



MEDIA RELEASE

EMBARGOED UNTIL 00.01am THURSDAY 21 APRIL

WORLD PREMIERE OF AUSTRALIAN FILM *GOLDSTONE* TO OPEN SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL 2016

The 63rd Sydney Film Festival today announced the World Premiere of *Goldstone*, a stylish and intelligent outback noir from acclaimed Indigenous writer/director Ivan Sen, as the Opening Night Film, screening at the State Theatre at 7.30pm on Wednesday 8 June.

Sydney Film Festival's Opening Night is proudly presented by **Lexus Australia**.

Tickets go on sale at 9am Thursday 16 April via sff.org.au or 1300 733 733.

Goldstone is the fourth feature by award-winning filmmaker **Sen** and stars Aaron Pedersen who reprises his role of the troubled Indigenous detective Jay Swan, who audiences first met in Sen's *Mystery Road*, which opened Sydney Film Festival in 2013.

The film's stellar cast also includes **Jacki Weaver, David Wenham, David Gulpilil, Cheng Pei-pei, Michelle Lim Davidson** and **Tom E. Lewis**.

Shot on location in the remote settlement of Middleton (population 3) in outback western Queensland, *Goldstone*'s tightly knitted story weaves through a range of issues, including; Land Rights, mining, the Stolen Generations, cultural destruction, people trafficking, greed, loneliness and love.

Ivan Sen said, "You get the sense you must offer something special to be invited back to open the Festival for a second time, and we hope that *Goldstone* does do that. It's an extreme privilege for everyone involved with the film to have this exciting opportunity.

"From experience we know the Sydney Film Festival opening night is a very special screening here in Australia. *Goldstone* is about us, and our cultural crossroads. The first screening of the film anywhere in the world will be here, at home in our country, on country, where it should be."

"The Festival is very proud to open with the World Premiere of this outstanding Australian film," said Festival Director **Nashen Moodley**. "*Goldstone* is a complex and layered work that comes together brilliantly in Ivan Sen's signature outback noir style."

A limited number of **Film and Party** tickets are available from 9am on Thursday 21 April, in addition to film-only tickets. Film and Party tickets include entry to the Opening Night Film and the exclusive afterparty at KEYSTONE's Bungalow 8.

NB: Tickets to the as-yet-unannounced Closing Night Film and Awards Presentation on Sunday 19 June are also on sale now.

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Last week, Sydney Film Festival announced **26 new films** to be featured in this year's June event, plus a 10-film **Martin Scorsese retrospective** curated by **David Stratton**. The full program of 200+ films will be launched on **Wednesday 11 May**.

SYNOPSIS: *Goldstone*

Australian auteur Ivan Sen's new feature is a complex, stylish and intelligent outback noir that reflects on Australia's history with a compelling tale of its present. Goldstone sees the excellent Aaron Pedersen (Mystery Road, SFF 2013) reprise his role as troubled Indigenous detective Jay Swan. On the trail of a missing person, Jay finds himself in the small mining town of Goldstone, where he is immediately arrested for drunk driving by young local cop Josh (Alex Russell). When Jay's motel room is blasted with gunfire, it becomes clear that something larger is at play in the district. Jay and Josh struggle to overcome their mutual distrust to uncover the unpleasant truth. Sen, who also wrote, shot, edited and scored the film, takes full advantage of the beauty of the outback without shying away from the scars it bears – both societal and environmental. With a stellar cast including Jacki Weaver, David Wenham, David Gulpilil, Cheng Pei-pei, Michelle Lim Davidson and Tom E. Lewis, Goldstone's themes encompass the environment, corruption, politics, corporate greed, tradition and mythology.

Goldstone is distributed through Transmission Films and will have a national theatrical release on Thursday 30 June.

The Sydney Film Festival Opening Night film is presented by Lexus Australia.

The full Sydney Film Festival program will be announced on Wednesday 11 May at 11am.

Note: Flexipasses and subscriptions to Sydney Film Festival 2016 are on sale now. Please call 1300 733 733 or visit <http://www.sff.org.au> for more information.

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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.

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