

SCREENWAVE INTERNATIONAL '19
FILM FESTIVAL
10 - 25 JAN | GOFFS COAST HEART OF FILM

SWIFF



FESTIVAL PROGRAM

WELCOME TO SWIFF '19



KATE HOWAT

SWIFF Artistic Director

Welcome to the 2019 Screenwave International Film Festival, the Coffs Coast Heart of Film.

From January 10th to the 25th, our community celebrates its fourth SWIFF. It's a chance to come together, make new friends, reconnect with old ones, and talk about the stories that matter to us.

This year, we celebrate a Coffs Coast first as SWIFF hosts the World Premiere of *Becoming Colleen: Finding the Shoe That Fits*, the new documentary by Ian Thomson about a Coffs Harbour woman navigating her gender transition later in life. We love local stories, so please come and support this incredible film about diversity in aged care and transgender people in regional Australia.

The sell-out success of SWIFF Live in 2018 sees its return again this year, and this one is a doozy. Join bona fide Bluegrass behemoths, The Mid North, when they perform a live soundtrack to the Coen Brothers' classic, *O Brother, Where Art Thou?*, on stage at the Jetty Theatre.

Step to the beat with SWIFF's new Music and the Makers program, complete with screaming boyband fanatics, moving biopics, and pioneers of the music scene. And Make America Skate Again: SWIFF's side bar of multi-award winning films that celebrate the kinetic underground subculture – but these gems are no ordinary skate films.

A huge thank you to our wonderful volunteers and supporters of the festival, and to you, our audience. This is your film festival. Get involved, get your friends together, and get amongst it as we celebrate SWIFF 2019 in Coffs and Bello.



DAVID HORSLEY

SWIFF Festival Director

AMP Tomorrow Maker

The 1970s was generally regarded as the golden age of Australian cinema, with tax breaks that saw feature films prosper, ultimately establishing Australia's film industry. Now, there's a second wave of filmmakers emerging in Australia – self-funded, self-propelling, and unbound by creative constraints. It's important that we hear their stories.

As passionate advocates for Australian cinema, this year SWIFF has doubled the size of its Australian film program for 2019, giving you as an audience the opportunity to hear what our new generation of filmmakers have to say – so check out a new Aussie film at the festival (like *Under The Cover of Clouds*, *Terror Nullius*, *Sisters For Sale*, *Book Week*, *Strange Colours*, or *Becoming Colleen*).

For those wanting to travel overseas from their cinema seat, over 18 countries have films represented at SWIFF 2019. Grab your film pass, dive in, and explore.

On top of getting the chance to see over 60 features in this year's line-up, we are proud to add our new Nextwave program to SWIFF. Previously known as REC Ya Shorts Youth Film Festival, Nextwave is finding and developing the next generation of filmmakers from regional Australia.

Over 70 original short films were submitted into this year's short film competition, with 20 incredible short films being selected as Finalists by our jury of Australian filmmakers. These short films are the result of over 50 workshops in high schools around Northern NSW. Over \$40,000 worth of prizes will be awarded at our new gala event, the Nextwave Youth Film Awards. These are your next local filmmakers and the new voice of the Australian film industry – come and hear what they have to say on January 18th!

Take time out. Take time off. Treat yourself and enjoy the 2019 Screenwave International Film Festival.

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HOW TO SWIFF

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

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

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

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 be kind to volunteers (they are here out of love!)

Challenge yourself: See a film at SWIFF you otherwise may not see. SWIFF is all about discovery, so keep an open mind and get into the festival spirit.

Go paperless! Using the SWIFF 2019 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.

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

HAVE A YARN

#SWIFF2019

Facebook: Screenwave

Join the Screenwave International Film Festival Facebook Group for festival updates and announcements

Instagram: @ScreenwaveAustralia

SWIFF 2019 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.

SUPPORTING SWIFF

Show your support for the festival by adding a donation when you check out online. Every little bit (and big bit!) helps keep film and screen culture thriving on the Coffs Coast.

To become a SWIFF Festival Patron get in touch with us -
contact@screenwave.com.au

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

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ELEMENT BAR

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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 \$18.50

Concession/Local 245* \$15.00

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 \$80.00 | 12-Film Pass \$145.00 | 24-Film Pass \$240.00

*Passes exclude special events, SWIFF Live and opening and closing nights. A credit card fee applies on all card transactions. No additional booking fee.

SPECIAL EVENTS

OPENING NIGHT GALA

\$40.00 Full | Concession \$35.00

- includes drinks & canapes on arrival

CLOSING GALA NIGHT

\$40.00 Full | Concession \$35.00

- includes drinks & canapes on arrival

SWIFF LIVE - O Brother, Where Art Thou?

Featuring live soundtrack by The Mid North.

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

TICKETS
AVAILABLE ONLINE
AT
SWIFFCOM.AU

ACCESSIBILITY

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

WHEELCHAIR ACCESS AND ASSISTED HEARING

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.



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OPENING NIGHT



TERROR NULLIUS

THU 10 JAN · 6.30PM FOR 7.00PM · JMT

D. SODA_JERK · 54MINS · 15+ · AUS

Buckle up for a truly radical, reimagining of Australia's national mythology with Soda_Jerk's Terror Nullius.

Setting the pace for SWIFF 2019, Terror Nullius is an electrifying, hilarious and deeply subversive mash up of Australian cinema and politics that presents as a collage film assembled from hundreds of excerpts from Australian movies and TV shows.

Created by highly political New York based art collective, Soda_Jerk, the film made headlines this year when the Ian Potter Cultural Trust withdrew its support for this "very controversial piece of art".

Self-described by the duo as "a political revenge fable which offers an un-writing of Australian national mythology", Terror Nullius is pure fun; a part political satire and road movie where animals and minorities conspire, and not-so-nice white guys finish last. Where Russell Crowe's Romper Stomper 'Hando' collides with a vengeful seagull, and Mel Gibson's 'Mad Max' is set upon by feminist bike gangs, including a young Nicole Kidman with BMX in tow.

What's that Skippy? Soda_Jerk are among the most original and outspoken artists working today? We reckon you're right Skip!

Join Soda_Jerk on the night for an introduction, then Q&A after the film.

CLOSING NIGHT



AT ETERNITY'S GATE

FRI 25 JAN · 6.30PM FOR 7.00PM · JMT

D. JULIAN SCHNABEL · 110MINS · 15+ · UK, FRA, USA

NSW Premiere

Bid farewell to the 4th Screenwave International Film Festival in style, by celebrating one of the world's greatest painters, like you've never seen before.

Painter-turned-director, Julian Schnabel (The Diving Bell and the Butterfly) offers a luminous present-tense

drama about the last days of Vincent van Gogh, and in the process revivifies our sense of the artist as a living, feeling human being. Schnabel has stated that he didn't want to make a film about Van Gogh, but a film where the viewer is Van Gogh. Schnabel and cinematographer Benoit Delholme strip everything down to essentials – the cinematography a work of art in itself – fusing the sensual, the emotional, and the spiritual. At the pulsing heart of At Eternity's Gate is Willem Dafoe's shattering performance: his Vincent is at once lucid, mad, brilliant, helpless, defeated, and, finally, triumphant.

A film that boasts a formidable cast, including Oscar Isaac as Gauguin, Rupert Friend as Theo, Mathieu Amalric as Dr. Gachet, Emmanuelle Seigner as Madame Ginoux, and Mads Mikkelsen as The Priest. Winner at the Venice Film Festival, At Eternity's Gate is one of the most eagerly anticipated films of the year.

"This is a film about painting and a painter and their relationship to infinity" - Julian Schnabel

FROM THE FRONT ROW TO THE FRONT BAR...



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SWIFF LIVE



O BROTHER, WHERE ART THOU?

THU 17 JAN · 7.30PM · JMT
SUN 20 JAN · 7.30PM · JMT

D. JOEL COEN · 103MINS · M · USA

O Brother, Where Art Thou? With live soundtrack by The Mid North

Damn! We're in a tight spot!

The Coen Brothers' sepia-toned, Great Depression-era instant classic *O Brother, Where Art Thou?* is a unique,

musical animal. Universally acknowledged as the catalyst for the revival of modern Bluegrass and Old-timey music, and one of the only major feature films to ever be outsold by its own soundtrack, *O Brother Where Art Thou?* gets a musical re-imagining as by our accompn.... accompn....the fellas who play the gee-tar - local Bluegrass juggernauts, The Mid North.

Mandolins, banjos, double basses, and a fiddle will immerse audiences deeper into the southern soundtrack, with sing-a-longs and bona fide old-timey outfits welcome.

Following the sellout success of SWIFF Live in 2018, audiences are recommended to book well in advance to avoid disappointment.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION



THE GREAT DICTATOR

SUN 20 JAN · 11.00AM · JMT

D. CHARLES CHAPLIN · 125MINS · UK · G

2019 marks the 130th birthday of Charlie Chaplin. SWIFF pays tribute to the icon that shaped modern cinema with a screening of his (eerily relevant) political satire, *The Great Dictator*.

The Great Dictator was the first time many of Charlie Chaplin's fans heard the silent movie star's voice, in his very first speaking role, earning him a 1941 Oscar

nomination for Best Lead Actor. The family-friendly classic that won the hearts of film lovers the world over, with striking, moving performances by the much beloved master of silent and physical comedy.

Produced during wartime, and highly critical of Adolf Hitler, *The Great Dictator* sees Chaplin playing the imperialist demagogue Adenoid Hynkel, expanding empire while a poor Jewish barber (also played by Chaplin) tries to avoid persecution from Hynkel's regime.

Chaplin's speech at the end of *The Great Dictator* is something to behold. It provides an excellent roadmap of how citizenry can conquer the issues that divide it and how a selfless leader should view the world.

Regular ticket pricing applies.



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FESTIVAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Keep your ear to the ground for new sessions and events as they are added to the festival line-up.

Become part of our film-loving community by joining the “Screenwave International Film Festival” Facebook group and be sure to subscribe to the SWIFF e-news updates at SWIFF.COM.AU so you don't miss out.

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MUSIC AND THE MAKERS

March to the beat of your own drum and catch the very best docs, narratives and biopics that explore what it is about music that ignites that spark and keeps us wanting more. From the squeals of boyband fanatics, to revered artists and pioneers of the music scene.



HEARTS BEAT LOUD

SAT 12 JAN · 2.30PM · JMT
THU 24 JAN · 6.00PM · JMT

D. BRETT HALEY · 97MINS · PG · USA

The ultimate low-key, feelgood comedy, starring Nick Offerman, Toni Collette, Blythe Danner and Ted Danson. When his landlady (Toni Collette) reluctantly raises the rent, Frank's (Offerman) life choices are pulled into sharp focus, helped along by his friend and local barkeep Dave (Ted Danson) along with his quiet determination to dust off his old music career. When he convinces his daughter Sam (Kiersey Clemmons) to take some time off from her pre-med school studies to jam with him, rhythm is set in motion and he starts to take their band 'We're not a band' seriously. Sam also faces some tough decisions about whether to leave her dad, her girlfriend (Sasha Lane) and potential fame behind for her West Coast college future. Hearts Beat Loud perfectly balances music nerdery with classic coming-of-age romance and cross-generational dreams.

"A truly sweet, funny and downright likable comedy, a film that defines likable." – RogerEbert.com



HER SOUND HER STORY

SUN 13 JAN · 5.30PM · BELLO

D. CLAUDIA SANGIORGI DALIMORE · 73MINS · M · AUS

Her Sound Her Story unveils the personal experiences, histories and significant social impacts of women today in the Australian music industry. Featuring conversations with over 45 beloved artists including Kate Ceberano, Julia Stone, Renee Geyer, Mojo Juju, Emma Donovan and Jen Cloher, the film documents women of diverse ages, genres, sexual orientations, ethnicity and careers across many facets of industry. The project is driven by photographer Michelle Grace Hunter and filmmaker Claudia Sangiorgi Dalimore, whose background in music video lends the film a powerful visual language, combining animation, skits, concert footage and music videos with powerful conversation. The film's unique narrative brims with rage, strength, beauty and triumph. Ultimately, it seeks to inspire the next generation of young women to fight for their dreams and the future of female musicians in Australia.



I USED TO BE NORMAL: A BOYBAND FANGIRL STORY

SUN 13 JAN · 6.30PM · JMT

D. JESSICA LESKI · 96MINS · PG · AUS, USA

Go behind the screams in this delightful documentary about the pains and pleasures of being a Number 1 fan. One Direction, Backstreet Boys, Take That and of course the original boy band themselves, The Beatles. Melbourne documentarian Jessica Leski interviews three generations of pop music lovers, whose insight into their obsessions is thoughtfully accompanied by animation, archival footage and home movies. Take the youngest, Elif, whose hysterics go viral, but whose love of One Direction helps her explore her passion for music in a strict Turkish household, or Sydneysider Dara, whose adoration for Take That's Gary Barlow set off a chain reaction of life-changing events. If you've ever secretly or openly loved a Boyband, or just want to know what all the fuss is about, don't miss this touching, funny and joyous celebration of the positive power of fandom.

SPECIAL GUESTS Jessica Leski and Dara Donnelly



RYUICHI SAKAMOTO: CODA

SUN 20 JAN · 1.30PM · BELLO
FRI 25 JAN · 12.30PM · JMT

D. STEPHEN NOMURA SCHIBLE · 102MINS · 15 + · USA, JPN

Visionary composer Ryuichi Sakamoto has been awarded multiple Oscar, Grammy, and BAFTA wins, creating some of the most memorable original film scores for directors from Bertolucci and Oshima to Inarritu and Miike. Sakamoto, who first found fame in 1978 with band Yellow Magic Orchestra, is also a synth-pop pioneer, electronic experimenter, actor and performer whose sound has impacted genres from classical, electro and hip-hop. He's even composed Nokia ringtones. Followed here for 5 years by Schible's patient, curious camera, the film not only explores Sakamoto's musical voice, but his vocal activism - organising anti-nuclear performances, and his personal life, following a cancer diagnosis in 2014. Whether listening to raindrops in a bowl, recording melting ice in the Arctic, or hunting down a baby grand piano which survived a tsunami, Sakamoto is mesmerising, with a presence that lingers long after the curtain falls.

"A gift to long-time fans, a primer for new ones, a victory lap" – Vulture

English and Japanese w/ English subtitles



MATANGI/MAYA/M.I.A

SUN 20 JAN · 3.30PM · JMT

D. STEVEN LOVERIDGE · 97MINS · 15+ · UK, USA, LKA

Special Jury Award Documentary Sundance Film Festival

"You've got access to a microphone. Please use it to say something," Matangi's grandmother tells her. Crafted from a lifetime of personal footage, first time documentarian Steven Loveridge helps Maya do just that, crafting an eclectic, electrifying and energetic portrait that blends Tamil politics, art school punk, hip-hop beats and the voice of multicultural youth. One of the most unique talents in recent music history, M.I.A (real name Matangi for the Hindu god, Maya to her friends) has released album after album to critical acclaim, including the chart-busting Paper Planes. But Maya has often overshadowed her own musical prowess with her capacity to outrage the machine with her unrelenting political activism- specifically the plight of Sri Lanka's Tamil population. An opportunity to be heard in her own words, this is an intimate portrait of an outspoken, fierce and provocative artist.

English and Tamil with English subtitles



BLAZE

WED 23 JAN · 6.15PM · JMT

D. ETHAN HAWKE · 127MINS · 15+ · USA

Ethan Hawke effortlessly steps behind the camera in this daringly unconventional biopic of an unsung country music legend, starring newcomer Benjamin Dickey and winning him the Sundance Special Jury Award for Acting. Blaze Foley spent his early years living in a Georgia treehouse before becoming an underground legend on the Texas Outlaw country music scene in the 1980's. A hard-drinking, close friend of Townes Van Zandt who penned tunes covered by Willie Nelson, Lucinda Williams and Lyle Lovett, before his tragic death at age 39. Hawke uniquely and lovingly captures Foley's musical gifts, self-destructive exuberance and his tender relationship with Sybil Rosen (an ever-captivating Alia Shawkat), who co-wrote the script from her memoir 'Living in the Woods in a Tree'.

"Even if Richard Linklater didn't appear in a few scenes (alongside Sam Rockwell and Steve Zahn), Blaze might make you think of him. Like Boyhood and the Before trilogy, this one takes the time to listen to the odd, random, surprising and incoherent things people say". – The New York Times

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BACKTRACK BOYS
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Australia makes bloody good films and 2018 proved to be a spectacular year with a renaissance in innovative and explorational filmmaking. See the documentaries and features as diverse as the country itself.



DOCUMENTARY



BECOMING COLLEEN

SAT 12 JAN · 6.45PM · JMT

D. IAN THOMSON · 60MINS · 15+ · AUS

World Premiere

SWIFF proudly presents the World Premiere of *Becoming Colleen: Finding the Shoe That Fits* - the heartfelt true story of a Coffs Harbour woman navigating her gender transition later in life. The first Coffs Harbour feature to ever screen at the SWIFF, *Becoming Colleen* offers an important and timely discussion about diversity in aged care and transgender people in regional Australia. Starting her life as Colin, a husband, father, policeman, film-projectionist and self-declared shoe fetishist, Colleen and her wife Heather's love transcended their gender roles. But what are the medical complications that can arise from transitioning later in life? Ian Thomson's (*Out In the Line-up*) *Becoming Colleen* examines the role of gender, about society's own transition to understanding, and a caring community that ultimately offers support for an individual to express themselves, to find comfortability in their own skin.

Join the filmmakers together with award-winning author of 'The Trauma Cleaners', Sandra Pankhurst, for a conversation after the film.



ISLAND OF THE HUNGRY GHOSTS

SAT 12 JAN · 12.30PM · BELLO

D. GABRIELLE BRADY · 94MINS · 15+ · GER, AUS, UK

Winner Best Documentary Feature Tribeca Film Festival

Forty million crabs head out of the jungle and into the ocean each year on Christmas Island, driven by the eons-old instinctive tradition, guided by the moon. The irony of this en masse migration is not missed by director Gabrielle Brady, with clear juxtaposition to the 800 asylum seekers held in indefinite detention on the island, waiting for their future to unfold. Poh Lin is a trauma counsellor living on Christmas Island, providing detainees support and therapy. Most of her treatment recommendations go unheeded by authorities on the island, often detainees do not show up at all, with no explanation given as to their well being. With stunning cinematography, and a Best Documentary win at Tribeca, *Island of the Hungry Ghosts* brings home a story for those seeking definition to their own, crafting a unique and moving meditation on politics, people and primeval nature.



BACKTRACK BOYS

SAT 12 JAN · 4.30PM · BELLO

SAT 19 JAN · 4.30PM · JMT

D. CATHERINE SCOTT · 100MINS · MA15+ · AUS

Winner of the Audience Award at both Sydney and Melbourne Film Festivals, *Backtrack Boys* follows three Aussie boys on a rocky path towards 'juvie' until they meet a rough talkin', rule-breakin' jackaroo and join his legendary dog jumping team. *Backtrack* is a youth program that Bernie Shakeshaft runs from a shed on the outskirts of Armidale in NSW. It's a place where kids can feel safe, continue their education, but most importantly it's where they learn to support each other and pursue their dreams. Meet Zack, Rusty and Alfie as they travel to rural shows with Bernie's dog jumping team and muster up the courage to prove to the world they can turn their lives around. Filmed over a year, this inspiring story reveals the challenges these young people face as they try to find their place in the world - all with the help of Bernie and his trusted dogs.

SPECIAL GUEST Catherine Scott



OYSTER

FRI 11 JAN · 4.30PM · BELLO

SUN 13 JAN · 12.30PM · JMT

D. KIM BEAMISH · 80MINS · ALL AGES · AUS

With sun shining, a punt glides over Merimbula Lake, on NSW's south coast, with a passionate young oyster farmer, Dom at the helm. It's a romantic picture of tranquil beauty and a life close to nature. But Dom and fellow locals swear the water's getting warmer and the storms more severe. *Oyster* follows Dom and his wife Pip at home, in the work shed and, on the water. An intimate glimpse at life raising two energetic boys whilst working all hours to keep millions of Sydney rock oysters alive for the three years that it takes them to fully mature. Highly vulnerable to pollution, disease and changes in the waters temperature and salinity, it can be an uphill battle at times, particularly with environmental changes looming, and a fickle luxury market to compete in. But this charming Aussie portrait muses on the beauty of getting to work hard, and the delights of having your family close by, through thick and thin.



UNDERMINED: TALES FROM THE KIMBERLEY

SUN 13 JAN · 1.30PM · BELLO

D. NICHOLAS WRATHALL · 90MINS · 15+ · AUS

Mega-mines and pastoral development threaten not only the Kimberley region's vast and unspoiled beauty, but the Indigenous communities' sacred links to Country. Follow Traditional Owners such as Bardi activist and musician Albert Wiggan and Yimardoowarra academic Dr Anne Poelina as they question what meaningful negotiation looks like, whilst industry pressure exposes the limits of land rights. Award-winning documentarian Nicholas Wrathall (*Gore Vidal: The United States of Amnesia*) investigates the true cost of business in the world-famous region, now branded by the government "the future economic powerhouse of Australia" and what this means for First Nations and their cultural landscapes. A portrait of those at the centre of the fight, *Undermined* follows the David-and-Goliath battle to preserve the Kimberley and the history, culture and community where it belongs.

English and Nyikini and Kriol with English subtitles



HAPPY SAD MAN

SUN 20 JAN · 3.30PM · BELLO
TUE 22 JAN · 1.30PM · JMT

D. GENEVIEVE BAILEY · 89MINS · 15+ · AUS

A disarmingly honest look at how Australian men experience and cope with mental health struggles, from documentarian Genevieve Bailey (*I Am Eleven*). From Bondi Beach to the outback, to a war photographer travelling the globe, or a farmer in rural Victoria, experiences with mental illness don't discriminate. With men more than 4 times as likely to die from suicide, *Happy Sad Man* is a moving portrait of mental health that holds no stigma. Whilst speaking to John, Grant, David and Jake, the film is more widely, a dialogue with all of us, and one we desperately need to have, with suicide rates in fact increasing each year. Vital, poignant, and frequently humorous, *Happy Sad Man* gives voice to today's complex emotional landscape, and the misunderstood world of mental health.

SPECIAL GUEST Genevieve Bailey



GHOSTHUNTER

MON 14 JAN · 5.30PM · JMT

D. BEN LAWRENCE · 96MINS · M · AUS

Winner - Documentary Australia Foundation Award

Western Sydney security guard and part time ghost hunter Jason has spent two decades searching for his absent father. As a survivor of violence, he seeks to reconcile his fractured memories and piece together his past. Jason may spend his spare time hunting the supernatural for others, but it soon becomes clear that what he's really seeking are the ghosts of his past. As his search converges with a police man-hunt, a horrific family secret is exposed- forcing Jason to reclaim his future. What began as simply a documentary about a part-time ghost hunter quickly develops into something much more - a portrait of memories and pain that is utterly human.

"As humans, we have to forget in order to survive, but we have this burning desire to remember what happened. It's this struggle that lies at the heart of the film," - director Ben Lawrence.



SISTERS FOR SALE

WED 16 JAN · 6.00PM · JMT

D. BEN RANDALL · 86MINS · 15+ · AUS, CHN, VNM

Australian Premiere

What happens when your friends are kidnapped, and forced into the world of brides for sale - where money speaks louder than basic human rights? Newcastle filmmaker Ben Randall documents his real-life investigation to find two of his Vietnamese friends, after they have been sold off to bidding husbands deep in mainland China. Capturing his personal story as it unfolds, *Sisters For Sale* traverses a morally complex situation, as Randall is surrounded by a culture seemingly apathetic to the plight of poor farmers' daughters. The Western idea of free will and personal agency clashes with the traditional role of the female, to which many young Vietnamese women find themselves bound. As Randall picks up the pieces and follows the trail, the situation becomes more and more complex, as he captures extraordinary footage on this deeply personal quest.

SPECIAL GUEST Ben Randall

FEATURES



ACUTE MISFORTUNE

FRI 11 JAN · 6.15PM · BELLO
TUE 22 JAN · 3.30PM · JMT

D. THOMAS M. WRIGHT · 90MINS · 15+ · AUS

Best Australian Feature The Age Critics Award

Daniel Henshall (*Snowtown*, *The Babadook*) stars as Adam Cullen in this lyrical and moving portrait of the infamous artist who won the Archibald for his now world-famous portrait of actor David Wenham. When wunderkind journalist Erik Jensen was personally invited by bad-boy painter Adam Cullen to write his biography, it was to be the start of a strange, turbulent relationship and close bond that would last until Cullen's untimely death at age 47. Filming in Cullen's Blue Mountains home, *Acute Misfortune* spins a striking portrait of two wildly different men. Co-scripted by Jensen and marking the directorial debut for theatre director and actor Thomas M. Wright, the film has remarkable access and scope. Henshall wears Cullen's own clothes and the artworks which appear onscreen are the real deal.

"A bracing and near-brilliant study of artistic power, male identity, and creative co-dependence" - Craig Mathieson



TERROR NULLIUS

THU 10 JAN · 7.00PM · JMT (OPENING NIGHT)
 FRI 11 JAN · 8.15PM · BELLO

D. SODA_JERK · 54MINS · 15+ · AUS

Soda_Jerk's video mash-up of Australian cinema aims to un-write what it means to be Australian. Welcome to Terror Nullius. Created by the highly political, New York based art collective, the film made headlines this year when the Ian Potter Cultural Trust withdrew its support for this "very controversial piece of art". Painstakingly patchworked together from hundreds of Australia's most iconic film and television sources, Terror Nullius revisits our nation's film history - but a history lesson, this ain't. Self-described by the duo as "a political revenge fable which offers an un-writing of Australian national mythology", Terror Nullius is pure fun: a part political satire and road movie where animals and minorities conspire, and not-so-nice guys finish last. Where Russell Crowe's Romper Stomper 'Hando' collides with a vengeful seagull, and Mel Gibson's 'Mad Max' is set upon by feminist bike gangs, including a young Nicole Kidman with BMX in tow.

SPECIAL GUESTS Soda_Jerk



STRANGE COLOURS

MON 14 JAN · 3.30PM · JMT
 FRI 18 JAN · 12.30PM · JMT

D. ALENA LODKINA · 85MINS · MA15+ · AUS

2018 AACTA Nominee - Best Indie Film

Born from director Alena Lodkina's documentary about the Lightning Ridge opal miners, this rich and striking narrative sets an estranged father's reunion with his daughter against the vast, alien landscape. Milena is making the 18-hour bus journey to be with her ailing father, who has long been searching for black opals, isolated deep in the NSW outback at Lightning Ridge. As Milena meets her old man's mates, a community of dreamers, drinkers, and drifters, many of whom stopped "for a few days" a lifetime ago, she is further drawn into the peculiar world, realising there is more to these men, this landscape and much more to herself. A microcosm that speaks widely to Australia's relationship with the earth, Lodkina's debut is a seamless transition into narrative filmmaking, both captivating and hypnotic. A compelling, graceful drama with many of the opal miners playing themselves, alongside the riveting performances from a stunning new cast.



WEST OF SUNSHINE

SAT 19 JAN · 3.15PM · BELLO
 MON 21 JAN · 3.30PM · JMT

D. JASON RAFTOPOULOS · 78MINS · M · AUS

2018 AACTA Nominee - Best Indie Film, Best Lead Actor, Best Cinematography

World premiering at Venice Film Festival, landing a nomination at Venice Horizons Award (Best Film), director Jason Rafteropoulos is a new vision for Australian cinema. Set in Melbourne, West of Sunshine tracks responsibility-deprived single dad Jim (the late Damian Hill) as he balances repaying hungry loan sharks with repairing the relationship he's losing with his teenage son. Strikingly photographed and peppered with visual metaphor, Rafteropoulos' story focuses on the redemptive qualities inherent in all situations with brilliant, natural performances by its talented cast.

"A timely and intelligent essay on the eternal theme of how fathers can both inspire and alienate their sons."
 - Variety



UNDER THE COVER OF CLOUD

SAT 19 JAN · 6.45PM · BELLO
 MON 21 JAN · 7.30PM · JMT

D. TED WILSON · 88MINS · 15+ · AUS

NSW Premiere

Ted Wilson's directorial debut turns storytelling conventions on its head. Ted Wilson, played by Ted Wilson, takes on the semi-autobiographical tale of a Melbourne-based writer out of work, returning home to Hobart to visit his family and revive his writing career with a new book about Tasmanian upper-order batsmen. Ted needs to score an interview with the most famous of Tasmanian upper-order batsmen for his book to be taken seriously. His golden goose is David Boon.

What makes Under the Cover of Cloud unique is that it's ultimately a fiction film, shot largely documentary style, casting Wilson's own family to play fictional versions of themselves, including himself. The result is something wholesome, real, raw, pioneering, and incredibly familiar to almost every Australian. Edited down from its original 14-and-a-half hour cut, Under the Cover of Cloud moves at pace, with precious moments of light and shade to propel its narrative masterfully.

SPECIAL GUEST Ted Wilson



BOOK WEEK

SUN 20 JAN · 7.30PM · BELLO

D. HEATH DAVIS · 98MINS · 15+ · AUS

Rising Australian writer/producer/director Heath Davis (Broke, SWIFF 2016) takes it back to school in his new comedy feature, Book Week. Jaded high school English teacher Nick Cutler (Alan Dukes) is forced to re-evaluate his life when his novel is passed over for one of his students'. With the success of his previous published novel eight years ago now dwindled away, Cutler's boozey, somewhat degenerate lifestyle has him teaching disinterested students at Little Fields High School. So when a trendy publishing company takes interest in his new novel, potentially turning his life around, Cutler needs to just avoid sabotaging himself long enough to sign the book deal. Based on Davis' own experiences as a high school teacher, and filmed in Katoomba and Western Sydney (featuring locals as extras), Book Week heralds a wry new voice in Australian comedy.

"Wittily scripted, sharply characterised, and smartly performed, Book Week is a little gem of a film." - Film Ink

SPECIAL GUESTS Heath Davis and Jonathan Page

POP DOCS

Some true stories are so strange they defy belief. This selection of documentaries is set to captivate, entertain and educate audiences - and may just rustle a few tin foil hats.



INVENTING TOMORROW

SAT 12 JAN · 12.30PM · JMT

D. LAURA NIX · 105MINS · 12+ · USA

Inspiration from the next generation of bright thinkers, on the road to the world's largest science fair. In Bangalore, Sahithi works to reduce toxic waste pouring into the 'city of a thousand lakes'. Across the globe, in one of Mexico's most industrial cities, Jesus, Jose and Fernando are exploring ways to improve air quality. Nuha is seeking a solution to the ocean pollution affecting her Indonesian island home, and in Hawaii, Jared is inspired by his grandmother's survival of two tsunamis. They're all on their way to the International Science and Engineering Fair to present their world-changing ideas. With echoes of crowd favourite spelling bee doco, *Spellbound*, director Laura Nix treats her subjects as the outstanding young scientists they are, but also as real teenagers, who sing pop-songs and crush on their peers. Uplifting and reaffirming, *Inventing Tomorrow* is a joyous celebration of adolescent determination.

"This snapshot of adolescent ingenuity and innovation can't help but leave the viewer feeling hopeful about the future." *Variety*.

English, Spanish and Indonesian with English subtitles



BEHIND THE CURVE

SAT 12 JAN · 2.30PM · BELLO

D. DANIEL J. CLARKE · 99MINS · 15+ · USA

Journey to the centre of the Flat Earth movement, where the only thing they fear is sphere itself. You'd be forgiven for thinking belief in a flat Earth was left behind in the dark ages. But in the age of fake news, a community who believe that NASA is covering up a flat, terrarium style Earth, is organising their first convention, bringing members from around the "globe" together. Exploring healthy scepticism versus outright denial, alongside the power of community, Clarke's humanistic approach sees both the danger of encouraging ignorance whilst never treating his subjects with scorn.

Meet the superstars, artists, and pseudoscientists of the movement, alongside psychologists, astrophysicists, and even astronauts who balance out the outlandish beliefs and explain where they might have come from. If you've ever wondered where these conspiracy theories are born, don't miss this hilarious yet touching look at a community that comes full circle with some sensational ideas.



THREE IDENTICAL STRANGERS

SUN 13 JAN · 2.15PM · JMT
THU 17 JAN · 5.30PM · JMT

D. TIM WARDLE · 96MINS · 15+ · USA

Winner - Special Jury Prize - Sundance Film Festival

In 1981, a freshman arrives at his new college dorm for his first day at college. People are waving and asking how his Summer was, but he's never met them before. A student comes up and mentions he didn't think he'd be back this year. The penny drops - people are mistaking him for someone else. The freshman finds out he has an identical twin brother he doesn't know about. Both adopted out at birth to different families.

The long-lost brothers meet. It makes news headlines - an incredible story. Twins separated at birth and brought together by chance. Then something even more astonishing happens. There's a third. Also adopted out at birth.

Then the plot thickens, sliding deeper down an unbelievable rabbit hole that will have you reaching for your tin foil hat.

One of the most riveting documentaries of 2018, director Tim Wardle's *Three Identical Strangers* is an extraordinary, gripping true story. You couldn't make it up if you tried.



FAHRENHEIT 11/9

SAT 19 JAN · 2.00PM · JMT

D. MICHAEL MOORE · 125MINS · 15+ · USA

Academy Award winner Michael Moore (*Bowling for Columbine*) is back in true form, as he turns his attention to examine Donald Trump's election win on November 9, 2016. For many, Michael Moore is as much a personal essayist as a documentarian. In his follow-up to his critique of the Bush administration in the *Palme d'Or* winning, *Fahrenheit 9/11*, Moore again takes aim at political corruption in America - starting with President Trump. Two words, that to many of his audiences, still look out of place next to each other. But it's not just about national politics. Moore tackles gun control and the clean water crisis in his hometown of Flint, Michigan, who hasn't had clean drinking water for over three years. A provocative and comedic look at the times in which we live, *Fahrenheit 11/9* imposes the two most important questions of the Trump Era: "How the f***k did we get here, and how the f***k do we get out?"

"*Fahrenheit 11/9* is ultimately Moore's best film in years its message is really simple and nonpartisan: get mad about something and do something about it" - Roger Ebert.com

WOMEN OF ACTION

SUPPORTED BY SEPELT WINES

A bold new generation of female filmmakers are leading the charge of a new movement around the world, in front and behind the lens.



IN BETWEEN

TUE 15 JAN · 1.30PM · JMT

D. MAYSALOUN HAMOUD · 103MINS · 15+ · ISR, FRA

An energetic and refreshing take on the sub-genre of female friends living, loving and working in a big city, *In Between* follows three Arab-Palestinian women sharing an apartment in Tel Aviv, balancing their modern lives with traditional expectations. Laila is a successful lawyer who can drink any man under the table. Salma, a music instructor and DJ whose Christian family set her up with potential husbands, despite her being a lesbian. New flatmate Noor, a devout Muslim computer scientist, is quickly made a member of the family. But tradition and expectations threaten to undermine their need for independence and fulfillment. On the release of the film, director Maysaloun Hamoud, found herself the subject of death threats and fatwas from fundamentalists, accused of disparaging or corrupting Muslim women. Elsewhere, *In Between* has been rapturously received, with Hamoud receiving the Women in Motion, Young Talents award at Cannes. Presenting Hamoud with the award, actress Isabelle Huppert declared, “the free spirited and joyful women [Hamoud] portrays, are true heroines of our time”.

Hebrew, Arabic with English subtitles



BLOWIN' UP

FRI 11 JAN · 4.45PM · JMT

D. STEPHANIE WANG-BREAL · 97MINS · 15+ · USA

Australian Premiere

Working within a broken criminal justice system, a team of rebel heroines work to change the way women arrested for prostitution are prosecuted. When a woman leaves her pimp, it's called “blowin’ up.” And in *Blowin’ Up*, director Stephanie Wang-Breal looks at an experimental court in Queens, NYC, with Judge Toko Serita advocating for, rather than bringing to trial, women brought in on prostitution- and human trafficking-related charges, encouraging them to exit “the life.” With very real consequences for undocumented immigrant sex workers in the Trump-era, Judge Serita’s forward-thinking methodology clashes with ICE’s decree where criminal convictions now almost guarantee deportation. Through raw and intimate storytelling, *Blowin’ Up* invites audiences to witness the growing pains of this emerging court, and challenges how we define trafficking and prostitution from the perspectives of the criminal justice system, the social welfare system, and, most importantly, the women and girls who are at the centre of it all.



¡LAS SANDANISTAS!

MON 21 JAN · 1.30PM · JMT

D. JENNY MURRAY · 96MINS · 15+ · NIC

Australian Premiere

“We (women) had to fight a revolution within the revolution.”

When the revolution is over, what becomes of the revolutionaries? Nicaraguan women took up arms in the US-backed Contra War, seeking social reform throughout the 1979 Sandanista Revolution.

Now benevolent grandmothers, professional executives, and unassuming housewives, these ex-revolutionaries often kept secrets from the men in their life - like having a closet full of AK-47s and hand grenades. “By the way honey, I was a guerilla fighter for the revolution.”

Once the war was over, a battle was fought on a new front - marginalisation by their male co-revolutionaries with whom they fought shoulder-to-shoulder. So what becomes of militant women once the revolution is over?

Spanish with English subtitles



A VIGILANTE

SUN 13 JAN · 8.45PM · JMT

WED 16 JAN · 8.15PM · JMT

D. SARAH DAGGAR-NICKSON · 91MINS · 15+ · USA

Olivia Wilde (*Her*) gives a defining performance as an avenger who takes the law into her own hands, transforming herself into a brutally righteous underground heroine. Sadie (Wilde), a survivor of domestic abuse, uses whatever force necessary to free other women in need. Contacted through a secret code, a disguised Sadie enters situations, and uses her refined Krav Maga martial arts skills over guns, to force out the abuser. Over time, Sadie’s own backstory is revealed and, with extreme tension, the film heads inexorably towards an explosive conclusion. Offering a new perspective of what a super hero can be, the debut feature of Australian director Sarah Dagggar-Nickson, skilfully strikes a balance between revenge thriller and a deeply emotional and affecting drama.

“This is [Sarah Dagggar-Nickson’s] first feature, and she executes it with an economy of means that’s highly detailed, suspenseful, and emotionally direct” – *Variety*



A WOMAN CAPTURED

THU 24 JAN · 1.30PM · JMT

D. BERNADETT TUZA-RITTER · 89MINS · 15+ · HUN

An unprecedented and extraordinary glimpse at the reality of modern day slavery. Inside an upscale Hungarian house, run by a tyrannical matriarch called Eta, resides a domestic slave, 52-year-old Marish. Marish has been captive in the house for over a decade. She labours 12 hours a day in a factory for a paycheck she must immediately hand over to Eta, followed by constant domestic work and abuse. The first-time director, Bernadett Tuza-Ritter, gains access through bribing Eta—who never appears on screen but who maintains a menacing vocal presence, and who chillingly believes she has nothing to hide – and the result is incredible: as the work-ravaged Marish warms to the presence of Tuza-Ritter, emboldened, the two begin to hatch an escape plan. There are 45 million people living as slaves worldwide, 22,000 in Hungary alone, where authorities refuse to intervene in cases like Marish’s. *A Woman Captured* places us in a world rife with chilling questions about human psychology, complicity, voyeurism and ultimately the search for freedom.

Hungarian with English subtitles



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MAKE AMERICA SKATE AGAIN

Get inspired by the raw, off the radar subculture of skate films that have ushered in a new movement and resurgence in the genre.



SKATE KITCHEN

SUN 13 JAN · 4.15PM · JMT

D. CRYSTAL MOSELLE · 105MINS · 15+ · USA

The Wolfpack (SWIFF 2016 favourite) director Crystal Moselle makes her narrative feature debut with this winning portrait of the cheerfully boisterous skateboarding sisterhood that lends the film its name. Back in NYC, Moselle has uncovered yet another inimitable group of real-life New York youngsters, bumping into the larger than life, female skate crew on the subway, whose own experiences have dictated the narrative. Blending fiction and documentary in a moving coming-of-age tale that follows Camille, an introverted teen whose life is turned upside down by an all-girl inner-city skate crew and their rival (played by Jaden Smith, here taking cues from the nonpro's). With a cool, indie RnB soundtrack and skillful skate cinematography, Skate Kitchen carves out its own style, tearing up the skater bro stereotype and cementing its own mark.

"Conveys the simple, exhilarating thrill of daring to claim social space, and proceeding to occupy it, with defiance and ecstatic grace" – The Washington Post



MINDING THE GAP

SUN 20 JAN · 5.30PM · JMT

D. BING LIU · 93MINS · 15+ · USA

Audience Award Winner - Hot Docs

Winner of the Special Jury Award for Breakthrough Filmmaking at Sundance and Top Audience Pick at Hot Docs alongside over 30 other festival wins, Minding the Gap is an astonishing new film about American life. Following three skateboarding friends in a rust belt town, filmmaker Bing Liu pulls out his camera, set to understand why he and his two teenage friends all ran away from home and found solace in skating. As the film unfolds, Liu is thrust into the middle of Zack's tumultuous relationship, and Keire's inner struggles with racial identity and the demise of his father. An exciting new voice in cinema today, Liu explores the gaps between fathers and sons, discipline and domestic abuse, childhood and adulthood, ultimately confronting his own history with these questions. Filmed over 12 years, Liu delves into intimate details of his friends lives and his own, layering his observations into a rich, devastating essay on race, class and manhood in the 21st century, leaving a lasting impact on audiences and his subjects alike.

"As a work of nonfiction, it's stunning; as a piece of storytelling, it's heartbreaking." - Vox



UNITED SKATES

FRI 18 JAN · 4.00PM · JMT

D. DYANA WINKLER, TINA BROWN · 89MINS · 15+ · USA

Audience Award Winner - Tribeca Film Festival

Taking out the Audience Award at Tribeca, United Skates pulses with daredevil cinematography, wild dance moves, and a dazzling underground soundtrack. Whether freewheeling to the emerging sounds of hip-hop, the yet to be discovered Dr Dre and Queen Latifa, or the strains of R'n'B, roller skating rinks have long been a haven for black communities, whilst giving rise to some of the world's greatest musical talents. Driven underground by unofficial segregation policies and the constant threat of losing rinks to real estate development, skaters are forced to fight to keep their communities thriving. Featuring interviews with Salt-N-Pepa and Coolio, co-directed by Aussie, Tina Brown, and Dyana Winkler in their first feature documentary, United Skates is a joyful celebration of an off-the-radar dance and music scene, showing off electrifying dance moves and passionate social activism.

"Like such trendsetting classics as Paris Is Burning and Rize, this kaleidoscopically vibrant, essential-viewing survey plunges audiences into a dazzling underground scene" – Variety

WORLD CINEMA

View the world through a different lens as SWIFF travels the festival circuit to over 18 countries, bringing you some of the best new cinema today.



SCARY MOTHER

FRI 11 JAN · 12.30PM · JMT
TUE 15 JAN · 3.30PM · JMT

D. ANA URUSHADZE · 107MINS · 15+ · GEO, EST

Best First Feature - Locarno Film Festival

In 1929, author Virginia Woolf famously declared “a woman must have money and a room of her own if she is to write fiction,” a proto-feminist article of faith which is starkly illustrated in this inimitably Georgian story with global resonance. Manana is a woman in crisis, aching to leave behind the confines of her domestic life and indulge her literary aspirations. But her interests tend toward the unabashedly erotic and as she tries to navigate the impossibly constrictive net of middle-aged womanhood, the barriers between fact and fiction, reality and nightmare come tumbling down. Scary Mother combines a strong visual aesthetic with a healthy streak of absurdist humour, marking 27-year-old debut director Ana Urushadze as a raw talent of new Georgian cinema to watch for decades to come.

Georgian with English subtitles



TRANSIT

FRI 11 JAN · 2.45PM · JMT
SAT 19 JAN · 12.00PM · JMT

D. CHRISTIAN PETZOLD · 101MINS · GER, FRA

Director Christian Petzold's follow up to award-darling Phoenix (SWIFF 2016) examines identity in Nazi-occupied France. Runner-up to the coveted Golden Bear at Berlin Film Festival, Transit follows Georg, fleeing wartime France, assuming the identity of a dead author whose papers he possesses. On escaping to Marseilles, Georg meets a young woman looking for her husband; the same author Georg is impersonating. Petzold masterfully holds the tension in this gripping follow up feature to the acclaimed Phoenix, with entrancing performances by Franz Rogowski, Paula Beer, Godehard Giese.

“Christian Petzold’s beguiling refugee romance is like a Kafkaesque ‘Casablanca’” -Indiewire

German with English subtitles



LEAVE NO TRACE

FRI 11 JAN · 6.45PM · JMT
SAT 12 JAN · 6.45PM · BELLO

D. DEBRA GRANIK · 108MINS · G · USA

Will, (Ben Foster, Hell or High Water - SWIFF 2017) is educating his daughter outside of the public education system. It would be called homeschooling, but they don't live in a home. They are survivalists, living off the land, moving camp regularly, in the vast natural state rainforests outside Portland, Oregon. Will is teaching his daughter Tom, played by newcomer, New Zealand's Thomasin McKenzie, how to survive in a world where he has seen so much suffering. She is ahead of the curve for her age. When the father-daughter duo are forcibly pushed back into society, it's Will that has his survival skills tested, suffering from PTSD-induced claustrophobia that comes, for him, from urban living. Set against the stunning backdrop of redwoods, pines, and cedar forests of North Western American, visionary director Debra Granik (Winter's Bone) offers a humane depiction of the bond between father and daughter, and the universal desire to live by your own rules.



YOU WERE NEVER REALLY HERE

FRI 11 JAN · 9.00PM · JMT
SAT 19 JAN · 9.00PM · BELLO

D. LYNNE RAMSAY · 89MINS · MA15+ · USA

Winner Best Screenplay, Best Actor Cannes

Joe (Joaquin Phoenix) has returned home from war, plagued by personal demons, now a gun (and hammer) for hire, and unafraid of violence to solve his clients' problems. Living with his ailing mother in the quiet outer suburbs of New York, Joe gets sent on retrieval jobs – paying ransoms for rich clients, returning family members through any means necessary, and being paid to keep things nice and quiet. Falling face first into a deep conspiracy, Joe's investigations into a kidnapped teenager become a personal quest for redemption as one of his high profile political clients begins cleaning house and tying up loose ends. Director Lynne Ramsay's daring film, adapted from Jonathan Ames' novella, was nominated for the Palme d'Or at Cannes, with a career best performance from Phoenix. Reviving the hardboiled detective genre into a neo-noir, gritty urban thriller, Ramsay sets a gripping cinematic experience, no doubt set to inspire a genre revival in years to come.



CLIMAX

SAT 12 JAN · 8.45PM · JMT

D. GASPER NOÉ · 95MINS · 18+ · FRA

Legendary provocateur Gaspar Noé returns to screen with a liberal dose of sex, drugs and music in this audacious and viscerally-affecting Cannes award-winner. Artistic, unnerving, and out of control, Climax takes place on the outskirts of Paris in the dead of winter. Shot in real time, in a dance studio at the end of year final assessments, the writhing bodies of a young and vigorous contemporary dance troupe are celebrating their big finale. Following an unforgettable opening performance lit by virtuoso cinematographer Benoît Debie (Spring Breakers, Enter the Void) and shot by Noé himself, the troupe begins an all-night celebration that turns nightmarish, helped by liberal serves of LSD-laced sangria. Tracking their journey from jubilation to chaos and full-fledged anarchy, Noé observes crushes, rivalries, and violence amid a collective psychedelic meltdown. Reportedly based on the true story of a 1990s dance group and starring a cast of professional dancers, Climax is Noé's most brazen and visionary work yet.

Contains high-impact content
French with English subtitles



THE TALE

SAT 12 JAN · 8.45PM · BELLO
TUE 22 JAN · 8.00PM · JMT

D. JENNIFER FOX · 114MINS · 18+ · USA

NSW Premiere

Documentarian Jennifer Fox makes her feature debut with a bold blend of fact and fiction, investigating her own adolescent trauma, as portrayed by an exceptional Laura Dern. When Fox's mother (Ellen Burstyn) finds a story that Jennifer wrote as a teenager, she is immediately alarmed to find it depicts abuse at the hands of Jenny's adult riding coaches. But Jennifer remembers the time fondly. Jennifer (both as character and director) works to get at the truth, manipulating traditional filmmaking form to unravel the mechanisms of memory, survival, reality, power and how we use stories to protect ourselves. Also starring Elizabeth Debicki, Jason Ritter, Frances Conroy and an exceptional performance from newcomer Isabelle Nélisse as the young Jenny, the film is a personal testament to the strength of survivors and the power of having agency over your own tale.

Contains high impact themes.



THE KINDERGARTEN TEACHER

MON 14 JAN · 7.30PM · JMT
FRI 18 JAN · 8.30PM · JMT

D. SARA COLANGELO · 96MINS · 18+ · USA

Winner US Dramatic Directing Sundance

He's just a little boy, but his teacher's convinced he's a prodigy - and she'll do whatever it takes to nurture his talent. Lisa Spinelli (a spellbinding Maggie Gyllenhaal) has been teaching kindergarten for long enough to yearn for something more than each year's small victories with 5-year-olds, particularly in a world where inspiration is only fleeting. Longing for a creative outlet, Lisa signs up for poetry classes at night, but quickly becomes frustrated by the limits of her talents. But when one of her students, 5-year-old Jimmy, spouts a made-up poem, wielding language and a lyricism beyond his years, Lisa sees a savant who, without a worthy mentor, will have his creative spirit crushed by a cold world. As fascination turns to obsession, Lisa is set on an all-consuming path to bring out the very best in Jimmy and save him from a banal life she knows all too well.

"Rippling with psychological complexity and sneaky humor, this is a rich character study that takes constantly surprising turns." - The Hollywood Reporter



DAMSEL

SUN 13 JAN · 7.00PM · BELLO
WED 23 JAN · 8.30PM · JMT

D. DAVID ZELLNER, NATHAN ZELLNER · 112MINS · 15+ · USA

It's a classic tale of the Old West: heroes, villains and damsels. But in the hands of the Zellner Brothers, nothing is quite as it seems. The ever surprising Robert Pattinson and Australia's Mia Wasikowska, play Samuel Alabaster and his bride-to-be Penelope. But a vast expanse of prairie, a stalking brute, and plenty of secrets stand in the way of their wedded bliss. Embarking upon a quest to rescue the kidnapped Penelope, Samuel buys a miniature horse, names it Butterscotch and enlists the help of a drunken preacher. Alas, it'll take more than the ambling posse's efforts - or Samuel's agonising ode 'Honeybun' - to save the couple's romance. With the Brothers Zellner (Kumiko the Treasure Hunter) writing, directing, producing and appearing, Damsel flips the dusty genre on its head in this subversive, darkly comic, feminist Western. So saddle up and prepare to git along—just don't be surprised if you end up somewhere you never expected.



ARCTIC

TUE 15 JAN · 7.45PM · JMT
SAT 19 JAN · 6.45PM · JMT

D. JOE PENNA · 97MINS · 15+ · ISL

The ever intense Mads Mikkelsen (Men & Chicken, SWIFF 2017) turns in one of his career bests, as a man trying to escape the harsh arctic circle in this teeth-chattering survival thriller. A downed plane. A rescue gone awry. A prowling polar bear. When pilot Overgård (Mikkelsen) realises that his long-awaited rescue isn't coming, he must face the unforgiving reality of surviving life in the arctic circle. The debut feature from Brazilian Youtube sensation, Joe Penna, does away with backstory and character arc, instead, provides a thrilling study of a man pushed to the outer limits (quite literally for Mikkelsen). The product of a gruelling 19 day shoot, Arctic is a masterful work of stark realism and tension that will leave you poised on the icy edge of your seats.

"A performance of intense commitment, one where every grunt and yowl feels agonisingly authentic." -The Guardian



AGA

MON 14 JAN · 1.30PM · JMT

D. MILKO LAZAROV · 96MINS · 15+ · FRA, GER, BGR

An affecting take of love and isolation, Milko Lazarov crafts a handsome ode to a dying culture, set against the vast beauty of the tundra. Each day reindeer hunter Nanook searches for food along the tundra. Back in their modest yurt, his wife Sedna keeps the household running. When they're together each night, the elderly couple huddle close, reliving their dreams, telling cultural myths and cherishing their memories. Their only connection to the outside world is Chena, who visits them with updates them on their daughter, Ága, who has left to work in a diamond mine. Nanook stubbornly refuses to speak of Ága, who he feels has abandoned them, but Sedna's desire to reunite her family is also driven by a secret. Every frame filled with the texture of life, this finely observed ode to family has an exquisite majesty to behold on the big screen.

"A winning combination of the cosily intimate and the sublimely epic." - The Hollywood Reporter

Sakha (Yakutian) with English subtitles



SPOOR

WED 16 JAN · 1.00PM · JMT
WED 23 JAN · 1.30PM · JMT

D. AGNIESZKA HOLLAND · 128MINS · 15+ · POL, GER, CZE, SWE

Winner - Silver Bear - Berlinale

Adapted from the best-selling novel by Olga Tokarczuk by Oscar-nominated director, Agnieszka Holland this anarchistic eco thriller and feminist black comedy blurs the line between the hunter and the hunted, taking aim at Poland's recent relaxation of environmental protection laws. Part time teacher, astrologer and crusader for animal rights, Janina Duszeiko (stage actress Agnieszka Mandat) lives alone with her two dogs on the Polish-Czech border. When the dogs disappear, Duszeiko suspects the local hunting community, who hold a grudge against her for protesting their hunting out of season. But when the hunters are the next victims, with only animal tracks at the scene of the crime, she begins to look toward the woods themselves.

Polish with English subtitles

SWIFF '19 FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

DATE TIME LOCATION	TITLE	PG	DATE TIME LOCATION	TITLE	PG
THU 10 JAN · 6.30PM FOR 7.00PM · JMT	TERROR NULLIUS - OPENING NIGHT	8	SUN 13 JAN · 6.30PM · JMT	I USED TO BE NORMAL: A BOYBAND FANGIRL STORY	12
FRI 11 JAN · 12.30PM · JMT	SCARY MOTHER	22	SUN 13 JAN · 7.00PM · BELLO	DAMSEL	23
FRI 11 JAN · 2.45PM · JMT	TRANSIT	22	SUN 13 JAN · 8.45PM · JMT	A VIGILANTE	18
FRI 11 JAN · 4.30PM · BELLO	OYSTER	14	MON 14 JAN · 1.30PM · JMT	AGA	23
FRI 11 JAN · 4.45PM · JMT	BLOWIN' UP	18	MON 14 JAN · 3.30PM · JMT	STRANGE COLOURS	16
FRI 11 JAN · 6.15PM · BELLO	ACUTE MISFORTUNE	15	MON 14 JAN · 5.30PM · JMT	GHOSTHUNTER	15
FRI 11 JAN · 6.45PM · JMT	LEAVE NO TRACE	22	MON 14 JAN · 7.30PM · JMT	THE KINDERGARTEN TEACHER	23
FRI 11 JAN · 8.15PM · BELLO	TERROR NULLIUS	16	TUE 15 JAN · 1.30PM · JMT	IN BETWEEN	18
FRI 11 JAN · 9.00PM · JMT	YOU WERE NEVER REALLY HERE	22	TUE 15 JAN · 3.30PM · JMT	SCARY MOTHER	22
SAT 12 JAN · 12.30PM · JMT	INVENTING TOMORROW	17	TUE 15 JAN · 5.45PM · JMT	SHARKWATER EXTINCTION	31
SAT 12 JAN · 12.30PM · BELLO	ISLAND OF THE HUNGRY GHOSTS	14	TUE 15 JAN · 7.45PM · JMT	ARCTIC	23
SAT 12 JAN · 2.30PM · JMT	HEARTS BEAT LOUD	12	WED 16 JAN · 1.00PM · JMT	SPOOR	23
SAT 12 JAN · 2.30PM · BELLO	BEHIND THE CURVE	17	WED 16 JAN · 3.30PM · JMT	LEAN ON PETE	26
SAT 12 JAN · 4.30PM · JMT	MOMENTUM GENERATION	31	WED 16 JAN · 6.00PM · JMT	SISTERS FOR SALE	15
SAT 12 JAN · 4.30PM · BELLO	BACKTRACK BOYS	14	WED 16 JAN · 8.15PM · JMT	A VIGILANTE	18
SAT 12 JAN · 6.45PM · JMT	BECOMING COLLEEN	14	THU 17 JAN · 1.00PM · JMT	3 FACES	26
SAT 12 JAN · 6.45PM · BELLO	LEAVE NO TRACE	22	THU 17 JAN · 3.15PM · JMT	WOMAN AT WAR	26
SAT 12 JAN · 8.45PM · JMT	CLIMAX	22	THU 17 JAN · 5.30PM · JMT	THREE IDENTICAL STRANGERS	17
SAT 12 JAN · 8.45PM · BELLO	THE TALE	23	THU 17 JAN · 7.30PM · JMT	SWIFF LIVE: O BROTHER, WHERE ART THOU?	10
SUN 13 JAN · 12.30PM · JMT	OYSTER	14	FRI 18 JAN · 12.30PM · JMT	STRANGE COLOURS	16
SUN 13 JAN · 1.30PM · BELLO	UNDERMINED: TALES FROM THE KIMBERLEY	15	FRI 18 JAN · 2.15PM · JMT	RAFIKI	26
SUN 13 JAN · 2.15PM · JMT	THREE IDENTICAL STRANGERS	17	FRI 18 JAN · 4.00PM · JMT	UNITED SKATES	21
SUN 13 JAN · 3.30PM · BELLO	SHARKWATER EXTINCTION	31	FRI 18 JAN · 6.00PM · JMT	SHOPLIFTERS	26
SUN 13 JAN · 4.15PM · JMT	SKATE KITCHEN	21	FRI 18 JAN · 6PM FOR 6.30PM · C.EX COFFS	NEXTWAVE YOUTH FILM AWARDS	33
SUN 13 JAN · 5.30PM · BELLO	HER SOUND HER STORY	12	FRI 18 JAN · 8.30PM · JMT	THE KINDERGARTEN TEACHER	23

DATE TIME LOCATION	TITLE	PG
SAT 19 JAN · 12.00PM · JMT	TRANSIT	22
SAT 19 JAN · 1.30PM · BELLO	EMOCEAN + SALT OF THE EARTH + SURF ANYWHERE	31
SAT 19 JAN · 2.00PM · JMT	FAHRENHEIT 11/9	17
SAT 19 JAN · 3.15PM · BELLO	WEST OF SUNSHINE	16
SAT 19 JAN · 4.30PM · JMT	BACKTRACK BOYS	14
SAT 19 JAN · 5.00PM · BELLO	RAFIKI	26
SAT 19 JAN · 6.45PM · JMT	ARCTIC	23
SAT 19 JAN · 6.45PM · BELLO	UNDER THE COVER OF CLOUD	16
SAT 19 JAN · 8.45PM · JMT	THE HOUSE THAT JACK BUILT	28
SAT 19 JAN · 9.00PM · BELLO	YOU WERE NEVER REALLY HERE	22
SUN 20 JAN · 11.00AM · JMT	THE GREAT DICTATOR	10
SUN 20 JAN · 1.30PM · JMT	EMOCEAN + SALT OF THE EARTH + SURF ANYWHERE	31
SUN 20 JAN · 1.30PM · BELLO	RYUICHI SAKAMOTO: CODA	12
SUN 20 JAN · 3.30PM · JMT	MATANGI/MAYA/M.I.A	13
SUN 20 JAN · 3.30PM · BELLO	HAPPY SAD MAN	15
SUN 20 JAN · 5.30PM · JMT	MINDING THE GAP	21
SUN 20 JAN · 5.30PM · BELLO	WOMAN AT WAR	26
SUN 20 JAN · 7.30PM · JMT	SWIFF LIVE: O BROTHER, WHERE ART THOU?	10
SUN 20 JAN · 7.30PM · BELLO	BOOK WEEK	16
MON 21 JAN · 1.30PM · JMT	¡LAS SANDANISTAS!	18
MON 21 JAN · 3.30PM · JMT	WEST OF SUNSHINE	16
MON 21 JAN · 3.30PM · ELEMENT BAR	INDUSTRY CONNECT	29
MON 21 JAN · 5.30PM · JMT	ANCHOR AND HOPE	28
MON 21 JAN · 7.30PM · JMT	UNDER THE COVER OF CLOUD	16
TUE 22 JAN · 1.30PM · JMT	HAPPY SAD MAN	15

DATE TIME LOCATION	TITLE	PG
TUE 22 JAN · 3.30PM · JMT	ACUTE MISFORTUNE	15
TUE 22 JAN · 5.30PM · JMT	CAPHARNAUM	28
TUE 22 JAN · 8.00PM · JMT	THE TALE	23
WED 23 JAN · 1.30PM · JMT	SPOOR	23
WED 23 JAN · 4.00PM · JMT	BUTTERFLIES	28
WED 23 JAN · 6.15PM · JMT	BLAZE	13
WED 23 JAN · 8.30PM · JMT	DAMSEL	23
THU 24 JAN · 1.30PM · JMT	A WOMAN CAPTURED	18
THU 24 JAN · 3.30PM · JMT	GIRL	28
THU 24 JAN · 6.00PM · JMT	HEARTS BEAT LOUD	12
THU 24 JAN · 8.15PM · JMT	SHOPLIFTERS	26
FRI 25 JAN · 12.30PM · JMT	RYUICHI SAKAMOTO: CODA	12
FRI 25 JAN · 6.30PM FOR 7.00PM · JMT	AT ETERNITY'S GATE - CLOSING NIGHT	8

KEY
JETTY MEMORIAL THEATRE (JMT)
C.EX COFFS
BELLINGEN MEMORIAL HALL (BELLO)
ELEMENT BAR



LEAN ON PETE

WED 16 JAN · 3.30PM · JMT

D. ANDREW HAIGH · 119MINS · M · USA, UK

A poignant and hypnotic journey through Midwest America, writer/director Andrew Haigh (45 Years), tells the story of the bond between a neglected boy and an aging racehorse. 15-year-old Charley (Charlie Plummer, winning Venice's Young Actor award) and his unpredictable single father Ray (Australia's Travis Fimmel) move often and settle rarely. But Charley's solitary existence finds purpose and a family unit when he begins work as an extra hand on low-purse racetracks alongside trainer Del (Steve Buscemi) and jockey Bonnie (Chloë Sevigny). When Del announces Pete will be sold to an uncertain fate, the burden becomes too great for Charley to bear and he heads out into the vast American wilderness with Pete in tow. Adapting the novel by Willy Vlautin, with edges of Steinbeck and Salinger, Haigh blends American mythos with modern hardship in a tender take on the boy-and-his-horse story, as the two search in hope of reaching safety.



RAFIKI

FRI 18 JAN · 2.15PM · JMT
SAT 19 JAN · 5.00PM · BELLO

D. WANURI KAHIU · 82MINS · 15+ · KEN, ZAF, NLD, FRA, GER

Banned in its home country for 'promoting lesbianism', this delicate romance made history as the first Kenyan film selected for the prestigious Cannes Film Festival, now going on to win the hearts of festival audiences around the world.

In a country where homosexuality is punishable by lengthy imprisonment, Wanuri Kahiu's courageous sophomore film, Rafiki (meaning friends), is a brave act of filmmaking defiance and a powerful and heartfelt romance. Tomboy Kena has few female friends, but she finds something more in the spirited Ziki. While romance between them is already forbidden, their respective fathers' opposing political bids complicates matters even further. Charting the blossoming bond between two young Nairobi women as they face the harsh backlash of their conservative community, Rafiki is a radiant celebration of love, beautifully showcasing the distinctive aesthetic and music of Nairobi.

English and Swahili with English subtitles.



3 FACES

THU 17 JAN · 1.00PM · JMT

D. JAFAR PANAHI · 100MINS · 15+ · IRN

Winner Best Screenplay Cannes

Defying his filmmaking ban for the fourth time, Jafar Panahi (Tehran Taxi) has subversively created a humorous and thrilling ode to the power of cinema and the determination of Iranian women. When a rural teenager sends an alarming video to her idol, actress Behnaz Jafari (playing herself), pleading for her to help sway her family to allow her to attend acting college, Jafari and director Panahi (also himself) set off on a road journey to check on the girl's safety. What is born is an amusing yet starkly honest portrait of the small town, where livestock likely outnumber humans and old traditions die hard. 3 Faces is a graceful and fresh offering from Panahi, brimming with its message of liberation and solidarity.

Farsi and Azerbaijani with English subtitles



WOMAN AT WAR

THU 17 JAN · 3.15PM · JMT
SUN 20 JAN · 5.30PM · BELLO

D. BENEDIKT ERLINGSSON · 100MINS · ISL

Cannes Critic's Week Grand Jury Nominee

Halla, an woman in her 50s, has had enough of the big corporates ruining the beautiful landscape of Iceland's highlands. She begins a one-woman campaign to take them down. Living a double life as a warm and friendly choir director in town, Halla has a secret side hobby of taking down heavy industry power lines with her bow and arrow. As she learns information about upcoming Chinese investment in Iceland, potentially expanding infrastructure eyesores, Halla turns eco-friendly freedom fighter just as she receives the outcome of her application to adopt a child from Ukraine. Can the 'Woman of the Mountain' have it all? Including a glorious musical chorus of Icelandic folk instrumentalists and Ukrainian singers that break the fourth wall in barnstorming fashion, Benedikt Erlingsson's sophomore film is a heartfelt, hilarious and strikingly unique musical tale.

Icelandic with English subtitles



SHOPLIFTERS

FRI 18 JAN · 6.00PM · JMT
THU 24 JAN · 8.15PM · JMT

D. HIROKAZU KORE-EDA · 121MINS · 15+ · JPN

Winner - Palme d'Or Cannes Film Festival

The deserving winner of the biggest prize in world cinema, Cannes' Palme d'Or, Shoplifters harnesses powerful performances from its three leads, including Kirin Kiki in her last screen role as the family's benevolent grandmother. For the Shibata family, a day of carefully choreographed acts of petty crime and successful shoplifting sessions, are a necessary part of everyday life and fight for survival. When the light-fingered father and son team stumble across a neglected five-year old girl, they take the young apprentice under their wing and teach her the tricks of the trade, but at what cost?

Hidden secrets emerge and mysterious bonds linking the family begin to unravel, in this captivating and unconventional family drama from masterful Japanese director, Hirokazu Kore-eda (After the Storm). A film built on intricate and memorable moments that stay with you long after the credits roll.

Japanese with English subtitles

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THE HOUSE THAT JACK BUILT

SAT 19 JAN · 8.45PM · JMT

D. LARS VON TRIER · 155MINS · 18+ · USA

NSW Premiere

Recipient of both furious walkouts and a boisterous standing ovation at its Cannes premiere, *The House That Jack Built* is the controversial new work from the enfant terrible of arthouse, Lars Von Trier. Set throughout the 1970's, Jack (Matt Dillon) introduces us to a handful of gruesome murders which have defined his life as a serial killer—detailing his condition and philosophies to the seemingly unknown Verge (Bruno Ganz). Turning the becoming-a-serial-killer story into a twisted allegory for his own career, Lars Von Trier is his playful, taunting self, saying of the film's Cannes reaction "I'm not sure they hated my film enough". Also featuring Uma Thurman and Riley Keough, *The House That Jack Built* is a dark and sinister ride, fuelled by pitch-black comedy, that will be sure to divide audiences as they wonder where to place it in their ranking of Von Trier's previous transgressions.

Contains high impact themes



BUTTERFLIES

WED 23 JAN · 4.00PM · JMT

D. TOLGA KARACELIK · 114MINS · 15+ · TUR

Winner Grand Jury Prize Sundance Film Festival

Feathers fly in this hilarious, offbeat Sundance award-winning crowdpleaser.

Three dysfunctional siblings, Cemal, Kenan and Suzan, journey back to the Turkish village of their birth to help their estranged father fulfil his dying wish. Cemal is an astronaut long settled in Germany; Kenan, a hapless actor reduced to dubbing cat videos; and Suzan, a teacher ready to leave her self-centered husband. The three embark on a journey back to their home village, aided by booze and music from their youth, they get to know one another again, reviving old arguments, but also the pleasures of a shared past.

Butterflies is a wildly inventive, explosive, and bittersweet family comedy.

Turkish with English subtitles



ANCHOR AND HOPE

MON 21 JAN · 5.30PM · JMT

D. CARLOS MARQUES-MARCEY · 111MINS · 15+ · ESP, UK

A lesbian couple contemplate parenthood, family and love in this heartfelt, free-wheeling comic drama, set aboard a dreamy houseboat on a London canal. Eva and Kat live a fairy tale life filled with love, laughter and very little money, until the death of Chorizo, their beloved cat, leaves a certain shaped gap in their life. Eva would like to fill it with a child and start a family. Kat just wants another cat. But when a drunken evening with the gregarious and life-long friend Roger leads Kat to reconsider her desire to create a family, the perfect sperm donor could be right before the two. Boasting delightful performances from its central cast, Natalia Tena, David Verdaguer, and real-life mother and daughter Oona and Geraldine Chaplin (SWIFF celebrates Charlie's 130th birthday this year!), alongside a charming trip down Regents Canal, a symbol for the film's exploration of change, freedom and reflection.

Spanish with English subtitles



CAPHARNAUM

TUE 22 JAN · 5.30PM · JMT

D. NADINE LABAKI · 120MINS · 15+ · LEB

Receiving a 15-minute standing ovation, the Cannes Jury Prize as well as creating a lot of Oscar buzz, this heartfelt drama centres on a runaway boy who attempts to divorce his parents. Written and directed by Nadine Labaki (*Caramel*), *Capharnaum* tells the story of 12-year old Zain, who is suing his parents for "giving [him] life". Along the way, Zain forges an unlikely bond with a toddler, the child of an Ethiopian maid working illegally in Lebanon. Filming on location in Beirut, Labaki draws out astonishing performances from her cast of non-professional actors, taking the viewer on a journey into subterranean areas of the Lebanese capital, where people exist below the poverty line and lack any legal recognition. *Capharnaum* acts as a platform for all those living without the basic human rights of education, health and love. A must-see of the festival.

"Sensational, a social-realist blockbuster with diamond shards of beauty, wit and hope"- Telegraph

Arabic with English subtitles



GIRL

THU 24 JAN · 3.30PM · JMT

D. LUKAS DHONT · 106MINS · 15+ · NLD, BEL

Winner Camera d'Or, Queer Palm, Un Certain Regard Best Actor, FIPRESCI Cannes Film Festival

Lara has two dreams: to become a professional ballet dancer, and to complete her gender transition. She is close to achieving both goals, with a place at an extremely prestigious ballet academy, and a supportive family and team of doctors preparing her for surgery once she is eighteen. But like many teenagers Lara is fuelled by impatience, and as her frustrations with her dysphoric body clash with her dancing, her inner turmoil threatens to derail her ambitions.

Elegant, down to earth, and resolute in championing the perspective of its soaring heroine, award-magnet *Girl* is a deeply affecting film, anchored in compassion, nuance and an astonishingly assured debut performance from its star, dancer Victor Polster.

French, Dutch with English subtitles

INDUSTRY CONNECT



Arts Mid North Coast presents SWIFF Industry Connect '19 – an opportunity to meet the new voices in Australia cinema. Following a panel chaired by Screen-Space and ABC Radio's Simon Foster and Q&A session with festival guests. Enjoy drinks, nibbles, and make some new contacts, collaborations, and friends.

SWIFF Industry Connect runs from 3.30PM -5.30PM, MON 21 JAN at Element Bar. Casual networking and refreshments to follow panel discussion.

All SWIFF Industry Connect attendees receive free admission to the new Australian comedy, Under the Cover of Cloud, MON 21 JAN, 7.30PM at the Jetty Memorial Theatre.

Tickets are \$25.00 | \$20.00 conc, available at SWIFF.COM.AU, the SWIFF '19 app and the Jetty Theatre.

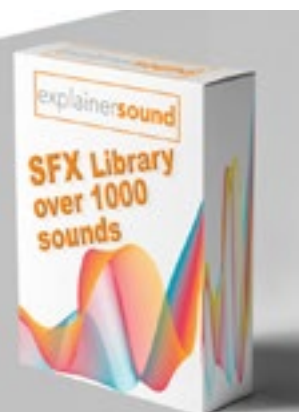


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An object pops onto screen, spins, stretches,
morphs into a car and fast exits screen

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Image by Jay Black, courtesy of SWIFF

CALL OF THE SURF

A SWIFF stalwart, we celebrate those who are beckoned by that very call.

Be it those who dedicate themselves to activism, adrenaline and adventure or the pioneers who began it all, surf is defined by the infectious passion of its followers.



MOMENTUM GENERATION

SAT 12 JAN · 4.30PM · JMT

D. JEFF ZIMBALIST, MICHAEL ZIMBALIST · 103MINS · 15+ · USA

The untold story behind Taylor Steele's 1992 pivotal surf epic, executive produced by Robert Redford. Steele's 1992 home movie, *Momentum* has played endlessly on loop worldwide in surf shops, ironically gathering its own speed as it follows a ragtag pack of teenage surfers spending a summer chasing their perfect waves on Oahu. The moment when a group of guys, Kelly Slater, Shane Dorian, Taylor Steele, and Rob Machado fueled in equal measure by camaraderie and competition, broke records, won world titles, and redefined a sport forever. In *Momentum Generation*, filmmakers Jeff and Michael Zimbalist opens the book on this pivotal, wild period in surfing's history. Cut together from almost 300 kilograms of vintage videotape and featuring unfettered and intimate access to these champion friends and rivals, the Zimbalists have delivered the definitive account of this unique sport's great coming-of-age.



SHARKWATER EXTINCTION

SUN 13 JAN · 3.30PM · BELLO

TUE 15 JAN · 5.45PM · JMT

D. ROB STEWART · 88MINS · 12+ · USA

Canadian filmmaker Rob Stewart sets the illegal fishing industry in his sights for his final film. *Sharkwater Extinction* is the product of a life-long obsession with marine conservation. Stewart's third film in his jaw-droppingly beautiful series aims to again de-myth the nature of sharks across the world's oceans, focusing instead of the ecological importance of these apex predators. Stewart's films have an impassioned exposé quality to them. They are attributed to significantly reducing the consumption of shark fin soup across Asia, and have led to the uncovering an illegal industry. The film was finished by Stewart's parents after the renowned filmmaker passed away in a diving accident during filming. His legacy is the plea for people around the world to take marine conservation seriously - as though their existence depends upon it.



SALT OF THE EARTH (SF)

SAT 19 JAN 1.30PM BELLO

SUN 20 JAN · 1.30PM · JMT

D. DEAN SAFFRON · 5MINS · 10+ · AUS

Salt of the Earth follows the journey of making the ancient traditional Alaia finless surfboards to cruising the perfect points of Noosa.



SURF ANYWHERE (SF)

SAT 19 JAN 1.30PM BELLO

SUN 20 JAN · 1.30PM · JMT

D. DESIREE BILON · 10MINS · 10+ · CAN

A group of river surfing pioneers who are not only building a world-class wave on the Kananaskis River (forty-five minutes outside of landlocked Calgary, Alberta, Canada) but also a river surfing community.



EMOCEAN

SAT 19 JAN · 1.30PM · BELLO

SUN 20 JAN · 1.30PM · JMT

D. TONY HARRINGTON · 75MINS · 10+ · AUS

Australian Premiere

Tony Harrington has made a life chasing barrels on film - but now switches gears to something more soulful. Originating from the Central Coast, and with roots in Bellingen, Tony has made a career out of his life-long love of the ocean. He endlessly travels the globe, capturing high octane sports, and documenting the best swell wherever it rises. *Emocean* is more than wild waves though. It's about something every surfer has inside; a deep connection with the ocean. Harrington heads to the big breaks - Hawaii's Pipeline and California's Mavericks - as well as the more remote breaks in North West and South Australia to find out people and their purpose for chasing the perfect wave.

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NEXWAVE

WELCOME TO THE NEXWAVE OF REGIONAL FILMMAKERS

Big news this year! REC Ya Shorts Youth Film Festival is changing, with SWIFF's new Nextwave program taking its place - finding and developing the next generation of young regional filmmakers.

2018 PROGRAM

This year we set a task for all filmmakers. Make a short film under 6 minutes, with the theme of "Escape", and to include a "Sign". The creativity on offer this year has been second to none, so come along and get behind the filmmakers of the future. Most films this year were a result of over 50 workshops in 11 regions across NSW - the program's biggest workshop tour yet!



NEXWAVE YOUTH FILM AWARDS

Join us at the all new Nextwave Youth Film Awards on Friday January 18th at C.ex Coffs' Auditorium for the premiere of the top 20 short film finalists for 2018, proudly supported by C.ex Group. Over \$40,000 in prizes will be awarded on the night!

DOORS OPEN FRI JAN 18, 6.00PM FOR 6.30PM START AT C.EX COFFS

Regular ticket pricing applies. Go to SWIFECOM.AU, the Jetty Theatre or book via the SWIFF 19 app

Nextwave is proudly supported by SWIFF, headspace Coffs Harbour, Southern Cross University, Regional Arts NSW, Create NSW, Blackmagic Design, Samyang, RODE Microphones, C.ex Group, Arts Mid North Coast, Arts North West, Tamworth Family Support Services, and the Councils of Armidale, Bellingen, Coffs Harbour, Gunnedah, Kempsey, Lismore, Mid Coast, Nambucca, Port Macquarie and Uralla.



WATER-LOO: AN EPIC BATTLE FOR FREEDOM

D. MAEVE FOREST · 4:46 · 12-14 YEARS

Desperate to use the facilities, our daring heroine makes a long trek to find a clean toilet at a wedding reception. Far from the other guests and without her phone, disaster strikes and she must draw on her inner resources to escape.



FALLING TO FLYING

D. TOM COLQUHOUN · 3:31 · 12-14 YEARS

Tasman struggles with school, because his mind is always away in other places. The filmmakers would like to say that Tasman (or anyone else) was not injured in the production of this film.



KIDNAPPED

D. POE BLACK · 1:20 · 12-14 YEARS

Two kids love of dogs lands them in big trouble...



THE RUNAWAY

D. FLYNN BROWN · 5:35 · 12-14 YEARS

This is a story about a hacker who hacks the wrong people. One day FBI Agents come knocking, and the hacker needs to find a safe place to hide out from the feds.



CLONE

D. JACOB SHRIMPTON · 5:58 · 15-19 YEARS

The world's only magical toasted cheese sandwich finds itself in Jacob's house. The sandwich spawns wreak havoc, creating a clone of Jacob. But what are the clones' intentions?



NIETZSCHE

D. LOCHLAN SCOTT BEEDIE · 3:30 · 15-19 YEARS

When one looks to the other side they wonder just how different life is. The weeds are both a flower and a nuisance. How can you know oneself in a world of selves?



SOCIETY

D. SAM DYBALL · 3:04 · 15-19 YEARS

We live in a society where children have taken control of the world. But what happens when they play with nuclear war like it's a toy? Find out in the official music video of Then Jolene's new song, 'Society'.



ESCAPE

D. DAVID SMITH · 6:00 · 15-19 YEARS

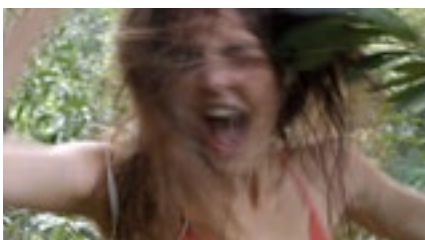
In a world where euthanasia is compulsory for those whose lives are dependant on the hospital system, a son strives to save his elderly father from imminent death at the hands of the seemingly cruel government policy.



TRIALS

D. JESSICA BURTON · 4:40 · 15-19 YEARS

A HSC student facing anxiety and isolation tries to find a way out of the cycle.



WE ARE YOU

D. TALLULAH REMOND-STEPHEN · 6:00 · 15-19 YEARS

A young woman drives on the highway at night. She hits a deer...and everything changes.



DON'T ASK

D. STEPHEN HESTER · 4:54 · 15-19 YEARS

Aiming to show and bring awareness to the fact that domestic violence creates ongoing mental issues for the victim, the film follows a young womans desire to get out of her situation.



IN THE HOUSE

D. CONNOR DILLON · 2:39 · 15-19 YEARS

Armed only with a video camera, it's time to find out just what is hiding inside the house...



104

D. BENJAMIN BOWLES · 4:51 · 15-19 YEARS

A young girl, trapped in the bounds of a broken home, lives between her fantasies and reality on Christmas Day.



THE BIRD

D. SAM DYBALL · 1:00 · 15-19 YEARS

It's Spring time again, where the flowers begin to blossom and the sun begins to shine. But a darker, feathered force also looms over the season...



ANOTHER DAY

D. SHELDON KOOPMANS · 4:50 · 15-19 YEARS

Sometimes, our lives can become repetitive, meagre and dull. Sometimes, we just need to escape reality.



THE ART OF ESCAPISM

D. PALOMA TERRADES · 5:57 · 15-19 YEARS

Mary Queen of Scots wishes to escape what awaits her in the morning. Selma seeks to travel back to her dimension. Each has something that will fulfil the other's fate.



SKULL

D. JACOB SHRIMPTON · 5:58 · 15-19 YEARS

Glen tends to daydream and create a world of his own, since his real life is filled with school, work and a mean boss. His imagination and curiosity takes him on a quest that he never thought possible.



LOADED

D. WILLOW DRIVER, BLAISE BORRER · 2:48 · 20-25 YEARS

In a darkened room, next to the party, we see a gun locked and loaded and ready to shoot.



PRISON ESCAPE

D. BEN MCPHILLIPS · 6:00 · 20-25 YEARS

Linda has been in Prison for the last 5 years due to an accident whilst driving under the influence of medication. A mysterious device is smuggled into her daily meal and it teleports her out of the prison by a mysterious person.



IT'S TIME TO DANCE

D. WILLOW DRIVER · 5:17 · 20-25 YEARS

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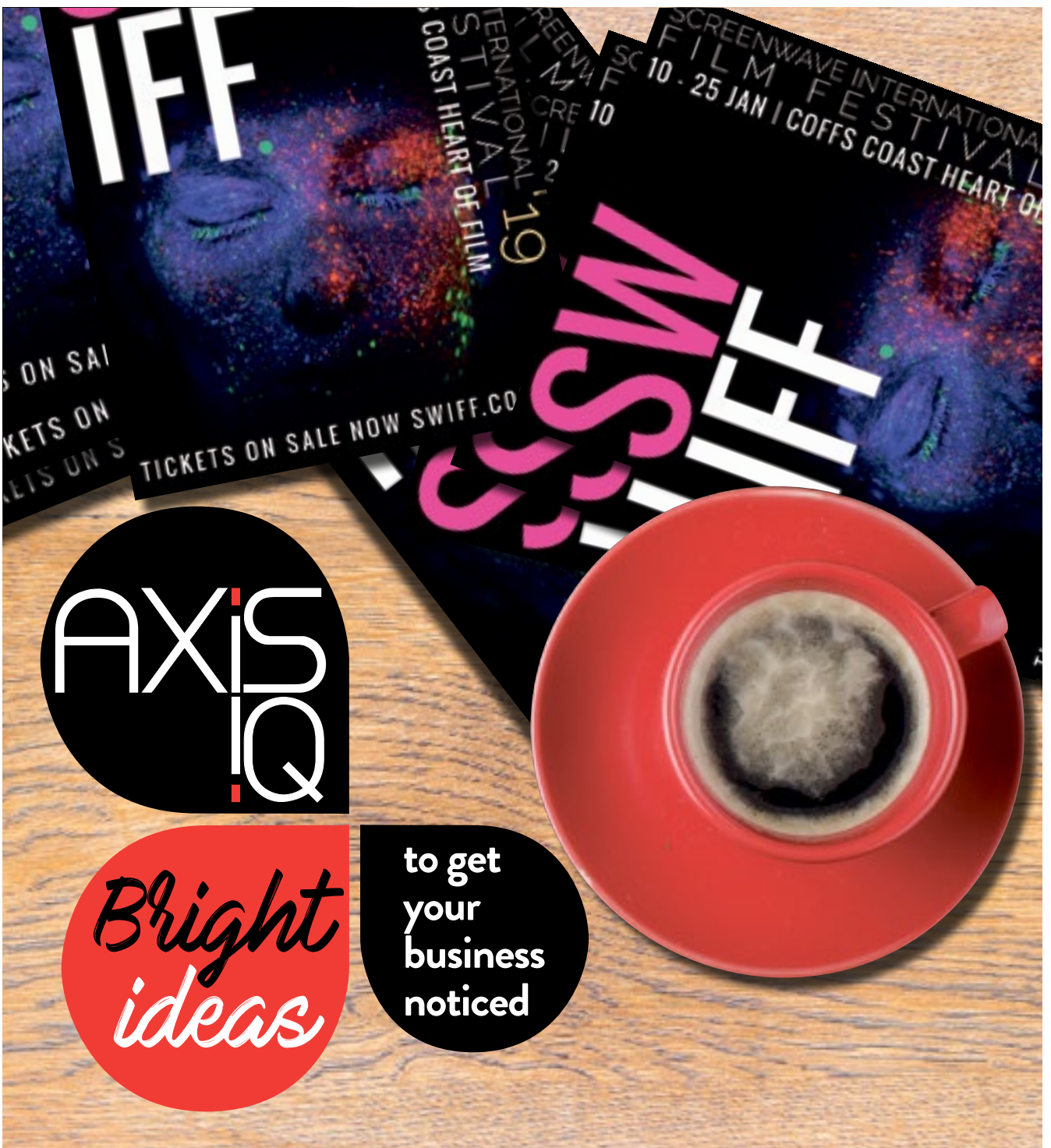
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VISITOR INFORMATION LOCATIONS



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Bellingen • Coffs Harbour



- Park Beach Plaza **6652 4366**
- Dolphin Marine Magic **6659 1900**
- Coffs Central **5622 8900**
- **FREE** Coffs Coast Travel APP

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.coffsc coast.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. Hertz car rental's are available from the airport.
- 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 have a huge range of accommodation options, including The Observatory Holiday Apartments near the Jetty Precinct, with something for those seeking luxury, affordable comforts, caravan parks, or a camp out. More information at www.coffsc coast.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 No. 5 Church Street 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, or Hide & Seek Cinema and the Nextwave Youth Film Awards at SWIFF'19.



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FESTIVAL GUESTS

Take the opportunity to connect with the filmmakers behind the films.

Actors, writers, directors, producers, editors and changemakers take centre stage at SWIFF 2019. Meet the festival guests and ask a bunch of questions at audience Q&As.

SWIFF WELCOMES

SODA_JERK

Directors - Terror Nullius, OPENING NIGHT

PAGE 8 & 16

THU 10 JAN 7.00PM, JMT

FRI 11 JAN, 8.15PM, BELLO

JESSICA LESKI DARA DONNELLY

Director & Special Guest -

I Used to Be Normal: A Boyband Fangirl Story

PAGE 12

SUN 13 JAN, 6.30PM, JMT

IAN THOMSON

Director - Becoming Colleen

PAGE 14

SAT 12 JAN, 6.45PM, JMT

CAROLYN JOHNSON

Producer - Becoming Colleen

PAGE 14

SAT 12 JAN, 6.45PM, JMT

STEPHEN GAMBA

Editor - Becoming Colleen

PAGE 14

SAT 12 JAN, 6.45PM, JMT

SANDRA PANKHURST

Writer - The Trauma Cleaner

(special guest of Becoming Colleen)

PAGE 14

SAT 12 JAN, 6.45PM, JMT

BEN RANDALL

Writer/Director - Sisters For Sale

PAGE 15

WED 16 JAN, 6.00PM, JMT

TED WILSON

Writer/Director - Under the Cover of Cloud

PAGE 16

SAT 19 JAN, 6.45PM, BELLO

MON 21 JAN, 7.30PM, JMT

HEATH DAVIS

Writer/Director - Book Week

PAGE 16

SUN 20 JAN, 7.30PM, BELLO

JONATHAN PAGE

Executive Producer - Book Week

PAGE 16

SUN 20 JAN, 7.30PM, BELLO

CATHERINE SCOTT

Director of Backtrack Boys

PAGE 14

SAT 12 JAN, 4.30PM, BELLO

SAT 19 JAN, 4.30PM, JMT

GENEVIEVE BAILEY

Writer/Director - Happy Sad Man

PAGE 15

SUN 20 JAN, 3.30PM, BELLO

TUE 22 JAN, 1.30PM, JMT



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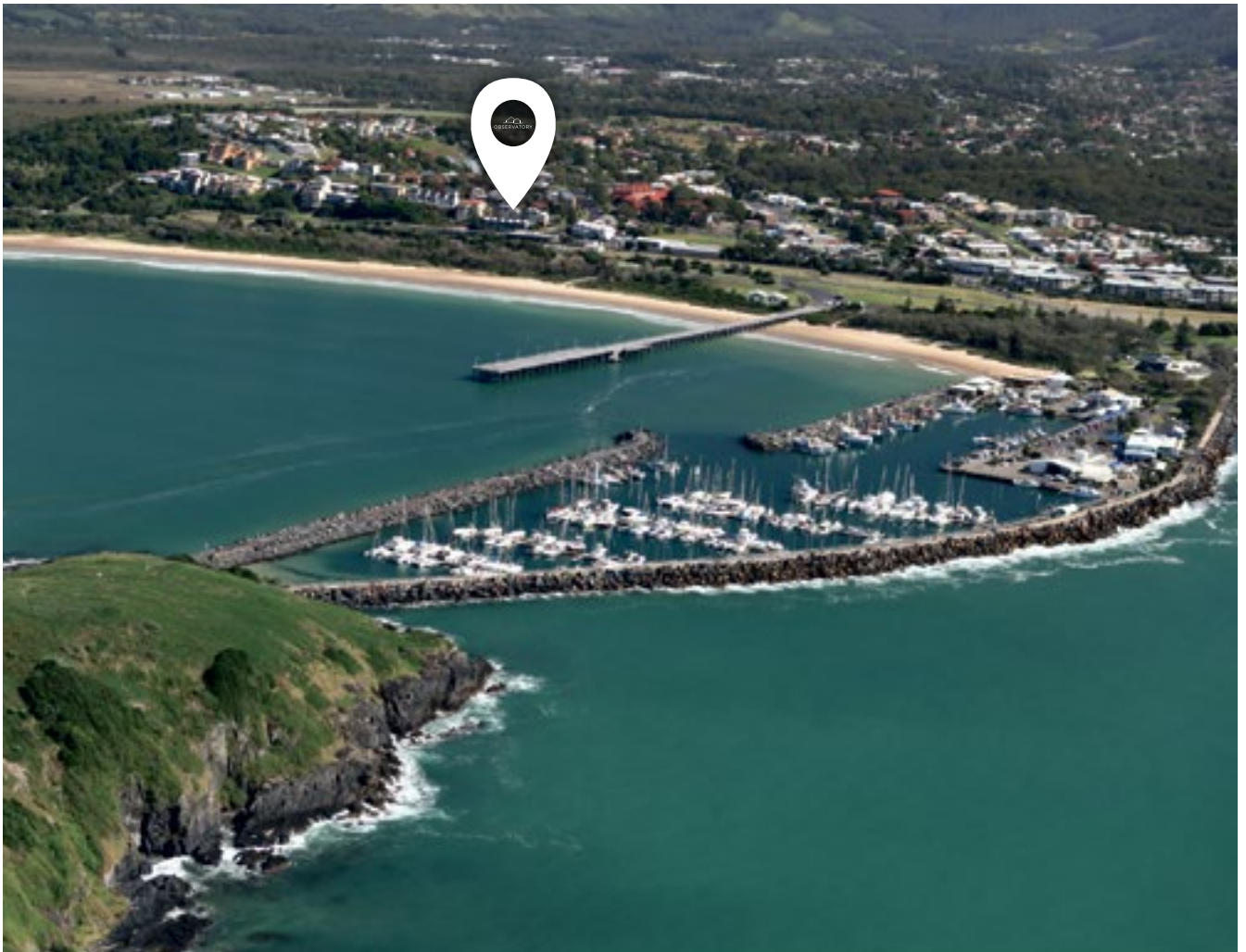
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PARADISE AWAITS ---



Whether you are staying in Coffs Harbour for business or pleasure, the Observatory Holiday Apartments has accommodation that is just right for you. Surrounded by the unique atmosphere and vibrance of Coffs Harbour's popular Jetty area, the Observatory provides luxury to suit your every need. Centrally located, it is an easy walk to the beach, marina, markets, restaurants and shopping.



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

SWIFF '19 TEAM

Festival Director
Artistic Director
Brand Manager
IT Manager
Programs Assistant
Events, Sponsors, & Guests Coordinator
Community Engagement
Destination Marketing
Festival Song
Festival Photographer
Jetty Theatre Box Office
Bellingen Box Office
Projection
Audio Visual

Dave Horsley
Kate Howat
Julie Toussaint
Ben Toussaint
Saige Browne
Stephanie Sims
Denise Aitken (Creative Social Solutions)
Carlina Ericson (Carlina Ericson Marketing)
Scott Collins (Explainer Sound)
Jay Black (And The Trees Photography)
JMT Team and Giordan Pakes
Di Curran
Bec Pakes
Any Entertainment

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 2019 to the community.

COMMUNITY MESSAGE

Thank you to our audiences for helping to build up a film and screen culture scene on the Coffs Coast. It takes a whole community to make a film festival come to life. Special thanks to the JMT team and to everyone for purchasing a ticket and enjoying the 2019 festival.

GUMBAYNGGIRR ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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

SWIFF '19 IMAGE

Photo by H. Heyerlein

Carlina Ericson Marketing

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M: 0431 523 970 | E: carlinaericsonmarketing@live.com.au





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