



## MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday 26 JANUARY 2017

# SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL SUBMISSIONS CLOSE IN FOUR WEEKS

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Filmmakers across Australia and around the world have just four weeks to finalise their submissions for the 64th annual Sydney Film Festival (7 – 18 June 2017).

Entries across all categories, which must be submitted through [FilmFestivalLife](http://FilmFestivalLife), will close at **17.00 AEST on Friday 24 February, 2017**.

**Festival Director Nashen Moodley** said, “Whether it be a feature film debut, the latest short, or an immersive documentary, the Festival encourages all interested filmmakers to submit their films for consideration ahead of the deadline.”

“Selecting the best entries to screen at the Sydney Film Festival is something the Festival very much looks forward to each year. Entries have come from far and wide, with strong submission numbers seen across all categories including features, short films and documentaries,” said Moodley.

Each year, the Sydney Film Festival presents a diverse slate of films from Australia and around the world. In 2016 over 250 films were screened to an audience of almost 180,000.

Entries are open to features, documentaries and short films (under 40 minutes) in all categories of the Festival program, including:

- The Documentary Australia Foundation (DAF) Award for Australian Documentary. The competition is supported by Documentary Australia Foundation with a \$10,000 cash prize for the winner.
- The Dendy Awards for Australian Short Films Live Action Award and Best Director (the Rouben Mamoulian Award) – both winners receive cash prizes of \$7,000 sponsored by Dendy Cinemas, who have supported the Awards for 29 years. The winner of the Live Action Award is eligible for Academy Award consideration.
- The Yoram Gross Animation Award, named in memory of the Australian animation producer and director Yoram Gross, provides a \$5,000 cash prize to the best Australian animated short film. Winners are Academy Award-eligible.
- The Event Cinemas Australian Short Screenplay Award (cash prize \$5,000).

Both the Dendy Awards for Australian Short Films and the DAF Australian Documentary competition are open exclusively to Australian films.

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2017 will mark the 48th year of the Festival presenting its Australian short film competition, making it the oldest short film competition in Australia. Since 1970, the competition has served as a launch pad for emerging Australian film talent, spring-boarding local directors, producers and actors down a path towards international success.

Film luminaries from across Australia's creative landscape have featured in the DAF and Dendy Awards competitions, including Ivan Sen (creator of *Goldstone*, which opened the 2016 SFF); Cate Shortland (her latest feature, *Berlin Syndrome*, premiered at Sundance this year); Kitty Green (also represented at Sundance in 2017); Oscar winner Adam Elliot; and Ariel Kleiman (*Partisan* and *Top of the Lake*).

A small fee applies, and before entering, Festival organisers urge all entrants to read the [submission requirements](#) closely to ensure that all entries meet premiere status and broader eligibility requirements.

Head to: <http://www.sff.org.au/submissions> for full eligibility criteria and submission details. FilmFestivaLife makes everything you have seen so far in online submissions look like it was conceived in the 1990s. HD secure screeners, festival and film rating tools, social features and the fastest growing community of film professionals online to share with. Be in the place where festivals are now discovering the next generation.

**DEADLINE:** Friday 24 February 2017

**SUBMISSIONS:** <http://www.filmfestivallife.com/Sydney-Film-Festival>

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## MEDIA ENQUIRIES

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