESERVE EVERYTHING** Australia | 2015 | 19 mins | In English | World Premiere
Director, Screenwriter, Producer: Goran Stolevski | Cast: Sachin Joab, Jean Bachoura, Wahibe Moussa

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Event Cinemas Australian Short Screenplay Award

The **Event Cinema Australian Short Screenplay Award** was awarded to *Spice Sisters*, written and directed by **Sheila Jayadev**, with a special mention to **Matthew Vesely** for *My Best Friend Is Stuck On The Ceiling*.

The 2016 Dendy Awards for Australian Short Film Jury, comprising of Australian filmmaker **Craig Boreham** (*Teenage Kicks*, SFF 2016); Australian director-producer **Sue Brooks** (*Baxter and Me*, SFF 2016); and Sri Lankan filmmaker **Vimukthi Jayasundara** (*Dark in the White Light*, SFF 2016) also judged the **Event Cinemas Australian Short Screenplay Award**.

In a joint statement the jury said: “The film chosen for the **Event Cinemas Australian Short Screenplay Award** had a beautifully satisfying script form and a unique story world that we don’t often see and made us care about the characters and what happened to them.”

“*My Best Friend Is Stuck On The Ceiling*, directed by Matthew Vesely, deserves a special mention for a funny and well-crafted comedy that continually raised the stakes and took us on the character’s ride literally and metaphorically,” they said.

Sponsored by **Event Cinemas**, this award provides a \$5000 cash prize for best short screenplay to one of the short fiction films selected for the Sydney Film Festival program. All Australian short fiction films screening in the Festival are eligible.

“Event Cinemas is proud to once again sponsor The Event Cinemas Australian Short Screenplay award at Sydney Film Festival 2016. Events acknowledges and supports the idea, concept and vision of a short film as penned by the writers in this exciting category,” said **Anthony Kierann, Area General Manager, Event Cinemas**.

“To be able to participate and support an outstanding written script by and Australian at this iconic film festival, we hope will encourage and support the writer to further development and inspiring achievements within the film landscape. We applaud all the short films within the category as stand out short films from the writers.”

The Australian short films eligible for the 2016 Event Cinemas Australian Short Screenplay Award were:

- **THE ALBATROSS** Australia | 2015 | 7 mins | In English Australian Premiere
Directors, Screenwriters: Alex Jeremy, Joel Best, Alex Karonis | Producer: Deborah Szapiro | Production Company: University of Technology Sydney
- **BLACK CHOOK** Australia | 2015 | 11 mins | In English World Premiere
Director: Dylan River
- **THE CROSSING** Australia | 2016 | 11 mins | In English | World Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Marieka Walsh | Producer: Donna Chang | Cast: Colin Friels | Production Company: Studio Balloon

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- **EAGLEHAWK** Australia | 2016 | 22 mins | In English | World Premiere
Director: Shannon Murphy | Screenwriter: Marisa Nathar | Producer: Jessica Carrera | Cast: Tilda Cobham-Hervey, Ryan Corr, Wayne Blair | Production Company: Dollhouse Pictures
- **FRIDA AND DIEGO – THE AUSTRALIAN YEARS** Australia | 2016 | 5 mins | In English | World Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Marion Pilowsky
- **THE MEEK** Australia | 2015 | 7 mins | In English
Director, Screenwriter: Joe Brumm | Producer: Laura DiMaio | Cast: Danniella Markovic | Narrator: Myf Warhurst Production Company: Studiojoho
- **MY BEST FRIEND IS STUCK ON THE CEILING** Australia | 2015 | 10 mins | In English
Director, Screenwriter: Matt Vesely | Producers: Sophie Hyde, Christine Williams | Cast: Tom Ward, Erin James | Production Company: Closer Productions
- **NATHAN LOVES RICKY MARTIN** Australia | 2016 | 7 mins | In English and Russian | World Premiere
Director: Steven Arriagada | Screenwriters: Llewellyn Michael Bates, Steven Arriagada | Producers: Steven Arriagada, Llewellyn, Michael Bates, Bryan Chau | Cast: Verity Higgins, Dennis Manahan, Albert Goikhman | Production Company: Diverse Films
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- **WELCOME HOME ALLEN** Australia | 2016 | 11 mins | No dialogue | World Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Andrew Kavanagh | Producer: Ramona Telecican | Cast: John Brumpton, Trevor Major, Jane Bayly | Production Company: Radioactive Gigantism Films
- **YOU DESERVE EVERYTHING** Australia | 2015 | 19 mins | In English | World Premiere
Director, Screenwriter, Producer: Goran Stolevski | Cast: Sachin Joab, Jean Bachoura, Wahibe Moussa

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

The UNESCO Sydney City Of Film Award

An annual award, bestowed by Screen NSW, for a trailblazing NSW-based screen practitioner, someone whose work stands for innovation, imagination and high impact. The winner **Ms Lynette Wallworth**, has been rewarded with a \$10,000 cash prize by **Margaret Pomeranz AM**.

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

ABOUT SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL

From **Wednesday 8 June** to **Sunday 19 June 2016**, the 63rd 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. 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 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: *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 takes place across greater Sydney: at the State Theatre, Event Cinemas George Street, Dendy Opera Quays, Dendy Newtown, Skyline Drive-In Blacktown, 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.

The 63rd 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. The Festival's Strategic Partner is the NSW Government through Destination NSW.

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