

A black and white photograph of a woman underwater, viewed from below. She is wearing a light-colored t-shirt and dark leggings, with her arms raised and hands near her head. Bubbles are visible around her head. A large black circle is overlaid on the top left of the image.

SW
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FESTIVAL PROGRAM

SCREENWAVE INTERNATIONAL
FILM FESTIVAL '18
10 - 25 JAN | COFFS COAST HEART OF FILM

WELCOME TO SWIFF '18



KATE HOWAT, SWIFF Artistic Director

The COFFS COAST HEART OF FILM continues to walk to its own beat with a program to inspire even the most discerning of film viewers. Aside from some of the best films from the world festival circuit, we get loud and proud with the new LGBTQ+ program Hear Me Out, and put female filmmakers front and centre with Women of Action. We also usher in new films from right here at home with Australian Cinema, and for lovers of stories stranger than fiction, we welcome back the popular Documentary: Voice and Vision. From our very first film fest, we lovingly return the Call of the Surf and look to new delights with a program on Scandinavian perspectives with Nordic Lights. One of my personal faves for date nights and spooking up those summer nights is Screenwave's stranger things, or just settle in for some fun and cheeky animations for all the family to enjoy. For new filmmakers making waves in the region, come and meet the finalists from our sister festival, 2017 [REC] Ya Shorts. Bringing filmmakers to our region to inspire, educate, and

entertain is all part of the SWIFF experience, so come and get amongst it and engage in lively debate with film lovers in the summer sun of Coffs and beautiful Bello. We welcome swells of passionate film enthusiasts to flood the town for 15 days of cinematic immersion and discovery.

Thank you to all the filmmakers whose work we celebrate this year, especially emerging artists and young creatives of tomorrow. And profound thanks to all the hard-working volunteers and festival staff, without whom this festival would not be possible.



DAVID HORSLEY, SWIFF Festival Director

2017 AMP Tomorrow Maker

Coffs Coast is catching the film bug. Like many other festivalgoers, being in a dark room full of strangers staring at a big screen brings me a shameless amount of joy. Perhaps not coming from a place of pure entertainment, but in the deliberateness of it all. It takes an absolutely sinful amount of energy, collaboration, and gumption to go from concept to cinema screen with a feature film. That there are these innovative people, both regular and extraordinary at the same time, that have a story to tell and a compelling way to tell it brings optimism and reprieve for a collective headspace flooded by the unstoppable information cycle of our digital age.

So this film festival is a weird ephemeral beast. Something a bit unique to SWIFF as a feature film festival - all 73 feature films programmed this year have only one screening - with just a handful of second screenings across Coffs and Bello. So take time out. Take time off. Get into the festival spirit and enjoy what's available to you. Go travelling on a holiday to the cinema for a week. I hope everyone gets a chance to see the SWIFF Light Box project (Jan 19 - 25, Coffs), take part in a filmmaking workshop (Jan 21 - 24), join us at a gala or afterparty, and see a bucketload of films from the festival's most comprehensive program to date. Welcome to SWIFF 2018.



CINDI DRENNAN- SWIFF Light Box Creative Director | Director, Illuminart

Stories are so deeply entrenched in their locations. The SWIFF Light Box project breaks the conventional setting for cinema - it builds a progressive narrative that are experienced as audiences progress through the sites, from the Jetty Memorial Theatre, to the Forestry building, and finally to the cliff face of South Coffs Island.

It's a game-changing project for the Coffs Coast, and fittingly hosted by Screenwave International Film Festival. It gives Coffs Coast artists new frameworks to take their concepts and adapt them to a new structure, playing in a cinematic space for the first time with moving image - a rare option for many visual artists.

SWIFF Light Box will transform the Coffs landscape in a way unlike many locals and visitors have seen before, and hopefully inspire the creative community in new ways to continue to develop more ambitious and proactive arts projects, forming the identity and soul of one of Australia's most beautiful regions.

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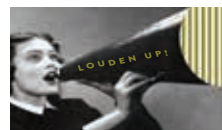
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FESTIVAL HUBS



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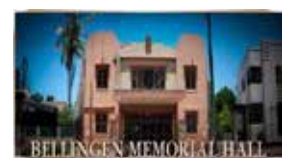
COMMUNITY



SWIFF LIGHTBOX



VENUES



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HOW TO SWIFF

Get into the festival spirit: See lots of films, ask a lot of Q&A questions, check out the exhibits, grab a drink at the festival hubs, and bring your friends together to enjoy Coffs Coast's big annual film love-in

Check the classification: Many of the films at SWIFF have age restrictions, please check classifications and recommendations before booking your tickets.

Stay Up to Date: Join the Screenwave e-newsletter and like us on Facebook to remain in the loop in case of last minute changes.

Be on Time: All sessions are general admission. Please arrive at the venue early to allow for ticketing and queues. As many sessions have guests in attendance, latecomers will not be permitted into the venue until after introductions.

Be Courteous: Have your phone switched off before you enter the cinema, be mindful of other patrons and be kind to volunteers (they are here out of love!)

Challenge yourself: See a film at SWIFF you otherwise may not see. SWIFF is about all about discovery, so keep an open mind about what you see on screen.

Go paperless! Using the SWIFF18 app (for Apple and Android) will not only save you time and effort, it also makes a difference with a little less paper and ink going to waste.

Enjoy! Most importantly, we hope you have a wonderful festival, and not only come to see the films and meet guests, but stick around to chat cinema, experience SWIFF Light Box, and make new friends!

SWIFF 2018 APP

Download the Android and iOS mobile apps to beat the queues, buy your tickets, redeem them at the door, and vote for your favourite films.

SWIFF FILM CLUB

Enjoy members benefits and join in the fun of free monthly screenings with fellow film lovers. For more on how to join go to www.swiff.com.au

A'TIVO TASTINGS

Thanks to our friends at Treasury Wine Estates, select screenings across the festival will be preceded by a complimentary tasting of the new A'tivo aperitif range. Be sure to arrive early for your films in case it's your lucky day.

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Tickets are available from the Box Office during festival hours.

JETTY MEMORIAL THEATRE

337 HARBOUR DRIVE
COFFS HARBOUR NSW 2450
(02) 6648 4930

The Jetty Theatre Box Office is open from 12pm-4pm Tuesday-Friday and during festival hours.

TICKETS

REGULAR PRICES

Full price \$17.50

Concession/Local 245* \$14.00

Under 18 \$10.00

(Concession includes pensioner & students. Locals with post codes starting 245 receive concession prices. Please present valid ID).

SWIFF Film Club member benefits available across all sessions

FILM PASSES

Take 5 Pass \$65.00 | SWIFF Film Club members \$60.00

Take 10 Pass \$105.00 | SWIFF Film Club members \$95.00

*Passes exclude special events, workshops, opening & closing.

A credit card fee applies on all card transactions. No additional booking fee.

SPECIAL EVENTS

OPENING NIGHT GALA

\$40.00 Full | Concession \$35.00

- includes drinks & canapes on arrival

CLOSING GALA NIGHT

\$40.00 Full | Concession \$35.00

- includes drinks & canapes on arrival

SWIFF LIVE

Men of Wood & Foam, featuring live soundtrack by Band of Frequencies.
Plus Q&A with writer/producer Phil Jarratt.

Tickets \$35.00 | \$30.00 concession | Under 18 \$25.00

TICKETS
AVAILABLE ONLINE
AT
SWIFF.COM.AU

ACCESSIBILITY

SWIFF endeavours to make its screenings and events inclusive and accessible to everyone. Please see venue information listed on our website for details and contact us via email with requests tickets@screenwave.com.au.

WHEELCHAIR ACCESS AND ASSISTED HEARING

All venues at SWIFF are wheelchair accessible, including the Jetty Theatre which also has a hearing loop system. Please contact the Jetty Theatre for any bookings of the service T: (02) 6648 4930.



COMPANION CARDS

SWIFF proudly accepts Companion cards to all sessions. For patrons requiring assistance of a companion card or carer, a second ticket is issued at no cost to the Companion card holder.



SUBTITLES

All foreign language films are subtitled in English



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OPENING NIGHT



JUNGLE

WED 10 JAN | 6.00PM FOR 7.00PM | JMT

D. GREG MCLEAN | 115MINS | M | AUS, COL

SWIFF swings into action through uncharted territory with *Jungle*, a compelling true story of strength and survival from acclaimed Australian director Greg McLean, starring a post-Potter Daniel Radcliffe.

While hitchhiking in Bolivia in the early 1980s, 22 year old backpacker, Yossi Ghinsberg meets a mysterious man, Karl Rupprechter, who guides Yossi and his two friends – teacher Marcus Stamm and photographer Kevin Gale- deep into the uncharted Amazon for the experience of a lifetime. What begins as a life-changing dream adventure into the emerald, becomes a genuine, test against formidable forces and the fight to survive.

Based on real-life experiences from the highly acclaimed memoir by Yossi Ghinsberg, *Jungle* offers an exciting blend of nail-biting urgency with authentic moments of heart and humanity. Featuring dynamic performances from Daniel Radcliffe, and Aussie talents Alex Russell (*Chronicle*, *Unbroken*) and Joel Jackson (*Peter Allen: Not the Boy Next Door*).

Join us from 6pm for red carpet arrival, 6:30pm for drinks and canapes prior to the 7pm film.

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CLOSING NIGHT



ELLIPSIS

THU 25 JAN | 6.00PM FOR 7.00PM | JMT

D. DAVID WENHAM | 86MINS | M | AUS
SPECIAL GUEST - DAVID WENHAM

SWIFF 2018's grand finale takes a moonlit walk through Sydney in David Wenham's directorial debut, ELLIPSIS

The directorial debut of Australian acting icon David Wenham (Beyond the Known World, Lord of the Rings), Ellipsis, was workshopped for 3 days and shot in 7 - a blistering pace for a feature film production. Already

critically acclaimed across the board as it makes its way through the film festival circuit, Wenham has been likened to Richard Linklater for his directorial style in films such as the Before Sunrise/Sunset/Midnight trilogy.

Set to the backdrop of Sydney, Ellipsis takes the audience walking and talking, sightseeing and waxing philosophical, after the chance meeting of two strangers, Jasper (Benedict Samuel) and Viv (Emily Barclay), on a night out wandering from Bondi to King's Cross.

The Closing Night Gala screening of Ellipsis will be followed by a Q&A with director David Wenham.

The beat goes on as we get the afterparty started over at the SWIFF Pop-up Bar at South Coffs Island (harbour quarry). Dance out the 2018 festival to a DJ set by Tim Helmy against the backdrop of cliff face projections from SWIFF Light Box. Closing Night Gala attendees receive free admission into the afterparty.

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MEN OF WOOD & FOAM

SAT 20 JAN | 6.30PM | JMT

D. SHAUN CAIRNS | 120MINS | PG | AUS

Men of Wood & Foam with live soundtrack performed by Band of Frequencies

Trailing in the wake of Aussie surf pioneers, The Brookvale Six, Band of Frequencies brings a dynamic, one performance-only, live cinema experience to SWIFF audiences.

Filled with rare archive footage and frequently hilarious interviews with the trailblazers themselves, including Coffs own surfing legend Scotty Dillon, Men of Wood & Foam is a compelling look at Australian surf culture in the '70s and '80s, a time well documented in America, but less so here at home. Looking at surf music, industry development and the historical context of the era with the biting wit writer and surf journo Phil Jarratt is known for, the film is a lively and fun look back at an era that now feels almost mystical.

Band of Frequencies bring a wildly unique touch to the film that they've sound-tracked, upping the ante and turning the film into a transporting experience.

2017 [REC] YA SHORTS YOUTH FILM FESTIVAL



NEXT WAVE OF FILMMAKERS

MON 22 JAN | 12.30PM | JMT

Finalists from the 2017 [REC] Ya Shorts Youth Film Festival will be in attendance

The next generation of regional NSW filmmakers are here - and their films hit the big screen for a 90-minute session of short films. The [REC] Ya Shorts Youth Film Festival is the biggest and brightest youth film program in regional NSW, presented by Screenwave and Headspace Coffs Harbour with festival partners.

Over 55 original films were submitted for the festival in 2017, with over \$30,000 in filmmaking prizes awarded to schools and winning filmmakers. See the 17 finalist short films, including the winners for the 2017 festival. Thank you for supporting, enjoying, and encouraging the next generation of regional NSW filmmakers!

HEAR ME OUT

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a voice for everyone to hear
- LGBTIQ+ films are here to
stay.**



THE FREEDOM TO MARRY

SUN 14 JAN | 12.30PM | JMT
SUN 21 JAN | 12.30PM | BELLO

D. EDDIE ROSENSTEIN | 86MINS | 15+ | USA

"We dug deep, we worked hard, and we helped transform non-gay people's understanding of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people and the values we all share" - Evan Wolfson

Revealing the monumental story of the key figures in the fight for marriage equality in the United States. The Freedom to Marry is an inspiring insight into the greatest civil rights victory of today. Directed by Eddie Rosenstein (The Gospel According to Mr. Allen), the film picks up with a number of key figures, including Evan Wolfson (known to many as the architect of the marriage movement) attorney Mary Bonauto, and other members of their team as they make their way through a decades-long battle to the Supreme Court.

A documentary with scope, heart and passion, and compulsory viewing for all Australians.



A DATE FOR MAD MARY

SUN 21 JAN | 2.30PM | JMT

D. DARREN THORNTON | 88MIN | 15+ | IRE

When the compulsive and "mad" Mary (Seána Kerslake) is released from prison just in time for her best friend Charlene's wedding, she has her maid-of-honour speech at the ready. But Charlene has dumped Mary during her time on the inside and denies her old friend a plus one on the grounds that she probably couldn't find a date. Mary becomes determined to prove her wrong in a Muriel's Wedding style revenge of success. The charmingly performances and salty sharp dialogue of Darren Thornton's first feature explore the perplexities of sexuality, friendship, letting go of the past and the power of being true to oneself in an honest and truly hilarious manner.

"At one point, Charlene digs deep for the most wounding thing she can say to Mary, and can only come up with, 'You're making a show of yourself.' As funny, flawed and foulmouthed as its irresistible central character, 'A Date for Mad Mary' makes an absolute show of itself, and it is wonderful." - Variety



GOD'S OWN COUNTRY

SAT 13 JAN | 8.30PM | BELLO
TUE 16 JAN | 5.30PM | JMT

D. FRANCIS LEE | 104MINS | MA15+ | UK

Winner Directing Award, Sundance Film Festival

Telling a haunting and heartfelt contemporary tale of a young gay man longing to find his place in the farming hills of Yorkshire, actor-turned-director Francis Lee's impressive debut has resonated with audiences across the globe and collected a swag of awards from the film festival circuit, including the best directing award at Sundance.

As a love story between two male farmers, the film has drawn comparisons to Ang Lee's cowboy drama Brokeback Mountain, but God's Own Country offers a reimagined story in a very different world. Filmed down the road from where director Lee grew up in West Yorkshire, there is an authenticity and intimacy of life in rural England that rings true not only through the chemistry and connection between the two leads but through moments of unabated beauty.



AFTER LOUIE

SUN 14 JAN | 2.30PM | BELLO

D. VINCENT GALIOSTRO | 100MINS | 18+ | USA

Sam (Alan Cumming) an artist and former AIDS activist from ACT UP, is disillusioned with the world around him. Battle wounded and struggling with survivor's guilt after the deaths of many friends and lovers, he resents the complacency of his former comrades and is bewildered by a younger generation of carefree gay men with their uninhibited use of social media, sexting, and seeming political indifference. But when he meets the seductive young Braeden (Zachary Booth, Keep the Light On) at a bar late one night, the unconventional romance forces him to deal with the trauma of his past and his fear of an unknown future.

After Louie boasts excellent performances from Cumming and Booth and intelligently explores the contradictions and generational differences of today.



MR GAY SYRIA

FRI 19 JAN | 2.30PM | JMT

D. AYSE TOPRAK | 84MINS | 15+ | TUR, GER, MLT

Every year men from around the globe compete to be crowned Mr. Gay World, but Syrian competitor, Husein Sabat shoulders a heavier burden that most pageant winners. Turkish filmmaker Ayse Toprek's documentary follows two gay Syrian refugees: Husein Sabat, a barber living in Istanbul, who leads a double life: one on the outskirts of the city as a husband and father and another as a gay man in the busy city centre. Mahmoud Hassino is the founder of Syria's LGBTQ+ movement, living in Berlin and working as an NGO with recent arrivals. Bringing them together is the Mr. Gay World pageant, a chance to see themselves in the queer community worldwide and to put the plight of gay refugees front and centre on the world stage.

Toprek's new film shows a side of the refugee crisis rarely portrayed in cinemas, offering visibility as a vital weapon in the face of oppression.

In Arabic with English subtitles



PULSE

SAT 20 JAN | 4.15PM | BELLO
SUN 21 JAN | 4.30PM | JMT

D. STEVIE CRUZ-MARTIN | 84MINS | 15+ | AUS

Pulse blurs the lines between reality and fiction as it looks at the life of Olly, a young man with early onset osteoporosis. Born from writer/star Daniel Monks' own journey reconciling disability and sexuality, Pulse uses understated science fiction to craft an elegant story of bodies and brains at the brink of adulthood. Olly (Monks) is a gay teen with early onset osteoporosis who discovers his best friends are dating each other. Frustrated in his own body, Olly undertakes pioneering surgery: his consciousness transplanted into a gorgeous, young female form.

Pulse is a modern-day parable for the young, the queer, the disabled, and anyone who has ever struggled to be understood or to understand themselves.

Director Stevie Cruz-Martin and Actor/Writer Daniel Monks will be in attendance

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THE BUTTERFLY TREE

MON 15 JAN | 7.45PM | JMT

D. PRISCILLA CAMERON | 97MINS | M | AUS

Melissa George returns to Australian film to star in Priscilla Cameron's visually stunning, magic realism tale about a burlesque dancer turned florist who brightens the lives of a despondent father and son.

Young Fin (Ed Oxenbould) and his father Al (Ewen Leslie) are grieving the loss of Fin's mother three years before, albeit in very different and singular ways. When a mysterious, warm, and beautiful woman named Evelyn (the luminous Melissa George) - enter their small Queensland town, Al and Fin encounter her uniquely, each bewitched by Evelyn's charms and zest for life. An intimate and unique coming of age tale, Cameron crafts a fantastical romantic piece about love and its intersections with loss.



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THE GO-BETWEENS: RIGHT HERE

SAT 20 JAN | 4.30PM | JMT
SUN 21 JAN | 4.15PM | BELLO

D. KRIV STENDERS | 97MINS | M | AUS

Brisbane music royalty from their University of Queensland beginnings, The Go-Betweens: Right Here follows the band from those early days through two incarnations of the band over more than three decades, with all the included successes, failures, romances, break-ups, betrayals, triumphs and tragedies. The ongoing friendship between bandmates is at the heart of this documentary. Robert Foster and Grant McLennan were literary singer-songwriters in the age of punk, and while loved by critics, ask any Go-Betweens fan and they'll tell you that they never saw the recognition they deserved.

A truly passionate passion-project from director Kriv Stenders (Red Dog Films), following up from having directed many of the band's music videos, the film tells the band stories in all their own words, and documents the influence of The Go-Betweens on both home grown and international acts forevermore.

SPECIAL GUEST Lindy Morrison from The Go-Betweens will be in attendance



THE PINK HOUSE

FRI 19 JAN | 4.30PM | JMT
SUN 21 JAN | 2.30PM | BELLO

D. SASCHA ETTINGER-EPSTEIN | 76MINS | MA15+ | AUS

Winner Documentary Foundation Australia Award - Sydney Film Festival

The oldest working brothel in Kalgoorlie is an interesting place. Helmed by the very proper Madam Carmel, an elegant and sophisticated entrepreneur, her establishment has been on the financial ropes with the dwindling mining industry and tourism trade eating her bottom line. Madam Carmel's most loyal sex worker, BJ, is sometimes her only girl on the roster. With Kalgoorlie failing to attract more clients, Madam Carmel is forced time and again to take back in BJ, who is battling her own demons of addiction and PTSD.

Director Sascha Ettinger-Epstein's second feature documentary, following up Destination Arnold (SWIFF17), is another foray into the lives of Australian women working outside of traditional conventions.

SPECIAL GUEST Director Sascha Ettinger-Epstein will be in attendance



THE LAST GOLDFISH

THU 18 JAN | 2.30PM | JMT
FRI 19 JAN | 3.30PM | BELLO

D. SU GOLDFISH | 81MINS | PG | AUS

In what may be the foremost example of the wealth of Australian autobiographical documentary filmmaking, Su Goldfish's search for her family finds a rich, lost history which resonates with all those touched by forced migration. Su's father, Manfred Goldfish has kept the tragedy of his past from ever touching his family, secrets which only motivated Su to pursue the truth of her family name.

Told through archival footage spanning a century, Su embarks on a quest through the Australia of her adulthood, to Trinidad where she was born and to World War II Germany, where she learns of the lives her father has left behind.

Discovering truths of her family and herself, The Last Goldfish connects as vibrantly with the past as it does the present.

SPECIAL GUEST Writer/Director Su Goldfish will be in attendance



THAT'S NOT ME

SUN 14 JAN | 6.30PM | BELLO
THU 18 JAN | 5.15PM | JMT

D. GREGORY ERDSTEIN | 85MINS | 15+ | AUS, USA

Nominated Best Narrative Feature - Sydney Film Festival and MIFF.

In their hilarious debut feature writer/director Gregory Erdstein and writer/star Alice Foulcher have created a fresh, new indie comedy that has charmed. That's Not Me now makes its way back to the hometown of star and writer Alice Foulcher.

Hot off the heels of her one-woman show of 12 Angry Men, Polly is an aspiring actor waiting in the wings for that big break. Living in the shadow of her twin sister who has the starring role in a HBO show and dating Jared Leto, Polly jets to LA and discovers she can use her sister's celebrity to her advantage to get free clothes, free booze and other creature comforts.

With tones from Frances Ha to Bridesmaids, That's Not Me is an exciting indie comedy for Australia, anchored by revelatory dual- role performance by Foulcher, that marks her as a serious talent to watch.



NAMATJIRA PROJECT

FRI 12 JAN | 2.15PM | JMT
SAT 13 JAN | 4.15PM | BELLO

D. SERA DAVIS | 87MINS | M | AUS

One of Australia's most potent stories - illuminating the relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians today. Journeying from the deserts of Aranda to the gates of Buckingham Palace, the Namatjira Project follows the family of Indigenous artist Albert Namatjira on their quest to regain the rights to his history making artworks. Albert Namatjira was a man caught between worlds, paraded as a great Australian, and at the same time treated with contempt. After being wrongly imprisoned in 1959 and passing away two years later, the copyright to his art was sold by the Australian government in 1983, despite being left to his children. Working with the Namatjira family and art and social justice organisation Big hART, filmmaker Sera Davies follows his descendants 60 years after his death as they seek justice, and the return of their ancestor's legacy.

SPECIAL GUEST Namatjira and Big hART Producer, Sophia Marino

IMAGE: Albert Namatjira with family, by Pastor S O Gross, courtesy Strehlow Research Centre



WE DON'T NEED A MAP

SAT 13 JAN | 4.30PM | JMT

D. WARWICK THORNTON | 85MINS | 15+ | AUS

In 2010, filmmaker and artist Warwick Thornton (Samson and Delilah) made an off-hand remark to a journalist, suggesting that the Southern Cross was "becoming the new Swastika". All hell broke loose. Being the most famous constellation in the southern hemisphere, the Southern Cross has been claimed, appropriated and hotly-contested for ownership by a radical range of Australian groups. But for Aboriginal people the meaning of this heavenly body is deeply spiritual - and just about completely unknown. For a start, the Southern Cross isn't even a cross - it's a totem that's deeply woven into the spiritual and practical lives of Aboriginal people.

The celebrated director returns to tackle this fiery subject head-on with a punk-infused road trip into the history of the Southern Cross in 'We Don't Need a Map'. Featuring fun and thought-provoking commentary from astronomers, philosophers, bush poets, rappers and tattoo artists- all speculating on the use and abuse of the famous five-star constellation.

VISITOR INFORMATION LOCATIONS

- Park Beach Plaza
- Dolphin Marine Magic
- Coffs Central



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DOLPHIN MAN

THU 11 JAN | 12.30PM | JMT

D. LEFERIS CHARITOS | 87MINS | 15+ | CAN, FRA

NSW Premiere

Dolphin Man tells the story of Jacques Mayol, the greatest free diver in recorded history, whose life became the inspiration for Luc Besson's cult-movie *Le Grand Bleu*. Directed by Greek filmmaker Lefteris Charitos and narrated by Jean-Marc Barr, the actor who played Mayol in *Le Grand Bleu*, and utilising rare film archives blended with contemporary underwater scenes of current divers who demonstrate the legacy and impact left by Mayol. This film takes us on a journey across the blue planet and through the life of a man who through his athletic feats, his work as a conservationist and his philosophy, was entirely devoted to the ocean. There is a universe to discover about Jacques Mayol, and *Dolphin Man* is a truly unique biographical experience with so much to offer.



DINA

SUN 14 JAN | 12.30PM | BELLO
MON 15 JAN | 3.30PM | JMT

D. ANTONIO SANTINI & DAN SICKLES | 101MINS | 15+ | USA

NSW Premiere

This real-life romantic comedy follows the forthright and bold Dina and the inexperienced and devoted Scott as they navigate all their upcoming first steps: moving in together, marriage and sex. Like the beginnings of any relationship, the pair bring with them something unique: Scott has Asperger's syndrome and Dina autism, but both have a devotion to each other - to making their life together work. Filmed as if through a summer haze, to a sweetly pop soundtrack (courtesy of actor Michael Cera) and with a sense of comfort, honesty and humour that it almost feels scripted, *Dina* and Scott's journey is utterly relatable and romantic. The Grand Jury winner at Sundance Film Festival, co-directors Sickles (who has known Dina his whole life) and Santini, paint a beautifully tender portrait that celebrates human connection and the power of relationships that are both uplifting and accepting.



DONKEYOTE

MON 22 JAN | 3.30PM | JMT

D. CHICO PEREIRA | 86MINS | 15+ | GER, ESP

Australian Premiere

Seventy-three year old Manolo has two loves: his animals (Particularly his Donkey Gorrión) and wandering in nature. Against the advice of all, he plans one last walk - the brutal Trail of Tears in the US. But not without Gorrión.

Overcoming all manner of obstacles: shipping a donkey from the South of Spain to America, Manolo's chronic arthritis, a history of heart attacks and Gorrión's fear of water, just to name a few. As their adventure continues, Manolo's wondrous friendship with his animals finds a beautiful equilibrium, man and beast intrepidly braving the harsh landscape together. Will they find the American West? More importantly, will they be able to see life as it is, and not as it should be?

A simple tale of adventure, friendship and following your heart.



BENDING THE ARC

TUE 23 JAN | 1.30PM | JMT

D. KIEF DAVIDSON, PEDRO KOS | 102MINS | 15+ | USA

Australian Premiere

"Let us realise the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends towards justice" - Martin Luther

Dr. Paul Farmer, Dr. Jim Yong Kim, activist Ophelia Dahl, Todd McCormack, and investor Thomas White began a movement in the 1980s that changed global health forever.

Thirty years ago, a group of improbable heroes came together on a mission that was both medical and moral, and, by everyone's estimation other than their own, highly unlikely to succeed. Their goal was simple but daring: to make high quality healthcare available to everyone, even in the world's poorest countries. Fighting entrenched diseases, political and bureaucratic machinery, and the charity-industrial complex itself, these crusaders forced the international community to embrace the idea that health care must be a basic human right in every society.



I AM NOT YOUR NEGRO

THU 11 JAN | 4.45PM | JMT
SAT 20 JAN | 2.00PM | BELLO

D. RAOUL PECK | 93MINS | M | FRA, USA

Narrated with a quiet power by Samuel L. Jackson, *I Am Not Your Negro* is a communion with author and prominent social critic James Baldwin 30 years after his death. When Baldwin died in 1987, he left behind the beginnings of a manuscript that would explore his relationship with three friends, all civil rights activists and all three murdered: Martin Luther King, Malcolm X and Medgar Evers. And it is here that his manuscript is completed and brought to life by Haitian auteur Raoul Peck, whose part-documentary part-essay dissects the history of race relations in America by looking through the eyes of one of its most prominent intellectual voices. From the America of Baldwin's 1930s Harlem childhood, through his political engagement of the '60s and '70s and laying bare the continued searing relevance of his words today.

A "thrilling introduction to his work, a remedial course in American history, and an advanced seminar in racial politics" - The New York Times.



IT'S NOT YET DARK

WED 17 JAN | 1.30PM | JMT

D. FRANKIE FENTON | 80MINS | 15+ | IRE

One of the most moving films of the festival, *It's Not Yet Dark* tells the story of Simon Fitzmaurice and his fight against the life changing effects of the degenerative disease ALS (a form of MND).

At just 34 years of age Fitzmaurice was diagnosed with ALS and given four years to live. Reeling from the shock, Fitzmaurice drew strength from his deepest desires—instead of being stuck in that painful moment, he realised his greatest defiance of ALS would be to direct his first feature film. Seven years later, despite total physical incapacitation, Fitzmaurice completed *My Name is Emily* (2015), directing it only with the use of his eyes and eye gaze technology.

With the help of his friends and family, in particular his loving wife Ruth, whose own journey of self-discovery is utterly breathtaking, and an affectionate voice-over by compatriot Colin Farrell, this is a film sobering in its honesty, and bereft of all nods to sentimentality.



QUEST

MON 22 JAN | 7.30PM | JMT

D. JONATHAN OLSHEFSKI | 105MINS | 15+ | USA

Australian Premiere

"A jarring and gentle testament to the powers of family and individual kindness." - The Hollywood Reporter

Over ten years ago, Jonathan Olshefski was not a filmmaker, he was simply drawn to a family, "the Rainey's", their community and their passions. Over 8 years Olshefski films the day to day of Christopher, who runs a recording studio for up and coming hip hop artists in need, and Christine, who is tellingly always called 'Ma' and not just by her family, and William and Patricia, who both grow up in front of our eyes.

In this way Olshefski showcases the African American experience, capturing personal challenges, social and human-rights issues, and political transformation. As the family rallies together in support of Obama's two campaigns, and hold each other and their community up in the face of hardship and violence.



MOUNTAIN

SAT 20 JAN | 12.30PM | BELLO

D. JENNIFER PEEDOM | 74MINS | E | AUS

A breath taking look at the human urge to reach the top of the world, *Mountain* is a tribute to both the colossal power of planet Earth and the unbreakable spirit of those driven to experience that power.

A collaboration of epic proportions sees Sherpa director Jennifer Peedom working with the Australian Chamber Orchestra and their artistic director Richard Tognetti, leading high-altitude cinematographer Renan Ozturk (Sherpa, Meru) and bestselling author of *Mountains of The Mind*, Robert McFarlane, who has composed sparse and poetic narration for the perfectly toned Willem Dafoe.

A must-see spectacle for the big screen - with its glistening visuals and Tognetti's soaring score - revel in the stomach-clenching spectacle of those risking it all to see the entire world below them.



ROLLER DREAMS

SUN 14 JAN | 2.30PM | JMT

D. KATE HICKEY | 82MINS | 15+ | USA, AUS

Blazing a path through the history of the '70s and '80s, roller skating ruled California's Venice Beach in the disco era, and while the world seems to have moved on, *Roller Dreams* proves that you just can't stop the dancing. Driven predominantly by young people of colour for whom rollerblading was an escape from inner-city pressures, Hollywood films like *Xanadu* eventually whitewashed rollerblading until it seemingly disappeared.

Australian director Kate Hickey has gone searching for the stars of *Disco Alley* and found many of them still pulling on their skates. In a blend of vibrant archival footage and insightful interviews, *Roller Blades* introduces us to the original team: fancy-footed Larry, hip Terrell, smooth Sally, crazy-legged Dural, Jimmy 'the skating tornado' and poetry in motion Mads. They tell their story of survival, prejudice, drugs, gangs and gentrification all against the backdrop of disco, dance and rollerblade!



PECKING ORDER

SAT 13 JAN | 12.30PM | BELLO

D. SLAVKO MARTINOV | 85MINS | PG | NZL

A feather ruffling tribute to Best in Show, but real-life and with chickens!

Join members of the 148-year-old Christchurch Poultry, Bantam and Pigeon Club in the lead up to the NZ National Show, as they battle history (and each other) in their quest for glory. Meet an endearing and eclectic group of 'chicken fanciers', each hoping to take away the top prize, including Doug the determined Club President, Rhys the young upstart, Sarah the chicken whisperer, Ian the exacting judge, Mark the voice of reason and Brian the lovable champion.

Pecking Order is a hilarious, unique, and heart-warming slice of Kiwiana which is sure to delight and surprise audiences of all ages.



THE STAGING POST

THU 18 JAN | 7.00PM | JMT

D. JOLYON HOFF | 61MINS | ALL AGES | AUS, IDN

Australian filmmaker Jolyon Hoff was living in Jakarta when, four years ago, the Australian government took on hard-line policy against asylum seekers arriving by boat. Looking to understand what happens to those turned away, Hoff travelled to Cisarua, the staging post that housed many of the refugees looking for a home in Australia. Meeting two Hazara refugees, photographer Muzafar Ali and filmmaker Khadim Dai, Hoff follows as the community of Cisarua defies the restrictions that the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) have placed on any and all organised groups in order to create a learning centre for refugee children. An important and uplifting documentary that allows it's subjects to tell their own story, *The Staging Post* is a tribute to humanity, friendship, and those that are unafraid to be the change.

Special Guest Muzafar Ali will be in attendance



THE WORK

SAT 20 JAN | 2.30PM | JMT

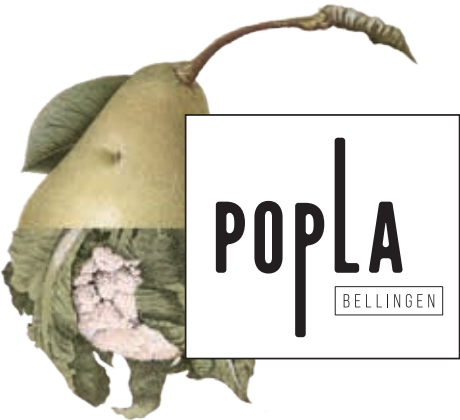
D. GETHIN ALDOUS, JAIRUS MCLEARY | 87MINS | 18+
| USA

NSW Premiere

Winner Documentary Grand Jury Prize - SXSW

Side by side a group of both inmates and free men participate in a four-day therapy session, laying bear their demons and their shared humanity. The "Inside Circle" of Folsom State Prison is a group therapy program made up of 6 participants, half are prisoners and half outsiders, all committing to understanding themselves and each other on every level- their 'work' is their duty to cast away.

Allowed to film this experience for the first time, directors Jairus McLeary and Gethin Aldous are guided by their own experiences facilitating the Inner Circle, and this understanding permeates the film. Unflinching and daring, they capture the explosion of visceral feeling with empathy and intimacy. There is nothing in the world quite like The Work.



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GIRL UNBOUND

WED 24 JAN | 1.30PM | JMT

D. ERIN HEIDENREICH | 80MINS | 15+ | PAK, CAN, USA
NSW Premiere

"Like its imposing protagonist, squash player Maria Toorpakai Wazir, director Erin Heidenreich's documentary feature Girl Unbound: The War to Be Her is quiet but powerful, and packs a few wallops over the course of its long game." - The Hollywood Reporter

Growing up in the Taliban stronghold of Waziristan, named one of the most dangerous places in the world, where women's rights are severely restricted under the threat of death, Maria Toorpakai only wants to play sports. Burning her clothes and disguising herself as a boy to do so, she makes it all the way to Canada playing squash. Here, Heidenreich follows Toorpakai back to her homeland where she represents Pakistan on the national squash team, documenting the power of family, acceptance, and the radical power of being true to oneself.

In Urdu, Pashto with English subtitles



I AM NOT A WITCH

WED 24 JAN | 5:30PM | JMT

D. RUNGANO NYONI | 98MINS | 15+ | FRA, GBR

The dazzling and original debut feature from Welsh-Zambian director Rungano Nyoni is a highly unique mix of magical realist drama, deadpan satire and feminist allegory.

The film follows the tragicomic fate of Shula, a nine-year-old misfit exiled to a 'witch camp' by superstitious neighbours and crooked bureaucrats. Amazingly, many such camps really exist in parts of Africa, although Nyoni's fictionalised version is less interested in exploring the questionable veracity of witchcraft than in exposing the very real black magic of misogyny. With its narrative ellipses and achingly beautiful cinematography (shot by Embrace of the Serpent's David Gallego), I Am Not A Witch blurs the lines between reality and surrealism, fable and fact. It also marks the emergence of an unmissable new talent.

"It's rare and exhilarating that a new filmmaker arrives on the scene so sure of herself and so willing to take bold, counter-intuitive chances." - Variety



THE JUDGE

WED 17 JAN | 5.30PM | JMT

D. ERIKA COHN | 82MINS | 15+ | PSE, USA

Australian Premiere

A true vérité courtroom drama told through the eyes of Judge Kholoud Al-Faqih, the first woman to be appointed to a Shari'a court in the Middle East, whose career provides a rare insight into both Islamic law and gendered justice.

As a young lawyer, Al-Faqih was laughed out of the office of Palestine's Chief Justice for her announcement that she intended to join the bench. But only a few years later, she had become to first woman to ascend to the position of judge over a Shari'a court, which adjudicate domestic and family matters and have traditionally banned women from decision making roles. Director Erika Cohn met Kholoud Al-Faqih while studying Islamic feminism and teaching film in Israel and Palestine, and in The Judge, Cohn follows her through her ongoing advocacy for women's right to be heard within the court system, as well as her endeavours with navigating personal and professional struggles.

In Arabic with English subtitles



MARLINA THE MURDERER IN FOUR ACTS

SAT 13 JAN | 8.30PM | JMT

D. MOULY SURYA | 93MINS | 18+ | IDN, FRA

NSW Premiere

"If you only see one feminist Indonesian Spaghetti Western this year, this should be it" - The Irish Times

A provocative and smouldering revenge story, Moully Surya's contemporary reworking of the spaghetti western is deeply rooted in the cultural and geopolitical landscapes of Indonesia.

Marlina (an incredible Masha Timothy) is a widow living in a remote farmhouse alongside the embalmed corpse of her husband. When robbers arrive wearing generations of entitlement on their backs, demanding a hospitable meal before they rob her of her money livestock, possessions and more, Marlina is more than prepared with the wit to take them on.

A story filled with strength and repossessed power, Marlina the Murderer will, in four acts, shock, surprise and satisfy.

In Indonesian with English subtitles



WARU

TUE 23 JAN | 3.30PM | JMT

D. BRIAR GRACE-SMITH, CASEY KAA, AINSLEY GARDINER, KATIE WOLFE, CHELSEA COHEN, RENAE MAIHI, PAULA JONES & AWANUI SIMICH-PENE | 88MINS | 15+ | NZL

A sisterhood of eight female Maori directors each share their insight in this powerful and challenging feature, which unfolds around the death of a young boy who has died at the hands of his caregiver.

Eight short films seamlessly become one exploration on themes of shame, culture and customs surrounding the tangi (Maori funeral rites) for a young boy, Waru. Witnessing death through lenses of extended family, community and even the media, Waru weaves reactions and conflict in a breathtaking use of cinema.

Made in an unconventional act of filmmaking, these unique films provide a powerful starting point for the eight women to take in their own diverse directions. "A fascinating glimpse into New Zealand's contemporary Maori community, Waru brings a sense of dramatic, urgent realism to a story that plays out like a suspenseful mystery" - The Hollywood Reporter
In English and Maori with English subtitles

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A BAD IDEA GONE WRONG

SAT 13 JAN | 6.30PM | JMT

D. JASON HEADLEY | 85MINS | 15+ | USA

Australian Premiere

Taking away the Special Jury Prize for Best Ensemble Cast at SXSW this year, *A Bad Idea Gone Wrong* is a delightful and charming new indie comedy that makes its Australian Premiere at SWIFF '18. Two would-be cat burglars wind up with more than they bargained for when their get rich quick scheme sees them trapped in the house they're trying to rob- and they're not alone. In Jason Headley's feature debut, best friends Leo (Will Rogers, *Bridge of Spies*) and Marlon (Matt Jones, *Breaking Bad*) aim to kick off their life of crime with the perfectly planned burglary. Leo is nursing a broken heart and suggests the perfect target, a grandiose home in a gated community. When the overly confident Marlon accidentally arms the alarm system - awaking an unexpected house sitter- the odd couple suddenly have to deal with a hostage situation, double crosses, sexual tensions, and discoveries that make their difficult escape even more dubious.



APRIL'S DAUGHTER

MON 22 JAN | 5.30PM | JMT

D. MICHEL FRANCO | 103MINS | 15+ | MEXICO

NSW Premiere

Winner Special Jury Prize - Cannes Film Festival

Valeria, 17 and pregnant, lives in a beachside house in Puerto Vallarta with Clara, her half-sister. Uninhibited, young, and completely broke, Valeria and her boyfriend run out of options to bring their baby up in a stable home. Without any better alternatives, Valeria is forced to bring her estranged mother April back into her life to provide the stability she and her baby desperately need - but it's soon obvious why Valeria distanced herself from her mother.

A clever and intricate piece of storytelling, *April's Daughter* is a film that keeps resonating long after the credits roll. Director Michel Franco applies a gentle heat to each layer of the narrative, adding layer upon layer until that gentle heat becomes an inferno.

Spanish with English subtitles



HAVE A NICE DAY

SUN 14 JAN | 8.30PM | JMT

D. LIU JIAN | 75MINS | 15+ | CHN

NSW Premiere

"If Quentin Tarantino remade Pulp Fiction as an animated movie set in modern day China, it might look something like Have A Nice Day." - Indiewire

A madcap chain of events all animated in an electrifying whirlwind style, *Have A Nice Day* acquaints us with unlucky young delivery driver Xiao Zhan, who is stealing a bag of money so his girlfriend can fix her botched plastic surgery. Setting of a bomb that contains an ageing gangster, a butcher-turned-hitman, an X-Ray glasses inventor and a side-eye to everything The Godfather to Rocky, Deadpool, Mark Zuckerberg, Donald Trump, Steve Jobs, Brexit, and Bill Gates. An existential, intelligent and moody take with plenty of sass to throw around, *Have A Nice Day* is impeccably animated and slickly soundtracked neo-noir that never takes itself too seriously.

In Mandarin with English subtitles



HEAL THE LIVING

TUE 23 JAN | 5.30PM | JMT

D. KATELL QUILLÉVÉRÉ | 103MINS | 15+ | FRA, BEL

Adapted from a Booker-prize winning novel from Maylis de Kerangal, *Heal The Living* is brought to the screen written and directed by the acclaimed Katell Quillevere (Suzanne) with sensitivity and compassion, as it weaves together individual stories into a tapestry of hope and humanity.

The film begins in innocence, as a teenage boy leaves his girlfriend for a surfing trip with friends. Elsewhere a woman receives news that her heart condition is worsening and in another town the staff of a regional hospital battle through the day to day that comes with saving lives. All destined to intertwine, we are drawn into this emotionally intense world of chance and fate. With soaring visuals and a score from the flawless Alexandre Desplat, *Heal The Living* is a flawless tale of human connection.

"Quillévéré's filmmaking never presses its emotional buttons too hard, just as it never sweetens the pill with manufactured poignancy" - Variety.

In French with English subtitles



INGRID GOES WEST

SAT 13 JAN | 6.30PM | BELLO

FRI 19 JAN | 6.30PM | JMT

D. MATT SPICER | 98MINS | MA15+ | USA

Matt Spicer's Sundance award winning debut is a deeply uncomfortable and wickedly hilarious look at the stalkers that the internet is making of us all.

Ingrid (Aubrey Plaza, *Safety Not Guaranteed*) is an unhinged loner with a checkered past and no social life outside of the internet who is set on moving to Los Angeles to befriend insta-guru Taylor Sloane (Elizabeth Olsen, *Wind River* SWIFF '18), who has the perfect life, amazing boyfriend, camera-ready terrier, and all the followers that Ingrid craves. Relentless, Ingrid dons her new Taylor-made life down to the clothes, hair and the avocado toast, and becomes her idol's new BFF. With a pitch perfect cast who hold nothing back, led by the formidable Plaza, this black comedy come psychological thriller punctuates our culture's obsession with internet connection whilst maintaining heart, and acknowledging that even in our online world the human need for truth and belonging are still vital.



INSYRIATED

MON 15 JAN | 1.30PM | JMT

D. PHILIPPE VAN LEEUW | 85MINS | 15+ | FRA, BEL, LBN

An urgent and timely experience of the daily battles fought in the wake of the current terror affecting Syria, this tense thriller stars the incredible Hiam Abbass (Munich) as Oum Hazan, the matriarch holding her Damascus apartment together to keep her family safe, under constant threat of gunfire and bombs from outside.

Set near entirely within the one boarded-up and blacked-out apartment, cinematographer-turned-director Philippe Van Leeuw put the audience in the room alongside those that seek refuge within it: Oum Hazan and her housemaid, father-in-law, young son, two daughters, their teenage friend and a young couple with a baby who are all fighting to survive the violence right at their door. Full of complex morality and moments of everyday horror, this claustrophobic film is a study in humanity and family.

In Arabic with English subtitles



LOST IN PARIS

SAT 20 JAN | 6.30PM | BELLO

D. DOMINIQUE ABEL, FIONA GORDON | 84MINS | 15+ | FRA, BEL

Embark on a whimsical trip through the city of lights with a kooky Canadian (Fiona Gordon) and lovable tramp (Dominique Abel) in this charming and entirely unique comedy, reminiscent of the great Charlie Chaplin and Jacques Tati.

Fiona's (Gordon) orderly and precise life in Canada is thrown into chaos when she receives a letter of distress from her 93-year-old Aunt Martha (Academy Award-nominee Emmanuelle Riva, *Amour*, 2012) who is living in Paris. Immediately jumping to action, Fiona arrives in the city of lights only to discover that Martha has disappeared. So begins a hysterical search crammed with one spectacular disaster after another as Fiona desperately scours the city with her oversized red backpack, all the while tailed by an infatuated Dom (Abel), an affable, but annoying tramp who won't leave her alone.

In French with English subtitles



JUNGLE

SUN 21 JAN | 6.30PM | BELLO

D. GREG MCLEAN | 115MINS | M | AUS, COL

Wolf Creek director, Greg McLean and Daniel Radcliffe take you into the heart of the Amazon rain forest in a compelling, true story of self-discovery, strength and survival.

While hitchhiking in Bolivia in the early 1980s, 22 year old backpacker, Yossi Ghinsberg meets a mysterious man, Karl Rupprechter, who guides Yossi and his two friends - teacher Marcus Stamm and photographer Kevin Gale - deep into the uncharted Amazon for an experience of a lifetime. What begins as a life-changing dream adventure into the emerald, becomes a genuine, real-life nightmare of formidable forces and the fight to survive.



LUCKY

SUN 14 JAN | 4.30PM | BELLO

TUE 23 JAN | 7.30PM | JMT

D. JOHN CARROLL LYNCH | 88MINS | 15+ | USA

The directorial debut of acclaimed character actor John Carroll Lynch (*Shutter Island*, *Zodiac*), is an affecting and humorous meditation on life and death as well as an aptly poignant farewell for the legendary Harry Dean Stanton.

Having outdrank, outsmoked and outlived all of his contemporaries in his off-the-map desert town, fiercely independent 90-year-old atheist Lucky (the late Harry Dean Stanton) finds himself unexpectedly thrust into a late-in-life journey of self-exploration. Stanton's screen career has spanned over 60 years and included more than 100 films, including *Alien*, *Paris, Texas* and most recently *Twin Peaks*. With his long-time collaborator, David Lynch appearing by his side here as a friend grieving for the loss of his tortoise, Lucky is not only a cinematic love letter to the legendary Stanton, but is a funny and charming film about life, mortality and everything in between.



LADY MACBETH

WED 17 JAN | 3.30PM | JMT

D. WILLIAM OLDROYD | 89MINS | MA15+ | UK

The feature film debut from acclaimed theatre director William Oldroyd, *Lady Macbeth* is a Gothic tale of a young woman trapped in a marriage of convenience in 19th century England, whose passionate affair unleashes a maelstrom of murder and mayhem on a country estate.

Teenage bride Katherine (breakout talent Florence Pugh) is quite literally a commodity to the men in her life. Sold by her father into marriage to a bitter man twice her age forced to live in isolation, Katherine embarks on a passionate affair with a young worker on her husband's estate. With a force unleashed inside her, so powerful that she will stop at nothing to preserve her happiness and get what she wants.

An electrifying story of love, passion and betrayal, *Lady Macbeth* charts a young woman's struggle to assert herself in an unfeeling and ultimately cruel world.

"Imagine Alfred Hitchcock directing *Wuthering Heights*" - IndieWire



MANIFESTO

TUE 16 JAN | 7.30PM | JMT

SUN 21 JAN | 8.45PM | BELLO

D. JULIAN ROSEFELDT | 94MINS | 15+ | GER

German artist Julian Rosefeldt works with iconic actor Cate Blanchett embodying some of the most influential and emotional artist manifestos in history. Respected as one of the best actresses in film, Blanchett raises the bar even higher by playing 13 different roles in *Manifesto* - the feature film version of Rosefeldt's celebrated *Armory* installation. Cate Blanchett gives a tour-de-force performance as she transcends gender, class, nationality and profession in a series of vignettes which draw upon manifestos questioning the true nature of art, including those from Karl Marx, Yvonne Rainer, and Dogme 95. Rosefeldt takes us through a series of evocative locations seared on the screen with stunning cinematography, as Blanchett morphs seamlessly between characters, from a nihilistic punk to a downtrodden homeless man. An art film in every sense of the word, *Manifesto* ultimately blurs the lines of conventional story, exploring the intention behind artistic expression, and ultimately the importance of storytelling itself.



ON BODY AND SOUL

WED 24 JAN | 3.30PM | JMT

D. ILDIKÓ ENYEDI | 116MINS | 18+ | HUN

Winner of the Sydney Film Prize and the Berlin FIPRESCI prize, *On Body and Soul* is at once a poetic and haunting drama meets darkly romantic comedy, cementing the return from an 18-year break by Hungarian auteur Ildikó Enyedi.

Working together in a Budapest abattoir, Maria and Endre's interactions are perpetually awkward, even though they are unknowingly sharing the same dreams, meeting in the form of deer. After mandatory counselling unveils this connection, Maria and Endre must navigate the infinitely more complicated world outside of their dreams.

Magnificently filmed and full of complexities and contrasts, Enyedi crafts a love story that is mysterious and beautiful, touching at the deep truths of human connection.

Contains abattoir imagery, and suicide themes
In Hungarian with English subtitles



PATTI CAKE\$

SUN 14 JAN | 6.30PM | JMT
FRI 19 JAN | 5.30PM | BELLO

D. GERMER JASPER | 98MINS | M | USA

Patricia Dombrowski (rising Australian star, Danielle Macdonald) works in a dive bar in small town New Jersey where everyone calls her Dumbo, even as she envisions herself Killer P, a badass fast-talking rapper with spit and shine to spare. Despite the odds stacked against her, living with her boozy ex-rock star mother and her Nana, Patti grinds hard, with notebooks filled with rhymes and rap battle wins notched on her belt. After a chance encounter with a goth/metal dark spirit outsider named Basterd at open mic night, Patti and her outsider crew begin creating magic.

Patti Cake\$ is an utterly inspiring debut from music video director Jeremy Jasper, who also writes all of Patti's verses himself. Pairing harsh realities with a shiny hopeful energy, Patti is a deserving dreamer, and the sharply written characters of her world will have audiences crying, laughing and cheering for Killer P.



ONE THOUSAND ROPES

TUE 16 JAN | 1.30PM | JMT

D. TUSI TAMASESE | 98MINS | M | NZL

From acclaimed Samoan/New Zealand director, Tusi Tamasese (*The Orator*), *One Thousand Ropes* is a compelling story of redemption and healing. Maea (Uelese Petaia) is a now peaceful former fighter, known as "The Lion", whose attempts at living a peaceful life working in a bakery and assisting home births is plagued by memories of his past actions and the culture of male violence around him. When his daughter arrives home heavily pregnant and badly beaten, Maea struggles against his instinct to punishment and instead to work on rebuilding a shattered relationship and a family.

A deeply moving family drama set in a Samoan community in Wellington, the film resonates with harmony and peacefulness at its heart.

In English and Samoan with English subtitles



POLINA

THU 25 JAN | 12.30PM | JMT

D. VALÉRIE MÜLLER, ANGELIN PRELJOCAJ | 108MINS | PG | FRA

In world-renowned French choreographer Angelin Preljocaj's first foray into fiction, the titular Polina chases her dream to dance from Russia, to France and Belgium. Alive with movement and emotion, *Polina* is art in motion.

Acknowledged for her talents from childhood in working-class Moscow, Polina (Anastasia Shevtsova) has been pushed by years of training and fierce determination. Entering the prestigious Bolshoi Ballet at 18, she falls for the passionate Adrien (Niels Schneider) a French dancer who inspires her to use dance to express herself, rather than follow choreography. Discovering a modern dance guru in France, Liria Elsay (Juliette Binoche) Polina seeks out her destiny in an inspiring tale of perseverance. Adapted from a graphic novel from Bastien Vives, and co-directed by Preljocaj with his long-time collaborator and here screenwriter Valerie Muller, the choreography in *Polina* will transport audiences, storytelling one twirl at a time.

In French, Russian with English subtitles



THE ORNITHOLOGIST

SUN 21 JAN | 8.30PM | JMT

D. JOÃO PEDRO RODRIGUES | 117MINS | 18+ | PRT, FRA, BRA

Best Director Award at the Locarno Film Festival

Stranded along a sublime river fjord in northern Portugal, a hunky ornithologist is subjected to a series of brutal and erotic Stations-of-the-Cross-style tests, in the daring new film from provocative Portuguese auteur João Pedro Rodrigues.

Fernando (Paul Hamy), a solitary ornithologist, is undertaking field research in northern Portugal when he is swept down the rapids of a remote river. Rescued then imprisoned (with rope and bondage knots) by Chinese pilgrims, Fernando escapes into a darkened forest. He undergoes a series of perverse and surreal trials and tests as he makes his way further and further into Portugal's fantastic past. An extraordinarily rich, unpredictable fever-dream of a pilgrimage film, at once distinct and visionary and a great deal of fun.

"Deliciously subversive and genuinely funny." - Variety

In Portuguese with English subtitles



THE STARRY SKY ABOVE ME

MON 15 JAN | 5.30PM | JMT

D. ILAN KLIPPER | 77MINS | 15+ | FRA

Australian Premiere

Making its debut at the 2017 Cannes ACID selection (France's Association for the Diffusion of Independent Cinema: an initiative aimed at giving greater visibility to up and coming, indie filmmakers), *The Starry Sky Above Me* has its Australian Premiere at SWIFF and is the first feature by French filmmaker Ilan Klipper.

Bruno (Laurent Poitrenaux), a 50 year-old writer, published a critically acclaimed novel in 1996: a bright future awaited him. Now, 20 years later, his dreams are stronger than ever, but he is still struggling to get his second novel out of his head and on to paper. Waking up at 2pm and rarely going out, Bruno receives a surprise visit from loved ones with a very special intervention. Poitrenaux, for whom this is the first lead role in a long and successful career that has mostly played out in theatre, gives his all to this neurotic, egoistic, certainly lost, but essentially human character.

In French with English subtitles

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THOSE WHO MAKE REVOLUTION HALFWAY ONLY DIG THEIR OWN GRAVE

WED 17 JAN | 7.15PM | JMT

D. MATHIEU DENIS, SIMON LAVOIE | 183MINS | 18+ | CAN

You say you want a revolution? Enter Canadian directors Mathieu Denis and Simon Lavoie's stunning and confronting study of youth and political dogma that burns with fearless energy and urgency; a vital piece of work for the age we live in.

Winner of the Best Canadian Feature prize at TIFF, *Those Who Make Revolution...* was inspired by directors Denis and Lavoie's speculations about Quebec's massive 2012 student demonstrations, and what might have happened had the fervour not dissipated. A bold, challenging and audacious film in every aspect of its production: from the 183 minute runtime, to the 5 minute overture that opens the film (functioning as a call to arms), to the fake intermission that leaves the audience wondering what to do with themselves and what they're in for next. This is one of the most indelible and audacious works to emerge from Quebec and Canada in recent memory.

In French with English subtitles



WESTERN

THU 18 JAN | 12.30PM | JMT

D. VALESKA GRISEBACH | 119MINS | 15+ | GER, BGR, AUT

NSW Premiere

"War is war. Life is life. You can't lump them together," says a burly construction worker, setting the scene for Valeska Grisebach's revisionist take on the titular American genre. A group of German construction workers start a tough job at a remote site in the Bulgarian countryside where they are confronted with their own prejudice and mistrust due to the language barrier and cultural differences with favoured local villagers.

Co-produced by Maren Ade (*Toni Erdmann*, SWIFF '17) and a critical hit at Cannes, *Western* achieves an astute naturalism awash in formal beauty- each composition is precise and beautiful. Casting non-actors in all of the roles and embedding herself in the Bulgarian countryside for a long duration, Grisebach subtly and intelligently forges a new kind of revisionist western, taking the tropes of filmmakers like John Ford and relocating them to a new frontier.

In German and Bulgarian with English subtitles



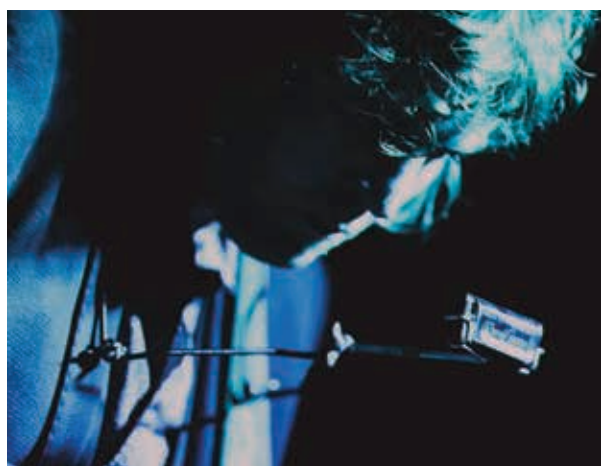
WIND RIVER

THU 11 JAN | 6.45PM | JMT
SAT 20 JAN | 8.30PM | BELLO

D. TAYLOR SHERIDAN | 110MINS | MA15+ | GBR, CAN, USA

Taylor Sheridan, the Academy Award-nominated writer of 'Sicario' and 'Hell Or High Water' (SWIFF '17), makes his directorial debut with 'Wind River', a thrilling, haunting tale of death and survival in the depths of winter.

Starring an enigmatic Jeremy Renner, who here embodies the old West notion of "true grit" with quiet and affecting impact as Cory Lambert, a tracker for the US Fish and Wildlife Service on the Wind River Indian Reservation in Wyoming, with deep community ties and a haunted past. Lambert's loner mindset is tested with the arrival of Jane Banner (Elizabeth Olsen - also in *Ingrid Goes West*), a rookie FBI agent who has been called in by the Tribal Police (led by *Dances with Wolves* star Graham Greene), to investigate the mysterious killing of a local girl on a remote Native American reservation. Like the snow, the mystery here deepens by the minute, building a picture of both the present and past of this unforgiving and violent land. *Wind River* is a masterful Badlands odyssey that is once both a stark and haunting 21st century Western thriller.



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Image: Bob Evans performing live at No. 5 Church Street, Bellingham.
Photo by Bruce Jacups, May 2017.



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NORDIC LIGHTS

Renowned for its history of experimentation in film, Nordic cinema continues to excite and innovate, with its dark philosophical edge and unique sense of humour. Catch some of the best contemporary films from the North: from humanists and believers, to the delirious and strange and pure lovers of the game.



THE GIANT

FRI 12 JAN | 12.30PM | JMT

D. JOHANNES NYHOLM | 86MINS | 15+ | SWE, DEN

"An oddly delicate fable in which heartbreaking scenes of rejection sit alongside easy laughter, Johannes Nyholm's The Giant is among other things surely the strangest underdog sports movie of the year" - Hollywood Reporter.

Rikard is an autistic young man born with a deformity that impedes his ability to communicate. Feeling the confines of life in a small world, Rikard finds freedom with his passion for the game of pétanque and through his dreams of being a 50 foot giant. On a quest to find his way back to his long-lost mother, Rikard calls on his imaginings to guide the way. Reflective of memorable characters in films like Peter Bogdanovich's *Mask* or David Lynch's *The Elephant Man*, ultimately *The Giant* is a one-of-a-kind story of friendship and isolation that explores the tension between individual and community from a different perspective.

In Swedish with English subtitles



BORG MCENROE

FRI 12 JAN | 4.30PM | JMT

D. JANUS METZ | 100MINS | M | SWE, DNK, FIN

An evocative take on the epic rivalry of tennis stars, the cool Swedish Bjorn Borg and brash confrontational John McEnroe, culminating in the greatest tennis match of all time at Wimbledon 1980.

To the world they were polar opposites, Borg was the on-top-of-the-world champion who never lost his temper, and McEnroe an up-and-coming whirlwind full of fury that people loved to hate. But they had something in common: they were both the best.

Bringing gritty coolness to the sports drama genre, Janus Metz is revisiting the great bout after a 1996 documentary, and he creates a suspenseful and brooding tone that darts between enlightening flashbacks (with a performance from Bjorn Borg's real life son as the young tennis prodigy) and an electric present tense, all building to a crescendo of a final epic showdown.

In Swedish, French with English subtitles



LOVING PIA

TUE 16 JAN | 3.30PM | JMT

D. DANIEL BORGMAN | 100MINS | 15+ | DEN

A delicate blur of documentary and fiction made in collaboration with its star, Pia Skovgaard, with writer/director/cinematographer Daniel Borgman, *Loving Pia* follows an intellectually disabled woman's search for love.

Living with her elderly mother Guitto (also playing herself) on a small Danish island, Pia and her mother care for one another. But they both know that Guitto is nearing the end of her life, and that Pia will need a family when time comes. Guitto wants Pia to move to a group home, but Pia is determined to find true love, and when she meets the solitary Jens, decides he may be the one and the two embark on a trip to Copenhagen to test their compatibility.

Filmed in a gauzy and light 16mm square format and filled with cinematic magic as well as heartfelt reality, Borgman has made a film full of friendship, humour and compassion.

In Danish with English subtitles



THE COMMUNE

THU 11 JAN | 2.30PM | JMT

D. THOMAS VINTERBERG | 111MINS | 15+ | DEN, SWE, NLD

Inspired by his own childhood experiences, The Commune reunites Danish director Thomas Vinterberg with scriptwriter Tobias Lindholm (*The Hunt, A Hijacking*) in a new comedy-drama where personal desires clash with housemate tolerance in a Copenhagen commune.

In the early '70s, successful professor of architecture Erik inherits a large mansion in suburban Copenhagen and decides to set up a commune with his wife Anna and daughter Freja. Together they invite friends, acquaintances and strangers to live with them, creating a melting pot of left-wing ideas and new familial bonds. But when Erik begins an affair with Emma, a beautiful young student from his course, the spirit of free love that formed the foundations of the commune will threaten to bring it all tumbling down.

By turns witty, moving and poignant, *The Commune* is an insightful portrayal of human relationships.

In Danish with English subtitles



THE SQUARE

FRI 12 JAN | 6.30PM | JMT

FRI 19 JAN | 7.30PM | BELLO

D. RUBEN ÖSTLUND | 142MINS | 15+ | SWE, GER FRA, DEN

Winner of the Palme d'Or at Cannes.

Written and directed by the mercilessly talented Swedish provocateur Ruben Östlund (*Force Majeure*) *The Square* is compulsively watchable, taking home the Palme d'Or at Cannes for its no-holds-barred satire of the postmodern art world.

On the verge of opening a prestigious exhibition, imperious and self-centred curator Christian (an excellent Claes Bang) is beset by a host of troubles – including a less-than-successful online marketing campaign, a performance piece gone horribly awry, and a mugging which leaves him both shaken and determined to hunt down the perpetrator – which sets both him and his museum on a crash course with crisis.

The Square succeeds admirably as a squirm inducing, whip-smart art-world satire, that forces us to confront our own values and ask what we owe one another.

In English, Danish and Swedish with English subtitles

CALL OF THE SURF

Sound off for lovers of sun, sea and surf as SWIFF answers the call. See surf movies from life-long lovers of the surf to flicks for the frothers.

A first for Coffs, check out the pumping live soundtrack session (Sat 20 Jan) - and see something a little deeper than cutting sick on big waves (but we got that too). Yewwwww!



BETWEEN LAND AND SEA

SUN 14 JAN | 4.30PM | JMT

D. ROSS WHITAKER | 90MINS | 12+ | IRE

NSW Premiere

Coming from Award winning Irish documentary filmmaker Ross Whitaker (When Ali Came To Ireland, Saviours), Between Land And Sea gives audiences a chance to live a year in the life of Irish surf town Lahinch, living at the mercy of the Atlantic ocean. Getting up close and personal into the day to day for a community of surfers and the challenges that come with living at the ocean's beck and call.

From the exhilaration of the waves to the quiet times, Whitaker's portrait of a people and the place they call home is intimate and personal, moving and stirring, and it will resonate with everyone who is just trying to make a home. Of the film, Whitaker says "I set out to make a different kind of surf film ... Living at the edge of the Atlantic in Ireland's wild west is hard - rain is heavy, winds are strong and waves are monstrous. But for the right person it's a cold paradise living along that incredible coastline."



MEN OF WOOD & FOAM

SAT 20 JAN | 6.30PM | JMT

D. SHAUN CAIRNS | 120MINS | PG | AUS

Men of Wood & Foam with live soundtrack performed by Band of Frequencies

Trailing in the wake of Aussie surf pioneers, The Brookvale Six, Band of Frequencies brings a dynamic, one performance-only, live cinema experience to SWIFF audiences.

Filled with rare archive footage and frequently hilarious interviews with the trailblazers themselves, including Coffs own surfing legend Scotty Dillon, Men of Wood & Foam is a compelling look at Australian surf culture in the '70s and '80s, a time well documented in America, but less so here at home. Looking at surf music, industry development and the historical context of the era with the biting wit writer and surf journo Phil Jarratt is known for, the film is a lively and fun look back at an era that now feels almost mystical.

Band of Frequencies bring a wildly unique touch to the film that they've sound-tracked, upping the ante and turning the film into a transporting experience.

SPECIAL GUEST Writer/Producer Phil Jarratt



BLUE ROAD + UNDER AN ARCTIC SKY

SUN 21 JAN | 12.30PM | JMT

D. ALENA EHRENBOLD | 44MINS | 10+ | AUS, GER, FRA
D. CHRIS BUKARD | 39MINS | 10+ | USA

NSW Premiere

Pure passion for the big blue and discovering the imaginable are at the heart of these two epic surfing adventures.

In Blue Road we meet three female surfers from different parts of the globe who are all brought together by common cause: for the pursuit of happiness, a collective passion for the surf and to question what role passion plays in life.

For Icelandic surfers, chasing waves along the country's frigid shores comes naturally. For everyone else, it's a lesson in punishment. Under An Arctic Sky follows photographer Chris Burkard, filmmaker Ben Weiland and surfers Justin Quintal, Sam Hammer, and Timmy Reyes as they experience the brutality of Iceland's winter and faced with risking their lives for the opportunity of a lifetime: to surf beneath the Aurora Borealis.



THE CHURCH OF THE OPEN SKY

SAT 13 JAN | 2.30PM | JMT

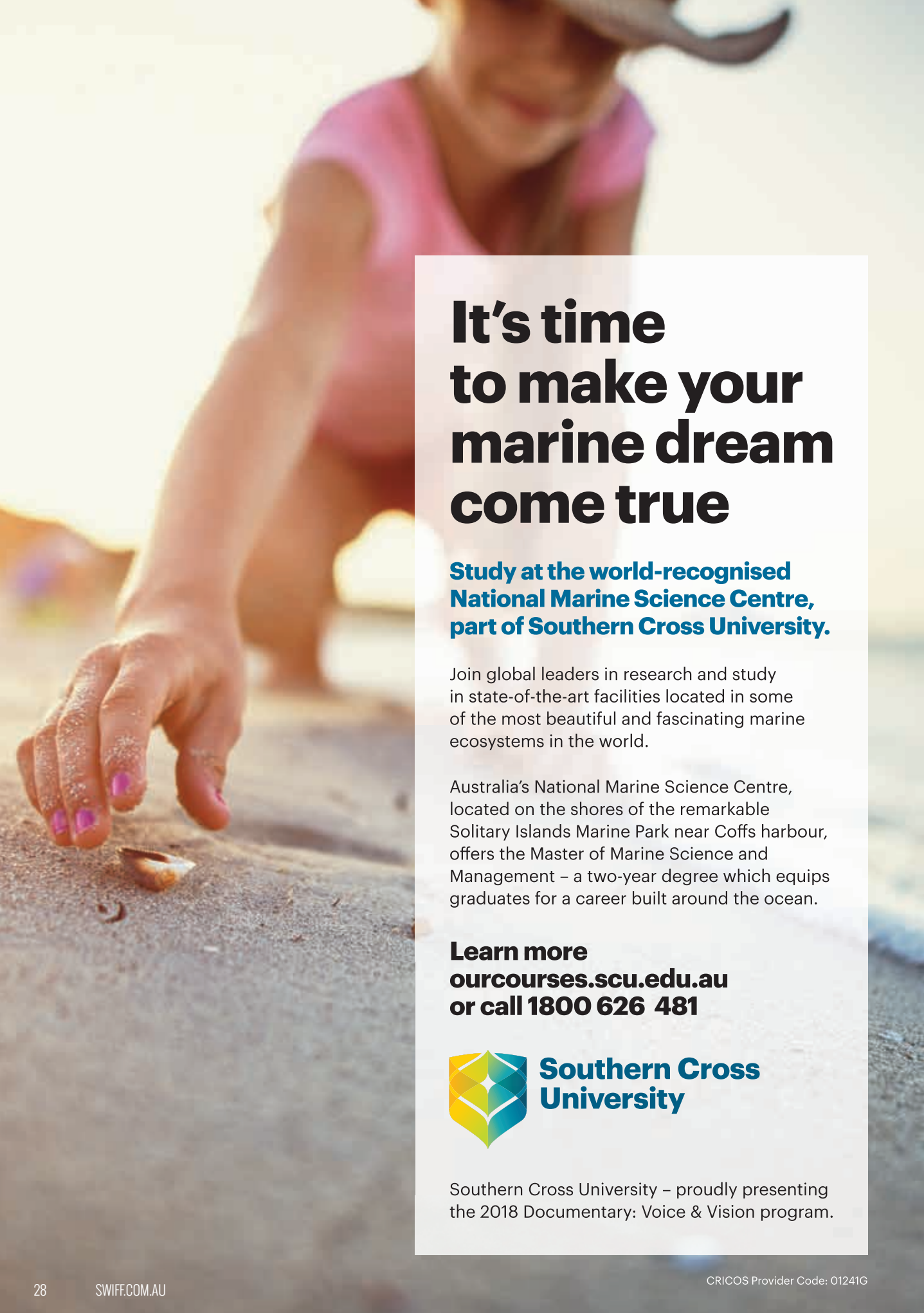
D. NATHAN OLDFIELD | 55MINS | ALL AGES | AUS

The enduring connection between sea and self Award-winning indie filmmaker, Nathan Oldfield (The Heart and the Sea) returns with his sea soaked celebration of life and the universal power of surfing.

An endearing representation of the surfing experience, The Church of the Open Sky also offers transformative stories from the psyche of surfers, adding another dimension of human connectivity to this free and inclusive sacred playground. A self-taught filmmaker, Oldfield has developed his own unique sense for composition, light play and texture over his 15-year career, that gives his films a genuine vibrancy, highlighting the shared human experience of stoke and awe.

Shot on location in Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and Sri Lanka, the film features Dave Rastovich, Lauren Lindsey Hill.

SPECIAL GUEST Director Nathan Oldfield will be in attendance



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MY ENTIRE HIGH SCHOOL SINKING INTO THE SEA

SAT 13 JAN | 2.30PM | BELLO
SAT 20 JAN | 12.30PM | JMT

D. DASH SHAW | 75MINS | 12+ | USA

What outcast high schooler hasn't daydreamed for a little disaster to shake things up?

This lo-fi animation from graphic novelist Dash Shaw is throwing the cool kids to the sharks and painting its own pastel and ink picture of growing up.

When school newspaper writers Dash and Assaf are torn apart by the latter's budding romance with their editor, Verti, the geeky Dash is left ostracized and digging around for his next scoop. What he finds is that Tides High School is perilously close to crumbling into the ocean. Which is harder, surviving homework and cliques, or sharks and jellyfish? *My Entire High School Sinking Into the Sea* is a bizarre and inventive animation unlike anything you'd ever see from Disney, but despite the body count, it's a sweet and slyly poignant trip through all the good and bad of getting through school.

"By far the most original animated movie of the year, or any other in recent memory." - IndieWire

Recommended for ages 12+



APRIL AND THE EXTRAORDINARY WORLD

FRI 19 JAN | 12.30PM | JMT

D. CHRISTIAN DESMARES, FRANCK EKINCI | ALL AGES | 105MINS

It's not every day you can take the family to see a steampunk, alternative history, French science-fiction animation film and with a talking cat!

April and the Extraordinary World is the type of other-worldly family film that kids will adore for its delightful characters, humour and comic-book thrills and grown-ups will love for, well, for all the same reasons and more. Directed by Christian Desmares and Franck Ekinci, adapting a graphic novel from the revered artists Jacques Tardi, the film follows female scientist, April as she embarks on a mission through a fantastical 1941 Paris (with two Eiffel towers!) to find out why fellow scientists are disappearing, including her parents.

This enchanting, vintage adventure is an exhilarating tale with intelligence and heart enough to peak the most curious and creative of young minds.

"Rich in depth of character and imagination, you would be hard pushed to find a person not leaving the film with the broadest of smiles illuminating their face." - Filmink



PHANTOM BOY

SAT 13 JAN | 12.30PM | JMT
FRI 19 JAN | 1.30PM | BELLO

D. ALAIN GAGNOL, JEAN-LOUP FELICOLI | 83MINS | ALL AGES | FRA, BEL

Young patient and bedridden Leo, desperate to escape the boredom of his hospital room, discovers he has a secret power- to become 'Phantom Boy' with the ability to leave his body at will to explore with complete freedom. Leo immediately puts his powers to use, volunteering his gift to an injured police man in the hospital. A fearless journalist joins their detective team on the search a supervillain who is holding New York City to ransom.

Directors Jean-Loup Felicioli and Alain Gagnol (*A Cat In Paris*) team up again, bringing their uniquely French voices to the classic tale of cops and robbers, all animated in a delightfully hand drawn, Picasso inspired style. Filled with nods to *Batman*, *Dick Tracey*, *Manhattan* and *The Sopranos*, and brought to life by a voice cast including Vincent D'Onofrio, Audrey Tatou and Fred Armisen.

"This film packs an emotional wallop, but it also takes care of its noir crime-fighting business with considerable panache." - Epoch Times



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SCREAMWAVE

For all you lovers of cinema's stranger things, come spook up your summer nights as **Screamwave** rolls into town. Meet real-life lovable killer clowns, skirt the sinister and supernatural or unwrap a Christmas cracker full of shocks and gore galore. But beware, nothing is what it seems.



THE BELKO EXPERIMENT

THU 11 JAN | 9.00PM | JMT

D. GREG MCLEAN | 89MINS | 18+ | USA, COL

Office Space meets Battle Royale

Office politics turns into a real-life survival of the fittest when a group of co-workers are forced into a sick game of kill or be killed by sinister forces, in this gruesomely funny horror thriller from Aussie auteur, Greg McLean (Jungle, Wolf Creek) together with in-demand Hollywood writer, James Gunn (Guardians of the Galaxy Vol 1 & 2).

Belko Industries, a normally calm workplace, gets a rude awakening when a mysterious voice on the intercom orders them to participate in a ruthless blood-soaking battle royale at their office building in Bogotá, Colombia. As the terror escalates, so does the body count. Everyone is a competitor and everyday objects become deadly weapons.

Asking us to embrace office space insanity and never taking itself too seriously, this might just be the perfect antidote to a hard day at the office. Filled with jet-black humour, The Belko Experiment is a hilarious, punk infused riff on corporate ideology and the evil that feeds from within the belly of a toxic workplace. Let the corporate carnage commence!



BETTER WATCH OUT

FRI 12 JAN | 9.15PM | JMT

SUN 14 JAN | 8.30PM | BELLO

D. CHRIS PECKOVER | 85MINS | MA15+ | AUS, USA

Putting the carnage into Christmas.

This holiday season, you may be home, but you're not alone in Chris Peckover's fresh and gleefully twisted spin on home-invasion horror.

Babysitter Ashley (Aussie scream queen Olivia DeLonge) must defend her young charges Levi Miller (Jasper Jones) and Ed Oxenbould (The Butterfly Tree, Paper Planes) when intruders break into the house one snowy night. Sounds like your average home invasion thriller, right? Wrong! Better Watch Out delivers a fresh and twisted mashup of dark delights that even the most hardened genre fans will find reason to rejoice. This is one hilariously sadistic horror comedy genre bender, filtered through the lens of an '80s teen comedy, that will leave you squealing with glee from start to finish.

"(Better Watch Out) is a rarity that pairs immense entertainment with dark, vicious thrills." -Film School Rejects



THE ENDLESS

FRI 19 JAN | 8.30PM | JMT

D. JUSTIN BENSON, AARON MOORHEAD | 111MINS | 15+ | USA

This lo-fi, Lovecraftian horror-thriller finds brothers Aaron and Justin (writer/directors Justin Benson and Aaron Moorhead) ten years after having escaped the cult that raised them. Aaron remembers a wholesome community full of good people, so when a message arrives that appears to be calling them back, he convinces Justin to return to what he considers a "UFO death cult". As the inexplicable begins to occur, the two are forced to conclude that the cult's bizarre axioms might just be proving true.

The Endless rapidly develops from an eccentric story about family to an all-out occult trip, taking audiences on an atmospheric and ingenious journey, through rich Californian deserts and cosmic phenomena. Keeping you guessing till the very end, even the most studious horror fans will be on the edge of their seats.



SPOOKERS

THU 18 JAN | 8.45PM | JMT

D. FLORIAN HABICHT | 83MINS | M | NZL, AUS

The family that slays together

Who wants to earn a living as an insane clown or a zombie bride? Actors at the phenomenally successful Spookers horror theme park in Auckland, that's who! In this funny and improbably charming documentary, NZ director Florian Habicht looks behind the curtain to show us the real lives of the frighteners at the infamous and hugely popular horror theme park at the old Kingseat Psychiatric Hospital. Full of colourful characters where everyone is encouraged to express their scariest of sides to tens of thousands of screaming customers every year. After all, what are haunted houses if not a safe place to be scared?

Made with a big heart and dotted with loving fantasy sequences, Spookers is a hugely entertaining, strikingly candid and frequently moving slice of showbiz life.

"Spookers is a celebration of strangeness rather than a mockery of it" - RogerEbert.com

SCHEDULE

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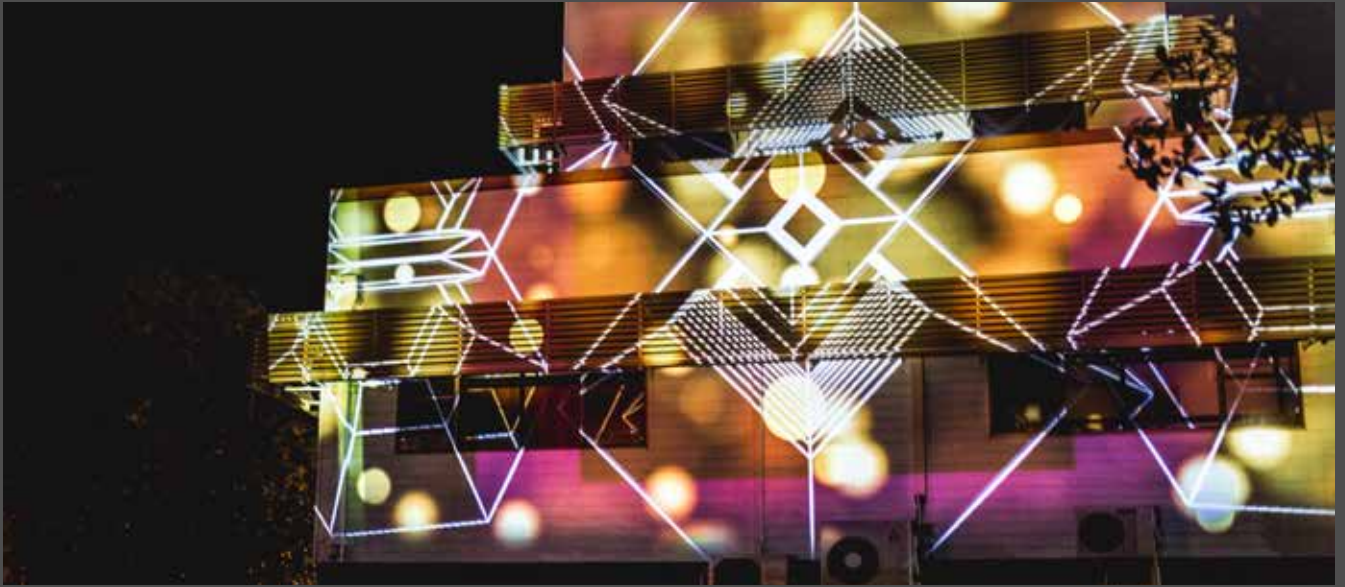
DATE TIME LOCATION	TITLE		PG
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FRI 19 JAN 1.30PM BELLO	PHANTOM BOY		29

DATE TIME LOCATION	TITLE		PG
FRI 19 JAN 2.30PM JMT	MR GAY SYRIA		11
FRI 19 JAN 3.30PM BELLO	THE LAST GOLDFISH		13
FRI 19 JAN 4.30PM JMT	THE PINK HOUSE		13
FRI 19 JAN 5.30PM BELLO	PATTI CAKES		23
FRI 19 JAN 6.30PM JMT	INGRID GOES WEST		21
FRI 19 JAN 7.30PM BELLO	THE SQUARE		26
FRI 19 JAN 8.30PM JMT	THE ENDLESS		31
SAT 20 JAN 12.30PM JMT	MY ENTIRE HIGH SCHOOL SINKING INTO THE SEA		29
SAT 20 JAN 12.30PM BELLO	MOUNTAIN		16
SAT 20 JAN 2.00PM BELLO	I AM NOT YOUR NEGRO		15
SAT 20 JAN 2.30PM JMT	THE WORK		17
SAT 20 JAN 4.15PM BELLO	PULSE		12
SAT 20 JAN 4.30PM JMT	THE GO-BETWEENS: RIGHT HERE		13
SAT 20 JAN 6.30PM JMT	MEN OF WOOD & FOAM		10
SAT 20 JAN 6.30PM BELLO	LOST IN PARIS		22
SAT 20 JAN 8.30PM BELLO	WIND RIVER		25
SUN 21 JAN 12.30PM JMT	BLUE ROAD + UNDER AN ARCTIC SKY		27
SUN 21 JAN 12.30PM BELLO	THE FREEDOM TO MARRY		11
SUN 21 JAN 2.30PM JMT	A DATE FOR MAD MARY		11
SUN 21 JAN 2.30PM BELLO	THE PINK HOUSE		13
SUN 21 JAN 4.15PM BELLO	THE GO-BETWEENS: RIGHT HERE		13
SUN 21 JAN 4.30PM JMT	PULSE		12
SUN 21 JAN 6.30PM JMT	SURPRISE SCREENING		
SUN 21 JAN 6.30PM BELLO	JUNGLE		22
SUN 21 JAN 8.30PM JMT	THE ORNITHOLOGIST		23

DATE TIME LOCATION	TITLE		PG
SUN 21 JAN 8.45PM BELLO	MANIFESTO		22
MON 22 JAN 12.30PM JMT	2017 [REC] YA SHORTS YOUTH FILM FESTIVAL FINALISTS		10
MON 22 JAN 3.30PM JMT	DONKEYOTE		15
MON 22 JAN 5.30PM JMT	APRIL'S DAUGHTER		21
MON 22 JAN 7.30PM JMT	QUEST		16
TUE 23 JAN 1.30PM JMT	BENDING THE ARC		15
TUE 23 JAN 3.30PM JMT	WARU		18
TUE 23 JAN 5.30PM JMT	HEAL THE LIVING		21
TUE 23 JAN 7.30PM JMT	LUCKY		22
WED 24 JAN 1.30PM JMT	GIRL UNBOUND		18
WED 24 JAN 3.30PM JMT	ON BODY AND SOUL		23
WED 24 JAN 5.30PM JMT	I AM NOT A WITCH		18
WED 24 JAN 7.30PM JMT	SURPRISE SCREENING		
THU 25 JAN 12.30PM JMT	POLINA		23
THU 25 JAN 6.00PM FOR 7.00PM JMT	ELLIPSIS		9

KEY			
	SPECIAL EVENTS, SWIFF LIVE & SURPRISE SCREENINGS		HEAR ME OUT
	AUSTRALIAN CINEMA		NORDIC LIGHTS
	CALL OF THE SURF		SCREAMWAVE
	DOCUMENTARY: VOICE & VISION		WOMEN OF ACTION
	FAMILY ANIMATION		WORLD CINEMA
JMT- JETTY MEMORIAL THEATRE		BELLO - BELLINGEN MEMORIAL THEATRE	

SWIFF LIGHT BOX



From January 19 - 25, Coffs Harbour will be painted in projected light with the new SWIFF Light Box project beaming moving image artworks on to spaces around the Jetty precinct. Thanks to a new partnership with Festivals Australia, the Screenwave International Film Festival presents the new SWIFF Light Box project as a free and accessible outdoor exhibition for festivalgoers, locals, and visitors to the region. Projections start nightly from 8:30pm til late, expanding the cinematic narrative out of the cinema and into the great outdoors.

DAVE HORSLEY SWIFF Light Box Director

David is a passionate advocate for film and creative industries, having founded Screenwave with Kate Howat in 2014. Recognised for his work with youth in the annual [REC] Ya Shorts Youth Film Festival, Dave was selected as a 2017 AMP Tomorrow Maker for his vision to discover and develop the next generation of filmmakers from regional NSW. SWIFF Light Box is the brainchild of SWIFF Festival Director Dave Horsley and the Jetty Theatre's David Brammah. The project began as a way to bring Coffs Harbour's film festivities out of the theatres and into the community as a celebration of moving image artworks and artists. Dave Horsley project managed the SWIFF Light Box project with the aim of bringing a new innovative screen experience to the Coffs Coast.

CINDI DRENNAN Creative Director

Cindi is an Australian multimedia artist and director, who pioneered the artform of painting with light and projection mapping in the 1990s and over 20 years has created hundreds digital media art works, from large scale architectural projections to interactive projection sculptures. Cindi is drawn to developments that incorporate contemporary arts practice such as community engagement and strategic research partnerships, that ensure participation and a legacy beyond the spectacle. Cindi is also founder and creative director of the Ruby award-winning company illuminart, providing artistic and technical guidance in the large scale rojection artform to artists and organisations around the country.

TONY ALLISON Production Manager

Tony has extensive experience in community arts and as a filmmaker (producer, Rise of the Eco Warrior). He has been the Production Manager for the Tropical Fruits LGBTQI festival in Lismore for over five years, and been working closely with the event for a decade. His skill set in project management, rigging, OH&S, event management, and has brought a valuable network of contacts and years of experience to all the behind-the-scenes operations of SWIFF Light Box.

SWIFF Light Box is made possible by a partnership with Festivals Australia



Australian Government
Festivals Australia



FEATURED ARTISTS

SNARL

SNARL aka Nozzlefinger has been spray painting in the streets for 22 years since his initial spate of teenage trauma on the corridors of Sydney city. He now spends his time travelling the world as a full time artist engaging with different artists and communities on large-scale mural projects.

DI JAMES

Diane James, has a BA in Visual Arts from SCU (contemporary), and a TAFE Multimedia Cert4. She produces video projections to inspire the imagination and fire the creative spirit. Live imagery is driven by contemporary aesthetics of appropriation and deconstruction using found, filmed and fragments of visual artwork to create juxtapositions to challenge the senses and create extraordinary experiences of the most positive kind.

JOHN THIERING

John has been a practicing visual artist since his first exhibition of paintings in 1987. In recent years he has been specialising in Sand Art performance, both in Australia and overseas. This art form involves creating pictures in sand on a light-box. The images combine to tell stories and are projected onto a screen. For the SWIFF Lightbox Project John has created new sand paintings that respond to and enrich public spaces that they are projected on to. He is working in collaboration with other local artists.

BRENTYN LUGNAN

Brentyn Lugnan, a proud Gumbaynggirr man from Urunga, is an experienced artist, having attended the Sydney College of Fine Arts, TAFE, and EORA Centre in Sydney. He has worked as a Graphic Designer for television with SBS, an animator on "The Dreaming Series" at Aboriginal Nations for the ABC and was co-founder of Bruz Design, clothing and graphics. A featured artist in the Saltwater Freshwater Arts Alliance Art Book and now working with the National Aboriginal Design Agency, a social enterprise of Saltwater Freshwater: his designs appear in rugs and ecoustic screens in the new Westpac building at Barangaroo, Darling Harbour and in the new Coffs Courthouse throughout the foyer.

ALISON WILLIAMS

Alison is a proud Gumbaynggirr artist and spokesperson for cultural heritage of Australian indigenous persons. She has been involved in education and communication of culture from dance, sculpture and painting as well as community leadership involvement.

Alison states "I love art of all forms and mediums and I love how effectively it communicates. I am inspired by my identity, heritage and people. I tell my story and the story of my dreaming as taught to me by my Elders. I am also inspired by various states of ignorance whether its in politics, environmental or social issues. I love how art can slap you in the face or evoke strong emotional responses."

LIGHT BOX CREW

As important as the artworks in this project are the team that beam them on to outdoor surfaces. A lot goes on behind the scenes, and SWIFF Light Box has the best local production crew on the job.

ANY ENTERTAINMENT

The team at Any Entertainment are known all around the region for their community work and their passion for producing incredible audio visual productions. For SWIFF Light Box, Any Entertainment work with the creative team to projection map the moving image artworks on to the architecture at each individual site.

KENNARDS HIRE

Known for their work in the community, Kennards Hire Coffs Harbour provide all of the equipment that make the SWIFF Light Box project hum. Flood lights, fencing, amenities - a lot of gear and a lot of know-how.

SWIFF LIGHTBOX VENUES

SOUTH COFFS ISLAND

See Map PAGE 43

JETTY MEMORIAL THEATRE

337 Harbour Dr,
Coffs Harbour NSW 2450
(02) 6648 4930

FORESTRY BUILDING

357 Harbour Drive
Coffs Harbour Jetty, NSW 2450

ELEMENT BAR

380 Harbour Dr
Coffs Harbour Jetty NSW 2450
(02) 6651 6655



Your complete Online Guide to the Bellingen Shire



www.ilovebelloshire.com





illuminart®

STORIES IN LIGHT

MAKING PEOPLE AND PLACES SHINE

Illuminart are a national network of artists and technologists, helping communities explore the power of placemaking through moving image in the environment.

We are honoured to be working with Coffs Harbour artists, Screenwave International Film Festival and partners, to provide the opportunity for audiences to experience the magic of projection art.

www.illuminart.com.au



Coffs Coast's Innovative Production Company

Proudly supporting SWIFF LightBox 2018

Video Mapping
Architectural Lighting
Digital Signage
Festival & Event Production
Corporate & Theatrical production
Professional Audio Visual
Design and Installation

anyentertainment.com.au

(02) 6600 1609

Unit 2/5 Elswick Place,
Coffs Harbour,
New South Wales 2450

MEET THE MAKERS

Take the opportunity to connect with the filmmakers behind the films. Actors, writers, directors, musicians, producers, and changemakers take centre stage at SWIFF 2018.

Meet the makers and ask a bunch of questions at audience Q&As.



DAVID WENHAM

Director of *Ellipsis* - PAGE 9

Screening -
THU 25 JAN | 6.00PM FOR 7.00PM | JMT
| CLOSING NIGHT FILM

MUZAFAR ALI

Star of *The Staging Post* - PAGE 16

Screening -
THU 18 JAN | 7.00PM | JMT

DANIEL MONKS

Writer and lead actor of *Pulse* - PAGE 12

Screening -
SAT 20 JAN | 4.15PM | BELLO
SUN 21 JAN | 4.30PM | JMT

LINDY MORRISON

Member of *The Go-Betweens in The Go-Betweens Right Here* - PAGE 13

Screening -
SUN 21 JAN | 4.15PM | BELLO
SAT 20 JAN | 4.30PM | JMT

SOPHIA MARINOS

Producer of *Namatjira Project*
+ *Big hART* - PAGE 13

Screening -
FRI 12 JAN | 2.15PM | JMT
SAT 13 JAN | 4.15PM | BELLO

SU GOLDFISH

Writer/Director of *The Last Goldfish* -
PAGE 16

Screening -
THURS 18 JAN | 2.30PM | JMT

PHIL JARRATT

Producer/Writer *Men of Wood & Foam*
- PAGE 10

Screening -
SAT 20 JAN | 6.30PM | JMT

[REC] YA SHORTS YOUTH FILM FESTIVAL FINALISTS

Finalists in attendance - PAGE 10

Screening -
MON 22 JAN | 12.30PM | JMT

SASCHA ETTINGER-EPSTEIN

Writer/Director of *Pink House* - PAGE 13

Screening -
FRI 19 JAN | 4.30PM | JMT
SUN 21 JAN | 2.30PM | BELLO

STEVE CRUZ- MARTIN

Director of *Pulse* - PAGE 12

Screening -
SAT 20 JAN | 4.15PM | BELLO
SUN 21 JAN | 4.30PM | JMT

BAND OF FREQUENCIES

Live Soundtrack + musical
performance to *Men of Wood and Foam*
- PAGE 10

Screening -
SAT 20 JAN | 6.30PM | JMT

Light up the night

Screenwave Pop Up Cinema hire

Pop up Cinema · Drive-in Cinema · Indoor Cinema
Festivals · Community Events · Fundraisers



Enquiries:
contact@screenwave.com.au



[●REC] YA SHORTS 2018

YOUTH FILM FESTIVAL

GET READY FOR THE NEXT WAVE OF REGIONAL AUSTRALIAN FILMMAKERS

Returning in 2018, [REC] Ya Shorts Youth Film Festival shines a spotlight on the next wave of young filmmakers living in Regional Australia, giving young people aged 12-25 an opportunity to tell their stories, to have their voices heard, to develop as a filmmaker, to be recognised, to win some amazing prizes!

In 2017, [REC] Ya Shorts Youth Film Festival awarded more than \$30,000 in prizes and filmmaking equipment to schools and filmmakers. Filmmaking workshops will tour regional NSW schools through May to July, training the next generation of regional filmmakers to make their own short films.

The deadline for submissions in 2018 is August 31st. Then, the finalists will go on to have their films put up on the big screen for audiences across regional NSW with the chance to win filmmaking opportunities, equipment and more.

For more information on the festival, visit WWW.RECYASHORTS.COM.AU.

See the next wave of regional filmmakers screen their films from 2017 on Monday the 22nd of January at 12.30pm at the Jetty Memorial Theatre.



INDUSTRY PROGRAM

SWIFF INDUSTRY CONNECT

Presented by Arts Mid North Coast

MON 22 JAN - 3.00PM-6.00PM

Arts Mid North Coast presents SWIFF Industry Connect - an opportunity to meet the brightest emerging, mid-career, and veteran filmmakers from around Australia. Following a panel and Q&A session with filmmakers, enjoy drinks and nibbles and make some new contacts and friends.



All SWIFF Industry Connect attendees receive free admission to the Australian premiere of *Quest* (page 16) - 7:30pm at the Jetty Theatre.

WORKSHOPS

Welcome to SWIFF's new workshop program, giving festival-going filmmakers the tools to improve their craft and make contacts with other creatives.

All workshop venues: Cavanbah Centre - 191B Harbour Drive, Coffs Harbour

SCREENWORKS: GET READY TO PITCH

SUN 21 JAN - 1.00PM - 4.00PM

So you have a great idea for a film, TV or online production - what next?

In this fast-paced, practical 3 hour workshop Screenworks' Programs & Communications Manager, Lisa O'Meara will explain how to prepare yourself and the key elements that you need to think about before you start pitching your project. You will learn how to develop successful pitch documents to attract interest from broadcasters, producers and funding bodies and you will leave with strategies and tools to apply to your own production ideas.



Screenworks is not-for-profit, screen industry service and social enterprise organisation based in Northern NSW that supports regionally based creatives and connects them to screen industry opportunities.

SCREENWORKS
northern rivers nsw

AFTRS: DIRECTING A SHORT FILM

TUE 22 JAN · 9.00AM-5.00PM

Local and travelling filmmakers will have an opportunity to learn from Jonathan Ogilvie, a two-time Cannes Film Festival selected short film director for his short films *DESPONDENT DIVORCEE* and *THIS FILM IS A DOG*, with the latter also winning Tropfest.

In 2007 he made *EMULSION*, a low budget black and white Super 8 feature. *Emulsion* screened at the Brisbane International Film Festival, Cinema des Antipodes in Cannes and Ozflix in Toronto. He wrote and directed *THE TENDER HOOK* (starring Hugo Weaving, Rose Byrne, Matt Le Nevez and Pia Miranda) which was released in 2008 by Icon Film and was nominated for five AFI awards and a AWGIE award for best feature screenplay.

Jonathan has several feature films in development. These include the WW2 NZ/AUS co-production, *In The Name of War* (producers Trevor Haysom and Greg Duffy), currently at financing stage and *Lone Wolf*, an innovative adaptation of Joseph Conrad's *The Secret Agent*. From 2009- 2014 Jonathan was a Directing Lecturer at AFTRS. He recently completed a PhD at Macquarie University. Jonathan is a lecturer at the prestigious Australian Film Television and Radio School in Sydney.

AFTRS offer a full day workshop on directing techniques for short films, to pull the performances and story you need to connect the audience with your vision.



NOISE LAB: THE PSYCHOLOGY OF SOUND

WED 23 JAN · 10.00AM-12NOON

Do you ever feel like sound is an afterthought on your film projects? Scott Collins from Noise Lab has over 15 years experience working as a sound designer and composer - and he's here to give you the tricks of the trade. The Psychology of Sound teaches all about sound and sound design for film. Learn the difference between literal sound and non-literal sound. See and hear examples of think laterally to connect and affect your audience through sound design. In this two hour power session, you will learn how to take a mono recorded sound recording, and enhance your audio into an immersive stereo full-spectrum soundscape.

Scott Collins composed, performed and mixed the soundtrack to the SWIFF 2018 Festival Trailer and is the lead singer of The Mid North.



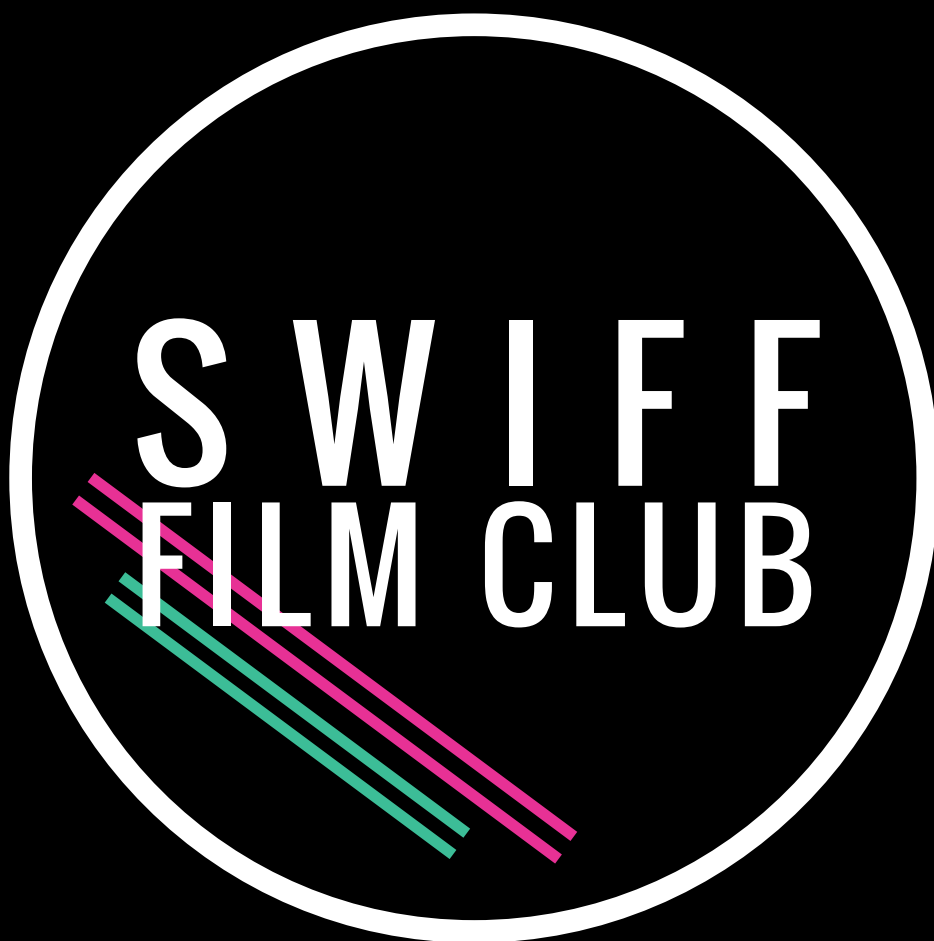
[REC] YA SHORTS 2017 FINALIST SCREENING

MON 22 JAN | 12.30PM | JMT

The next generation of regional NSW filmmakers are here - and their films hit the big screen for a 90-minute session of short films. The [REC] Ya Shorts Youth Film Festival is the biggest and brightest youth film program in regional NSW, presented by Screenwave and Headspace Coffs Harbour with festival partners.

Over 55 original films were submitted to the 2017 festival with over \$30,000 in filmmaking prizes awarded to schools and winning filmmakers. See the 17 finalist short films, including the winners for the 2017 festival. Thank you for supporting, enjoying, and encouraging the next wave of regional NSW filmmakers!





**“There is nothing creative
about living within your means”**

- Francis Ford Coppola

Memberships \$79 per year · Join at [SWIFF.COM.AU](https://www.swiff.com.au)

COFFS COAST HEART OF FILM

Eats + Drinks

If a film has left you with more questions than answers, pop into the SWIFF Festival Hub at Element Bar in Coffs Harbour or Popla in Bellingen for a tasty, bubbly debrief.

Where The Mountains Meet The Ocean

The Coffs Coast is one of the most vibrant slices of Australia you could hope to find. Where the Great Diving Range meets the Pacific Ocean, from the beaches of Coffs Harbour to the riversides of Bellingen, the Screenwave International Film Festival is proudly the Coffs Coast Heart of Film. For information about travel, accommodation, and attractions, visit www.coffscost.com.au.

Travelling to the Coffs Coast

- Flights:** Travelling to the Coffs Coast couldn't be easier, with flights daily from Melbourne and Sydney through the Coffs Harbour Regional Airport (catch an incredible view of the Marina as you land!). More information at www.coffsharbourairport.com.au.
- Buses:** There are also bus services through Greyhound Australia, Premier Motor Services, New England Coaches and local bus services that will get you into town in comfort and ease of mind.
- Trains:** NSW TrainLink operates twice daily between Brisbane and Sydney, stopping along the Coffs Coast at multiple convenient locations such as Coffs Harbour, Sawtell and Urunga.
- Driving:** Finally, the Pacific Highway is a breezy drive along the exceptional Eastern Coast an easy 427km from Brisbane (just over 4 hours) and 550km from Sydney (less than 6 hours).
- Sailing:** And the nautically-minded can also sail on into town, with the Coffs Marina offering customs, berthing and support facilities!

Staying on the Coffs Coast

There is a huge range of accommodation options on the Coffs Coast, with something for those seeking luxury, affordable comforts, caravan parks, or a camp out. More information at www.coffscost.com.au

Things To Do

If you're looking for something to do in between the movies, The Coffs Coast boasts a range of art galleries, museums, shopping, sports, spas, fun parks and aquariums as well as water activities and bushwalking.

- Bushwalks:** Take a drive to the breath-taking Dorrigo Rainforest Centre, or travel closer to Coffs around Sealy Lookout.
- River Fun:** Hit the rivers with friends in a canoe, drifting along the beautiful Kalang and Bellinger river systems.
- Cultural:** The Coffs Coast is home to the people of the Gumbaynggirr Nation, with many cultural tours, art galleries, and experiences to discover.
- For the Kids:** Take the kids for a day out at the Big Banana Fun Park, Ten Pin Bowling, and films from the Family Animation program of SWIFF 2018.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

SWIFF '18 TEAM

Festival Director:	Dave Horsley
Artistic Director:	Kate Howat
Brand Manager:	Julie Toussaint
IT Manager:	Ben Toussaint
Programs Assistant:	Saige Browne
Publicist:	Eve Jaremka
BDM & Events:	Stephanie Ney
Guest Coordinator:	Colleen O'Brien
Festival Photographer:	Jay Black
Festival Videographer:	Blaise Borrer

SWIFF LIGHT BOX

Producer:	Dave Horsley
Creative Director:	Cindi Drennan
Production Manager:	Tony Allison
Projection & Lighting:	Craig Richardson, Andrew Cleary (Any Entertainment)
Artists:	Alison Williams Ash Johnson Brentyn Lugnan Di James John Thiering

VOLUNTEERS

SWIFF is made possible by the many hands of volunteers from around the Coffs Coast and further afield. Without them, the festival would not be possible. Our sincere thanks to all for lending a hand to bring SWIFF 2018 to the community.

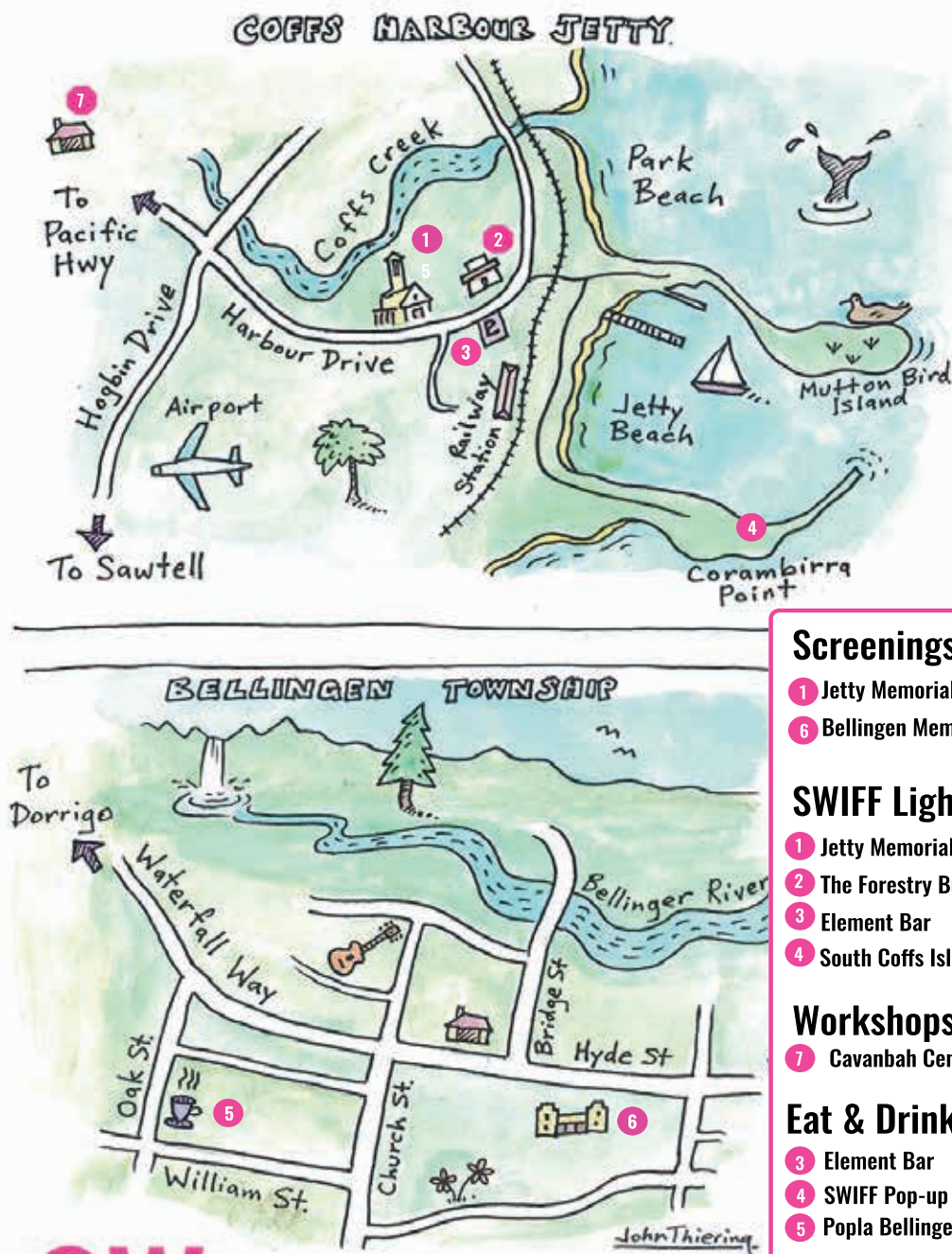
COMMUNITY MESSAGE

Thank you to our audiences for helping to build up a film and screen culture scene on the Coffs Coast. It takes not only filmmakers and exhibitors, but a dedicated and passionate audience to make a film festival come to life. Thank you to everyone who purchased a ticket and enjoyed the 2018 festival.

GUMBAYNGGIRR ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Screenwave International Film Festival would like to acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which the festival operates, the people of the Gumbaynggirr Nation, and pay our respects to their Elders past, present, and emerging.

FESTIVAL MAP



Screenings

- 1 Jetty Memorial Theatre
- 6 Bellingen Memorial Hall

SWIFF Light Box

- 1 Jetty Memorial Theatre
- 2 The Forestry Building
- 3 Element Bar
- 4 South Coffs Island

Workshops

- 7 Cavanbah Centre

Eat & Drink

- 3 Element Bar
- 4 SWIFF Pop-up Bar*
- 5 Popla Bellingen

SWIFF

Jetty Memorial Theatre

337 Harbour Drive, Coffs Harbour (02) 6648 4930

Bellingen Memorial Hall

35 Hyde Street, Bellingen

The Forestry Building

357 Harbour Drive, Coffs Harbour

South Coffs Island

Jordan Esplanade, Coffs Harbour

Element Bar

380 Harbour Drive · (02) 6651 6655

Popla Bellingen

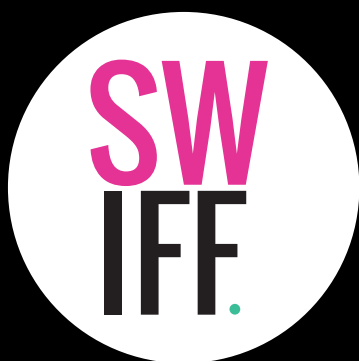
2 Oak Street, Bellingen · (02) 6655 9000

Cavanbah Centre

191 Harbour Drive, Coffs Harbour

SWIFF Pop-up Bar

*Open from 5pm · Jan 19-25 · Jordan Esplanade



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