

# SWIFF.

PRESENTED BY

**Ashton**<sup>™</sup>  
DESIGNS

SCREENWAVE  
INTERNATIONAL  
FILM FESTIVAL  
COFFS COAST HEART OF FILM  
14-29 APR '21  
[SWIFF.COM.AU](http://SWIFF.COM.AU)





# Furniture —



To see our range or to find inspiration,  
please scan the QR code with your  
phone's camera and follow the prompts.



# tailor-made.

Presenting partner

**Ashton**<sup>TM</sup>  
DESIGNS

# DIRECTORS' WELCOME



**KATE HOWAT**  
Festival Co-Director

SWIFF in 2021 offers a new Autumn timeslot for the festival, bringing with it a sense of change and optimism, as does the year ahead. While we put 2020 behind us and look toward a brighter future, it's also important for the critical thinking about what brought us here. Films play a vital role in asking these important questions, to provoke conversation and debate, to unite us, and to help us better understand the stories and the lives of others.

Real-world stories take a front seat at SWIFF'21 with this year being the largest International Documentary program to date. Activist/artist Ai Weiwei's fierce, front-line doco, *Cockroach*, takes viewers straight to the streets of Hong Kong's political protests; with *Collective*, we get to experience "one of the greatest movies about journalism ever made"; while the urgent *Welcome to Chechnya* offers insight into the activists that risk their lives to confront the republic's deadly war on the LGBTQI community.

Travelling to over 30 countries from the comfort of our cinema seats, we experience a new world of cinema with stories that keep us close from far away. Stories that challenge, provoke, thrill and incite. To be able to share in these remarkable stories together as an audience, as a film community, is something certainly worth celebrating in 2021. I would like to thank our core team of passionate film fanatics for their dedication and hard work; and to the filmmakers and distributors for getting films made and seen across screens at such a challenging time.

And to you, our audience, thank you for getting into the festival spirit, for buying a pass, for meeting new friends, and for taking a punt on a film you may have never heard of before. Our shared love of cinema will be the constant that continues to grow – from the discovery of indie gems, to the wonderment of screen spectacles - together we celebrate the joy and awe of cinema at SWIFF'21.



**DAVID HORSLEY**  
Festival Co-Director

Writing this on what is normally our January SWIFF's Closing Night, it's nine months on from COVID-19's global disruption and uncertainty still hangs in the air across the world – and particularly over the Australian arts industry.

Like most Australians, we count ourselves lucky, looking over the fence to our neighbours in Europe and America, so to have the joy of announcing a physical in-person festival is shrouded in cautious optimism. Every Australian festival organiser now knows the phrase.

It's something we had always taken for granted as a right of a film festival – to sit together, closely huddled, in a dark theatre with a bunch of strangers and watch some movies. It turns out 2020 wasn't a terribly conventional year.

So instead of a normal Welcome To SWIFF, where I talk about what's coming up, I'd instead like to show my gratitude and say thank you to our core team, Kate, Saige, and Giordan, for keeping SWIFF alive and for going beyond the call in a difficult year – all for the love of cinema.

Whether you're returning or it's your first time at SWIFF: I hope you love films, I hope you hate films, and I hope you get an opportunity to step outside of your comfort zone to explore what the festival has on offer. The festival experience is exploratory in nature; to revel in something abnormal, obfuscated, and at odds with the status quo.

Thanks for coming along and revelling with us at SWIFF'21.

# FESTIVAL PARTNERS

## PRESENTING PARTNER



## CREATIVE INDUSTRIES



## STRATEGIC



## COUNCIL



## MAJOR SPONSORS



## FESTIVAL SPONSORS



## PRODUCTION



## HOSPITALITY



## MEDIA & PUBLICITY



## TOURISM



## VENUES & TICKETING



# FESTIVAL PATRONS



## JACK THOMPSON

Australian Film & Screen Icon

"One universal truth that has perpetuated throughout the history of film is that films are best experienced in a cinema with a live audience. Last year was the first year on record that this notion was tested, with the onset of COVID-19 severely affecting our global screen industry. We have fared better than most in Australia, but one thing remains strong – and that's our appetite to see stories on screen.

I am honoured to welcome everyone to the 2021 Screenwave International Film Festival, our own Coffs Coast celebration of the filmmaking process and the cinema experience. Our stories are vital – the sum of who we are – and worth celebrating.

As SWIFF's Festival Patron, I welcome visitors to our beautiful piece of paradise here on the Coffs Coast, and thank locals for their continued support of SWIFF and the unique cultural experiences it creates for us.

I have had the fortune of working alongside some of Australia's greatest filmmakers, and the energy and passion that Kate, Dave and the team at SWIFF have for Australia's storytellers, keeping creativity at the forefront and telling our national stories, is incredibly inspiring. I am excited to see the Coffs Coast officially take its place on the Australian film festival circuit. I hope you are too. Enjoy SWIFF '21."

JACK THOMPSON PHOTO: PETER BREW BEVAN



## SASCHA ETTINGER-EPSTEIN

Documentarian (Destination Arnold - SWIFF '17, The Pink House - SWIFF '18)

"I first discovered SWIFF in 2017 - toured unawares up to Coffs with the two Aboriginal bodybuilding women who were the stars of our invited documentary – and discovered an incredible festival! A smorgasbord of Aussie and international films, the cutest heritage theatre with a great projector, projections on quarry rock faces at midnight, crowds of cinephiles from all over the region and perfect beaches for a dip between flicks. Needless to say I've been a junkie for it every year since. As a fanatical documentary maker and watcher I cherish the opportunity for diverse people to congregate in the dark and share real stories from all over Aus and the world. Those glimpses into strange/foreign worlds create a connection and a deeper understanding of what it all means to exist on this crazy planet. And SWIFF is the host that makes it all happen!"



## AARON GLENANE

Actor (Snowpiercer, Killing Ground - SWIFF '17)

"We live in a time where we have endless content at the tip of our fingers. Where we can watch blockbusters in our home cinema or on the bus on our smart phone. But in 2020 I've got to say, I sure did miss going to the cinema! For over 100 years we've come together, sat quietly in a dark room in front of a giant screen and watched the stories of our lives play out before us. We've walked away entertained, educated, enlightened and debated amongst each other over the intricacies and motivations of who those characters were and in turn who we are. Going to the cinema is an exploration and celebration of humanity. SWIFF has captured the warm, laid back feel of beautiful Coffs Harbour and blended it with thought provoking films from across the globe. One of the most exciting aspects of the festival for me is the NEXTWAVE program which supports and encourages young filmmakers from regional communities. The next George Miller or Gillian Armstrong could be right on our step."

# CONTENTS

DIRECTOR'S WELCOME	4	LIFE ITSELF: A TRIBUTE TO JACK THOMPSON	19
FESTIVAL PARTNERS	5	INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTARY	20-25
FESTIVAL PATRONS	6	MUSIC AND THE MAKERS	26-27
HOW TO SWIFF	7	WORLD CINEMA	30-38
VENUES	8	FOR THE LOVE OF FOOD	42
TICKETS	8	WILD SIDES	43
FESTIVAL HUBS	9	CALL OF THE SURF	45
ACCESSIBILITY	9	COFFS HARBOUR EDUCATION CAMPUS	47
OPENING NIGHT	10	SWIFF CREATE	49-51
CLOSING NIGHT	10	NEXTWAVE	55-59
SWIFF LIVE	12	ARTIST COLLAB	63
SPECIAL EVENTS	14-16	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	68-69
THIS IS AUSTRALIA	18	INDEX	70

## HOW TO SWIFF

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

**See something different:** SWIFF is an opportunity to take a risk and see a film you might not usually see. Be prepared to want to dissect, discuss, and find an unexpected new favourite.

**Buy a Film Pass (or several!):** By far the best (and most affordable) way to experience SWIFF. Film Passes can be shared with a friend by redeeming up to two admissions from your pass per session. Or be the ultimate cinephile and keep them all for yourself!

**Stay up to date:** Join the SWIFF e-newsletter and our Facebook community to discuss the films and remain in the loop for last-minute changes, including festival guest announcements and more.

**Support SWIFF:** Make a donation at Checkout online to keep the Coffs Coast Heart of Film pumping.

**Check the classification:** Some films at SWIFF are unclassified (CTC) and have age restrictions as well as content warnings. Please check the website and SWIFF 2021 app for any classification updates, changes and age recommendations, before booking your tickets.

**Be on time:** All sessions are general admission. Please arrive at the venue early to allow for ticketing and queues. Latecomers will not be permitted into the venue until after introductions or short films.

**Be courteous:** Turn off your phone and be mindful of your fellow film lovers during the film and while entering and exiting. Be kind to our amazing volunteers – they are making it all happen!

**Stay safe:** Help keep our film loving community safe by following public health advice – including regularly washing hands, respecting personal space, and testing and isolating if you feel any cold and flu symptoms.

**Go paperless!** Using the SWIFF 2021 mobile apps (for Apple and Android) saves you time and effort, and also helps us leave a better footprint with less ink and paper going to waste.

**Vote for your favourite film:** Make sure to jump on the SWIFF app after each film to give it your star rating. Your top votes decide who will be taking away the SWIFF Audience Award!

**Have fun!** Most importantly, we hope you have a wonderful festival! Dive into the SWIFF experience, not just seeing films but staying for Q&A's, discussing films between sessions, seeking out unique events, and make new film friends.

### HAVE A YARN

#SWIFF2021

Facebook: Screenwave

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

Instagram: @ScreenwaveAustralia

### FESTIVAL APP

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

**All festival information is correct at date of printing, please check the website for any changes.**

# VENUES

## COFFS HARBOUR EDUCATION CAMPUS

363 HOGGIN DRIVE  
COFFS HARBOUR NSW 2450

The CHEC Theatre box office will be open during festival hours.

To purchase tickets in the lead up to the festival call (02) 5626 5051.

## JETTY MEMORIAL THEATRE

337 HARBOUR DRIVE  
COFFS HARBOUR NSW 2450

The Jetty Theatre box office will be open during festival hours and select days in the lead up to the festival.

Please check [swift.com.au](http://swift.com.au) for box office hours, and to purchase tickets. Tickets can also be purchased using the free SWIFF 2021 app and over the phone on (02) 5626 5051.

# TICKETS

## REGULAR PRICES

Full price \$20.50

Concession/Local 245\* \$17.00

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 - \$95

12 Film Pass - \$165

24 Film Pass - \$260

Please purchase Film Passes ahead of time. Passes will not be available to purchase before film screenings.

Passes exclude special events, including Opening Night, Closing Night, SWIFF Live, SWIFF x Hilltop Wine Dinner, and SWIFF Workshops.

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### OPENING NIGHT GALA

\$50.00 Full | \$45.00 Concession

Includes drinks and canapes on arrival

### CLOSING NIGHT GALA

\$60.00 Full | \$55.00 Concession

Includes drinks, canapes on arrival, and after party with live music.

### SWIFF X HILLTOP DEGUSTATION WINE DINNER

A delectable four course dining experience + canapes, with matching wines.

See page 14

\$165.00 Full

## SWIFF LIVE

### A BOY CALLED SAILBOAT

#### WITH LIVE SOUNDTRACK BY GRIGORYAN BROTHERS

See page 12

\$45.00 Full | \$40.00 Concession | \$35.00 Under 25

\$140.00 Family Pass (2 adults, 2 children)

### WAKE IN FRIGHT

#### WITH LIVE SOUNDTRACK BY RHYECE O'NEILL BAND

See page 12

\$45.00 Full | \$40.00 Concession | \$35.00 Under 25

(Please note, the film contains graphic imagery)

## SWIFF CREATE

### ACTORS CENTRE AUSTRALIA WORKSHOPS

Acting workshops across all experience levels

For more info see page 50

\$55.00 | 6-hr Adult Class

\$25.00 | 2-hr Open Adult Class

\$15.00 | 2-hr Teenager Class

### CREATIVE INDUSTRIES PARTY

\$25.00 | \$20.00 Under 25

Includes finger food & drink on arrival

Booking fees included in price. Credit card fee applies per transaction.

Tickets available online at [SWIFF.COM.AU](http://SWIFF.COM.AU) or download the SWIFF 2021 App.

# FESTIVAL HUBS

## ELEMENT BAR

380 HARBOUR DRIVE  
COFFS HARBOUR NSW 2450

## CHEC GATHERING SPACE

(COFFS HARBOUR EDUCATION CAMPUS)  
363 HOGGIN DRIVE  
COFFS HARBOUR NSW 2450

See page 46 for CHEC map

# ACCESSIBILITY

SWIFF takes the utmost care to ensure its screenings and events are inclusive and accessible to everyone. Please see venue information listed on our website for details and contact us via email with requests through [tickets@screenwave.com.au](mailto:tickets@screenwave.com.au).

## WHEELCHAIR ACCESS AND ASSISTED HEARING

Screening venues at SWIFF are wheelchair accessible, and both the Jetty Theatre and the CHEC Theatre at the Coffs Harbour Education Campus are Hearing Loop enabled. For any enquiries, please contact the main ticketing box office at the Jetty Theatre on (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.

# DOWNLOAD THE FREE FESTIVAL APP



BROWSE · BUY · REDEEM  
VOTE · SHARE

**FREE DOWNLOAD**



[SWIFF.COM.AU](http://SWIFF.COM.AU)

# OPENING NIGHT



the Western Australian desert to trade between colony outposts near Mount Magnet and Kalgoorlie. Having developed close relations with the Indigenous population, whose knowledge of the unforgiving terrain is crucial for their trade routes, young Afghan trader Hanif (Ahmed Malek) forms a close bond with local Indigenous man Woorak (Baykali Ganambarr – *The Nightingale*, SWIFF '20), even learning his local language, Badimaya.

Hanif stumbles upon a mysterious bushman, Mal Riley (David Wenham), carrying 400oz gold bars marked with the Crown's insignia – incredibly valuable, but completely untradeable...unless they are melted and reformed in a furnace. With the promise of an awaiting fortune in exchange for Mal's safe passage, Hanif is forced to make the ultimate decision that will forever decide his fate.

Described as Western Australia's answer to the Australian Western, *The Furnace* captures a culturally significant, untold story in Australia's colonial history, and provides a powerful means to reflect on long held notions of national identity.

Enjoy canapes and drinks prior to Opening Night event. 6.30PM for 7.00PM start, with Q&A to follow the film.

## THE FURNACE

WED 14 APR · 6.30PM FOR 7PM · JMT

RODERICK MACKAY · 116 MINS · MA15+ · AUS

Venice Film Festival nominee · Best Film · Venice Horizons Award

SWIFF is proud to present Roderick MacKay's powerful feature debut, *The Furnace*, as the 2021 Opening Night film – together with cast and crew members in attendance. It's 1897. Caravaneers, brought to Australia by the British from Persia, Afghanistan, and India, drive camels across

# CLOSING NIGHT



## MOGUL MOGWLI

THU 29 APR · 6.00PM FOR 6.30PM · CHEC

BASSAM TARIQ · 90 MINS · CTC · UK, USA

Riz Ahmed (Rogue One, Nightcrawler, Sound of Metal) delivers a blistering performance as British-Pakistani rapper, Zed, poised for stardom in Bassam Tariq's debut feature, *Mogul Moggli* - to be followed by a ethnocyberfunk live, world music performance by Coco Varma, Bobby Singh, & Ben Walsh for SWIFF'21's grand finale.

Spitting truth to power, speaking to his culture as a Pakistani immigrant, British rapper Zed (Ahmed,) is about to hit the big time. With a few weeks before his career breakthrough as the support act on megastar Dante's world tour, Zed returns home to his

culturally conservative family to find his roots. Derided for the westernisation of his name (Zaheer), Zed is suddenly struck down by a degenerative disease, leaving him bedridden. Panicking at the thought of his big break passing him by, Zed's illness morphs into hallucinations, a by-product of shunning his culture for a shot at the big time.

Riz Ahmed, rapper, actor, activist, and co-writer of *Mogul Moggli*, delivers a powerhouse performance, serving as an extension of the voice he established as Riz MC and speaking truth to his own lived experience as a UK immigrant and hip hop artist.

Following the film, join international musicians Coco Varma, Bobby Singh, and Ben Walsh as they light up SWIFF's grand finale in the CHEC Gathering Space, with an explosive ethnocyberfunk live music performance not to be missed, kicking the SWIFF'21 after-party into high gear.

Enjoy canapes and drinks prior to Closing Night event. 6PM for 6.30PM start. Includes access to Closing Night after-party and live music performance.

FAMILY BREWED SINCE 1862

Get the facts [DrinkWise.org.au](http://DrinkWise.org.au)



**NOTHING  
MAINSTREAM  
ABOUT OUR BEER.**



*Coopers*

**FOREVER ORIGINAL**



AUSTRALIAN MADE AND OWNED

NO ADDITIVES OR PRESERVATIVES EVER



## WAKE IN FRIGHT FEATURING RHYECE O'NEILL BAND

FRI 16 APR · 8.15PM · JMT

TED KOTCHEFF · 108 MINS · M · AUS

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of Australia's stunning and awe-inspiring 'great lost film', SWIFF presents an original live soundtrack screening of Ted Kotcheff's 1971 vivid outback sunburner, *Wake In Fright*.

The reimagined soundtrack, composed and performed by bluesmen ramblers Rhyece O'Neill Band, is a feature-length celebration of a unique piece of cinema history. Rhyece

O'Neill's original soundtrack is a desert blues interpretation featuring gothic blues guitar, driving bass and boogie, with psychotic drums providing a truly stunning context for the film's dialogue and subject matter.

Starring SWIFF Festival Patron Jack Thompson in his feature film debut, *Wake In Fright* is one of only two films to ever be screened twice at the Cannes Film Festival – once on release, and once on re-mastering in 2009 when selected by Martin Scorsese as part of his Director's Fortnight curated program. *Wake In Fright* was nearly lost permanently to the ages, with no prints available, before a 35mm print was found by the film's editor in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, sitting in a box marked "for destruction".

Now a worldwide iconic cult classic, infamous for its raw, unflinching portrait of life in isolation in the Outback, *Wake In Fright* gets the big screen treatment at SWIFF.

Painstakingly restored by Australia's National Film and Sound Archive and AtLab Deluxe, presented in its original uncompromising form together with a re-imagined, original soundtrack – an incredible experience not to be missed!

**Contains high impact scenes**



## A BOY CALLED SAILBOAT FEATURING GRIGORYAN BROTHERS

TUE 27 APR · 6.30PM · JMT

WED 28 APR · 6.30PM · CHEC

CAMERON NUGENT · 92 MINS · PG · USA

*"Imbued with the kind of unique indie-quirk that made Napoleon Dynamite a cult smash."* - Sydney Morning Herald

Acclaimed guitarists Slava & Leonard Grigoryan have expanded their creative output by crafting and recording the

soundtrack to the big-hearted, award-winning indie film, *'A Boy Called Sailboat'*, performed as a live soundtrack to the film on stage at SWIFF '21.

This heart-warming, delightfully original family film set in a small town in New Mexico, was written and developed by Melbourne-based creative team Cameron Nugent and Andrew Curry, and stars Academy Award® winning actor J.K Simmons, Noel G, Elizabeth De Razzo, Jake Busey, Lew Temple and newcomer, Julian Atocani Sanchez in the title role.

*Sailboat* (Sanchez), a young boy living in the drought-ridden Deep South, brings love and hope to a family who have forged a simple and wholesome life. After bringing home a "little guitar" to his family, *Sailboat* creates an otherworldly piece that becomes a global phenomenon.

Blending a sweet-natured atmosphere with an incredible Latin-themed soundtrack, *'A Boy Called Sailboat'* provides audiences a chance to hear and see the Grigoryan Brothers like never before.

**Filmmaker & Composers Q&A to follow the performance.**

SW  
IFF.

PRESENTED BY  
Ashton™  
DESIGNS



# FESTIVAL HUB

LUNCH & DINNER TIL LATE (7 DAYS)



ELEMENT BAR

eat · drink · talk film

380 Harbour Drive, Coffs Harbour Jetty | [elementbar.com.au](http://elementbar.com.au) | 6651 6655  



COX LANE, COFFS HARBOUR

SUN - THU: 6.30AM - 3.30PM | FRI - SAT: 6.30AM - 10.30PM  
[DARKARTSBREWANDBAR.COM.AU](http://DARKARTSBREWANDBAR.COM.AU) | PH: 6600 1505



# SPECIAL EVENT - SWIFF x HILLTOP



## DEGUSTATION WINE DINNER

WED 21 APR · 6.30PM · OSPREY, CHEC

### *A food and wine celebration comes to SWIFF!*

The festival hosts acclaimed executive chefs Richie Dolan and Carla Jones from The Hilltop Store and Hilltop At The Lodge as they prepare a four course plus canapes degustation menu, paired together with matching wines by Treasury Wine Estates at CHEC's Osprey Restaurant.

Carla and Richie are a husband-and-wife team that met back in 2006 working together at Matt Moran's prestigious Aria restaurant in Sydney. Since then, Richie opened and was head chef at Chiswick in Woollahra, and Carla was head chef and co-owner of 4Fourteen in Surry Hills, before moving home to Sawtell to raise a family together and open the now infamous Hilltop Store. In June 2020, the couples' culinary prowess extended to a new venture, opening Hilltop At The Lodge at the newly renovated Bellingen Valley Lodge.

On the evening, guests will hear from the chefs, and winemakers, as guests step outside of their comfort zones for a creative line-up of courses with paired vinos. Be sure to book early.

This is a shared dining experience with 10 round tables of 10 per sitting. Larger groups can book as a whole table or smaller groups will have the opportunity to enjoy conversation with new people, make some new friends, and discuss all the films you have seen at SWIFF '21.

Hosted at CHEC's Osprey Restaurant, the dinner also provides important opportunities for TAFE NSW hospitality students to learn and gain valuable industry experience from some of the best chefs in the region.

For the full SWIFF x Hilltop degustation menu and to book tickets, visit [swiff.com.au/wine-dinner](https://swiff.com.au/wine-dinner) or scan the QR code.

Please note that the menu may be subject to change. The same COVID-safe measures as regular restaurant dining apply to this event.



this little pig  
went to market  
is damn tasty



squealing pig

Get the facts  
Drink  
Wise.  
org.au

# THESE THINGS AREN'T ANTS, MAN!



## ALIENS

MON 26 APR · 8PM · JMT

JAMES CAMERON · 137 MINS · M · USA

### 35TH ANNIVERSARY SCREENING

Hosted on Alien Day (April 26th commemorating the brave souls on colony LV-426), SWIFF is screening James Cameron's indomitable 1986 sci-fi epic, *Aliens*, on the big screen for a one-night only special event.

Before we take off and nuke the site from orbit, film buffs and

sci-fi nerds (hi!) can test their mettle with sci-fi team trivia from 6pm at Element Bar, with both prizes and bragging rights to be won.

*Aliens*, the sequel to Ridley Scott's singular namesake, picks up from its prequel with merchant crew-woman Ellen Ripley drifting through space in hypersleep on a derelict spacecraft. Found by a space salvage crew, Ripley reacclimates to find out she's been asleep for over 50 years. Out of necessity and against her better judgement, Ripley joins a crew of battle-hardened space marines checking on an off-world colony whose comms transmitter has gone down.

Things are not what they seem. Cue the ever-quotable one-liners.

Winner of Oscars for both the immersive sound design and the detailed visual effects (by Stan Winston's studio), you may have seen *Aliens* many times over the years – but never with a throng of raging fans at SWIFF. LET'S ROCCCKKKK!!!

## NEXTWAVE



## NEXTWAVE YOUTH FILM AWARDS

SUN 18 APR · 3.30PM FOR 4PM · C.EX COFFS

One of the most highly anticipated SWIFF events, the Nextwave Youth Film Awards (NYFA) celebrates the creative filmmaking achievements of young regional Australians across the country.

Rolling out the red carpet for a selection of comedies, dramas, thrillers, documentaries, and experimental creations, NYFA is a chance to see the next generation of storytellers on the big

screen, and award outstanding achievements in cinematography, acting, editing, sound and more.

Screening 22 finalists from over 60 entries into the Nextwave Youth Film Competition for 2020, we also celebrate the resilience and out of the box thinking of Australians aged 10-25 who, faced with a year like none before in their lives, created thoughtful, hilarious, unique, and eye-opening art. The event features live music, red carpet arrival, guest speakers, awards ceremony, plus the World Premiere of 22 incredible short films.

Don't miss out on celebrating the next wave of Australian filmmakers – see page 55 for the full program.

**Regular ticket pricing applies.**

# COFFSCOAST Of The Area News

*Proud sponsor of the 2021  
Screenwave International Film Festival*



Southern Cross  
University



## A five-star university education at your doorstep

Five stars for learning resources, five stars for student support and five stars for overall experience in agriculture, environmental studies, engineering and technology, social work, education and training.\*

Whether it's a career in business, creative arts, education, engineering, health, humanities, Indigenous knowledge, IT, law, science, social work and community welfare, a degree from Southern Cross University can help get you there.

**Reset your future, right here with  
Southern Cross University.**

[scu.edu.au](https://scu.edu.au)

Coffs Harbour

Lismore

Gold Coast

Online

\*Good Universities Guide 2021

CRICOS Provider: 01241G

## THIS IS AUSTRALIA

SWIFF shines a light on Australian films that inspire meaningful change, celebrate lived experiences, and generate important discussion on Australia's cultural identity.



## BELLINGEN, THE PROMISED LAND

WED 21 APR · 3.30PM · JMT

PETER GEDDES, PETER GAILLEY · 100 MINS · CTC · AUS

By the 1970s the global counter-culture movement had well and truly reached Australia, seeing young, educated hippies from well-to-do families moving to the Bellingen region to live an alternate lifestyle.

Back then, Bellingen was a rundown, very quiet country town with many businesses quietly suffering. New ideas, new ways of living – and a new status quo. What some called an influx of hippies, others called an invasion on the conservative lifestyle of farmers, causing a clash of ideals.

Compiling countless hours of 8mm footage and historical photos, retired journo Peter Geddes and filmmaker Peter Gailley paint the historical landscape of how modern Bellingen came to be, following the cultural movement that eventually became the backbone of Bellingen's identity.



## FIRESTARTER: THE STORY OF BANGARRA

SAT 17 APR · 11AM · CHEC

NEL MINCHIN, WAYNE BLAIR · 96 MINS · CTC · AUS

**WINNER · DOCUMENTARY AWARD · ADELAIDE FILM FESTIVAL**

A compelling and vivid celebration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander lived experience and storytelling, Firestarter charts the story of the Page brothers, Stephen, Russell and David, who took a newly born dance company and transformed it into a First Nations cultural powerhouse.

With a wealth of insightful interviews, the vibrant Bangarra dancers, touching home movies and more, directors Wayne Blair (Top End Wedding, The Sapphires) and Nel Minchen (Matilda & Me, Making Muriel) chart the parallels between Bangarra's story and Australia's political history. Looking through the eyes of the three brothers, Firestarter explores loss and reclamation of culture, the burden of intergenerational trauma, and above all, the power of art as a messenger for social change and healing.



## THE FURNACE

FRI 16 APR · 6PM · CHEC

FRI 23 APR · 4PM · JMT

SUN 25 APR · 6PM · JMT

RODERICK MACKAY · 116 MINS · MA15+ · AUS

**NOMINEE · BEST FILM · VENICE HORIZONS AWARD · VENICE**

It's 1897. Caravaneers, brought to Australia by the British from Persia, Afghanistan, and India, drive camels across the Western Australian desert to trade between colony outposts near Mount Magnet and Kalgoorlie. Having developed close relations with the Indigenous population, whose knowledge of the unforgiving terrain is crucial for their trade routes, young Afghan trader Hanif (Ahmed Malek) forms a close bond with local Indigenous man Woorak (Baykali Ganambarr – The Nightingale, SWIFF '20), even learning his local language, Badimaya.

Hanif stumbles upon a mysterious bushman, Mal Riley (David Wenham), carrying 400oz gold bars marked with the Crown's insignia – incredibly valuable, but completely untradeable...unless they are melted and reformed in a furnace. Hanif is forced to make the ultimate decision that will forever decide his fate.

English, Badimaya, Pashto, Punjabi, Cantonese with English subtitles



## THE LEADERSHIP

FRI 23 APR · 11AM · CHEC

ILI BARÉ · 97 MINS · M · AUS

Set against one of Earth's last pockets of glorious untouched wilderness, The Leadership follows the maiden voyage of the first Homeward Bound program, designed to prepare women in STEM for leadership roles within their respective fields – set against the sublime icy backdrop of the southern continent.

Onboard the mammoth ocean liner is Australian Fabian Dattner, female CEO, 'dreamer', and Founder of the landmark Homeward Bound leadership program. Fabian's vision is that once the professionals are equipped with the skills to lead in science, they can start to make meaningful change around the world. Over the 20-day trip, however, political and philosophical tensions slowly begin to simmer as the team begin to open up about discrimination and challenges they face within their respective fields.

At a time when ensuring and valuing the integrity of science have never been more important, The Leadership inspires as a call-to-arms, inviting us to imagine a world where women are steering the ship.

**Special guest: Ili Baré**

# LIFE ITSELF: A TRIBUTE TO JACK THOMPSON

"The flagship of the Australian film industry", from sex symbol to statesman, Jack Thompson has cemented the Australian experience on screen.

SWIFF pays tribute to our Festival Patron as we celebrate 50 years (and counting) of Jack's pivotal performances.



## BREAKER MORANT

SUN 25 APR · 3.30PM · JMT

BRUCE BERESFORD · 107 MINS · PG · AUS

NOMINEE · PALME D'OR · CANNES  
WINNER · BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR · CANNES

In celebration of ANZAC Day, SWIFF hosts a special screening of Bruce Beresford's 1980 Australian classic *Breaker Morant* with accompanying talk by SWIFF Festival Patron Jack Thompson, himself an Australian Army veteran.

Following Britain into their war against the Boers in South Africa, Harry "The Breaker" Morant (Edward Woodward) is among many of the Australian soldiers absorbed into the non-regular army contingent, along with other ANZACs.

To deflect attention away from war crimes committed by their superior officers, Morant and officers Handcock (Bryan Brown) and Whittton (Lewis Fitz-Gerald), stand trial by court martial for allegedly executing six Boer prisoners and the assassination of a German missionary. The officers' legal defence counsel, Major J.F Thomas (Jack Thompson), admits the evidence is damning based on the basic facts, mounting the defence of his life.



## HIGH GROUND

WED 21 APR · 6PM · JMT

STEPHEN MAXWELL JOHNSON · 104 MINS · MA15+ · AUS

The year is 1919. Australian colonial soldier Travis (Simon Baker, *Breath*) leads a military operation that goes horribly wrong, ending in the massacre of nearly an entire tribe of Indigenous Dharra people.

Twelve years later, a campaign of attacks on white settlers rocks the region, with feared Dharra warrior Baywara (Sean Mununuggurr) suspected of seeking revenge.

Police Chief Moran (Jack Thompson) enlists Travis, now a lone-wolf bounty hunter, to hunt and kill Baywara. Travis enlists the help of Gutjuk (newcomer Jacob Junior Nayinggul) as his tracker, complicated by the fact that Baywara is Gutjuk's uncle.

*High Ground's* drama builds from the competing inner conflicts, competing factional loyalties, and ties to family and country, all filmed against a jaw-dropping Top End background and expertly directed by Stephen Maxwell (Yolngu Boy).

English, Yolngu with English subtitles



## THE SUM OF US

FRI 16 APR · 1.30PM · CHEC

GEOFF BURTON, KEVIN DOWLING · 99 MINS · M · AUS

Widower father Harry Mitchell (Jack Thompson) and his openly gay 20s-something son Jeff (Russell Crowe) share a close father-son relationship. As both men seek a partner, through the closeness of their own relationship, they unwittingly interfere in each other's romances. When Harry suffers a stroke, the family dynamic is tested.

Adapted from David Stevens' stage play, *The Sum of Us* is a heartfelt and genuine family drama that stands the test of time. Filmed at a time when homophobia was more rampant in Australia, the film tackles sexuality and love, with Jack Thompson heralded for the role by *Variety* as "...one of his best and most controlled performances".

Filmed two years after Crowe's intimidating portrayal as Hando in *Romper Stomper*, Crowe's performance in *The Sum of Us* shows a range and diversity that beckoned Hollywood producers: landing him the lead in Sam Raimi's *The Quick & the Dead* the following year.



## SUNDAY TOO FAR AWAY

THU 22 APR · 11AM · JMT

KEN HANNAM · 94 MINS · M · AUS

It's 1956. Aussie gun shearer, Foley (Jack Thompson), has held the record for the number of sheep sheared for a decade. When he returns to his work - giving the job he's made his name on with one final crack before retirement - newcomer Arthur Black (Peter Cummins) has other plans, giving Foley a run for his money.

Working for the weekend for decades, Foley is trying to put some money away for his silver years. He is elected by his hard-drinking, hard yakka pack of shearers to represent the workers, standing up to the bosses for better workers' rights.

*Sunday Too Far Away* is dripping with Australian iconography and amongst the first of the New Wave features to find acclaim abroad - being the first Australian film to ever be selected for Cannes Film Festival Directors Fortnight category.

It was filmed the same year that Jack Thompson made headlines famously modelling as the centrefold for *Cleo* magazine.



## WAKE IN FRIGHT

FRI 16 APR · 8.15PM · JMT

TED KOTCHEFF · 108 MINS · M · AUS

Celebrating the 50th anniversary of Australia's awe-inspiring 'great lost film', SWIFF presents an original live soundtrack screening of the 1971 vivid Outback sunburner, *Wake In Fright*, with live soundtrack composed and performed by bluesmen ramblers, Rhyece O'Neill Band.

Starring SWIFF Festival Patron, Jack Thompson in his feature film debut, *Wake In Fright* is one of only two films to ever be screened twice at the Cannes Film Festival - once on release, and once on re-mastering in 2009 when selected by Martin Scorsese as part of his Director's Fortnight curated program. *Wake In Fright* was nearly lost permanently to the ages, with no prints available, before a 35mm print was found by the film's editor.

Now a worldwide iconic cult classic, infamous for its raw, unflinching portrait of life in isolation in the Outback, *Wake In Fright* gets the big screen treatment at SWIFF.

See SWIFF Live, page 12, for more details.

INTERNATIONAL  
DOCUMENTARY

With a year so tightly packed with world-changing events, 2020 echoed an urgent need for the stories of people's real-world experiences.

Discover the compelling narratives and societal stories that bring us together and galvanise us into action for positive change.

**A THOUSAND CUTS**

THU 22 APR · 1.45PM · CHEC

RAMONA S. DIAZ · 110 MINS · CTC · USA, PHL

**Australian Premiere**

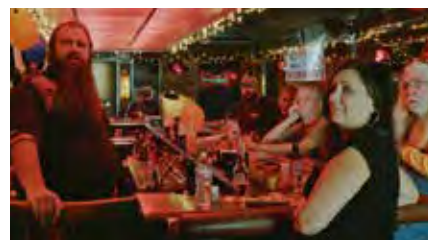
On June 15, 2020, journalist Maria Ressa was found guilty of cyber libel, setting a ticking clock on the limited time she had to get her story out to the world and keep the fight for democracy alive.

Upon taking power in 2016, the newly elected populist president Rodrigo Duterte promised a relentless war on drugs. Brushing aside the rule of law and due process, his campaign resulted in thousands of deaths. Another constitutional casualty of Duterte's rule has been freedom of the press.

Ressa's online site Rappler is one of the Philippine's most popular news outlets and a thorn in Duterte's side. The stakes are raised to incredible heights when Ressa puts the tools of the free press — and her own freedom — on the line in defence of truth and democracy.

*"Essential...an immersive political thriller."* – Hollywood Reporter

English, Tagalog with English subtitles

**BLOODY NOSE, EMPTY POCKETS**

THU 22 APR · 8.30PM · CHEC

BILL ROSS, TURNER ROSS · 98 MINS · CTC · USA

**What happens in the last 24 hours of a Las Vegas dive bar, The Roaring 20s?**

It's last call for the regulars, the rookies, the barflies, and the broken as they give a send-off to the bar that has served them so well and the micro-community that makes up their little drunken family.

A place where outcasts and misfits celebrate life's wins and drown its losses, Bloody Nose, Empty Pockets brings a new dynamic to non-fiction storytelling, with the cockles of its warm beating heart displaying a litany of genuine friendships grown from wild nights and foggy memories.

As the dive bar party to end all dive bar parties closes the books on The Roaring 20s, this unique doco finds a slice of life that most pass by, but for a few it is a warm and welcoming oasis to let it all hang out.

*"A brilliant, boozy hangout movie."* – Indiewire

**COCKROACH**

FRI 23 APR · 2PM · CHEC

AI WEIWEI · 93 MINS · CTC · HKG, DEU

**Umbrellas. Gas masks. Riot shields. Crackdown. Dissident artist Ai Weiwei takes viewers to the streets to march alongside Hong Kong's political protesters.**

Protests started in February 2019 when the Hong Kong government proposed a bill for criminal suspects to be extradited to mainland China to face trial. Over two million of the city's seven million citizens poured on to the streets, the largest uprising of its kind in the country's history. What followed was an intense siege lasting months – with the fight still ongoing.

Cockroach is the name the riot police coined for protesters, as concerns about the vilification and dehumanisation of citizens were backed by reports of widespread police brutality, which made headlines around the world. From within the tear gas fog, millions of protesters recorded footage – on mobile phones and DSLRs – capturing moment-by-moment as history unfolded.

Stunningly captured, Ai Weiwei distils hundreds of hours of intense footage to produce the message of their protest: "Liberate Hong Kong, revolution of our times".

Cantonese with English subtitles

**COLLECTIVE**

WED 28 APR · 4PM · JMT

ALEXANDER NANAU · 109 MINS · MA15+ · ROU, LUX

**"One of the greatest movies about journalism ever made" - Indiewire**

A 2015 nightclub fire in Bucharest ironically became a tinderbox across Romania unveiling corruption across the nation's medical industry, exploding into scandal reaching the very highest levels of government.

While 27 people perished on the night, it's the 37 people that passed away in the following weeks, due to inadequate hospital facilities and rampant infections, that caught the eye of journalist Cătălin Tolontan. Tolontan started questioning the stories put out by the Minister of Health, Nicolae Băncicioiu, who proclaimed that Romanian hospitals were perfectly prepared for major emergencies. As Tolontan's investigation continues, holes begin appearing in the government's official stories, particularly when patients continue dying from easily-preventable infections.

What follows are massive protests that rock Romania, causing citizens to question their leadership, searching for accountability and transparency hidden under a veil of cover-ups and deceit, testing the crucial faith citizens place in their government.

English, Romanian with English subtitles



## FAITH

TUE 20 APR · 8.30PM · JMT

VALENTINA PEDICINI · 94 MINS · CTC · ITA

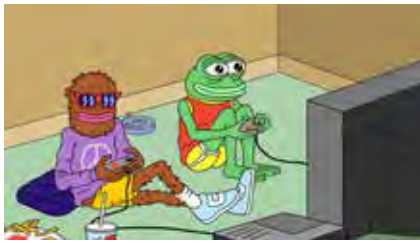
Lights strobing. Bodies flailing. Unflinching in their love and devotion to The Master, The Warriors of Light dance ecstatically in a mansion-turned-monastery hidden in the back hills of rural Italy. After 20 years of service for some followers, their beliefs are sewn into their perception of reality, and Valentina Pedicini's Faith peers behind the curtain of the daily rituals The Warriors undergo to serve a higher purpose – or is it just one man's?

Dressed exclusively in white and sporting partially shaved heads, their beliefs blend Shaolin teachings and devout Catholicism. Their conviction surpasses fanatical.

The Warriors occupy their time with preparation: brutal martial arts training regimes, intense and ritualistic dance sessions, and intimate prayer circles held in the dead of night, all in the name of protecting humanity against an ambiguous evil. But what is the real evil for which they are being prepared?

Italian with English subtitles

Warning: this film contains images with strobe lighting



## FEELS GOOD MAN

SAT 24 APR · 1.30PM · CHEC

ARTHUR JONES · 92 MINS · M · USA

**WINNER · EMERGING DOCUMENTARY FILMMAKER · SUNDANCE**

What if the easygoing, much-loved cartoon frog from your underground zine was co-opted into an alt-right hate symbol?

When San Fran artist Matt Furie first conceived the character of Pepe the Frog for his online comic 'Boy's Club', he could never have fathomed what would happen to his 'chill frog dude'. Turned into a meme by controversial internet messaging boards, Pepe unexpectedly became the face of the racist alt-right movement, with Furie left helpless to stop it.

Tying insightful interviews and stranger-than-fiction footage together with dreamlike animation, filmmaker Arthur Jones takes this bizarre story through the internet rabbit hole - concisely exploring online life in the 21st century, meme culture, radicalization, and the unique journey of a sweet stoner artist and his fight to keep Pepe kind.



## GUNDA

SAT 17 APR · 11.30AM · JMT

SAT 24 APR · 11.30AM · CHEC

VIKTOR KOSSAKOVSKY · 93 MINS · G · NOR

**NOMINEE · BERLINALE DOCUMENTARY AWARD · BERLIN FILM FESTIVAL**

Director Viktor Kossakovsky's follow up to big screen enviro-epic Aquarela (SWIFF'20), Gunda is a stripped down, close encounter about the beauty of animals with the same majestic grasp over cinematography. Following the absurdly photogenic Gunda, a sow with rambunctious piglets, Kossakovsky brings unique animals' perspective to audiences, including two ingenious cows and a scene-stealing, one-legged chicken. Kossakovsky reminds us that we share our planet with billions of other animals, leaving the audience to build their own relationship to the cast, with no explanation, no voice over and no score. No interruptions.

Executive produced by Joaquin Phoenix, this is an astonishing and pure expression of the wonder and emotions present in all living things.



# HARBOUR

Your

## WHAT'S ON GUIDE TO THE COFFS COAST

pick one  
up at your  
favourite café  
today!



## LITTLE GIRL

WED 28 APR · 12PM · JMT

SÉBASTIEN LIFSHITZ · 85 MINS · CTC · FRA

Australian Premiere

NOMINEE · DOCUMENTARY AWARD · BERLINALE

"When I grow up, I'll be a girl", a three-year-old Sasha declares to her mother. Initially resistant to her rather mature declaration of identity, Sasha's parents have accepted what their daughter has known about herself all along. Although born biologically male, Sasha is a girl.

Four years on, Sasha has been happily living as a girl, having the undying love and support from her family, and having made a few good friends at her primary school. However, there are those in life, such as her obstinate teachers, who have trouble accepting little Sasha's identity.

Over a year, French filmmaker Sébastien Lifshitz follows Sasha and her family's journey through gender specialist appointments, meetings with her intransigent teachers, ethics around gender identity in childhood, and the heartrending fight of a family that just want acceptance for their daughter.

French with English subtitles



## MADDY THE MODEL

SUN 18 APR · 1.15PM · CHEC

MON 19 APR · 11AM · JMT

JANE MAGNUSSON · 92 MINS · CTC · SWE

NSW Premiere

Madeline Stuart is a professional supermodel, having strutted the world's most prestigious runways and fashion weeks. But she's much more than just your average supermodel. Brisbane-born Madeline is the first professional supermodel with Down's Syndrome.

Chronicling Maddy's journey over four years from regular teenager to the couture capitals of the world, documentarian Jane Magnusson captures Maddy's vivacious spirit as she travels the world, spreading a message of acceptance with her eternally supportive mum, Rosanne. Together, Maddy and Rosanne tackle the archaic beauty standards of the fashion industry, challenging perceptions about beauty and disability all the way.

*"Combining the craft of Nordic storytelling with the drama of the fashion industry, this doc – about one of Australia's most charming models – might just provide us the happy ending we've all been waiting for"* - AIDC

Special guests: Rosanne Stuart, Madeline Stuart



**COFFS COAST  
EVENTS**

COFFSCOASTEVENTS.COM.AU

**PROUD PARTNER OF SWIFF 2021**

**ELTON ROCKS THE COFFS COAST**  
'MAJOR EVENT OF THE YEAR'



**ELTON JOHN**  
*Farewell* **YELLOW BRICK ROAD**



**COFFS HARBOUR  
WINNER**  
2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019

PROUDLY SUPPORTING THE

# ARTS & CULTURE

OF THE MID NORTH COAST



**focus**

ALL GLOSS, ALL FREE GUIDE TO LOCAL LIVING.

[www.focusmag.com.au](http://www.focusmag.com.au)



# HOME OF SWIFF

**jetty theatre**  
*Entertainment all year*

[jettytheatre.com](http://jettytheatre.com) [jettymemorialtheatre](https://www.facebook.com/jettymemorialtheatre) [@jettytheatre](https://www.instagram.com/jettytheatre)

**Box office hours Tues to Fri 12 noon - 4pm**  
Ph: (02) 66484930 | 337 Harbour Drive Coffs Harbour

jetty theatre





## THE MOLE AGENT

FRI 16 APR · 11.30AM · JMT

MAITE ALBERDI · 90 MINS · G · CHL, USA, DEU, NLD, ESP

Detective Romulo places an ad for a mole to go undercover and gather intel for his client, a woman who suspects a local nursing home of mistreating her mother. The catch? His sleeper agent has to be 80 to 90 years old.

The affable Sergio answers the ad and is at once whisked away to the confines of the home to pose as a resident and become The Mole Agent. Equipped with serious spy tech, Sergio's mission is simple: contact the target, gather intel on the inner workings of the care facility, and report back to the detective.

Unfortunately, Sergio is a truly terrible spy. This dapper octogenarian 007 slowly loses sight of his mission, finding himself entangled in lives of the lonely women he meets, becoming both a friend and a confidante. A quirky blend of documentary and spy film, *The Mole Agent* captures the compassion and camaraderie of new late-life friendships.

Spanish with English subtitles



## THE PAINTER AND THE THIEF

SAT 24 APR · 11.30AM · JMT

MON 26 APR · 6PM · JMT

BENJAMIN REE · 102 MINS · CTC · NOR

**WINNER · DOCUMENTARY AWARD · SUNDANCE**

When two paintings are stolen from an Oslo gallery, authorities are quick to arrest the culprits, yet unable to find any trace of the enormous, photorealistic artworks. Czech painter Barbora Kysilkova, whose paintings hold deep personal sentiment, attends the hearing of Karl-Bertil Nordland, her drug-addicted art thief, and though he is unable to tell her what happened to her work, Kysilkova convinces him to sit for a portrait as a form of catharsis.

Told across multiple years and portraits, Benjamin Ree's documentary unfolds a story of vulnerability, connection, and the revelatory kinship that grows between artist and subject.

An unflinchingly honest, award-sweeping story of human connection and friendship.

English, Norwegian with English subtitles



## SOME KIND OF HEAVEN

SUN 18 APR · 11.30AM · CHEC

SUN 25 APR · 3PM · CHEC

LANCE OPPENHEIM · 81 MINS · CTC · USA

**NSW Premiere**

In *The Villages* (the largest retirement home in America, dubbed Florida's "Disneyland for retirees") the good life is waiting, with manicured lawns, synchronized swimming, nightly dancing, and pickleball. Over 130,000 residents have bought into this packaged piece of paradise, and while most move to *The Villages* to live out their twilight years, the community is not short of swingers, drugs, dating, scandal, and seniors behaving badly. People don't go there to die – they go there to live. But once you go in, it's near impossible to get out.

Produced by Darren Aronofsky and the New York Times, Floridian filmmaker Lance Oppenheim's debut delicately balances this absurdly outlandish setting with a deeply human, stereotype-challenging, and vibrantly real experience.



## STRAY

THU 15 APR · 4.15PM · JMT

WED 21 APR · 1.45PM · JMT

ELIZABETH LO · 73 MINS · CTC · USA

**WINNER · BEST INTERNATIONAL FEATURE · HOT DOCS**

Meet Zeytin (the Turkish word for 'olive') a stray dog living on the streets of Istanbul, in this deceptively simple documentary all about the dogs of Istanbul by Elizabeth Lo.

Bringing the camera to Zeytin's level, we see the world through her eyes, her seemingly impossible world of navigating busy roads, finding food, a place to sleep, and building a community of fellow strays.

When Zeytin's journey intersects with a trio of young, homeless Syrian refugees, Lo's film transforms into a poignant look at those pushed to society's margins. Observing the resilience and tight bonds formed by both groups, this is a poignant, memorable journey, gently probing and illuminating the economic, political, and cultural divisions between us.

Turkish with English subtitles



## WELCOME TO CHECHNYA

THU 15 APR · 4PM · CHEC

SAT 24 APR · 1.30PM · JMT

DAVID FRANCE · 107 MINS · CTC · USA

**WINNER · DOCUMENTARY SPECIAL JURY AWARD · SUNDANCE**

*"With scorching power that will leave you quaking in your seat, Welcome to Chechnya dares to confront genocide in the making"* – Sundance Film Festival

Investigative journalist, documentarian, and warrior with a camera, David France gains unfettered access to activists risking persecution and personal safety to provide safe passage for LGBTQ+ people out of Chechnya.

Since 2016, Chechnya's tyrannical leader, Ramzan Kadyrov, has waged a depraved operation to "cleanse the blood" of LGBTQ+ Chechens, overseeing a government-directed campaign to detain, torture, and execute them.

Director France embeds himself in the rescue efforts to smuggle out refugees to safer corners of the world. To protect the identity of escapees, the film employs groundbreaking, AI face-masking technology, along with hidden cameras, mobile phones, and found footage, to illustrate the searing urgency of LGBTQ+ people attempting immediate exodus from mass persecution.

Russian, Chechen with English subtitles

## MUSIC AND THE MAKERS

Hear from the voice boxes of social revolution as musicians from around the world buck against the status quo, demanding the need for equality and change.

With ferocious energy and potent punk spirit, SWIFF celebrates the makers and the music shaping the sounds of today.



## DAVID BYRNE'S AMERICAN UTOPIA

SAT 17 APR · 1.30PM · JMT

SPIKE LEE · 105 MINS · M · USA

**David Byrne and Spike Lee burn down the house in this once in a lifetime collaboration.**

A timely, earnest, and joyous experience, *American Utopia* is an inviting, celebratory concert documentary - blending song, speech, dance, and film.

Recorded at New York City's Hudson Theatre, David Byrne is joined by a cast of 11 musicians, vocalists, and dancers from across the globe, performing barefoot and untethered, their instruments made portable - including every artist in Byrne's grand dance.

Built from Byrne's solo work, timeless Talking Heads classics and features from his many collaborations (including Fatboy Slim, St. Vincent, Janelle Monae and more). Byrne and Lee craft a dreamworld where human connection, self-evolution, and social justice are paramount, accompanying the music with musing monologues.

*"Calling on all of us to think, connect, engage, and dance, David Byrne's American Utopia unites the brain and the backside, which may be exactly what we need right now."* - TIFF



## THE GO GO'S

SUN 25 APR · 4.45PM · CHEC

ALISON ELLWOOD · 98 MINS · CTC · USA, CAN, IRL

*"People automatically assume that we were put together by some guy, but we did it all ourselves."* - Belinda Carlisle

Born from the LA punk scene, The Go-Go's were an all-girl band who played their own instruments, wrote their own songs and made their own rules. The perfect fit for the rise of MTV, they were all attitude and colour, with hits like *We've Got The Beat*, *Our Lips Are Sealed*, and *Vacation* breaking new ground for women in the music industry. But the highs were met by lows, and as the pressures of fame set in, illness, addiction and infighting took their toll.

The Go Go's offers a warts-and-all, insightful story on what it means to survive the music industry and its all vices. With first person tales, messy truths, and hilarious anecdotes, through a wealth of archival material and candid interviews, the doc takes a nostalgic trip back to the Go-Go's meteoric rise in the 80s all the way to today, as the band collaborates on new music through the strength of sisterhood.



## MOGUL MOWGLI

THU 29 APR · CLOSING NIGHT 6PM FOR 6.30PM · CHEC

BASSAM TARIQ · 90 MINS · CTC · UK, USA

NSW Premiere

WINNER · FIRPRESCI PRIZE · BERLINALE

Spitting powerful lyrics, speaking to his culture, British Pakistani rapper Zed (Riz Ahmed - Nightcrawler, Sound of Metal) is about to hit the big time.

With a few weeks before his breakthrough as the support act on a world tour, Zed returns home to his family. Derided for the westernisation of his name (Zaheer) and absence away from his family, Zed is struck down by a degenerative disease, leaving him bedridden. Panicking at the thought of his big break passing him by, Zed descends into an emotional breakdown, amplified by vivid hallucinations echoing his Pakistani roots.

Robust, intense, and searingly intimate, Mogul Mowgli star and co-writer Riz Ahmed channels his own lived experience as a rapper, creating an idiosyncratic portrait of Zed and the culture clash of his Western sensibilities and Eastern heritage.

English, Urdu with English subtitles



## WHITE RIOT

TUE 27 APR · 2.15PM · JMT

RUBIKAH SHAH · 80 MINS · MA 15+ · UK

WINNER · DOCUMENTARY AWARD · LONDON FILM FESTIVAL

In 1977, racist rhetoric divides Britain. What happens when a punk fanzine challenges the status quo?

With the exploding punk scene in Britain clashing with the growth of the xenophobic National Front in the late 1970s, and famous musos making anti-immigration statements on stage, a group of creatives including photographer Red Saunders, and Aussie graphic artist Ruth Gregory, banded together to create Rock Against Racism (RAR) and the zine Temporary Holding.

Speaking truth to power and featuring underreported stories and social issues including immigration, the Northern Ireland conflict, and police misuse of power, Leading up to the iconic 1978 protest concert in Victoria Park, White Riot includes killer music from Steel Pulse, the Clash, Pauline Robinson, along with archival footage, and original RAR zines.

## SWIFF LIVE



## WAKE IN FRIGHT FEATURING RHYECE O'NEILL BAND

FRI 16 APR · 8.15PM · JMT

TED KOTCHEFF · 108 MINS · M · AUS

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of Australia's stunning and awe-inspiring 'great lost film', SWIFF presents an original live soundtrack screening of Ted Kottcheff's 1971 vivid outback sunburner, Wake In Fright, performed by desert-bluesmen, Rhyece O'Neill Band.

Contains high impact scenes  
See page 12 for more details



## A BOY CALLED SAILBOAT FEATURING GRIGORYAN BROTHERS

TUE 27 APR · 6.30PM · JMT

WED 28 APR · 6.30PM · CHEC

CAMERON NUGENT · 92 MINS · PG · USA, AUS

Acclaimed guitarists Slava & Leonard Grigoryan expanded their creative output with a live soundtrack to the big-hearted, family film, 'A Boy Called Sailboat', performed on stage at SWIFF '21.

Filmmaker & Composers Q&A to follow the performance.  
See page 12 for more details

# coastbeat

The Pulse of the Coast

Coastbeat celebrates the best of life on the NSW mid north coast. Written by locals for locals, we love telling stories and sharing the good stuff - the best places to eat, shop, play and learn each weekend.

Get your finger on the pulse of the Coast by signing up to our weekly email The Beat at [www.coastbeat.com.au](http://www.coastbeat.com.au)



Acai Bowl at Yamba



BBQ Boat at Brunswick Heads



Play at Lake Ainsworth



[shop.coastbeat.com.au](http://shop.coastbeat.com.au)



[coastbeat.com.au](http://coastbeat.com.au)



@coastbeat



@coastbeatcommunity



[hello@coastbeat.com.au](mailto:hello@coastbeat.com.au)



Organic raw chocolate  
sweetened only with  
Australian bush honey  
Locally handmade

[www.devacacao.com.au](http://www.devacacao.com.au)



Bring out your best side.



Coffs Coast Cosmetics

[coffscoastcosmetics.com.au](http://coffscoastcosmetics.com.au)

The background of the entire page is a stylized illustration of a stage. At the top, there are several strings of warm-toned, glowing lights. Below the lights, a pair of red curtains is drawn back, revealing a black stage floor. The text and logo are centered on this stage.

From pitch to print,  
we'll put you centre stage



Proud print & visual impact  
partner of SWIFF

[www.axisiq.com.au](http://www.axisiq.com.au)

DESIGN ■ PRINT ■ MAIL ■ VISUAL IMPACT ■ DIGITAL

## WORLD CINEMA

Indulge in the other, with films from over 30 countries, celebrating the stories that keep us close from far away.

Submerge your senses, immerse in cultures, and push for new perspectives with SWIFF's most expansive and diverse showcase of world cinema to date.



## AND THEN WE DANCED

FRI 16 APR · 1.30PM · JMT  
THU 22 APR · 6PM · JMT

LEVAN AKIN · 113 MINS · CTC · SWE, GEO, FRA

A rhythmic tale of secret love set in conservative modern-day Tbilisi, *And Then We Danced* follows the burgeoning romance between two dancers at a prominent Georgian dance assembly.

Merab (superbly portrayed by first time actor and professional dancer Levan Gelbakhiani) is a talented, 3rd generation dancer at the assembly. His fluid, delicate movements enrage his coach, who demands rigidity and masculinity as is the tradition of Georgian folk dance. Merab's life is thrown into disarray with the arrival of the masculine and rebellious dancer Iralki, plunging both men into a competitive rivalry and intense chemistry, tearing Merab between his desires and duties.

A heady, ground-breaking drama that echoes Luca Guadagnino's *Call Me by Your Name*, Georgian filmmaker Levan Akin casts a new, modern light on Georgia itself, entwining contemporary values and beliefs with the beating heart of Georgian culture and tradition.

Georgian with English subtitles



## ANOTHER ROUND

THU 15 APR · 6PM · JMT  
SAT 17 APR · 6PM · CHEC  
SAT 24 APR · 4PM · JMT

THOMAS VINTERBERG · 116 MINS · M · DNK

**Winner · Best Screenplay · Cannes Film Festival**  
**Winner · Audience Award Best Feature · MIFF**

Vinterberg and Mikkelsen reunite after their masterful 2012 Oscar-nominated drama, *The Hunt*, to deliver an intoxicating and heartfelt comedy about a group of friends who embark on an audacious experiment: to see if a constant level of alcohol in their system will help them find greater freedom, creativity and happiness.

Martin (Mikkelsen) and his three friends, all teachers at various stages of middle age, are stuck in a rut. Unable to share their passions either at school or at home, they come across a theory from a Norwegian psychologist that constant modest inebriation could lead to an open mind and heightened productivity during the working week. With flasks at the ready, and with scientific rigor, the group decide to give it a shot. As the friends go about their school days, with heightened moments of clarity, the initial results are highly encouraging. But as they push their experiment further, will they reckon with their behaviour or continue on the same course?

*"Vinterberg's delicate, grounded direction and the actors' wonderfully loose performances insist upon authenticity, creating a tonal mishmash that's endearingly absurd."* – The New York Times

Danish with English subtitles



## COUNTY LINES

TUE 20 APR · 4.15PM · JMT  
WED 28 APR · 8.15PM · JMT

HENRY BLAKE · 90 MINS · CTC · UK

### Australian Premiere

The practice of using children to pass drugs from cities to rural and coastal areas, 'county lines', is brought under the spotlight in this powerful feature debut, a fiction based on real events.

Tyler is a 14-year-old boy with a lot on his plate. School issues have landed him in a Peer Referral Unit, where he is ruthlessly bullied by his classmates. His single mum Toni is loving but overworked, leaving Tyler to raise his little sister. Tyler is all too vulnerable when the exceedingly charming Simon walks into his life. Grooming him with expensive gifts and lending a sympathetic ear, Simon coerces vulnerable Tyler into becoming a county lines trafficker, moving drugs to rural areas around England, selling the gear, then returning with the cash – completely alone.

Casting a bare-all snapshot of an underground phenomenon bubbling under the surface, County Lines brings the stark realities of vulnerable people across the world very close to home.



## DINNER IN AMERICA

FRI 16 APR · 8.45PM · CHEC  
SAT 24 APR · 8.45PM · CHEC

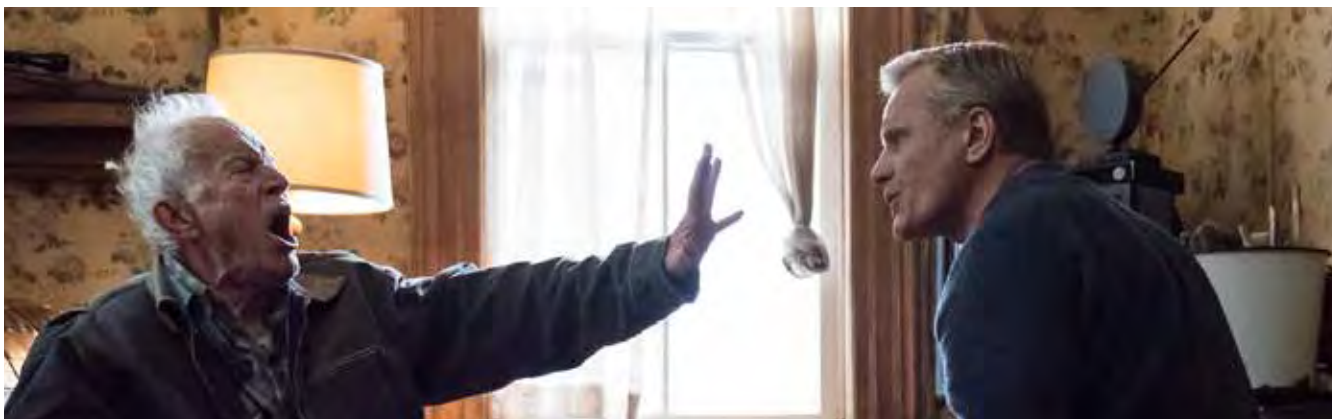
ADAM CARTER REHMEIER · 106 MINS · CTC · USA

*"This sweet and sour coming-of-age comedy smashed into Sundance with anarchy on its mind and a kickass soundtrack on its turntable. The bad boy-meets-good girl setup has been fodder for cinema for aeons, so it was about time someone took a chainsaw to the status quo"* – Ant Timpson, NZFF

Patty is a sheltered high schooler, living the middle American suburban nightmare. Naïve and outcast, she's bullied in school, fights with her brother Kevin and is obsessed with punk rock band, Psyops. Enter Simon. Early 20s. Anarchist. Punk rocker. Pharmaceutical guinea pig cheque-casher. A walking snarl, he starts a lot of fights he can't finish, and makes a career out of being in the wrong place at the wrong time. And dealing drugs.

When explosive Simon tried to bring sheltered Patty out of her cocoon, chaos follows closely in the wake of these two social outcasts.

Set to the beat of brilliant original songs, Dinner in America is an empowering wild ride, destined to be a festival favourite.



## FALLING

SAT 17 APR · 6.15PM · JMT  
SUN 18 APR · 6PM · CHEC

VIGGO MORTENSEN · 112 MINS · CTC · CAN, UK, DNK

### Australian Premiere

*"Viggo Mortensen's directorial debut is as sincere and unusual as you might expect from one of Hollywood's most unclassifiable stars"* – Indiewire

Formidable three-time Best Actor Oscar Nominee Viggo Mortensen (Green Book, Eastern Promises, Captain Fantastic) delivers a deeply personal directorial debut with Falling.

Mortensen plays John Peterson, a gay, ex-military family man caring for his vituperative and aging father Willis, played with great fervour by Lance Henriksen (Aliens) who delivers the performance of his career.

Falling snaps between present and past, where a younger Willis imposes an authoritarian, domineering rule over his family, pushing John into an Air Force career. Not accepting of John's lifestyle choices or sexual identity, Willis strives to remain the bull-headed patriarch of the family while dementia, age, and weakness grips him, deflecting his inner conflict on to his family, including daughter Sarah (Laura Linney).

Offering 80-year-old Henriksen the meatiest role of his remarkable career, Falling artfully demonstrates the difficult journey from darkness to light, from rage and resentment, to acceptance and hard-won grace.



## GOLDEN VOICES

MON 26 APR · 12PM · JMT

EVGENY RUMAN · 88 MINS · CTC · ISR

Victor and Raya Frenkel were the 'golden voices' of Soviet film dubbing for decades. All of the western movies that reached Soviet screens were dubbed into Russian by their dulcet tones and rich timbres. In 1990, with the collapse of Soviet Union, the Frenkels decided to do Aliyah, and immigrate to Israel, just like hundreds of thousands of their fellow Soviet Jews.

In Israel however, there is no need for Russian speaking dubbing artists, and Victor's and Raya's attempts to use their talent means they fall on tough times. Suddenly out of work for the first time in their long careers, Raya finds her way into a profitable phone sex gig, while Victor gets involved with dubbing American films for the expat Russian community for a shady video piracy operation.

Wearing the love of cinema on its sleeve, Golden Voices is a romantic, absurdist comedy with a heart of gold.

Hebrew and Russian with English subtitles



## JUDAS AND THE BLACK MESSIAH

SAT 17 APR · 8.45PM · JMT

SHAKA KING · 126 MINS · CTC · USA

Shaka King's magnetic film carries themes that continue to resonate today and serves as a reminder of the potent power of the people.

Based on true events, charismatic, young Illinois Black Panther party chairman, Fred Hampton (Daniel Kaluuya - Get Out), vows to create a "rainbow coalition" uniting all races and fighting to end systemic racial oppression. As his political prowess grows, Hampton demands all power to the people and inspires a growing movement of solidarity, prompting the FBI to consider him a threat. When FBI Agent Roy Mitchell (Jesse Plemons - Breaking Bad, Fargo) attempts to coerce Black Panther William O'Neal (LaKeith Stanfield, Sorry to Bother You), the whole movement could come crashing down.

An electrifying cast sees Kaluuya channelling Hampton's ability to energize and unite communities, with electrifying results, while Stanfield keenly taps into the bitter anguish of a man with conflicting allegiances.

*"Led by sensational performances this is a scalding account of oppression and revolution, coercion and betrayal, rendered more shocking by the undiminished currency of its themes."* – The Hollywood Reporter



## JUMBO

FRI 16 APR · 6PM · JMT

THU 22 APR · 6.30PM · CHEC

SUN 25 APR · 6.30PM · CHEC

ZOÉ WITTOCK · 93 MINS · CTC · FRA, LUX, BEL

Fresh from her breakout role in *Portrait of a Lady on Fire* (SWIFF'20) Noémie Merlant shines in this offbeat romance between woman and machine.

Jeanne, a late 20's misfit living with her uninhibited single mother, Margarette, prefers the company of gadgets over people. At her mother's request she picks up a graveyard shift cleaning gig at her local amusement park. There she meets the park's newest attraction and is instantly enamoured with his blinking lights and rotund form, affectionately naming him "Jumbo".

Loosely based on real life cases of objectophilia, in which people fall in love with inanimate objects, Jumbo is a riveting, vibrant, and often hilarious ride.

French with English subtitles



## KAJILLIONAIRE

THU 15 APR · 6.15PM · CHEC

FRI 23 APR · 8.45PM · JMT

MIRANDA JULY · 106 MINS · M · USA

Con-artists Theresa (Debra Winger) and Robert (Richard Jenkins) have spent 26 years training their only daughter, Old Dolio (Evan Rachel Wood), to swindle, scam, and steal at every opportunity.

During a desperate, hastily conceived heist, they charm a stranger (Gina Rodriguez) into joining their next scam, but with Old Dolio raised so far outside of the norm of acceptable parenting, it was only a matter of time before everything backfires. From acclaimed writer/director Miranda July, *Kajillionaire* is a profoundly moving, hilarious, and wildly original crime caper.

An ascendant portrait of growing up outside the norm, with a beating offbeat comedy heart, *Kajillionaire* explores how we can be reborn throughout our lives, how we can rebuild our value systems, and how we can redefine our own meaning of family.

*"Funny, poignant and ultimately triumphant... It's Miranda July, at her closely observed and compassionate best."* — The Washington Post



## THE KILLING OF TWO LOVERS

SAT 17 APR · 8.30PM · CHEC  
SUN 25 APR · 8.30PM · CHEC

ROBERT MACHOIAN · 85 MINS · CTC · USA

NSW Premiere

*"Its message is timeless. Its performances? Flawless ... A cautionary tale dedicated to the fragility of the family structure...a showcase of a radically talented filmmaker and a dedication to the painful reality of love."* – The Playlist

At once pressure-cooker thriller and intimate family drama, *The Killing of Two Lovers* sees a desperate father fight his inner demons in the hopes of keeping his family together.

Small town rural Utah, David and his estranged wife, Nikki, are trying to amicably co-parent their kids during a trial separation. When David discovers Nikki has a new lover, both his jealousy and fear of losing his family creates an explosive combination, but will his temper get the better of him or will this moment be a test of will and preservation?



## MY LITTLE SISTER

MON 26 APR · 2PM · JMT

STÉPHANIE CHUAT, VÉRONIQUE REYMOND · 99 MINS · CTC · CHE

A heavyweight drama elevated by two outstanding performers, Lars Eidinger (*The Clouds of Sils Maria*) joins Nina Hoss (celebrated star of *Barbara* and *Phoenix*) as inseparable twins fighting serious illness with their undying passion for the theatre.

Lisa, once a brilliant playwright, no longer writes. She lives with her family in Switzerland, but her heart remains in Berlin, beating in time with that of her twin brother Sven, the famous theatre actor. Since Sven has been suffering from an aggressive type of leukaemia, the relationship between them has become even closer. Lisa refuses to accept this blow of fate, and does everything in her power to bring Sven back on stage.

For her soulmate she neglects everything else and risks losing her marriage for the love of a brother who reflects her deepest longings and awakens in her the desire to be creative, and to feel alive again.

*"This is bright, unaffected naturalism...befits a film affectionately embedded in the Berlin theatre scene."* – Variety

French, German with English subtitles



## THE MACALUSO SISTERS

TUE 20 APR · 12.15PM · JMT

EMMA DANTE · 89 MINS · CTC · ITA

Australian Premiere

An affecting tale of both the anger and affection that binds a family together.

Maria, Pinuccia, Lia, Katia, Antonella. The childhood, adulthood, and old age of five sisters born and raised in a Palermo apartment, where they live alone, without their parents. As their home bears the marks of the time that passes, so do the sisters and their unique relationship.

Twelve actors portray the five sisters across three generations in this deeply poignant story about time, and memory, and the people who remain long after their passing.

*"The skill with which Dante adapts her own play, marshall[ing] three sets of actors playing the same characters at three different phases of life, and brings it soaring to fully cinematic life is remarkable."* – Variety

Italian with English Subtitles



## MINARI

SAT 17 APR · 3.45PM · JMT  
THU 22 APR · 11AM · CHEC  
FRI 23 APR · 6PM · CHEC

LEE ISAAC CHUNG · 115 MINS · PG · USA

WINNER · GRAND JURY PRIZE · AUDIENCE AWARD · SUNDANCE

Minari is a tender, sweeping story that follows a Korean-American family in search of the American Dream.

Inspired by Korean American director Lee Isaac Chung's own childhood in rural Arkansas, *Minari* follows the adorable, young David, son of Korean immigrants Jacob (Steven Yeun, *The Walking Dead*) and Monica (Yeri Han), as the family makes their way cross country from California to rural Arkansas to start a farm.

Amidst the instability and challenges of this new life in the rugged Ozarks, *Minari* offers a powerful story about what roots us and shows the undeniable resilience of family and what really makes a home.

English, Korean with English subtitles



## NEVER RARELY SOMETIMES ALWAYS

TUE 20 APR · 6.15PM · JMT  
THU 22 APR · 4PM · CHEC

ELIZA HITTMAN · 101 MINS · M · USA

WINNER · JURY GRAND PRIX · BERLIN FILM FESTIVAL

*"Perfectly pitched and sensitively played, this is truthful, powerful and profoundly moving fare from a film-maker at the very top of her game."* – The Guardian

When 17-year-old Autumn (Sidney Flanigan) looks in the mirror, she can see the signs beginning to manifest. Her apprehensions are confirmed by a positive result at a rural Pennsylvania pregnancy centre, where the pamphlets encourage motherhood; they don't tell Autumn everything she needs to know.

Autumn's distress is clear to her cousin and best friend Skylar (Talia Ryder), whose support is swift and decisive. With the address of a Brooklyn clinic in hand, the cousins board an early morning bus. As they navigate two fraught days in an unfamiliar and overwhelming city, their journey becomes one of profound solidarity, compassion, and friendship.

Gorgeously shot on 16mm, writer/director Eliza Hittman (*Beach Rats*) crafts a piercingly honest and wonderfully humanistic portrait of teenagehood.



## NOMADLAND

SUN 18 APR · 3.30PM · CHEC  
SAT 24 APR · 6.30PM · JMT

CHLOÉ ZHAO · 107 MINS · M · USA

WINNER · BEST FILM · VENICE FILM FESTIVAL

★★★★★ *"Frances McDormand delivers the performance of her career"* – The Guardian

After losing everything in the Great Recession, Fern (two-time Oscar winner Frances McDormand), a woman in her 60s, embarks on a journey through the American West, living as a van-dwelling modern-day nomad.

An Americana slice of life story, Nomadland canvasses the lives of transient people. Zhao's romantic portrayal of life on the road dances the line between fiction and documentary, casting non-actors to play embellished versions of themselves; their "performances" sewn together under Frances McDormand's stunning dramatic masterclass.

An awards magnet (72 nominations, 121 wins at time of print), Zhao's Nomadland meticulously crafts cinematic landscapes designed for the cinema experience.



## SAINT FRANCES

MON 19 APR · 4PM · JMT  
FRI 23 APR · 4PM · CHEC

ALEX THOMPSON · 101 MINS · CTC · USA

WINNER · AUDIENCE AWARD · SXSW

34-year-old server Bridget (played by writer Kelly O'Sullivan) finally manages to catch a break when she meets an actual nice guy, and lands a job nannying rambunctious six-year-old Frances. But after discovering an unwanted pregnancy and subsequently hurrying an abortion, Bridget begins to butt heads with the obstinate Frances.

Raw, biting witty, and unapologetic, Saint Frances approaches head on issues that women face every day: periods, post-partum depression, unwanted pregnancy, and body policing, treating them as the human occurrences they are and smashing taboos. Kelly O'Sullivan and director/partner Alex Thompson have crafted an refreshing study of the expectations of womanhood, adult relationships, and the highs and lows of becoming entangled within other peoples' families.



## ONLY THE ANIMALS

THU 15 APR · 11.45AM · JMT

DOMINIK MOLL · 116 MINS · M · FRA, DEU

The disappearance of a woman in the highlands of Southern France pulls five people into a tangled web of half-truths and hidden agendas.

Based on the acclaimed French novel of the same name and brought to the screen by Palm d'Or nominated director Dominik Moll (Lemming), with flairs of Scandi-Noir, and the narrative stylings of Kurosawa's Rashomon, this engrossing tale will keep you guessing. A taut, gripping thriller, ducking and weaving across continents and timelines, Only the Animals is a unique thriller built on not just the crime but also the enigmas of the heart.

*"Moll has given us this audacious, witty and absorbing mystery thriller, a tale of adultery and amour fou with a gamey touch of the macabre."* – The Guardian

French with English subtitles



## SUPERNOVA

FRI 16 APR · 4PM · JMT  
TUE 20 APR · 2.15PM · JMT

HARRY MACQUEEN · 93 MINS · M · UK

What happens when the person you have loved for decades starts to fade?

Longtime couple Sam (Colin Firth) and Tusker (Stanley Tucci) are travelling across England in their old RV, recapturing and reliving old memories and experiences together, knowing the onset of Tusker's dementia diagnosis will soon change their relationship – and their lives – permanently.

As they navigate the English countryside Sam and Tusker navigate their relationship: what it is, why it is, and what it will become.

Supernova is delicately crafted by British writer-director Harry Macqueen, handling some of the most important truths of life we often shy away from with elegance and humanity, providing the space and depth for Firth and Tucci to showcase a dramatic masterclass.

*"A drama about love and mortality that is all the more powerful for its restraint."* – The Guardian



## THE PAINTED BIRD

THU 22 APR · 1PM · JMT

VÁCLAV MARHOUL · 169 MINS · CTC · CZE, UKR, SVK

Australian Premiere

WINNER · UNICEF AWARD · VENICE FILM FESTIVAL

Visually stunning, thematically unflinching, and nakedly brutal in its storytelling, The Painted Bird tells a critical perspective of a young Czech boy navigating the holocaust in World War 2. Against a haunting gothic landscape, the nameless boy wanders without destination, searching for sanctuary across dangerous lands.

Based on the international high profile novel of the same name, The Painted Bird stars acting heavyweights Stellan Skarsgård, Harvey Keitel, Udo Kier, Barry Pepper, Julian Sands, and introducing Peter Kotlar who offers a child's-eye view of the holocaust beyond his years.

★★★★★ *"A monumental piece of work"* – The Guardian

Czech, German, Russian, Slavic Esperanto with English subtitles



## THE SURROGATE

THU 15 APR · 1.30PM · CHEC  
WED 28 APR · 2PM · JMT

JEREMY HERSH · 93 MINS · CTC · USA

NSW Premiere

Eager-to-please Brooklynite Jess is thrilled when her best friend asks her to be a surrogate for him and his husband. After a prenatal test brings to light that the baby will be likely to have Down's Syndrome, tensions rise between Jess and the would-be fathers as they navigate the delicate situation, considering difficult options.

As electric and open as Jess herself, The Surrogate invites the audience along for every doctor's appointment, every celebratory dinner, every journey that Jess takes in this ferociously modern and intimate dialogue-driven moral drama that tackles the issues of identity politics, eugenics, reproductive rights, and raising special needs children.

*"This clear-eyed ethical drama is propelled by a performance of stunning psychological insight and raw feeling from Jasmine Batchelor."* – The Hollywood Reporter



# VISIT PACIFIC COAST

NEW SOUTH WALES

PROUD SPONSOR OF SWIFF 2021

[www.visitpacificcoast.com.au](http://www.visitpacificcoast.com.au)

this  
little pig  
went to  
market

ginny fizz fizz

new

Introducing our  
gin-licious new  
Ginsecco™, with  
crisp prosecco,  
balanced gin, and  
spritzed soda



squealing pig

Get the facts  
Drink  
Wise.  
[org.au](http://org.au)

1569\_0121

# SWIFF '21 FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

DATE · TIME · LOCATION	TITLE	VENUE	PG	DATE · TIME · LOCATION	TITLE	VENUE	PG
WED 14 APR · 6.30PM FOR 7PM · JMT	OPENING NIGHT - THE FURNACE		10	SUN 18 APR · 11.30AM · CHEC	SOME KIND OF HEAVEN		25
THU 15 APR · 11.45AM · JMT	ONLY THE ANIMALS		34	SUN 18 APR · 1.15PM · CHEC	MADDY THE MODEL		22
THU 15 APR · 2PM · JMT	TWO OF US		38	SUN 18 APR · 3.30PM · CHEC	NOMADLAND		34
THU 15 APR · 4.15PM · JMT	STRAY		25	SUN 18 APR · 6.00PM · CHEC	FALLING		31
THU 15 APR · 6PM · JMT	ANOTHER ROUND		30	SUN 18 APR · 8.45PM · CHEC	POSSESSOR		43
THU 15 APR · 8.30PM · JMT	SAINT MAUD		43	SUN 18 APR · 3.30PM FOR 4PM · C.EX COFFS	NEXTWAVE YOUTH FILM AWARDS		16
THU 15 APR · 1.30PM · CHEC	THE SURROGATE		34	MON 19 APR · 11AM · JMT	MADDY THE MODEL		22
THU 15 APR · 4PM · CHEC	WELCOME TO CHECHNYA		25	MON 19 APR · 2PM · JMT	UNDER THE STARS OF PARIS		38
THU 15 APR · 6.15PM · CHEC	KAJILLIONAIRE		32	MON 19 APR · 4PM · JMT	SAINT FRANCES		34
THU 15 APR · 8.30PM · CHEC	BACURAU		43	MON 19 APR · 6.15PM · JMT	YALDA, A NIGHT FOR FORGIVENESS		38
FRI 16 APR · 11.30AM · JMT	THE MOLE AGENT		25	MON 19 APR · 8.15PM · JMT	THE TROUBLE WITH BEING BORN		38
FRI 16 APR · 1.30PM · JMT	AND THEN WE DANCED		30	TUE 20 APR · 12.15PM · JMT	THE MACULUSO SISTERS		33
FRI 16 APR · 4PM · JMT	SUPERNOVA		34	TUE 20 APR · 2.15PM · JMT	SUPERNOVA		34
FRI 16 APR · 6PM · JMT	JUMBO		32	TUE 20 APR · 4.15PM · JMT	COUNTY LINES		31
FRI 16 APR · 8.15PM · JMT	SWIFF LIVE: WAKE IN FRIGHT		12	TUE 20 APR · 6.15PM · JMT	NEVER RARELY SOMETIMES ALWAYS		33
FRI 16 APR · 1.30PM · CHEC	THE SUM OF US		19	TUE 20 APR · 8.30PM · JMT	FAITH		21
FRI 16 APR · 4PM · CHEC	WILDFIRE		38	WED 21 APR · 12PM · JMT	OTTOLENGHI AND THE CAKES OF VERSAILLES		41
FRI 16 APR · 6PM · CHEC	THE FURNACE		18	WED 21 APR · 1.45PM · JMT	STRAY		25
FRI 16 APR · 8.45PM · CHEC	DINNER IN AMERICA		31	WED 21 APR · 3.30PM · JMT	BELLINGEN, THE PROMISED LAND		18
SAT 17 APR · 11.30AM · JMT	GUNDA		21	WED 21 APR · 6PM · JMT	HIGH GROUND		19
SAT 17 APR · 1.30PM · JMT	DAVID BYRNE'S AMERICAN UTOPIA		26	WED 21 APR · 8.30PM · JMT	VIOLATION		43
SAT 17 APR · 3.45PM · JMT	MINARI		33	WED 21 APR · 6PM · CHEC · OSPREY	SWIFF X HILLTOP WINE DINNER		14
SAT 17 APR · 6.15PM · JMT	FALLING		31	THU 22 APR · 11AM · JMT	SUNDAY TOO FAR AWAY		19
SAT 17 APR · 8.45PM · JMT	JUDAS AND THE BLACK MESSIAH		32	THU 22 APR · 1PM · JMT	THE PAINTED BIRD		34
SAT 17 APR · 10AM · CHEC · O BLOCK	NEXTWAVE ACCELERATOR WORKSHOP		50	THU 22 APR · 4PM · JMT	THE WORLD TO COME		38
SAT 17 APR · 11AM · CHEC	FIRESTARTER: THE STORY OF BANGARRA		18	THU 22 APR · 6PM · JMT	AND THEN WE DANCED		30
SAT 17 APR · 1PM · CHEC	THE TRUFFLE HUNTERS		41	THU 22 APR · 8.30PM · JMT	FILM ANNOUNCED SOON - SEE SWIFF.COM.AU		
SAT 17 APR · 3PM · CHEC	ASMF SWELL CHASERS - TO SWELL AND BACK		45	THU 22 APR · 11AM · CHEC	MINARI		33
SAT 17 APR · 6PM · CHEC	ANOTHER ROUND		30	THU 22 APR · 1.45PM · CHEC	A THOUSAND CUTS		20
SAT 17 APR · 8.30PM · CHEC	THE KILLING OF TWO LOVERS		33	THU 22 APR · 4PM · CHEC	NEVER RARELY SOMETIMES ALWAYS		33

DATE · TIME · LOCATION	TITLE	VENUE	PG	DATE · TIME · LOCATION	TITLE	VENUE	PG						
THU 22 APR · 6.30PM · CHEC	JUMBO		32	SUN 25 APR · 1PM · CHEC	BREAKING BREAD		41						
THU 22 APR · 8.30PM · CHEC	BLOODY NOSE, EMPTY POCKETS		20	SUN 25 APR · 3PM · CHEC	SOME KIND OF HEAVEN		25						
THU 22 APR · 4.30PM · CHEC BAR	FILMMAKER FORUM		50	SUN 25 APR · 4.45PM · CHEC	THE GO GO'S		26						
FRI 23 APR · 11.30AM · JMT	TWO OF US		38	SUN 25 APR · 6.30PM · CHEC	JUMBO		32						
FRI 23 APR · 1.30PM · JMT	YALDA, A NIGHT FOR FORGIVENESS		38	SUN 25 APR · 8.30PM · CHEC	THE KILLING OF TWO LOVERS		33						
FRI 23 APR · 4PM · JMT	THE FURNACE		18	MON 26 APR · 12PM · JMT	GOLDEN VOICES		32						
FRI 23 APR · 6.30PM · JMT	FILM ANNOUNCED SOON - SEE SWIFF.COM.AU			MON 26 APR · 2PM · JMT	MY LITTLE SISTER		33						
FRI 23 APR · 8.45PM · JMT	KAJILLIONAIRE		32	MON 26 APR · 4PM · JMT	WILDFIRE		38						
FRI 23 APR · 11AM · CHEC	THE LEADERSHIP		18	MON 26 APR · 6PM · JMT	THE PAINTER AND THE THIEF		25						
FRI 23 APR · 2PM · CHEC	COCKROACH		20	MON 26 APR · 8PM · JMT	ALIENS		16						
FRI 23 APR · 4PM · CHEC	SAINT FRANCES		34	MON 26 APR · 4PM · EB	CREATIVE INDUSTRIES PARTY		53						
FRI 23 APR · 6PM · CHEC	MINARI		33	MON 26 APR · 6PM · EB	SCI-FI TEAM TRIVIA		16						
FRI 23 APR · 8.30PM · CHEC	SAINT MAUD		43	TUE 27 APR · 12.30PM · JMT	UNDER THE STARS OF PARIS		38						
FRI 23 APR · 12PM · CHEC · O BLOCK	ACA MASTERCLASS		50	TUE 27 APR · 2.15PM · JMT	WHITE RIOT		27						
SAT 24 APR · 11.30AM · JMT	THE PAINTER AND THE THIEF		25	TUE 27 APR · 4PM · JMT	THE TRUFFLE HUNTERS		41						
SAT 24 APR · 1.30PM · JMT	WELCOME TO CHECHNYA		25	TUE 27 APR · 6.30PM · JMT	SWIFF LIVE: A BOY CALLED SAILBOAT		12						
SAT 24 APR · 4PM · JMT	ANOTHER ROUND		30	TUE 27 APR · 8.45PM · JMT	MEANDER		43						
SAT 24 APR · 6.30PM · JMT	NOMADLAND		34	WED 28 APR · 12PM · JMT	LITTLE GIRL		22						
SAT 24 APR · 8.45PM · JMT	POSSESSOR		43	WED 28 APR · 2PM · JMT	THE SURROGATE		34						
SAT 24 APR · 11.30AM · CHEC	GUNDA		21	WED 28 APR · 4PM · JMT	COLLECTIVE		20						
SAT 24 APR · 1.30PM · CHEC	FEELS GOOD MAN		21	WED 28 APR · 6.15PM · JMT	THE WORLD TO COME		38						
SAT 24 APR · 3.30PM · CHEC	ASMF SWELL CHASERS - TO SWELL AND BACK		45	WED 28 APR · 8.15PM · JMT	COUNTY LINES		31						
SAT 24 APR · 6.30PM · CHEC	FILM ANNOUNCED SOON - SEE SWIFF.COM.AU			WED 28 APR · 6.30PM · CHEC	SWIFF LIVE: A BOY CALLED SAILBOAT		12						
SAT 24 APR · 8.45PM · CHEC	DINNER IN AMERICA		31	THU 29 APR · 6PM FOR 6.30PM · CHEC	CLOSING NIGHT - MOGUL MOWGLI		10						
SAT 24 APR · 9AM · CHEC · O BLOCK	ACA TEEN CLASS		50	<div>KEY</div> <table><tr><td>JMT - JETTY MEMORIAL THEATRE</td><td>CHEC - COFFS HARBOUR EDUCATION CAMPUS</td></tr><tr><td>CEX - C.EX COFFS</td><td>EB - ELEMENT BAR</td></tr><tr><td>CHEC - O BLOCK THEATRE</td><td>CHEC BAR</td></tr></table>				JMT - JETTY MEMORIAL THEATRE	CHEC - COFFS HARBOUR EDUCATION CAMPUS	CEX - C.EX COFFS	EB - ELEMENT BAR	CHEC - O BLOCK THEATRE	CHEC BAR
JMT - JETTY MEMORIAL THEATRE	CHEC - COFFS HARBOUR EDUCATION CAMPUS												
CEX - C.EX COFFS	EB - ELEMENT BAR												
CHEC - O BLOCK THEATRE	CHEC BAR												
SAT 24 APR · 12PM · CHEC · O BLOCK	ACA ADULTS OPEN CLASS		50										
SUN 25 APR · 1PM · JMT	THE TRUFFLE HUNTERS		41										
SUN 25 APR · 3.30PM · JMT	BREAKER MORANT		19										
SUN 25 APR · 6PM · JMT	THE FURNACE		18										
SUN 25 APR · 8.30PM · JMT	SAINT MAUD		43										



## THE TROUBLE WITH BEING BORN

MON 19 APR · 8.15PM · JMT

SANDRA WOLLNER · 94 MINS · R18+ · DEU, AUT

Premiering at the Berlin International Film Festival, Sandra Wollner's *The Trouble With Being Born* garnered controversy for its depiction of a relationship between a man and an android that resembles his child.

Ten-year-old Elli (Watson) is an android built by a father (Dominik Warta) as a replacement of his young daughter who disappeared years prior. Elli is programmed as a vessel for his memories and fantasies, which mean nothing to her, but everything to him.

*"Wollner joins the pantheon of uncompromisingly intellectual Austrian formalists like Michael Haneke. But in terms of daring, Wollner may even outstrip her countrymen."* - Variety

Contains high impact themes  
German with English subtitles



## WILDFIRE

FRI 16 APR · 4PM · CHEC  
MON 26 APR · 4PM · JMT

CATHY BRADY · 85 MINS · CTC · IRL, UK

Australian Premiere

Superbly performed and emotionally stirring, Cathy Brady's debut is a masterclass study of two sisters – and a country – reckoning with a troubling past.

Kelly has returned – long missing and presumed dead – to a small, Northern Irish border town, landing on the doorstep of her sister Lauren. They share a deep bond, despite Kelly's wild nature leaving Lauren, the sensible one, being left to pick up the pieces. Torn between love for her sister and long-repressed resentment, Lauren can either be swept away by the tornado of Kelly or return to the stable life she knows. Echoing *The Troubles* and how the past impacts the present, this bold new film tackles a perspective often left out of discussions of historical trauma, deftly zooming in on the impact felt by two women living in the 'post-conflict' generation.

*"Striking visually and heady with atmosphere."* – The Hollywood Reporter



## TWO OF US

THU 15 APR · 2PM · JMT  
FRI 23 APR · 11.30AM · JMT

FILIPPO MENEGHETTI · 100 MINS · M · FRA

*"A decades-long secret love affair between two older women is severely tested in Italian director Filippo Meneghetti's moving tribute to love's ability to overcome all obstacles"* - Variety

Two retired women, Nina (Barbara Sukowa) and Madeleine (Martine Chevallier), have been secretly in love for decades. Everybody, including Madeleine's family, thinks they are simply neighbours. They come and go between their two apartments, enjoying the affection and pleasures of daily life together, until an unforeseen event turns their relationship upside down.

Italian director Filippo Meneghetti's debut feature and France's Official Submission to the 2021 Oscars for Best International Feature.

French with English subtitles



## THE WORLD TO COME

THU 22 APR · 4PM · JMT  
WED 28 APR · 6.15PM · JMT

MONA FASTVOLD · 98 MINS · CTC · USA

WINNER · QUEER LION · VENICE FILM FESTIVAL

In upstate New York in the 1850s, Abigail (Katherine Waterston) begins a new year on the rural farm where she lives with her husband Dyer (Casey Affleck). As days pass, Abigail continues a mundane equilibrium with her husband, but her diaries offer a picture into a vastly richer internal life.

As springtime blooms, Abigail meets Tallie (Vanessa Kirby, *Pieces of a Woman*), an emotionally frank newcomer renting a neighbouring farm with husband, Finney (Christopher Abbott, *Possessor*, *Black Bear*, both SWIFF'21). The two women slowly orbit closer and closer, filling a void in their lives which neither knew existed.

*"A ravishingly beautiful love story, with painterly visuals that nod to the work of Winslow Homer and John Singer Sargent."* - The Guardian



## UNDER THE STARS OF PARIS

MON 19 APR · 2PM · JMT  
TUE 27 APR · 12.30PM · JMT

CLAUS DREXEL · 93 MINS · CTC · FRA

Christine (Catherine Frot), a woman in her 60s, has been living rough on the streets of Paris. Her lonely routine is divided by free food bank visits and wandering the city. On a frosty winter night, she discovers Suli, an eight-year-old Burkinabe refugee boy, sobbing in front of her makeshift shelter under a bridge, separated from his mother. Initially resistant to Suli's company, the two form a bond as society's outcasts. Christine and Suli embark on a journey brimming with emotion and tenderness to find Suli's mother within the underground world of Paris.

*Under the Stars of Paris* presents its subjects with an open heart, cultivating the beauty, sensitivity, and poetry of its story.

French with English subtitles



## YALDA, A NIGHT FOR FORGIVENESS

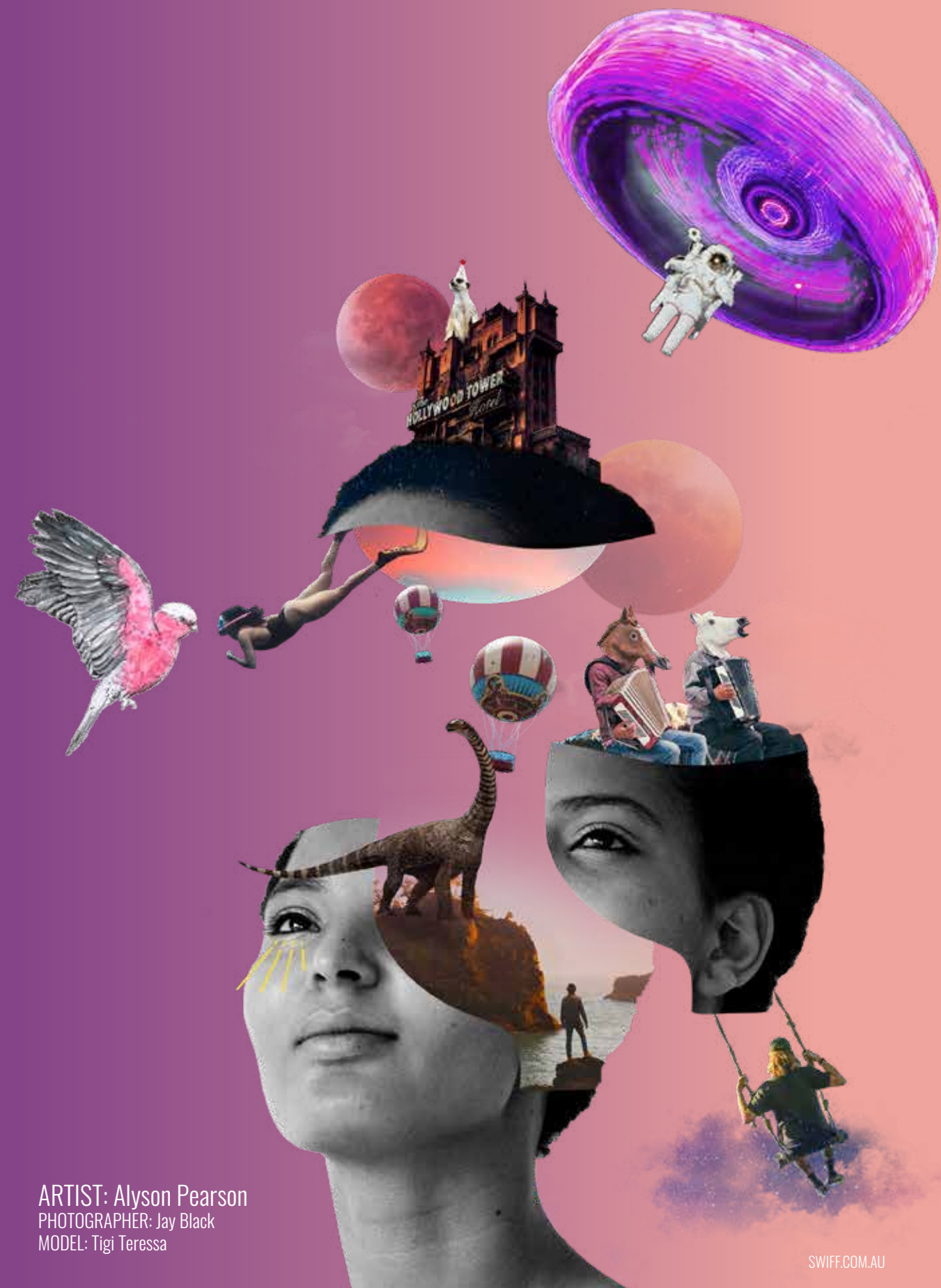
MON 19 APR · 6.15PM · JMT  
FRI 23 APR · 1.30PM · JMT

MASSOUD BAKHSHI · 89 MINS · CTC · IRN, FRA, DEU, CHE, LUX, LBN

NSW Premiere

Under Iranian law, those sentenced to death have a chance to be spared by the family of the victim, with a select few cases for clemency decided in the living rooms of the Iranian people via a reality TV show. Spotlights and cameras are all in position as 22-year-old Maryam, condemned to death for murdering her decades-older husband, is supposed to beg forgiveness for her life. Whether Maryam lives or dies is in the hands of Mona, her husband's adult daughter. The provocatively titled show, *"The Joy of Forgiveness"* will decide Maryam's fate.

Farsi with English subtitles



ARTIST: Alyson Pearson  
PHOTOGRAPHER: Jay Black  
MODEL: Tigi Teresa

**Reliable Solar Products Installation Service**

**30 Years +**

Mega Watt Power, proud sponsor of SWIFF 2021

Mega Watt Power, 15 Isles Drive Coffs Harbour  
02 6652 9700 ~ 1300 876 771 [www.megawattpower.com.au](http://www.megawattpower.com.au)

CLAPPERBOARD: ROLL 5, SCENE 1, TAKE 1, Mega Watt Power, Happy Customer

TICKET: SCREENWAVE INTERNATIONAL, SWIFF

3D GLASSES

MOVIE CAMERA

**Affordable, quality family homes of exceptional value and service for homeowners and investors.**

Homebuying programs for first home buyers, next home buyers and investors.

[hibbardhomes.com.au](http://hibbardhomes.com.au)

*~ est. 1968*  
**HibbardHomes**

FIRST NEXT INVEST

## FOR THE LOVE OF FOOD

The sharing of food has always been part of the human story. From forest floor to pristine restaurant plate, to shared ancient traditions and extravagant opulent feasts – it's food that has the power to unite and ignite our appetites.

Bon Appetit!



## BREAKING BREAD

SUN 25 APR · 1PM · CHEC

BETH ELISE HAWK · 86 MINS · CTC · ISR, USA

For the first time in history, a Muslim Arab won Israel's Masterchef competition – and now she is on a mission to create meaningful social change through food.

Dr Nof Atamna-Ismaeel is also the Founder of A-sham Arabic Food Festival, an annual culinary celebration in Haifa where Breaking Bread follows Muslim, Jewish, and Christian chefs, collaborating and creating together without any political boundaries – all for the love of food.

Exotic dishes, mouth-watering cinematography, and an ideal that Nof freely admits is more than meets the eye.

Solving Middle Eastern peace with a little halva and hummus is a tall order, but breaking down barriers at the public level, not the political, starts with breaking bread.

English, Hebrew with English subtitles



## OTTOLENGHI AND THE CAKES OF VERSAILLES

WED 21 APR · 12PM · JMT

LAURA GABBERT · 75 MINS · G · USA

History meets patisserie in this extravagant feast for the senses, from director Laura Gabbert (City of Gold), exploring the mouth-watering intersection between food, culture, and history.

Documenting the collaboration between world-renowned chef Yotam Ottolenghi and the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, Gabbert follows five visionary pastry chefs as they work to craft a decadent food gala inspired by the sumptuous exhibit 'Visitors to Versailles'. The chefs create a true feast of Versailles complete with a cocktail whirlpool and posh jello shots, architectural mousse cakes, chocolate sculptures, swan pastries, and even an edible garden.

English, Russian, Hebrew, Ukranian, with English subtitles



## THE TRUFFLE HUNTERS

SAT 17 APR · 1PM · CHEC

SUN 25 APR · 1PM · JMT

TUE 27 APR · 4PM · JMT

MICHAEL DWECK, GREGORY KERSHAW · 84 MINS · M · ITA, USA, GRC

NOMINEE · GRAND JURY DOCUMENTARY PRIZE · SUNDANCE

Three elderly truffle hunters ruminate on ritual, aging, dining delicacies, canine companionship, and changing ecology in this unique slice of life documentary with echoes of Honeyland (SWIFF'20).

Deep in the lush forests of Northern Italy resides the prized white Alba truffle. Coveted by the wealthy, the cult status of this fungus is amplified by the fact that it cannot be cultivated, it can only be found in the wild by a tiny circle of silver-haired Italian elders – and their beloved dogs.

With unprecedented access to this elusive enclave, follow the fascinating cycle from forest floor to velvet cushioned auction of the rich and famous. A glimpse into a world where life moves at a pace out of time, The Truffle Hunters is sure to awaken an appetite.

Italian, Piedmontese with English subtitles



## SWIFF X HILLTOP DEGUSTATION

WED 21 APR · 6.30PM · OSPREY, CHEC

*A food and wine celebration comes to SWIFF!*

The festival hosts acclaimed executive chefs Richie Dolan and Carla Jones from The Hilltop Store and Hilltop At The Lodge as they prepare a four course plus canapes degustation menu. Paired together with matching wines by Treasury Wine Estates at CHEC's Osprey Restaurant.

For the full SWIFF x Hilltop degustation menu and to book tickets, visit [www.swiff.com.au/wine-dinner](http://www.swiff.com.au/wine-dinner)

Please note that the menu may be subject to change.

The same COVID-safe measures as regular restaurant dining apply to this event.

screen nsw proudly supporting **your** stories



**THE LEADERSHIP**

SHOWING AT THE SCREENWAVE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

Still from *The Leadership*. Photo: Pieter de Vries. Courtesy of Bunya Productions.



[screen.nsw.gov.au](http://screen.nsw.gov.au)

Behind every great film is an even greater story...

c  ast

Collaborate, craft, communicate.

The strategic  
Creative Agency  
Partnered with  
SWIFF

[WEARECOAST.COM.AU](http://WEARECOAST.COM.AU)

Branding | Digital Design & Development | Digital Marketing | Marketing & Communications

## WILD SIDES

A favourite side bar of the SWIFF team – come and take a walk to the other side where cinema innovators craft worlds of unrestraint and extreme – stories that entrance, excite and enthrall, that will leave you in a perpetual state of awe.

**BACURAU**

THU 15 APR · 8.30PM · CHEC

KLEBER MENDONÇA FILHO, JULIANO DORNELLES · 132 MINS · CTC · BRA, FRA

**WINNER · JURY PRIZE · CANNES  
NOMINEE · PALME D'OR · CANNES**

Following the death of her grandmother, Teresa returns to her arid Brazilian village, Bacurau. With resources running low and mobile signal basically non-existent, it's clear the people have been abandoned by their government. After the sinister discovery that Bacurau has been erased from any digital map or GPS, a group of affluent tourists arrive, led by Michael (Udo Kier, *The Painted Bird*, SWIFF'21) ready to hunt, and it's not the capybaras they are hunting.

To survive the onslaught, the townspeople must mount their defence.

Bacurau blends genre hybrid thrills, with elements of western, revenge, sci fi and adventure, observing the lingering shadows of Portuguese colonialism still felt throughout Brazil today.

English, Portuguese with English subtitles

**MEANDER**

TUE 27 APR · 8.45PM · JMT

MATHIEU TURI · 87 MINS · CTC · FRA

After hitchhiking lost along the highway, Lisa (Gaia Weiss, *Vikings*) awakens encased in a tube with a bracelet on her wrist. It pulses with an illuminated countdown, her only source of light in the enclosed darkness not much wider than her shoulders. Imprisoned in a labyrinthian nightmare of tubes, Lisa's countdown timer ticks down from eight minutes. Petrified, confused, and utterly destitute to escape, Lisa has no option but to crawl through the maze. With every new section, a new scenario; a new challenge to be solved. Staying alive is the only reward.

Anxiety inducing claustro-thriller *Meander*, described as "Cube meets *Saw*", will have you on the edge of your seat, winning at every twist and painful contortion Lisa endures, all in the hope that this maze has an end.

English, French with English subtitles

**POSSESSOR**

SUN 18 APR · 8.45PM · CHEC

SAT 24 APR · 8.45PM · JMT

BRANDON CRONENBERG · 104 MINS · R18+ · CAN, UK

**WINNER · BEST DIRECTOR · BEST FILM · SITGES**

Set in an alternate reality 2008, Andrea Riseborough is Taysa Vos, a corporate assassin who parasitically enters the minds of strangers with brain implant technology, using them as vessels to take out her targets. Vos' tenuous grip on reality starts to slip while inhabiting the body of Colin Tate (Christopher Abbott, *It Comes at Night*), tasked to assassinate Colin's boss and future father-in-law, John Parse (Sean Bean), blurring the lines between Vos and Tate as their minds battle for dominance.

Equal parts visceral and cerebral with incredible performances from Riseborough, Abbott, and Jennifer Jason Leigh, *Possessor* explores a fractured psyche on the edge of sanity, utilising practical effects and hostile imagery in a gruesomely Cronenberg fashion.

Contains stroboscopic imagery

**SAINT MAUD**

THU 15 APR · 8.30PM · JMT

FRI 23 APR · 8.30PM · CHEC

SUN 25 APR · 8.30PM · JMT

ROSE GLASS · 84 MINS · MA15+ · UK

Meek, god fearing palliative care nurse Maud (show-stealing newcomer Morfydd Clark) questions the foundations of her faith when tasked with caring for the hedonistic and secular famed dancer-choreographer Amanda (Jennifer Ehle), who is facing the end of her life in at-home care.

Wracked with guilt, confused, and with a clouded past, Maud becomes convinced that she has been sent to Amanda to save her soul from Satan. Equally determined to relax Maud, Amanda unwittingly pushes her young nurse out of her comfort zone – and potentially over the edge.

An electrifying parable in the vein of A24's *The Witch* and *Midsommar*, *Saint Maud* would be well at home in the Old Testament. British writer-director Rose Glass' debut explores the bible page-thin divide between devotion and delusion.

**VIOLATION**

WED 21 APR · 8.30PM · JMT

MADELEINE SIMS-FEWER, DUSTY MANCINELLI · 107 MINS · CTC · CAN

**WINNER · RISING STARS AWARD · TIFF**

In Madeleine Sims-Fewer and Dusty Mancinelli's deeply disturbing debut feature, a traumatic betrayal drives a woman towards a vengeful extremity.

Miriam (Madeleine Sims-Fewer) is a woman treading water. In a loveless marriage, Miriam hopes to find direction through a weekend reunion with her estranged younger sister Greta and her affable husband, Dylan, in their picturesque lakeside home. Over the weekend, the sisters ratchet up to a conversational minefield unveiling one another's sensitivities and histories.

A cleverly scripted and superbly performed chamber piece subverting the revenge thriller genre, *Violation* sees Madeleine Sims-Fewer – who not only co-wrote, co-directed and co-produced *Violation* with Dusty Mancinelli – deliver a committed, full-bodied performance as Miriam, a woman unalterably changed by her violation.

Contains high impact scenes.

SWIFF.COM.AU

# NEXTWAVE ONLINE

Learn filmmaking online! No experience required.

SWIFF's Nextwave Online youth film education program includes 10 easy-to-use online modules which can be learnt at home or in the classroom. Teaches up to an independent learning level.



## NEXTWAVEFILM.COM.AU

SIGN UP TODAY · NSW CREATIVE KIDS VOUCHERS ACCEPTED

### NEXTWAVE ONLINE

In 2020, SWIFF's Nextwave program went national, shifting from an in-person workshop program to a dedicated film education portal hosted at [NEXTWAVEFILM.COM.AU](https://nextwavefilm.com.au).

The online learning program teaches young people filmmaking skills up to an independent learning level - no experience required. Over three hours of education content is available across 10 easy-to-use modules.

Students and teachers will learn everything from finding a story idea, to writing your script, costuming, props, locations, how to run a film set, how to use a film camera, and finally editing, music and sound design.

Thanks to the NSW State Government's Stronger Country Communities Fund, subscriptions to Nextwave Online are FREE to Coffs Harbour students and teachers signing up before April 30.

Nextwave Online is also an accredited NSW Creative Kids provider, making it free when you redeem your Creative Kids voucher.

The program is now being used by schools in every State and Territory around Australia, finding and developing the next wave of young regional filmmakers. Details about the 2021 Nextwave Youth Film Competition are available through the website.

SWIFF's Nextwave program is proudly supported by Southern Cross University.



## CALL OF THE SURF

Surf cinema exists at the intersection of cutting-edge technology and big screen spectacle.

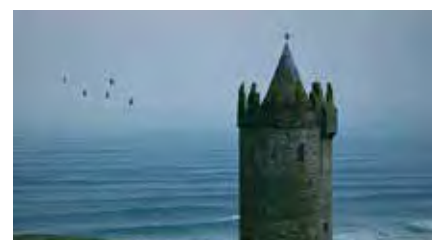
With monster waves charging and audiences left gasping, SWIFF celebrates Tim Bonython's ASFM Swell Chasers - To Swell and Back, with five jaw-dropping flicks for frothers that command the big screen experience.



### ASMF SWELL CHASERS - TO SWELL AND BACK

SAT 17 APR · 3PM · CHEC  
SAT 24 APR · 3.30PM · CHEC

TIM BONYTHON · 120 MINS · CTC · PRT, IRL, PYF, AUS, FIJ



For the first time in 3 years, the amaysim Australian Surf Movie Festival (ASFM) returns to venues across Australia, and SWIFF is proud to bringing you ASMF Swell Chasers - To Swell and Back, with 5 jaw-dropping films that capture the world's best big wave surfers battling the biggest waves on the planet. Featuring some of the world's best big wave riders, including: Kai Lenny, Rodrigo Koxa, Matahi Drollet, Ross Clarke-Jones, Dan Corbett, Bradley Norris, Henry Davies, Shane Ackerman, Jake Osman and many more.

All films featured are directed by AACTA Award-winning cinematographer and multi-award winning surf film producer Tim Bonython, who has over four decades of experience filming and documenting surfing. Tim has spent the last 4 years chasing massive swell events for this year's festival - an adventure that has taken him around the globe.

Recording some of the most ground-breaking scenes in recent big wave surfing memory, including pioneering big wave surfer Kai Lenny riding the futuristic foil surfboard in gigantic surf at Jaws, and fellow big wave rider Rodrigo Koxa breaking the world record for the biggest wave ever ridden.

"To see these big wave gladiators charging down monster waves is just the most exciting thing," said Tim, who is not only the films' main cinematographer, but also the founder of ASMF.

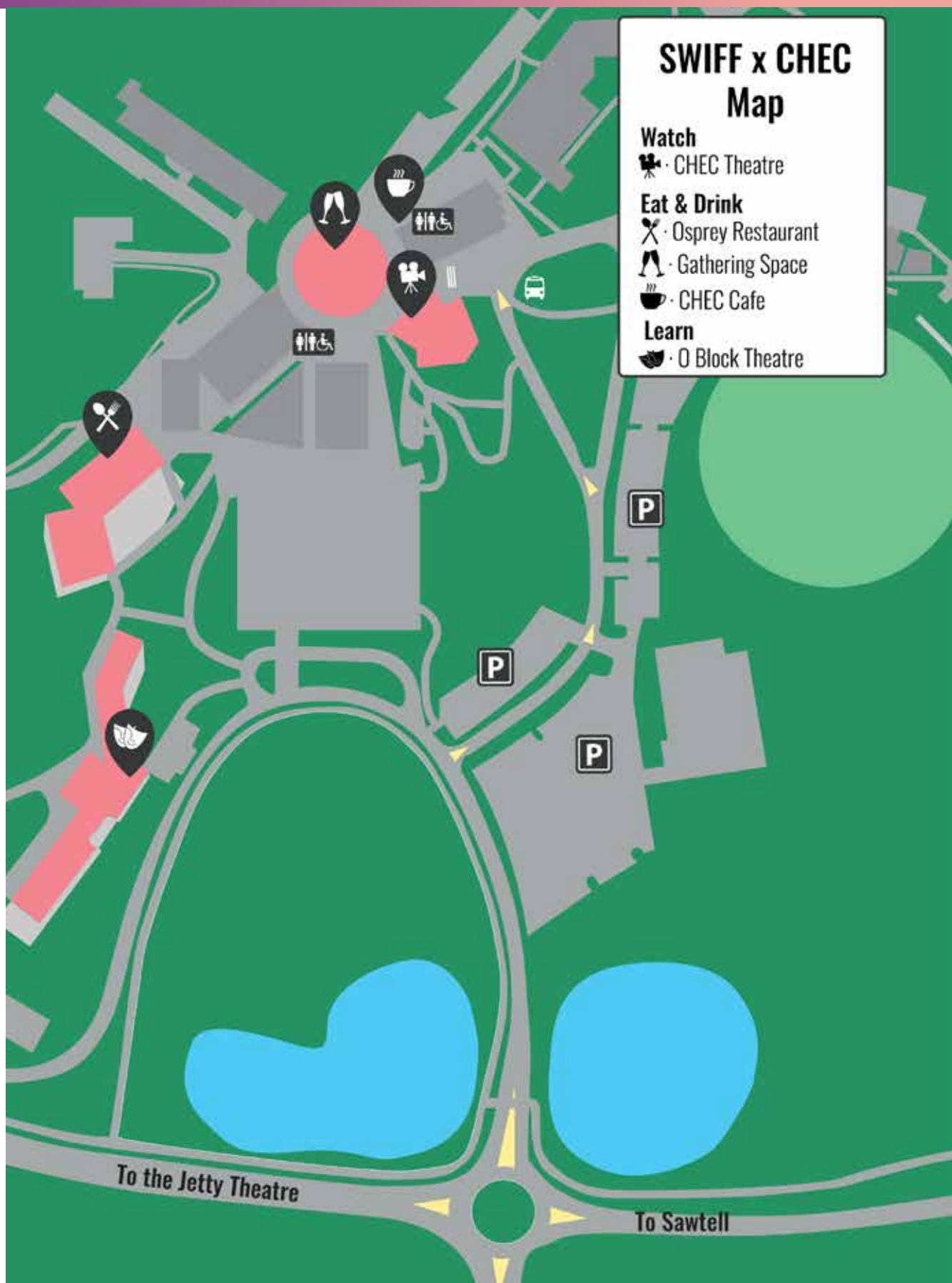
The five awe-inspiring films include big wave surfers at Nazaré in Portugal, Mullaghmore in Ireland; Teahupo'o in Tahiti, at The Right in Western Australia, and at Cloudbreak in Fiji.

ASFM promises to bring surf cinema fans to the very edge of their seats, witnessing some of the world's wildest waves with a stellar cast of hardcore chargers and spectacular, spine-tingling swells. Yew!

Tickets \$25 Full | \$22 Concession

Recommended all ages. Please note, this session will have an intermission.

# CHEC MAP



# COFFS HARBOUR EDUCATION CAMPUS

SWIFF is thrilled to announce an all-new screening and events venue for the festival at the Coffs Harbour Education Campus – one of the best hidden gems on the Coffs Coast! Through the support of TAFE NSW, Southern Cross University, and Coffs Harbour Senior College, new theatres, new events, new opportunities, and new experiences are launching across the festival. Be sure to check out the line-up of all-new festival experiences at CHEC!

## WATCH

The newly refurbished CHEC Theatre is SWIFF's new high capacity 350-seat theatre. Immerse in eight massive days of film screenings, plus the Closing Night Gala and afterparty (ticketed) – all projected on the new 8m cinema screen, featuring state-of-the-art cinema projection. Sit back, relax, and sink into a world of cinema.

## EAT AND DRINK

The new CHEC Gathering Space comes alive at SWIFF, with a pop-up beer garden, meeting space, and host to fascinating filmmaker Q&A sessions and live music performances. CHEC's cafe will be open for light meals, sandwiches, and cinema food. SWIFF audiences will also be able to experience the first ever dining event held during the festival – a degustation hosted by the team from The Hilltop Store and Hilltop at the Lodge, including canapes plus a four course dinner with wine pairings from Treasury Wine Estates, set to thrill the senses. Rolling into the Osprey Restaurant on campus for a limited engagement, don't miss out on a gastronomical event to remember – details on page 14.

## EXPERIENCE

CHEC Campus will be alive with more than just film screenings. Free and ticketed experiences for festivalgoers will be hosted across the campus for you. SWIFF Talks will see audiences enjoy 1-hour, on-stage interviews with some of Australia's most exciting filmmakers. Actors Centre Australia, one of Australia's leading dramatic institutions, will host workshops catering to all acting levels. Filmmakers are invited to the Filmmaker Forum to connect with local industry and together plan attracting largescale film productions to the region. There's a lot going on. Welcome!





## GET SKILLS EMPLOYERS WANT.

Start your career the right way, learning from industry experienced teachers in state-of-the-art facilities at TAFE NSW. Study full time, part time or online, and develop job-ready skills that employers demand.

We offer a range of certificates, diplomas and degree courses that will allow you to explore your creative side, and give you real skills for real jobs.

- + Photography and Photo Imaging
- + Screen and Media
- + Design Fundamentals
- + Visual Arts
- + Fashion
- + Music
- + and many more.

**EXPLORE. ENQUIRE. ENROL.**  
**TAFENSW.EDU.AU**  
**131 601**

RTO 90003 | CRICOS 00591E | HEP PRV12049



**TAFE**NSW

A PROUD SPONSOR OF SWIFF 2021

Coffs Harbour Senior  
 College is proud  
 to be co-hosting

# SWIFF

*"It's better on  
 the big screen"*



**COFFS HARBOUR  
 SENIOR COLLEGE**

[SWIFF.COM.AU](http://SWIFF.COM.AU)





# SWIFF CREATE

PRESENTED BY



Create NSW  
Arts, Screen & Culture



## WELCOME TO SWIFF CREATE

SWIFF Create offers new immersive, interactive, and engaging events to those passionate about the creation of films - filmmakers and audiences alike.

This inaugural SWIFF Create program, presented by Arts Mid North Coast and Create NSW, sees filmmaker interviews recorded in front of live audiences, a Creative Industries Party, acting workshops from Actors Centre Australia, a Filmmaker Forum for local and travelling filmmakers, and a free accelerator workshop for young Nextwave finalists.

Whether you are honing your skills or just interested in what happens behind the lens, head along and check out SWIFF Create.

## ACTORS CENTRE AUSTRALIA: PERFORMANCE WORKSHOPS

Calling all actors! Sydney's Actors Centre Australia are heading to SWIFF presenting three workshops, adding new tools to your performance toolbox – from beginner to pro.

With Hugh Jackman as their Patron, ACA is one of the lead institutions for dramatic performance in Australia. Pick your workshop and tune up your dramatic skills to learn from some of the best in the industry.

**Actors  
Centre  
Australia**

### MASTERCLASS

FRI APR 23 · 12PM · O BLOCK THEATRE, CHEC

Over five hours learn professional new tools and unique exercises to create exciting, three dimensional characters, and what it is to connect to a story and other actors.

With a scene partner, you will spend 30 minutes on the floor being directed and working on a scene that has been selected specifically for your group, learning from other pairs as they take the stage in turn. You will learn what it is to breakdown a scene from initial analysis to making choices and taking direction on the floor. Limited spaces available – you can book with a scene partner or meet one on the day.

Cost \$55

### TEEN CLASS

SAT APR 24 · 9AM · O BLOCK THEATRE, CHEC

Over two hours this session will focus on games and exercises that are the starting point for all actor training. Fun, energetic and interactive each participant will begin to explore connection, focus, commitment and listening. It is these games and exercises that will create the beginning foundations every actor needs to grow.

Cost \$20

### ADULT OPEN CLASS

SAT APR 24 · 12PM · O BLOCK THEATRE, CHEC

Over two hours participants will experience the exercises students in our Bachelor of Performing Arts program explore in the first year of their degree. It is a progression of the ideas and tools taught in drama classes around the world which create the structures that allow students to grow into professional actors.

Cost \$25

## NEXTWAVE ACCELERATOR WORKSHOP

SAT 17 APR · 10AM · O BLOCK THEATRE, CHEC

Finalists of SWIFF's Nextwave 2020 short film competition will learn from Mirco Guidon, winner of SWIFF's inaugural Nextwave competition and now an established, award-winning filmmaker, delivering to a dedicated 2-hour workshop proudly supported by Southern Cross University.

Now working out of Sydney, Mirco has produced multiple award-winning short films, works full-time in the industry, and before COVID, headed up a 39-country tour around the world filming and directing the commercial campaign for a global brand.

Learn the skills and opportunities to take your filmmaking to the next level.

## NEXTWAVE YOUTH FILM AWARDS

SUN APR 18 · 3.30PM FOR 4PM · C.EX COFFS (upstairs Auditorium)

Australia's largest regional youth film celebration is at home again on the Coffs Coast! One of the most highly attended events at SWIFF, the Nextwave Youth Film Awards showcases, recognises, and awards young regional filmmakers from across the country.

This year saw the most diverse range of films entered into the competition and on the night we will see all the finalists' short films and announce the winners.



Walk the red carpet, snap a pic with the festival photographer, and enjoy a live musical performance as part of the family friendly event. Hosted at C.ex Coffs, food and drinks will be available for purchase prior to the event. Enjoy free popcorn on arrival!

Nextwave Youth Film Awards tickets are regular SWIFF'21 ticket prices, and SWIFF'21 Film Passes can be used for the event. All Under 25 single tickets are \$8.

# SWIFF CREATE

## FILMMAKER FORUM

THU 22 APR · 4:30PM · CHEG BAR

SWIFF and Arts Mid North Coast welcome filmmakers and screen industry workers for a 2-hour session about taking the Coffs Coast film industry to the next level. Attendees will hear about the vision for our future industry, aiming to set up Coffs Harbour as a destination for largescale film productions into the future, and to make the Coffs Harbour film industry infrastructure-ready.

With the newly formed Coffs Coast creative industries peak body, Blacklight Collective, making film and screen development a major priority for industry development, SWIFF and Arts Mid North Coast invite all filmmakers, both local and travelling, to find out how they can further build their businesses off the travelling film production trade.

Coffs Harbour already has one of the largest regional film industries in Australia. Be part of the changing face and future of our growing industry. Relaxed networking to follow session.

**Regular ticket pricing applies. Complimentary food and drinks included with admission.**



# arts MID NORTH COAST

Supporting film & screen industry development across the region

Arts, Culture & Screen Directory | Events Listings  
Grants, News & Opportunities | Education Pathways  
Creative Industry Resources

[www.artsmidnorthcoast.com](http://www.artsmidnorthcoast.com)

Follow us!



**PROUD SPONSOR OF SWIFF 2021**



# COFFS COAST

Photo credit: Chris Hewgill

## Stories from your local community

Listen live on 92.3 FM, on digital  
radio or via the ABC listen app.



   #abccoffscost

# SWIFF CREATE

## CREATIVE INDUSTRIES PARTY

MON 26 APR · 4PM · ELEMENT BAR

Calling all creative industries workers: designers, dancers, actors, musicians, visual artists, writers, hair and MUAs, new media specialists, VR/AR/XR creators, game designers - if you work in the creative industries, this is for you!

A new event for SWIFF! Connect, eat, drink, and share as SWIFF welcomes creative industries artists, arts workers, and arts appreciators for a networking shindig at Element Bar.

Attendees will get the low-down on the new creative industries peak body for Coffs Harbour, Blacklight Collective, its vision and projects coming up, followed by light networking in a relaxed, bubbly environment.

Supported by Arts Mid North Coast, this event is about connecting the dots, bolstering our industry's local profile, and forming new partnerships and collaborations.

In 2020, the local Coffs Coast Creative Industries successfully lobbied to have arts and culture re-entered into the NSW State Government's Regional City Action Plan as a priority area through a similar networking event.

As the Coffs Coast's Creative Industries continues to grow from strength to strength, we invite local artists, arts workers, and arts appreciators to engage in the conversation about the future of arts & culture on the Coffs Coast, to bolster the opportunities to grow creative businesses, to collaborate on new ventures, and to enhance the cultural fabric of the Coffs Coast community.

Finger food and drink on arrival included in ticket price. \$25.00 Full | Under 25 \$20.00.

## SWIFF TALKS

Hosted at the CHEC Gathering Space, ABC Coffs Coast sits down for a coffee to hear about the lives of Australian filmmakers – and the stories that usually stay on set – in a series of 1-hour interviews recorded in front of a live audience.

See [SWIFF.COM.AU](http://SWIFF.COM.AU) and stay connected for announcements of the full schedule of interviewees and times.



**Hertz**

Tour the Coffs Coast's  
natural beauty with Hertz Rent a Car

Hertz, proud  
Sponsor of  
SWIFF 2021

# Hertz. We're here to get you there.

[hertz.com.au](http://hertz.com.au) - 22 Cook Drive Coffs Harbour - 02 6651 1899



# Destination

Coffs Coast

more than 101 reasons  
to play, stay, taste  
and explore

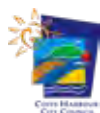


[coffscoast.com](http://coffscoast.com)

# NEXTWAVE

REGIONAL. YOUTH. FILM

PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY



# NEXTWAVE



Nextwave is SWIFF's national program that develops, celebrates, and recognises the filmmaking talents of young regional Australians.

Beginning with the Nextwave Team teaching fundamental film skills virtually across Australia through the new Nextwave Online education portal, to young filmmakers producing original short films and entering them into the Nextwave competition - the program also culminates in the Nextwave Youth Film Awards - a gala event screening and award's night, celebrating new and exciting works from regional Australia's most outstanding young filmmakers.

## NEXTWAVE ACCELERATOR

Filmmaking workshop  
for Nextwave finalists  
and youth. Details on  
page 50



## LEARN IT!

In 2020 Nextwave pivoted to a national online education platform. Now, councils, teachers, and individuals across Australia have signed up to the service to learn filmmaking up to an independent level - no experience required - accessing over 3 hours of film education video modules. Nextwave Online returns for 2021 - find more information at [nextwavefilm.com.au](http://nextwavefilm.com.au).



VISIT  
NEXTWAVE ONLINE



## FILM IT!

The 2020 competition asked filmmakers to create an original short film, under five minutes, including or exploring the question 'What's Next?'. Nextwave received over 60 short film entries including animations documentaries, comedies, thrillers, and everything in between. For details on the 2021 competition, see the bottom of page 58.



## SCREEN IT!

The Nextwave Youth Film Awards will host the World Premiere screening of 22 short film competition finalists. Nextwave received over 60 short film entries including animations documentaries, comedies, thrillers, and everything in between. For details on the 2021 competition, see the bottom of page 58. A red carpet event, NYFA celebrates incredible filmmaking, including a live music performance and awards presentation of this year's best films. Held this year at C.ex Coffs on Sunday April 18th from 3.30pm. More information on page 50.



## A LIGHT IN THE NIGHT

AMIRA & KAIA TEOH SEEBER · 3:20 · 10-14 YEARS · SHENTON COLLEGE

One mysterious night, three sleepy bears. Where will their curiosity take them? And will they still be hungry?



## THE BEACH

LACHLAN RECK, MICHAELA FORBES · 2:07 · 10-14 YEARS · ST COLUMBA ANGLICAN SCHOOL

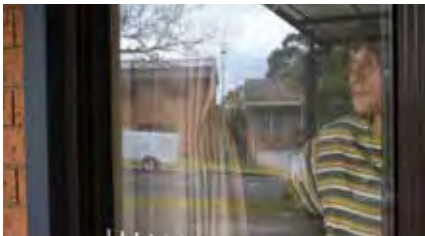
A pleasant day at the beach for two friends takes an unexpected turn when things are no longer what the seem.



## TIE DIE

GUS ROMEO, HENRY JOHNSTON · 2:20 · 15-17 YEARS · TOOWOOMBA GRAMMAR SCHOOL

A body is discovered by a teacher on the school grounds. Students are interrogated. The discovery of new information leads the investigators down a totally different path.



## DEVOUR

SOPHIE BAGSTER · 3:30 · 15-17 YEARS · OXLEY HIGH SCHOOL

After a night of pure partying awkwardness, a teenage girl has found herself feeling strange. Something ominous lurks, and she can almost taste it.



## WHAT'S NEXT?

AVA CLARKE-VERES, EVANGELINE MARTIN · 3:35 · 10-14 YEARS · ST COLUMBA ANGLICAN SCHOOL

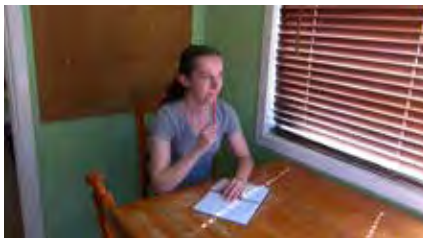
Mollie is drawn towards a mysterious book, but when she starts to notice just how realistic this book is, magical forces get out of hand.



## ELEVEN FIFTY-NINE

JOSEPH O'BRIEN · 2:37 · 10-14 YEARS · THE CENTRAL WEST LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

After being bullied at school, Melanie finds new confidence from having a heart-to-heart with her own reflection.



## THE TIME IS NIGH

CHLOE HIGGINS · 2:14 · 15-17 YEARS · COFFS HARBOUR SENIOR COLLEGE

Sometimes Lady Luck just isn't on your side.



## LOST

LUNA FISHER · 1:11 · 15-17 YEARS · COFFS HARBOUR SENIOR COLLEGE

A handmade animation about a foal who gets caught up chasing a butterfly and wanders too far from home.



## THE ROBBERY

UKI PUBLIC SCHOOL · 4:31 · 10-14 YEARS

When a school class is robbed, everybody is a suspect! They'll need to call in a detective to find all the clues and solve the case.



## WHAT'S NEXT

FRANCOISE DIK · 1:08 · 15-17 YEARS · COFFS HARBOUR SENIOR COLLEGE

Awakened by a blinding blue light coming from an ominous bush outside, our protagonist is taken to an unknown place with no knowledge of what comes next.



## RURAL QUEST

WILLIAM BUTLER, JACK MORGAN, DYLAN MANN · 5:00 · 15-17 YEARS · ST PAUL'S COLLEGE KEMPSEY

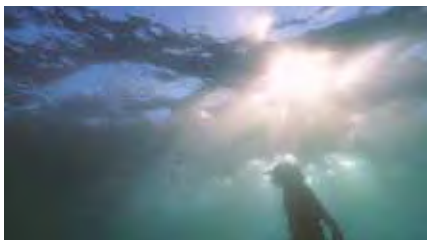
Magic. Teleportation. Duels. Chases. Clues. And... Treasure. The showdown against good and evil! This race for victory and epicness will have you on the edge of your seat.



## LOST IN THE LAKE

COOPER WARD · 4:06 · 15-17 YEARS · WOOLGOOLGA HIGH SCHOOL

Two army cadets search for one another... but as they circle the lake, they come across someone, or something else.



## THE PERFECT DAY IN ISOLATION

JONAH WERNER, TOBY HILL · 4:55 · 15-17 YEARS · MACKSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

Sometimes a bit of isolation is a good thing - a chance to go surfing, diving, boating and bushwalking, and just have a perfect day.



## WEATHERMAN

NICOLA SERCOMBE · 5:00 · 18-25 YEARS · GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY

Weatherman follows a tenacious local meteorologist and storm-chaser as a group of student filmmakers follow his adventures, including one particularly harrowing experience into the great unknown.



## I DON'T WANT TO PLAY ANYMORE

WILLOW DRIVER · 4:54 · 18-25 YEARS

Long lost primary school friends, Hamish and Kym, are reunited after 20 years - but as Hamish soon finds out, playtime was never over.



## DAY DREAMER

AARON BRUGGEMANN · 3:26 · 18-25 YEARS

Work can really run you down. Going into the same job day after day. Feeling stuck in the monotony of work can really make your mind wander.



## BRAIN STORM

BEN ROSENBERG, LAWSON BOOTH · 4:47 · 15-17 YEARS · TOOWOOMBA GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Two classmates are struggling to impress one another with their film ideas. With one week remaining until deadline, they'll need to set aside their differences because... well, they just have to!



## REMEMBER THE WALTZING, MATILDA

RYLEE PARRY · 4:34 · 18-25 YEARS

Miss Tilly's Story - A Life Lived Apart



## OZYMANDIAS

TOM DEARNALEY · 2:06 · 18-25 YEARS · QUT

Power doesn't last forever.



## THE SWITCH

KAELYN WARD · 4:22 · 18-25 YEARS

When unearthly giggles are heard from the bedroom, lights flicker uncontrollably and the smell of rotting cheese disgorges from the air conditioner, this dream home might just be a nightmare.



## FEELING LOST

JORDAN FRITH · 5:00 · 18-25 YEARS

What do your dreams say about you? Your nightmares? Sometimes, we need a little perspective to see the bigger picture.



## COME DOWNSTAIRS

BRAYDEN CURETON · 3:02 · 18-25 YEARS · TOOWOOMBA CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

After receiving a message from someone who shouldn't be home, Thomas is slowly piecing together that he might not be alone as he thought.

**The Nextwave 2021 short film competition is open for submissions from April 18th! Filmmakers aged 10 – 25 are invited to make a short film, under 5 minutes, including the 2021 signature item – Pineapple!**

Find more information about the competition and Nextwave Online Workshops at [NEXTWAVEFILM.COM.AU](https://nextwavefilm.com.au).

To all the filmmakers who entered Nextwave 2020, thank you for your hard work and creative films! We are thrilled to see new filmmakers emerging from regional Australia (and seeing filmmakers return to the competition each year improving their skills!). Filmmaking is a lifelong love of learning and developing a craft, not a destination. We hope you've had fun, connected with friends and family, and enjoyed expressing yourself creatively. Congratulations to all – and good luck with your next film. We can't wait to see it!



## Southern Cross University student steps into world of film and media

A global pandemic hasn't slowed down Southern Cross University student Chris McGuiness from pursuing his passion for cinematography and documentary-making locally.

The final-year digital media student, who has previously showcased his work in local film festivals, was selected to take part in the Screenworks mentorship program in 2020, as part of a Southern Cross University partnership providing professional development and networking opportunities for students in the degree.

Chris is known in northern NSW for creating biographical sporting documentaries, and filmed a doco for the Northern Rivers Regional Rugby League (NRRRL) in 2019. In 2020 he took on work experience with the Marist Brothers Rugby League Football Club senior NRRRL teams, filming throughout their 2020 COVID-affected season. While restrictions kept him local, Chris also made the most of film industry mentorship and opportunities.

"I'm especially interested in creating investigative documentary, short and feature-length dramas, and as part of the university mentorship opportunity I was able to take part in a creative factual storytelling weekly workshop series on zoom with Melbourne-based documentary-makers Denise Eriksen, and Esther Coleman-Hawkins," Chris said.

"Living in Ballina in regional NSW, I loved having the opportunity to bounce my ideas off a small group of people who are really enthusiastic about documentary making – everything from camera work, to interviewing, scripting, storyboarding, location, and mostly about the investigation and getting the best out of the story."

For more information about studying the Bachelor of Digital Media at Southern Cross University visit [scu.edu.au/study](https://scu.edu.au/study)



# Build your creative future at Southern Cross University

Whether it's writing, design, music or digital media, we offer a range of courses to prepare you for a dynamic future in the creative industries. You'll develop transferable skills and connections to build a resilient and rewarding career.



### Industry Partnerships

Southern Cross University is proud to partner with various industry organisations to provide mentoring and internship opportunities for our students. Students have the opportunity to learn from leaders in their fields, building the knowledge and networks they need for successful creative careers.

Reset your future, right here with Southern Cross University.



### 5-star rating

5-star rating for graduate salary and full-time employment in communications (GUG 2021)

[scu.edu.au](https://scu.edu.au)

# NEXTWAVE

REGIONAL. YOUTH. FILM  
ONLINE



learn it · film it · screen it  
NEXTWAVEFILM.COM.AU

# RØDE



**UNIVERSAL VLOGGER KIT**  
FILMMAKING KIT FOR MOBILE PHONES

The Choice of Today's Creative Generation.™

Proud supporters of SWIFF's Nextwave youth program.



Blackmagicdesign



## Introducing Blackmagic Pocket Cinema Camera 6K

Next generation handheld 6K digital film camera with 13 stops of dynamic range, EF lens mount, Blackmagic RAW recording and more!

**Only \$3,145**



**INSPIRED**  
AUDIO VISUAL

Proud Sponsors of SWIFF'21

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

[inspiredaudiovisual.com.au](http://inspiredaudiovisual.com.au)

# 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 [coffscoast.com.au](http://coffscoast.com.au).

## TRAVELLING TO THE COFFS COAST

- FLIGHTS** Travelling to the Coffs Coast couldn't be easier, with flights daily from Sydney through the Coffs Harbour Regional Airport (catch an incredible view of the Marina as you land!). More information at [www.coffsharbourairport.com.au](http://www.coffsharbourairport.com.au).
- BUSES** There are also bus services through Greyhound Australia, Premier Motor Services, New England Coaches, and local bus services that will get you into town in comfort.
- TRAINS** NSW TrainLink operates twice daily between Brisbane and Sydney, stopping along the Coffs Coast at a multiple convenient locations such as Coffs Harbour, Sawtell, and Urunga.
- BY CAR** 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 into town, with the Coffs Marina offering customs, berthing and support facilities!

For the latest COVID travel restrictions and requirements, head to [www.visitnsw.com](http://www.visitnsw.com) and help us keep the beautiful Coffs Coast safe!

## ACCOMMODATION

The Coffs Coast have a huge range of accommodation options, including The Observatory Holiday Apartments and Caribbean Motel near the Jetty Precinct, with something for those seeking luxury, affordable comforts, caravan parks, or a camp out. More information at [coffscoast.com.au](http://coffscoast.com.au).

## EATING & DRINKING

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

## THINGS TO DO

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

- BUSHWALKS** Take a drive to the breath-taking Dorrigo Rainforest Centre, or travel closer to Coffs around Sealy Lookout.
- RIVER FUN** Hit the rivers with friends in a canoe, drifting along the beautiful Kalang and Bellinger river systems.
- CULTURAL** The Coffs Coast is home to the people of the Gumbaynggirr Nation, with many cultural tours, art galleries, and experiences to discover.
- FOR THE KIDS** Take the kids for a day out at the Big Banana Fun Park, Ten Pin Bowling, plus a number of all ages films in the program.

# LOCAL ARTIST COLLAB

The Coffs Coast is humming with creative talent, and each year SWIFF collaborates with local artists across the festival, producing unique artworks to elevate the festival experience - and ultimately work further towards producing a unique cultural identity for the Coffs Coast.

This year, we celebrate three new artworks and their artists, proudly supported by Coffs Harbour City Council's Arts & Culture Grant program.



## ALYSON PEARSON (ALYKAT CREATIVE)

Artist and gallery owner Alyson Pearson of Alykat Creative brings over 15 years of graphic design experience to SWIFF '21. Having worked with brands all over the world, Alyson has developed a uniquely surreal style, known for combining digital images with hand-illustrated and watercolour sketches. This year, Alyson's signature style is the face of the festival – collaborating with photographer Jay Black and model Tigist Teressa to create the SWIFF'21 festival program cover art. Inspired by the festival experience of films that have the power to push boundaries, provoke critical thinking, and to entertain, Alyson has creatively and elegantly captured the spirit of SWIFF.



## SCOTT COLLINS (NOISELAB)

Long-time SWIFF collaborator, Scott Collins is an award-winning Bellingen musician and composer. SWIFF audiences will recognise Scott as a member of bluegrass folk band The Mid North and their fantastic SWIFF Live soundtrack performance accompanying O Brother, Where Art Thou? at SWIFF'19. This is Scott's fourth year of composing, recording, and producing the score to the SWIFF Festival trailer. His 2021 contribution is a futuristic synth-phony screened before sessions at SWIFF'21, with violin performed by prolific Bellingen-based violinist, Amber Davis.



## MATT DEAN (FRESH SQUEEZED CREATIVE)

Video editing, visual FX, animation, illustration, sound and audio design, there's not much that Matt Dean of Fresh Squeezed Creative can't do! With a unique and versatile visual style, Matt has created animations and video content for some of the world's biggest brands. Matt has lent his talent for animation to SWIFF'21, collaborating with the team to create a punchy short animation about the festival experience that audiences can catch during film sessions.



## BELLINGEN: FROM SEA TO TREE IN 30 MINUTES

### SWIFF RETURNS TO BELLO IN 2022

Since the Screenwave International Film Festival first founded six years ago we have called Bellingen home, bringing hundreds of screenings, guests, and events to thousands of film-loving locals and visitors to the beautiful Bellingen Shire.

Throughout 2021, SWIFF's main screening venue in Bellingen, the historic Bellingen Memorial Hall, will receive a \$6m renovation, refurbishment, and upgrade. It is incredibly exciting news for the community and for fans of the festival, who will be able to enjoy SWIFF screenings at Mem Hall in 2022, once construction is complete.

If you are a visitor to the Coffs Coast for SWIFF – welcome! The Bellingen Shire is home to the Gumbaynggirr First Nations people, and includes three unique communities, Dorrigo up on the plateau, down to Urunga on the coastline, and the Bellingen community in between the two hosting SWIFF for the past five years.

Beautiful boho Bellingen is only half an hour by car from Coffs Harbour. If you fly into Coffs Harbour airport, you can grab a car from Hertz Car Rental and head up Waterfall Way to check out all of the unique stores, jaw-dropping natural spaces, and exquisite restaurant cuisine that Bellingen is famous for.

## SHOPPING

If you want new digs, or are just after a little retail therapy, there are plenty of places to pick up fine fashion and handmade goods in Bello.

### EMPORIUM BELLINGEN

Emporium Bellingen sits grandly in the centre of town in the old Hammond & Wheatly building, offering an extensive range of men's and women's fashion. Owner-Proprietor Ann Rosewood curates a seasonal selection of high quality garments, shoes, home décor, and interesting trinkets – all housed in a beautiful space.

### SOURCED SALVAGE STUDIO

Sourced Salvage Studio, located at 84A Hyde Street, offers sustainable art, sourced from sustainable material and salvaged from found objects – particularly many gorgeous salvaged timbers – while also hosting a gallery café with food offerings, regular weekly art shows and events, including open mics, poetry readings, and small events from local/visiting musos.

### ROOTS RECORDS

Roots Records is a mainstay just nearby too! With vinyls, CDs, and heaps of music instruments, Roots has been an icon of Bellingen for many years – and definitely worth checking out.

### WEAVE BELLINGEN

If arts and crafts is your bag, Weave Bellingen is going to knock your wool-knit socks off. Weave hosts DIY classes for adults, has yarns and tools and dyes available, with heaps of options for kids too.

## EATING & DRINKING

If all the shopping has you spent, Bellingen is one of the best places in the region to quench a thirst and find a feed.

### 5 CHURCH STREET

Famed for their dedication to live music, good food, and relaxed atmosphere, 5 Church Street has been a staple of the Bellingen culinary scene for years.

### CEDAR BAR & KITCHEN

Cedar Bar & Kitchen is fully licensed and features a wide selection of regional and international craft beer, boutique wines and spirits.



## EATING & DRINKING CONTINUED

### DIGGERS TAVERN

Situated next door to Bellingin Memorial Hall is Diggers Tavern – the well-known drinking hole of SWIFF audiences, and choice of many a Bellingin local. Diggers Tavern has recently updated its kitchen, now offering a Modern Australian menu of pub favourites to go down well with a crisp Squealing Pig sauvignon blanc or a cold Coopers on tap.

### HILLTOP AT THE LODGE

Bellingin Valley Lodge is only a short drive out of the top end of town, heading towards Dorriggo. Newly renovated, the Lodge is home to a restaurant by ex-Aria Sydney chefs Richie Dolan and Carla Jones, who host an exquisite line-up of dishes and drinks. With decades of experience behind them, if you are seeking a destination dinner, Hilltop At The Lodge is your best bet.

### QUDO

Bellingin is also home to Qudo, a creative Japanese restaurant at the top end of town. Exquisite dishes fusing interesting flavours are presented by a knowledgeable crew.

### OLD BUTTER FACTORY

Part café, part retail, part culture! The Old Butter Factory is just about the first thing you see on the right as you enter town from the coast. You can grab a coffee and lunch at the café, check out the artisan leather and woodworkers do their thing, or take a wander through the Nexus Gallery to check out local visual arts.

### THE FEDERAL HOTEL

The Fed is one of the favoured local drinking holes, right next to the Hammond & Wheatley building. It serves pub fare and has live music.

## URUNGA

Looking to go coastal? Follow Waterfall Way to the coast and you'll find the town where the rivers meet the sea. Laidback Urunga, with its seaside atmosphere is popular with boaters, picnickers, swimmers, and anglers. The historic Ocean View Hotel, established in 1927, overlooks the Kalang and Bellinger Rivers and provides a gorgeous spot to sit and enjoy the ambience of the coast.

The Urunga 'lido' is a Magically family-friendly, shaded swimming spot, with a playground, shelters, barbeques, outdoor showers. It's also the access point to take a lazy stroll down the Urunga Boardwalk. The walk follows where the Kalang and Bellinger rivers meet and tours you down to the beach - an opportunity to see some of the extraordinary birdlife and wildlife of this unique coastal region, with dolphins swimming in the rivers a common sight for walkers.

Popular lunch spots include the alternative Liberty Providores, Anchors Wharf, Club Urunga, with plenty of yummy take-away and dinner options such as Embers Pizza Bar.

Stop in to The Art Space, which always has an exciting new exhibition to boast, or visit the happy bee's of The Honey Place and take home some uniquely flavoured honey.

Head to nearby Raleigh to take time out with Raleigh Winery – or take the sportier option with a fast paced trip to Raleigh Raceway!



# Bellbottom

**The BEST way to remind  
locals to shop local!**

## ADVERTISE TODAY

CALL LIANA ON: 0402 736 190

OR EMAIL: SALES.BELLBOTTOMMEDIA@GMAIL.COM

## DORRIGO

If you thought Bellingen was a well kept secret, just wait until you discover the hidden gem of mountaintop Dorrigo.

Discover where Waterfall Way earned its name on the picturesque trip 1000 meters above sea level to the edge of the Great Dividing Range escarpment.

Dorrigo National Park is a must visit with stunning lookouts, scenic walking trails, waterfalls, birds and wildlife. While Dorrigo township offers a mix of traditional rural Australian stores, such as Red Cedar Boutique or Opal and Amber Jewellers, with chic cafes including Food Angel Café, Components Café and The Heritage Hotel.

Visit unique galleries, find gorgeous organic produce at the local Made in Dorrigo Markets and don't miss the annual Folk and Bluegrass Festival!

Dorrigo offers the adventurous-at-heart extraordinary bushwalking, waterfall swimming at Dangar Falls, mountain bike riding, canoeing, horseriding, bird watching and more.



MENS' &  
WOMENS'  
OUTFITTERS



Emporium Bellingen

75 Hyde Street, Bellingen - (02) 6655 2204

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

## SWIFF '21 FESTIVAL TEAM

SWIFF Co-Director  
SWIFF Co-Director  
Designer and Brand Manager  
IT and Web Manager  
Programs and Volunteer Coordinator  
SWIFF Box Office & Ticketing Coordinator  
Sponsor & Guests Liaison  
Destination and Digital Marketing  
Festival Trailer Production  
Festival Trailer Composition  
SWIFF '21 Front Cover Artist  
Festival Photographer and Cover Art Image  
Cover Art Talent  
Event Coordinator  
Jetty Theatre Box Office  
CHEC Box Office  
Production services, Projection and AV  
CHEC Site Manager  
Festival Program Writers

Dave Horsley  
Kate Howat  
Julie Toussaint  
Ben Toussaint  
Saige Browne  
Giordan Pakes  
Mia Golding  
Denise Aitken  
Dave Horsley  
Scott Collins  
Alyson Pearson  
Jay Black  
Tigist Teresa  
Alycia Stanley  
Di Curran, Giordan Pakes  
Ros Ward  
Inspired Audio Visual  
Peter Papandrea  
Kate Howat, Dave Horsley, Saige Browne, Giordan Pakes



## VOLUNTEERS

SWIFF happens thanks to the many hands of wonderful volunteers from around the Coffs Coast and beyond. Without them, SWIFF would not be possible. Our sincere thanks to all for lending a hand to bring SWIFF '21 to the community, all for the love of film.

## COMMUNITY MESSAGE

Thank you to our audiences. By attending, promoting, talking about, buying tickets to, advocating for, sharing, and championing SWIFF, you are building film and screen culture on the Coffs Coast. It takes a whole community to make a film festival come to life. Our gratitude goes out to everyone who purchased a ticket, volunteered their time, sponsored or gave their patronage, worked in a SWIFF venue and who connected with SWIFF'21. You've played a vital role in making SWIFF a one-of-a-kind festival - something we can all be proud of.

## GUMBAYNGGIRR ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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

## SWIFF '21 PRIVATE PATRONS

SWIFF would like to acknowledge the support of our Private Patrons, and we thank them for their generosity and belief in our vision for the festival.

### CULTURAL PATRON


Wayne & Jacque Houlden

### GUEST PATRON


Stephanie Sims  
Movers & Shapers  
Chris & Ton Huybregts

### SUPPORTING PATRON

Judith Fleming






Easy, Healthy Meals + Takeaway



Zero Waste      Local + Handmade      Ethical + Fairtrade

## MAKING IT EASY TO LIVE WELL.

**the Happy Frog**  **CAFE GROCERY HOMEWARES**  
16 Park Avenue, Coffs Harbour NSW  
Call 02 6651 6518  
[www.thehappyfrog.com.au](http://www.thehappyfrog.com.au)  

Proud Supporter of SWIFF 2021

**reative  
social  
solutions**

Websites and Digital Marketing  
[www.creativesocialsolutions.com.au](http://www.creativesocialsolutions.com.au)



## HARBOURSIDE MARKETS

**MAKERS & GROWERS MARKET**



**VISIT THIS SUNDAY & EXPERIENCE THE WHOLE WORLD!**

Every Sunday 8am to 2pm, Jetty Foreshores, Coffs Harbour

   [www.harboursidemarkets.com.au](http://www.harboursidemarkets.com.au)

# INDEX

FILM	DETAILS	PAGE
ACA ADULT OPEN CLASS		50
ACA TEEN CLASS		50
ACA MASTERCLASS		50
ASMF SWELL CHASERS - TO SWELL AND BACK	120 MINS · CTC	45
A THOUSAND CUTS	110 MINS · CTC	20
ALIENS	137 MINS · M	16
AND THEN WE DANCED	113 MINS · CTC	30
ANOTHER ROUND	116 MINS · M	30
BACURAU	132 MINS · CTC	43
BELLINGEN, THE PROMISED LAND	100 MINS · CTC	18
BLOODY NOSE, EMPTY POCKETS	98 MINS · CTC	20
BREAKER MORANT	107 MINS · PG	19
BREAKING BREAD	86 MINS · CTC	41
COCKROACH	93 MINS · CTC	20
COLLECTIVE	109 MINS · MA15+	20
COUNTY LINES	90 MINS · CTC	31
CREATIVE INDUSTRIES PARTY		53
DAVID BYRNE'S AMERICAN UTOPIA	105 MINS · M	26
DINNER IN AMERICA	106 MINS · CTC	31
FAITH	94 MINS · CTC	21
FALLING	112 MINS · CTC	31
FEELS GOOD MAN	92 MINS · M	21
FIRESTARTER: THE STORY OF BANGARRA	96 MINS · CTC	18
FILMMAKER FORUM		51
THE FURNACE	116 MINS · MA15+	10, 18
GOLDEN VOICES	88 MINS · CTC	32
THE GO GO'S	98 MINS · CTC	26
GUNDA	93 MINS · G	21
HIGH GROUND	104 MINS · MA15+	19
JUDAS AND THE BLACK MESSIAH	126 MINS · CTC	32
JUMBO	93 MINS · CTC	32
KAJILLIONAIRE	106 MINS · M	32
THE KILLING OF TWO LOVERS	85 MINS · CTC	33
THE LEADERSHIP	97 MINS · M	18
LITTLE GIRL	85 MINS · CTC	22
THE MACALUSO SISTERS	89 MINS · CTC	33

FILM	DETAILS	PAGE
MADDY THE MODEL	92 MINS · CTC	22
MEANDER	87 MINS · CTC	43
MINARI	115 MINS · PG	33
MOGUL MOWGLI	90 MINS · CTC	10, 27
THE MOLE AGENT	90 MINS · G	25
MY LITTLE SISTER	99 MINS · CTC	33
NEVER RARELY SOMETIMES ALWAYS	101 MINS · M	33
NEXTWAVE ACCELERATOR WORKSHOP		50
NEXTWAVE YOUTH FILM AWARDS	120 MINS · ALL AGES	16
NOMADLAND	107 MINS · M	34
ONLY THE ANIMALS	116 MINS · M	34
OTTOLENGHI AND THE CAKES OF VERSAILLES	75 MINS · G	41
THE PAINTED BIRD	169 MINS · CTC	34
THE PAINTER AND THE THIEF	102 MINS · CTC	25
POSSESSOR	104 MINS · R18+	43
SAINT FRANCES	101 MINS · CTC	34
SAINT MAUD	84 MINS · MA15+	43
SCI-FI TEAM TRIVIA		16
SOME KIND OF HEAVEN	81 MINS · CTC	25
STRAY	73 MINS · CTC	25
THE SUM OF US	99 MINS · M	19
SUNDAY TOO FAR AWAY	94 MINS · M	19
SUPERNOVA	93 MINS · M	34
SWIFF LIVE: BOY CALLED SAILBOAT	92 MINS · CTC	12, 27
SWIFF LIVE: WAKE IN FRIGHT	108 MINS · M	12, 19
SWIFF X HILLTOP WINE DINNER		14
THE SURROGATE	93 MINS · CTC	34
THE TROUBLE WITH BEING BORN	94 MINS · R18+	38
THE TRUFFLE HUNTERS	84 MINS · M	41
TWO OF US	100 MINS · M	38
UNDER THE STARS OF PARIS	93 MINS · CTC	38
VIOLATION	107 MINS · CTC	43
WELCOME TO CHECHNYA	107 MINS · CTC	25
WHITE RIOT	80 MINS · MA15+	27
WILDFIRE	85 MINS · CTC	38
THE WORLD TO COME	98 MINS · CTC	38
YALDA, A NIGHT FOR FORGIVENESS	89 MINS · CTC	38



Welcome home.

# SWIFF.

PRESENTED BY

**Ashton**<sup>TM</sup>  
DESIGNS

SWIFF.COM.AU