



MEDIA RELEASE

SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES 15 FINALISTS FOR EVENT CINEMAS AUSTRALIAN SHORT SCREENPLAY AWARD

The 63rd Sydney Film Festival announces the 14 finalists for the Event Cinemas Australian Short Screenplay Award.

The Event Cinemas Australian Short Screenplay Award sponsored by Event Cinemas provides a \$5000 cash prize for best screenplay in one of the short fiction films selected for the Sydney Film Festival program. All Australian short fiction films screening at the Festival are eligible, and the winner is announced at the **Closing Night Gala** on **Sunday 19 June** at the **State Theatre**.

“To support the Sydney Film Festival within its award program, to discover emerging talent in the Australian Film Industry is exciting especially in the search for screenwriters,” said **Event Cinemas Area General Manager, Anthony Kierann**. “We hope the award will help establish and develop talented individuals to advance and present their unique film tapestry on the national and international film scene.”

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

The Australian short films eligible for the 2016 Event Cinemas Australian Short Screenplay Award are:

- **THE ALBATROSS** Australia | 2015 | 7 mins | In English Australian Premiere
Directors, Screenwriters: Alex Jeremy, Joel Best, Alex Karonis | Producer: Deborah Szapiro | Production Company: University of Technology Sydney
- **BLACK CHOOK** Australia | 2015 | 11 mins | In English World Premiere
Director: Dylan River
- **THE CROSSING** Australia | 2016 | 11 mins | In English | World Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Marieka Walsh | Producer: Donna Chang | Cast: Colin Friels | Production Company: Studio Balloon
- **EAGLEHAWK** Australia | 2016 | 22 mins | In English | World Premiere
Director: Shannon Murphy | Screenwriter: Marisa Nathar | Producer: Jessica Carrera | Cast: Tilda Cobham-Hervey, Ryan Corr, Wayne Blair | Production Company: Dollhouse Pictures
- **FRIDA AND DIEGO – THE AUSTRALIAN YEARS** Australia | 2016 | 5 mins | In English | World Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Marion Pilowsky
- **THE MEEK** Australia | 2015 | 7 mins | In English
Director, Screenwriter: Joe Brumm | Producer: Laura DiMaio | Cast: Danniella Markovic | Narrator: Myf Warhurst Production Company: Studiojoho
- **MESSIAH** Australia | 2016 | 18 mins | In English World Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Damian Walshe-Howling

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- **MY BEST FRIEND IS STUCK ON THE CEILING** Australia | 2015 | 10 mins | In English
Director, Screenwriter: Matt Vesely | Producers: Sophie Hyde, Christine Williams | Cast: Tom Ward, Erin James | Production Company: Closer Productions
- **NATHAN LOVES RICKY MARTIN** Australia | 2016 | 7 mins | In English and Russian | World Premiere
Director: Steven Arriagada | Screenwriters: Llewellyn Michael Bates, Steven Arriagada | Producers: Steven Arriagada, Llewellyn, Michael Bates, Bryan Chau | Cast: Verity Higgins, Dennis Manahan, Albert Goikhman | Production Company: Diverse Films
- **SLAPPER** Australia | 2015 | 15 mins | In English | World Premiere
Director: Luci Schroder | Screenwriters: Luci Schroder, Samuel West | Producers: Luci Schroder, Jason Byrne, Stephanie Westwood, Michael Latham | Cast: Sapphire Blossom, Dylan Peck, Maddy Brady | Production Company: Guilty Content
- **THE SPA** Australia | 2015 | 8 mins | In English | World Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Will Goodfellow | Producer: Lucy Gaffy | Cast: Chris Haywood, Jay Laga'aia, Peter Moalaeua | Production Company: GOONO
- **SPICE SISTERS** Australia | 2016 | 15 mins | In English | World Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Sheila Jayadev
- **WELCOME HOME ALLEN** Australia | 2016 | 11 mins | No dialogue | World Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Andrew Kavanagh | Producer: Ramona Telecan | Cast: John Brumpton, Trevor Major, Jane Bayly | Production Company: Radioactive Gigantism Films
- **YOU DESERVE EVERYTHING** Australia | 2015 | 19 mins | In English | World Premiere
Director, Screenwriter, Producer: Goran Stolevski | Cast: Sachin Joab, Jean Bachoura, Wahibe Moussa

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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