



MEDIA RELEASE

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SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES 10 FINALISTS FOR THE 2014 DENDY AWARDS FOR AUSTRALIAN SHORT FILMS

The 2014 Sydney Film Festival is proud to announce the 10 finalists in the Dendy Awards for Australian Short Films.

2014 is the 45th year SFF has featured a short-film competition. These ground breaking awards have kick started the careers of many prominent filmmakers, including Jane Campion, Phillip Noyce and Ivan Sen, who were all past competitors. This year's 10 finalists are stated below, and the winners are announced at the Festival's Closing Night Gala on Sunday 15 June at the State Theatre.

Sponsored by Dendy Cinema for 26 years, these awards have launched and aided the careers of many great Australian filmmakers. The 10 finalists compete for three illustrious prizes: the **Dendy Live Action Short Award**, the **Yoram Gross Animation Award** and the **Rouben Mamoulian Award for Best Director**. In addition, each finalist (and all of the Australian shorts in the festival) qualifies for the **Event Cinemas Australian Short Screenplay Award**, new this year.

"We're really proud to have been able to support the short-film awards for the past 26 years," said **Dendy Cinemas Marketing Communications Manager Hadi Tieu-Vinh**. "The **Dendy Awards** acknowledge the way in which short films help aspiring filmmakers springboard into feature-film production, while also recognising the vibrancy of the shorts genre. For us, supporting these awards are a way to encourage talented filmmakers and help nurture a healthy feature-film industry in Australia."

The Festival's awards for Australian Short Films were originally established by SFF in 1970. Winners of the Best Live Action Short Film award and the Yoram Gross Animation award (sponsored by Yoram Gross Films) are Academy Award-eligible, opening new pathways for many Australian filmmakers.

The Dendy Live Action Short Award, sponsored by Dendy Cinemas, provides a \$5000 cash prize. **The Yoram Gross Animation Award**, sponsored by Yoram Gross Films, carries a \$4000 cash prize. Both awards are Academy Award-eligible. **The Rouben Mamoulian Award**, named after the Hollywood director who presented the first award at Sydney Film Festival in 1974, offers a \$5000 cash prize and is presented to the best director from the 10 Dendy finalists. The winners are announced at the Festival's Closing Night Gala on Sunday 15 June at the State Theatre.

The 10 finalists for the 2014 Dendy Award for Australian Short Film are:

Grey Bull

Australia | 2013 | 15 mins | In English and Denka with English subtitles

Director, Screenwriter: Eddy Bell | Producer: Khoby Rowe | Cast: Dylan Watson, Mayik Deng, Akuein Kueth |
Production Company: Victorian College of the Arts

A South Sudanese refugee happens upon a bull he believes is his spiritual totem. He decides to rescue it from the abattoir where he works. Once home, the animal begins to jeopardise the family's chance at fitting into their new life.

The iMom

Australia | 2013 | 14 mins | In English

Director, Screenwriter, Producer: Ariel Martin | Cast: Matilda Brown, Marta Dusseldorp, Karl Beattie |
Production Company: Filmgraphics Entertainment

A boy forms a connection with the family's *iMom* – a futuristic product designed to “raise your children for you.”

I Want to Dance Better at Parties

Australia | 2013 | 29 mins | In English

Director, Screenwriter: Matthew Bate, Gideon Obarzanek | Producer: Rebecca Summerton | Cast: Steven
Rodgers, Elizabeth Nabben, Phillip Rose | Production Company: Closer Productions

In need of some form of human contact, a grieving man takes up dance classes with a young instructor. This hybrid film, based on co-director Gideon Oberzanke's internationally successful stage production, fuses documentary, drama and dance.

Man

Australia | 2013 | 19 mins | In English

Director: Richard Hughes | Screenwriter, Producer: Dave Christison | Cast: Shane Connor, James Rolleston,
Richard Sutherland | Production Company: The Woolshed Company

A worn-out, ageing shearer gets on the gear to keep up his numbers. But when the drugs take over, he must learn what it really means to be a man, before he loses so much more than his country pride.

Showboy

Australia | 2013 | 15 mins | In English

Director, Screenwriter: Samuel Leighton-Dore | Producer: Diana Burnett | Cast: Lucas Pittaway, Mal Kennard,
Richie Finger | Production Company: BNZ Productions

After the unexpected death of his mother, a young football player finds himself struggling to support his depressed father – while fighting to keep safe the secret he once shared with his mother.

Stuffed

Australia | 2013 | 22 mins | In English

Director, Screenwriter: Warwick Young | Producers: Rachel Argall, Warwick Young | Cast: Travis Cotton, Anita
Hegh, Jan Oxenbould | Production Company: Australian Film Television and Radio School

Taxidermist Peter Murphy loves his mother, so when she dies he can't bear to live without her and does all that he can to keep her close.

Welcome to Iron Knob

Australia | 2013 | 21 mins | In English

Director, Screenwriter: Dave Wade | Producer: Alexandra Blue | Cast: Linda Cropper, Jessica Ryles, Chris
Duncan | Production Company: Bluebird Productions

When a young boy accidentally shoots a stranger with his father's gun, it is left to the nonchalant townsfolk of Iron Knob to cover it up as quickly as possible – then get back to whatever it was that they were doing before...

Crochet Noir

Australia | 2013 | 8 mins | In English

Director, Screenwriter: Jessica Harris | Producer: Heamin Kwun | Cast: Ant Neate, Chess Julia Allan, Jacinta Stapleton | Production Company: Victorian College of the Arts

A film-noir, stop-motion animated short that follows Joe and the tough choices he must make to protect those dear to him.

Phantom Limb

Australia, UK | 2013 | 5 mins | In English

Director, Screenwriter, Producer: Alex Grigg | Cast: Clifford Hume, Sarah Jones | Production Company: Late Night Work Club

In the aftermath of an accident a young couple learn to deal with phantom pains.

The Video Dating Tape of Desmond Ray, aged 33 & ¾

Australia | 2013 | 4 mins | In English

Director, Screenwriter: Steve Baker | Producers: Steve Baker, Laura Mustchin | Cast: Bill Waters | Production Company: Taxi Film Production

His name is Desmond Ray – and this is his video dating tape.

The 61st Sydney Film Festival runs 4-15 June and brings a packed program of screenings and special events to even more venues across Sydney. For tickets and full up-to-date program information visit sff.org.au

ABOUT SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL

Sydney Film Festival screens feature films, documentaries, short films and animated films across the city at the State Theatre, Event Cinemas George Street, Dendy Opera Quays, the Art Gallery of NSW, Hayden Orpheum Picture Palace Cremorne, the Apple Store, SFFTV at Martin Place, Skyline Drive-In Blacktown, and the Festival Hub at Town Hall.

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

Sydney Film Festival also presents 12 films that vie for the Official Competition, a highly respected international 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 include: *Only God Forgives* (2013), *Alps* (2012), *A Separation* (2011) – which went on to win an Academy Award, *Heartbeats* (2010), *Bronson* (2009) and *Hunger* (2008).

The 61st Sydney Film Festival is supported by the NSW Government through Screen NSW, the Federal Government through Screen Australia, and the City of Sydney. The Festival's Strategic partner is the NSW Government through Destination NSW.

What: Sydney Film Festival

When: 4-15 June, 2014

Tickets & Info: 1300 733 733 sff.org.au

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Principal State Government partner



Strategic partner



Government partners

