



MEDIA RELEASE

THURSDAY 31 MARCH 2016

DAVID STRATTON CURATES SCORSESE RETROSPECTIVE

Sydney Film Festival, Australian Centre for the Moving Image (ACMI) and the National Film and Sound Archive of Australia (NFSA) announce that David Stratton will present a program of 10 essential films directed by Martin Scorsese.

The curated films will screen as the retrospective program during the 63rd Sydney Film Festival (8-19 June) and in Melbourne at ACMI (27 May-12 June) to coincide with ACMI's exhibition [SCORSESE](#) (26 May-18 September). All 10 films will screen at the NFSA in Canberra (1-23 July) after Sydney Film Festival's screenings.

The retrospective program of ten titles, including specially imported 35mm prints, curated by **David Stratton**, entitled **Essential Scorsese: Selected by David Stratton**, features works by one of the most influential directors of our time, including *Taxi Driver*, *Goodfellas*, *Raging Bull* and *The Age of Innocence*.

The renowned critic and broadcaster, was appointed director of the Sydney Film Festival 50 years ago, and held the position from 1966 to 1983. Stratton will introduce selected screenings in the retrospective program.

David Stratton says: "Scorsese talks in a rapid-fire style as though he doesn't have enough time to describe everything he knows. He's like a character in a 1930s movie. His films are passionate too. His best are explosive in their impact, crammed with information and detail. On the one hand, his Catholic upbringing leads him to tackle religious subjects (*The Last Temptation of Christ*, *Kundun*) while the Saturday matinee kid in him revels in the trashy gore of his gangster films."

Essential Scorsese: Selected by David Stratton will screen over two weekends during the Festival (8 – 19 June) at the Art Gallery of NSW.

The 10 films in the program are:

Mean Streets (1973)

Alice Doesn't Live Here Anymore (1974)

Taxi Driver (1976)

New York, New York (1977)

Raging Bull (1980)

The King Of Comedy (1982)

Goodfellas (1990)

The Age of Innocence (1993)

Casino (1995)

The Aviator (2004)

Sydney Film Festival Director **Nashen Moodley** says, "Essential Scorsese: Selected by David Stratton, brings to the Festival for the second year, one of Australia's great masters of film criticism, to curate a selection of films by one of his favourite living directors. Scorsese is widely considered one of the most important directors of all time. His ground-breaking films and gritty, meticulous filmmaking style are essential viewing for all film fans."

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Australian Centre for the Moving Image Director & CEO **Katrina Sedgwick** says, "With the presentation of the wonderful Scorsese exhibition at ACMI this year, we're delighted to continue our collaboration with Sydney Film Festival and the National Film and Sound Archive of Australia in presenting **Essential Scorsese: Selected by David Stratton**. It's wonderful to have David Stratton's exceptional eye curating this program of films from one of the world's greatest directors."

Coinciding with the film season, ACMI presents SCORSESE, a rich exhibition featuring over 600 objects and footage from the director's collection and those of his collaborators.

NFSA CEO **Michael Loebenstein** says, "We're very excited about the returning partnership with Sydney Film Festival and ACMI. Scorsese has a strong following in Canberra, and his fans will be delighted with this retrospective curated by David Stratton."

A recipient of the Australian Film Institute's Raymond Longford Award and named Commander of the Ordre des Arts et des Lettres, David Stratton AM has also served as President of the FIPRESCI (International Film Critics) jury in Cannes and served on the international juries of both Venice and Berlin film festivals, authored three books and lectured in Film History at the University of Sydney. He co-hosted *The Movie Show* and *At the Movies* with Margaret Pomeranz for 29 years.

Sydney Film Festival tickets are on sale now for Essential Scorsese: Selected by David Stratton screenings for \$19.90 (Adult) each or Concession \$17.00 + booking fee.

A **special discount package** of all ten films in the retrospective is available for \$130 + booking fee.

Flexipasses and subscriptions to Sydney Film Festival 2016 are on sale now.

Call 1300 733 733 or visit sff.org.au for more information.

The full Sydney Film Festival program is announced in May 2016.

Tickets to **Essential Scorsese** at ACMI in Melbourne are \$17 Adult, \$13 Concession, \$10 ACMI Member. Tickets are available online acmi.net.au/essential-scorsese

ACMI's exclusive-to-Melbourne presentation of the SCORSESE exhibition opens 26 May to 18 September. Tickets Full \$25, Concession \$18, Child (4-15 years) \$10, online acmi.net.au/scorsese, via phone 03 8663 2583 or in person.

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

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EDITORS NOTES

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), 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, 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.

Flexipasses and subscriptions to the 63rd Sydney Film Festival (8-19 June 2016) are on sale now. Please call 1300 733 733 or visit sff.org.au/preview for more information.

ESSENTIAL SCORSESE: SELECTED BY DAVID STRATTON

MEAN STREETS (1973)

Director: Martin Scorsese | USA | 112 mins | In English

Scorsese's breakthrough feature, which is set in Manhattan's Little Italy, is a very personal exploration of the conflicts facing Harvey Keitel's protagonist as he finds himself torn between loyalties towards the Mob, the Church and his friends and family. There's a riveting performance from Robert De Niro as Keitel's dangerously reckless best friend and cinematic references to Old Hollywood as well as the French New Wave.

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***ALICE DOESN'T LIVE HERE ANYMORE* (1974)**

Director: Martin Scorsese | USA | 112 mins | In English

In her Oscar-winning performance, Ellen Burstyn plays a young widow who leaves her home in New Mexico accompanied by her 11-year-old son and attempts to re-discover her idyllic childhood. With a supporting cast of Harvey Keitel, Kris Kristofferson, Diane Ladd and a very young Jodie Foster, *Alice Doesn't Live Here Anymore* has collected 5 wins and 11 award nominations.

***TAXI DRIVER* (1976)**

Director: Martin Scorsese | USA | 113 mins | In English and Spanish

Winner of the Palme d'Or at Cannes, along with 4 Oscar nominations, another 21 wins and 15 award nominations *Taxi Driver* is one of the most iconic films of the 1970s. Robert De Niro stars as the social misfit, and Vietnam vet, attracted to porn and violence which leads to the film's powerfully ironic climax. The scene in which he addresses himself in the mirror ("Are you talking to me?") is one of the most famous in American cinema.

***NEW YORK, NEW YORK* (1977)**

Director: Martin Scorsese | USA | 155 mins | In English

Despite its title, this tribute to the Big Band era of the forties was filmed entirely in Hollywood and offers Scorsese the opportunity to evoke musical biopics like *The Glenn Miller Story*. The narrative follows saxophonist Robert De Niro and songstress Liza Minnelli – from the day World War II ended in a burst of giddy optimism and high energy to a less certain future in the disillusioned atmosphere of the fifties. Nominated for 4 Golden Globes, the musical numbers are superbly staged and the dialogue is naturalistic.

***RAGING BULL* (1980)**

Director: Martin Scorsese | USA | 129 mins | In English

Robert De Niro won Best Actor Oscar for portraying Middleweight boxer Jake La Motta in biopic that spans 25 years. *Raging Bull* also took home another Oscar for editing, 23 further wins and 24 nominations. Shot entirely in black and white, the film is not just about boxing, but also the human condition and about cinema itself.

***THE KING OF COMEDY* (1982)**

Director: Martin Scorsese | USA | 109 mins | In English

In this black comedy about an obsessive fan, played by Robert De Niro, Scorsese seizes every opportunity to satirise the television industry. *The King of Comedy* has been named "Scorsese's forgotten masterpiece" - decried by critics and hounded out of cinemas on its initial release, the film and was only rediscovered after Scorsese helped get it into the New York Film Festival and co-financed its rerelease two decades later.

***GOODFELLAS* (1990)**

Director: Martin Scorsese | USA | 146 mins | In English

The Citizen Kane of gangster movies, *Goodfellas* sets out to explain the attraction mobsters held for impressionable young men in the 1950s. *Goodfellas* has won 27 awards, including one Oscar and received another 31 nominations. The world of corruption, drugs and crime collapses in an orgy of

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violence and destruction and is considered to be one of Scorsese's finest – and most disturbing – films.

***THE AGE OF INNOCENCE* (1993)**

Director: Martin Scorsese | USA | 139 mins | In English

Based on Edith Wharton's 1920 Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, *The Age of Innocence* is Scorsese's attempt to tackle similar material to that of Luchino Visconti's *The Leopard*, which he has said is one of his favourite films. Starring Daniel Day-Lewis, Michelle Pfeiffer and Winona Ryder, the film is a beautifully evoked journey into the world of aristocratic New Yorkers in the 1870s. *The Age of Innocence* won 12 awards, including one Oscar and received a further 25 nominations.

***CASINO* (1995)**

Director: Martin Scorsese | USA, France | 178 mins | In English

After exploring the world of street crimes in Mean Streets and mid-level gangsters in *Goodfellas*, Scorsese enters the glittering yet tawdry world of Las Vegas in the 1970s. While De Niro and Joe Pesci are given roles rather similar to those they played in *Goodfellas*, the Oscar nominated film itself goes even further in dissecting the corruption at the heart of America.

***THE AVIATOR* (2004)**

Director: Martin Scorsese | USA, Germany | 170 mins | In English

The Aviator is Scorsese indulging in his greatest passion – the cinema itself – in his depiction of Hughes' Hollywood career over twenty years, played by Leonardo DiCaprio. The film, which successfully attempts to duplicate the look of early Technicolor, is visually magnificent and won several Oscars, including one for Cate Blanchett as Katharine Hepburn.

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