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DESIGNS



21 APR - 6 MAY '22
COFFS HARBOUR
SWIFF.COM.AU



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DETAILS MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

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DIRECTORS' WELCOME



KATE HOWAT
Artistic Director

After many months locked away in darkened spaces, watching copious films, ordering take away, and playing it safe, it's a joyous feeling to emerge into the light with our 7th annual SWIFF. As both our physical and cultural landscapes continue to evolve and change, one thing remains a constant, the place of festivals as a haven for new cinematic voices to be seen and shared. In 2022, SWIFF brings you an even larger World Cinema program with titles direct from Sundance and the international circuit. We celebrate World Premieres, Australian Premieres, and an extensive selection of Australian films as we launch the inaugural Ferguson Film Prize.

We welcome back CHEC as we bring the cultural experience to campus together with an assortment of music, food, and events at CHEC Gathering Space – a place to hang out with friends, buy a bevy at the bar, and strike up a conversation with a pre or post film chat.

We call on you, our film loving community, to buy a pass, bring your friends, join in Q&As with festival guests (remember they are here to see you!), and most of all to have fun and relish in the festivities. To the festival team who work tirelessly to bring you a challenging, exciting, and unique festival experience, and to the incredible volunteers who every year contribute to making the festival hum - thank you. We welcome you all to SWIFF'22.



DAVID HORSLEY
Festival Director

Four years ago, we made a decision to fundamentally change SWIFF. In 2022, that fruit comes to bear as the festival experiences a seismic shift with the addition of STORYLAND, our new live music, installation arts, and performance festival-within-a-festival of SWIFF.

Thanks to a growing, passionate audience of arts lovers and a supportive team of festival sponsors, SWIFF has grown to the point where it's now time to challenge our status quo and reboot the format of the festival. It's an exciting time for the Coffs Coast.

We are beyond thrilled to lift the lid on a new type of cultural experience for Coffs Harbour, welcoming local and travelling SWIFF audiences to our inaugural festival-within-a-festival.

See the STORYLAND section of the program on page 52 for the full line-up of live music, installation art, food experiences, and performances – and if you like it, get a group together, buy your tickets, and help us make STORYLAND an annual fixture at SWIFF.

SWIFF's film program isn't getting any smaller though. A full 16-day festival is yours to enjoy this year, with over 130 sessions to sink into, doing what we love best – watching great films with other adoring film lovers. We hope you enjoy SWIFF's seventh edition in 2022.

FESTIVAL PATRON WELCOME



JACK THOMPSON
Australian Film & Screen Icon

The production of films are an amalgamation of almost every art form: photography, drama, design, writing, music composition – the list goes on and on. It feels like a natural fit then that SWIFF, as a film festival, continues to evolve down a similar path in 2022, collaborating with artists across new artforms – live music, installation arts, and live performance – through their new festival-within-a-festival, STORYLAND.

I am honoured to welcome everyone to the 2022 Screenwave International Film Festival, our own Coffs Coast celebration of the artistic expression 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. With another year of global challenge, now more than ever we need audiences to embrace and support artists and arts workers, and I encourage everyone to embrace Kate and Dave's vision for what we have at home here in our Coffs Harbour paradise with SWIFF.

JACK THOMPSON PHOTO: PETER BREW BEVAN

FERGUSON FILM PRIZE



SWIFF, in partnership with the family of Kate Ferguson, is delighted to announce a new national film prize, awarded each year to an Australian fiction or non-fiction feature film director that adds a new, distinct voice to Australia's national film identity. The Ferguson Film Prize is SWIFF's first feature film award recognising **captivating, daring, and ambitious** storytellers directing their debut or sophomore feature films, and have been included in SWIFF's Official Selection for the current year.

The winner of the Ferguson Film Prize will receive a \$3000 personal cash prize and trophy, and be selected by the inaugural Jury, including acclaimed Australian director Kriv Stenders, Sydney Film Prize-winning documentarian Sascha Ettinger-Epstein, ABC News Breakfast's film critic Zak Hepburn, and Australian actress Bonnie Ferguson.

Look out for the icon below in the print program for directors nominated for the inaugural Ferguson Film Prize.



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VENUES & TICKETING



STORYLAND



NEXTWAVE



STORYLAND

A ONE-DAY PLAYGROUND OF LIVE MUSIC AND ART AT SWIFF'22
SAT 23 APR '22 · PARK BEACH RESERVE

MAIN STAGE

COURTNEY BARNETT
HIATUS KAIYOTE
ROLLING BLACKOUTS
COASTAL FEVER
NGAIIRE
EMMA DONOVAN (DUO)
HACHIKU
HORNS OF LEROY

THE YURT LOCKER

BIZ DJ BAM ICE G
PAPA BOOM COCO VARMA PSUB
MC FITZROY LEE FEAT. **SKENG TENG HIFI**

FEATURED ARTWORKS

ONE SECOND OF FILM GLADE RUNNER
[MOVIE] TRAILER PARK FLUXA VJ

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INFO + TICKETS **SWIFF.COM.AU**

CONTENTS

DIRECTOR'S WELCOME	4	THE VERHOEVEN EXPERIENCE	26-27
FESTIVAL PATRONS	5	INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTARY	28-29
FESTIVAL PARTNERS	6-7	WORLD CINEMA	32-42
HOW TO SWIFF	9	SCHEDULE	40-41
TICKETS	10	FOR THE LOVE OF FOOD	44
ACCESSIBILITY	11	WILD SIDES	46-47
VENUES & FESTIVAL HUBS	12	CALL OF THE SURF	48
OPENING NIGHT	14	MUSIC AND THE MAKERS	50
CLOSING NIGHT	14	STORYLAND	52-59
SWIFF LIVE	16	SWIFF CREATE	62-63
SPECIAL EVENTS	18-20	NEXTWAVE	66-69
AUSTRALIAN CINEMA	22-23	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	76-77
BUSINESS OR PLEASURE	24-25	INDEX	78

HOW TO SWIFF

See something unexpected: For the best festival experience, step outside your comfort zone when booking films. Be prepared to dissect, discuss, and find an unexpected new favourite.

Meet the filmmakers: Special guests of the fest come to see you. Stay for the Q&A and continue the conversation with your crew at SWIFF Festival Hubs for a Coffs Coast film fest deep dive.

Celebrate the big screen: Make your festival experience easy (and affordable) with a Film Pass – share between two or be the ultimate cinephile and see them all.

Join a film loving community: Sign up to the SWIFF e-newsletter, follow us on Instagram and join our Facebook community to discuss the films and stay in the loop. Send a film recommendation to a friend and share a smile with our volunteers - they help make it all happen!

A festival for everyone: SWIFF strives to make the festival experience accessible and inclusive for all. Visit the website for venue & access info or get in touch at contact@screenwave.com.au. Please note, some films are unclassified or have age restrictions - check the program listings and content warnings ahead of time.

Go green and avoid queues: Save time and keep the queue moving by downloading the SWIFF 2022 app to buy and book tickets (available on Apple and Android). Make sure to turn your phone off before entering the theatre and be mindful of your fellow film lovers while you enjoy the show.

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.

SWIFF is here to stay: Keep the festival pumping each year by donating at checkout online, and remember to vote for your favourite film post-fest to decide the SWIFF'22 Audience Award winner.

HAVE A YARN

#SWIFF2022
Facebook: SWIFF

Join the 'Screenwave International Film Festival' Facebook Group for festival updates, announcements and to connect with fellow film lovers.

Instagram @screenwaveaustralia

FESTIVAL APP

Download the iOS and Android SWIFF 2022 app to beat the queue, buy tickets, scan at the door, and vote for the SWIFF Audience Award.

Download the SWIFF '22 app here:



All festival information is correct at date of printing, please check the website for any changes & join SWIFF e-news for announcements.

TICKETS

REGULAR PRICES

Full Price \$21.00

Concession/Local 245* \$17.50

Under 25 \$10.00

*Concession includes pensioners and students. Locals with post codes starting with 245 receive concession prices. Please present valid ID.

FILM PASSES

6 Film Pass - \$99

12 Film Pass - \$179

20 Film Pass - \$259

Film Passes exclude all Special Events

SPECIAL EVENTS

OPENING NIGHT GALA

\$50.00 Full | \$45.00 Concession

Includes drinks and canapes on arrival

See page 14

CLOSING NIGHT GALA

\$50.00 Full | \$45.00 Concession

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

See page 14

SWIFF X HILLTOP AUTUMN FEAST

\$160.00 Full

See page 18

SWIFF LIVE

BEAUTIFUL DARK: THE MUSIC OF TWIN PEAKS

\$39.00 Full | \$34.00 Concession

See page 16

SURFING SOUNDWAVES FEATURING HEADLAND

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

Under 25

See page 16

STORYLAND

\$139 General admission

Please note this is an 18+ only event

See page 52 for more STORYLAND details.

SWIFF CREATE

ACTORS CENTRE AUSTRALIA WORKSHOPS

Acting workshops catering to all experience levels

\$55.00 | 6-hr Masterclass

\$25.00 | 2-hr Open Class

See page 62

FILM INDUSTRY NETWORKING DRINKS

Presented by Screenworks:

\$25.00 Full | \$20.00 Under 25

Includes finger food and drink on arrival

See page 62

DIRECTING MASTERCLASS WITH BEN LAWRENCE

\$50.00 Full

\$35.00 Screenworks Members

See page 62

CREATIVE INDUSTRIES MEET & GREET

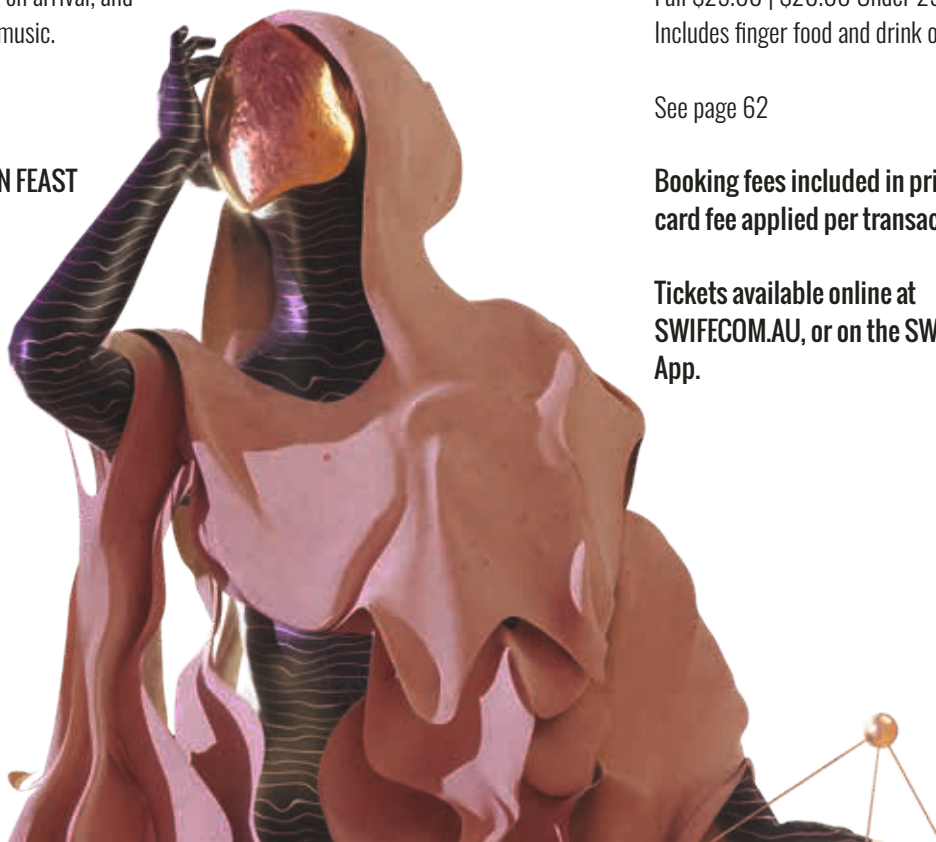
Full \$25.00 | \$20.00 Under 25

Includes finger food and drink on arrival.

See page 62

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

Tickets available online at SWIFFCOM.AU, or on the SWIFF 2022 App.



ACCESSIBILITY

SWIFF takes the utmost care to ensure its screenings and events are inclusive and accessible to everyone. Please email us with any accessibility related queries at contact@screenwave.com.au or call the SWIFF Box Office on (02) 5626 5051

WHEELCHAIR ACCESS AND ASSISTED HEARING

SWIFF's screening venues are wheelchair accessible, and both the Jetty Memorial Theatre and CHEC Theatre at the Coffs Harbour Education Campus are Hearing Loop enabled.



COMPANION CARDS

SWIFF proudly accepts Companion Cards to all sessions. For patrons requiring the assistance of a carer, a second ticket will be issued at no cost to the Companion Card holder. Please get in touch with the SWIFF Box Office on (02) 5626 5051 or email us at contact@screenwave.com.au.



ASSISTANCE ANIMALS

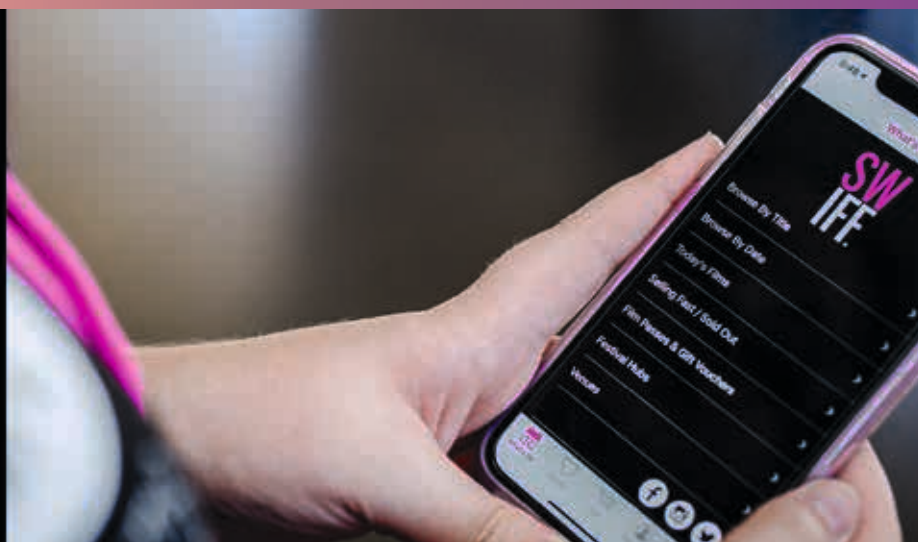
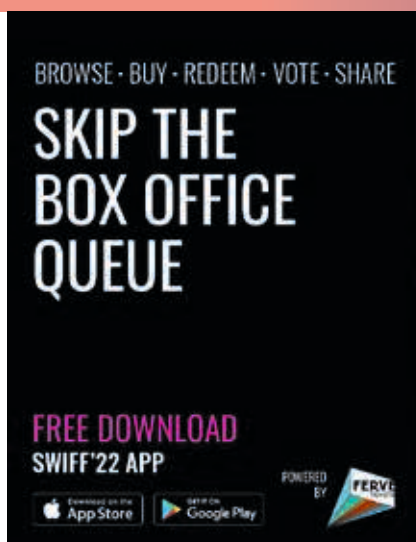
Assistance animals are welcome at all festival events and venues. Bookings are essential so the venue can be advised. Call (02) 5626 5051 or email contact@screenwave.com.au.



SUBTITLES

All foreign language films are subtitled in English.

DOWNLOAD THE FREE FESTIVAL APP



VENUES

CHEC THEATRE COFFS HARBOUR EDUCATION CAMPUS (CHEC)

363 HOGBIN DRIVE
COFFS HARBOUR NSW 2450

The CHEC Theatre Box Office will be open during festival hours. Please check SWIFF.COM.AU for box office hours. Tickets can also be purchased using the free SWIFF 2022 app, on the SWIFF website, and over the phone on (02) 5626 5051.

JETTY MEMORIAL THEATRE

337 HARBOUR DRIVE
COFFS HARBOUR NSW 2450

The Jetty Theatre Box Office will be open during festival hours. Please check SWIFF.COM.AU for box office hours. Tickets can also be purchased using the free SWIFF 2022 app, on the SWIFF website, and over the phone on (02) 5626 5051.

PARK BEACH RESERVE

OCEAN PARADE
COFFS HARBOUR NSW 2450

STORYLAND (page 52-61) is hosted at Park Beach Reserve. Entry via the Orlando Street / Ocean Parade end. Tickets can also be purchased using the free SWIFF 2022 app, on the SWIFF website, and over the phone on (02) 5626 5051.

Please note there is no Box Office at STORYLAND. All ticket sales are online.

COFFS HARBOUR EDUCATION CAMPUS



SWIFF returns to the Coffs Harbour Education Campus in 2022 with film screenings, workshops, special events, boutique pop-up bars, and more.

CHEC Theatre

Home of SWIFF's largest capacity cinema and immersive audio-visual experience.

CHEC Gathering Space

Grab a coffee at the CHEC Cafe or grab a drink from the bar to take into the cinema. Meet filmmakers and fellow creatives at industry events and enjoy live performances.

O Block Theatre/M Block Workshop Space

(room MLG13) - Take the SWIFF experience to the next level with hands on shops, from Actors Centre Australia intensives to masterclasses with industry veterans such as Ben Lawrence (Ithaka, page 62) and Sarah Stollman (STORYLAND, page 52). Learn more about SWIFF Create on page 62.

Osprey Restaurant

SWIFF's Autumn Feast is held in the green space adjacent to The Osprey Restaurant. More information page 18.

Thanks to the support of TAFE NSW, Southern Cross University, and Coffs Harbour Senior College.

FESTIVAL HUBS

ELEMENT BAR

380 HARBOUR DRIVE
COFFS HARBOUR NSW 2450

CHEC GATHERING SPACE

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

DISCOVER THE Coffs Coast

PLENTY OF EVENTS



PLENTY OF NATURE



PLENTY OF CULTURE



coffscoast.com

COFFS COAST
PLACE OF PLENTY

OPENING NIGHT



THE NORTHMAN

THU 21 APR · 6PM FOR 6.30PM · JMT

ROBERT EGGERS · 140MINS · 18+ · USA, ISL

One of the most highly anticipated films of 2022, SWIFF audiences will be among the first in the country to witness the latest cinematic masterpiece from visionary director, Robert Eggers (*The Witch*, *The Lighthouse*).

In Eggers' most ambitious film to date, *The Northman* follows a young Viking prince on his quest to avenge his father's murder, starring Swedish-born Alexander Skarsgård

– in the best role of his career – taking on the title role in a physical transformation that would make even Conan the Barbarian blush. Skarsgård's more than intimidating Amleth brings unflinching focus and beastly grandeur to his unwavering quest for revenge.

Featuring a formidable cast, with Nicole Kidman (*Killing of a Sacred Deer*, SWIFF'18), Ethan Hawke (*The Truth*, SWIFF'20), Claes Bang (*The Square*, SWIFF'18), and frequent collaborators, Anya Taylor-Joy (*The Witch*), Kate Dickey (*The Witch*), and Willem Dafoe (*The Lighthouse*), – and one of the most exciting returns to screen after a 20-year absence, Björk (*Dancer in the Dark*, Best Actress Cannes 2002), as the mystical Seeress.

Penned by Eggers, and Icelandic poet and novelist Sjón, (long-time collaborator with Björk), *The Northman* forges the epic majesty of Viking folklore together with Eggers' vivid world building, making for a bountiful, cinematic feast of epic proportions.

Enjoy canapes and drinks prior to Opening Night event. 6.00PM for 6.30PM start.

CLOSING NIGHT



EVERYTHING EVERYWHERE ALL AT ONCE

FRI 6 MAY · 6PM FOR 6:30PM · CHEC

DANIELS · 139 MINS · 15+ · USA

Which would you choose, doing your taxes year-on-year with no end in sight, or...saving the world from an insidious evil that's spreading across parallel universes?

Michelle Yeoh (of *Sunshine* and *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon* fame) takes audiences to epic and eccentric heights in the SWIFF'22 Closing Night film, *Everything Everywhere*

All At Once – a hilarious and big-hearted sci-fi action adventure about an exhausted Chinese American woman who just can't seem to finish her taxes.

Evelyn Wan (Yeoh) has her reality literally fractured into pieces while being investigated by a tax auditor (a hilarious Jamie Lee Curtis). Finding herself swept up in an epic, multiverse adventure, Evelyn discovers that only she alone can save the world from ruin.

Bookending this year's festival with films from distinct, visionary filmmakers with big ideas and even bigger budgets, SWIFF is delighted to round out the 16-day festival with this riotous comedy-adventure from the creative minds behind *Swiss Army Man* and *The Death of Dick Long* (SWIFF'20), Daniel Kwan and Daniel Scheinert, collectively known as Daniels.

Strap yourselves in for a raucous ride, flittering through a rollercoaster of multiverses, as *Everything Everywhere All At Once* sends off SWIFF'22 in seismic style. Much better than doing your taxes.

Enjoy drinks and canapes on arrival, plus after party access with live music after the film

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BEAUTIFUL DARK: THE MUSIC OF TWIN PEAKS

THU 28 APR · 8.00PM · JMT

90 MINS · 15+ · AUS

Who Killed Laura Palmer?

Sherriff Harry S Truman and FBI Special Agent Dale Cooper lead the charge, as SWIFF'22 proudly presents Beautiful Dark: The Music of *Twin Peaks* - Australia's pre-eminent interpreters of the music of David Lynch and Angelo Badalamenti, live on stage.

David Lynch and Mark Frost's huge cast of eclectic characters reformed the whodunnit, wrapped it in plastic, and delivered still to this day one of the most beloved TV cult classics. And now – you can immerse into the small alpine community of *Twin Peaks* once more through Badalamenti's iconic music scores, performed by Beautiful Dark.

After sold out shows during the Melbourne Fringe Festival, and another, with STORYLAND artist Hachiku, at Castlemaine's Theatre Royal earlier in 2021, Beautiful Dark have regrouped to reinterpret and reimagine the world of David Lynch and Mark Frost's television series in its most immersive way yet.

A powerhouse collective, Beautiful Dark focus on bringing the mood and music of *Twin Peaks* to life. Theatricality is fully embraced by Beautiful Dark's 7-piece ensemble – who perform in character as *Twin Peaks*' iconic line-up of characters. Log Lady included.

Using video and audio from the series, along with projections, props and a total commitment to the original soundtrack, the band's new show is unlike any other. From the Double R Diner to the Red Room, this show takes the audience on a journey through a strange and mysterious world where the birds sing a pretty song and there's always music in the air.

Please note, this performance may include strobing light



SURFING SOUNDWAVES FEAT. LIVE SOUNDTRACK BY HEADLAND

SAT 30 APR · 6PM · CHEC

JOLYON HOFF · 70MINS · ALL AGES · AUS

WORLD PREMIERE

SWIFF'22 is honoured to host the World Premiere of award-winning Australian director Jolyon Hoff's (*The Staging Post*, SWIFF'18) epic new film, *That Was Then, This is Now*, with Australia's premiere surf film composers Headland - performing as a 6-piece ensemble an electrifying original

soundtrack live on stage. Big screen surf films at SWIFF are a given. For SWIFF'22, something special is here. The Surf Film Archive, Light Sound Art Film, and SWIFF have teamed up with Headland to create a pulsing audio-visual experience celebrating the birth of Australia's Surf Culture.

Before *Crocodile Dundee* became Australia's cultural identity to the world for decades, bronzed Aussies surfing epic breaks were our national identity – seen around the world thanks to Australia's pioneering surf filmmakers. Over the past 18 months, The Surf Film Archive have been painstakingly restoring and remastering those Australian and New Zealand original surf films, uncovering remarkable never-seen-before footage, preserving these influential moving pictures for future generations.

In this not-to-be-missed live music and film screening event, Headland (previously live at SWIFF'20) perform an original and unique soundtrack to the very best of the archive's stunningly restored surf visuals. Big breaks. Big surfers. Big journeys. All restored in glorious 4K.

This is Australian surfing – live and loud on stage.

Suitable for ages 12+ (mild nudity)

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FESTIVAL HUB

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WINE DINNER SPECIAL EVENT



SWIFF X HILLTOP AUTUMN FEAST

TUE 3 MAY · 6.30PM · THE OSPREY RESTAURANT (CHEC)



Outdoor long table culinary experience is coming to SWIFF

Following on from SWIFF's first year sell-out degustation wine dinner success in 2021, SWIFF again hosts acclaimed Executive Chefs Richie Dolan and Carla Jones – ex-Aria Sydney chefs and now owners of locally-acclaimed The Hilltop Store – as we head in a new delectable direction this year with the SWIFF x Hilltop Autumn Feast.

On the evening, guests will be treated to a unique, autumnal outdoor long table shared dining experience, under the stars, hosted on the rolling green lawns adjacent to The Osprey Restaurant at CHEC.

Enjoy insights on the creative food and wine menu from winemakers, special guests, and Chefs Richie and Carla themselves. With limited numbers available, early bookings are strongly recommended, especially for groups. This event provides valuable industry experiences to TAFE NSW hospitality students, under mentorship of The Hilltop Store team.

For the full menu visit SWIFF.COM.AU/WINE-DINNER or scan the QR code above.

Please note that menu is subject to change. In case of wet weather, dining will be moved inside The Osprey Restaurant. This event is proudly sponsored by TAFE Coffs Harbour and Treasury Wine Estates.

\$160 pp, including wines

Please note the menu may be subject to change.



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MAY THE SCHWARTZ BE WITH YOU



SPACEBALLS

WED 4 MAY · 7PM · CHEC

MEL BROOKS · 96 MINS · PG · USA

35TH ANNIVERSARY SCREENING

May the Force...ahem, may the SCHWARTZ be with you! In honour of a certain date that sounds like a certain phrase from a certain space movie, join the SWIFF team for a raucous night of good, ol-fashioned '80's spoof with Mel Brooks' ridiculous, hilarious, and endlessly quotable 1987 sci-fi send-up, *Spaceballs* – the special anniversary screening.

In a galaxy that's, like, SUPER far away, there lived a ruthless race of beings known as Spaceballs. Having squandered their precious air supply, the evil Dark Helmet (in what might be Rick Moranis' finest performance) turns his attention to peaceful neighbouring planet Druidia, plotting to kidnap Princess Vespa on her wedding day - a ransom ploy for Druidia's sweet, sweet Perri-Air.

Enter Lone Starr: Bounty hunter (baby-faced Bill Pullman), pilot of the Eagle-5 - a flying Winnebago crewed by himself and his half-man-half-dog-all-sidekick, Barf (a riotous John Candy).

Owing a million Spacebucks to notorious and oily crime boss Pizza the Hut, the heroic heroes heroically take on the mission to return the Druish, (funny, she doesn't look Druish) Princess Vespa to safety - for a pretty fee. Prepare to jump to ludicrous speed, learn the ways of the Schwartz from the wise Yogurt, comb the desert, jam the radars, and buckle up for a zany adventure that's legally distinct for copyright reasons.

"So, Lone Starr, now you see that evil will always triumph because good is dumb." —Dark Helmet

Join us for SWIFF Sci-Fi Team Trivia in the CHEC Gathering Space from 5.30pm, hosted by Sydney Science Fiction Film Festival Director Simon Foster.

NEXTWAVE



NEXTWAVE YOUTH FILM AWARDS

SUN 1 MAY · 2.30PM FOR 3PM · CHEC

The Nextwave Youth Film Awards (NYFA) is a beloved feature event of SWIFF that each year celebrates the creative filmmaking achievements of young Australians across the country.

Making its debut at CHEC Theatre, SWIFF rolls out the red carpet for a selection of comedies, horror, drama, thrillers, documentaries, and experimental creations, all on the big screen at SWIFF'22. Join us as we celebrate new and exciting creations from the next generation of storytellers - plus award their outstanding achievements in

cinematography, acting, editing, sound and more.

In 2021, the Nextwave Youth Film Competition received over 60 submissions, hailing from every State across the country, with NYFA presenting the World Premiere of 26 finalists' short films at SWIFF'22.

Join us in the CHEC Gathering Space from 2.30pm for live music and red carpet arrivals before heading into the cinema for the 3pm screening and awards presentation in CHEC Theatre. Decide the 2022 Peoples' Choice Award Winner and celebrate the next wave of Australian filmmakers at SWIFF's Nextwave Youth Film Awards, presented by Southern Cross University.

See page 66-71 for the full program. Regular ticket pricing applies.



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AUSTRALIAN CINEMA

The evolution of the Australian story makes significant tracks this year; from vital truth tellers to contemporary imaginings, all proven to shake the status quo and evoke change, SWIFF proudly presents the best in Australian cinema.



ABLAZE

FRI 22 APR · 4.30PM · CHEC
SAT 30 APR · 4.45PM · JMT

ALEC MORGAN, TIRIKI ONUS · 81 MINS · PG · AUS

WINNER · AWGIE AWARD · AUSTRALIAN WRITER'S GUILD

Opera singer Tiriki Onus finds a suitcase of his grandfather's, Bill Onus, a Yorta Yorta and Wiradjuri man from Victoria. The seemingly lost photos and film reel that emerge, piece together a portrait of an unsung hero that changed the course of Australian history, unearthing a cultural and political figure that sparked a civil rights movement in 1940s Australia.

Helping to shift the national attitude towards Aboriginal peoples, through film, performance, culture and against insurmountable odds, Bill Onus drove a passionate and extensive campaign for equal rights, and for the revival of Aboriginal culture in Australia.

Through rare archival footage mixed with new animation, *Ablaze* captures eye-witness accounts to tell the story of one of Australia's great unsung heroes.



THE BOWRAVILLE MURDERS



TUE 3 MAY · 4PM · JMT

ALLAN CLARKE · 92 MINS · M · AUS

Justice. Families and their communities have been waiting for 30 years to have answers about what happened to their missing and murdered children. It's a tragic story that has made the rural NSW town of Bowraville, an hour's drive from Coffs Harbour, infamous, overshadowing the community's reputation as a quaint farming village.

With the lead suspect living amongst the community for decades, the Gumbaynggirr parents of the murdered children go unheard by the police, with systemic racism blamed for their inaction.

It's a true crime story that locals know well, brought to a wider audience for the first time on film by director Allan Clarke, who expertly formulates new information, generates a concise timeline, and paints a gripping and human portrait of one of Australia's most significant personal miscarriages of justice.



THE DROVER'S WIFE THE LEGEND OF MOLLY JOHNSON



MON 25 APR · 6PM · JMT

LEAH PURCELL · 109 MINS · MA15+ · AUS

Leah Purcell (*Lantana*, *Jindabyne*) writes, directs, and stars in this clear-eyed reimaging of Henry Lawson's classic tale.

Having carved out a home in the sweeping landscapes of the remote Snowy Mountains, the heavily pregnant Molly Johnson protects her children and her property with a fierce intensity, awaiting the return of her drover husband.

When Yakada (Rob Collins), a fugitive Indigenous man arrives at Molly's homestead unannounced, she meets him with hostility. Navigating this stranger who carries a clue to her past, and the unwelcome attention of local law enforcement drawn by her husband's extended absence, Molly is driven to do what it takes to keep her family safe.

"A subversive survival story that brings an unflinching new perspective to Australian cinema's ongoing engagement with the frontier." —The Conversation



FRIENDS AND STRANGERS



TUE 26 APR · 6.30PM · JMT
FRI 29 APR · 4PM · CHEC

JAMES VAUGHAN · 84 MINS · MA15+ · AUS

A wry take on contemporary solipsism, this celebrated Aussie slacker satire proved a big hit at Rotterdam and New York festivals.

Sydney twenty-somethings Ray (Fergus Wilson), a self-absorbed videographer and Alice (Emma Diaz), a similarly apathetic acquaintance, lack very little in life—and maybe that's their biggest problem. Told through vignettes, the two drift in and out of one another orbits, beset by alternately bizarre and poignant encounters

Skewering Australian culture with a confidently unrestrained bite, James Vaughan's pithy, often hilarious, take on contemporary millennialism, is by turns both a poetic cinema meditation and a laugh-out-loud absurdist comedy of manners.

"Had me cackling at its dry and gleeful absurdity." —The New York Times

James Vaughan is a guest of the festival



ITHAKA

FRI 29 APR · 6PM · CHEC
SUN 1 MAY · 4PM · JMT

BEN LAWRENCE · 111 MINS · 15+ · AUS

Now incarcerated amongst London's most infamous murderers in notorious Belmarsh Prison, Julian Assange's story has continued beyond Wikileaks, beyond exposing US war crimes, and beyond safe harbour in the Ecuadorian Embassy.

Assange's father and brother, John Shipton and Gabriel Shipton, are in a new David versus Goliath bid to bring Assange back to Australia, ceasing the US Government's continued war of attrition to extradite Assange to US soil. John and Gabriel show a new side of Assange in *Ithaka*, a human side, as an imprisoned journalist for outing war crimes.

Award-winning director Ben Lawrence (*Hearts and Bones*, SWIFF'21, *Ghosthunter*, SWIFF'19), gains incredible access with an expansive list of interviewees including Noam Chomsky, John Pilger, as well as Daniel Ellsberg—the journalist the came under US government scrutiny for releasing the Pentagon Papers during the Vietnam War.

Ben Lawrence, John Shipton, and Gabriel Shipton are guests of the festival



LOVELAND

THU 28 APR · 6PM · JMT

IVAN SEN · 102 MINS · M · AUS

Visionary filmmaker Ivan Sen (*Mystery Road*, *Beneath Clouds*) re-visions a kaleidoscopic future Hong Kong in mesmerising sci-fi romance, *Loveland*.

In a futuristic Hong Kong, assassin Jack (Ryan Kwanten) crosses paths with a nightclub singer, April (Jillian Nguyen, *True History of the Kelly Gang*, SWIFF'20). As the net that connects them tightens, Jack finds his body mysteriously deteriorating.

Tracking down reclusive life extension scientist Doctor Bergman (Hugo Weaving) in a search for answers, secrets become unburied, and the past must be confronted.

In the tradition of the great neon-soaked romances of Wong Kar Wai, Ivan Sen cements his personal touch in this moving science fiction, with rich big screen imagery inviting us to dive into a loveless world on the cusp of either immortality or extinction.



RIVER

SUN 24 APR · 2PM · CHEC
SAT 30 APR · 4.15PM · CHEC

JENNIFER PEEDOM, JOSEPH NIZETI · 75 MINS · ALL AGES · AUS

The spiritual successor to *Mountain* (SWIFF'18), Jennifer Peedom and Joseph Nizeti's new love letter to planet earth's aquatic arteries is a meditative, awe-inspiring cinematic feast made for the big screen.

With hypnotic, poetic narration by Willem Dafoe, *River* dually celebrates the majesty and heightens the vulnerability of the world's great river systems, featuring a score by Australian Chamber Orchestra's Richard Tognetti, with music also by Radiohead's Johnny Greenwood, and one of Australia's most celebrated didgeridoo players, William Barton.

With stunning visuals captured by a team of five cinematographers across the planet, to watch *River* as a big screen spectacle is to be entranced, raptured, enlightened, and awed.

"...a spectacular display of, and tribute to, the rushing waters that feed the planet."—Deadline



WHEN THE CAMERA STOPPED ROLLING

WED 4 MAY · 4.15PM · JMT

JANE CASTLE · 75 MINS · M · AUS

Lilias Fraser: a pioneer of Australian cinema who overcame huge personal challenges to make over forty films in her lifetime. Her youngest daughter, celebrated filmmaker and cinematographer Jane Castle, tells her mother's story and that of their relationship using the rich textures of an unseen part of Australia's cinematic history, combined with her own cinematography.

Tenacious, enthusiastic, and ambitious, Lilias overcame huge systemic obstacles. As a single mother with an insatiable drive to make movies, Lilias struggled to continue fighting against hurdles. *When the Camera Stopped Rolling* documents both the trailblazing mother and daughter, and the intergenerational challenges they faced.

Eight years in the making, Castle balances meticulous archival research with searing honesty and stunning visuals, interweaving their struggles and triumphs with clarity and compassion.

Jane Castle is a guest of the festival



WYRMWOOD: APOCALYPSE

WED 27 APR · 8.45PM · CHEC

KIAH ROACHE-TURNER · 86 MINS · MA15+ · AUS

The Roache-Turner brothers' new sequel to 2014's *Wyrmswood* is an EpiPen-to-the-heart, zombie splatterfest thrill-ride that scorches with creativity—an elevation even above its predecessor.

Special forces soldier Rhys (Luke McKenzie) has settled into life amongst the apocalypse. Creating a safe zone to live, complete with zombie-powered BBQ, Rhys secures and delivers bodies—dead or alive—to an underground research bunker in exchange for supplies.

The rotten applecart is upset when Rhys comes across Barry and his eerie sister Brooke, and new alliances must be forged—or bashed-in and bullet-riddled.

Wyrmswood: Apocalypse moves at a cracking pace with an intense focus on head-fissuring action, with Kiah and Tristan Roache-Turner turning an exciting new page for Aussie horror action films.

"Sizzling with spectacular action and anarchic glee."—Film Ink

BUSINESS OR PLEASURE

Exciting, vulnerable, controversial, transactional – sex and cinema have enjoyed a long love affair. From the censorship of the production code to the voyeuristic 90's; as the voice of film evolves so does its relationship to love, lust, nudity and sex. Hear from the filmmakers who dare to go all the way.



BAD LUCK BANGING OR LOONY PORN

MON 25 APR · 8.30PM · CHEC

RADU JUDE · 106 MINS · R18+ · ROU, LUX, CHE

WINNER · BEST FILM · BERLINALE

Schoolteacher, Emi, finds her reputation under threat after a personal sex tape of her is uploaded onto the internet. Forced to face her students' parents demanding her dismissal, Emi refuses to surrender.

A naked look at contemporary Romania, Director Radu Jude's creates a withering, often hilarious critique of body shaming, censorship, and hypocrisy. Always one for innovative cinematic experiments, Jude has crafted an intelligent, satirical triptych with precise camerawork and manic humour, pulling zero punches when it comes to sex.

"A provocative pandemic polemic... Jude remains a boldly original voice in modern European cinema, with serious things to say and increasingly adventurous ways of saying them." —The Hollywood Reporter

Contains high impact unsimulated sex scenes

Romanian with English subtitles



BLISS (GLÜCK)

THU 5 MAY · 4.30PM · JMT

HENRIKA KULL · 89 MINS · 18+ · DEU

NOMINEE · BEST QUEER FILM · BERLINALE

Alternating between waiting in the break room, having sex, and lining up for the next John, artist and poet Maria is new to the Berlin brothel, where established, single mother Sascha has been working for several years.

An immediate intense kinship blossoms into romance. But as the emotional barriers come down, new vulnerabilities surface, threatening a tenderly optimistic new love.

Filmed from inside a Berlin brothel with precision and a lightness of touch, Henrika Kull's second feature boasts charming central performances from Katharina Behrens and Adam Hoya, while her intimate portrayal of sex work is refreshingly realised. Showcasing a sunlit Berlin through the eyes of new lovers, *Bliss* is an authentic and deeply romantic love story.

German, Italian with English subtitles



PARIS, 13TH DISTRICT

SAT 23 APR · 9PM · CHEC
SAT 30 APR · 9.15PM · JMT

JACQUES AUDIARD · 106 MINS · R18+ · FRA

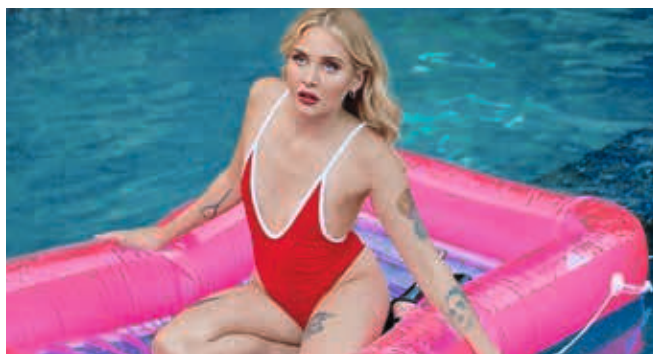
This freewheeling ensemble piece from Palme d'Or winner Jacques Audiard (*Dheepan*, *Rust and Bones*) is a vibrant take on young Parisian love and sex - in collaboration with fellow French writer Céline Sciamma (*Petite Maman*, *SWIFF'22*) - based on works by New Yorker cartoonist Adrian Tomine.

The lives of four modern Parisians—directionless Émilie (Lucie Zhang), her flatmate, sometimes lover Camille (Makita Samba), the new object of his eye Nora (Noémie Merlant, *Portrait of a Lady on Fire*, *SWIFF'20*), and her camgirl doppelgänger Amber Sweet (Jehny Beth)—intersect as they navigate life in Les Olympiades.

The candid journey through an oft unseen side of Paris connects the vibrant messiness of contemporary life, as these characters lives diverge, like the vagaries of love, unspooling with an irresistibly hypnotic energy.

"...a sexy film about sexiness... This is a connoisseur date movie." —The Guardian

French with English subtitles



PLEASURE

SUN 1 MAY · 9PM · JMT

NINJA THYBERG · 105 MINS · 18+ · SWE

Bold, explicit and ambitious, Ninja Thyberg's debut is an unrestrained dive into the cutthroat LA porn industry.

Nineteen-year-old Linnéa (breakout star, Sofia Kappel), arrives from Sweden with a new name, Bella Cherry, a growing Instagram account and a singular goal – to be the next big name in adult film. Ambitious and pragmatic, she plays her cards close to her chest—but, in an industry that rewards ruthlessness, Linnéa is forced to make hard choices.

Derived from years of meticulous research, and including a cast of porn industry professionals, *Pleasure* addresses powerful ideas of consent and agency in sex work, through a fearless and uncompromising lens.

Contains graphic sexual content

English, Swedish with English subtitles



RED ROCKET

SUN 24 APR · 9PM · CHEC

SEAN BAKER · 128 MINS · MA15+ · USA

NOMINEE · PALME D'OR · CANNES

Everything's bigger in Texas.

The audacious new film from indie writer-director, Sean Baker (*The Florida Project*, *Tangerine*, SWIFF'16) is a darkly funny, and humane portrait of a uniquely American hustler.

Mikey (Simon Rex) never misses an opportunity to show off his five AVN Awards, the Oscars of the porn industry. But his days of success are long gone, and Mikey is left anything but welcome in his depressed, post-industrial hometown of Texas City. A charismatic force of destruction who exploits the goodwill of everyone around him, Mikey sets his sights on girlish donut-shop worker Strawberry (breakout scene-stealer Suzanna Son).

Part hangout movie, part thriller, *Red Rocket* paints an astonishing portrait of a narcissist that adds to Baker's evolving tapestry of the margins of modern America.

"An adult American pastoral. This is vivid, real-life film-making." —The Guardian



ZOLA

FRI 22 APR · 9PM · JMT

JANICZA BRAVO · 90 MINS · MA15+ · USA

NOMINEE · GRAND JURY PRIZE · SUNDANCE

"Y'all wanna hear a story about why me & this bitch here fell out??????? It's kind of long but full of suspense 🤔👉" -@zolarmoon

So began the infamous 2015 Twitter thread by A'Ziah King, documenting a Floridian overnight odyssey.

Zola (Taylor Paige) strikes up a friendship with Stefani (Riley Keough), who seduces her to join a weekend of dancing and partying in Florida.

While promised work in lucrative strip clubs, Stefani, her nameless pimp (Colman Domingo), and feckless boyfriend (Nicholas Braun), instead deliver a 48-hour fever dream, in this see-it-to-believe-it whirlwind.

Writer-Director Janicza Bravo gifts the wild story a lightly poignant touch, to make *Zola* a conversation-piece to match the tweetstorm that broke the internet.

"The stripper tweetstorm movie you've been waiting for...A wild candy-colored road saga with piles of style and postmodern flair, told in the key of smartphone." — Entertainment Weekly

It's not the Usual Suspects.

THE VIN

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THE VERHOEVEN
EXPERIENCE

Shocking. Explicit. Controversial. Verhoeven. One of the most audacious filmmakers of our time whose works could sit comfortably at either the poshest of art houses or the sleaziest of grind houses. A pure provocateur whose heady cinematic cocktails mix violence, sexuality, and ambiguity, with lashings of social commentary. This is the Verhoeven experience.

**BASIC INSTINCT**

SAT 23 APR · 9PM · JMT

PAUL VERHOEVEN · 127 MINS · R18+ · USA

An icy femme fatale. A killer cop. An all-timer interrogation scene.

Creating huge controversy when it premiered back in 1992 for its overt sexuality – Paul Verhoeven's sleek and daring erotic thriller proved a blockbuster smash for the genre and catapulted its commanding lead actors towards Hollywood stardom.

Michael Douglas plays troubled police detective Nick Curran, seduced into a series of cat-and-mouse mind games by Sharon Stone's Catherine Tramell, a cool, Hitchcock-blond crime novelist with a penchant for sleeping with murderers and who may or may not be one herself.

Revelling in the story's ambiguity, Verhoeven creates a world in which sex is both unbelievably hot and charged with menace, creating a top-quality guilty pleasure.

In honour of its 30th anniversary, SWIFF presents a razor-sharp 4K restoration of the original release neo-noir, supervised by Verhoeven himself. If you didn't find the film boundary-pushing before, try seeing it on the big screen.

**BENEDETTA**FRI 22 APR · 8.45PM · CHEC
THU 5 MAY · 8.30PM · JMT

PAUL VERHOEVEN · 127 MINS · R18+ · FRA, NLD

NOMINEE · PALME D'OR · CANNES

Paul Verhoeven returns with his hotly anticipated new psychosexual melodrama—a spectacular new genre blend that shook up Cannes and divided the critics.

In the late 17th century, with plague ravaging the land, the seemingly prophetic Benedetta Carlini joins a Tuscan convent as a novice. When she begins a passionate affair with a newcomer to the convent, and develops stigmata, Benedetta's impact on the community and convent is immediate and profound. But some question the legitimacy of her claims.

It's a stranger-than-fiction true story that, in the hands of the self-aware yet outrageous provocateur who gave us *Showgirls*, becomes even wilder, while the excellent Virginie Efira enthralled as Benedetta, whether fantasising about hunky Christ or repurposing a statuette of the Virgin Mary.

"Paul Verhoeven takes us to a nunnery where faith, eroticism and the Black Death make for an unholy good time." —The New York Times

French with English subtitles

26

SWIFF.COM.AU

**FLESH + BLOOD**

THU 5 MAY · 4.15PM · CHEC

PAUL VERHOEVEN · 126 MINS · R18+ · NLD, ESP

Monty Python by way of Hieronymus Bosch, *Flesh + Blood* marks Verhoeven's English language debut in a hallucinatory, medieval march through the anarchic, plague-ridden landscape of Western Europe.

Rutger Hauer (*Spetters*, SWIFF'22) plays Martin, a mercenary soldier who, along with his colourful band of marauders, is betrayed by their feudal lord, Arnolfini. Denied the plunder they were promised, Martin and his band take revenge by kidnapping Agnes (Jennifer Jason Leigh), the bride-to-be of Arnolfini's son, Steven (Tom Burlinson), who in turn pledges to wipe out the mercenary group once and for all.

Also starring Jack Thompson as Hawkwood, Commander of the troops, *Flesh + Blood* is complete with blasphemy, violence, and moral and sexual ambiguity, all channelled into an action/adventure epic – a proven formula unique to the uncompromising vision of Verhoeven.

Contains high impact themes



ROBOCOP

SUN 24 APR · 8.45PM · JMT

PAUL VERHOEVEN · 102 MINS · R18+ · USA

PART MAN. PART ROBOT. ALL COP!

It's the near future. Detroit is a dystopian crime-ridden metropolis plagued by open street warfare and fuelled by corruption. In the line of duty, Detroit police officer Murphy (Peter Weller) is gunned down by a ragtag drug syndicate and left for dead. American mega-corp Omni Consumer Products (OCP) seizes the opportunity to save his life in exchange for Murphy becoming its first cyborg police officer through OCP's new Robocop program. As Murphy's consciousness seeps through computer code, he must also fend off the all-mechanical rival, ED-209.

"YOU HAVE 20 SECONDS TO COMPLY!"

Verhoeven's iconic cyborg satire of 1980s Reaganite capitalism and the encroachment of private enterprise into the public....wait a sec, that's not the reason you're going to come watch the R-rated Director's Cut of *Robocop* on the big screen with a festival audience, is it?

"YOU HAVE 10 SECONDS TO COMPLY!"



SPETTERS

MON 2 MAY · 8.30PM · JMT

PAUL VERHOEVEN · 120 MINS · R18+ · NLD

Playing like a Roger Corman biker exploitation film by way of *Saturday Night Fever*, *Spetters* (or *Spark*), is an explicit, sexually charged psychodrama that charts the coming-of-age of three blue-collar, motor-cross-obsessed young friends.

Hopped up on testosterone, the boys live to race their dirt bikes and dream of one day becoming as famous as the world champion, Gerrit Witkamp (Rutger Hauer)—but fate has other things in store when a woman with an Olivia Newton-John fixation erupts onto the scene.

Homosexuality, religion, suicide, misogyny, and macho posturing are on full display — along with Verhoeven's unflinching frankness and razor-sharp satiric edge. *Spetters*, a somewhat male-drive precursor to *Showgirls*, made fifteen years prior, caused so much controversy and outrage at the time, Verhoeven soon packed up his realism and headed for Hollywood.

This is a rare opportunity for fans of Verhoeven to experience one of his early and most controversial films.

Contains graphic content
Dutch with English subtitles



SHOWGIRLS

THU 28 APR · 8.30PM · CHEC

PAUL VERHOEVEN · 131 MINS · R18+ · USA

A young dancer faces the realities of Las Vegas show business as she claws her way from strip joints to stardom - in one of the most notorious films of the 90's.

Running from a troubled past and possessed of a raw and riveting dancing talent, Nomi Malone (Elizabeth Berkley) quickly attracts the attention of star showgirl Cristal (Gina Gershon) and ambitious entertainment director Zack (Kyle McLaughlan). As complex bonds form between them, Nomi is drawn deeper into a world of passion and power where everything—and everyone—has a price.

Panned on release (Verhoeven became the first director to accept his Razzie in person), to being revalued as a 'so-bad-it's-good' camp classic, *Showgirls* has now experienced a contemporary reputation as a misunderstood satirical gem, well ahead of its time.

"Undoubtedly the think-piece object d'art of its time." – *Slant*



STARSHIP TROOPERS

THU 5 MAY · 8.30PM · CHEC

PAUL VERHOEVEN · 129 MINS · MA15+ · USA

"The only good bug is a dead bug!"

In the distant future, square-jawed All-American star quarterback Johnny Rico (Casper Van Dien) is graduating and deciding what his future holds. With his heart set on leaving Civilian life behind for Citizenship, Johnny signs up to join the Mobile Infantry—see the galaxy, do his duty...and maybe impress his girlfriend Carmen (Denise Richards).

When a giant asteroid is hurled out at Earth, it means WAR! for the Mobile Infantry, with Rico sent off to Planet P—an ugly planet, a bug planet—to fight for Earth against the Arachnids.

Beyond the skin-deep "*Beverly Hills 90210* meets *Aliens*" splatterfest, Verhoeven's satire of authoritarian militarism left many of its original critics in its wake, becoming firmly entrenched as a sci-fi cult classic.

"Do you want to know more?"

INTERNATIONAL
DOCUMENTARY

Truth and fiction have forever been two sides of the storytelling coin. Reflecting on the power of story, celebrate cinema that revels in what is stranger than, sweeter than, and fiercer than.

Experience the real-life stories that implicate and exasperate humanity—and on the other side of the coin: uplift us and celebrate who we are.

**CARBON: THE UNAUTHORISED BIOGRAPHY**

WED 4 MAY · 11AM · CHEC

NIOBE THOMPSON, DANIELLA ORTEGA · 90 MINS · G · CAN, AUS

Narrated in first person by Golden Globe winner Sarah Snook (*Succession*), *Carbon* is an entertaining and surprisingly unorthodox documentary that reveals the paradoxical story of the element that builds all life, and yet may end it all.

Told from birth in the violent core of an exploding star and of turbulent sagas through the fabric of our evolving Earth, carbon's story is accompanied by celebrated scientists, unique animations and a stunning orchestral score, reminding us all of our humble participation in the most extraordinary story in the universe.

SWIFF invites both local and travelling schools, as well as the general public, to this screening of *Carbon*—with special guest speakers.

Supported by SWIFF and Southern Cross University

**FLEE**

SAT 23 APR · 2.30PM · CHEC
FRI 29 APR · 2PM · CHEC

JONAS POHER RASMUSSEN · 90 MINS · M · DEN, FRA, SWE, NOR

WINNER · GRAND JURY PRIZE · SUNDANCE

Amin, an academic living in Denmark, is engaged to his long-term boyfriend and on the brink of settling down. However, before Amin can fully embrace his future, he must reconcile his past.

With the support of trusted childhood friend, director Jonas Poher Rasmussen, Amin carefully recounts his daunting true journey that spans years and continents, detailing the conditions that forced his family to escape their home in Afghanistan, endure an agonizing months-long limbo in Soviet Russia, before finally finding refuge in Copenhagen.

Winner of over 60 international awards, *Flee* is a thrilling documentary fusing a blend of animation, intimate interview, 80s music and striking archival footage.

Danish, Dari, English, Russian, Swedish with English subtitles

**GEETA**

FRI 29 APR · 2PM · JMT

EMMA MACEY-STORCH · 90 MINS · 15+ · AUS

This moving, true story of an acid attack survivor's fight to create a better future for her daughters is an inspiring and powerful call-to-action.

After surviving a malicious acid attack at the hands of her husband, leaving both Geeta and her daughters badly injured, both women are left to grapple with poverty and social ostracism. But they have also joined a burgeoning social justice movement working to end violence against women, catapulting Geeta onto a global stage, as co-founder of a local activist movement Sheroes, and in her fight for law reform and justice.

Both a personal tale of a mother fighting for her daughter's destiny and a powerful call to action against domestic violence – Geeta and her daughter Neetu share their courageous story with award-winning Australian director, Emma Macey-Storch.

Contains domestic violence themes
Hindi with English subtitles
Emma Macey-Storch and Neetu Mahor are guests of the festival

**HE'S MY BROTHER**

THU 28 APR · 12PM · JMT
THU 5 MAY · 10AM · JMT

CILLE HANNIBAL, CHRISTINE HANBERG · 75 MINS · 15+ · DEN, NOR

30-year-old Peter experiences the world differently.

Born without the ability to hear, see or speak, his loving parents and younger sister Christine are his whole world, communicating in a unique, tactile language.

Years later, when Peter is diagnosed with autism, his family navigate this new circumstance with a quiet confidence. Faced with the tumultuous realisation that she will one day be entirely responsible for Peter; Christine and her co-director Cille Hannibal explore the brother-sister relationship through intimate camera work and excerpts from home videos, illustrating the myriad of emotion that comes with dedicating your life to someone else.

"A highly emotional viewing experience from beginning to end ... [and] a touching, brutally sincere story of suffering, waiting and love." —Cineuropa

Danish with English subtitles

**ONCE UPON A TIME IN UGANDA**

WED 4 MAY · 8.45PM · CHEC

CATHRYN CZUBEK, HUGO PEREZ · 94 MINS · 18+ · UGA, USA

NSW Premiere

WINNER · GRAND JURY PRIZE · DOC NYC

Meet Isaac Nabwana: maverick micro-budget Ugandan action film director extraordinaire (47 films in 11 years!). With a prop arsenal Macgyvered from scrap metal, squibs made from condoms filled with fake blood, and an admiration for all things 80's, Isaac's films are all produced in the slums of Wakaliga in Kampala, Uganda.

After stumbling across a viral film trailer for one of Isaac's biggest hits, New York film programmer Alan Hoffman decides to pack up his life and track down "Africa's Tarantino". A short stay turns into years, as Isaac's untameable vision and Alan's marketing savvy sets the scene for international stardom.

A true ode to the art of earnest filmmaking, guaranteed to have you cheering in the aisles.

Luganda with English subtitles



SABAYA

THU 28 APR · 2PM · JMT

HOGIR HIRORI · 95 MINS · 18+ · SWE

WINNER · DIRECTING AWARD · SUNDANCE

When Daesh stormed through Sinjar province, it stunned the world - their forces murdering Yazidi men and taking away Yazidi women as sabaya, a word meaning "female prisoner of war" but regularly understood as "sex slave".

Thousands of women have escaped capture, displaced to Al-Hol Camp on the Syrian side of the border, a tent city housing 73,000 displaced people, serving as a temporary safe haven for many ex-sabaya.

From the depths of tragedy rises profound compassion. Mahmud and Ziyad run the Yazidi Home Centre, working tirelessly to return thousands of Yazidi ex-sabaya women home to their families.

Hogir Hirori's brings an important story to the broader world about the callousness of destruction and humanity's redemption through compassion.

Arabic, Kurdish with English subtitles



TELEVISION EVENT

SUN 24 APR · 2PM · JMT

JEFF DANIELS · 91 MINS · 15+ · AUS

At the height of the Cold War, an event took place that would be unrepeatable today—the most watched television program in American history.

Over 100 million Americans tuned in to see made-for-TV movie *The Day After*—a fictionalised but realistic feature film depiction of what nuclear holocaust would look like in the 1980s America.

Nothing had ever been seen like it before, and *The Day After* captured the America public with such fervour that even President Ronald Reagan tuned in to the film at Camp David.

Television Event director Jeff Daniels gains deep access to archival footage and new interviews outing the behind-the-scenes battles to air America's most watched television event in history.

Jeff Daniels is a guest of the festival



SAM & MATTIE MAKE A ZOMBIE MOVIE

JESSE SUCHMAN, ROBERT CARNEVALE · 107 MINS · 15+ · USA

SAT 30 APR · 2PM · CHEC

Australian Premiere

Sam Suchman and Mattie Zufelt, two New England teenage best friends with Down syndrome, dreamt of making their magnum opus film...*Spring Break Zombie Massacre*.

But how much blood, sex, and stunts can one pack into a PG-13 film? (Hint: you can't) The duo go through the trials and tests of the movie-making business, as their vision begins to blow out their budget: massive boat party scenes, explosions, DJ Pauly D (of Jersey Shore fame), and more fake blood than you can fill a swimming pool with. Their final film is shown in its entirety.

Catching the eye of legendary director Peter Farrelly (Oscar winning director, *Green Book*), supporting as executive producer, Sam and Mattie are an authentic freight train filmmaking duo to be reckoned with.



THE VELVET QUEEN

SUN 1 MAY · 11AM · CHEC

MARIE AMIGUET, VINCENT MUNIER · 92 MINS · M · FRA

NOMINEE · GOLDEN EYE · CANNES

A mesmerising journey across the rocky Tibetan plateau looking for the elusive, majestic snow leopard sets the scene for this resplendent ode to our natural world, accompanied by a honeyed, atmospheric soundtrack by Nick Cave and Warren Ellis.

The inaccessible valleys between plateaus in the most remote regions of Tibet serve as the last, hidden sanctuaries of the wild world, where rare and undiscovered fauna dwell. Adventurer and novelist Sylvian Tesson joins acclaimed wildlife photographer Vincent Munier as they trek through untouched wilderness, ruminating on the role humanity plays in our world.

"It's enough to inspire even the non-nature-minded to seek out new adventures, whether on untamed land or in one's backyard."—Indiewire

French with English subtitles



THE STORY OF FILM: A NEW GENERATION

FRI 29 APR · 11AM · CHEC

MARK COUSINS · 160 MINS · 15+ · IRL

NOMINEE · GOLDEN EYE · CANNES

"Movies aren't just making history. They're making our history."—Mark Cousins

Irish film critic Mark Cousins casts a cinephile's eye screenward, celebrating movies that don't conform to the zeitgeist. Cousins waxes poetic on new, creative and pioneering cinematic feats that seek answers to what is extending the language of modern films, and what we are still digging for as filmmakers and audiences, with his accessible and romantic narrative lyricism.

In a glorious homage to art-form, *The Story of Film: A New Generation* will find a common language with audiences at the festival, in a shared love for all that is cinema.

"An unashamed celebration of cinema as an art-form."—The Guardian



WRITING WITH FIRE

WED 4 MAY · 12PM · JMT

RINTU THOMAS, SUSHMIT GHOSH · 93 MINS · M · IND

WINNER · AUDIENCE AWARD, SPECIAL JURY PRIZE · SUNDANCE

In a time of seismic change for India, the courageous all-female journalists of the Khabar Lahariya news outlet defy all odds to uphold the belief that journalism, democracy, and justice are linked in this triumphant, Oscar-nominated documentary.

Tough-as-nails Chief Reporter Meera and her team of journalists are Dalit women, a caste considered "untouchable" in India. Armed with brand new smartphones and beginning their pivot to digital journalism, the tenacious women are out on the frontlines, reporting on real issues and inspiring tactile change, despite living within a modern culture rife with misogyny.

Redefining what it means to be powerful, *Writing With Fire* is a story of our times, proving modern Dalit women are writers of their own destiny.

Hindi with English subtitles



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**A HERO**

SAT 23 APR · 6.30PM · CHEC
SUN 1 MAY · 6.45PM · JMT

ASGHAR FARHADI · 127 MINS · 15+ · IRN

WINNER · GRAND PRIX · CANNES

No good deed goes unpunished in this morality tale from dual Oscar winner Asghar Farhadi (A Separation, The Salesman, SWIFF'17).

In vibrant, urban Shiraz, calligrapher Rahim (Amir Jadidi) is imprisoned for a mounting debt. Unexpectedly granted a two-day leave of absence, he works to seek amends, banking on a golden opportunity from his partner, the goodwill of his creditor, and support of his young son. Quickly, the consequences of Rahim's plot become a prison of their own, launching a twisting chain of events.

Farhadi's richly textured take on gossip and social media is funnelled through his masterful knack for evolving individual stories into powerful metaphors.

"One of the best films of the year." —Rogerebert.com

Farsi with English subtitles

**AFTER YANG**

SUN 24 APR · 4.30PM · JMT
THU 5 MAY · 6.30PM · JMT

KOGONADA · 96 MINS · 15+ · USA

WINNER · FILM PRIZE · SUNDANCE

When his young daughter's beloved companion, an android named Yang, malfunctions, Jake (Colin Farrell) searches for a way to repair him.

Warm in its aesthetics and a tender inversion of sci-fi tropes, *After Yang* flips the trusted theme of an android dreaming of a human life – instead imagining a future where humans seek to understand meaning, loss and family through the eyes of AI.

From acclaimed essayist and director Kogonada (*Columbus*), *After Yang* is a future-set, soulful cinematic experience into the nature of self and memory, punctuated by moments of humour and grace.

"Colin Farrell has never been better." —Los Angeles Times

**ALI & AVA**

MON 25 APR · 1PM · JMT
WED 4 MAY · 4.30PM · CHEC

CLIO BARNARD · 95 MINS · M · UK

WINNER · BEST FILM, BEST ACTOR, BEST ACTRESS · BRITISH INDEPENDENT FILM AWARDS

A bundle of good humour and nervous energy, Ali is a British Pakistani working-class landlord whose happy-go-lucky attitude echoes through his love of music and his tenants.

When Ali connects with Ava, a pragmatic middle-aged teaching assistant, they find a gentle, warm friendship and romance – the joy of first love mixed with the contentment of a long-married couple – but overcoming preconceptions around race, age, and cultural values stir tension into their love bliss.

Featuring outstanding performances by Claire Rushbrook and Adeel Akhtar, *Ali & Ava* is a contemporary love story deeply rooted in lived experience, serving as a reminder that sometimes the least likely connections are the ones most worth pursuing.

**ALL MY FRIENDS HATE ME**

MON 2 MAY · 6.30PM · JMT

ANDREW GAYNORD · 93 MINS · 15+ · UK

NSW Premiere

Mild-mannered Pete reunites with his old college chums for his birthday weekend in a swanky country manor. Though his days as "Skippy, Captain of the Party" are behind him, Pete prepares for some good old-fashioned ribbing and heavy intoxication with the raucous mob.

When his old mates bring back local joker, Harry, to join in the festivities, Pete's paranoia sets in as the birthday bash to end all bashes spirals out of control.

This eye-wateringly hilarious, exploration of social anxiety is brought to cringe-inducing life thanks to a stellar script and go-for-broke performances from its cast, including writer and star, Tom Stourton.

"...a ferociously witty, deeply British evisceration of upper-class Millennial anxiety, dedicated to the truism that if you can't spot the asshole in any group of five or more people, the asshole is you." —Variety

**ANAÏS IN LOVE**

SAT 23 APR · 4.30PM · CHEC
WED 4 MAY · 2PM · CHEC

CHARLINE BOURGEOIS-TACQUET · 98 MINS · 15+ · FRA

NOMINEE · QUEER PALME · CANNES

Pitched between the worlds of Greta Gerwig and Eric Rohmer, Charline Bourgeois-Tacquet's debut feature is an elegant French delight.

Moving with nearly reckless abandon through the bustling streets of Paris, thirty-something Anaïs (Anaïs Demoustier) is brimming with a zest for life with little thought to her future. Her thesis is unfinished, her rent is overdue, her relationship is on the rocks – but nothing can rain on her parade.

A chance encounter with successful writer Emilie (Valeria Bruni Tedeschi, *Only the Animals*, SWIFF'21), sparks a slow-burning flirtation that promises to catch fire and become something far more meaningful.

"As light and airy as a summer breeze..." —Screen Daily

French with English subtitles



APPLES

TUE 26 APR · 4.30PM · JMT
SAT 30 APR · 2.45PM · JMT

CHRISTOS NIKOU · 90 MINS · M · GRC, POL, SVN

NOMINEE · BEST FILM · VENICE

An amnesia pandemic is sweeping through Greece in director Christos Nikou's deadpan absurdist comedy of loss and rediscovery.

Upon waking up unable to recollect memories, Aris is enrolled in Greece's new identity program. He is given a home and assigned tasks: Ride a bike! Go to a nightclub! Attend a fancy dress party and make a friend! All duly Polaroid-ed and stuck in an album of fresh memories, to be inspected and critiqued by his minders. As the treatment progresses, the tasks become more elaborate, perilous, and outlandish.

Landing firmly in the tradition of high-concept absurdism of compatriot and collaborator, Yorgos Lanthimos (*The Favourite*), Nikou's wry and inventive film is an unforgettable first feature. Executive produced by Cate Blanchett.

Greek with English subtitles



BEAUTIFUL MINDS

SAT 23 APR · 2.30PM · JMT
FRI 29 APR · 12PM · JMT

BERNARD CAMPAN, ALEXANDRE JOLLIEN · 88 MINS · 15+ · FRA, CHE

WINNER · AUDIENCE AWARD · SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL

This delightful French roadtrip farce proves that it's not about the destination, but about the friends made along the way.

Dour mortician Louis (Bernard Campan) keeps people at a polite arm's length, maintaining a cool professionalism with clients, both pre and posthumous.

By chance encounter, he meets Igor, (beautifully played by Alexandre Jollien), a deep thinker who - despite his loving mum - is a mostly solitary soul.

The oddball duo set off in hearse on a journey through stunning French countryside, discussing everything from French philosophers to feelings of ostracism.

Inspired by the lived experiences of co-director and star Alexandre Jollien, an award-winning author and philosopher living with cerebral palsy.

French with English subtitles



BAD LUCK BANGING OR LOONY PORN

MON 25 APR · 8.30PM · CHEC

RADU JUDE · 106 MINS · R18+ · ROU, LUX, CHE

WINNER · BEST FILM · BERLINALE

Schoolteacher, Emi, finds her reputation under threat after a personal sex tape of her is uploaded onto the internet. Forced to face her students' parents demanding her dismissal, Emi refuses to surrender.

A naked look at contemporary Romania, Director Radu Jude creates a withering, often hilarious critique of body shaming, censorship, and hypocrisy. Always one for innovative cinematic experiments, Jude has crafted an intelligent, satirical triptych with precise camerawork and manic humour, pulling zero punches when it comes to sex.

"A provocative pandemic polemic... Jude remains a boldly original voice in modern European cinema, with serious things to say and increasingly adventurous ways of saying them." —The Hollywood Reporter

Contains high impact unsimulated sex scenes

Romanian with English subtitles



BERGMAN ISLAND

MON 25 APR · 6PM · CHEC
SUN 1 MAY · 12PM · JMT

MIA HANSEN-LØVE · 105 MINS · M · FRA

NOMINEE · PALME D'OR · CANNES

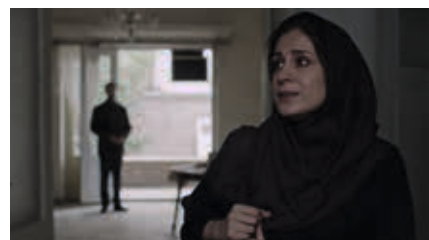
Married filmmakers Tony (Tim Roth, *Sundown*, SWIFF'22) and Chris (Vicky Krieps, *Phantom Thread*) take a summer retreat to the remote Baltic Island of Fårö that inspired their idol, Ingmar Bergman.

Bergman lived and worked on Fårö for over 40 years; today it is a place of pilgrimage. Here, Chris and Tony hope to find both rest and inspiration for their separate film projects in the island's wilds, but when the mysterious rhythms of the island start to awaken long-dormant memories, the lines between dream, reality, and fiction collide.

Stunning landscapes and performances of subtle power pair perfectly in this playful, stirring ode to Bergman, and the lingering memory of love lost, from lauded Cannes-winning director Mia Hansen-Løve (*Things to Come*).

"A heart-stopping poignant stunner" – Indiewire

English, French, Swedish with English subtitles



BALLAD OF A WHITE COW

TUE 26 APR · 2.30PM · JMT
TUE 3 MAY · 10.30AM · JMT

BEHTASH SANAAEEHA, MARYAM MOGHADDAM · 105 MINS · 15+ · IRN, FRA

NSW Premiere

An impassioned single mother takes on the Iranian justice system in this taut social drama.

Mina's life is turned upside down after learning that her husband Babak was innocent of the crime for which he was executed. Running out of money, when a stranger knocks at her door to repay a debt he owed Babak, she lets him into her life unaware of the secret that ties them to one another.

Co-director Maryam Moghaddam also gives a powerful and unforgettable performance as the resilient Mina, bringing a natural energy to a woman fighting for accountability in a society that has stacked all the odds against her.

"An intricately constructed story about innocence, guilt, redemption and forgiveness ... Moghaddam is nothing short of magnificent." —Cineuropa

Farsi with English subtitles



BETWEEN TWO WORLDS

WED 27 APR · 2.15PM · JMT

EMMANUEL CARRÈRE · 107 MINS · M · FRA

WINNER · AUDIENCE AWARD · SAN SEBASTIAN FILM FESTIVAL

Scrubbing toilets, mopping floors, emptying garbage—all for minimum wage.

Alongside her hard-working colleagues scraping a living, Marianne (Juliette Binoche, *Fire*, SWIFF'22) is struggling to get by after moving to the coast.

But she's not one of them. Marianne is an undercover journalist.

Inspired by French journalist Florence Aubenas who went undercover for six months, taking minimum wage temporary cleaning jobs to understand how underemployed French citizens weather a modern economic crisis, director Emmanuel Carrère exposes the human story behind a life experienced by 1/8th of French workers in this Juliette Binoche masterclass.

"A master of empathy, the French star goes undercover as a cleaning woman in this social-issue movie, about the ethical toll of role-playing." —Variety

French with English subtitles



C'MON C'MON

SUN 24 APR · 6.30PM · CHEC
FRI 29 APR · 6.30PM · JMT

MIKE MILLS · 108 MINS · M · USA

In writer-director Mike Mills' (*Beginners*, *20th Century Women*) warm and insightful family dramedy, Joaquin Phoenix (*You Were Never Really Here*, SWIFF'19) plays Johnny, an emotionally stunted and soft-spoken radio journalist who travels the country interviewing children about their thoughts concerning their world and their future.

His sister, Viv (a marvellously intuitive Gaby Hoffmann), asks Johnny to watch her 9-year-old son, Jesse (breakthrough and best youth performance winner Woody Norman). After some reluctance, Johnny finds the new connection slowly breaking down his emotional barriers.

Anchored by three remarkable actors, and shot in creamy black and white, *C'mon C'mon* is a gentle and impeccably crafted drama about the connections between generations, understanding the past, and facing the future.

"A great big bear hug wrapped in celluloid". —The Independent



DEAR COMRADES!

MON 2 MAY · 1.30PM · JMT

ANDREI KONCHALOVSKY · 121 MINS · M · RUS

WINNER · SPECIAL JURY PRIZE · CANNES

Andrei Konchalovsky's rage-filled political drama is rich with historical detail and grand in scope of an infamous 1962 Soviet massacre and its attempted cover-up.

USSR, June, 1962. Lyuda (Julia Vysotskaya) is a true Stalinist. But now, under Khrushchev, food prices are rising, grocery queues are longer, and workers' wages are falling. A perfect storm for civil upheaval is born in the small town of Novocherkassk as the town's workers take to the streets, teetering on the edge of revolt, escalating, with rising tension in this crucible of discontent.

Filed in stark monochrome, and presented in tall Academy ratio, *Dear Comrades!* tells a powerful and complex truth that no amount of rhetorical bluster could paper over.

Russian with English subtitles



COMPARTMENT NO.6

WED 27 APR · 6.45PM · CHEC
TUE 3 MAY · 6PM · JMT

JUHO KUOSMANEN · 106 MINS · MA15+ · FIN, DEU, EST, RUS

WINNER · GRAND PRIX · CANNES
NOMINEE · PALME D'OR · CANNES

A rattling, freezing train enroute to the arctic port of Murmansk circa 1990's serves as the setting for this masterful and inventive meet-uncute road trip.

Unwashed hair and bulky backpack in tow, Finnish Archaeology student Laura is on her way to examine ancient petroglyphs, a fitting conclusion to her study in Moscow. In a cramped sleeper cabin, she meets Ljoha, a loutish Russian worker on his way to report for duty at a nearby mine.

Although worlds apart, cracks appear in the facades, allowing them to recognise the deeper vulnerabilities in one another.

"...the humdrum and heartswelling...evokes a powerful nostalgia for a type of loneliness we don't really have any more, and for the type of love that was its cure." —Variety

Russian, Finnish with English subtitles



DRIVE MY CAR

SUN 24 APR · 10.30AM · CHEC
TUE 3 MAY · 12.30PM · JMT

RYUSUKE HAMAGUCHI · 184 MINS · MA15+ · JPN

WINNER · BEST SCREENPLAY · CANNES
NOMINEE · PALME D'OR · CANNES

Winner of over 15 Best Film awards, lauded filmmaker Ryusuke Hamaguchi (*Asako I & II*) takes your heart for a spin as he twists a Haruki Murakami short story into an intricate drama of secrets and lies.

Stage actor Yusuke Kafuku, two years on from a personal tragedy laced with resentment, accepts an offer to direct Chekhov's *Uncle Vanya*. Forging a new start in Hiroshima, he makes two crucial connections – Kōji, a young actor with whom his path may have already crossed and Misaki, the chauffeur who is mandated to drive his car.

Hamaguchi x-rays these characters, each haunted by their past, as he incisively explores ideas of love, desire, infidelity, guilt, and atonement.

"An engrossing and exalting experience." —The Guardian

Japanese, with English Subtitles



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FIRE

MON 2 MAY · 4PM · JMT

CLAIRE DENIS · 116 MINS · 18+ · FRA

WINNER · BEST DIRECTOR · BERLINALE

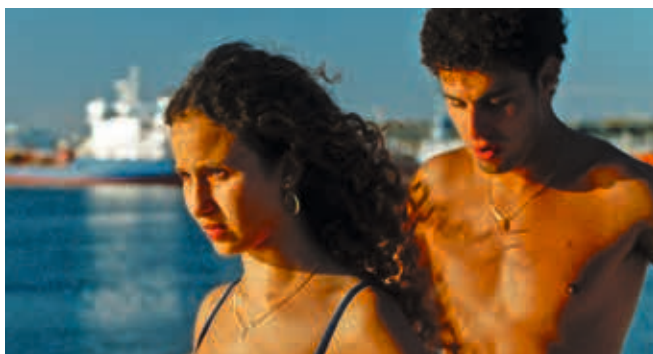
Cinema icons Juliette Binoche (*Between Two Worlds*, SWIFF '22) and Vincent Lindon (*Titane*, SWIFF '22) share the big screen for the first time in the explosive new romantic drama from celebrated auteur, Claire Denis (*Beau Travail*, *Let The Sunshine In*).

Public radio presenter Sara (Binoche) and Jean (Lindon) are in love, with a trust and strength that has withstood Jean's stint in prison.

When Sara's past lover François reconnects with Jean for a business opportunity, it begins to feel like more than just chance – before events rapidly spiral out of control.

Packed with erotic frisson and a series of dramatic, emotionally charged encounters, the superbly acted *Fire* delivers two powerhouse artists working at the very top of their game.

French with English subtitles



HARD SHELL, SOFT SHELL

FRI 29 APR · 4.30PM · JMT

EMMA BENESTAN · 99 MINS · 15+ · FRA

Australian Premiere

Set against the stunning, sun kissed backdrop of the south of France, *Hard Shell, Soft Shell* (*Fragile*) is a fresh, slice-of-life romantic drama about young love, tested friendships...and oysters.

Cocky, loved-up oyster farmer Az thinks he's made it. Sailing by life without a care, he meets his match when the love of his life fervently rejects his proposal, sending Az into an existential crisis and spiral of confusion.

Growing up on the coast of Montpellier, writer-director, Emma Benestan offers a personal portrait into the lives and loves of French youth, arcing back to cinematic romances of yesteryear, all set to a pulsing soundtrack - complete with stunning dance routines - *Hard Shell, Soft Shell* will charm even the most hardened romantics to open their hearts to love.

French with English subtitles



GOOD MADAM

TUE 3 MAY · 8.30PM · JMT

JENNA CATO BASS · 92 MINS · 18+ · ZAF

Australian Premiere

Apartheid era South Africa casts shadows over this gutsy psychological thriller, stirring comparisons to Jordan Peele's satirical smash, *Get Out*.

"It's not that Mama doesn't like this house — this house doesn't like Mama."

Tsidi's mother Mavis has lived and worked in the same wealthy Cape Town homestead most of Tsidi's life. When her beloved grandmother dies, Tsidi must push past resentments of a childhood spent silhouetted in a white family – and move her daughter and herself in with her mother – in the house "Madam" owns.

Decades of dysfunctional race relations are compressed and twisted to eerie effect in Jenna Cato Bass's clever, culturally-revealing haunting of allegorical cinema.

English, Xhosa with English subtitles



GREAT FREEDOM

SUN 24 APR · 11.30AM · JMT
WED 27 APR · 4.15PM · CHEC

SEBASTIAN MEISE · 116 MINS · 18+ · AUT, DEU

WINNER · JURY PRIZE · CANNES
WINNER · BEST FEATURE · VENICE

Franz Rogowski, (*Undine*, SWIFF '22) shines in this stunning post World War II drama set in a world where love is forbidden by law and punished with imprisonment.

Holocaust survivor Hans (Rogowski) is caught in a continuous cycle of incarceration as a result of Paragraph 175 - a law that makes homosexuality a crime. Behind bars, he meets the surly, guarded Viktor, with whom he develops a deep, decades-spanning bond.

Playing out over three interweaving timelines, *Great Freedom* is a tender, lyrical meditation on the power of love, human connection, and their ability to transcend even the bleakest of circumstances.

"...Meise's film is an exquisite marriage of personal, political and sensual storytelling..." —Variety

German with English subtitles



HIT THE ROAD

SAT 23 APR · 12.30PM · CHEC
WED 27 APR · 6.30PM · JMT

PANAH PANAH · 93 MINS · PG · IRN

WINNER · BEST FILM · LONDON FILM FESTIVAL

A chaotic, tender family is on a journey across a rugged Iranian landscape, but despite the frequent outbursts of car karaoke and debate about Batman movies, their family road trip has an undisclosed purpose.

In the back seat, Dad has a broken leg, that should have healed some time ago. Mom tries to laugh when she's not holding back tears. The kid is a ball of bounding energy. All of them are fussing over the sick dog and getting on each other's nerves. Only the mysterious older brother is quiet.

Director Panah Panahi, son of revered director Jafar, stakes a promising path wholly of his own with this thrillingly inventive and joyous family drama.

"Crackling with energy and outbreaks of exuberant lip syncing, riotously funny at times and quietly devastating at others." —Screen Daily

Persian with English subtitles



HIVE

SUN 1 MAY · 10AM · JMT
THU 5 MAY · 2PM · CHEC

BLERTA BASHOLLI · 83 MINS · M · KOS, CHE, ALB

WINNER · GRAND JURY PRIZE, AUDIENCE AWARD, DIRECTING AWARD · SUNDANCE

The powerful true story of a woman fighting for independence in the wake of the Kosovo war, *Hive* is the first film to win all three major awards at Sundance.

Beekeeper Fahrije Hoti's husband has been missing for seven years, following a devastating massacre. Her grief, strict patriarchal expectations and faltering beehives threaten to crush her spirit, but Fahrije upends expectations by establishing a women's co-operative with fellow war widows. Planning to use traditional recipes to forge their autonomy, but facing near insurmountable obstacles, their determination drives a wave of change.

Debut director Blerta Basholli crafts a concentrated, naturalistic liberation story—driven by Yllka Gashi's superb performance inspired by real-life beekeeper Fahrije Hoti.

Albanian with English subtitles



LUZZU

MON 25 APR · 1PM · CHEC

ALEX CAMILLERI · 94 MINS · 15+ · MLT

WINNER · SPECIAL JURY AWARD · SUNDANCE

Named for the brightly coloured fishing boats entrenched in Maltese culture, *Luzzu* is an affecting, familial drama that took Sundance by storm.

Jesmark feels the mounting pressure of a ruthless fishing industry cutting him out of the market, and fruitless harvests due to a stagnating ecosystem. Desperate to provide for his wife and their infant son, Jesmark is coerced into a dangerous black-market operation, torn between a generations-old tradition, and the faceless globalisation of the modern world.

Told through the unique lens of real-life Maltese fisherman, Jesmark Scicluna, *Luzzu* is a ravishing portrait of tradition in transition.

"The kind of film Roberto Rossellini would have made if he were still alive today." —World of Reel

Maltese with English subtitles



JUNIPER

FRI 22 APR · 2PM · JMT

MATTHEW SAVILLE · 94 MINS · M · NZL

Life. Don't ever water it down.

When troubled teen Sam (newcomer George Farrier) is suspended from boarding school, he returns home to find his feisty, gin-soaked, UK-based grandmother, Ruth (Charlotte Rampling, *Benedetta* · SWIFF'22) has moved in.

Equally stubborn in demeanour, initial interactions between the two seem destined to end in broken glass. Everything escalates when Sam finds himself stranded with the fiercely funny and flirtatious Ruth, whose lust for life is as robust as her love of liquor.

With nothing to occupy their time but each other, Sam and Ruth gradually warm up, sharing life experiences that teach Sam to appreciate his life once more, and for Ruth to face her own mortality.

"Elegant, intimate, bittersweet and a must-see." —NEWSHUB (NZ)



MEMORIA

TUE 26 APR · 11.30AM · JMT

APICHATPONG WEERASETHAKUL · 136 MINS · PG · COL, UK, THA, FRA, MEX, DEU, QAT

WINNER · JURY PRIZE · CANNES

"It's like a rumble, from the core of the Earth - BANG! - and then it shrinks."

Jessica Holland (Tilda Swinton) is a Colombian-based orchidologist who becomes obsessed with a recurring booming sound occurring only in her head. Visiting a sound engineer to identify what she hears, Jessica begins following the threads to help her understand this new, spontaneous audio phenomenon.

Swinton's masterful nuanced performance, translating life's quieter moments into an intense masterclass of subtlety and movement, creates an on-screen intensity, in awe at how little can say so much.

Directed by Thai auteur Apichatpong Weerasethakul, (Cannes Palme d'Or winner), *Memoria* is a Zen-like cinematic meditation of ideas and observations that will last in conversation well beyond the end credits.

English, Spanish with English subtitles



LAST FILM SHOW

SAT 30 APR · 10.30AM · JMT

PAN NALIN · 111 MINS · ALL AGES · IND

Mischievous nine-year-old Samay lives in a remote Indian village with his fiery tea-merchant father and culinarily-gifted mother, who lovingly prepares mouth-watering lunches for Samay each day.

Although believing film is immoral, Samay's father takes the family to the cinema for a religious viewing. Samay is entranced by the silver screen, returning each day, and striking a deal with the weary projectionist: Samay can watch films in return for his mother's delicious lunches. When new technology threatens his cinema fix, the resourceful Samay goes to extraordinary lengths to keep the magic alive.

A vivid love letter to cinema and connection to culture, *Last Film Show* celebrates the enduring power of story and the everlasting passion for the cinematic experience.

Gujarati with English subtitles



NOWHERE SPECIAL

THU 5 MAY · 2.30PM · JMT

UBERTO PASOLINI · 96 MINS · M · ITA, UK, ROU

Social realist cinema of the very best and most moving kind.

John, a 35-year-old window cleaner from Belfast has dedicated the last four years of his life to raising his young son, Michael. Diagnosed with brain cancer, John undertakes the seemingly impossible task of finding his 4-year-old son a new family, all the while trying best to shield Michael from life's harsh realities.

Uberto Pasolini's masterful direction brings a quiet focus to the intimate moments that illuminate how special a father-son relationship can be, as expertly brought to life by its leads, James Norton (*Little Women*), and breakout child actor Daniel Lamont.

"Pasolini's film takes a real-life story as his starting block and turns this tiny Northern Island-set tale into an almost sensory experience." —Screen International



PARALLEL MOTHERS

FRI 22 APR · 6.30PM · CHEC
SAT 30 APR · 6.45PM · JMT

PEDRO ALMODÓVAR · 120 MINS · M · ESP

WINNER · BEST ACTRESS · VENICE

Spanish master Pedro Almodóvar's (*Pain and Glory*, SWIFF'20) latest creation is a political mediation on the unrelenting fortitude of women.

Two women, Janis (Penélope Cruz) and Ana (Milena Smit), coincide in a hospital room where they are going to give birth. Both are single and became pregnant by accident. Janis, middle-aged, doesn't regret it and she is exultant. The other, Ana, an adolescent, is scared, repentant and traumatized. Janis tries to encourage her while they move like sleepwalkers along the hospital corridors.

The few words they exchange in these hours will create a very close link between the two, which by chance develops and complicates, and changes their lives in a decisive way.

"Brutal, beautiful ... a skein of reversals, revelations, surprises and coincidences unravelled with style, wit and feeling" —The New York Times

Spanish with English subtitles



PETITE MAMAN

SAT 23 APR · 4.30PM · JMT
SAT 30 APR · 1PM · JMT

CÉLINE SCIAMMA · 72 MINS · PG · FRA

WINNER · AUDIENCE AWARD · SAN SEBASTIAN FILM FESTIVAL

Celebrated auteur director, Céline Sciamma (*Portrait of a Lady on Fire*, SWIFF'20) reflects on mothers and daughters in this delicate cinematic poem for all ages.

Adjusting to the passing of her beloved grandmother, young Nelly travels to her grandmother's countryside home so her parents can clear out the house. Without much fun to be had for an 8-year-old, Nelly ventures into the woods, meeting a girl her own age, building a treehouse. Quickly forming an uncanny bond with the mysterious girl, the two embark on a fantastical journey.

With magical performances from young twin actors Josephine and Gabrielle Sanz, alongside Sciamma's signature sensitivity, *Petite Maman* is a journey through childhood, memory, loss, love and acceptance – offering an experience that is timeless and wholly special.

French with English subtitles



PARIS, 13TH DISTRICT

SAT 23 APR · 9PM · CHEC
SAT 30 APR · 9.15PM · JMT

JACQUES AUDIARD · 106 MINS · R18+ · FRA

A freewheeling ensemble piece from Palme d'Or winner Jacques Audiard (*Dheepan*, *Rust and Bones*) is a vibrant take on young Parisian love and sex - in collaboration with fellow French writer Céline Sciamma (*Petite Maman*, SWIFF'22) - based on works by New Yorker cartoonist Adrian Tomine.

The lives of four modern Parisians—directionless Émilie (Lucie Zhang), her flatmate, sometimes lover Camille (Makita Samba), the new object of his eye Nora (Noémie Merlant, *Portrait of a Lady on Fire*, SWIFF'20), and her camgirl doppelgänger Amber Sweet (Jehnni Beth)—intersect as they navigate life in Les Olympiades.

The candid journey through an oft unseen side of Paris connects the vibrant messiness of contemporary life, as these characters lives diverge, like the vagaries of love, unspooling with an irresistibly hypnotic energy.

"...a sexy film about sexiness...This is a connoisseur date movie." —The Guardian

French with English subtitles



THE POWER OF THE DOG

SAT 23 APR · 6.30PM · JMT

JANE CAMPION · 127 MINS · M · AUS, NZL

NOMINATED FOR 12 OSCARS WINNER · BEST DIRECTOR · CANNES, VENICE

In celebration of Jane Campion's much anticipated return to cinema, SWIFF brings to the big screen this year's most highly awarded film, *The Power of the Dog*.

Set in 1920s Montana, young widow Rose (Kirsten Dunst) moves onto a cattle ranch with her son (Kodi Smit-McPhee) and her new husband George (Jesse Plemons). There, she is tormented by the bullying ways of George's brother, Phil (a formidable Benedict Cumberbatch)—as the tensions between the two reaches boiling point.

Proving once again that she is one of today's greatest filmmakers, Campion delivers a fascinating study of masculinity and internal torment, rendered with stunning cinematography by Ari Wegner, and a vividly disorienting score by Jonny Greenwood.

"Nothing short of extraordinary. An indecently powerful Western" —The Times



QUO VADIS, AIDA?

FRI 22 APR · 4PM · JMT
WED 4 MAY · 2PM · JMT

JASMILLA ŽBANIĆ · 103 MINS · M · BIH

WINNER · BEST FILM, BEST DIRECTOR, BEST ACTRESS · EUROPEAN FILM AWARDS

Inspired by true events, this gripping thriller tells the story of a UN translator attempting to save the lives of her family, as pandemonium and conflict rages around them.

Bosnia, July 1995. Jasna Đuričić is an English teacher in the small mountain town of Srebrenica. When the Serbian army ignores a formal UN ultimatum and begins a series of round-ups and brazen shellings, Aida and her family find themselves among over 30,000 besieged citizens attempting to shelter in a UN peacekeeper-operated military base, designed to house only a few thousand.

As spellbinding as its lead performance, this unforgettable film is a fierce testament to the indomitable human spirit.

Bosnian, Dutch with English subtitles



SUNDOWN

MON 25 APR · 8.30PM · JMT
THU 5 MAY · 6.45PM · CHEC

MICHEL FRANCO · 84 MINS · 18+ · MEX

NOMINEE · BEST FILM · VENICE

Tim Roth (*Bergman Island*, SWIFF'22) delivers an unnerving performance as the lackadaisical Neil, who when faced with a tough family obligation, attempts to abandon his life.

While vacationing in sunny Acapulco, wealthy Britons Neil, his sister Alice (Charlotte Gainsbourg), and her adult children bask in the lap of luxury. The relaxation is cut short, however when Alice receives a devastating call, prompting an early return.

Under the guise of a "forgotten" passport, Neil abruptly leaves his family at the airport, checks in to a budget motel, drinks on the beach, and consorts with the locals, all the while ignoring his sister's increasingly desperate calls. But how long can he keep up the act?

Michel Franco's (*April's Daughter*, SWIFF'18) incisive study of class disparity and familial strife will leave you guessing to the very end.

Spanish, English with English subtitles



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SWIFF '22 FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

DATE · TIME	FILM	VENUE	PG
THU 21 APR · 6PM	THE NORTHMAN (OPENING NIGHT)	JMT	14
FRI 22 APR · 11.45AM	UNDINE	JMT	42
FRI 22 APR · 12.30PM	BLIND AMBITION	CHEC	44
FRI 22 APR · 2PM	JUNIPER	JMT	37
FRI 22 APR · 2.30PM	WHEN POMEGRANATES HOWL	CHEC	42
FRI 22 APR · 4PM	QUO VADIS, AIDA?	JMT	39
FRI 22 APR · 4.30PM	ABLAZE	CHEC	22
FRI 22 APR · 6.30PM	ANONYMOUS CLUB	JMT	50
FRI 22 APR · 6.30PM	PARALLEL MOTHERS	CHEC	38
FRI 22 APR · 8.45PM	BENEDETTA	CHEC	26
FRI 22 APR · 9PM	ZOLA	JMT	25
SAT 23 APR · 12.30PM	STORYLAND	PBR	52
SAT 23 APR · 12.30PM	JULIA	JMT	44
SAT 23 APR · 12.30PM	HIT THE ROAD	CHEC	36
SAT 23 APR · 2.30PM	BEAUTIFUL MINDS	JMT	33
SAT 23 APR · 2.30PM	FLEE	CHEC	28
SAT 23 APR · 4.30PM	ANAIS IN LOVE	CHEC	32
SAT 23 APR · 4.30PM	PETITE MAMAN	JMT	38
SAT 23 APR · 6.30PM	A HERO	CHEC	32
SAT 23 APR · 6.30PM	THE POWER OF THE DOG	JMT	38
SAT 23 APR · 9PM	PARIS, 13TH DISTRICT	CHEC	24, 38
SAT 23 APR · 9PM	BASIC INSTINCT	JMT	26
SUN 24 APR · 10.30AM	DRIVE MY CAR	CHEC	34
SUN 24 APR · 11.30AM	GREAT FREEDOM	JMT	36
SUN 24 APR · 2PM	RIVER	CHEC	23
SUN 24 APR · 2PM	TELEVISION EVENT	JMT	29
SUN 24 APR · 4PM	THE BIG WAVE PROJECT II	CHEC	48
SUN 24 APR · 4.30PM	AFTER YANG	JMT	32
SUN 24 APR · 6.30PM	C'MON C'MON	CHEC	34
SUN 24 APR · 6.30PM	TITANE	JMT	42, 47
SUN 24 APR · 8.45PM	ROBOCOP	JMT	27
SUN 24 APR · 9PM	RED ROCKET	CHEC	25
MON 25 APR · 1PM	ALI & AVA	JMT	32
MON 25 APR · 1PM	LUZZU	CHEC	37
MON 25 APR · 3.30PM	SUMMER OF SDUL...	CHEC	50
MON 25 APR · 3.30PM	SWAN SONG	JMT	42
MON 25 APR · 6PM	BERGMAN ISLAND	CHEC	33

DATE · TIME	FILM	VENUE	PG
MON 25 APR · 6PM	THE DROVER'S WIFE	JMT	22
MON 25 APR · 8.30PM	BAD LUCK BANGING OR LOONY PORN	CHEC	24, 33
MON 25 APR · 8.30PM	SUNDOWN	JMT	39
TUE 26 APR · 11.30AM	MEMORIA	JMT	37
TUE 26 APR · 2.30PM	BALLAD OF A WHITE COW	JMT	33
TUE 26 APR · 4.30PM	APPLES	JMT	33
TUE 26 APR · 6.30PM	FRIENDS AND STRANGERS	JMT	22
TUE 26 APR · 8.30PM	BLOODY ORANGES	JMT	46
WED 27 APR · 11.30AM	VORTEX	JMT	42
WED 27 APR · 2.15PM	BETWEEN TWO WORLDS	JMT	33
WED 27 APR · 4.15PM	GREAT FREEDOM	CHEC	36
WED 27 APR · 4.30PM	COME BACK ANYTIME	JMT	44
WED 27 APR · 6.30PM	HIT THE ROAD	JMT	36
WED 27 APR · 6.45PM	COMPARTMENT NO.6	CHEC	34
WED 27 APR · 8.30PM	THE INNOCENTS	JMT	46
WED 27 APR · 8.45PM	WYRMWOOD: APOCALYPSE	CHEC	23, 47
THU 28 APR · 12PM	HE'S MY BROTHER	JMT	28
THU 28 APR · 2PM	SABAYA	JMT	29
THU 28 APR · 4PM	UNDINE	JMT	42
THU 28 APR · 4.15PM	I GET KNOCKED DOWN	CHEC	50
THU 28 APR · 6PM	LOVELAND	JMT	23
THU 28 APR · 6.30PM	WASH MY SOUL IN THE RIVER'S FLOW	CHEC	50
THU 28 APR · 8PM	SWIFF LIVE: BEAUTIFUL DARK	JMT	16
THU 28 APR · 8.30PM	SHOWGIRLS	CHEC	27
FRI 29 APR · 11AM	THE STORY OF FILM	CHEC	29
FRI 29 APR · 11AM	ACA MASTERCLASS	CHEC	63
FRI 29 APR · 12PM	BEAUTIFUL MINDS	JMT	33
FRI 29 APR · 2PM	FLEE	CHEC	28
FRI 29 APR · 2PM	GEETA	JMT	28
FRI 29 APR · 4PM	FRIENDS AND STRANGERS	CHEC	22
FRI 29 APR · 4.30PM	FILM INDUSTRY NETWORKING DRINKS	CHEC	62
FRI 29 APR · 4.30PM	HARD SHELL, SOFT SHELL	JMT	36
FRI 29 APR · 6PM	ITHAKA	CHEC	23
FRI 29 APR · 6.30PM	C'MON C'MON	JMT	34
FRI 29 APR · 8.30PM	FILM ANNOUNCED SOON SEE SWIFF.COM.AU	CHEC	
FRI 29 APR · 9PM	TITANE	JMT	42, 47
SAT APR 30 · 9AM	ACA OPEN CLASS	CHEC	63

DATE · TIME	FILM	VENUE	PG
SAT 30 APR · 9AM	DIRECTING FOR THE SCREEN	CHEC	62
SAT 30 APR · 10.30AM	LAST FILM SHOW	JMT	37
SAT 30 APR · 12PM	JULIA	CHEC	44
SAT 30 APR · 1PM	PETITE MAMAN	JMT	38
SAT 30 APR · 1PM	WHO'S WHO ON THE CREW	CHEC	62
SAT 30 APR · 2PM	SAM & MATTIE MAKE A ZOMBIE MOVIE	CHEC	29
SAT 30 APR · 2.45PM	APPLES	JMT	33
SAT 30 APR · 4PM	CREATIVE INDUSTRIES MEET & GREET	CHEC	62
SAT 30 APR · 4.15PM	RIVER	CHEC	23
SAT 30 APR · 4.45PM	ABLAZE	JMT	22
SAT 30 APR · 6PM	SWIFF LIVE: SURFING SOUNDWAVES	CHEC	16, 48
SAT 30 APR · 6.45PM	PARALLEL MOTHERS	JMT	38
SAT 30 APR · 8.30PM	THE SADNESS	CHEC	46
SAT 30 APR · 9.15PM	PARIS, 13TH DISTRICT	JMT	24, 38
SUN 1 MAY · 10AM	HIVE	JMT	37
SUN 1 MAY · 11AM	THE VELVET QUEEN	CHEC	29
SUN 1 MAY · 12PM	BERGMAN ISLAND	JMT	33
SUN 1 MAY · 1PM	MORNING OF THE EARTH	CHEC	48
SUN 1 MAY · 2PM	ANONYMOUS CLUB	JMT	50
SUN 1 MAY · 3PM	NEXTWAVE YOUTH FILM AWARDS	CHEC	20
SUN 1 MAY · 4PM	ITHAKA	JMT	23
SUN 1 MAY · 6.45PM	A HERO	JMT	32
SUN 1 MAY · 6.45PM	THE NOWHERE INN	CHEC	50
SUN 1 MAY · 8.45PM	BLOODY ORANGES	CHEC	46
SUN 1 MAY · 9PM	PLEASURE	JMT	24
MON 2 MAY · 11.30AM	COME BACK ANYTIME	JMT	44
MON 2 MAY · 1.30PM	DEAR COMRADES!	JMT	34
MON 2 MAY · 4PM	FIRE	JMT	36
MON 2 MAY · 6.30PM	ALL MY FRIENDS HATE ME	JMT	32
MON 2 MAY · 8.30PM	SPETTERS	JMT	27
TUE 3 MAY · 10.30AM	BALLAD OF A WHITE COW	JMT	33
TUE 3 MAY · 12.30PM	DRIVE MY CAR	JMT	34
TUE 3 MAY · 4PM	THE BOWRAVILLE MURDERS	JMT	22
TUE 3 MAY · 6PM	COMPARTMENT NO.6	JMT	34
TUE 3 MAY · 6.30PM	SWIFF X HILLTOP AUTUMN FEAST	CHEC	18, 44
TUE 3 MAY · 8.30PM	GOOD MADAM	JMT	36
WED 4 MAY · 10AM	CHEF ANTONIO'S RECIPES FOR REVOLUTION	JMT	44

DATE · TIME	FILM	VENUE	PG
WED 4 MAY · 11AM	CARBON: THE UNAUTHORISED BIOGRAPHY	CHEC	28
WED 4 MAY · 12PM	WRITING WITH FIRE	JMT	29
WED 4 MAY · 2PM	QUO VADIS, AIDA?	JMT	39
WED 4 MAY · 2PM	ANAIS IN LOVE	CHEC	32
WED 4 MAY · 4.15PM	WHEN THE CAMERA STOPPED ROLLING	JMT	23
WED 4 MAY · 4.30PM	ALI & AVA	CHEC	32
WED 4 MAY · 5.30PM	SCI-FI TRIVIA	CHEC	20
WED 4 MAY · 6.30PM	WASH MY SOUL IN THE RIVER'S FLOW	JMT	50
WED 4 MAY · 7PM	SPACEBALLS	CHEC	20
WED 4 MAY · 8.30PM	AFTER BLUE (DIRTY PARADISE)	JMT	46
WED 4 MAY · 8.45PM	ONCE UPON A TIME IN UGANDA	CHEC	28
THU 5 MAY · 10AM	HE'S MY BROTHER	JMT	28
THU 5 MAY · 11.45AM	VORTEX	JMT	42
THU 5 MAY · 2PM	HIVE	CHEC	37
THU 5 MAY · 2.30PM	NOWHERE SPECIAL	JMT	37
THU 5 MAY · 4.15PM	FLESH + BLOOD	CHEC	26
THU 5 MAY · 4.30PM	BLISS (GLÜCK)	JMT	24
THU 5 MAY · 6.30PM	AFTER YANG	JMT	32
THU 5 MAY · 6.45PM	SUNDOWN	CHEC	39
THU 5 MAY · 8.30PM	BENEDETTA	JMT	26
THU 5 MAY · 8.30PM	STARSHIP TROOPERS	CHEC	27
FRI 6 MAY · 6PM	EVERYTHING EVERYWHERE ALL AT ONCE (CLOSING NIGHT)	CHEC	14

KEY

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CHEC M BLOCK (M.LG.13)



SWAN SONG

MON 25 APR · 3.30PM · JMT

TODD STEPHENS · 105 MINS · M · USA

In this love letter to gay culture, connection and community, legendary character actor Udo Kier (*Bacurau*, SWIFF'21) becomes the spellbinding stylist Mr. Pat - "the Liberator of Sandusky, Ohio."

Swan Song finds the despondent Pat seemingly destined to end his days in a retirement home, his glory days behind him. Then, an offer he cannot refuse: style the funeral 'do of an iconic former client. Embarking on an odyssey to get the tools, Pat faces former friends and foes (among them the iconic Jennifer Coolidge), confronts the past, makes amends – and prepares to go out in style.

Paying tribute to the real Pat Pitsenbarger, writer/director Todd Stephens uses subversive indie film cred to celebrate those who dared to live out loud long before the world was ready for them.

"You've never seen Udo Kier like this before." - Variety



TITANE

SUN 24 APR · 6.30PM · JMT
FRI 29 APR · 9PM · JMT

JULIA DUCOURNAU · 108 MINS · R18+ · FRA, BEL

WINNER · PALME D'OR · CANNES

Fasten your seatbelts for Cannes Film Festival Palme d'Or winner, *Titane*.

Agathe Rousselle stars as Alexia, a seductive and direct dancer working in contemporary France. Emotionally and physically impenetrable, Alexia thinks nothing of dispensing with people who get in her way. Following an inexplicable occurrence in the back seat of a hot rod, Alexia begins to experience physical changes that will take her on a transformative journey into the arms of a troubled stranger (a beefed up Vincent Lindon, *Fire*, SWIFF'22).

Julia Ducournau's jaw-dropping follow up to her meaty debut feature *Raw*, is like nothing you're ever seen before. A jaw-dropping body-horror vision, *Titane* is a cinematic tour de force that must be experienced on the cinema screen for full impact.

Brace yourselves.

French with English subtitles



UNDINE

FRI 22 APR · 11.45AM · JMT
THU 28 APR · 4PM · JMT

CHRISTIAN PETZOLD · 90 MINS · M · DEU, FRA

WINNER · SILVER BERLIN BEAR · BERLINALE

Christian Petzold (*Phoenix*, SWIFF'16, *Transit*, SWIFF'19) boldly reimagines the ancient myth of Undine – a female water spirit who can love a human but must kill him if he's unfaithful – in this suspenseful tale of romance and betrayal in modern day Berlin.

After instinctively saving industrial diver Christoph (Franz Rogowski, *Great Freedom*, SWIFF'22) museum historian, Undine (Paula Beer, *Never Look Away*, SWIFF'19) discovers an intense new love burgeoning between the two, but without time to process the rejection and betrayal of her former love, Undine finds herself at a crossroads.

Interspersed with exquisite underwater scenes, *Undine* is a poetic romance steeped in German mythology and folklore, with powerful performances from two of Germany's finest contemporary actors.

German with English subtitles



VORTEX

WED 27 APR · 11.30AM · JMT
THU 5 MAY · 11.45AM · JMT

GASPAR NOÉ · 135 MINS · 18+ · FRA

NSW Premiere

Natural-born provocateur Gaspar Noé (*Climax*, SWIFF'19) returns to deliver his most surprising and humane film to date with *Vortex* - a nuanced and devastating masterpiece, that alongside Haneke's *Amour*, sits at the top of the genre.

Starring Italian cult director, Dario Argento (who at the age of 80 excels in his first ever acting role) and French film royalty Françoise Lebrun, as a couple living with dementia in an overstuffed apartment in Paris. Both exist together and separately, an idea that is expressed further using split-screen effect. Their bond erodes as the disease progresses, forcing the couple to reconcile with their mortality.

Known for his uncompromising approach, Noé presents a confronting and astounding cinematic creation that forces us to stand face-to-face with our innermost fears.

French with English subtitles



WHEN POMEGRANATES HOWL

FRI 22 APR · 2.30PM · CHEC

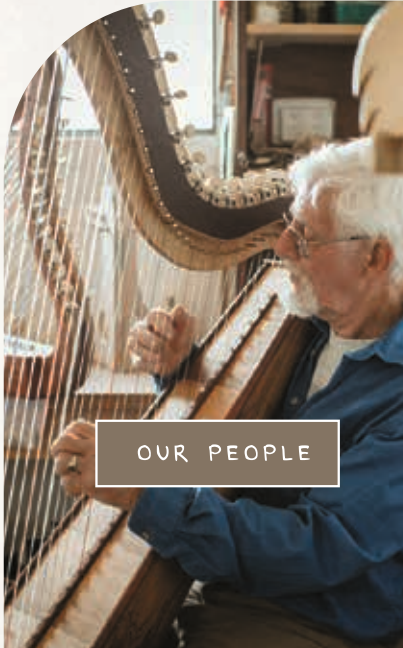
GRANAZ MOUSSAVI · 80 MINS · M · AUS, AFG

Filmed on the streets of Kabul, acclaimed Iranian-Australian poet and filmmaker, Granaz Moussavi, presents a vivid picture of Kabul rarely seen, through the eyes of a street-smart boy working to support his family.

Nine-year-old Hewad is the breadwinner of his family, energetically hustling everything from pomegranate juice to amulets warding off the evil eye. Determined to become a movie star, things look hopeful when Hewad meets an Australian photographer. But in a city where it is easy to be 'martyred', the streets are as perilous as they are vibrant.

In the tradition of the great child-centred works of Kiarostami, and Amir Naderi (to whom the film is dedicated), this affecting slice-of-life tale is brought to life by exceptional performances of a non-professional cast.

Pashtu, Persian with English subtitles



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BLIND AMBITION



FRI 22 APR · 12.30PM · CHEC

ROBERT COE, WARWICK ROSS · 96 MINS · M · AUS

WINNER · AUDIENCE AWARD · TRIBECA FILM FESTIVAL
WINNER · AUDIENCE AWARD · SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL

Four Zimbabwean refugees conquer all odds to become South Africa's most unlikely sommeliers in this feel-good story of Olympic proportions.

Since the mid-'90s, millions of Zimbabweans have fled their country's economic woes. Joseph, Tinashe, Marvin and Pardon have settled in South Africa, and, while working in Cape Town restaurants discover a love of wine. Driven by relentless optimism, a passion for their craft and unshakeable national pride, they form Zimbabwe's first ever competitive sommelier team, set their sights on the coveted title of 'World Wine Tasting Champions'.

From Australian filmmakers Warwick Ross and Robert Coe, *Blind Ambition* is an underdog story for the ages that celebrates the irrepressible nature of the human spirit.



CHEF ANTONIO'S RECIPES FOR REVOLUTION

WED 4 MAY · 10AM · JMT

TREVOR GRAHAM · 99 MINS · ALL AGES · AUS, ITA

The revolution comes to town in this deliciously composed slice of life documentary, serving up big laughs with a gracious feel-good story of a chef on a mission for change.

Nestled in Italy's Piedmont region is the Albergo Etico hotel and restaurant Tacabanda. Both are run by chef Antonio de Benedetto, who transforms the lives of young people living with Down syndrome by providing both practical skills and employment, as well as a second home and family.

Experience this unique restaurant and hotel, through the eyes of de Benedetto and protégés Mirko Piras, Jessica Berta and others as they embark to take their vision to the wider world, while forever changing the lives of those who are its heart and soul.

English, Italian with English subtitles



JULIA

SAT 23 APR · 12.30PM · JMT
 SAT 30 APR · 12PM · CHEC

JULIE COHEN, BETSY WEST · 95 MINS · M · USA

"A party without a cake is just a meeting." —Julia Child

From the directors of the Oscar-nominated *RBG*, prepare to have your tastebuds tantalised with culinary delights, paired with the delicious details of the life and loves of Julia Child, America's first cooking icon.

A delectable tribute to the culinary legend who forever changed American cuisine and popular culture, *Julia* follows the larger-than-life cookbook author and TV superstar from her spicy romance with husband Paul, to the 12-year ordeal writing her legendary cookbook, *Mastering the Art of French Cooking*, to becoming a TV celebrity at 50.

All for the love of food. *Bon Appetit!*

"...it's a pleasure to spend a little time in the company of the woman who saved America from Jell-O salad." —Washington Post



COME BACK ANYTIME

WED 27 APR · 4.30PM · JMT
 MON 2 MAY · 11.30AM · JMT

JOHN DASCHBACH · 81 MINS · PG · JPN

The cinematic equivalent of stealing away to your favourite noodle joint for a blissful escape, let the soft, lamenting jazz soundtrack and steaming bowls of broth take you to ramen heaven, across a year in the life of legendary ramen master Masamoto Ueda.

Over more than four decades, self-taught master chef Masamoto Ueda and his wife Kazuko have run the Tokyo noodle bar Bizentei. There, he serves his famous soy-based ramen dishes to dedicated patrons for whom the restaurant has become an intimate place of community. Such is their close kinship that, each year, Ueda leads regulars on seasonal pilgrimages across Japan's picturesque countryside, in this heart-warming dedication to environmental harmony, camaraderie, community, and family.

"Engrossing ... A heartfelt tribute to this fascinating spot, and it's well worth savouring." —Exclaim

Japanese with English subtitles



SWIFF X HILLTOP AUTUMN FEAST

TUE 3 MAY · 6.30PM · THE OSPREY RESTAURANT (CHEC)

Outdoor long table culinary experience is coming to SWIFF

Following on from SWIFF's first year sell-out degustation wine dinner success in 2021, SWIFF again hosts acclaimed Executive Chefs Richie Dolan and Carla Jones – ex-Aria Sydney chefs and now owners of locally-acclaimed The Hilltop Store – as we head in a new delectable direction this year with the SWIFF x Hilltop Autumn Feast.

This event is proudly sponsored by TAFE Coffs Harbour and Treasury Wine Estates.

\$160 pp, including wines.

See page 18



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WILD SIDES

Pulse-quickening cinema made to challenge, and to enthrall. Unrestrained auteurs from around the globe unleashing savage ideas to their fullest, crafting worlds of extremes. From those who break taboos to those who bury taboos in an unmarked grave – welcome to the wild side.



AFTER BLUE (DIRTY PARADISE)

WED 4 MAY · 8.30PM · JMT

BERTRAND MANDICO · 130 MINS · 18+ · FRA

NSW Premiere

WINNER · BEST FILM · FANTASTIC FEST

In a far-flung future, humanity has left Earth for After Blue, a strange planet whose peculiar effects on hair make the realm solely hospitable to women. When Roxy, the lonely daughter of the colony's hairdresser unearths a notorious criminal called "Kate Bush" the ensuing violence exiles mother and kin from the settlement, forcing them to track down and bring the legendary killer to justice.

With its fantastical set design and candy-coloured cinematography, *After Blue* offers a playfully perverse universe that exists completely in its own space-time, blurring boundaries and creating a tantalizing trip unlike any other.

"A kaleidoscopic fantasy warped through the lens of a 1970s Sci-Fi Western."—Indiewire

French with English subtitles



BLOODY ORANGES

TUE 26 APR · 8.30PM · JMT
SUN 1 MAY · 8.45PM · CHEC

JEAN-CHRISTOPHE MEURISSE · 102 MINS · 18+ · FRA

NSW Premiere

"The old world is dying, the new world struggles to be born: Now is the time of monsters".

Imagine if Christopher Guest made a horror film with Ari Aster, but in French. Then turn that all the way up to eleven. Enter *Bloody Oranges*—a wholly unique and hilariously shocking pitch-black social satire.

A finance minister entrenched in scandal seeks to improve his PR. A teenager realizes her burgeoning sexuality. A lawyer has a very, very bad day.

Impossible to pigeonhole, director Jean-Christophe Meurisse has crafted an unforgettable explosive cocktail of characters, serving it up to French society and featuring some of the most eye-wateringly WTF scenes you'll likely encounter at the festival this year.

French with English subtitles



THE INNOCENTS

WED 27 APR · 8.30PM · JMT

ESKIL VOGT · 117 MINS · 18+ · NOR

NSW Premiere

WINNER · BEST DIRECTING · FANTASTIC FEST

A thrilling new voice to the genre, Eskil Vogt offers a chilling, supernatural Scandinavian spin on arthouse horror, destined to become a cult classic.

Nine-year-old Ida moves to an Oslo apartment complex with her nonverbal autistic sister, Anna, and their parents, whose time is preoccupied with her sister's needs. Lonely and resentful, Ida spends the summer days exploring. Upon meeting the similarly adrift Ben and Aisha, who reveal to possess mysterious powers, the four children are drawn together—but soon playtime takes a dark and dangerous turn.

A beautifully creepy fable featuring exceptional child performers, all under the age of 12, *The Innocents* is a memorable and strikingly fresh supernatural thriller.

Norwegian with English subtitles



THE SADNESS

SAT 30 APR · 8.30PM · CHEC

ROB JABBAZ · 99 MINS · 18+ · TWN

NSW Premiere

WINNER · BEST FIRST FEATURE AWARD · FANTASIA FILM FEST

Taiwan is ravaged by Alvin: a rabies-esque virus that transforms ordinary people into psychotic, sadistic murdering mutilators.

Amidst the mayhem on the streets, separated young couple Kat and Jim are pushed to the edge of sanity, each wading through figurative Olympic-sized swimming pools of blood and viscera, as they cross the hellish maelstrom of a ruined Taipei trying to reunite.

An unspeakably violent and unrelenting gore fest, often cartoonishly horrific, with lashings of humour and political satire, *The Sadness* doesn't just go for the jugular, it shoots right through and splatters the wall behind.

SWIFF doesn't often give trigger warnings, but this film warrants all of them. Consider yourselves warned.

CONTAINS RIDICULOUSLY HIGH IMPACT VIOLENCE

Taiwanese Hokkein with English subtitles



TITANE

SUN 24 APR · 6.30PM · JMT
FRI 29 APR · 9PM · JMT

JULIA DUCOURNAU · 108 MINS · R18+ · FRA, BEL

WINNER · PALME D'OR · CANNES

Fasten your seatbelts for the slick, lurid and uncategorizable Best Feature winner of the Cannes Film Festival Palme d'Or, *Titane*.

Agathe Rousselle stars as Alexia, a seductive and direct dancer working in contemporary France. Emotionally and physically impenetrable, Alexia thinks nothing of dispensing with people who get in her way. Following an inexplicable occurrence in the back seat of a hot rod, Alexia begins to experience physical changes that will take her on a transformative journey into the arms of a troubled stranger (a beefed up Vincent Lindon, *Fire*, SWIFF'22).

Julia Ducournau's jaw-dropping follow up to her meaty debut feature *Raw*, is like nothing you're ever seen before. A jaw-dropping body-horror vision, *Titane* is a cinematic tour de force that must be experienced on the cinema screen for full impact.

Brace yourselves.

French with English subtitles



WYRMWOOD: APOCALYPSE

WED 27 APR · 8.45PM · CHEC

KIAH ROACHE-TURNER · 86 MINS · MA15+ · AUS

The Roache-Turner brothers' new sequel to 2014's *Wyrwood* is an EpiPen-to-the-heart, zombie splatterfest thrill-ride that scorches with creativity—an elevation even above its predecessor.

Special forces soldier Rhys (Luke McKenzie) has settled into life amongst the apocalypse. Creating a safe zone to live, complete with zombie-powered BBQ, Rhys secures and delivers bodies—dead or alive—to an underground research bunker in exchange for supplies.

The rotten applecart is upset when Rhys comes across Barry and his eerie sister Brooke, and new alliances must be forged—or bashed-in and bullet-riddled.

Wyrwood: Apocalypse moves at a cracking pace with an intense focus on head-fissuring action, with Kiah and Tristan Roache-Turner turning an exciting new page for Aussie horror action films.

"Sizzling with spectacular action and anarchic glee." — Film Ink

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CALL OF THE SURF

Heed the call to see some of the world's gnarliest waves at SWIFF'22 - large, live and loud - with World Premieres of epic swell chasers and monster wave hunters to never-been-seen before footage remastering pioneering surfing legends.



THE BIG WAVE PROJECT II

SUN 24 APR · 4PM · CHEC

TIM BONYTHON · 110 MINS · ALL AGES · AUS

World Premiere

Award-winning surf filmmaker and monster wave hunter, Tim Bonython (ASMF, SWIFF'21) embarks on a journey into the heart-pounding, adrenaline-inducing world of big wave surfing.

Tackling multi-storey walls of water, the thrill of taking on the death-defying waves seems ludicrous to most, but hugely addictive for a tight inner circle of professional big wave surfers that live for the chase.

With jaw-dropping locations, including Nazaré (Portugal) - the home of the biggest rideable wave, The Right, Shipsterns (Australia), Cloudbreak (Fiji) and Teahupo'o (Tahiti), Mavericks and Jaws (USA), and narrated by Australian legend and world champion Tom Carroll - this is an exhilarating big screen spectacle not to be missed.

Screening one night at SWIFF'22.

Tim Bonython and Sandrine Bonython are guests of the festival.



MORNING OF THE EARTH

SUN 1 MAY · 1PM · CHEC

ALBERT FALZON · 89 MINS · G · AUS

50TH ANNIVERSARY SCREENING

Arguably the world's most iconic surf film, Albe Falzon's *Morning of the Earth* influenced a generation of surfers around the world, and an entire genre of surf filmmakers that followed.

Meticulously remastered from 16mm rolls to stunning 4K big screen glory, SWIFF celebrates the 50th anniversary of a crucial piece of Australian cinema identity, ready to rip it up, live and loud.

With its hypnotic soundtrack and featuring some of surfing's all-time greats tearing up breaks down the NSW and South Queensland coastline - Terry Fitzgerald, Gerry Lopez, Nat Young, and Michael Peterson - Falzon's cinematic monument to soul-surfing includes a pilgrimage to Indonesia's Uluwatu, searching for perfect waves across their endless summer.

"We didn't have a plan, so we'd drive out to whatever headland we were at and pull up, make a fire, camp out, smoke a chillum, and wake up in the morning to go surfing." —Albe Falzon



SWIFF LIVE: SURFING SOUNDWAVES FEAT. LIVE SOUNDTRACK BY HEADLAND

SAT 30 APR · 6PM · CHEC

JOLYON HOFF · 70MINS · 12+ · AUS

World Premiere

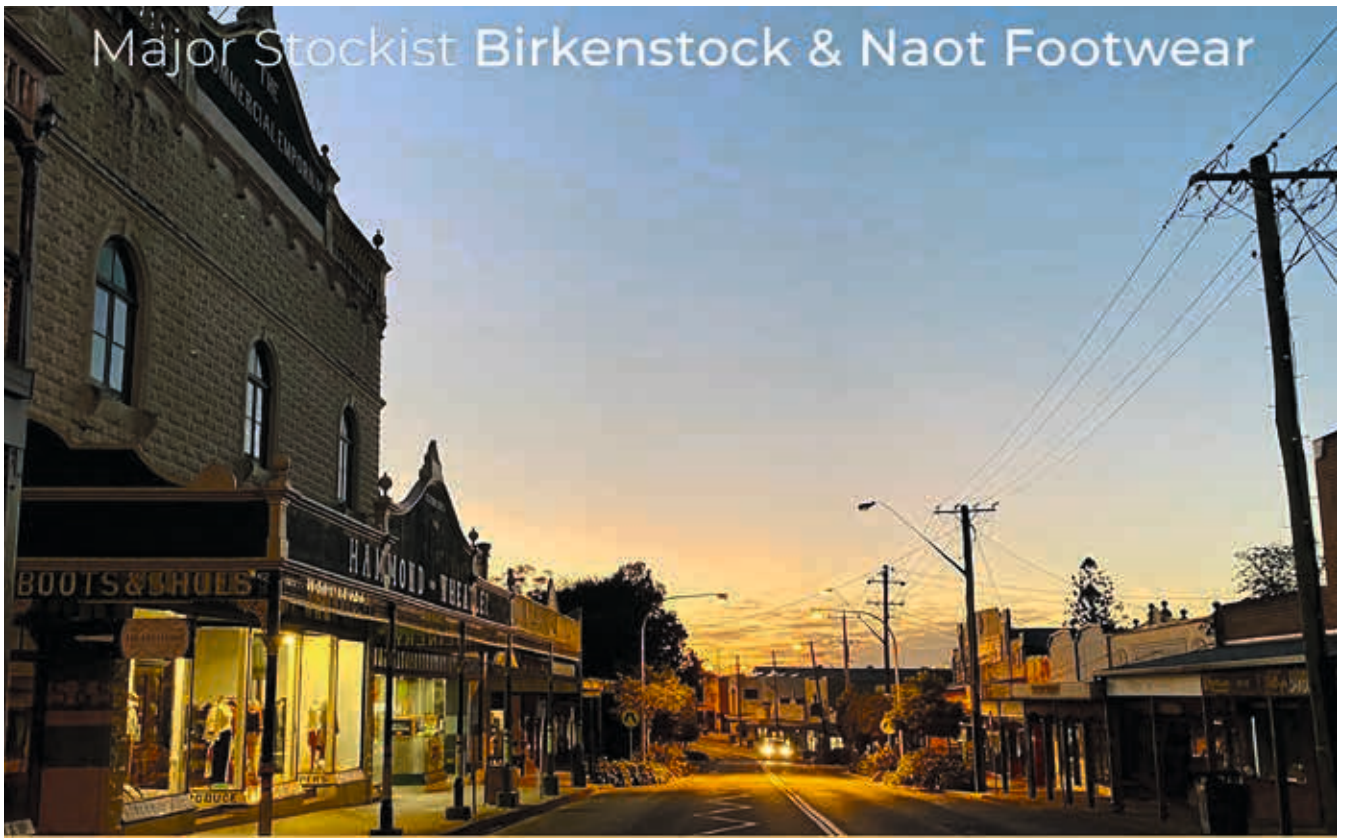
SWIFF'22 hosts the World Premiere of award-winning Australian director Jolyon Hoff's (*The Staging Post*, SWIFF'18) epic new film, *That Was Then, This is Now*, with Australia's premiere surf film composers Headland (*Surfing the Arctic*, SWIFF'20) - performing as a 6-piece ensemble an electrifying original soundtrack live on stage.

Before *Crocodile Dundee* became Australia's cultural identity to the world for decades, bronzed Aussies surfing epic breaks were our national identity - seen around the world thanks to Australia's pioneering surf filmmakers. Over the past 18 months, The Surf Film Archive have been painstakingly restoring and remastering those Australian and New Zealand original surf films, uncovering remarkable never-seen-before footage.

Big breaks. Big surfers. Big journeys. All restored in glorious 4K. This is Australian surfing - live and loud on stage.

Suitable for ages 12+ (mild nudity).

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MUSIC AND THE MAKERS

Hear from the makers and the music that dare to bare it all – from anarcho-pop punks to soulful revolutionaries, and authentic self-searchers, SWIFF turns it up for the musos and the makers and the sounds that drive us all.



ANONYMOUS CLUB



FRI 22 APR · 6.30PM · JMT
SUN 1 MAY · 2PM · JMT

DANNY COHEN · 86 MINS · M · AUS

An innovative and intimate 16mm peek into the guarded life of Courtney Barnett—an introverted anti-influencer, who, at the height of success, is ready to walk away.

The antithesis of a rock biography, long-time collaborator Danny Cohen reveals a woman who finds power in sharing her vulnerability. Crafted over three years, on tour and at home, Barnett records her innermost thoughts on an analogue Dictaphone while Cohen films.

Their unique process captures Courtney's unmediated reflections and internal struggles, navigating her place in music and the world, mirroring a search for purpose amid her emergence as a global artist.

Courtney Barnett and director Danny Cohen are guests of the festival.



I GET KNOCKED DOWN

THU 28 APR · 4.15PM · CHEC

SOPHIE ROBINSON, DUNSTAN BRUCE · 87 MINS · 15+ · UK

Australian Premiere

The Brit Pop 90's: Cool Britannia was in full swing. The Oasis vs. Blur rivalry was simmering. The Nokia 3210 was a must-have. And there was that song: 'I Get Knocked Down', aka 'Tubthumping' - either the ultimate anthem of working-class perseverance or a deeply annoying novelty song, brought to you by a group of anarcho-punks living in a squat in Leeds.

More than twenty years later, Chumbawamba founder Dunstan Bruce weirdly and wonderfully reflects on a rollercoaster ride journey from DIY squat gigs to performing at Madison Square Garden and back down again - after funnelling all that one-hit-wonder money into sex, drugs, and...community centres.

The gods of irony shine brightly on Dunstan Bruce, for when life knocks you down, well, you know what to do.



THE NOWHERE INN

SUN 1 MAY · 6.45PM · CHEC

BILL BENZ · 91 MINS · 15+ · USA

Portlandia's Carrie Brownstein takes us on tour with Annie Clark to capture a glimpse of the "real Annie" behind superstar songwriter St. Vincent in this hilariously absurd music mockumentary.

Having reached the career level that befits the customary tour doco - Clark invites best friend Brownstein along to direct. But when Clark comes across as boring in the resulting footage - playing Scrabble and eating radishes are her favourite pastimes - Brownstein suggests that more bombastic backstage antics might better excite audiences.

Unpredictable forces quickly lurch into action - threatening to derail the friendship, the project, and the duo's creative lives.

From first-time filmmaker Bill Benz (*Portlandia*) comes a densely woven, laugh-out-loud funny and increasingly fractured hall-of-mirrors commentary on reality, identity, and authenticity.



SUMMER OF SOUL (...OR, WHEN THE REVOLUTION COULD NOT BE TELEVISED)

MON 25 APR · 3.30PM · CHEC

QUESTLOVE · 117 MINS · PG · USA

WINNER · AUDIENCE AWARD, GRAND JURY PRIZE · SUNDANCE

Stevie Wonder, Nina Simone, Sly and the Family Stone, Gladys Knight & the Pips, Ray Barreto, Mahalia Jackson, The Staple Singers, and more icons of 60's music. You might imagine a festival with that line-up would go down in history the way of Woodstock or Live Aid.

But the footage of 1969's The Harlem Cultural Festival in Marcus Garvey Park was buried and forgotten—until now.

Winner of over 50 awards for his acclaimed filmmaking debut, The Roots' Questlove presents a powerful and transporting documentary—with illuminating interviews and soul-stirring performances—about the healing power of music during times of unrest, both past and present.

"One of the best concert movies ever made." —The Guardian



WASH MY SOUL IN THE RIVER'S FLOW



THU 28 APR · 6.30PM · CHEC
WED 4 MAY · 6.30PM · JMT

PHILIPPA BATEMAN · 89 MINS · PG · AUS

A loving portrait of two of Australia's great artists and companions: Archie Roach and Ruby Hunter. A story in song about love, loss, and the redemptive power of Country and music.

In 2004, Ruby and Archie worked with Paul Grabowsky and the Australian Art Orchestra to create the seminal concert *Kura Tungar: Songs from the River*. Winning a Helpmann Award, the concert blends spoken and sung accounts from the lives of two members of the Stolen Generation—who found one another.

Working with Roach himself, director/producer Philippa Bateman (*Jindabyne*) combines footage from interviews, rehearsals, and opening night with breathtaking images of Ngarrindjeri Country.

"This is a film that Ruby Hunter would be very proud of." —Archie Roach

English, Ngarrindjeri with English subtitles



COFFS COAST

Photo credit: Chris Hewgill

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STORY

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MAIN STAGE

COURTNEY BARNETT
HIATUS KAIYOTE
ROLLING BLACKOUTS
COASTAL FEVER
NGAIIRE
EMMA DONOVAN (DUO)
HACHIKU
HORNS OF LEROY

THE YURT LOCKER

BIZ DJ BAM ICE G
PAPA BOOM COCO VARMA PSUB
MC FITZROY LEE FEAT. **SKENG TENG HIFI**

FEATURED ARTWORKS

ONE SECOND OF FILM GLADE RUNNER
[MOVIE] TRAILER PARK FLUXA VJ

LAND

VE MUSIC AND ART AT SWIFF'22

INFO + TICKETS **SWIFF.COM.AU**

WELCOME TO STORYLAND

ZAKPAGE

ALISON PAGE AND NIK LACHAJCZAK - STORYLAND
CREATIVE DIRECTORS



With so much happening in the world, we invite you to leave it behind for a day and travel to the land of stories. For thousands of years, humans have constructed narratives to try and make sense of the world. It is a fundamental part of being us. These stories are expressed in art - from music and dance to sculpture and film - and encourage us to gather and share and create an emotional connection to each other. But the place where these stories came from is a magical place far way.

From the moment the gates are thrown open, you will be farewelled from Gumbayngirr Country to enter STORYLAND; a world built by light and

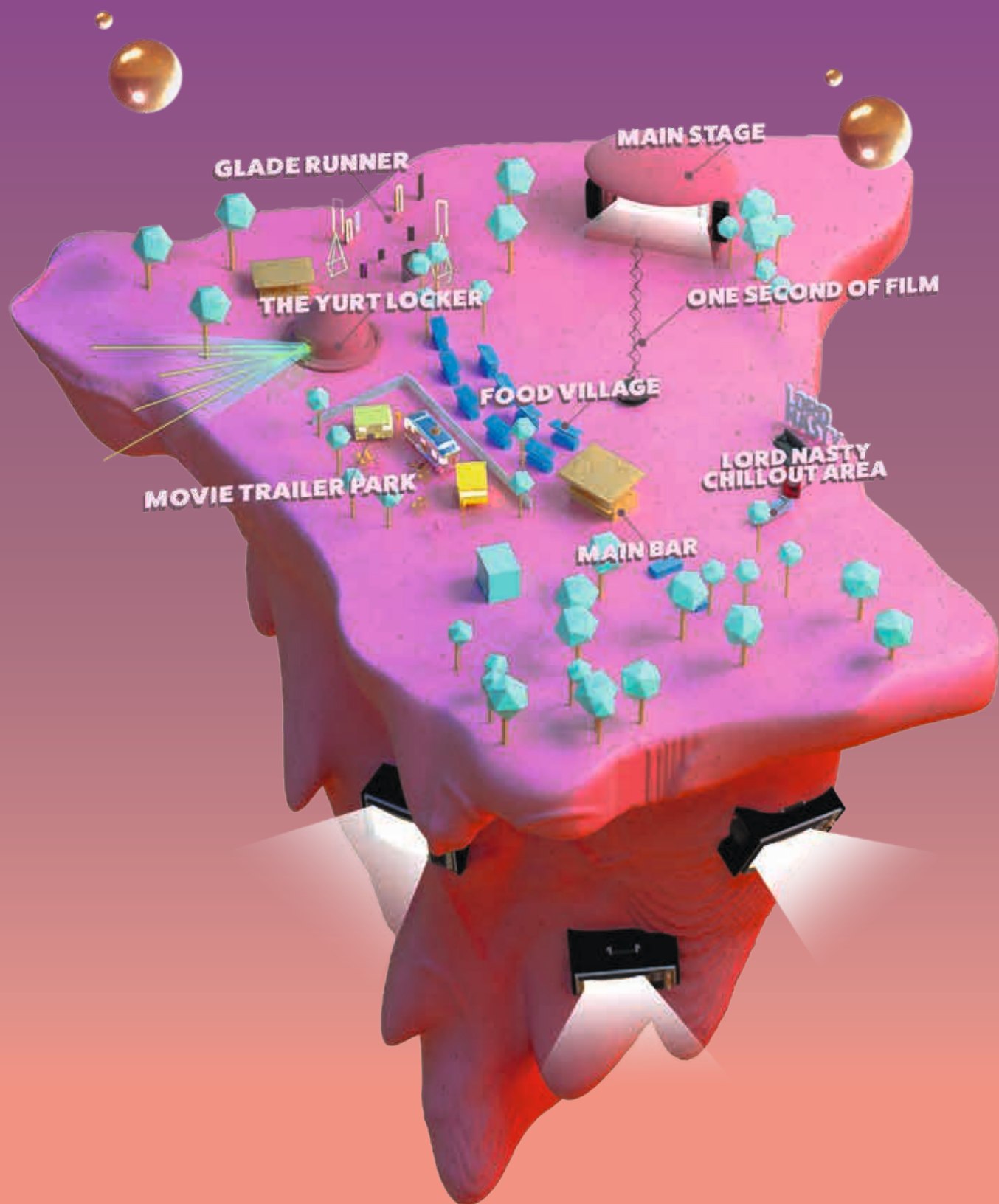
sound that will immerse you in the mythology of stories and take you back to the place where stories were created. You will discover worlds within worlds; immersive and kinetic sculptures and installations that will surprise and delight. STORYLAND is an adult playground that you can discover with your mates that reignites your memories and will inspire your imagination.

Get inside the heads of some of the region's most creative minds, eat and drink your way through the Food Village, rearrange the STORYLAND letters in the LORD NASTY Chillout Area, and enjoy pumping, expressive live music performances in a line-up curated by Danni Colgan (Main Stage) and Coco Varma (The Yurt Locker).

To find out the first chapter in the story of STORYLAND, you need to get your passport to this new world. Come and be a part of the story. Welcome to STORYLAND.



SITE MAP



Entry via Ocean Parade & Orlando Street underpass



COURTNEY BARNETT



ROLLING BLACKOUTS COASTAL FEVER



HACHIKU



HORNS OF LEROY

MAIN STAGE SOUNDS

STORYLAND is headlined by ARIA Award-winning and Grammy-nominated songwriter **Courtney Barnett**, alongside twice Grammy-nominated jazz funk band **Hiatus Kaiyote**, nostalgic jangle pop 3-guitar band **Rolling Blackouts Coastal Fever**, multi-ARIA Award-nominated R&B singer **Ngaiire**, Gumbaynggiirr and Noongar singer songwriter **Emma Donovan**, Melbourne's dreamy indie pop artist **Hachiku**, and New Orleans inspired seven-piece raucous street brass band **Horns of Leroy**.



HIATUS KAIYOTE



NGAIIRE



EMMA DONOVAN

THE YURT LOCKER

It's going to go off in The Yurt Locker. STORYLAND's DJ tent features performances from ethnocyberfunk godfather **Coco Varma**, veteran Jamaican **MC Fitzroy Lee**, reggae, dub and jungle turntablist **Papa Boom**, drum and bass break beats artist **DJ Bam**, techno revivalist **Biz**, Coffs Harbour veteran dance **DJ Ice G+**, and bass evangeliser **PSUB**, creator of the **Skeng Teng Hifi**.





ONE SECOND OF FILM

Artwork by Clint Hurrell

An obelisk stretches 10.5m into the sky as the centrepiece of STORYLAND. A slender column formed by two film strips twisting 24 times into a double helix. A DNA strip representing just one second in the life of film. At dusk, the towering helix comes alive, spinning and reflecting laser light around STORYLAND.



[MOVIE] TRAILER PARK

Artwork by Sarah Stollman

Amongst the throng of food trucks sit three caravans in a makeshift trailer park - complete with astroturf and pink flamingo lawn ornaments - each trailer a film diorama versus battle between two feature films, which you can peak through the windows to see.



GLADE RUNNER

Artwork by Zakpage and Marion Conrow

Glade Runner is a futuristic world of neon tubes, smoke and mirrors that evoke the memory of every sci-fi movie you have ever seen. Set amongst a copse of trees on site, Glade Runner is a visual cyberpunk love letter to some of the best science fiction stories. A few android actors in raincoats. Chill out spaces hidden inside.



EAT. DRINK. WHAT HAVE YOU

STORYLAND is an 18+ only event, which means the whole event site is licensed, so you can wander through the installation artworks, beer in hand.

There are a range of craft alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages available at the Main Bar, and a second sneaky Coopers caravan bar in the Food Village.

Speaking of – over a dozen food trucks will be at STORYLAND, serving up a curated selection of tasty artisan eats and treats to munch on, located amongst the [MOVIE] TRAILER PARK art installation.

EVENT INFO

SAT, APR 23, 2022

GATES: 12.30PM – 10PM

PARK BEACH RESERVE, COFFS HARBOUR

18+ only event

**For things to know and FAQs, visit
[SWIFF.COM.AU/STORYLAND](https://swiff.com.au/storyland)**



SUPPORTED BY

STORYLAND is made possible by funding through the Australian Federal Government's Restart Investment to Sustain & Expand (RISE) Fund, the NSW State Government's Regional Event Acceleration Fund, Create NSW's Arts & Culture Projects Fund, and Regional Arts NSW's Regional Arts Fund.

For full list of STORYLAND Festival Partners, see page 5.



Australian Government
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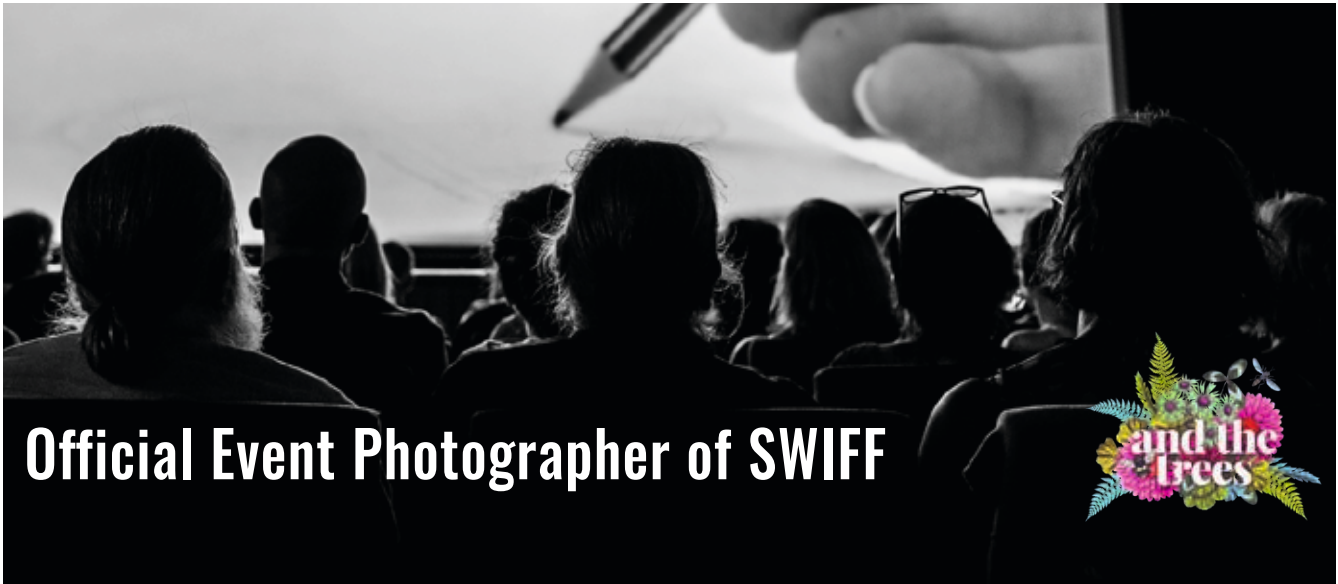


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SWIFF CREATE

SWIFF Create offers immersive and interactive events to those passionate about the creation of films - filmmakers and audiences alike. The SWIFF Create program, presented by Screenworks, offers directing workshops, acting workshops, and crew workshops, plus networking events - all supporting more film production on the Coffs Coast.



FILM INDUSTRY NETWORKING DRINKS

FRI 29 APR · 4:30PM · CHEC GATHERING SPACE
\$25.00 Full | \$20.00 Under 25

CREATIVE INDUSTRIES MEET & GREET

SAT 30 APR · 4PM · CHEC GATHERING SPACE
\$25.00 Full | \$20.00 Under 25



Coffs Harbour has one of the largest regional film industries in Australia, and with the incoming film studio, it's only going to get bigger. Meet and reconnect with other filmmakers - have a bite, enjoy a drink, and network with other industry professionals. Proudly presented by Screenworks.

Finger food and complimentary drink on arrival.

Creative Industry professionals at all career levels: you're invited to grab a drink and mingle with fellow creatives at SWIFF, hosted by Screenworks. With so many new creatives new to the region, now is a great time to connect and reconnect, fostering new collaborations, and growing your industry.

Finger food and complimentary drink on arrival.



DIRECTING FOR THE SCREEN: MASTERCLASS WITH BEN LAWRENCE

SAT 30 APR · 9AM · CHEC - M BLOCK, LOWER GROUND, ROOM 13 (MLG 13)
\$50 Full | \$35 Screenworks Members

Presented by acclaimed Film and TV director Ben Lawrence (*Ghosthunter*, SWIFF'19, *Hearts & Bones*, SWIFF'20, *Ithaka*, SWIFF'22).

Drawing on his wide experience of directing features, TV series, commercials and music videos, Ben will share his approach to the craft of directing, including working with actors and collaborating with writers and producers, as well as talking about his personal career trajectory.

Using case studies and examples from his own directing career, including his award-winning feature films *Hearts and Bones* and *Ghosthunter* and his latest documentary *Ithaka* which is screening at SWIFF '22, this interactive and entertaining session will bring to life the director's role across drama, documentary and commercial filmmaking.

Hosted by Screenworks, this session will be of particular interest to early to mid-career filmmakers.



WHO'S WHO ON THE CREW: FORGING A CAREER IN THE REGIONAL SCREEN INDUSTRY

SAT 30 APR · 1PM · O BLOCK THEATRE, CHEC
Free

With a new film studio planned for Coffs Harbour and production volumes in the region rising, even arts worker in the broader Creative Industries will soon find their skills transferable to film.

Screenworks is pleased to host a group of successful, highly credited film industry professionals who will speak to their own career paths, their experiences, their roles on set, and how they built careers film and TV careers in regional Australia.

Guests include Art Department lead Sarah Stollman (*Serial Mom*, *Peter Rabbit 2*), Unit Manager Kieran Cato (*Alien: Covenant*, *Mad Max: Fury Road*), and Location Manager Mary Barltrop (*God's Favourite Idiot*, *Reckoning*). Enjoy an interactive panel discussions with session guests, and find out how your Creative Industries skills translate to the film industry.

This workshop is presented by Screenworks and is fully subsidised thanks to Netflix and NSW Department of Training as part of the Regional Crew Development program.

Bookings essential through WWW.SWIFF.COM.AU

Back by popular demand, Sydney's Actors Centre Australia will present two new acting workshops at SWIFF'22 – from beginner to pro. Whether it's tuning up your skills or developing new ones – learn from some of the best in the industry. Actors Centre Australia brings its 33 years of outstanding and industry leading teachers and classes to SWIFF 2022. Developed and founded by founder Dean Carey, once head of acting at NIDA and WAAPA. Patron Hugh Jackman: *"I am proud to be a patron of such an outstanding organisation which has consistently delivered artistic education fuelled by integrity and excellence."*

**Actors
Centre
Australia**



MASTERCLASS

FRI 29 APR · 11AM · O BLOCK THEATRE, CHEC
\$55 per person

Over five hours, 12 couples will spend 30 minutes each on the floor being directed and working on scenes selected specifically for them. Learn how to break down a scene, from analysis, to making choices, and taking direction. Learn new tools and exercises that professional actors do to assist them in creating exciting, three-dimensional characters, learning to connect to the story and other actors in their work.

You can book with a scene partner or meet one on the day.

OPEN CLASS

SAT 30 APR · 9AM · O BLOCK THEATRE, CHEC
\$25 per person

Over two hours this session will focus on the games and exercises that are the starting point of all actor training. Fun, energetic and interactive, each participant will experience the exercises that students in Bachelor of Performing Arts programs explore in their first year of training that help create the foundation of their work as professional actors.

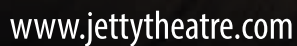


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Ruby Hunter and Archie Roach in
WASH MY SOUL IN THE RIVER'S FLOW
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Image by Sandy Scheltema



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NEXTWAVE

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NEXTWAVE



Nextwave is an annual program celebrating filmmaking and storytelling from young, creative Australians. In 2021 Nextwave became a national program, helping 10-25 year olds across the country to learn it, film it and screen it!

Beginning with the Nextwave Team teaching fundamental film skills virtually across Australia, to seeing young filmmakers produce original shorts - culminating with the Nextwave Youth Film Awards - an evening to showcase, celebrate and award outstanding young filmmakers.



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 2022 - find more information at nextwavefilm.com.au.



FILM IT!

The 2021 competition asked filmmakers to create an original short film, under five minutes, with the signature item 'pineapple'. Nextwave received over 60 short film entries including animations, documentaries, comedies, thrillers, and everything in between. For details on the 2022 competition, see page 69.



SCREEN IT!

The Nextwave Youth Film Awards will be the World Premiere for over 20 competition finalists. A red carpet event, NYFA celebrates incredible filmmaking, including a live music performance and awards presentation of this year's best films. Join the next wave of Australian filmmakers at CHEC Theatre on SUN MAY 1 from 2.30PM. For more details see page 20.



VISIT
NEXTWAVE ONLINE

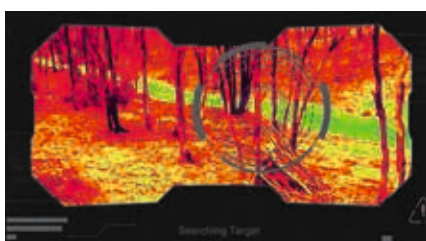
NEXTWAVE FINALISTS



MASTERS OF PERSUASION

MILA & LULA KAZANTZIDIS · 3:30 · 10 -14 YEARS ·
BILGOLA PLATEAU PUBLIC SCHOOL

Sisters Zoe and Alex find a cunning way to persuade their mother to buy them new mountain bikes!



FATAL IMPACT

ZAK WESTCOTT · 3:00 · 10 -14 YEARS

In a solitary and empty post-apocalyptic woods a scavenger is stalked by something in the trees.



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BREANNA JONES · 1:17 · 10 -14 YEARS · MT ST
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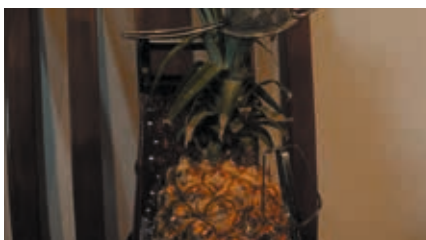
One way or another, phone app ads always find their way onto your screen. This one has a dog. Playing the piano.



PINEAPPLE PUNCH

NOAH BAILEY · 4:47 · 10 -14 YEARS · YEPPON STATE HIGH SCHOOL

An insight into a lonely soul, forming a new bond, before a crucial confrontation with reality.



THE LOST RELIC

ADRIEL BENSON CARUNGAY · 4:47 · 10 -14 YEARS · GIRRAWEE HIGH SCHOOL

While the pineapple nation searches for a relic of great power, the apples attempt to destroy this mystical item to keep it from the wrong hands.



TEA TIME

CK RAINBOW & HOLLY WINTER · 4:59 · 15 -17 YEARS

Soup, Spies and Family Ties: A secret agent accepts a new mission - find an unidentified dangerous object hidden in her hometown. Only her parents have other plans.



THE CAT-ASTROPHE

SOPHIA CHU · 2:53 · 15 -17 YEARS · MOUNT WAVERLY SECONDARY COLLEGE

The adventure of a cat with one goal — to fill its stomach. Will it find success? Or will it lead to a ... cat-astrophe?



THE ARTEFACT

ZANÉ BOTES · 3:26 · 15-17 YEARS · TRINITY COLLEGE GLADSTONE

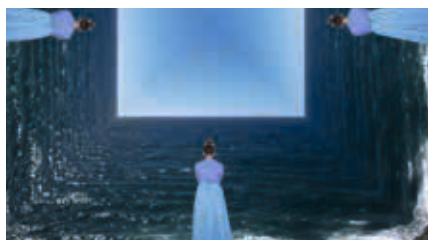
An ancient wizard retells an encounter he had with a dragon to retrieve a very valuable artefact.



ANANAS

HUGO TRAN · 4:12 · 15 -17 YEARS · MCKINNON SECONDARY COLLEGE

An angry looking pineapple is bent on causing havoc and pain for boys who are home alone.



SUSPIRIA

LACHLAN RECK · 4:38 · 15 -17 YEARS · ST COLUMBA ANGLICAN SCHOOL

An experimental reflection on dreams and the imagery found within.



PINEAPPLE CURSE

JAVAN TRUESDALE · 1:16 · 15 -17 YEARS · COFFS HARBOUR SENIOR COLLEGE

A Lego adventure filled with misfortune and pineapples.



NO SIGNAL

JOSHUA HEINZ · 2:00 · 15 -17 YEARS · OXLEY HIGH SCHOOL

Down a lonely road, at dusk, a young man is met with interference, on his way to meet a special someone for a twilight picnic date.



PINES AGAINST HUMANITY

GABRIEL DONALDSON · 4:02 · 15 -17 YEARS · TOOWOOMBA GRAMMAR SCHOOL

What lengths would you go to in the fight for an issue that, since the dawn of time, has divided us as a species: does fresh pineapple belong on pizza?



COLOUR THEORY

KOKODA CADZOW-SMITH · 5:00 · 15 -17 YEARS · TRINITY COLLEGE GLADSTONE

An insight into the monochromatic lifestyle of a young man who must embark on a unique hero's journey.



WELCOME TO THE NIGHT

FRANCOISE DIK · 2:07 · 15 -17 YEARS · COFFS HARBOUR SENIOR COLLEGE

A mysterious figure roams around the neighbourhood on Halloween night. Two couples stand against the monster in the night. Who will survive?



THE HITMAN

SOPHIA CHU · 4:33 · 15 -17 YEARS · MOUNT WAVERLY SECONDARY COLLEGE

Knock knock knock... knock knock knock... It's Megan The Hitman She's been tasked to take out the author of.... Megan The Hitman.



TIME MASHEEN

BEN ROSENBERG · 5:00 · 15 -17 YEARS · TOOWOOMBA GRAMMAR SCHOOL

A Pineapple Inc. employee meets with two scientists, hoping to sell their newest, grandest, and hazard free invention: a time machine.



FOOTSTEPS

BRAYDEN CURETON · 5:00 · 18 -25 YEARS

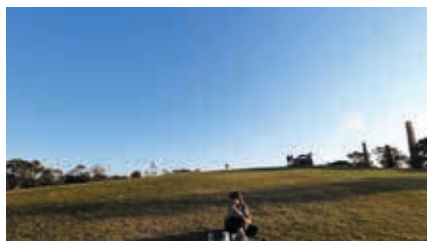
William has recently moved into his new house. While unpacking he begins to hear disembodied footsteps which stirs his stomach.



PINEAPPLE DAYS

RYLEE PARRY · 5:00 · 18 -25 YEARS

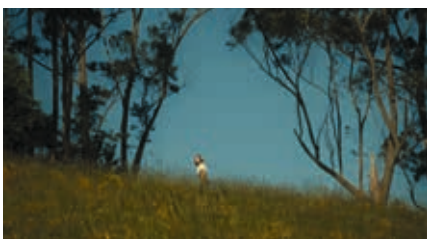
Pineapple Days - Memories Lost and Treasured



2043

FARRAH DELRUE · 3:17 · 15 -17 YEARS · NEWTOWN PERFORMING ARTS SCHOOL

2043 is set in the future after the world ends. Extra-terrestrials come to interview the children of the pandemic. Louisa tells you about her journey.



GUIDED

SAM DAVIDSON · 4:37 · 18 -25 YEARS

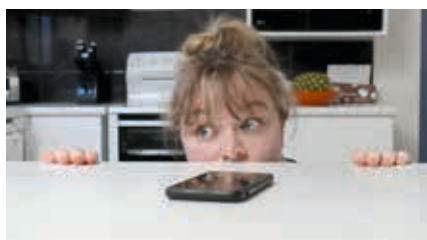
A story about love and regret, explored through the relationship between a brother and sister.



FEAR FOREST

KAELYN WARD · 5:00 · 18 -25 YEARS

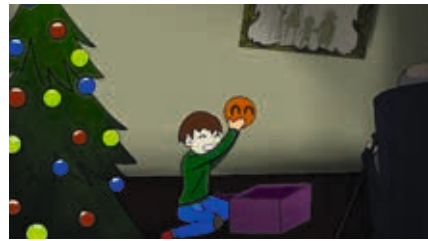
Four urban explorers hunt for a secret lab with a dark history. But when one of their friends start to hallucinate, they realise that maybe it wasn't history after all.



UNKNOWN NUMBER

AARON BRUGGEMANN · 2:43 · 18 -25 YEARS

Unknown Numbers are annoying, but they are even worse for the overthinkers of the world.



LIFE

LUNA DARNESH & FRANZISKA HOHENLOHE · 2:07 · 15 -17 YEARS · COFFS HARBOUR SENIOR COLLEGE

View the ups and downs of life through a ball's point of view as it's born, played with, lost, finds a new home, and even what waits beyond.



THE PERFECT PET

ANNIKA COLLAGA · 3:24 · 18 -25 YEARS · BAYSIDE SECONDARY COLLEGE

A lonesome girl finds a new friend in her backyard.



THE HOLLOW

LUKE MEAKINS · 1:52 · 18 -25 YEARS

Out for a run, a young woman stumbles upon an unsettling supernatural phenomenon.

The Nextwave 2022 short film competition is open for submissions from May 1st! Filmmakers aged 10 – 25 years are invited to make a short film, under 5 minutes, reflecting on the 2022 signature item and theme. Including the colour GREEN & exploring the theme TRANSFORMATION.

To all the filmmakers who entered Nextwave 2021, thank you for your hard work and creativity and dedication to filmmaking. Congratulations to all – and good luck with your next film. We can't wait to see it!

[NEXTWAVEFILM.COM.AU](https://nextwavefilm.com.au)



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TRAVELLING TO COFFS HARBOUR

THE COFFS COAST: NSW'S FIRST CERTIFIED ECO TOURISM DESTINATION

The Coffs Coast is the state's first Eco Destination, certified by Ecotourism Australia. From the sunbathed sandy shores of Coffs Harbour to the picturesque riversides of Bellingen, the Screenwave International Film Festival is proud to call a unique slice of Australia home - as eco-conscious as it is beautiful. For more information on our Eco Certification, as well as information on travel, accommodations, and attractions, visit coffscoast.com.au.

TRAVELLING TO THE COFFS COAST

FLIGHTS: Travelling to the Coffs Coast is a breeze, with flights departing from Sydney and Melbourne, you'll be treated to an incredible view of the harbour as you touch down.

BUSES: There are a variety of bus services through Greyhound Australia, Premier Motor Services, New England Coaches, as well as local bus services that will get you around town in comfort.

TRAINS: NSW Trainlink operates daily between Brisbane and Sydney, stopping along the Coffs Coast at multiple convenient locations such as Coffs Harbour, Sawtell, and Urunga.

CAR: If the open road is more your thing, the Pacific Highway is a pleasant drive along the stunning East Coast, with Coffs Harbour situated an easy 427km south of Brisbane (just over 4 hours) and 550km north of Sydney (less than 6 hours).

SAILING: Fancy yourself a Skipper? Coffs Harbour Marina offers customs, berthing and support facilities!

ACCOMMODATION

The Coffs Coast boasts a huge range of accommodation options, including The Observatory Holiday Apartments and Caribbean Motel situated near the Jetty Precinct. With luxury options, affordable comforts, caravan parks, or multiple camping sites, there's accommodation to suit everyone's needs. More information at coffscoast.com.au.

EATING & DRINKING

If a film has left you with more questions than answers, pop into the SWIFF Festival Hub at the CHEC Gathering Space for a delicious debrief, or anywhere along the Jetty Precinct's strip of pubs and restaurants.

THINGS TO DO

Want something to do between movies? The Coffs Coast offers an eclectic range of art galleries, museums, shopping, spas, sports, and aquariums as well as water activities and bushwalking.

BUSHWALKS: The Coffs Coast is home to several National Parks, including the breathtaking Dorrigo National Park, and the beachside Bongil Bongil National Park.

RIVER FUN: Make a splash with friends in a kayak, drifting along the pristine Bellinger and Kalang river systems.

CULTURAL: The Coffs Coast is Gumbaynggirr Land, with many cultural tours, art galleries, and experiences to discover.

FOR THE KIDS: Take the family out for a day to the Big Banana Fun Park, 10 Pin Bowling, TreeTops Adventure Park, plus a number of all ages films in the SWIFF program.





slow down, breathe deeply.

The Bellinghen Shire forms part of the Gumbaynggirr homeland. The land was so rich with food and resources that the Gumbaynggirr people were known as the 'sharing people'. Rich in tradition and customs, Gumbaynggirr language and culture is a vital part of the Bellinghen Shire including their connection to country. The Shire has three distinct regions with Urunga on the coast, boho Bellinghen in the valley and the beautiful Dorrigo plateau.

Urunga is the place where the ocean meets the sea. Visitors to the area can wander along the Urunga Boardwalk which stretches all the way to the beach meandering alongside mangroves and overlooking the multitude of aquatic and birdlife life. If you're lucky, you may even spot a dolphin. If this is not your fancy, why not try stand up paddle boarding or take a dip in the lagoon, or as the locals call it – the 'lido'. There are numerous picnic spots, playgrounds, barbecues and paths to suit all members of the family.

While you're there, make sure you visit one of the local cafes or restaurants such as the Liberty Providore, Pomegranate, Anchors Wharf, Embers Restaurant or have a cheeky drink at the Ocean View Hotel.

Don't forget to pop into the Art Space for look at some of the Shire's local artists' work. Only a few minutes away is the Urunga Wetlands. Rehabilitated from an old antimony site, the area is now home to numerous bird and plant life. For an afternoon of relaxation head to the nearby Raleigh Winery where you can enjoy a tasting plate that will make your friends jealous!



A short 15-minute drive is the eclectic town of Bellingen taking you from the sea to the tree. Its bohemian vibe is filled with artisans, heritage listed buildings, cafes and restaurants where you'll find an abundance of local produce on offer.

While you are there, a little retail therapy is sure to be on the cards. Walk the streets and immerse yourself in the Bellingen experience.

Once you have satisfied your shopping urges, grab a bite from one of the many restaurants and cafes all of which have their own flavour and amenity to suit whatever you might be looking for. Number 5 Church Street offers a relaxed vibe with delicious organic food and drinks. Visit the Butter factory, another heritage listed restaurant.

Just look for the old truck out the front. If Japanese is more your style, then you can't go passed Qudo with its authentic flavours and exquisite dishes.

Why not stop in at the Bellingen Brewery and taste one their woodfire pizzas and organic wines. If you are looking for a family affair then you can't go passed the pubs – yes the pubs! Two of them actually. Diggers Tavern and the Federal Hotel offer a variety of choices that even the kids will love.

If that's not enough, hop in the car and amble along Waterfall Way. It's not called Waterfall Way for nothing. You pass by two waterfalls on your way to Dorrigo with its traditional rural charm. Add the Rainforest Centre at Dorrigo National Park to your 'must do' list. Venture out on the skywalk or take a guided tour through the walking tracks beneath the canopy of the world heritage listed Gondwana rainforest.



Just up the road is Dangar Falls. For those who are keen, take the 5-minute walk along the extended pathway to the base of the falls. Don't forget your swimmers so you can immerse yourself in the best of what nature can offer.

From world heritage rainforest to stretches of untouched beaches and quaint villages, the Bellingen Shire lets you explore nature at its best. Engage with the eclectic local community and move at your own pace, all with a café and restaurant scene to rival bigger towns.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

SWIFF '22 FESTIVAL TEAM

Kate Howat	SWIFF Founder, Artistic Director
David Horsley	SWIFF Founder, Festival Director
Saige Browne	Program & Content Creator
Giordan Pakes	SWIFF Box Office Manager & Ticketing Coordinator
Julie Toussaint	Designer & Brand Manager
Ben Toussaint	Digital Development Manager
Alycia Stanley	Events Coordinator & Operations Manager
Katherine Walgrave	Sponsor & Guest Coordinator
Beth Hodges	Volunteers Coordinator & Bar Manager
Jay Black (And the Trees Photography)	Festival Photographer
Scott Collins	Festival Trailer Composition
Caleb Cowie	SWIFF'22 Key Art Designer
Peter Papandrea	Site Manager
Inspired Audio Visual	SWIFF & STORYLAND Production Services

STORYLAND TEAM

Uncle Micklo Jarrett	Welcome/Farewell to Country
Alison Page	STORYLAND Creative Director
Nik Lachajczak	STORYLAND Creative Director
Danni Colgan	Main Stage Curator
Coco Varma	The Yurt Locker Curator
Phil Nicholas	Event Manager
Pete Papandrea	Site Manager
Inspired Audio Visual	Light & Sound
Leo Bradley	Staging
Kennards Hire Coffs Harbour	Site Equipment
Kabuku PR	Publicity
Novel Creative	Marketing
Beth Hodges	Volunteers Coordinator
Kristen Collier	Ticketing & Gates Coordinator
Caleb Cowie	Featured Artists
Saige Browne	Content Designer
Alycia Stanley	Event Logistics
Sheerien Singh	Grant Writer
Maureen Burgess	Theatrical Coordinator
Maureen Shaw	Food Vendor Coordinator
Coffs Harbour City Council	Park Beach Reserve
Valley Protective Services	Security



VOLUNTEERS

Without the many hands of our wonderful volunteers from the Coffs Coast and beyond, SWIFF would not happen. Our sincere thanks to all for lending a hand to bring SWIFF'22 to the community, all for the love of film.

COMMUNITY MESSAGE

Thank you to our audiences. By attending, promoting, talking about, buying tickets to, 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 patronage, worked in a SWIFF venue and who connected with SWIFF'22. 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.

INDEX

FILM	DETAILS	PAGE
A HERO	127 MINS · 15+	32
ABLAZE	81 MINS · PG	22
ACA MASTERCLASS	300 MINS · 15+	62
ACA OPEN CLASS	120 MINS · ALL AGES	63
AFTER BLUE (DIRTY PARADISE)	130 MINS · 18+	46
AFTER YANG	96 MINS · 15+	32
ALI & AVA	95 MINS · M	32
ALL MY FRIENDS HATE ME	93 MINS · 15+	32
ANAÏS IN LOVE	98 MINS · 15+	32
ANONYMOUS CLUB	86 MINS · M	50
APPLES	90 MINS · M	33
BAD LUCK BANGING OR LOONY PORN	106 MINS · R18+	24, 33
BALLAD OF A WHITE COW	105 MINS · 15+	33
BASIC INSTINCT	127 MINS · R18+	26
BEAUTIFUL MINDS	88 MINS · 15+	33
BENEDETTA	127 MINS · R18+	26
BERGMAN ISLAND	105 MINS · M	33
BETWEEN TWO WORLDS	107 MINS · M	33
THE BIG WAVE PROJECT II	110 MINS · ALL AGES	48
BLIND AMBITION	96 MINS · M	44
BLISS (GLÜCK)	89 MINS · 18+	24
BLOODY ORANGES	102 MINS · 18+	46
THE BOWRAVILLE MURDERS	92 MINS · M	22
C'MON C'MON	108 MINS · M	34
CARBON: THE UNAUTHORISED BIOGRAPHY	90 MINS · G	28
CHEF ANTONIO'S RECIPES FOR REVOLUTION	99 MINS · ALL AGES	44
COME BACK ANYTIME	81 MINS · PG	44
COMPARTMENT NO.6	106 MINS · MA15+	34
CREATIVE INDUSTRIES MEET & GREET	90 MINS · 18+	62
DEAR COMRADES!	121 MINS · M	34
DIRECTING MASTERCLASS WITH BEN LAWRENCE	120 MINS · 15+	62
DRIVE MY CAR	184 MINS · MA15+	34
EVERYTHING EVERYWHERE ALL AT ONCE	139 MINS · 15+	14
FILM INDUSTRY NETWORKING DRINKS	90 MINS · 18+	62
FIRE	116 MINS · 15+	36
FLEE	90 MINS · M	28
FLESH + BLOOD	126 MINS · R18+	26
FRIENDS AND STRANGERS	84 MINS · MA15+	22
GOOD MADAM	92 MINS · 18+	36
GREAT FREEDOM	116 MINS · 18+	36
HARD SHELL, SOFT SHELL	99 MINS · 15+	36
HE'S MY BROTHER	75 MINS · 15+	28
HIT THE ROAD	93 MINS · PG	36
HIVE	83 MINS · M	37
I GET KNOCKED DOWN	87 MINS · 15+	50
ITHAKA	111 MINS · 15+	23
JULIA	95 MINS · M	44
JUNIPER	94 MINS · M	37
LAST FILM SHOW	111 MINS · ALL AGES	37
LOVELAND	102 MINS · M	23

FILM	DETAILS	PAGE
LUZZU	94 MINS · 15+	37
MEMORIA	136 MINS · PG	37
MORNING OF THE EARTH	89 MINS · G	48
NEXTWAVE YOUTH FILM AWARDS	180 MINS · ALL AGES	20
NOWHERE SPECIAL	96 MINS · M	37
ONCE UPON A TIME IN UGANDA	94 MINS · 18+	28
PARALLEL MOTHERS	120 MINS · M	38
PARIS, 13TH DISTRICT	106 MINS · R18+	24, 38
PETITE MAMAN	72 MINS · PG	38
PLEASURE	105 MINS · 18+	24
QUO VADIS, AIDA?	103 MINS · M	39
RED ROCKET	128 MINS · MA15+	25
RIVER	75 MINS · ALL AGES	23
ROBOCOP	102 MINS · R18+	27
SABAYA	95 MINS · 18+	29
SAM & MATTIE MAKE A ZOMBIE MOVIE	107 MINS · 15+	29
SCI-FI TEAM TRIVIA	90 MINS · ALL AGES	20
SHOWGIRLS	131 MINS · R18+	27
SPACEBALLS	96 MINS · PG	20
SPETTERS	120 MINS · R18+	27
STARSHIP TROOPERS	129 MINS · MA15+	27
STORYLAND	18+	52-59
SUMMER OF SOUL	117 MINS · PG	50
SUNDOWN	84 MINS · 18+	39
SWAN SONG	105 MINS · M	42
SWIFF X HILLTOP AUTUMN FEAST	180 MINS · 18+	18, 44
SWIFF LIVE: BEAUTIFUL DARK -THE MUSIC OF TWIN PEAKS	90 MINS · 15+	16
SWIFF LIVE: SURFING SOUNDWAVES	70MINS · 12+	16, 48
TELEVISION EVENT	91 MINS · 15+	29
THE DROVER'S WIFE THE LEGEND OF MOLLY JOHNSON	109 MINS · MA15+	22
THE INNOCENTS	117 MINS · 18+	46
THE NORTHMAN	140MINS · 18+	14
THE NOWHERE INN	91 MINS · 15+	50
THE POWER OF THE DOG	127 MINS · M	38
THE SADNESS	99 MINS · 18+	46
THE STORY OF FILM: A NEW GENERATION	160 MINS · 15+	29
THE VELVET QUEEN	92 MINS · M	29
TITANE	108 MINS · R18+	42, 47
UNDINE	90 MINS · M	42
VORTEX	135 MINS · 18+	42
WASH MY SOUL IN THE RIVER'S FLOW	89 MINS · PG	50
WHEN POMEGRANATES HOWL	80 MINS · M	42
WHEN THE CAMERA STOPPED ROLLING	75 MINS · M	23
WHO'S WHO ON THE CREW INDUSTRY SESSION	180 MINS · 18+	62
WRITING WITH FIRE	93 MINS · M	29
WYRMWOOD: APOCALYPSE	86 MINS · MA15+	23, 47
ZOLA	90 MINS · MA15+	25



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