



## MEDIA RELEASE

**EMBARGOED UNTIL 6AM THURSDAY 20 APRIL**

# FIRST LEXUS AUSTRALIAN SHORT FILM FELLOWSHIP SCREENING & TRAILERS ANNOUNCED

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Lexus Australia and Sydney Film Festival have announced that tickets are on sale for the world premiere of four short films created by the recipients of the 2016 Lexus Australia Short Film Fellowship: Anya Beyersdorf, Brooke Goldfinch, Alex Ryan and Alex Murawski. *How the Light Gets In*, *Outbreak Generation*, *Red Ink* and *Snow* will screen at Dendy Opera Quays at 6pm on Tuesday 13 June (during the Festival, 7-18 June). You can watch trailers for the respective films [here](#).

The four filmmakers each received a \$50,000 grant to make their short film, after being selected by a jury chaired by renowned Australian actress Judy Davis at the Sydney Film Festival last year.

Nashen Moodley, Sydney Film Festival Director said, "The Festival is very excited to release the trailers of these four brilliant new Australian films today. The Lexus Fellows have proved to be of the highest calibre of emerging Australian talent. They have taken risks, tried new techniques and ideas, and given voice to their stories. We hope many people will join us at the Festival to see their films."

"Lexus Australia is deeply committed to investment in innovation, and through our partnership in the Fellowship with Sydney Film Festival we aim to encourage young Australian filmmakers to evolve their craft," Vin Naidoo, Corporate Manager Marketing Operations and Sales, Lexus Australia said.

"These films are courageous and original, and we are thrilled to have played a part in bringing them to life."

"Opportunities like this are so precious and rare, not to mention critical for developing the emerging screen sector, and I feel honoured to have been granted this experience," said filmmaker Anya Beyersdorf (*How the Light Gets In*).

"Perhaps the most significant advantage of making this film through the Lexus Fellowship is that I was able to test out ideas and experiment with different cinematic techniques...it's been a fantastic opportunity to take risks," said filmmaker Brooke Goldfinch (*Outbreak Generation*).

"The Fellowship has been so supportive during the entire process and gave us so much creative freedom. I hope they continue to give filmmakers opportunities like this for years to come," said filmmaker Alex Ryan (*Red Ink*).

"The power of this Fellowship is that it says Dream. Push. Reach. And when you do, it delivers into real life what once lived only inside a drawer as an unachievable dream," said filmmaker Alex Murawski (*Snow*).



For the second year, up to four Fellowship winners will receive \$50,000 each to produce their next short film, to premiere at the Sydney Film Festival in 2018. An independent panel has selected 20 finalists to submit entries to be judged by the 2017 Lexus Australia Short Film Fellowship Jury chaired by celebrated Australian actor David Wenham. The 2017 winning Fellows will be announced at the premiere of the inaugural Fellowship films.

The medium of short film making is a launching pad for the careers of emerging Australian talent. The Lexus Australia Short Film Fellowship allows young filmmakers to be assessed by key industry figures and premiere their work at Sydney Film Festival. The Fellowship aims to develop and foster young talent and ultimately contribute to the longevity of the medium, and the Australian filmmaking industry.

Lexus Australia Short Films and Filmmakers:

### *How the Light Gets In*

A single mother living on the fringes of society with her young daughters wakes in the night with a unique problem – a light shining from within that starts at her fingertips and spreads quickly, the glow taking over her life as it takes over her body.

- Anya Beyersdorf is not only an actress turned writer-director, she is also a current Doctor of Arts candidate at Sydney University, founder of the Sydney filmmaking collective Gifthorse Films, and an AWGIE award winner. Beyersdorf's short films have played in competition at high profile film festivals internationally including Palm Springs International Shortsfest, Rhode Island International Film Festival, Seattle International Film Festival, St Kilda Film Festival and Flickerfest International Film Festival.

### *Outbreak Generation*

In the midst of a global epidemic, Annie Spence finds herself the sole carer of her eight-year-old nephew, who wants answers – ones that perhaps only a mother can give?

- Brooke Goldfinch, studied filmmaking at NYU and won the Rouben Mamoulian Award for Best Director at Sydney Film Festival's Dendy Awards in 2015 for her short film *Red Rover*. Goldfinch was selected to write and direct a segment of James Franco's compendium feature film *The Color of Time*, and also triumphed over a record number of applicants to become one of two director's attachments on the set of *Alien: Covenant*, Ridley Scott's sequel to *Prometheus*, shot in Sydney.

### *Red Ink*

When a delusional man tries to buy a pack of crackers in a supermarket, his unusual behaviour is misunderstood by shoppers and staff, leading to an unimaginable tragedy.

- Alex Ryan is a UTS and AFTRS graduate with a number of award-winning shorts and music videos to his name. Not only does he run his own production company, Wedge Tail Productions, his most recent short *Ngurrumbang* screened at festivals around the world, was a Dendy Awards Finalist at Sydney Film Festival (2013) and received an ADG award nomination. His music video for The Preatures' 'Is This How You Feel' won *Rolling Stone Magazine's* Best Music Video (2013).



## *Snow*

A grieving young boy accidentally injures a girl and leaves her in the snow. As the weight of his decision presses upon him, he sets back out to find her before it's too late.

- Alex Murawski is an AFTRS graduate whose film school short *Kiss* screened at the Berlinale, Cannes and Palm Springs International Shortsfest, where it took second prize. It has over 70,000 views on YouTube. Murawski has also completed a director's attachment on Bruce Beresford's Emmy-nominated mini-series *Bonnie and Clyde*.

Sydney Film Festival runs 7 – 18 June 2017.

Tickets for Sydney Film Festival 2017 are on sale now. Please call 1300 733 733 or visit [sff.org.au](http://sff.org.au) for more information.

### MEDIA ENQUIRIES

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

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### ABOUT THE LEXUS AUSTRALIA SHORT FILM FELLOWSHIP

The Lexus Australia Short Films Fellowship is a \$200,000 investment by Lexus Australia, presented by Sydney Film Festival, to support future generations of emerging filmmakers. The Fellowship is the largest cash fellowship for short film in Australia. Up to four Fellowship winners will receive \$50,000 each to produce their next short film in 2017, to premiere at the 65<sup>th</sup> Sydney Film Festival in 2018.

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### ABOUT SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL

Sydney Film Festival screens feature films, documentaries, short films and animation across greater Sydney. 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).

