

TRAVELLING FILM FESTIVAL



TOOWOOMBA

TOOWOOMBA STRAND CINEMA
1 – 3 SEPTEMBER 2017

SHORT FILMS



THE WALL

Directed by Nick Baker and Tristan Klein | Australia
In English | 6 mins | 15+

Life as they knew it was all soon to end, when the darkness arrived and began to descend...

Fleeing their city, a grandmother and her grandson reach a tall, endless wall.



FINDING MAAWIRRANGGA

Directed by Dylan River | Australia | In English, Wubuy and Kriol, with English subtitles | 15 mins | 15+

Indigenous actor Tom E Lewis, once uprooted from his Arnhem Land home, returns after 40 years, re-connecting through the Murrungun songline.

SCHEDULE

FRIDAY 1 SEPTEMBER

7.00PM **ALI'S WEDDING** (15+)
9.00PM **OPENING NIGHT RECEPTION**

SATURDAY 2 SEPTEMBER

12.00PM **THE TEACHER** (M)
2.30PM **POP AYE** (M) screens with short film **FINDING MAAWIRRANGGA**
5.30PM **UNA** (M)
8.00PM **THE OTHER SIDE OF HOPE** (15+) screens with short film **THE WALL**

SUNDAY 3 SEPTEMBER

12.30PM **MY LIFE AS A ZUCCHINI** (PG)
2.00PM **SAMI BLOOD** (15+)
4.30PM **I AM NOT YOUR NEGRO** (M)
7.00PM **ON BODY AND SOUL** (18+)

OPENING NIGHT ALI'S WEDDING



FRIDAY 1 SEPTEMBER 7.00PM

Please join us after the screening for the Opening Night reception

Directed by Jeffrey Walker | Australia | In English, Arabic and Farsi with English subtitles | 110 mins | 15+

WINNER: FOXTEL MOVIES AUDIENCE AWARD FOR BEST FEATURE AT SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL

Ali's arranged marriage is looming, but he loves someone else. What's a Muslim cleric's son to do?

Truth is stranger than fiction. *Ali's Wedding* is based on the real-life experience of lead actor Osamah Sami, whose arranged marriage lasted less than two hours. The smart screenplay by Sami and Andrew Knight (*Hacksaw Ridge*, *Rake*, *Jack Irish*) tells a humorous, authentic and poignant tale about family life in multicultural Australia. Stylishly directed by Jeffrey Walker (*Modern Family*, *Angry Boys*), the film boasts a terrific cast including Don Hany as Ali's father and delightful newcomer Helana Sawires as Dianne, the Lebanese-Australian medical student who sends Ali's heartbeat racing. The time is right for a feel-good winner like *Ali's Wedding*.

"Original, hilarious and flat-out charming, *Ali's Wedding* takes the conventions of a genre and uses them to hold up a mirror to a nation." – THE REEL BITS

SUBSCRIBE AND SAVE

Save 30% on regular ticket prices with a subscription - all nine films for only \$9 per film (\$8 concession), including Opening Night. Or dip into the festival with a 5-film Flexipass for just \$10.60 per film (\$9.60 concession)

FULL SUBSCRIPTION
\$81 Adult | \$72 Concession

5-FILM FLEXIPASS
\$53 Adult | \$48 Concession

FATHERS DAY SCREENING:
MY LIFE AS A ZUCCHINI
\$34 for four ticket family pass - bring Dad for FREE!

SINGLE TICKETS
\$14 Adult | \$12 Concession
\$10 Kids / Students / Under 26

PRESENTED BY SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL
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HOW TO BOOK

Online: sff.org.au/toowoomba
By Phone: 02 8220 6600
In Person: from Toowoomba Strand Cinema

Toowoomba Strand Cinema
163 Margaret St
Toowoomba QLD 4350
Phone: (07) 4639 3861

Subscriptions are transferable but admit only one person per film.

Concessions: unemployed, pensioners, members of Toowoomba Film Society, seniors – upon presentation of ID.

All films start at the advertised time – we do not screen ads.

All details correct at time of printing but subject to change without notice.

Front image: *On Body and Soul*

TRAVELLING FILM FESTIVAL VISITS...

NT Alice Springs, Darwin, Katherine QLD Bundaberg, Cairns, Mackay, Nambour, Toowoomba, Townsville NSW Huskisson, Nambucca Heads, Newcastle, Port Macquarie, Sawtell, Tamworth, Ulladulla, Wagga Wagga, Wollongong TFF AT SEA Sydney to Tasmania



Distinguished Partner



The Travelling Film Festival acknowledges the financial assistance of Screen Australia and the Queensland Government through Screen QLD and is supported by ABC Southern Queensland and distinguished partner Princess Cruises

THE TEACHER



SATURDAY 2 SEPTEMBER 12.00PM

Directed by Jan Hřebejk | Slovakia | In Slovak with English subtitles | 102 mins | M

WINNER: BEST FILM, BEST ACTRESS, BEST SCREENPLAY and AUDIENCE AWARD, CZECH ACADEMY AWARDS 2017

SELECTED: SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL 2017

Zuzana Maurery gives an award-winning performance as an unscrupulous school teacher in this crowd-pleasing dark comedy set in Communist era Czechoslovakia.

Politically connected Maria Drazdechova's (Maurery) arrival at a school quickly leads to competitive sucking up. By carefully noting the professions of her students' parents, the unscrupulous teacher has a directory of services available to her: household repairs, free haircuts, grocery shopping and even the international smuggling of baked goods are all services required by Maria in exchange for favouritism. But some parents are unable, or unwilling, to give, setting the scene for a conflict between those who have acquiesced and those who resist. Hřebejk (*Cosy Dens*, SFF 2000; *Divided We Fall*, SFF 2001) is in top satirical form and uses this microcosm to make cutting points about society at large.

"A surefire crowd pleaser... Maurery handles her character, a nasty piece of work to be sure, with such natural aplomb that she makes Mrs Drazdechova not only perfectly credible but pretty scary too." – SCREENDAILY

MY LIFE AS A ZUCCHINI



SUNDAY 3 SEPTEMBER 12.30PM

Directed by Claude Barras | Switzerland, France | In English | 66 mins | PG

NOMINATED: BEST ANIMATED FEATURE FILM, ACADEMY AWARDS & GOLDEN GLOBES 2017

SELECTED: SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL 2017

An Oscar-nominated Swiss-French stop-motion family animation that's realistic and life affirming, dealing with real issues in a way that doesn't patronise or traumatise its audience.

When nine-year old Zucchini's alcoholic mother dies, he is taken to an orphanage filled with misfits who, like himself, have been dealt a rough hand by life. Little does he know, they will soon become his de facto family, from his crush Camille to the gentle father-figure policeman Raymond. Based on a best-selling young adult novel and adapted for the screen by Céline Sciamma (*Tomboy*, SFF 2011), *My Life as a Zucchini* is an unusual, affirming but honest film that calls on its young audience's ability to empathise with lives far tougher than their own. They'll come out heartened, strengthened and more resilient from the experience – and so will the adults who take them.

"A movie that conveys deep feelings with the tiniest movements of the puppets' eyes or mouths; that portrays young love with a candid intensity[...]" – WALL STREET JOURNAL

This session is recommended for ages 10 and over.

Father's Day Special: Bring Dad for FREE! Grab a four ticket family pass for just \$34.

POP AYE



SATURDAY 2 SEPTEMBER 2.30PM

Directed by Kirsten Tan | Singapore, Thailand | Thai with English subtitles | 102 mins | M

WINNER: SPECIAL JURY AWARD, SUNDANCE FILM FESTIVAL 2017

SELECTED: SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL 2017

A downtrodden architect and his long-lost elephant take a road trip across Thailand to find their childhood home in this offbeat and very funny Sundance screenwriting award-winner.

Once a cutting edge architect renowned for his progressive buildings, Thana is having a hard time at work and with his wife. Wandering the streets of Bangkok he comes across Pop Aye, the elephant he grew up with in rural Thailand. Thana promptly buys the elephant and the unusual pair set off on a road trip back towards the idyll of their home village. Along the way they meet fascinating characters, from a wild-haired man who seems to foretell the future to a transgender roadside bar singer. In her debut feature Kirsten Tan has total control, taking advantage of the beautiful scenery, wonderful actors and a charismatic elephant to tell a story that is unsentimental but genuinely moving.

"Warm yet unsentimental, graced with the lightest touch of surrealism, this opening-night offering from Sundance's world cinema dramatic competition is a joy." – VARIETY

Screens with short film *Finding Maawirangga*

SAMI BLOOD



SUNDAY 3 SEPTEMBER 2.00PM

Directed by Amanda Kernell | Sweden, Denmark, Norway | In Swedish, South Sámi with English subtitles | 110 mins | 15+

WINNER: BEST NORDIC FILM, GÖTEBORG FILM FESTIVAL

SELECTED: SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL 2017

The moving story of a reindeer-herding Sámi girl who severs ties with her family and her culture. An award-winner and hit at the Toronto, Sundance and Venice Film Festivals.

Elle Marja is a 14-year-old girl growing up in 1930s Sweden at a time when the indigenous Sámi people were highly discriminated against. Elle is bright and ambitious, but finds herself stymied. When she is humiliated at her school and forced to endure race biology examinations, she becomes determined to build a new life for herself. To do so, she will have to take on a new identity, one that distances herself from her community and her culture. Lene Cecilia Sparrok is astonishing as the conflicted young woman in this very powerful debut by Amanda Kernell, which is inspired by the life of her grandmother.

"*Sámi Blood* features a winning combination of strong central performances... and an intimate, empathetic approach to a period of history which is not widely known outside of Northern Europe." – SCREENDAILY

UNA



SATURDAY 2 SEPTEMBER 5.30PM

Directed by Benedict Andrews | UK | In English | 94 mins | M

SELECTED: OFFICIAL COMPETITION SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL 2017

Una stars Oscar-nominee Rooney Mara and Emmy-winner Ben Mendelsohn, and is based on David Harrower's play *Blackbird*. It starts when Una (Mara) tracks down Ray (Mendelsohn) at his place of work. Fifteen years earlier, when Una was a minor, Ray sexually abused her – a crime he was arrested and imprisoned for. Una's arrival threatens to destroy Ray's new life which he's desperate to preserve. Is Una there for revenge, or is there some more surprising motivation at play?

In this intense emotional drama, the effect of the past has led to tragic circumstances, and two severely damaged people are left in a fiery standoff. Mara and Mendelsohn both deliver extraordinary, nuanced and extremely brave performances. Daringly taking on taboos, director Benedict Andrews handles this sensitive material with precision. *Una* is a film that will stay with you for a long time.

"Uncompromising, unforgettable stuff" – HERALD SUN

"An agile, vicious piece of work that's anchored by extraordinary performances from Rooney Mara and Ben Mendelsohn..." – INDIEWIRE

I AM NOT YOUR NEGRO



SUNDAY 3 SEPTEMBER 4.30PM

Directed by Raoul Peck | France, USA, Belgium, Switzerland | In English | 93 mins | M

NOMINATED: BEST DOCUMENTARY FEATURE, ACADEMY AWARDS 2017

SELECTED: SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL 2017

Narrated by Samuel L Jackson, this mesmerising Oscar-nominated film channels the impassioned words of writer James Baldwin, one of the most incisive commentators on race in America.

People's Choice Documentary Award-Winner at Toronto and a box office success in the US, *I Am Not Your Negro* takes as its starting point notes for a book Baldwin intended to write about the lives and assassinations of his friends Malcolm X, Martin Luther King Jr., and Medgar Evers. That unwritten book finds life in this remarkable film which melds Baldwin's unpublished writing (powerfully narrated by Jackson), archival footage of his eloquent analysis of the times, and contemporary Black Lives Matter protests. Haitian Peck (*Lumumba*; *Moloch Tropical*, SFF 2010) is a strikingly political filmmaker and here his profound and poetic cine-essay is, as The New York Times describes it, "life-altering".

"It is a striking work of storytelling. By assembling the scattered images and historical clips suggested by Baldwin's writing, *I Am Not Your Negro* is a cinematic séance, and one of the best movies about the civil rights era ever made." – THE GUARDIAN

THE OTHER SIDE OF HOPE



SATURDAY 2 SEPTEMBER 8.00PM

Directed by Aki Kaurismäki | Finland, Germany | In Finnish, English, and Arabic with English subtitles | 98 mins | 15+

WINNER: SILVER BEAR BEST DIRECTOR, BERLIN FILM FESTIVAL 2017

SELECTED: SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL 2017

Aki Kaurismäki's new film is a heart-warming, funny, melancholic tale of the friendship between a Syrian refugee and a restaurant-owner.

Khaled, a young Syrian refugee, arrives in Helsinki as a stowaway and applies for asylum. Meanwhile, travelling salesman Wikström decides to change his life, and invests in an unprofitable restaurant. When the authorities deny Khaled's application for asylum, he decides to stay on illegally, and it is then that he meets Wikström outside the restaurant.

Kaurismäki says that the film is an attempt to shatter the "way of only seeing refugees as either pitiful victims or arrogant economic immigrants invading our societies." With his unique sense of humour and fundamentally optimistic vision of the world, he achieves a great deal more than that.

"It's difficult to imagine anyone coming away from Aki Kaurismäki's gorgeous tragicomedy about the refugee crisis in Europe... without feeling gentle elation sparked by the story's evidence of human kindness amid cruelty and indifference" – THE HOLLYWOOD REPORTER

Screens with short film *The Wall*

ON BODY AND SOUL



SUNDAY 3 SEPTEMBER 7.00PM

Directed by Ildikó Enyedi | Hungary | In Hungarian with English subtitles | 116 mins | 18+

WINNER: GOLDEN BEAR, BERLIN FILM FESTIVAL 2017; SYDNEY FILM PRIZE, SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL 2017

Winner of the Sydney Film Prize, *On Body and Soul* is about the unconventional romance between two co-workers who discover that each night they have exactly the same dreams.

Enre is the director of a Budapest abattoir. Slightly grizzled, he seems to have lived an eventful life that has eventually come to a stage of solitude. When Maria begins working as a quality controller at his company, Enre is clearly attracted to her. Their interactions, however, are extremely awkward. By chance, the two discover that each night they share exactly the same beautiful dream of a pair of deer frolicking in the woods. Despite their incredulity, they feel compelled to attempt a romance to match their shared visions, but real life proves more difficult. Enyedi contrasts idyllic dream sequences with gory images in the slaughterhouse, creating a compelling metaphor for the struggle for human connection. Spellbinding and mysterious, *On Body and Soul* touchingly shows love emerging out of the darkness.

"A determinedly eccentric but intermittently startling misfit romance that marks a singular return to feature filmmaking for Hungarian writer-director Ildikó Enyedi after an 18-year gap." – VARIETY