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WELCOME TO SWIFF 2020



KATE HOWAT
SWIFF Festival Co-Director

For as long as I can remember I've always been in love with movies. From my days working in video stores, to projecting film and digital, to a dream come true of meeting Bill Murray after a Wes Anderson film screening. Ok enough with bragging rights, but you get the picture. I'm in love with the movies. And one of my most favourite things to do is go to the cinema. For me, there's no other experience quite like sitting in a dark room with strangers – hearing the crackle of snacks, seeing the projection stream over tops of heads – to when the lights go down and your entire focus is what's in front of you, on the big screen. No distraction, no running commentary, no shopping online as you scroll through what to stream. For two hours (or 2+ hours these days) you're taken into someone else's world.

I love seeing a film at a festival by myself because the experience is a shared one - by the time the film ends what you've experienced as a collective audience can be palpable. A film like *For Sama* - one of the most profoundly intimate depictions of the Syrian conflict ever put to film - powerful and essential viewing. Or *Portrait of a Lady on Fire* - a burning testament to love and friendship with an ecstatic ending for the ages. Choose your killer style with *In Fabric* and *Deerskin* or share in the moment of 'Did he just say what I think he said' in *The Death of Dick Long*.

Going to a film festival is a special experience...and it's seriously addictive. It's fast-paced with back-to-back screenings, with guests, performances, Q&As, so be prepared to take time off and take time out. Visit a festival hub in between sessions to chat film or grab a stiff drink and digest what you've just seen. Be prepared to take a chance: strike up a conversation with someone in line, see a film from another country, buy a pass so you can choose your films later, and download the festival app so it saves time at the box office and saves paper. Be prepared for queues. Be patient and courteous to volunteers. Bring a thermos of coffee. Grab some snacks and a warm throw. Be excited and ready to experience SWIFF'20.

This is a festival by film lovers for film lovers. Even if you don't know it yet – I guarantee there's something here just for you.



DAVID HORSLEY
SWIFF Festival Co-Director

The gasps and roars and occasional full-bodied Wilhelm screams of the audience are why we create SWIFF. Film has an incredible ability to bring us together. In an ever-shifting cinemascapes, and lots of interesting conversations going on between streaming services and cinemas, one thing is clear - films are playing a bigger role in our lives.

To see the festival turn such a significant corner – with over 70% of all weekend sessions sold out last year – gives the greenlight for the boldest and biggest SWIFF line-up yet.

To our audiences attending the festival this year, SWIFF provides an opportunity to see films outside of the norm - compelling, entertaining, cultural, and ultimately satisfying. Films screen once or twice and then they're gone. So, challenge yourself, step outside of your comfort zone, and dive headfirst into the addictive "other side" of cinema

experiencing 72 feature films from 20 countries around the globe. Go travelling around the world, 90 minutes at a time.

We kick things off this year with the indomitable comedy master Taika Waititi's World War II Nazi satire, *Jojo Rabbit*.

SWIFF is also delighted to present the work of a local feature filmmaker exhibiting at SWIFF '20. Local Bellingham filmmaker Ryan Jasper's work-in-progress World Premiere screening of his eye-opening Tibetan documentary *Monks of the Sacred Valley* provides a unique insight into the filmmaking process for audiences.

SWIFF Live, the festival's live screen arts program, doubles in size this year with performances from pioneer digital instrument designer Alon Ilisar and surf-scape instrumentalists Headland.

The Nextwave Youth Film Awards gala will again be a highlight of the festival, following up its sold-out celebration of the next generation of regional filmmakers' stories. SWIFF's Nextwave program now holds the mantle of Australia's largest regional youth film development program, with 72 workshops, delivered by filmmaker teams in Wagga Wagga, Port Macquarie, and Coffs Harbour, teaching over 1400 students how to make their first film - and how to look after their mental health. The entries into this year's competition are phenomenal – and I hope you can join us for an even bigger Nextwave Youth Film Awards on Friday, Jan 17th at C.ex Coffs to premiere this year's finalists' films to thunderous applause.

Grab a coffee, take some time out, and take a wander through the films in this year's program.

We hope you enjoy the 2020 Screenwave International Film Festival.

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HOW TO SWIFF

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

See something different: See a film at SWIFF you otherwise may not see. Take a walk on the wild side of cinema - you might just uncover some hidden gems. SWIFF is all about discovery, so keep an open mind and take a chance on something new.

Buy a Film Pass: By far the best (and most affordable) way to experience SWIFF. Film Passes can be shared with a friend by redeeming up to two admissions from your pass per session. Or be the ultimate cinephile and spend a summer at the cinema - you deserve it!

Stay up to date: Join the SWIFF e-newsletter and like us on Facebook to remain in the loop in case of last minute changes and announcements.

Support SWIFF: Make a donation at checkout or the box office to keep the Coffs Coast Heart of Film pumping.

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

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 or short films.

Be courteous: Have your phone switched off before you enter the cinema. Be mindful of other patrons and sessions in progress while queuing and please be kind to volunteers (they are here out of love!).

Go paperless! Using the SWIFF 2020 mobile apps (for Apple and Android) will not only save you time and effort, it also helps us leave a better footprint with less ink and paper going to waste.

Have fun! 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 Live, and make new friends!

HAVE A YARN

#SWIFF2020

Facebook: Screenwave

Instagram: @ScreenwaveAustralia

FESTIVAL APP

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

All information correct at date of printing, please check website for any changes.



SWIFF.



FESTIVAL HUB

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VENUES

BELLINGEN MEMORIAL HALL

35 HYDE STREET
BELLINGEN NSW 2454

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 \$19.50

Concession/Local 245* \$16.00

Under 25 \$8.00

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

FILM PASSES

6 Film Pass \$90.00

12 Film Pass \$155.00

24 Film Pass \$260.00

Please purchase Passes ahead of time. Passes will not be available to purchase before film screenings. Passes can be shared with a friend by redeeming up to two admissions from your pass per session.

Passes exclude special events, including opening, closing, SWIFF Live, NTL Live and Industry Connect.

SPECIAL EVENTS

OPENING NIGHT GALA

\$40.00 Full | Concession \$35.00

- includes drinks & canapes on arrival

CLOSING NIGHT GALA

\$40.00 Full | Concession \$35.00

- includes drinks and canapes on arrival

SWIFF LIVE

Bending Light with Alon Ilisar: Australian drummer, composer, improviser and instrument designer of the AirSticks
\$35.00 Full | \$30.00 concession | Under 25 \$25.00

SURFING THE ARCTIC

A Corner of the Earth + Nordurland

(Nordurland soundtrack performed live on stage by Headland)

\$35.00 Full | \$30.00 concession | Under 25 \$25.00

NATIONAL THEATRE LIVE: FLEABAG

Written and performed by Phoebe Waller-Bridge

Filmed live for cinemas from London's West End

\$25.00 Full | \$23.00 concession

INDUSTRY CONNECT

Meet and greet new creatives in Australian cinema

\$25.00 | \$20.00 concession

- includes drinks and nibbles at Element Bar

Booking fees included. Credit card fee applies per transaction

TICKETS
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BELLINGEN NSW 2454

(02) 6655 0007



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 screening 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

OPENING NIGHT



JOJO RABBIT

THU 9 JAN · 6.30PM FOR 7PM · JMT

TAIKA WAITITI · 108 MINS · M · NZL, CZE

Winner · 2019 People's Choice Award · Toronto International Film Festival

Launching the most ambitious program to date, SWIFF 2020's Opening Night Gala ushers in a new decade and a new cache of films to intrigue, entertain, and disrupt.

Taika Waititi has carved a meteoric career from independent filmmaker to a big budget master of comedy. Given his anything-goes sense of humour, perhaps it was only a matter of time before Waititi cast himself as Adolf Hitler.

Jojo Rabbit is a dark and insightful comedy about a socially awkward but passionate Hitler Youth devotee, Jojo Betzler, who discovers his single mother hiding a Jewish girl in their attic. Conflicted by his loyalty to both his mother and his Motherland, Jojo confides in his imaginary friend for support: Adolf Hitler – played by Polynesian-Jewish actor-director Waititi.

Continuing to redefine his director-writer credits with razor sharp comedic wit, following on from previous films Boy, What We Do In The Shadows, Hunt For The Wilderpeople, and Thor: Ragnarok, this hilariously dark satire - which scooped the TIFF People's Choice Award - features the ensemble cast of Scarlett Johansson, Sam Rockwell, Stephen Merchant, Thomasin McKenzie (Leave No Trace, SWIFF '19), Rebel Wilson, and newcomer Roman Griffin Davis.

Drinks and canapes on arrival. Roll out the red carpet for a Reich to remember!

CLOSING NIGHT



SWIFF GALA & PARTY

FRI 24 JAN · 6PM FOR 6:30PM

A sell-out event every year, SWIFF 2020's Closing Night Gala will be a vibrant celebration of the festival that was, as we usher in a new decade for film and screen on the Coffs Coast.

The Closing Night Gala film selection will be announced in the lead-up to the festival online and through SWIFF communications. Subscribe to SWIFF's e-news, Facebook, and Instagram to be the first to find out about the announcement.

Drinks, refreshments, and performances precede the Closing Night Film screening, with an after-party to kick the festivities on well into the night.

Join us for the grand finale to the 2020 Screenwave International Film Festival.

Once announced, tickets will be available at www.swiff.com.au.

Coopers

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seemingly pulls shapes, colours, and textures out of thin air with hypnotic, pulsing beats, using his body as an invisible drum kit. You haven't seen anything like this.

Both artists are also researchers at the cutting edge of interactive live performance – Alon researches as a post-doctorate at Monash University's SensiLab, while Matt is completing his PhD on augmented reality in the dance clubs of the future at UTS's Animal Logic Academy. Together, they produce synced screen visuals live using a combination of motion capture cameras driven by retro-engineered game controllers. The visuals are projected on to a transparent screen separating Alon from the audience (see image). The result is mesmerising.

Spectacle meets pioneering art form for two shows only (Bellingen and Coffs Harbour) at SWIFF '20.

"..like peeking around the corner of the time-space continuum and glimpsing the future." - The Sydney Morning Herald

Q&A to follow the performance

75 MINS · ALL AGES · \$35.00 FULL | \$30.00 CONC | U 25 \$25.00



degrees Celsius, follows an Arctic expedition to test the equipment and the wills of its devoted pack of surfers, including Frost, Fraser Dovell and photographer Guy Williment. In a constant struggle for daylight, big sets, and blisteringly cold conditions, sometimes you just have to surrender to the moment and enjoy the ride.

Shot over one month in mid-winter Iceland, Nordurland follows five friends, including director Ishka Folkwell and surfers Torren Martyn and Laurie Towner, as they round the fjords and mountain ranges, combat unpredictable, chaotic weather and icy road closures, trying to find the next wave. With the sun rising at 10:30am and setting at 3pm daily, they only get one shot at it per day. The conditions are brutal and the rewards unprecedented for these dedicated surfers.

Nordurland will be presented with an immersive live soundtrack performance by Headland (True Flowers From This Painted World), including a World Premiere screening of a new edit with the score completely removed and played live as a world first for audiences at SWIFF.

90 MINS · 15+ · \$35.00 FULL | \$30.00 CONC | U 25 \$25.00

ALON ILSAR: BENDING LIGHT

MON 13 JAN · 7PM · BELLO

TUE 14 JAN · 7PM · JMT

SWIFF LIVE doubles down in 2020 – two live performance events expanding big screen conventions.

Man, body, music and light as one. A cutting-edge fusion of technology, music, and visual arts, SWIFF audiences have an opportunity to experience sound artist and percussionist Alon Ilsar perform his 55-minute show, Trigger Happy 'Visualised'. Working together with screen artist and software designer Matt Hughes, who digitally visualises Alon's music live, Alon

SURFING THE ARCTIC

SAT 18 JAN · 6.30PM · JMT

Icebergs. Blizzards. Hypothermia. Just another day surfing the Arctic. See the adrenaline-chasers paddling out to be in the world's coldest line-up.

This 90-minute dual-film session involves a unique screening experience featuring two new jaw-dropping surf films, A Corner of the Earth (Dir. Spencer Frost) and Nordurland (Dir. Ishka Folkwell) both shot in the Arctic circle and produced by two different coastal NSW filmmakers.

Think warm thoughts. Spencer Frost's A Corner of the Earth, shot in conditions ranging between -5 degrees and -20



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NATIONAL THEATRE LIVE



NT LIVE: FLEABAG

SUN 19 JAN · 4PM · JMT

★★★★★ *"Filthy, funny, snarky, and touching."*

– Daily Telegraph

★★★★★ *"Witty, filthy, supreme."*

– The Guardian

Phoebe Waller-Bridge (*Fleabag*, *Killing Eve*) has had a great year. As writer, director, producer and lead actress in her hit series *Fleabag*, she has taken out three Emmys for Outstanding Comedy Series, Outstanding Lead Actress in a Comedy Series, and Outstanding Directing for a Comedy Series.

And now, Waller-Bridge takes *Fleabag* back to where it began, as a live one-woman monologue. Bringing this outstanding performance global, in partnership with National Theatre Live, NT: *Fleabag* is written and performed by Phoebe Waller-Bridge, directed by Vicky Jones (*Crashing*, *Killing Eve*), and recorded in front of a live audience in London's West End.

Fleabag may seem oversexed, emotionally unfiltered and self-obsessed, but that's just the tip of the iceberg. With family and friendships under strain and a guinea pig café struggling to keep afloat, *Fleabag* suddenly finds herself with nothing to lose. From the monologue's roots, as first a challenge to write a skit in ten minutes, to its Edinburgh Fringe Festival debut which won the 2013 Fringe First Award, this recording was Waller-Bridge's final performance as the titular *Fleabag*.

80 MINS · 15+ · \$25.00 FULL | \$23.00 CONC

I DREAM OF FELLINI



SWIFF celebrates cinema's ultimate dreamer, with two of his greatest achievements.

Italian master filmmaker Federico Fellini pioneered neorealism in film, carving out one of the most influential bodies of work in cinema. Born January 20, 1920, we celebrate Fellini's centenary at SWIFF with two big screen celebrations of *8 1/2* and *La Dolce Vita* – the latter being screened on his 100th birthday.

8 1/2

SUN 19 JAN · 11.30AM · JMT

FEDERICO FELLINI · 133 MINS · PG · FRA, ITA

LA DOLCE VITA

MON 20 JAN · 11.15AM · JMT

FEDERICO FELLINI · 175 MINS · M · ITA, FRA

One of the most potent films about filmmaking – and often cited by other filmmakers as one of the greatest movies ever made – Federico Fellini's *8 1/2* is an autobiographical extravaganza that blends comedy, drama, fantasy, social satire and self-critique, presented newly restored in all its dreamlike glory.

Casting a typically critical eye over the world of celebrity, Fellini's epic stands as a towering achievement of 1960s cinema. Standing beside *8 1/2* as an immortal work of art, *La Dolce Vita* has it all: the sunglasses, the jazz and rock, the cars, the clothes...and that fountain scene! Experience the newly restored classic as it was meant to be seen.

In Italian, English, French and German with English subtitles. Regular ticket pricing applies

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NEXTWAVE YOUTH FILM AWARDS



NEXTWAVE

FRI 17 JAN · 6PM for 6.30PM · C.EX COFFS

The Nextwave Youth Film Awards has become one of SWIFF's major events, selling out C.ex Coff's auditorium every year, rolling out the red carpet in an annual celebration of new original short films produced from the creative minds of local and regional young filmmakers.

Comedies, dramas, music videos, docos, and mockos all receive their big screen World Premiere, vying for prizes and top awards, at the SWIFF's Nextwave Youth Film Awards. Book early to avoid disappointment.

The Nextwave Youth Film Awards are the result of SWIFF's national competition, from over 70 filmmaking workshops across NSW, and searching across the country for the next big talent in regional filmmaking.

Witness the nerves, the excitement, and the thunderous applause of Australia's largest regional youth film celebration.

See Page 44 for more info!

Regular ticket pricing applies

SURELY YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS



AIRPLANE!

SAT 18 JAN · 6.30PM · BELLO

JIM ABRAHAMS, DAVID ZUCKER, JERRY ZUCKER · 88 MINS
· M · USA

AIRPLANE! 40TH ANNIVERSARY SCREENING

"The white zone is for immediate loading and unloading of passengers only. There is no stopping in a red zone."

Did you know that the airport announcers hired for Airplane! were actual announcers from the Los Angeles Airport?

Airplane!, AKA Flying High, the film that launched Leslie Nielsen's comedy career, the film that made back its entire production budget in its first two days of release, the film that cemented the term "Laugh a minute comedy", turns 40 this year!

Surely, you can't be serious? I am – and stop calling me Shirley.

So fasten your seat belts as SWIFF brings the cult classic comedy mixer to the big screen to celebrate its anniversary – with an interactive film screening event unlike the world has ever seen. Literally! (we made it up)

Join the SWIFF team for some giggles, some chuckles, and shirley, a whole lotta fun.

Regular ticket pricing applies

AUSTRALIAN CINEMA

SUPPORTED BY COOPERS

New Australian filmmakers are emerging, and veteran filmmakers are breaking ground, telling new stories that come together to build Australia's presence on screen. SWIFF presents the most innovative and explorational new cinema from Australia.



ALICE

SAT 18 JAN · 8.30PM · BELLO
TUE 21 JAN · 6.30PM · JMT

JOSEPHINE MACKERRAS · 103 MINS · UNCLASSIFIED
18+ · FRA, AUS

Winner · Grand Jury Prize · SXSW Film Festival

Alice (breakout star Emilie Piponnier) has what seems like a perfect life in Paris with her husband François and their young son, Jules. When François disappears, Alice discovers he's been leading a double life, leaving her in a precarious financial position. Increasingly desperate as the bills pile up and she's threatened with eviction, Alice finds freedom and purpose as a high-class escort.

Elegantly balancing light and shade, the film moves purposefully from moments of riveting drama to levity, with a moving, often truly funny, realism that is born from an empathetic understanding of sex work. Australian filmmaker Mackerras has crafted an understated and unadorned debut, striking for its lack of melodrama.

In French with English subtitles



ANGEL OF MINE

FRI 10 JAN · 5PM · BELLO
MON 13 JAN · 4.15PM · JMT

KIM FARRANT · 97 MINS · MA15+ · AUS, USA

Set against a moody Melbourne backdrop, Noomi Rapace (The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo) plays Lizzie, a grieving mother trying to rebuild her life after the death of her daughter. Navigating a failed marriage and alienated son, Lizzie becomes obsessed with the idea that her next-door neighbours' daughter Lola is in fact her daughter. She slowly moves in on the young girl and her family, turning her preoccupations into dangerous obsession.

With a star-studded supporting cast featuring Richard Roxburgh and Rebecca Bowen, Rapace offers a shattering performance, rivalled only by Australia's own Yvonne Strahovski (The Handmaid's Tale).

Kim Farrant's (Strangerland) fierce, psychological drama examines motherhood, grief, and how the perception of reality can easily be shaken when the two intertwine.



BUOYANCY

SUN 19 JAN · 6.30PM · BELLO
MON 20 JAN · 6.30PM · JMT

RODD RATHJEN · 92 MINS · M · AUS

Winner Panorama Jury Award · Berlinale Film Festival

Tired of toiling in the rice fields, 14-year-old Chakra (a magnetic Sarm Heng) leaves Cambodia in search of a Bangkok factory job. After paying smugglers to ferry him over the border, Chakra is instead traded to a violent seafood trawler, captive at sea, under the watch of ruthless and sadistic captain Rom Ran (Thanawat Kasro).

A gripping and passionate testimony against social injustice, Australia's entry to the upcoming 2020 Academy Awards is an urgent call-to-action told through an exceptionally tense coming-of-age thriller.

Drawing entirely from real stories of human trafficking, Australian filmmaker Rodd Rathjen zooms in for this darkly vivid thriller that follows a 14 year old boy enslaved at sea where his humanity is put to the test.

SPECIAL GUEST Rodd Rathjen
In Khmer and Thai with English subtitles



DARK WHISPERS VOL. 1

WED 15 JAN · 8.45PM · JMT

ANGIE BLACK, JUB CLERC, LUCY GOULDTHORPE, KATRINA IRAWATI GRAHAM, JANINE HEWITT, BRIONY KIDD, ISABEL PEPPARD, MARION PILOWSKY, MADELEINE PURDY, MEGAN RIAKOS, KAITLIN TINKER · 99 MINS · UNCLASSIFIED 18+ · AUS

Showcasing the works of eleven female directors from six states across Australia comes Dark Whispers Vol. 1, Australia's first all-female horror anthology. A vivid collection of 10 short films with a cohesive wrap-around narrative about Clara (Andrea Demetriades, Babyteeth) who inherits her mother's revered 'Book of Dark Whispers' that has been passed down through her family.

As Clara reads, each tale bares more of the human psyche, with each director bringing her own uniquely chilling perspective to the genre. Dark Whispers will have something to satisfy your most sinister cinematic cravings.

Featuring Anthony LaPaglia, Andrea Demetriades and Asher Keddie.



HEARTS AND BONES

MON 13 JAN · 6.30PM · JMT
WED 22 JAN · 6.45PM · JMT

BEN LAWRENCE · 107 MINS · UNCLASSIFIED 15+ · AUS

In 2018 director Ben Lawrence delivered the multi-award winning documentary, *Ghosthunter* (SWIFF'19), where long hidden family secrets converged with true crime. In 2019 Lawrence peers into troubled hearts and minds with a tense, intelligent dramatic debut feature, following war photographer Daniel Fischer (Hugo Weaving in a career-best performance), grappling with a perspective shift on his decades of capturing human suffering.

When Daniel returns from a conflict zone assignment, his sunny Sydney home sits at odds with the battlefields of his work, and PTSD begins creeping into his everyday life. Unexpectedly, newly-settled refugee Sebastian (newcomer Andrew Luri) comes into Daniel's life, revealing that the photographer has inadvertently captured the horrors of his past, begging Daniel not exhibit the images, ready to embrace his new life.

A complex character study, Lawrence captures the characters and spaces of Western Sydney with a compassionately close gaze, with tour de force performances from Weaving and Luri and a tight, intelligent story co-written by Beatrix Christian (Jindabyne, directed by Ben Lawrence's father, Ray Lawrence).



IN MY BLOOD IT RUNS

FRI 10 JAN · 12PM · JMT
SAT 11 JAN · 12PM · BELLO

MAYA NEWELL · 84 MINS · PG · AUS

Nominee · Documentary Foundation Australia Award

Four years after controversial, temporarily-banned film, *Gayby Baby* (SWIFF'16), Maya Newell crafts another powerful portrait of Australian youth, this time focusing her lens on the world of Northern Territory's Indigenous children.

"I was born a little Aboriginal kid," explains Dujan. "That means I had a memory – a memory about being Aboriginal." Never more excited than when he's talking about his heritage and homeland, the precocious 10-year-old has a strong connection to his culture, speaks three languages and works as a healer. But he also struggles with school, acts out in class, and attracts attention from the police and the welfare system.

Intimate and impassioned, *In My Blood It Runs* follows Dujan's attempts to reconcile the traditions he holds dear with the colonised world he's forced to inhabit.

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LIFE AFTER THE OASIS

FRI 17 JAN · 12.15PM · JMT

SASCHA ETTINGER-EPSTEIN · 75 MINS · UNCLASSIFIED 15+ · AUS

In 2008, raw, observational documentary *The Oasis* spotlighted the lives of a group of vulnerable teens living in a Sydney youth refuge – starting a nationwide conversation around youth homelessness. Following televised forums and nationwide media coverage, then prime minister Kevin Rudd pledged to halve homelessness by 2020.

Ten years and six Prime Ministers later, *Life After The Oasis* revisits the original participants who share how their lives have evolved since those fraught times. The story is told without previous viewing needed for audiences.

Director Sascha Ettinger Epstein (*The Oasis*, *Destination Arnold*, *SWIFF'17*, *The Pink House*, *SWIFF'18*) cuts between unseen footage from 2008 and the stories of the participants now, crafting a moving and raw portrait.

SPECIAL GUEST Sascha Ettinger-Epstein



SMOKE BETWEEN TREES

WED 15 JAN · 2PM · JMT

MICHAEL JOY · 105 MINS · UNCLASSIFIED 15+ · AUS

Some life events are so powerful they are defined by “then” and “now”.

For Mathew (Tyriel Mora, *The Castle*, *Book Week SWIFF'19*) it's the car crash that killed his adult daughter, Sarah, leaving her bi-racial son Ari to become the ward of her Aboriginal Mother-in-law Francine (Elly Chatfield).

With a knock at the door, Francine breaks the news to Mathew that she is terminally ill – and, without any other family, Mathew must become Ari's guardian. At over 60 years old, Mathew is suddenly forced back into fatherhood and given the responsibility for raising his grandson and connecting him with his Aboriginal culture – without any real understanding of his own.

Director Michael Joy delivers a gentle, lyrical film, shot in the gorgeous Blue Mountains, that immerses and educates its audience in Aboriginal rites and lore.



MONKS OF THE SACRED VALLEY

SUN 19 JAN · 4.30PM · BELLO

RYAN JASPER · 52 MINS · UNCLASSIFIED 15+ · AUS
WORLD PREMIERE

SWIFF provides audiences a rare opportunity to see inside the filmmaking process, presenting a WIP (work-in-progress) screening of local Bellingen filmmaker Ryan Jasper's directorial debut feature documentary, *Monks of the Sacred Valley*. A breathtaking, cinematic portrait of a hidden world of Tibetan Buddhism that has survived and thrived inside modern China – until now.

Derek, Tenzin and Dorje are young men with big dreams and bold motivations. They are students at the world's largest academy of Tibetan Buddhism – an institution specialising in sciences of the mind and humanist ethics. The men share common dreams, but amidst China's colonial march for modernisation, their world is being torn apart. State-sanctioned demolitions and evictions threaten their lives, their homes and that which they cherish most – their Buddhist practice.

SPECIAL GUEST Ryan Jasper

In Mandarin and Tibetan with English subtitles



THE NIGHTINGALE

TUE 14 JAN · 8.45PM · JMT

JENNIFER KENT · 136 MINS · MA15+ · AUS

Winner · Special Jury Prize · Venice Film Festival

Following her massively successful directorial debut *The Babadook*, Australian powerhouse Jennifer Kent turns her attention to colonial Australia with the feminist revisionist Western, *The Nightingale*, a tale of violence and retribution set against a wildly untameable backdrop of gothic Tasmania.

1820s Tasmania, young Irish convict, Clare (a fierce Aisling Franciosi), loses everything she holds dear after her family is horrifically attacked. Immediately driven to track down and seek revenge against the British officer who oversaw the horror, she enlists the service of an Aboriginal tracker, Billy (Baykali Ganambarr, Best Young Actor award, Venice Film Festival). Marked by trauma from his own violence-filled past, Billy reluctantly agrees to take her through the interior of Tasmania on a brutal quest for justice.



SLAM

SAT 11 JAN · 4PM · BELLO

SUN 12 JAN · 4PM · JMT

PARTHIO SEN-GUPTA · 115 MINS · MA15+ · AUS, FRA

“A powerful punch to the solar plexus.” – Cineuropa

Armeena Bakri (Danielle Horvat) delivers a powerful, cutting monologue into the microphone. Her gaze holds her audience captive, her truth delivered raw and ferocious, denouncing colonization, patriarchy, intolerance and power. The crowd click their fingers in adoration. Leaving the venue, Armeena just...disappears.

A frantic family. Callous online trolls. A frenzied media takes the story national with accusations about the young missing Muslim woman. Armeena's brother Tarik (Palestinian star Adam Bakri), going by Ricky to run his inner-city Sydney café, is swept into the crossfire trying to find his sister - and face the reality of modern day Australia.

SPECIAL GUESTS Partho Sen-Gupta, Rachael Blake



WHITE LIGHT

THU 23 JAN · 4.15PM · JMT

GEORGE GITTOES · 87 MINS · UNCLASSIFIED 18+ · AUS, USA

Artist and activist, internationally acclaimed Australian icon George Gittoes has embedded himself in almost all conflict zones since Vietnam, creating artworks that reveal the horror and complexity of war. Gittoes chose his most unlikely warzone yet for *White Light* – the streets and corners of Southside Chicago.

The largely black population give it the name “Chiraq”, as more Americans have been shot in Southside Chicago than in the Iraq war. In 2018 alone, there were nearly 3000 gunshot victims.

The casualty list is fuelled by gang violence and urban poverty, with Gittoes painting both cinematic and literal portraits of gang-bangers, pastors, bystanders, and victims – a community that both has responsibility for and are by-products of this hostile environment.

Gittoes moved to “Chiraq” for a year to capture the story behind the statistics on the streets of Chicago.

LET'S TALK ABOUT SECTS

Pagans and neo-nazis and Satanists – oh my! Cult cinema takes a different meaning this year at SWIFF as we delve into the cause of cults - of wayward souls, of second families, of religious values, of pride and hate – to the human element amongst the madness and mayhem.



SKIN

WED 22 JAN · 8.45PM · JMT

GUY NATTIV · 118 MINS · MA15+ · USA

Winner · FIPRESCI Prize · TIFF

Oscar-winning Israeli director Guy Nattiv draws from his own lived experience in this electric feature debut inspired by true events.

Byron Widner (Jamie Bell, child star of Billy Elliot) is the adopted son of fiercely loyal neo-Nazi sect leaders, whose life has been shaped in the shadow of the white supremacist movement. Covered head to toe in coded tattoos, Widner is a walking embodiment of the world in which he was raised. He fills his nights with wanton acts of hate-fuelled violence and fascist marches. But when he meets single-mother Julie (Danielle Macdonald, Patti Cake\$ SWIFF'18), Widner starts to question his values and begin the difficult and painful path to redemption.

Skin is a powerful and provocative talking point of a film that is frighteningly relevant in the current political climate.



HAIL SATAN?

SUN 12 JAN · 2PM · JMT

PENNY LANE · 95 MINS · M · USA

SWIFF shines a spotlight on the Prince of Darkness in this funny and intelligent documentary on the rise of The Satanic Temple in America.

The Arkansas State Capitol has just erected a statue of the 10 commandments on its front lawn. In the name of religious freedom, Lucien Greaves, activist and co-founder of The Satanic Temple, campaigns to have a bronze statue of Baphomet (you know, the one with the body of a man and head of a goat) put right next to it. This is just one of the endeavours of The Satanic Temple to be captured by accomplished documentarian Penny Lane, shedding light on the movement and focusing on the temple's message of open mindedness and inclusivity.

A devilishly funny documentary that blends improbable imagery, self-awareness and religious provocation with a genuine sense of political purpose, while also exposing the deep seeded hypocrisy of the American religious right.



MIDSOMMAR: DIRECTOR'S CUT

FRI 17 JAN · 8.45PM · JMT

ARI ASTER · 177 MINS · R18+ · USA

Following on from the 2018 breakout horror hit, Hereditary, Ari Aster brews up a tisane of terror in the dizzying daytime nightmare, Midsommar.

Emotionally fragile Dani (Florence Pugh, Lady Macbeth SWIFF'18) is still lost in the fugue of a recent family tragedy when she joins her boyfriend, Christian, and his friends on a trip to a once-in-a-lifetime midsummer festival in a remote Swedish village. The festivities begin, and their beatific hosts - with their Maypoles, muslin gowns, and flower crowns - seem to be toeing some hazy Scandinavian line between a weekend at Coachella and Wicker Man. Like the workings of any cult worth its hallucinogenic salts, the pastoral paradise soon becomes an increasingly unnerving and visceral experience.

Clocking at nearly 3-hours, don your best flower garlands and join the SWIFF team for the Director's Cut of Aster's horrifying herbal haunt, just don't forget to breathe.

Caution: contains distressing amounts of folk music



THE ART OF SELF DEFENSE

SAT 11 JAN · 8.15PM · JMT

SUN 19 JAN · 8.30PM · JMT

RILEY STEARNS · 104 MINS · MA15+ · USA

Jesse Eisenberg sweeps the leg in this jet-black, deadpan comedy that hits the American man where it hurts.

Jesse Eisenberg plays Casey, an objectively weak human being – meek in his personal relationships, timid in his workplace, and generally terrified in public interactions. After failing to flee from conflict, Casey is attacked and mugged by masked assailants. He takes the first step towards not being a loser and joins a karate dojo full of winners.

Under the guidance of a charismatic, sensei (a formidable Alessandro Nivola), who has amassed a personal martial arts cult through fear and strength, Casey begins his warrior journey.

As Casey's skill and strength builds, he begins to lead a more powerful and masculine life, becoming dominant at work, standing up for himself in public, and upgrading his tiny dachshund to a beast befitting his deadline.

Riley Stearns sophomore feature is an achingly funny satire of toxic masculinity with stellar support from Imogen Poots as the dojo's sole female instructor, but it's Jesse Eisenberg who provides his best performance to date, masterfully transforming from meek to mighty.

Do you understand? YES, SENSEI!

"An instant offbeat comedy classic – one to be endlessly quoted and shared and revisited for years to come." – Birth.Movies.Death



DEMONIC



THEM THAT FOLLOW

THEM THAT FOLLOW + DEMONIC

WED 22 JAN · 4PM · JMT

PIA BORG · 28 MINS · Unclassified 15+ · AUS. USA
BRITT POULTON, DAN MADISON SAVAGE · 98 MINS · M · USA

Short film *Demonic* screens prior to the feature.

DEMONIC

The only Australian film selected for Cannes 2019, *Demonic* revisits the infamous Satanic Panic of the 1980's, a mass hysteria where people around the world recovered memories of debauchery, murder, human sacrifice and satanic cults. Blending archive and reconstruction, the film uncovers the forces at play between psychiatry, media, and false memory.

THEM THAT FOLLOW

"Snake handlers are spiritual renegades belonging to an obscure, but growing, sect of American Pentecostalism: part of a century-old tradition of worshipping with venomous snakes during church services. Seeing themselves as the vanguards of salvation in a morally bankrupt world, these fundamentalists put their lives on the line — each and every week — to prove themselves before God".

Nestled among the dense pines of the Appalachian forest lies a tiny devout sect of Pentecostals who believe women should be subservient to men and use venomous snakes in their religious ceremonies. Oscar-winner Olivia Colman delivers a striking performance as Hope, the mother of Augie (Thomas Mann), a young man having doubts about his faith and has abandoned the church. He is secretly seeing Mara (Australian actor/director, Alice Englert), the daughter of the congregation's pious pastor, Lemuel (Walton Goggins, *Justified*).

Lemuel is delighted when Mara reluctantly agrees to marry young zealot Garret and settle down within the church. However, when Mara and Augie discover she is pregnant, they must keep it a secret or they threaten to tear the community apart.

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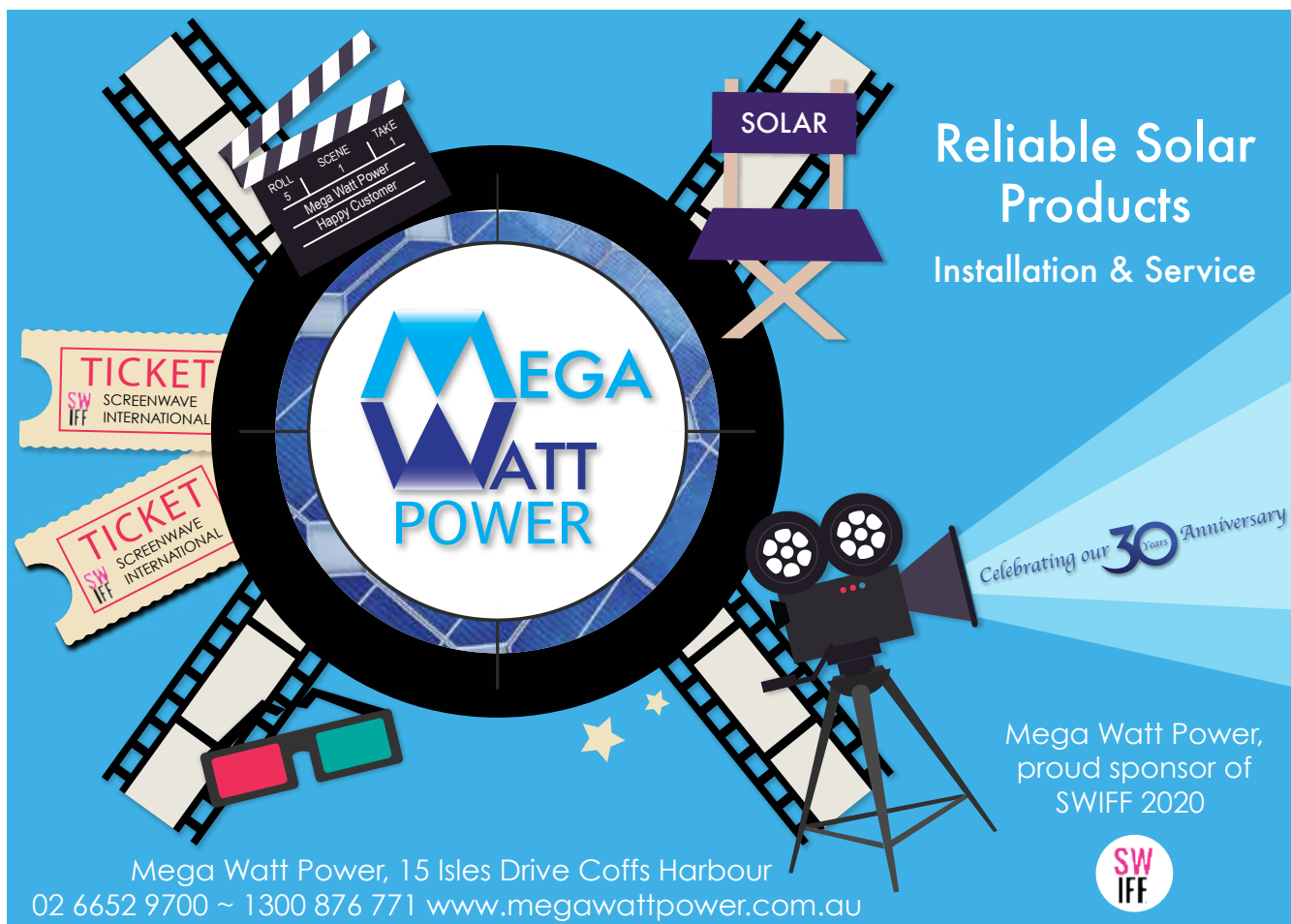
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The advertisement features a central circular logo for Mega Watt Power, which is a stylized 'W' composed of blue and white geometric shapes. Surrounding the logo are various film-related icons: a clapperboard with 'ROLL 5', 'SCENE 1', 'TAKE 1', and 'Mega Watt Power Happy Customer'; two 'TICKET SCREENWAVE INTERNATIONAL SWIFF' stubs; a pair of 3D glasses; a film strip; and a movie camera on a tripod. A purple sign with 'SOLAR' is also visible. The background is a bright blue gradient with white stars.


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MUSIC & THE MAKERS

Feel the beats pulsing through soundtracks and stories, in a collection of new cinema focusing on craft, culture, sight and sound. One thing connects them all – the addictive spiral of making and admiring the music that matters to us all.



BEATS

SAT 11 JAN · 6.45PM · BELLO
SAT 18 JAN · 8.45PM · JMT

BRIAN WELSH · 101 MINS · Unclassified 18+ · SCO

Shot in the stark black and white of a xeroxed night club flyer, *Beats* is an energetic, nostalgic flashback to 1990's Scotland, set over one last night out as new laws now criminalise youth culture and those found 'gathering around repetitive beats' of the housing commission's thumping underground electronic dance music uprising. Against this backdrop, best friends Spanner and Johnno are out to get amongst it - all they need to do is get to an illegal rave.

From one of the most exciting voices to come out of the Black Mirror alum, *Beats* is a passionate, heartfelt rite of passage, set to the iconic electric sound of the *Trainspotting* era and celebrating the exuberant spirit of youthful rebellion with an irresistible energy.

"The pill-popping centrepiece is the heavenly answer to the LSD hell of Gaspar Noé's Climax. But it's all about the people... an ode not just to human gatherings but to youth itself ... its humanity is ageless" - Time Out



BLINDED BY THE LIGHT

SAT 11 JAN · 3.45PM · JMT
TUE 14 JAN · 4.30PM · JMT

GURINDER CHADHA · 114 MINS · PG · UK

During the doldrums of the Thatcher years, there's not much for a bright UK teenager to do in the drab factory town of Luton, England, except plot how to get out. It's worse if you, like Javed (Viveik Kalra), are pressured by your embittered workaholic father, worse still if you're menaced by racist skinheads. But when a friend gives Javed a Bruce Springsteen mixtape, he suddenly discovers that although he wasn't born in the U.S.A., he was definitely born to run. The Boss's working-class anthems and affirming lyrics seem to speak directly to Javed, emboldening him to find his own voice as a writer, stand up to the racism around him, and challenge his father's rigid ideals.

A joyous musical companion piece to writer/director Gurinder Chadha's *Bend It Like Beckham*. Heart-warming and inspiring, Javed's story reminds us of the transformative power of music to transcend race, class, and nationality and bind us all on a human level.



CARMINE STREET GUITARS

SUN 19 JAN · 2PM · JMT

RON MANN · 80 MINS · Unclassified 15+ · CAN

NSW Premiere

Step inside the doors of Carmine Street Guitars and you step out of time and into an oasis, where the bones of old New York still hum.

A quiet place devoted to artistry, craftsmanship, and music, Rick Kelly is the owner and master luthier. Crafting electric guitars using timber from demolished 19-century buildings, he toils (alongside talented apprentice Cindy Hulej) to preserve the history of the city through sound. From chunks of old speakeasies and orthodox cathedrals to the 1854 bones of New York's oldest watering-hole, Kelly creates the tools by which musicians such as Lou Reed, Jimi Hendrix and Bob Dylan have spoken to the world.

It's like the ultimate one-of-a-kind hangout, if you're friends with Wilco's Nels Cline, Bob Dylan's axeman Charlie Sexton, Fiery Furnaces' Eleanor Friedberger, Jamie Hince from The Kills - or film director Jim Jarmusch.



MAKING WAVES: THE ART OF CINEMATIC SOUND

TUE 21 JAN · 2.30PM · JMT

MIDGE COSTIN · 94 MINS · UNCLASSIFIED 15+ · USA

From the schvmmmm of a lightsaber to the swell of an orchestral score, the power of sound lies at the heart of cinema. This is a history lesson that will exhilarate even the most seasoned cinephile.

Director Midge Costin (a feature film sound editor for over 25 years) and her crew of predominantly female film practitioners interpose interviews with an extraordinary line-up of filmmakers (among them David Lynch, George Lucas) with dissected scenes from across the history of cinema, showing the viewer just how crucial, and yet virtually 'invisible' the craft of sound design is to the movies we love.

Far from being of interest only to a niche audience of soundies and composers, *Making Waves* is essential viewing for anyone interested in how the magic of film casts its spell, frequently imperceptible, swelling around audiences' emotions into crescendo peaks.



MR. JIMMY

SUN 19 JAN · 2PM · BELLO

PETER DOWD · 113 MINS · UNCLASSIFIED 15+ · USA

Think there's only one way to play "Stairway to Heaven"? Think again. Akio Sakurai can perform distinct note-for-note versions from any era of Led Zeppelin you'd care to name, down to the specific bootleg recording.

For 35 years Sakurai was a Tokyo salaryman by day, and by night was recreating elaborate Jimmy Page performances to perfection for audiences in small bars. When his performance is met by standing ovation by the man himself, Sakurai decides to seize the calling and join a touring cover band based in Los Angeles.

More than a film just for Zeppelin fans, *Mr Jimmy* becomes an exploration of music, talent, art and identity with utterly magnetic performances that act as a love letter to the musicians that move us.

In English and Japanese with English subtitles

INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTARY

As technology makes filmmaking more accessible, non-fiction stories are flowing faster and louder than ever before, capturing the world around us. See what stories are producing the current zeitgeist internationally.



ALWAYS IN SEASON

FRI 10 JAN · 3PM · BELLO
MON 13 JAN · 12PM · JMT

JACQUELINE OLIVE · 89 MINS · UNCLASSIFIED 18+ · USA
Australian Premiere

Winner · Documentary Special Jury Prize · Sundance

Jacqueline Olive's multi award-winning documentary asks a disturbing question: Does lynching still exist today?

Always in Season looks into the case of Lennon Lacy, a 17-year-old African-American from North Carolina, who was found hanging from a swing set in August 2014. Despite inconsistencies in the case, local officials quickly ruled Lennon's death a suicide, but his mother, Claudia, and many others, believed it was racist foul play — a modern-day lynching.

In a prevailing culture of silence and denial about lynching terrorism that bleeds from the past into the present, Always in Season questions what it will take to finally bring about a movement for justice and reconciliation.

Contains some graphic imagery



FOR SAMA

SAT 11 JAN · 2PM · BELLO
SAT 18 JAN · 1.45PM · JMT

WAAD AL-KATEAB, EDWARD WATTS · 95 MINS · UNCLASSIFIED 18+ · SYR, UK

NSW Premiere

Winner · Documentary Prize · Cannes Film Festival

An intimate and epic journey into the female experience of war, For Sama is told as a cinematic love letter from mother to daughter in the midst of the Syrian Civil War.

Political activist, Waad al-Kateab has used her camera to document five years in her own life, through the Aleppo uprising. From marriage to childbirth, conflict is ever rising around her, as Waad is torn between leaving or continuing in the fight for freedom to which she has already sacrificed so much.

The spades of award wins For Sama has amassed reflects what a true feat of documentary filmmaking it is: savage, immediate, human. A gripping testament to life as a woman, wife and mother in the middle of the today's most brutal war zone.

In Arabic with English subtitles



HONEYLAND

SAT 11 JAN · 12PM · JMT
FRI 17 JAN · 2PM · JMT
SUN 19 JAN · 12PM · BELLO

LJUBOMIR STEFANOV, TAMARA KOTEVSKA · 85 MINS · UNCLASSIFIED 15+ · MKD

Winner · Cinematography Award · Grand Jury Prize · Special Jury Prize · Sundance

Deep in the mountainous heart of the Balkans, Hatidze Muratova tends to her elderly mother, and the area's wild bees, in isolation. Farming the honey sustainably, she always leaves the bees their fair share.

When new neighbours arrive, Hatidze is welcoming. She bonds with the children, and even teaches the father her rules for beekeeping. But with many mouths to feed, and a taste of modernity, the family threaten everything Hatidze has come to protect.

The filmmakers arrived to Hatidze's home to make a small nature film, eventually staying three years. Part portrait of a remarkable woman at the fringe, and part visually striking call to action - and the result is dripping with visual splendour.

In Turkish with English subtitles



MARTHA: A PICTURE STORY

SUN 12 JAN · 1PM · BELLO

SELINA MILES · 81 MINS · UNCLASSIFIED 18+ · AUS, USA

Winner · Audience Award Best Documentary · Sydney Film Festival

She picked up a camera at the age of three, was the first 'girl' intern at National Geographic in her 20's, and from a career capturing renegade street artists, Japanese tattoos, and American gentrification, The New York Times named Martha Cooper's 1984 Subway Art book the 'graffiti bible'.

Decades later, Martha Cooper realises she's become an icon of the street art world - her visionary photography helping inspire the spread of graffiti around the globe. Now 76, she still dons all black to trespass in train-yards with spray-happy street artists.

Followed by the dynamic camera of Australian filmmaker Selina Miles, the two roam from Berlin to Baltimore, their adventures kaleidoscopically combined with a rich treasure trove of archival footage, delightful tales from peers and subjects and of course, the electrifying photos themselves.

In English, German and Portuguese with English subtitles



MIDNIGHT FAMILY

SUN 12 JAN · 9PM · JMT
MON 20 JAN · 8.30PM · JMT

LUKE LORENTZEN · 81 MINS · UNCLASSIFIED 18+ · MEX

Winner · Special Jury Award (Cinematography) · Sundance

In Mexico City, 9 million people are serviced by 45 government ambulances. This lack of available services has supercharged the privatised ambulance industry, with fleets of opportunists, mavericks, and cowboys literally racing each other to be the first to arrive at horrific emergencies in the hopes of a paying gig.

But you can't pick and choose your patients. As ambulances must also pick up impoverished accident victims, the ethical lines blur as ambulance operators are forced to ensure their payday as much as their patient's survival – often on the adrenaline-fuelled race to the nearest hospital...or the better-paying, private hospital slightly further away. Enter the Ochoa family – brothers, dads, and uncles that work the police scanner every night in their big red ambulance, bribing cops for accident tip-offs only to be extorted by the next.

An utterly enthralling, respectful, non-fiction story filmed over three years, with unbelievable footage capturing 6 of the over 2000 call-outs filmmaker Lorentzen filmed in the back of the Ochoa's ambulance.

In Spanish with English subtitles



SEAHORSE

FRI 10 JAN · 4.15PM · JMT
SUN 12 JAN · 3PM · BELLO

JEANIE FINLAY · 91 MINS · UNCLASSIFIED 18+ · UK, ESP

NSW Premiere

Journalist Freddy McConnell is ready to start his family, solo if necessary. Freddy is in a unique position. As a transgender man, he desires to carry and give birth to his child. With candid access to Freddy's journey, documentarian Jeanie Finlay follows the three-year journey at every scan, doctor's visit, and emotional challenge.

At first, the spirited and self-possessed Freddy views his 'seahorse pregnancy' as a practical choice, but he is soon faced with an unexpected reckoning. Freddy navigates steep clinic bills, changing hormones, conversational micro-aggressions, and familial strain. His resolve is impressive and unwavering.

Finlay rides sidecar to Freddy's pregnancy as an incisive observer and friend, and crafts a compassionate portrait of an extraordinary journey, one that is deeply inviting to its audience and breath-taking in its candor.



THE REST

MON 20 JAN · 2.45PM · JMT

AI WEIWEI · 79 MINS · UNCLASSIFIED 18+ · DEU

NSW Premiere

International artist and activist, Ai Weiwei, follows on from the critically acclaimed Human Flow - continuing his examination of the refugee crisis in Europe.

Whittled down from 900 hours of footage, each individual story contributes to an unflinching and forthright examination of a life in limbo between the borders: tents, barbed wire and the battle against hostile bureaucracy that blocks their attempts of asylum. In Greece, a young girl just wants to be reunited with her beloved cat. In Germany, a man working in hospitality prays that his wife will be released from the camp. Through very personal interviews, we hear from people at the heart of the European refugee crisis struggling to keep their lives in balance, of a European system that has failed to protect them, and of their ultimate goal - not to forge a new life, but return to their old one.

Arabic, English, Farsi, French, Greek, Italian, Kurdish, Turkish with English subtitles



ONE CHILD NATION

THU 16 JAN · 2.30PM · JMT

NANFU WANG, JIALING ZHANG · 85 MINS · UNCLASSIFIED 18+ · USA, CHN

Winner · Documentary Grand Jury Prize · Sundance

By restricting all couples to one child, China's One-Child Policy was implemented in 1979 to help a quickly expanding Chinese population grow within its means. Abolished in 2015, the mindset behind the policy lingers on culturally in the minds of its citizens.

Co-director Nanfu Wang, born in 1981 and growing up in the newly minted one-child policy era, is now a new mother herself – and interested in finding out more about the flow-on effects of such a significant piece of China's policy. She uncovers extraordinary stories, interviewing both victims and executors of the policy – and digs deeper to find links to widespread corruption and troubling secrets.

Arguably one of the bravest, ground-breaking documentaries of this year's festival circuit, One Child Nation is a timely and important documentary about the consequences behind all government actions.

In Chinese with English subtitles



VARDA BY AGNES

THU 23 JAN · 11AM · JMT

AGNES VARDA · 115 MINS · UNCLASSIFIED 15+ · FRA

"In my films, I always wanted to make people see deeply. I don't want to show things, but to give people the desire to see." - Agnes Varda

The grande-dame of the French New Wave, and the voice behind many of cinemas most beloved works - The Gleaners and I, Cleo from 5 to 7 and the Oscar-nominated Faces Places - Agnès Varda is here defined in her own words.

Brimming with priceless musings, signature wit, humour and unpredictable delights, Varda By Agnes is the final punctuation mark in an oeuvre of over 50 documentaries and narrative fictions - a last piece of her legacy.

Varda presented this last creation at the Berlinale a month prior to her death in 2019. Whether or not audiences are familiar with Varda's work, Varda By Agnes provides equal introduction and reflection to her lifetime of work - and is a pure joy for viewing.

In French with English subtitles





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HEARTS AND BONES
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Hugo Weaving, Andrew Luri and the choir in *Hearts and Bones*. Photo: John Platt




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Immerse your senses and dive in to the world of cinema. These are the stories that connect us. The 2020 World Cinema program is its most diverse yet. Travel to over 20 countries from the comfort of your cinema seat as SWIFF presents the best new cinema from the world festival circuit.



A HIDDEN LIFE

THU 16 JAN · 11.15AM · JMT

TERRENCE MALICK · 173 MINS · UNCLASSIFIED 15+ · DEU, USA

"A Hidden Life feels stunningly relevant" - Variety

Terrence Malick, director of the Cannes Film Festival Palme d'Or winning *Tree of Life*, makes a triumphant return to form in this epic, spiritual journey of quiet unsung heroism.

Based on real events, Franz Jägerstätter, (August Diehl, *Inglorious Basterds*) is a respected member of his community. His Edenic lifestyle is brought down around him when war breaks out across Europe and Nazi ideology spreads, with his church and his community spouting antisemitic dogma. Franz refuses to swear allegiance to Hitler, becoming a conscientious objector when called up for conscription, a decision that will stretch his belief to the limit.

SWIFF audiences are among the first in the country to witness Malick's triumphant return to screen.

In English and German with English subtitles



BAIT

MON 20 JAN · 4.30PM · JMT

MARK JENKIN · 87 MINS · UNCLASSIFIED 15+ · UK

"One of the defining British films of the decade" - The Guardian

Stunningly shot on vintage 16mm and processed by hand, Mark Jenkin's *Bait* is a timely, funny, poignant new film that gets to the heart of a community facing unwelcome change.

Martin Ward is a cove fisherman, without a boat. His brother Steven has re-purposed their father's vessel as a tourist tripper, driving a wedge between the brothers. With the family rivalry and the influx of London money, Airbnb, and stag parties to his harbour village, Martin is displaced to the estate above the picturesque harbour. As his struggle to restore the family to their traditional place creates increasing friction with tourists and locals alike, a tragedy at the heart of the family changes his world.



BELLBIRD

TUE 14 JAN · 11AM · JMT

HAMISH BENNETT · 96 MINS · M · NZL

A heart-warming New Zealand dramedy about community shows it really does take a village.

Ross (Marshall Napier, *McLeods Daughters*) is a dairy farmer in the Northland region of New Zealand. This quiet and unassuming snapshot of dairy farm life is interrupted when Ross' beloved wife Beth suddenly passes away. Ross expects his adult son Bruce to take on running the farm after him, but that life is not for Bruce. The local community notice the struggle, and rally around the stoic father-son duo, allowing Ross and Bruce to finally talk about the loss of a wife and mother who did all the talking for them.

"You don't see many outward displays of affection or emotion [where I grew up], but this can't be mistaken for not caring. It's very much the opposite. The love, the loyalty, the reliance - it can all be found in the little moments, buried under the layers of cheeky banter and cow shit." - Hamish Bennett, writer/director.



BY THE GRACE OF GOD

WED 22 JAN · 11.45 AM · JMT

FRANCOIS OZON · 138 MINS · UNCLASSIFIED 15+ · FRA

Veteran French master, François Ozon (*Franz*, *Swimming Pool*), turns from his run of thrillers and comedies to shine a spotlight on Lyon's current, ongoing Catholic Church abuse scandal.

Based on true events surrounding the 2019 conviction of Cardinal Philippe Barbarin for concealing the crimes of Father Bernard Preynat, *By the Grace of God* tells the story of three men in Lyon: Alexandre, François and Emmanuel, all of whom suffered at the hands of the Church as boys. Upon one of them discovering that Preynat is still in the priesthood and working with children, the men, all strangers to each other, band together to 'lift the burden of silence' around the priest's crimes at immense personal risk.

"Fingers crossed, Ozon's damning and deeply watchable film will help the church recognize that it needs to purge itself of this sin for its own survival" - Indiewire

In French with English subtitles

SWIFF.COM.AU



CHAINED FOR LIFE

FRI 17 JAN · 4PM · JMT

AARON SCHIMBERG · 91 MINS · UNCLASSIFIED 15+ · USA

An inventive, pitch-black satire that challenges on screen depictions of beauty in a film about filmmaking.

Mabel (Jess Weixler, *Teeth*, *The Death of Dick Long* SWIFF'20), is a movie star taking on an 'artsy' role in a European auteur's (Charlie Korsmo, delivering a brutal Werner Herzog impression) English language debut - a cheesy, 1940's horror film about a vaguely Nazi-esque doctor who believes he can eradicate all physical deformities in humans - set in a still operating psychiatric hospital. As Mabel struggles to connect with her co-star Rosenthal (Adam Pearson, the breakout star of *Under the Skin*), a gentle natured man with a severe facial deformity, the two develop a charming relationship off camera, each challenging the other to grow as individuals.

Moving through the dreamlike film-within-a-film format, *Chained for Life* is humorous and self-referential, playfully challenging what is seen 'on camera' or 'off camera', upping the ante and commanding attention.



JOJO RABBIT

SAT 18 JAN · 4PM · JMT

TAIKA WAITITI · 108 MINS · M · NZL, CZE

Taika Waititi, visionary director of *What We Do In The Shadows*, *Boy*, and *Thor: Ragnarok*, has captured the attention of audiences in their millions, fusing his genre-crossing, razor-sharp comedies with real heart.

Passionate Hitler Youth devotee, Jojo Betzler, is having trouble fitting in. Bullied by the other pint-sized fascists in his group, Jojo confides in his imaginary friend: a bumbling Adolf Hitler (played by Polynesian-Jewish actor-director Waititi). When Jojo discovers his single mother is hiding a Jewish girl in their attic, he's conflicted by his loyalty to both his Mother and his Motherland.

Darkly insightful, this daring, touching, and comedic satire goes to war on hate, offering a dazzling takedown of fascist thinking and the violence it fuels.



DIRTY GOD

FRI 10 JAN · 2PM · JMT
SAT 18 JAN · 2PM · BELLO

SACHA POLAK · 104 MINS · UNCLASSIFIED 18+ · BEL, IRL, NLD, UK

In her English-language debut, Dutch writer-director Sacha Polak (Hemel, Zurich) takes a hard look at the gross discrepancy that underlies society's perception of external beauty versus internal worthiness.

After a vicious acid attack leaves half her body covered in scars, Jade (spellbinding newcomer, Vicky Knight) must come to terms with the new life ahead of her: a life in which her young daughter refers to her as a "nice monster," co-workers and strangers hurl nasty slurs her way, and physical intimacy seems to be a thing of the past. As an antidote, Jade revels in London's pulsing, rhythmic club scene, where neon lights give a night's respite from her scars.

The lens of cinematographer Ruben Impens (*Broken Circle Breakdown*, *Raw*) deftly captures the nuances of Knight's performance, accentuated by the distinct music, style, and vibe of London youth culture. In her first film role, Knight (a nurse, and herself a burns survivor) beautifully lays bare what it means to be an outsider in one's own skin, ready to break out at any moment.



MONOS

THU 23 JAN · 8.30PM · JMT

ALEJANDRO LANDES · 102 MINS · UNCLASSIFIED 15+ · COL, ATG, NLD, DEU, SWE, URY

Winner · World Cinema Special Jury Award · Sundance

"We work for The Organisation! The Organisation is our family!" On a windswept South American mountain top, a ragtag group of child soldiers with cartoonish noms de guerre, such as Rambo, Boom-Boom, and Bigfoot, are charged with the task of holding a kidnapped American hostage. The group is called Monos, the Spanish word for monkey, and are commanded by a shadowy rebel militia known as Organisation.

By day the kids of Monos run military drills (with drill sergeant played by former Farc fighter Wilson Salazar) and by night they indulge in typical teenage hedonism, sex, drugs and general debauchery. But when they are attacked and forced into the jungle, the bonds between them disintegrate as they descend into a primal chaos.

An anarchic, unhinged "nowhere world" that echoes *Lord of the Flies* and *Apocalypse Now*, *Monos* is a uniquely poetic and potent head trip that will leave you in awe.

In Spanish and English with English subtitles



NEVER LOOK AWAY

TUE 14 JAN · 1PM · JMT

FLORIAN HENCKEL VON DONNERSMARCK · 189 MINS · M · DEU

Winner · Best Film In Competition · Venice Film Festival

Sweeping across three eras of German history, director Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck (Oscar-winning *The Lives of Others*) follows the life of a visionary artist through love and loss, inspired by the revered artist Gerhard Richter.

In post-war East Germany, artist Kurt Barnert (Tom Schilling) is haunted by the disappearance of his aunt Elisabeth during the Nazi regime of his childhood. Commissioned to capture the bravery of the working class of East Germany, Kurt struggles to find his particular artistic vision in West Germany. The film's core is a beautiful and tragic love story, as Kurt is drawn to fashion student Ellie Seeband (Paula Beer, *Transit* SWIFF'19). The two have an unbreakable bond, tested by Ellie's Nazi doctor father, who has his own heartbreaking links to Kurt's story.

In German with English subtitles



NON-FICTION

MON 13 JAN · 2PM · JMT

OLIVIER ASSAYAS · 110 MINS · UNCLASSIFIED 15+ · FRA

With the backdrop of Paris, *Non-Fiction* muses on technology and literature. Can the two reconcile, or must the tweet destroy the novel? On the side of change is Alain (Guillaume Canet), a renowned editor cautiously trying to lead his publishing house into the 21st century. Firmly averse to change is Leonard (Vincent Macaigne), a technophobe writer whose latest novel Alain is about to reject. Complicated by a web of affairs (this is a French comedy) by which both Juliette Binoche (*The Truth*, SWIFF'20) and Nora Hamzawi bring ample heart and hilarity.

Auteur director Olivier Assayas returns to his native tongue with this refreshing, talky comedy tracing the lines of modern times, harkening back to some of the director's more openly philosophical works.

A deliciously smart and engaging modern take on enduring questions of the human condition with heart to spare.

In French with English subtitles



PAIN AND GLORY

SUN 12 JAN · 6.45PM · JMT

THU 16 JAN · 6.45PM · JMT

PEDRO ALMODÓVAR · 113 MINS · UNCLASSIFIED 18+ · ESP

Antonio Banderas in a career high, earned himself the Best Actor Award at Cannes for this reflection of life, love and pain from legendary Spanish director Pedro Almodóvar. Banderas plays Salvador Mallo, a director in the autumn of his life and career with a range of medical ailments in artistic limbo. This, and the fleeting high of opiates introduced to him by an estranged friend, causes Salvador to reflect on the highs and lows of his life and childhood with a focus on his mother, played by a superb Penelope Cruz.

It's no coincidence the name 'Salvador Mallo' can be derived from 'Almodovar', this semi biographical work of fiction runs almost parallel to the director's own life, with no actor being better suited to play the part than Banderas, a long-time collaborator of Almodovar's. *Pain and Glory* is a raw display of emotion, a deeply personal and endearing showcase from the undisputed master of Spanish cinema.

"The artful symmetry is an Almodovar hallmark, and his cinematic memento is filled with the intimate, indelible moments that made a life. You can feel his passion for cinema in every frame" - Empire

In Spanish with English subtitles



PORTRAIT OF A LADY ON FIRE

FRI 10 JAN · 6.15PM · JMT

WED 15 JAN · 6.30PM · JMT

FRI 17 JAN · 6.15PM · JMT

CELINE SCIAMMA · 119 MINS · M · FRA

Winner · Best Screenplay · Cannes Film Festival

Winner · Audience Award Best Feature · MIFF

Topping both best of the year and best of the decade lists, Céline Sciamma's (*Girlhood*, SWIFF '16) latest is a devastatingly beautiful period drama about the romance between artist and subject.

Brittany, France, 1760. Marianne (Noémie Merlant), a painter, is commissioned to paint the wedding portrait of Héloïse (Adèle Haenel, *Deerskin* SWIFF'20). A reluctant bride-to-be, Marianne must paint Héloïse without her knowledge. Marianne observes her subject by day and secretly paints her at night. Intimacy and attraction grow between the two women as they share Héloïse's first and last moments of freedom, all whilst Marianne painting the portrait that will end it all.

With vulnerable and nuanced performances by its superb leads, Sciamma builds a powerful romance, unforgettable in its power to draw the viewer into Héloïse and Marianne's world. Elegant, unforgettable and intricately layered, the film burns with a depth that will leave viewers smouldering long after the curtain draws.

In French with English subtitles

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QUEEN OF HEARTS

WED 15 JAN · 11.30AM · JMT

THU 23 JAN · 1.30PM · JMT

MAY EL-TOUKY · 128 MINS · UNCLASSIFIED 18+ · DEN

Winner · Audience Award · World Cinema Dramatic · Sundance

Denmark's entry for the Best International Feature for the 2020 Academy Awards, *Queen of Hearts* follows Anne (Trine Dyrholm, *The Commune* SWIFF'18), a high-flying lawyer, living in a beautiful modernist home with her two daughters and physician husband, Peter (Magnus Kreppé, *The Girl Who Played With Fire*). Yet when Gustav (upcoming talent, Gustav Lindh), Peter's troubled teenage son from another relationship, comes to live with them, Anne forms an intimate bond with Gustav that jeopardises her perfect life.

Driven by a powerful performance by Trine Dyrholm *Queen of Hearts* won the Audience Award (World Cinema Dramatic) at Sundance as well as the Best Nordic Film, Best Acting and Audience Awards at the Göteborg International Film Festival.

In Danish with English subtitles



SORRY WE MISSED YOU

WED 15 JAN · 4.15PM · JMT

THU 23 JAN · 6.30PM · JMT

KEN LOACH · 100 MINS · MA15+ · UK

Nominee · 2019 Palme d'Or · Cannes Film Festival

From socially conscious director Ken Loach and longtime collaborator Paul Laverty comes the understandably angry film about life in Britain's gig economy - at once deeply moving and incredibly timely.

Ken Loach's latest look at life in today's Britain is a mighty successor to his 2016 Palme d'Or winning, *I, Daniel Blake*. Again written by Paul Laverty and set in Newcastle, *Sorry We Missed You* centres on former labourer Ricky, in-home carer Abbie and their two kids, Seb and Lisa Jane. Ricky thinks his new 'self-employed' status, driving for a big delivery company, will be an end to debt - but are there enough hours in the day for Ricky and Abbie to get their work done, let alone function as a family?

Lauded with outstanding reviews internationally, and nominated for the Palme d'Or (The British helmer has won two Palmes d'Or (*The Wind That Shakes the Barley* in 2006 and *I, Daniel Blake* in 2016) and three Jury Prizes to boot), this tale is a stirring example of the honesty and humour for which the director is known best.



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SWIFF '20 FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

| DATE · TIME · LOCATION | TITLE | VENUE | PG | DATE · TIME · LOCATION | TITLE | VENUE | PG |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------|----|-----------------------------|----------------------------|-------|----|
| THU 9 JAN · 6.30PM FOR 7.00PM · JMT | JOJO RABBIT | | 10 | SUN 12 JAN · 9PM · JMT | MIDNIGHT FAMILY | | 25 |
| FRI 10 JAN · 12PM · JMT | IN MY BLOOD IT RUNS | | 18 | SUN 12 JAN · 1PM · BELLO | MARTHA: A PICTURE STORY | | 24 |
| FRI 10 JAN · 2PM · JMT | DIRTY GOD | | 28 | SUN 12 JAN · 3PM · BELLO | SEAHORSE | | 25 |
| FRI 10 JAN · 4.15PM · JMT | SEAHORSE | | 25 | SUN 12 JAN · 5PM · BELLO | PACIFICO | | 43 |
| FRI 10 JAN · 6.15PM · JMT | PORTRAIT OF A LADY ON FIRE | | 29 | SUN 12 JAN · 6.45PM · BELLO | THE PEANUT BUTTER FALCON | | 34 |
| FRI 10 JAN · 8.45PM · JMT | IN FABRIC | | 39 | SUN 12 JAN · 8.30PM · BELLO | EXTRA ORDINARY | | 37 |
| FRI 10 JAN · 11PM · JMT | DEERSKIN | | 39 | MON 13 JAN · 12PM · JMT | ALWAYS IN SEASON | | 24 |
| FRI 10 JAN · 1PM · BELLO | CUMAR: A GALWAY RHAPSODY | | 37 | MON 13 JAN · 2PM · JMT | NON-FICTION | | 29 |
| FRI 10 JAN · 3PM · BELLO | ALWAYS IN SEASON | | 24 | MON 13 JAN · 4.15PM · JMT | ANGEL OF MINE | | 17 |
| FRI 10 JAN · 5PM · BELLO | ANGEL OF MINE | | 17 | MON 13 JAN · 6.30PM · JMT | HEARTS AND BONES | | 18 |
| FRI 10 JAN · 7PM · BELLO | THE BEACH BUM | | 34 | MON 13 JAN · 8.30PM · JMT | ANIMALS | | 37 |
| FRI 10 JAN · 8.45PM · BELLO | ANIMALS | | 37 | MON 13 JAN · 5.30PM · BELLO | SUPA MODO | | 34 |
| SAT 11 JAN · 12PM · JMT | HONEYLAND | | 24 | MON 13 JAN · 7PM · BELLO | SWIFF LIVE: BENDING LIGHT | | 12 |
| SAT 11 JAN · 2PM · JMT | PACIFICO | | 43 | TUE 14 JAN · 11AM · JMT | BELLBIRD | | 27 |
| SAT 11 JAN · 3.45PM · JMT | BLINDED BY THE LIGHT | | 23 | TUES 14 JAN · 1PM · JMT | NEVER LOOK AWAY | | 28 |
| SAT 11 JAN · 6.15PM · JMT | THE PEANUT BUTTER FALCON | | 34 | TUE 14 JAN · 4.30PM · JMT | BLINDED BY THE LIGHT | | 23 |
| SAT 11 JAN · 8.15PM · JMT | THE ART OF SELF DEFENSE | | 20 | TUE 14 JAN · 7.00PM · JMT | SWIFF LIVE: BENDING LIGHT | | 12 |
| SAT 11 JAN · 10.30PM · JMT | COLOR OUT OF SPACE | | 39 | TUE 14 JAN · 8.45PM · JMT | THE NIGHTINGALE | | 19 |
| SAT 11 JAN · 12PM · BELLO | IN MY BLOOD IT RUNS | | 18 | WED 15 JAN · 11.30AM · JMT | QUEEN OF HEARTS | | 31 |
| SAT 11 JAN · 2PM · BELLO | FOR SAMA | | 24 | WED 15 JAN · 2PM · JMT | SMOKE BETWEEN TREES | | 19 |
| SAT 11 JAN · 4PM · BELLO | SLAM | | 19 | WED 15 JAN · 4.15PM · JMT | SORRY WE MISSED YOU | | 31 |
| SAT 11 JAN · 6.45PM · BELLO | BEATS | | 23 | WED 15 JAN · 6.30PM · JMT | PORTRAIT OF A LADY ON FIRE | | 29 |
| SAT 11 JAN · 8.45PM · BELLO | THE DEATH OF DICK LONG | | 41 | WED 15 JAN · 8.45PM · JMT | DARK WHISPERS VOL. 1 | | 17 |
| SUN 12 JAN · 12PM · JMT | AQUARELA | | 43 | THU 16 JAN · 11.15AM · JMT | A HIDDEN LIFE | | 27 |
| SUN 12 JAN · 2PM · JMT | HAIL SATAN? | | 20 | THU 16 JAN · 2.30PM · JMT | ONE CHILD NATION | | 25 |
| SUN 12 JAN · 4PM · JMT | SLAM | | 19 | THU 16 JAN · 4.30PM · JMT | THE TRUTH | | 35 |
| SUN 12 JAN · 6.45PM · JMT | PAIN AND GLORY | | 29 | THU 16 JAN · 6.45PM · JMT | PAIN AND GLORY | | 29 |

| DATE · TIME · LOCATION | TITLE | VENUE | PG |
|--|--------------------------------|-------|----|
| THU 16 JAN · 9.00PM · JMT | THE DEATH OF DICK LONG | | 41 |
| FRI 17 JAN · 12.15PM · JMT | LIFE AFTER THE OASIS | | 19 |
| FRI 17 JAN · 2PM · JMT | HONEYLAND | | 24 |
| FRI 17 JAN · 4PM · JMT | CHAINED FOR LIFE | | 28 |
| FRI 17 JAN · 6.15PM · JMT | PORTRAIT OF A LADY ON FIRE | | 29 |
| FRI 17 JAN · 6PM FOR 6.30PM · C.EX COFFS | NEXTWAVE YOUTH FILM AWARDS | | 46 |
| FRI 17 JAN · 8.45PM · JMT | MIDSOMMAR: DIRECTOR'S CUT | | 20 |
| SAT 18 JAN · 12PM · JMT | SUPA MODO | | 34 |
| SAT 18 JAN · 1.45PM · JMT | FOR SAMA | | 24 |
| SAT 18 JAN · 4PM · JMT | JOJO RABBIT | | 28 |
| SAT 18 JAN · 6.30PM · JMT | SWIFF LIVE: SURFING THE ARCTIC | | 12 |
| SAT 18 JAN · 8.45PM · JMT | BEATS | | 23 |
| SAT 18 JAN · 10.45PM · JMT | VFW | | 41 |
| SAT 18 JAN · 12PM · BELLO | VAI | | 35 |
| SAT 18 JAN · 2PM · BELLO | DIRTY GOD | | 28 |
| SAT 18 JAN · 4.15PM · BELLO | THE PEANUT BUTTER FALCON | | 34 |
| SAT 18 JAN · 6.30PM · BELLO | AIRPLANE! | | 16 |
| SAT 18 JAN · 8.30PM · BELLO | ALICE | | 17 |
| SUN 19 JAN · 11.30AM · JMT | 8 1/2 | | 14 |
| SUN 19 JAN · 2PM · JMT | CARMINE STREET GUITARS | | 23 |
| SUN 19 JAN · 4PM · JMT | NT LIVE: FLEABAG | | 14 |
| SUN 19 JAN · 6.15PM · JMT | THE TRUTH | | 35 |
| SUN 19 JAN · 8.30PM · JMT | THE ART OF SELF DEFENSE | | 20 |
| SUN 19 JAN · 12PM · BELLO | HONEYLAND | | 24 |
| SUN 19 JAN · 2PM · BELLO | MR. JIMMY | | 23 |
| SUN 19 JAN · 4.30PM · BELLO | MONKS OF THE SACRED VALLEY | | 19 |
| SUN 19 JAN · 6.30 PM · BELLO | BUOYANCY | | 17 |

| DATE · TIME · LOCATION | TITLE | VENUE | PG |
|---------------------------------|---|-------|----|
| SUN 19 JAN · 8.30PM · BELLO | DOGS DON'T WEAR PANTS | | 39 |
| MON 20 JAN · 11.15AM · JMT | LA DOLCE VITA | | 14 |
| MON 20 JAN · 2.45PM · JMT | THE REST | | 25 |
| MON 20 JAN · 4.30PM · JMT | BAIT | | 27 |
| MON 20 JAN · 3.30PM · EB | INDUSTRY CONNECT | | 54 |
| MON 20 JAN · 6.30PM · JMT | BUOYANCY | | 17 |
| MON 20 JAN · 8.30PM · JMT | MIDNIGHT FAMILY | | 25 |
| TUE 21 JAN · 12.30PM · JMT | ROSIE | | 37 |
| TUE 21 JAN · 2.30PM · JMT | MAKING WAVES: THE ART OF CINEMATIC SOUND | | 23 |
| TUE 21 JAN · 4.30PM · JMT | THE PEANUT BUTTER FALCON | | 34 |
| TUE 21 JAN · 6.30PM · JMT | ALICE | | 17 |
| TUE 21 JAN · 8.30PM · JMT | IRREVERSIBLE: INVERSION INTEGRALE | | 41 |
| WED 22 JAN · 11.45 AM · JMT | BY THE GRACE OF GOD | | 27 |
| WED 22 JAN · 2.15PM · JMT | END OF SENTENCE | | 37 |
| WED 22 JAN · 4PM · JMT | THEM THAT FOLLOW (screens with DEMONIC short film) | | 21 |
| WED 22 JAN · 6.45PM · JMT | HEARTS AND BONES | | 18 |
| WED 22 JAN · 8.45PM · JMT | SKIN | | 20 |
| THU 23 JAN · 11AM · JMT | VARDA BY AGNES | | 25 |
| THU 23 JAN · 1.30PM · JMT | QUEEN OF HEARTS | | 31 |
| THU 23 JAN · 4.15PM · JMT | WHITE LIGHT | | 19 |
| THU 23 JAN · 6.30PM · JMT | SORRY WE MISSED YOU | | 31 |
| THU 23 JAN · 8.30PM · JMT | MONOS | | 28 |
| FRI 24 JAN · 12PM · JMT | VAI | | 35 |
| FRI 24 JAN · 6.30 FOR 7PM · JMT | CLOSING GALA & PARTY | | 10 |

KEY

| | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| JMT - JETTY MEMORIAL THEATRE | BELLO - BELLINGEN MEMORIAL HALL |
| CEX - C.EX COFFS | EB - ELEMENT BAR |



SUPA MODO

MON 13 JAN · 5.30PM · BELLO
SAT 18 JAN · 12PM · JMT

LIKARION WAINAINA · 74 MINS · UNCLASSIFIED 12+ · KEN, DEU

NSW Premiere

The most important super hero movie you'll see this summer.

Nine year old Kenyan, Jo, is obsessed with superheroes. Despite receiving a cancer diagnosis, Jo refuses to feel sorry for herself. Her passion for superhero movies draws her rural community close, and together they set out to make her the star of her village's very own superhero movie. And, action!

A superehero needs a costume. A superhero needs super powers. A superhero needs adversities to overcome. Jo's neighbours pull out the stops to bring her superhero to life, working together for the joy of filmmaking, understanding the bittersweet reality that Jo's big screen debut may also be her last.

A charming window into rural Kenya, the film rejects conventional portrayals of grief and death, instead celebrating the joys of life's small pleasures. Heart-warming, insightful, and affirming, Supa Modo is as colourful as its capes and costumes.

In Swahili with English subtitles



THE BEACH BUM

FRI 10 JAN · 7PM · BELLO

HARMONY KORINE · 95 MINS · MA15+ · USA, FRA, CHE, UK

"You just have to kind of accept that he's from another dimension."

Moondog was once a lauded poet, now lost in a cloud of pot smoke, sun-glazed Floridian tan, and easy living. On task to finish his book, Moondog is prone to distraction by the company he keeps: a religiously-inspired pyromaniac, a dolphin-obsessed sea captain, a suave marijuana connoisseur, a scruffy beach singer, and a coke-addicted parrot, just to name a few.

Teaming back up with his Spring Breakers cinematographer, Benoît Debie, Harmony Korine serves up his latest slice of neon-hued only-in-Florida debauchery, though in Matthew McConaughey's universally acclaimed Moondog he may have found his most delightful character yet. The two craft a kind of refreshingly slow, improvised poetry, as Moondog comes up against continually surprising turns from the likes of Jimmy Buffett, Martin Lawrence, Jonah Hill, Zac Efron, Isla Fisher and Snoop Dogg.

THE PEANUT BUTTER FALCON

SAT 11 JAN · 6.15PM · JMT
SUN 12 JAN · 6.45PM · BELLO
SAT 18 JAN · 4.15PM · BELLO
TUE 21 JAN · 4.30PM · JMT

TYLER NILSON, MICHAEL SCHWARTZ · 93 MINS · M · USA

"Shia LaBeouf shines in this funny, heartwarming adventure ... [but] Gottsagen, an actor with Down syndrome, is a real find, and is the heart and soul of the entire film." – The Playlist

Tyler (Shia LaBeouf in a career-best performance) skirts conflict wherever he goes, scratching out a simple life fishing for crabs in sun-drenched North Carolina. Zak (newcomer Zack Gottsagen), a 22-year old man with Down's Syndrome, has been relegated to living with residents three and four times his age in a retirement home, with no family and nowhere else to go. He watches old wrestling films with his elderly roommate (Bruce Dern) all day, but yearns for something more.

With Zak and Tyler both desperately seeking change in their lives, they separately escape their surroundings, becoming unlikely travel companions. What follows is a Huckleberry Finn road movie adventure through the deep south, as the two attempt to evade capture and fulfil Zak's dream of becoming a pro wrestling superstar.

From the producers of Little Miss Sunshine, The Peanut Butter Falcon is a jubilant, contemporary folk odyssey that warmly welcome audiences into its modern Mark Twain-style adventure.



THE TRUTH

THU 16 JAN · 4.30PM · JMT
SUN 19 JAN · 6.15PM · JMT
HIROKAZU KORE-EDA · 108 MINS · PG · FRA, JPN

Acclaimed director Hirokazu Kore-eda's (*Shoplifters*, SWIFF'19) first feature film made outside of Japan is an exquisite dramedy, pairing beloved French screen icons and Oscar nominees Catherine Deneuve and Juliette Binoche for their first time together on screen.

Septuagenarian screen legend Fabienne (Deneuve) is charismatic and fiercely talented, utterly driven by her work. The publication of Fabienne's memoir precipitates a visit from her long-estranged daughter Lumir (Binoche), a screenwriter, along with Lumir's actor husband, Hank (Ethan Hawke), and their daughter. When Fabienne's assistant suddenly resigns, Lumir agrees to take over his position just as Fabienne begins work on a new science-fiction film. As the women struggle through confrontations on and off set, the contents of Fabienne's memoir, along with peculiar parallels between the new film and Fabienne's life, trigger the re-emergence of long-buried conflict.

This exploration of art, love and family sees Deneuve in her most delectable role yet, with Binoche (also appearing at SWIFF'20 in *Non-Fiction*) and Hawke playing against the formidable matriarch in glorious turns.

In French with English subtitles



VAI

SAT 18 JAN · 12PM · BELLO
FRI 24 JAN · 12PM · JMT

DIANNA FUEMANA, MARINA ALOFAGIA MCCARTNEY, MIRIA GEORGE, AMBERLEY JO AUMUA, MATASILA FRESHWATER, OFA-KI-LEVUKA, GUTTENBEIL-LIKILIKI, NICOLE WHIPPY, BECS ARAHANGA · 95 MINS · UNCLASSIFIED 15+ · NZL

Nine female filmmakers come together to produce eight short films, forming together to tell the life story of Pacific Islander woman, Vai. Although the nine filmmakers come from a diverse array of islands, the name of their protagonist has a common meaning - water. As we pass through the day, Vai is seven years old in Fiji by morning, and by night is great-grandmother to the next generation in Aotearoa. Shifting, ephemeral and poetic, her story is one of Indigenous resilience and identity, of female strength and intuition, and one of bonds to the land, sea and sky, in its fluidity, inspired by the water. A spiritual sequel to the impactful Waru (SWIFF '18) from the same producers, Vai beautifully expands the scope and commands attention.

In Cook Islands Maori, Fijian, Maori, Niuean, Roviana, Samoan and Tongan with English Subtitles



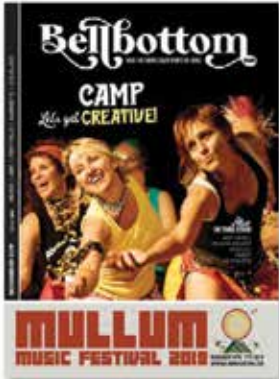
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END OF SENTENCE

WED 22 JAN · 2.15PM · JMT

ELFAR ADALSTEINS · 96 MINS · UNCLASSIFIED 15+ · ISL, IRL, USA

Australian Premiere

Locked up on a short stint in an Alabama prison, Sean (Logan Lerman, *Fury*) receives a final visit from his terminally ill mother. As a last request, she wills Sean to travel to Ireland with his estranged father Frank (John Hawkes, *The Peanut Butter Falcon*, SWIFF'20) to cast her remains across a lake in her ancestral home, north of Dublin. Conflicted between his loyalties to his Mother and enmity to his Father, Sean vows to permanently ex Frank from his life once he's delivered on his promise.

Elfar Adalsteins' feature debut delivers a nuanced, layered and observant heart to his film - including a joyous impromptu rendition of Ewan McColl's folk ballad, 'Dirty Old Town'. Keeping one step ahead of the expected End Of Sentence will take you places long after the film has finished.



ANIMALS

FRI 10 JAN · 8.45PM · BELLO
MON 13 JAN · 8.30PM · JMT

SOPHIE HYDE · 109 MINS · MA 15+ · AUS, IRL, UK

The bright, Adelaidean voice of Sophie Hyde (director, 52 Tuesdays) and bestselling Mancunian novelist Emma Jane Unsworth, transport audiences to Dublin for a shinningly authentic tale of female friendship at a crossroads, described as a female *Withnail & I*.

Holliday Grainger and Alia Shawkat (*Blaze*, SWIFF'19) star as best friends, soul mates even, as Laura and Tyler. They're either side of thirty, having spent the last decade indulging their every hedonistic whim. But their bond begins to crack when Laura falls for driven classical pianist Jim. Seeing in Jim the chance to finally grow up (and keep up with a contentedly settled down younger sister), her attempts to balance her two most important relationships proves too much.

Honest, hilarious, and dead set filthy, *Animals* strikes a tone that defies all Hollywood female-friendship cliché's.

"A wonderful, utterly lived-in film about two women at a crossroads ... There's rich detail and truth underpinning [this] gloriously untamed study of friendship, one that refuses to play by the rules." – The Guardian.



EXTRA ORDINARY

SUN 12 JAN · 8.30PM · BELLO

EDNA LOUGHMAN, MIKE AHERN · 94 MINS · MA15+ · IRL, BEL

In *Extra Ordinary*, the debut from Irish rising-star duo Enda Loughman and Mike Ahern, when you need an exorcism for your haunted recycling bin, you call the local ghost whisperer/driving instructor, Rose.

But alas, Rose has turned her back on her supernatural sensibilities after an accident involving a possessed pothole. But when charming local widow Martin Martin turns to her for help, she's thrust back into action, squaring off against a has-been pop star looking to make a deal with the devil for a return to the spotlight.

Featuring downright hilarious turns from comedians Will Forte, Barry Murphy and Aussie Claudia O'Doherty, *Extra Ordinary* boasts one of the most delightfully relatable psychics in memory, Irish comedian Maeve Higgins (Maeve in *America*, *Spicks and Specks*) as Rose. In a role written for (and partially by) her, Higgins is endearingly, delightfully witty, the perfect vessel for this down-to-earth haunting, her every line catching a laugh.

"A kind of tea-cosy 'Ghostbusters' that's consistently funny in a pleasingly off-kilter way." – Variety



CUMAR: A GALWAY RHAPSODY

FRI 10 JAN · 1PM · BELLO

AODH Ó COILEÁIN · 72 MINS · Unclassified 15+ · IRE

Australian Premiere

The diverse glories of the city of Galway in the West of Ireland, celebrated in song, performance and image, make this lyrical bilingual documentary a must for any lover of all things Irish. *Cumar* (the Irish word for confluence) is an artistic exploration of Galway, set in a lush green countryside at the edge of the sea. The city has long attracted Ireland's most adventurous storytellers in every medium and genre, with the confluence of cultural riches evoking both mystical and mythical elements shaping its cultural fabric and making Galway a legend in its own right.

Over the course of four seasons, director Aodh Ó Coileáin charts the city and county's changing palettes, moods and weather fronts. Featuring a host of artists, including musician Máirtín O'Connor, novelist Mike McCormack, poet Rita Ann Higgins, singer Róisín Seoighe, visual artist Pádraic Reaney and comedian Tommy Tiernan.

In Irish and English with English subtitles.



ROSIE

TUE 21 JAN · 12.30PM · JMT

PADDY BREATHNACH · 86 MINS · UNCLASSIFIED 15+ · IRL

Winner · Best Irish Film · Dublin Film Critics Circle
Winner · Best Feature · Irish Film Festival, London

Major cities worldwide strain with skyrocketing housing prices. Irish director Paddy Breathnach's (*I Went Down*) latest feature, scripted by Booker Prize winner Roddy Doyle, hones in on this pulse, spending 36-hours in Dublin with Rosie Davis (an electric Sarah Greene); whose landlord is selling her family of 6's only home.

Searching for emergency accommodation in a brutally expensive market, Rosie's family is spending more and more time cramped in their car, and when their eldest child goes missing the stakes are raised unbearably high.

Mining a similar vein of fury as Ken Loach's *I, Daniel Blake*, *Rosie* is an unpredictable and blisteringly relatable film in sync with the times. With the camera kept close on the exceptional lead role performance by Sarah Greene, the fury burns as the clock ticks. This is potent, timely and deeply heartfelt filmmaking with the deepest familial love at it's burning core.



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WILD SIDES

There are films that test the theory of truth being stranger than fiction. These weird and wonderful films carve the unbeaten path and enthral us as audiences. They like their comedy pitch black and their audiences gasping in disbelief, enraptured and titillated. Skirt the boundaries and surprise yourself on the wild side of cinema.



COLOR OUT OF SPACE

SAT 11 JAN · 10.30PM · JMT

RICHARD STANLEY · 111 MINS · UNCLASSIFIED 18+ · USA
NSW Premiere

"It was just a colour out of space—a frightful messenger from unformed realms of infinity beyond all Nature as we know it; from realms whose mere existence stuns the brain and numbs us with the black extra-cosmic gulfs it throws open before our frenzied eyes." – H.P. Lovecraft

Adapted from the legendary H.P. Lovecraft's beloved short story of the same name, *Color Out of Space* is the tale of the Gardner family, recently moved to idyllic New England to escape the hustle and bustle. Their picturesque rural lifestyle is threatened when an iridescent meteorite crashes into their property, seemingly melting into the landscape and infecting everything it touches.

In what may be his Cagey-est performance yet, the irreplaceable Nicholas Cage plays the deliciously unhinged patriarch of the Gardner family. Under the direction of Richard Stanley (*The Island of Dr. Moreau*, *Hardware*) with his first feature film in two decades, *Color Out of Space* is packed with Lovecraftian creatures and cosmic infections galore – a fun, deliberately over-the-top wild ride.



DEERSKIN

FRI 10 JAN · 11PM · JMT

QUENTIN DUPIEUX · 77 MINS · UNCLASSIFIED 18+ · FRA
NSW Premiere

Oscar-winner Jean Dujardin is dressed to kill in a wickedly warped fable destined for cult status.

French provocateur Quentin Dupieux, whose breakout hit *Rubber* followed a rampaging homicidal tyre named Robert, points a parodic lens at the 'auteur' in his killer style comedy, *Deerskin*.

Consumed by mid-life crisis, lonely divorcee Georges (Oscar-winner Jean Dujardin) splashes out on a vintage fringed deerskin jacket, and digital video camera thrown in. Georges, deeply obsessed with his jacket, convinces bartender and aspiring film editor, Denise (Adèle Haenel, *Portrait of a Lady on Fire* SWIFF20) to help him with a mockumentary about a ruthless man who will stop at nothing to eradicate all other jackets from existence.

Shot with a real sense of mischief, Dupieux has crafted a first-person hallucinatory vortex of madness and masculinity that's compellingly raw and simply a bloody good time.

In French with English subtitles



DOGS DON'T WEAR PANTS

SUN 19 JAN · 8.30PM · BELLO

J-P VALKEAPAA · 105 MINS · UNCLASSIFIED 18+ · FIN, LVA

NSW Premiere

Winner · Best Picture · Fantastic Fest

A heartbroken heart surgeon seeks therapeutic benefits from a demanding dominatrix in this audacious and darkly comic study of the knife edge between pleasure and pain.

Juha (Pekka Strang, *Tom of Finland*), is a heart surgeon wracked with guilt over the tragic drowning death of his wife. When he stumbles into the lair of the Mona - a dominatrix whose *modus operandi* brings a whole new meaning to the notion of suffocating relationships - Juha discovers he craves the punishment as much as Mona craves to punish.

Proving that all you need is love - and a plastic bag - this is a dark-edged romantic comedy that challenges the notion that not every shade of grey need be sexy. Just remember your safe word.

Finnish with English subtitles



IN FABRIC

FRI 10 JAN · 8.45PM · JMT

PETER STRICKLAND · 118 MINS · UNCLASSIFIED 18+ · UK

Winner · Best Director · Fantastic Fest

Cut from a different creative cloth, British visionary Peter Strickland delivers a screamingly funny, exquisitely tactile, deathly dark tale of a killer red dress.

Lonely heart bank-teller Sheila (Marianne Jean-Baptiste, *Broadchurch*) is divorced from her husband, distressed by her bosses (comedians Julian Barratt (*Mighty Boosh*) and Steve Oram) and disconnected from her son by his new girlfriend (Gwendoline Christie). So, when she steps into a fancy London store and is sold a glamorous artery-red frock from the witchy Mrs. Luckmoore (a devilish Fatma Mohamed), it's the ultimate caveat emptor for Sheila. Buyer beware.

Strickland's trip into the world of killer fashion is a giddy, captivating delight. Wilfully weird and outrageous, *In Fabric* is an intoxicating experience that must be caught in a cinema in order to cast its surreal spell.

COFFS HARBOUR SOUTHERN BREAKWALL AT SUNSET, PROJECTED VERTICALLY.
JAY BLACK.





IRREVERSIBLE: INVERSION INTEGRALE

TUE 21 JAN · 8.30PM · JMT

GASPAR NOE · 86 MINS · UNCLASSIFIED 18+ · FRA

Australian Premiere

Visionary director Gaspar Noe (Climax, SWIFF'19) returns with a completely new recut of his controversial 2002 masterpiece Irreversible - boldly recut to play in sequential order, bringing a fresh and fascinating perspective to the film.

Played out over one night in Paris, Alex (a haunting Monica Bellucci) is savagely attacked and left comatose in an underpass. Her boyfriend Marcus (Vincent Cassel) goes after her attacker, the violent night culminating in a bar in downtown Paris.

SWIFF audiences will be the first in Australia to see the new cut.

French with English subtitles

Contains flashing imagery



THE DEATH OF DICK LONG

SAT 11 JAN · 8.45PM · BELLO
THU 16 JAN · 9.00PM · JMT

DANIEL SCHEINERT · 100 MINS · UNCLASSIFIED 18+ · USA

NSW Premiere

"Wanna get weird?"

Mystery and mishaps abound in this Fargo-esque comedy from Daniel Scheinert—the self-described redneck half of directing duo, Daniels, who created the terrifically inventive Swiss Army Man.

Best buds and bandmates, Dick, Earl and Zeke share a love of drinking, fireworks and getting high. When their raucous night of misbehavin' goes way too far south, Dick ends up paying the ultimate price.

With possibly the best—and only?—use of a Nickelback soundtrack, The Death of Dick Long gets weird in small-town Alabama, where news travels fast and no one is an expert at keeping secrets.

Guaranteed to bring post-film chuckles for dark comedy lovers - so profane, it's profound.



VFW

SAT 18 JAN · 10.45PM · JMT

JOE BEGOS · 89 MINS · UNCLASSIFIED 18+ · USA

NSW Premiere

It's the not too distant future and the newest drug craze to hit the streets, Hype, has turned America into a John Carpenter-esque warzone. When the favourite watering hole of a tightknit group of Veteran of Foreign Wars buddies is threatened by a maniacal drug lord and his crazed army of mutated punks, well, that's when things get personal.

Pitched as Assault on Precinct 13 meets Night of the Living Dead with nostalgic genre giants, Stephen Lang (Don't Breathe) and William Sadler (The Shawshank Redemption, Die Hard 2: Die Harder), VFW is a balls to the wall ass-kick-a-thon. An action packed, drug fuelled splatter fest, these grizzled vets are in for the longest night of their lives.



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Smoky Cape Lighthouse & Hat Head National Park. Image by Cain Pascoe


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CALL OF THE SURF

Sink into your seat and be immersed in big screen aquatic eye candy in SWIFF's annual celebration of the sea. For those that seek adrenaline or just solitude amongst the waves, hear the call at SWIFF.



AQUARELA

SUN 12 JAN · 12PM · JMT

VICTOR KOSSAKOVSKY · 90 MINS · UNCLASSIFIED 15+ · DEU, USA, DNK, UK

A ravishing visual feast from film artist, Victor Kossakovsky, Aquarela takes a deep dive into watery realms around the world, offering up an experience that can truly be described as immersive.

Composed from footage shot with the latest high-tech stabilisation equipment and waterproof cameras, and filming at a rate of 96 frames per second, embrace yourselves for a cinematic journey around the world with Aquarela. A tribute to the transformative beauty and raw power of water, the film is a visceral wake-up call, reminding us that humans are no match for the sheer force and capricious will of Earth's most precious element. From the precarious frozen waters of Russia's Lake Baikal, to Miami in the throes of Hurricane Irma, to Venezuela's mighty Angel Falls, water is Aquarela's main character, with director Victor Kossakovsky capturing its many personalities with startling cinematic clarity.

"A feast of HD imagery so crisp as to be almost disorienting ... Aquarela matches sincere, open-eyed curiosity about the wider world to awe-inspiring technical virtuosity in realizing it." – Variety

In English, Russian and Spanish with English subtitles



PACIFICO

SAT 11 JAN · 2PM · JMT
SUN 12 JAN · 5PM · BELLO

ANDREAS GEIPEL, CHRISTIAN GIBSON · 72 MINS · UNCLASSIFIED 15+ · AUS

A story of personal discovery through the Latin American wilds.

Two friends quit their jobs in Australia, booked flights to America, bought an old car and set off on the journey of a lifetime. For the next two years, Christian and Chris chased swells, climbed mountains when the sea fell quiet, immersed themselves in local cultures, and spent as much time as possible amongst nature.

Echoing Morning of the Earth, Pacifico offers an insight into long-term travel and how engaging with new cultures and environments can widen our perspectives and deepen our understanding of the world around us. Captured over the duration of their journey, Pacifico forms a discussion around the pros and cons of living in the moment; showing how slowing down and observing the world mindfully can aid in gaining perspective and broaden an understanding of what is important in life.



SWIFF LIVE: A CORNER OF THE EARTH

SAT 18 JAN · FROM 6.30PM · JMT

SPENCER FROST · 42 MINS · Unclassified 15+ · AUS

Shot in conditions ranging between -5 degrees and -20 degrees Celsius, we follow a devoted pack of surfers chasing daylight, meeting big sets and blisteringly cold conditions.

SWIFF LIVE: NORDURLAND

SAT 18 JAN · FROM 6.30PM · JMT

ISHKA FOLKWEILL · 32 MINS · Unclassified 15+ · AUS, ISL

Following five friends as they round the fjords and mountain ranges, combating unpredictable weather trying to find the next wave. Featuring a World Premiere live soundtrack performance by Headland.

Both A Corner of the Earth and Nordurland feature as part of SWIFF Live: Surfing the Arctic (see p. 12)

NEXTWAVE

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NEXTWAVE

Nextwave celebrates the stories, ideas, and expression of young regional Australians engaging in filmmaking.

The red carpet rolls out at SWIFF for the Nextwave Youth Film Awards, with film finalists selected by Nextwave's 2019 Jury Panel, produced from workshops across NSW.

This year's event will be held at C.ex Coffs on Friday January 17th at 6pm for 6.30pm

All Ages - Some films contain mature themes.

Regular ticket pricing applies. Available at SWIFF.COM.AU, the SWIFF '20 app and the Jetty Theatre.

NEXTWAVE PROGRAM



WORKSHOPS

Now the largest youth film development program in regional Australia, this year SWIFF, Mayfly Media (Wagga Wagga) and Got Ya Back Productions (Port Macquarie) taught over 1400 young regional students at 72 workshops about filmmaking and positive mental health.



COMPETITION

Young filmmakers from around regional Australia entered the Nextwave 2019 competition, producing films with this year's theme ("Discovery") and signature item ("Game"), and vying for awards and prizes valued at over \$40,000.



NEXTWAVE YOUTH FILM AWARDS

SWIFF's red carpet gala celebration of the works produced by Nextwave's finalists is a popular highlight of the festival. This year's event will be held at C.ex Coffs on Friday January 17th at 6pm for 6.30pm. All finalist films will have their big screen World Premiere, with live performance and award ceremony to follow.

JURY PANEL



SODA_JERK

Soda_Jerk is a two-person art collective based in New York who creatively borrow and sample from existing films to create original movies full of new meaning. Since the early 2000s, the pair have spliced and remixed familiar scenes and stories, re-contextualising segments to produce original films, narratives and alternative endings. Their sample-based projects have also taken the form of cut-up texts, manifestos, screensavers and music videos. Their latest film *Terror Nullius* (Opening Night SWIFF'19) samples, remixes and recontextualises some of the most iconic characters, moments and imagery in Australian cinema, and has screened around the world to great acclaim.



MARK GRENTELL

Born and raised in Regional NSW in the City of Wagga Wagga, Mark Grentell has over 20 years of experience in producing, writing and directing theatre and musical theatre pieces. A graduate of directing studies at NIDA, Mark has gone on to direct, write and produce two feature films, *Backyard Ashes*, one of the most successful Australian films of 2013, and *The Merger*, the hilarious adaptation of the award-winning Wagga Wagga theatre production. Mark has also worked as both a Youth Worker and Mentor FACS and Life Without Barriers.



SASCHA ETTINGER-EPSTEIN

Award-winning documentary filmmaker, Sascha Ettinger-Epstein has been one of Australia's most incisive documentary directors over the last decade, winning the Australia Foundation Award for Australian Documentary in 2018 and the AFI Documentary Award for Documentary Direction twice. Films like *The Oasis*, about an inner-city youth refuge, and *Playing in the Shadows*, about an after-dark basketball tournament on a youth estate, have tackled tough topics with human grace. In 2019 she followed up *The Oasis*, with *Life After the Oasis* (screening at SWIFF'20), reflecting on the changing Australian landscape and attitudes around homelessness ten years later.



THE UNBELIEVEABLE CHRONICLES - JENGA FILES

EMILY AND SOPHIE KIRKPATRICK · 1:53 · 10-13 YEARS · ST PETERS PRIMARY SCHOOL

This simple game of Jenga is about to get real.



LIFE OF [INSERT NAME HERE]

JONAH WERNER · 0:58 · 10-13 YEARS · MACKSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

A day in the life of [insert name here] and their daily fails- like how much they really hate lego.



THE NIGHT THEY'LL NEVER FORGET

ULONG PUBLIC SCHOOL · 6:00 · 10-13 YEARS · ULONG PUBLIC SCHOOL

Something terrible happens to these five friends on the night of Halloween. What does the strange man in the black car have in store for them?



2020 VISION

MAKYAH CUSBERT, SASHA FORDHAM, AMBER KELLEHER, ALLANA TROTTER · 3:56 · 14-17 YEARS · TAREE HIGH SCHOOL

A group of students in 1989 are inspired to look towards the future, imagining the state of enviromental issues in 2020, prompting reflection on the next 30 years of action we need to take.



MUTED

MIKAILA WATSON, LACEY HOLMES, SKYE SIMSON · 4:50 · 14-17 YEARS · WOOLGOOLGA HIGH SCHOOL

Clouded by self-doubt and anxiety, a student learns skills to help mute the negative comments of her subconscious, all with the help of her friends.



LONELY

TOBY HILL · 2:12 · 14-17 YEARS · MACKSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

A student who spends his school days alone is suddenly struck by a discovery that may just be the key to a new sense of confidence.



A MURDER DISCOVERY

KEIRA BOSHER · 4:41 · 14-17 YEARS · CHATHAM HIGH SCHOOL

Inspired by the board game Cluedo, see those iconic characters transported to a high school murder msytery. But whodunnit?



ACCEPTANCE

SHARNA DAY · 3:35 · 14-17 YEARS · OXLEY HIGH SCHOOL

Based on a true story, two friends catch up for an important conversation. Followed by an interview with lead actor Kobee on courage and acceptance.



MOVING ON

FINN CAREY · 5:50 · 14-17 YEARS · ST COLUMBA ANGLICAN SCHOOL

Stuck between the past and the future, a young boy reflects and moves forward.



DISCONNECTED

ETHAN BAYWOOD · 2:32 · 14-17 YEARS · KEMPSEY ADVENTIST SCHOOL

Learning to balance her online social life with her real life relationships, a young girl disconnects.



THE MAKING OF ART

BENJAMIN BOWLES · 6:00 · 14-17 YEARS · BALLINA COAST HIGH SCHOOL

A film about making a film the day before it's due.



STRONGER, BRAVER, WISER

MACLEAY VOCATIONAL COLLEGE · 5:46 · 14-17 YEARS · MACLEAY VOCATIONAL COLLEGE

Filed and created on Dunghutti Country, Stronger Braver Wiser refers to the growth and identity of a community of students, sharing their strength and culture, so that their voices and stories are heard.



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Find out more

scu.edu.au/coffs-harbour





GUILT

ANNA YOUNG · 4:46 · 14-17 YEARS · BELLINGEN HIGH SCHOOL

Sometimes we don't realise the effect our actions have on those around us. After teasing two younger kids in a video store, our protagonist is followed by her guilty feelings and sets out to make amends.



Z-Z-Z-ZOMBIE!!!

CLEO URQUHART · 3:20 · 14-17 YEARS · MACKSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

To teach two school bullies an important lesson, Barbara becomes a gruesome zombie, and she might just infect the entire school!



TENTORIA

ZAK DOBRIC · 3:59 · 18-25 YEARS

Down on his luck, Jeff finds a mysterious package that might change everything...



THE ADVENTURES OF ASPIE BOY!

BLAISE BORRER · 5:01 · 18-25 YEARS

Equipped with various powers, such as super hearing, focus and memory, Aspie Boy is an 8 year old boy with the special superpower of Asperger's Syndrome. His kryptonite? Social interactions. Follow the adventures of a day in the life of Aspie Boy.



EVERYONE HAS A STORY

ANELLESY SIBANDA · 5:47 · 14-17 YEARS · DORRIGO HIGH SCHOOL

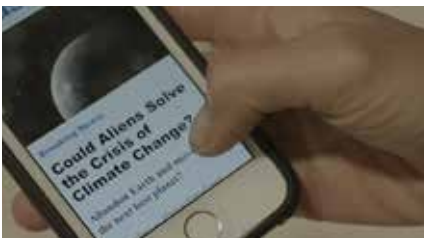
Living in rural areas, it can be hard for LGBTQI+ youth to open up. Through film, there is a way for everybody to tell their story.



CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE AWKWARD KIND

LUKE MEAKINS, NOAH MACKIE · 5:10 · 18-25 YEARS · COFFS HARBOUR SENIOR COLLEGE & TAFE

When an afternoon of games for four intrepid players is interrupted by some unexpected and unusual guests, miscommunication leads to confusion and an awkward departure.



SAD MY SELF

TALLULAH REMOND-STEPHEN · 6:00 · 18-25 YEARS · COFFS HARBOUR SENIOR COLLEGE

Tess is searching for a bigger meaning in life, while her close friend Avi embraces reality. When the discovery of alien life is announced, Tess' hopes may be fulfilled.



LITTLE GHOST

ELLA GREENWOOD · 2:23 · 14-17 YEARS · BELLINGEN HIGH SCHOOL

A little ghost living in an abandoned house sets out on an adventure, following an ad for a 'reach out hotline' in hope of finding a cure for their loneliness.



INEVITABLE

RYLEE PARRY · 5:15 · 18-25 YEARS

When Andrew finds himself in the afterlife, he is confronted with a life he doesn't remember having. But the question still remains... is death really inevitable?



WESLEY WEBER

JORDAN FRITH-NUTT · 6:00 · 18-25 YEARS

Wesley is a man with a whim for rhyme and loves to swindle to make a dime. Trapped in a shed, he must tell his adversary where a valuable object is kept... or face the consequences.

NEXTWAVE 2020 COMPETITION

The Nextwave 2020 short film competition opens next year for submissions from May 1 to September 20. The theme and signature item will be announced at NEXTWAVEFILMFEST.COM.AU.

To all filmmakers that entered the Nextwave 2019 competition, thank you for your hard work and fantastic films. It's a thrill watching new filmmakers emerging and familiar filmmakers improving their craft. Filmmaking is a lifelong learning process, not a destination.

Reward yourself by starting pre-production on your next film. Congratulations to everyone involved!



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ARTIST CORNER



JAY BLACK

Bellinghen-based photographer Jay Black (And The Trees Photography) conceived and photographed the cover artwork for the SWIFF '20 Festival Program and brand.

It began with the desire to do something different, something colourful, something fun, something that would grab attention and spark a thought. Together Dave, Kate, Saige and myself threw ideas around, we hatched a plan to create an original artwork design for the front cover of SWIFF 20's Festival Program. We wanted to do something with projected image artwork and photography - and after a few experiments came up with this idea of having a local model "wear" our local community with projected images. I began trawling our region for interesting yet identifiable locations. We played with colour, we played with angles and then we enlisted our model.

A dear friend kindly offered up her body as a canvas. With music piping through the theatre we projected a selection of images upon her body. We marvelled at the beauty of the images against the body - the shadows and contours - but then asked for more, "Can you jump?", "Can you twirl?" "Backbend?"

Our generous model twisted and turned as we oohed and aahed, it was all so very beautiful and fun. If you look closely, the final front cover image is actually Coffs Harbour's famous Jetty projected on to her body.

The editing was akin to eating a box of chocolates, so much deliciousness. How to choose? Luckily, as you can see, we didn't have to limit ourselves. So many playful and vibrant images to delight the viewer - and something that has a strong local connection for everyone. Personally I love the images that make the viewer raise an eyebrow or turn their head. What is your favourite?



SCOTT COLLINS

Bellinghen-based musician Scott Collins (NoiseLab) composed, recorded, and produced the soundtrack to SWIFF '20 Festival Trailer.

For the last three years, SWIFF has asked me to produce an original song to accompany the Festival Trailer - the video mash-up of clips from films in the upcoming program. It's great to have a local sound for our local film festival.

The music brief this year was: "It needs to be different, like never done before...and give you goosebumps." The creative insecurities and fear that arose within me after that were intense.

Fast forward a few weeks..... I began coming up with some ideas in the studio, throwing proverbial spaghetti at the wall. The second idea I worked on had something...but how to make it achieve the heights of the goosebump bar?

I began wondering about a voice, perhaps two voices and how they might intertwine. I contacted Lizzie Rutten who runs Grow The Music and asked if she knew any Aboriginal vocalists that I could record. Lizzie suggested Christo Gulpilil, the brother of Australian actor David Gulpilil. Lizzie recorded some of Christo's singing in Arnhem land and sent it through. It was perfect! But the track needed something more...

I had heard of an opera singer who lives in Bonville. I got in touch with Michelle Der Kinderen and, wonderfully, she was up for it. Michelle was in the studio for 15 minutes total, did a few takes to warm up and then belted out what you hear on the final track. I was gobsmacked. I had goosebumps AND I was in tears. The interplay of Christo and Michelles voices kills me.

Kate and Dave loved the final piece and I hope you do too.



INFORMATION LOCATIONS



VISITOR SERVICE HUBS

| | |
|----------------------|--------------|
| COFFS CENTRAL | 02 5622 8900 |
| DOLPHIN MARINE MAGIC | 02 6659 1900 |

VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRES

| | |
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| DORRIGO | 02 6657 2486 |
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COFFS COAST HEART OF FILM

WHERE THE MOUNTAINS MEET THE SEA

The Coffs Coast is one of the most vibrant slices of Australia you could hope to find. Where the Great Dividing 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.coffiscoast.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!

ACCOMMODATION

The Coffs Coast has a huge range of accommodation options, including The Observatory Holiday Apartments and Caribbean Motel near the Jetty Precinct, with something for those seeking luxury, affordable comforts, caravan parks, or a camp out. More information at www.coffiscoast.com.au.

EATS & DRINKS

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

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, plus a number of all ages films in the program.

INDUSTRY CONNECT

Arts Mid North Coast presents SWIFF Industry Connect '20 – the Mid North Coast's annual film industry networking event. Industry Connect provides an opportunity for regional and travelling filmmakers to connect, to foster collaboration, and to build pathways to new productions for the region.

At SWIFF Industry Connect '20, attendees will hear from a number of presenters working both in and on the industry. Attendees will hear information on production trends, funding pathways, and development opportunities through Create NSW, with Australian filmmaker presentations announced closer to the event.

SWIFF Industry Connect will be held from 3.30PM – 5.30PM, MON 20 JAN at Element Bar. Casual networking, food, and refreshments follow the presentations.

All SWIFF Industry Connect attendees receive free admission to the new Australian feature film, Buoyancy, screening at 6.30pm, Jetty Memorial Theatre following the event. Arts Mid North Coast is the region's peak body for the development of arts and culture, including film and screen culture. For more information about filming your next production on the Mid North Coast, visit www.artsmidnorthcoast.com/film.

Tickets are \$25 | \$20 conc, available at SWIFF.COM.AU, the SWIFF '20 app and the Jetty Theatre



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FESTIVAL GUEST SPOTLIGHT



RODD RATHJEN (DIR. BUOYANCY - SEE P.17)

BUOYANCY

SUN 19 JAN · 6.30 PM · BELLO

MON 20 JAN · 6.30 PM · JMT

Q: How did you find yourself shooting your debut feature on a fishing boat in the Gulf of Thailand?

I simply felt compelled to bring the voices of these forgotten boys and men to the world. The scale of modern slavery, exploitation and murder in the Thai fishing industry is hard to grasp. I feel immense empathy for the young boys and men who have been exposed to this world, to those who have lost their lives and the courage and resilience of those who have survived and wanted to share their story. I wish a film had been made about it years ago. My approach was that if we can bring more exposure through a film that it might lead to provoking some political will and inspiring some form of change.

Q: How did you pick up the filmmaking bug – and which filmmakers' work do you currently most admire?

It's so long ago that it's hard for me to pinpoint where wanting to become a filmmaker came from. My favourite period of cinema is the 50's and 60's. Goddard, Truffaut, Fellini, Bergman, Kubrick, Antonioni. These are my favourite filmmakers. I love a lot of contemporary cinema as well and a lot of different filmmakers. Steve McQueen, Darren Aronofsky, Barry Jenkins, Michael Haneke, Ruben Ostlund. These are a few off the top of my head but I'll watch just about anything.

Q: What are the films that provided you inspiration in the pre-production phase of Buoyancy?

I think the film I kept coming back to the most was Hunger by Steve McQueen. It's a film that creates intense immediacy through raw brutality and balances this with still and silent, psychological compositions. In a similar way, Buoyancy was shot to reflect the inner battle Chakra is enduring, trying to hold onto his sanity and focus, trying to hold onto his humanity, amidst chaos and violence. And both are set predominately in confined, prison like worlds.

Q: Shooting a film out at sea seems a far cry from where you grew up in regional Victoria. What were some of the considerations and problems you faced filming on a boat in open water?

Yes it is a far cry from regional Victoria! We shot most of the film near Sihanoukville on an island called Koh Rong Sanloem in Cambodia. I think that what the cast and crew would tell you about the experience of filming is that it is physically tough shooting on water, quite a few people got sea sick including myself. Another challenge of shooting on the island was that there was barely any phone coverage or internet so people were going a little stir-crazy after three weeks. In total we shot the film over five weeks with a lot of moving around, the spirit of the cast and crew was incredible with everybody working tirelessly to realize the film.

Q: How many Australian crew did you take to Thailand and how many crew were sourced locally over there?

We took over ten Australians but the rest of the crew were made up of Cambodians, Thais and Vietnamese. We had somewhere between 60-100 people on set each day depending on what we were shooting. It was a quite a diverse makeup of cast and crew and also varying levels of film experience.

Q: Buoyancy has some stunning, jaw-dropping visuals. Did you go into the film with some aesthetic influences in mind? Was it tightly storyboarded?

Once we got the green light the first thing I wanted to do was storyboard the film. Storyboarding the entire film with Peter Sheehan in advance of everything allowed us to find the visual language of the film in an uncompromising way. And then taking the storyboards to Michael Latham, the DOP, started the next conversation of how to realize everything. The most important of these conversations was how we were going to maintain the point of view of this young boy throughout the narrative as we watch him grow and evolve. We wanted the trawler to feel like a floating prison but understood that we needed to cling to Chakra's POV for hope. This is the main element that informed the vision for the film.

Q: Sarm Heng, Buoyancy's lead actor, was only 14 when principle photography began. How did you help him achieve such a powerful performance?

Yes, it's hard to believe that Sarm was only fourteen when we made this. Initially I thought we would need to cast an older boy because life experience would be invaluable but Sarm already had plenty of that. He has been raised in an organization called Green Gecko in Siam Reap which gives former street children an opportunity for education, mentoring, health initiatives and social enterprises. The kids and adults that have been brought up in Green Gecko are simply amazing. He was so natural and uninhibited in front of the camera that we stopped looking as soon as we found him. We didn't rehearse much of the film in pre-production, it was more important for us to get to know each other and for him to trust me because a lot of the scenes are emotionally challenging to say the least. He's become like a little brother to me.

Q: How similar was the film in your head all those years ago different to what audiences will see on-screen at SWIFF?

Remarkably the film is quite close to the script and the vision I had. This is due to the amazing support of the producers Sam Jennings, Kristina Ceyton and Rita Walsh. They believed in me, understood the vision of the film and worked tirelessly with me to realize it.



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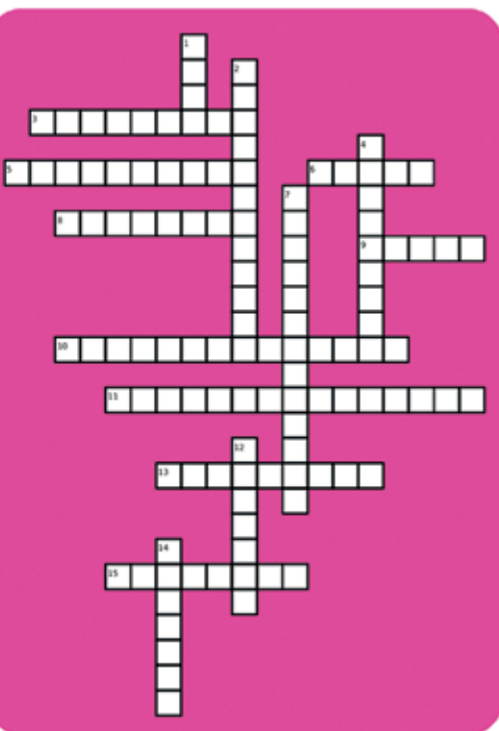
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PUZZLER



KEY
ACROSS
1. Damien
2. Mithra Cooper
3. Flying High
4. Oscar Nobe
5. Bats
6. In Furore
7. Dancer Temple
8. Alice
9. Jett
10. Gerard Blower 11. Moondog
11. Juliette Binoche
12. Honeyland
13. Bunyany

DOWN

1. Which Australian feature takes bold inspiration from the power of the slam poetry scene?
2. This photographer is still capturing street artists at work in her 70's, and is featured in a doco from Aussie Selina Miles.
4. This provocateur shocked us in 2019 with Climax, but may provide an even bigger disturbance with a new remix of his 2002 feature.
7. Hail Satan? is a wild peak into the followers of which controversial religious rebellion?
12. The word 'papparozzo' was invented by this Italian dreamer, whose 100th birthday we celebrate this SWIFF?
14. Matthew McConaughey was born to play what role, in slacker delight The Beach Bum?

ACROSS

3. We boast the wicked, extended directors cut of this tisane of terror, starring Florence Pugh.
5. Surely, you can't be serious?! What was the Australian title of this slapstick comedy icon, starring 'Otto Pilot'?
6. Which film uses stark black and white to capture the 90s rave scene of Scotland?
8. Two films feature killer fashion this SWIFF. Which of the two follows a hauntingly perfect red dress?
9. Which SXSW winner sees an Australian director craft the ultimate French drama?
10. Never Look Away takes its controversial inspiration from this iconic artist.
11. Which legendary French actress stars in TWO titles this SWIFF?
13. Save the bees! Declares which massive Sundance award winner
15. We interviewed the director of this Australian thriller which is looking to complete at the Oscars.

FLAG SEARCH

Find a film from each of these countries















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| Festival Program Writers | Kate Howat, Dave Horsley, Saige Browne, Giordan Pakes |

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 2020 to the community, all for the love of film.

COMMUNITY MESSAGE

Thank you to our audiences. By attending, promoting, talking about, buying tickets to, advocating for, sharing, and championing SWIFF, you are building film and screen culture on the Coffs Coast. It takes a whole community to make a film festival come to life – and this year over 100 locals meaningfully contributed to the production of SWIFF '20.

Special thanks to the team at the Jetty Memorial Theatre, to the Bellingen Memorial Hall committee, and to everyone for purchasing a ticket and making SWIFF 2020 something we can all be proud of.

RFS ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The SWIFF'20 team would also like to make a special acknowledgement to the hard work and efforts of our Rural Fire Service and their tireless hours spent saving people and property, fighting the November 2019 NSW Bushfires. Thank you.

GUMBAYNGGIRR ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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



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