



## MEDIA INFORMATION

WEDNESDAY 6 MAY 2015

## BIOGRAPHY: NASHEN MOODLEY SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL DIRECTOR

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**2015 marks Nashen Moodley's fourth year as Festival Director of Sydney Film Festival.**

During his first three years at the helm, the Festival grew significantly. In 2014, the event's 61<sup>st</sup> year, attendances increased by 9% to 156,000, marking the sixth consecutive year of growth in Festival attendance.

Other highlights in Moodley's four years as Festival Director include the introduction and development of the popular free public space the **Festival Hub at Town Hall**; a new partnership with Screen Australia's Indigenous Department entitled **Screen: Black**; and geographical expansions to the **Hayden Orpheum Picture Palace Cremorne**, **Dendy Newtown**, **Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre** and the **Skyline Drive-In Blacktown**.

As well as adding two new screening venues in Newtown and Liverpool, the numbers of titles to be screened in the Festival have jumped from 183 last year to 251 in 2015. They come from 68 countries, up from 47 last year and will present 33 World Premieres, up from 15 in 2014.

Moodley's impressive career in film programming has encompassed leadership roles as Manager and Head of Programming at the **Durban International Film Festival** (2001–2011) and as a programming consultant for **Dubai International Film Festival** (2005–present).

During Moodley's 11 years at Durban International Film Festival – South Africa's longest-running film festival – he was responsible for expanding the content and reach of the Festival. He also raised the profile of the African film industry by establishing the **Durban FilmMart**, a program that provides African filmmakers with the opportunity to pitch film projects to leading financiers.

In addition to programming, Moodley has advised **India's International Film Festival of Kerala**, South Korea's **Busan International Film Festival** and **Africala** in Mexico City. Moodley has also worked as an Industry Consultant at the **International Film Festival Rotterdam** and as an expert at the **Berlinale Talent Campus**.

Born in South Africa in 1978, Moodley studied English and philosophy at the University of Natal, and worked as a journalist before turning to film. His film writing and criticism has appeared in newspapers and magazines including *The Guardian*, *GQ*, the *Sunday Tribune* (South Africa), the *Sunday Independent* (South Africa), and *Mail & Guardian* (South Africa).

**The 62<sup>nd</sup> Sydney Film Festival runs 3-14 June 2015 and brings a packed program of screenings and special events to even more venues across Sydney.**

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**Sydney Film Festival runs 3 – 14 June 2015.**

**Tickets for Sydney Film Festival 2015 are on sale now. Please call 1300 733 733 or visit [sff.org.au](http://sff.org.au) for more information.**

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#### **ABOUT SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL**

From **Wednesday 3 June to Sunday 14 June 2015**, the 62<sup>nd</sup> Sydney Film Festival offers Sydneysiders another exciting season of cinema amidst a whirlwind of premieres, red-carpet openings, panel 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 local 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: *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, 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](http://www.sff.org.au).

The 62nd 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.

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#### **MEDIA ENQUIRIES**

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