

# TRAVELLING FILM FESTIVAL



## CAIRNS

CAIRNS CITY CINEMAS  
10 – 14 NOVEMBER 2017

### SCHEDULE

#### FRIDAY 10 NOVEMBER

6.00PM OPENING NIGHT RECEPTION  
7.00PM ALI'S WEDDING (M)

#### SATURDAY 11 NOVEMBER

12.00PM POP AYE (M)  
2.30PM THE OTHER SIDE OF HOPE (15+)  
5.00PM BRIGSBY BEAR (M) screens with short film SUPERHEROES  
7.30PM THAT'S NOT ME (MA15+)

#### SUNDAY 12 NOVEMBER

12.00PM ROLLER DREAMS (18+) screens with short film BEYOND THE BUBBLE  
2.00PM THE TEACHER (M)  
4.30PM SAMI BLOOD (15+) screens with short film BLIGHT  
7.00 PM ON BODY AND SOUL (18+)

#### MONDAY 13 NOVEMBER

6.30PM LADY MACBETH (MA15+) screens with short film RED  
8.30PM ALI'S WEDDING (M)

#### TUESDAY 14 NOVEMBER

6.15PM IN THE FADE (18+)  
8.30PM GOOD TIME (MA15+)

### STAY IN TOUCH

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 Sign up for our e-newsletter and to receive a program in the post next year: [sff.org.au/tff](http://sff.org.au/tff)

## OPENING NIGHT ALI'S WEDDING



FRIDAY 10 NOVEMBER 7.00PM

Join us from 6.00PM for the Opening Night reception

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

**WINNER:** FOXTEL MOVIES AUDIENCE AWARD FOR BEST FEATURE AT SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL, THE AGE CRITIC'S AWARD, MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

Ali's arranged marriage is looming, but he loves someone else. What's a Muslim cleric's son to do? This Australian comedy won the Foxtel Movies Audience Award for Best Feature at Sydney Film Festival.

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

*Ali's Wedding* will screen a second time on Monday 13 November 8.30PM

### SUBSCRIBE AND SAVE

Save 30% on regular ticket prices with a subscription - all twelve 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 \*

\$108 Adult \$96 Concession

\*Please ensure to choose which session of *Ali's Wedding* you would like to attend when booking a subscription

#### 5-FILM FLEXIPASS

\$53 Adult \$48 Concession

#### SINGLE TICKETS

\$14 Adult \$12 Concession  
\$10 Kids/Student/Under 26

PRESENTED BY SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL  
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### HOW TO BOOK

Online: [sff.org.au/cairns](http://sff.org.au/cairns)  
By Phone: 02 8220 6600  
In Person: from Cairns City Cinemas

Cairns City Cinemas  
108 Grafton St, Cairns, QLD, 4870  
Phone: (07) 4031 1077

Opening Night includes complimentary drinks. Subscriptions are transferable but admit only one person per film.

Concessions: unemployed, pensioners, 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: *Roller Dreams*

#### 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



Travelling Film Festival acknowledges the financial assistance of Screen Australia and the Queensland Government through Screen QLD and is supported by media partner ABC Far North and distinguished partner Princess Cruises.

## POP AYE



**SATURDAY 11 NOVEMBER 12.00PM**

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

**WINNER:** SPECIAL JURY AWARD, SUNDANCE 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. 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 un sentimental but genuinely moving.

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

## THE OTHER SIDE OF HOPE



**SATURDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2.30PM**

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

**WINNER:** SILVER BEAR BEST DIRECTOR, BERLIN 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

## BRIGSBY BEAR



**SATURDAY 11 NOVEMBER 5.00PM**

Director: Dave McCary | USA | In English | 97 mins | M

Cannes Critics' Week's Closing film is a strange, wonderful comedy starring *Saturday Night Live's* Kyle Mooney as a man obsessed with a TV show about a bear saving the world. James (Mooney) has lived in a bunker for 25 years, completely isolated from the world. His only contact is with his parents (Mark Hamill and Jane Adams), and his only source of entertainment and education is the '80s-style television show 'Brigsby Bear Adventures'. James's life is drastically changed when he leaves the bunker and has to integrate into society: a task for which he is completely unprepared. Most disturbing of all, James can no longer watch his beloved TV show. In a grip to make sense of his life, James will need to bring *Brigsby Bear* back into it. With a great cast including Greg Kinnear, Claire Danes and Andy Samberg, *Brigsby Bear* is an affirming, offbeat love letter to filmmaking.

**"Brigsby Bear is the warmest, sweetest movie about creativity since Be Kind Rewind"** – THE VERGE

Screens with short film *Superheroes*

## THAT'S NOT ME



**SATURDAY 11 NOVEMBER 7.30PM**

Director: Gregory Erdstein | Australia | In English | 85 mins | MA15+

An aspiring actor takes advantage of her identical twin sister's success and fame in this hilarious Australian indie influenced by *Girls* and *Bridesmaids*. Polly considers herself a serious actress, waiting for the role that best suits her considerable talents. But her acting dreams start to crumble when her identical twin Amy lands a lead role in an HBO show and starts dating co-star Jared Leto. A disastrous trip to LA does little to help matters, but the unbearable situation becomes a little better when Polly discovers that she can use her sister's celebrity to her advantage to get free clothes, free booze and casual sex. The consequences are very funny – and awkward. *That's Not Me* is a clever, knowing comedy with a winning dual performance by Alice Foulcher.

**"Sibling rivalry, celebrity and chasing dreams have never been so much fun in this energetic, uplifting character-driven comedy that soars as surely as the trajectory of its irresistible star."** – URBAN CINEFILE

## ROLLER DREAMS



**SUNDAY 12 NOVEMBER 12.00PM**

Directed by Kate Hickey | Australia | In English | 80 mins | 18+

It's 1984 and California's Venice Beach is the epicentre of a pop culture explosion – a "do what you wanna do, be who you wanna be" kinda place. Young people of colour seeking refuge from the turmoil of inner city life flock to the eclectic ocean community to create a brand new phenomenon: roller dancing! The talent and vibrant personality of this multicultural roller "family" draws massive crowds and influences Hollywood. Check out fancy-footed Larry, hip Terrell, smooth Sally, crazy-legged Dural, Jimmy "the skating tornado" and poetry in motion Mads. But politics, money and gentrification conspire to end the dream just as it flourishes.

**"Energetic, thoughtful, and surprisingly relevant look at the explosion of a pop culture phenomenon on a sun-drenched Venice Beach in the 1980s."** – FILMORIA

Screens with short film *Beyond The Bubble*

## THE TEACHER



**SUNDAY 12 NOVEMBER 2.00PM**

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

Zuzana Mauryer 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 (Mauryer) 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... Mauryer 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

## SAMI BLOOD



**SUNDAY 12 NOVEMBER 4.30PM**

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

**WINNER:** BEST NORDIC FILM, GÖTEBORF FILM FESTIVAL

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

Screens with short film *Blight*

## ON BODY AND SOUL



**SUNDAY 12 NOVEMBER 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

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.

Endre 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, Endre 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. 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.

**"It's an exquisitely offbeat love story and I fell headlong for its angular, awkward charm"** – THE GUARDIAN

## LADY MACBETH



**MONDAY 13 NOVEMBER 6.30PM**

Directed by William Oldroyd | UK | In English | 89 mins | MA15+

The arranged marriage between beautiful Katherine and wealthy landowner Alexander is the beginning of a gripping and violent psychodrama that's far from a traditional bodice-ripper.

Shakespeare's *Lady Macbeth* doesn't appear in William Oldroyd's mightily impressive feature debut but her manipulative spirit inhabits every frame. Nikolai Leskov's 1865 novella has been vividly transported to Northumberland, where teenager Katherine (Florence Pugh, in a star-making performance) has been sold into marriage with Alexander (Paul Hilton), a wealthy and disinterested middle-aged man. It's not long before handsome and cocky groomsmen James (Cosmo Jarvis) catches Katherine's eye. Oldroyd's intense direction and Alice Birch's razor-sharp script take *Lady Macbeth* way beyond the confines of a traditional Victorian bodice-ripper. Katherine's burning desire for sexual freedom evolves into gripping and violent psychodrama in which the roles of victim and oppressor become memorably blurred.

**"Imagine Alfred Hitchcock directing *Wuthering Heights* and you'll get an idea of William Oldroyd's tense period drama."** – INDIEWIRE

Screens with short film *Red*

## IN THE FADE



**TUESDAY 14 NOVEMBER 6.15PM**

Director, Screenwriter: Fath Akin | Germany, France | In German with English subtitles | 106 mins | 18+

Straight from Competition in Cannes, a new thriller from acclaimed director Fath Akin, in which Diane Kruger (*Inglourious Basterds*, *Farewell My Queen*) gives a rare German-language performance. Set in Hamburg, the film is about the aftermath of an explosion. Katja's life collapses after the death of her husband and son in a bomb attack. But after the time of mourning and injustice comes the time for revenge. Whether making complex dramas like *Head-On* (which won the Berlinale Golden Bear in 2004) and *The Edge of Heaven* (Best Screenplay winner at Cannes 2007), or vibrant comedies like *Soul Kitchen* and *Goodbye Berlin*, Akin brings a distinctive energy and a keen understanding of German society to his films. The timely *In the Fade* is no exception, and finds him at his searching, pointed best.

**"A thriller made riveting by an emotional performance from Diane Kruger."** – HOLLYWOOD REPORTER

## GOOD TIME



**TUESDAY 14 NOVEMBER 8.30PM**

Directors: Benny Safdie, Josh Safdie | USA, Luxembourg | In English | 101 mins | MA15+

Robert Pattinson gives a career-best performance in this atmospheric crime thriller about a heist gone wrong and a man's increasingly desperate attempts to free his jailed brother. Straight from Competition in Cannes and set over one adrenaline-filled day and night in New York, *Good Time* is a gritty, action-packed film that has been compared to seminal American films of the 70s like *Dog Day Afternoon* and *Taxi Driver*. Pattinson plays Constantine Nikas, who attempts a bank robbery with his intellectually disabled brother Nick (Benny Safdie).

Not the most competent criminals, the brothers make some fateful mistakes and in the ensuing mayhem, Nick is arrested. Increasingly desperate, Constantine dives into the city's underworld on a dangerous mission to free his vulnerable brother. With a great score by Oneohtrix Point Never, a relentless pace and Pattinson's incredible performance, *Good Time* is an exhilarating genre film with great emotional impact.

**"A breathless, battering pulp thriller – precision-edited to 100 minutes."** – VARIETY

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## SHORT FILMS

### BEYOND THE BUBBLE



Directed by Anna Hildebrandt | Australia | In English | 8 mins | 15+

Three flat-sharing friends priced out of Sydney and are forced to consider the unthinkable...moving to the western suburbs!

### BLIGHT



Directed by Perun Bonser | Australia | In English | 13 mins | 15+

Aided by a female Aboriginal tracker, a constable hunts a band of dangerous criminals on Australia's western frontier in the early 1900s.

### RED



Directed by Del Kathryn Barton | Australia | In English | 16 mins | 15+

Artist Del Kathryn Barton explores the unusual sexual cannibalism of the Australian Redback spider. With Cate Blanchett.

### SUPERHEROES



Directed by Chris Busuttill | Australia | In English | 12 mins | 15+

Young James uses the immense power of his imagination as a sanctuary from violence for himself and his family.