



MEDIA RELEASE

SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES DOCUMENTARY AUSTRALIA FOUNDATION AWARD FINALISTS

The 63rd Sydney Film Festival announces 10 finalists for the Documentary Australia Foundation Award for Australian Documentary.

The **Documentary Australia Foundation** will award \$15,000 to the winner amongst the 10 outstanding Australian documentaries selected to screen at the Festival in June; a \$10,000 cash prize with an additional donation of \$5,000 from an anonymous SFF Director's Cut Patron. The Festival's Australian documentary prize is now in its eighth year – the third year the prize has been supported by the Foundation. The winner is announced at the **Closing Night Gala on Sunday 19 June**, held at the **State Theatre**.

“Since its inception in 1954, Sydney Film Festival has showcased Australian documentary filmmaking,” said **Documentary Australia Foundation CEO Dr Mitzi Goldman**. “The Documentary Australia Foundation is proud to support that tradition for the third year. Documentary filmmaking is a very strong and internationally regarded sector of the Australian film industry and this award honours the passion and commitment of our documentary filmmakers. It is their vision and tenacity that enables Australian audiences to connect with the meaningful and often untold stories of our lives, our history and the world today.”

Previous winners of the Australian documentary prize at Sydney Film Festival: *Only the Dead* (2015), *35 Letters* (2014), *Buckskin* (2013), *Killing Anna* (2012), *Life in Movement* (2011) and *The Snowman* (2010). In 2009 the inaugural prize was shared between *Contact* and *A Good Man* (each film received a \$10,000 cash prize).

Winners of all Sydney Film Festival are presented with the Festival's signature mesmeric swirl award, designed and handmade in Sydney by our partners Dinosaur Designs.

SFF 2016 Australian Documentary Finalists:

- **THE BAULKHAM HILLS AFRICAN LADIES TROUPE** Australia | 2015 | 85 mins | In English | World Premiere
Director, Screenwriter, Producer: Ros Horin | Distributor: Goodship
- **BAXTER AND ME** Australia | 2016 | 83 mins | In English | World Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Gillian Leahy | Producer: Sue Brooks | Production Company: Gecko Films
- **CONSTANCE ON THE EDGE** Australia | 2016 | 77 mins | In English | World Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Belinda Mason | Producer: Marguerite Grey | Production Company: Constance on the Edge Pty Ltd
- **DESTINATION ARNOLD** Australia | 2016 | 72 mins | In English | World Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Sascha Ettinger Epstein | Producer: Michaela Perske | Production Company: Pursekey Productions

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- **EMBRACE** Australia | 2016 | 90 mins | In English | World Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Taryn Brumfitt | Producers: Anna Vincent, Taryn Brumfitt | Distributor: Transmission Films
- **HOTEL COOLGARDIE** Australia | 2016 | 83 mins | In English, Finland- Swedish with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director: Pete Gleeson | Producers: Melissa Hayward, Kate Neylon | World Sales: Raw And Cooked Media
- **IN THE SHADOW OF THE HILL** Australia | 2016 | 98 mins | In Portuguese with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director, Screenwriter, Producer: Dan Jackson | Production Company: Future Paradigm Pictures
- **ON RICHARD'S SIDE** Australia | 2016 | 97 mins | In English | World Premiere
Director, Screenwriter, Producer: Andrew Wiseman | Production Company: Pericles Films
- **THE OPPOSITION** Australia | 2016 | 74 mins | In English and Tok Pisin with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director: Hollie Fifer | Producers: Rebecca Barry, Madeleine Hetherton | Production Company: Media Stockade
- **ZACH'S CEREMONY** Australia | 2016 | 96 mins | In English Australian Premiere
Director: Aaron Petersen | Screenwriter, Producer: Sarah Linton | World Sales: Wangala Films Pty Ltd

Sydney Film Festival runs 8 – 19 June 2016.

Tickets for Sydney Film Festival 2016 are on sale now. Please call 1300 733 733 or visit sff.org.au for more information.

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

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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); *Heartbeats* (2010); *Bronson* (2009); and *Hunger* (2008).

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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