

SW IFF.

20 APRIL – 5 MAY 2023
COFFS HARBOUR · BELLINGEN
SWIFF.COM.AU

SCREENWAVE INTERNATIONAL
FILM FESTIVAL

this little pig went
wee wee wee

to SWIFF 2023



squealing pig



this little pig went to market
this little pig stayed home
this little pig had ~~roast beef~~ strawberry water
this little pig had ~~xxx~~ a refreshing finish
this little pig went pink pink pink



squealing pig | rosé

WELCOME TO SWIFF

The Screenwave International Film Festival acknowledges 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.



KATE HOWAT

Artistic Director

"What an excellent day for an exorcism"

That quote from William Friedkin's 1973 classic isn't just because it's one of my all-time favourite films, which celebrates its 50th anniversary at SWIFF this year, but it encapsulates for me how we let go of reluctance and hesitancy and all the bad juju - and jump feet first into a world of wondrous possibilities and new beginnings. As we venture into this great unknown with open minds, we look for knowledge from the storytellers who move us the most, who provoke conversations, who pose new thoughts, new inspirations and new ideas. Movies are that guiding force that shine the brightest light and beckon we take this journey without prejudice, without fear, and without always a defining resolution.

As you move into the darkened theatre, you've entered a social contract. For the next two hours – or more – you are here. When the lights go down and the very first title appears, this is your time to let go, to switch off, to experience moving pictures, and to simply enjoy the ride.

Welcome to SWIFF'23.



DAVID HORSLEY

Festival Director

Unproven paths make for the greatest adventures. SWIFF'23, presented by Squealing Pig, is full of unproven paths this year, an odyssey of world cinema delights, hosted across a record-breaking 150+ sessions in Coffs Coast's biggest film festival celebration to date!

Bellingen, and its movie-loving tribe of cinephiles, is welcomed back into the festival fold as SWIFF grows to three screening venues for the first time, with the multi-million dollar upgraded Bellingen Memorial Hall bringing history and heart with a full new redesign and fit-out. Don't miss it.

The program is full of award-winning films, dramas and comedies, the light and entertaining, the romantic and the awe-inspiring - but the festival is also designed to have some of the greatest rewards in the deepest depths of controversy, of sadness, of humanity, and of expression. Fully embracing the idea that you don't have to like a film's subject matter to fully appreciate and enjoy the craft of it is central to this year's programming at SWIFF - and I welcome you to push your own personal boundaries and explore new depths for yourself.

Dig deep, and carve your own path for our eighth celebration of cinema, and enjoy the 2023 Screenwave International Film Festival.

FESTIVAL PATRON WELCOME



JACK THOMPSON

Australian Film & Screen Icon

Storytelling sits at the core of all civilisation; the passing of knowledge, of culture and history and philosophy, through spoken word, to written language, now expanded on to cinema screens in 7.1 Surround Sound. It is this gathering together in the cinema, to listen to and watch stories from across this world, that is worth celebrating – and worth celebrating together.

I am honoured to welcome everyone to the 2023 Screenwave International Film Festival, our own Coffs Coast celebration of 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 Coffs Harbour and Bellingen on behalf of the festival, and thank locals for their continued show of love for SWIFF. The heart and soul of SWIFF is built on demystifying film as fine art – that film is for everyone. Thank you to Kate and Dave for making something beautiful and unique for the movie lovers amongst us – who they proudly restrict to absolutely everybody.

JACK THOMPSON PHOTO: PETER BREW BEVAN

FERGUSON FILM PRIZE



The Ferguson Film Prize is SWIFF's national film award for directing, recognising debut or sophomore feature film directors who exhibit captivating, daring, and ambitious storytelling.

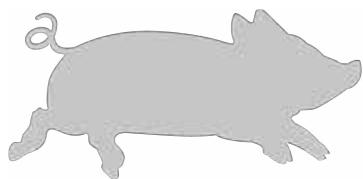
The winner of the Ferguson Film Prize will be selected by the FFP 2023 Jury, and will receive a \$3,000 personal cash prize and a personalised trophy. Keep an eye on SWIFF socials for jury announcement and other updates.

Nominated directors' films will be indicated throughout the program by the FFP icon.



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NEXTWAVE



Take your seat at the newly refurbished Memorial Hall



*New seating on a stepped platform,
Increasing capacity and improving
audience viewing lines*



*New multipurpose studio including
Kitchenette and AV capability –
perfect for your next event*



*Additional parking and accessibility
including upgraded bathroom
facilities, stage lifts and ramps*

Bellingen Welcomes You Back To Memorial Hall For SWIFF

Our much-loved community hall has been transformed into a cultural arts hub and we are excited to host the Screenwave International Film Festival in 2023. The renewed facility will foster collaboration within the community and is an accessible venue suitable for a range of artistic expressions.



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HOW TO SWIFF

Dive in. For the best festival experience, step outside your comfort zone when selecting films. With a SWIFF Film Pass saving you some coin – be prepared to dissect, discuss, and find an unexpected new favourite. Stay for Q&A sessions and continue the conversation at SWIFF Festival Hubs with your crew.

"One of us! One of us!" 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 recce to a friend and share a smile with our volunteers - they help make it all happen!

Festival Guests. For a full list of SWIFF's festival guests and Q&A sessions, visit the website and check SWIFF socials.

Come one, come all. SWIFF strives to make the festival experience accessible and inclusive for all. Reach out with any questions. Please note, some films are unclassified or have age restrictions - check the program listings and content warnings ahead of time.

Go green. Save time and keep the queue moving by downloading the FREE SWIFF 2023 App (Apple and Android), where you can do basically everything, like purchase, redeem, save, and show your tickets. But be sure and switch back off before the show.

Good neighbours. You're joining a film loving family for two weeks – be mindful of your cinema buddies by respecting personal space, turning off your phone, saving the fish and chips or lively debate for between the films, and following public health advice.

Viva la SWIFF! Keep the festival pumping each year by donating at checkout online or at the box office, and remember to vote for your favourite film, via Ferve Tickets, to decide the annual Audience Award winner.

HAVE A YARN

Keep in touch with the festival across socials by using the official SWIFF hashtag #SWIFF23

Facebook and Instagram: @screenwaveaustralia

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

FESTIVAL APP

Download the SWIFF 2023 app, below, for Apple and Android devices to beat the queue, buy tickets, and vote for the SWIFF 2023 Audience Award.



scan to download the festival app

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 - \$21.50

Concession/Local - \$18.50

Under 25 - \$10.00

Concession includes pensioners and students. Locals with 245 postcodes receive concession prices. Please present valid ID.

FILM PASSES

6 Film Pass - \$104

12 Film Pass - \$184

20 Film Pass - \$269

*Film Passes exclude all Special Events.

SPECIAL EVENTS

OPENING NIGHT GALA

\$50.00 Full | \$45.00 Concession

Includes drink and canapes on arrival

See page 12

CLOSING NIGHT GALA

\$50.00 Full | \$45.00 Concession

Includes drink and canapes on arrival.

See page 12

SWIFF LIVE

SAFETY LAST!

\$35.00 Full | \$30.00 Concession |

\$25 Under 25

See page 14

ALON ILSAR'S TRAVELLING AIRSTICKS

LABORATORY

\$15 Adult | \$10 Under 12

See page 14

MOVIE TRIVIA EVENTS

Test your movie mettle before your favourite fan films!

Element Bar, Coffs - Before *The Exorcist*

See page 18

Diggers Tavern, Bello - Before *The Big*

Lebowski

See page 18

Free trivia, bookings essential

NEXTWAVE YOUTH FILM AWARDS

World Premieres of short films from the next wave of young Australian filmmakers

Regular ticket pricing applies

See page 52

Booking fees included in price.

Credit card fee applied per transaction.

Tickets available online at [SWIFF.COM.AU](https://www.swiff.com.au), via the SWIFF 2023 App, or from festival box office locations - open at all venues on screening days.

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

SWIFF welcomes assistance animals at the festival. Bookings are essential. Please call the SWIFF Box Office prior to booking (02) 5626 5051.

SUBTITLES & CAPTIONS

All foreign language films are subtitled in English, with no audio descriptions.

Open Caption sessions include subtitles, and describe all audio on screen. Open Caption sessions will be indicated by the  icon in the program and web.

VENUES AND FESTIVAL HUBS

THEATRES

CHEC THEATRE

COFFS HARBOUR EDUCATION
CAMPUS
363 HOGBIN DRIVE
COFFS HARBOUR NSW 2450

JETTY MEMORIAL THEATRE

337 HARBOUR DRIVE
COFFS HARBOUR NSW 2450

BELLINGEN MEMORIAL HALL

32 HYDE STREET
BELLINGEN NSW 2454

HUBS

CHEC GATHERING SPACE

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COFFS HARBOUR NSW 2450

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purchase. Open festival hours.



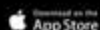
For all venue information, including
Coffs Harbour Education Campus Site Map, visit SWIFF.COM.AU or scan the QR Code.

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TO PAPER
TICKETS**

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SWIFF'23 APP**



POWERED BY



OPENING NIGHT GALA



THE SURVIVAL OF KINDNESS

THU 20 APR · 6PM FOR 7PM · CHEC

ROLF DE HEER · 96 MINS · M · AUS

NOMINEE · GOLDEN BEAR · BERLIN FILM
FESTIVAL

Subversive Australian visionary, Rolf de Heer (*Ten Canoes*, *Charlie's Country*), will present the NSW Premiere of his first feature film in nine years at the Opening Night Gala of SWIFF'23, *The Survival of Kindness*.

BlackWoman (Mwajemi Hussein), locked in a cage under the desert's scorching sun, has been abandoned by her masked captors. Escaping, she ventures through apocalyptic landscapes, entering new scenarios, up the Mountain, and on to the City, where BlackWoman is pressed to reckon with her identity, her mission, and her will.

Watching Rolf de Heer's *The Survival of Kindness* is like extrapolating beautiful poetry, punctuated by moments of action, brutality, sincerity – and kindness.

Filmed in Tasmania and South Australia, *The Survival of Kindness* provokes conversation well after the credits roll, and is perfect for calibrating your experience for the full SWIFF festival to come.

SWIFF celebrates Rolf de Heer's films with a retrospective of his work, including featured screenings of *Bad Boy Bubby*, *The Tracker*, and *Dingo*.

Join the cast & crew on Opening Night, with Q&A to follow the film.

CLOSING NIGHT GALA



CLOSING NIGHT GALA

FRI 5 MAY · 6PM FOR 7PM · CHEC

Check [SWIFF.COM.AU](https://www.swiff.com.au)

A sell-out event every year, SWIFF'23's Closing Night Gala will be a vibrant celebration of the festival that was, as we toast a new milestone for film and screen on the Coffs Coast.

The Closing Night Gala will be announced in the lead-up to the festival online at [SWIFF.COM.AU](https://www.swiff.com.au) and through SWIFF communications. Subscribe to

SWIFF's e-news, Facebook, and Instagram to be the first to find out about what awaits for the SWIFF'23 Closing Night Gala.

Always a vibrant cultural celebration, expect lively performances, the Closing Night Film screening, tasty eats, and refreshments to get the party vibe going. And of course, a phenomenal cinema experience to cap off SWIFF's most expansive program to date.

Join us for the grand finale to the 2023 Screenwave International Film Festival.

Once announced, tickets and info available at [SWIFF.COM.AU](https://www.swiff.com.au).

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Get the facts DrinkWise.org.au

ROLL THE BEER. UNLOCK THE FLAVOUR.

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SWIFF.COM.AU



SAFETY LAST!

WED 26 APR · 6.15PM · JMT

FRED C. NEWMAYER, SAM TAYLOR
· 67 MINS · G · USA

An icon reimaged.

Comedy legend Harold Lloyd's slapstick masterpiece, *Safety Last!*, celebrates its 100th anniversary in 2023, presented at SWIFF with a live-on-stage soundtrack led by Coffs Harbour Regional Conservatorium Director, Pat Brearley.

same breath as Charlie Chaplin and Buster Keaton, was an innovator of cinematic techniques, death-defying stunts, sharp social commentary, and laugh-out-loud comedy.

Starring in this hilarious romantic comedy as regular country lad, 'The Boy', Lloyd plays an upstart fellow that moves to New York City to make some cash to support his loving girlfriend (Mildred Davis), but soon discovers that making it in the Big Apple is harder than it looks. When he hears a store manager will pay \$1000 to anyone who can draw people to his store, he convinces his friend, the "human fly" (Bill Strother) to climb the building and split the profit with him. But when his friend gets in trouble with the law, 'The Boy' must complete the crazy stunt on his own. What ensues results in one of the most iconic images in the history of cinema — Lloyd dangling precariously from the hands of a giant skyscraper clock!

This all-ages live performance, exclusive to SWIFF, is a collaboration between the Screenwave International Film Festival and the Coffs Harbour Regional Conservatorium.

\$35 Full | \$30 Concession | \$25 Under 25 | Please allow 90 minutes for this event



ALON ILSAR'S TRAVELLING AIRSTICKS LABORATORY

SUN 23 APR · 10AM, 11.30AM, 2PM,
3.30PM · CHEC O BLOCK THEATRE

ALON ILSAR · 35 MINS · ALL AGES · AUS

An interactive kids show comes to SWIFF!

Cutting edge technology meets crazy fun.

Two scientists take kids on a wild magical ride where movement becomes music, turning anything

and everything into musical instruments. Yes, new technology can turn the actions of a human body, a pot-plant, or even a shampoo bottle, into any sound known to humanity. So move it!

A funny interactive all-ages family show exploring the history of sound and music, including the thoughts and feelings behind any toot, ding, dong or symphony, featuring the incredibly exciting technology of Airsticks.

Performances are 20 minutes long, with a 10-15 minute explainer session to follow.

Great for kids aged 5-12 but enjoyable and fun for any age.



\$15 Adult | \$10 Under 12

SWIFF FESTIVAL HUB

LUNCH & DINNER TIL LATE (7 DAYS)



ELEMENT BAR
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380 Harbour Drive, Coffs Harbour Jetty | elementbar.com.au | 6651 6655  



COX LANE, COFFS HARBOUR

6.30AM - 3.30PM (BREKKY & LUNCH), 7 DAYS
DARKARTSCAFEANDBAR.COM.AU | PH: 6600 1505



SPECIAL EVENTS



NEXTWAVE YOUTH FILM AWARDS

SAT 22 APR · 2PM FOR 3PM · CHEC

The Nextwave Youth Film Awards (NYFA), presented by Southern Cross University, brings the thrills, laughter, and excitement to the big screen, with World Premiere short films from the next generation of young filmmakers across Australia.

This not-to-be-missed annual SWIFF signature event features live music, guest speakers, and a major awards ceremony, alongside the 28 incredible short films from a record-breaking 150+ submissions to the annual Nextwave competition in 2022.

Join us in the CHEC Gathering Space from 2pm for live music and red-carpet arrivals before heading into the cinema for the 3pm screening and awards presentation in CHEC Theatre.

Full finalist film line up and more information about Nextwave can be found on page 52.



SWIFF CREATE

SAT 22 APR - SUN 23 APR · CHEC

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, hosts workshops, panels, networking opportunities and more - all supporting more film production in Coffs Harbour and Bellingen.

From transferrable skills to opportunities to meet industry filmmakers and level up your craft, SWIFF Create welcomes arts workers, arts lovers and the curious to join.

Full program and more information can be found on page 58.



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THE DUDE ABIDES



THE BIG LEBOWSKI 25TH ANNIVERSARY SCREENING

FRI 28 APR · 8.30PM · BMH
JOEL COEN, ETHAN COEN · 117 MINS · MA15+ · USA

I'm a Lebowski, you're a Lebowski.

Jeffrey Lebowski (Jeff Bridges) isn't Mister Lebowski, man. He's The Dude. Or Duder. Or El Duderino, if you're not into the whole brevity thing. He's the man for his time and place, and he bowls in league with Walter (John Goodman) and Donny

(Steve Buscemi). Except on Saturdays because Walter is shomer Shabbos.

When thugs break into The Dude's home, demanding money and micturating on his rug, The Dude seeks compensation from the person the thugs confused him for – a millionaire also named Jeffrey Lebowski.

The Coen Brothers' soft-boiled, infinitely quotable, slacker-noir comedy gets the big screen festival treatment for one session only, celebrating the 25th anniversary of that rug really tying the room together, and Walter trying to tie everything back to the Vietnam War.

Don your best cardigan and just take it easy, man, for a one-night only SWIFF celebration of the Coen Brothers' cult classic.

Grab your tix for FREE Movie Trivia at SWIFF.COM.AU (bookings essential), starting at 6.30pm, Diggers Tavern, before the film. Mark it, dude!

THE POWER OF CHRIST COMPELS YOU



THE EXORCIST 50TH ANNIVERSARY SCREENING

MON 24 APR · 8.15PM · JMT
WILLIAM FRIEDKIN · 140 MINS · R18+ · USA

WINNER · BEST ADAPTED SCREENPLAY, BEST SOUND ·
ACADEMY AWARDS

What an excellent day for an exorcism.

SWIFF'23 celebrates the 50th Anniversary of William

Friedkin's 1973 masterpiece of horror, a film whose indelible legacy of terror has cemented its place in pop culture: *The Exorcist*.

Chris MacNeil (Ellen Burstyn), famous actress and mother to Regan (Linda Blair), a young girl possessed by a mysterious dark entity. As modern treatments fail, the frightening spiritual possession grows bolder and more dangerous, and, as a last resort, Chris is forced to enlist the help of Father Merrin (Max von Sydow) and Father Karras (Jason Miller) to save her daughter.

Making history as the first horror film to be nominated for the Best Picture Oscar, *The Exorcist* is revered to this day for its ground-breaking visual effects, visceral performances, and Friedkin's dedication to authenticity that proliferates every frame.

"Are people so numb they need movies of this intensity in order to feel anything at all?" – Rogerebert.com

Make sure to book your tix for FREE Movie Trivia at SWIFF.COM.AU (bookings essential), starting at 6.30pm, Element Bar, before the film. It'll be a hell of a time!



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Harbour Arts Guide.

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AUSTRALIAN CINEMA

Australia is changing, and this year's Australian Cinema program reflects a new generation of voices emerging. Film pioneers break new ground, Australian cinema history once thought lost is being brought back to life, and new voices are firmly establishing their place as fierce storytellers.



BECAUSE WE HAVE EACH OTHER



FRI 21 APR · 2PM · BMH
WED 3 MAY · 4.15PM · CHEC

SARI BRAITHWAITE · 90 MINS · M · AUS

The Barnes-Sharrock clan is a neurodiverse family living on the suburban fringe, dreaming of something a little bigger.

Janet Sharrock and Brent "Buddha" Barnes have five children between them, having blended their families Brady Bunch style, with a cavalcade of pets making for a busy household.

But being neurodiverse comes with both perks and challenges. Family members have phenomenal memory, profound creativity, and technical prowess, and while feeling the same working-class struggles as all Australian families, there is an invisibility when you don't fit into the mould of a neurotypical family.

Shot over 5 years, Sari Braithwaite's intimate slice-of-life documentary paints a humanistic, often hilarious and touching portrait of love, life, and a family unlike any other.

WED 3 MAY screens with Open Captions



THE GIANTS



SAT 29 APR · 4PM · JMT
SUN 30 APR · 3.15PM · BMH

LAURENCE BILLIET, RACHEL ANTONY · 110 MINS · M · AUS

The fates of wild forests and humans wrap around and intertwine in *The Giants*, a poetic portrait of environmentalist Bob Brown and the natural forests he has dedicated his life to protect, from seedlings to forest ancients.

Told in Bob's own words, *The Giants* interweaves his 50 years of inspiring activism – from the Franklin campaign to save Tasmania's last wild river, to today's battle for the Tarkine rainforest. Bringing to the screen a star-studded cast of windswept eucalypts, Huon pines, and myrtles, *The Giants* is a stunning, visual, big screen feast.

From the team that made *Freeman* (2020's most watched documentary), *The Giants* explores the right of the forest to exist, and Australia's opportunity to take action to protect its natural wonders.



GREENHOUSE BY JOOST

WED 3 MAY · 11AM · CHEC

BRUCE PERMEZEL, RHIAN SKIRVING · 85 MINS · PG · AUS

Imagine a house that grows its own food.

That's the vision of environmental campaigner Joost Bakker, who was once dubbed the 'Poster Boy of Zero Waste Living' by The New York Times. This inspiring feature documentary follows Bakker as he builds a self-sustaining home, an ecosystem that provides its occupants with water, energy, shelter, and nourishment.

Joined in his work by internationally acclaimed chefs Matt Stone and Jo Barrett, Bakker faces his fair share of challenges to finish the home. Bureaucratic delays, COVID shutdowns and blackouts all threaten the build. Ultimately, *Greenhouse by Joost* is an uplifting look at the teamwork and ingenuity behind a paradigm-shifting project that bursts with life.

Supported by Southern Cross University



KEEP STEPPING



SAT 29 APR · 1PM · BMH
SUN 30 APR · 3.45PM · CHEC

LUKE CORNISH · 93 MINS · ALL AGES · AUS

WINNER · AUDIENCE AWARD · SFF

Two competitive, young street dancers train for a life changing dance comp in this remarkable peak into the underground Sydney street dance scene.

Patric, Romanian-born and hanging out for a visa, is a break-dancer. Gabi, of Chilean-Samoan heritage, pops with power. Both hope a win at Australia's largest dance comp, Destructive Steps, will be the platform from which to change their future.

Director Luke Cornish films for seven years, as external pressure, financial hardship and volatile relationships threaten to stop the dancers from reaching the dancefloor, in this impactful and inspiring treatise to the power of performance and passion.

"... a fabulous melting pot of race and culture, the essence of diversity and street cool." - FilmInk

Festival guests in attendance.



NINGLA-A-NA

SUN 30 APR · 1PM · JMT

ALESSANDRO CAVADINI · 75 MINS · M · AUS

"The time for pacifism is gone"

Ningla-a-na is the only film shot from inside the heart of Australia's landmark 1972 Aboriginal Tent Embassy protest. Now, digitally restored and remastered for the film's 50th anniversary, "*Australia's greatest ever protest movie*" (The Guardian) spurs a conversation about what has changed in the last half century.

Sparked by a government speech dismissing hopes for Aboriginal land rights, the Aboriginal Tent Embassy was a crucible for all First Nations civil rights issues, boiling over into mass protests nationally, and recognised as the single most important political action towards Indigenous land rights in Australia.

Key protest leaders included Gumbaynggirr activists, Uncle Gary Foley and Uncle Gary Williams.

Panel discussion with special guests to follow the film.



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We are proud to support the arts
that build the Coffs Coast community



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OF AN AGE



FRI 28 APR · 6PM · JMT
SAT 29 APR · 8.30PM · CHEC

GORAN STOLEVSKI · 100 MINS · 15+ · AUS

WINNER · FILM PRIZE · CINEFESTOZ

Summer, 1999. Two freshly graduated teens, reserved Kol (Elias Anton) and fiery Ebony (Hattie Hook) are partners in a ballroom dance competition. On the big day, Ebony calls Kol in a panic from the other side of Melbourne, needing a ride ASAP. Kol enlists Ebony's older brother, the suave Adam (Thom Green) to get him there. On the drive, the two men quickly discover a heady attraction – but Adam's leaving the country in 24 hours.

This luminous, affecting, and fiercely romantic film by Macedonian-Australian director Goran Stolevski (*You Won't Be Alone*, SWIFF'23), transcends time periods, chronicling an odyssey of teenage kicks-turned-adult-woes as the two reunite a decade later, immediately thrust back into what could have been, with each moment reverberating with desire and lip-biting anticipation.

English & Serbian with English subtitles



THE SURVIVAL OF KINDNESS

THU 20 APR · 6PM · CHEC
FRI 21 APR · 6PM · BMH
SAT 29 APR · 6.15PM · CHEC

ROLF DE HEER · 96 MINS · M · AUS

NOMINEE · GOLDEN BEAR · BERLINALE

Subversive Australian film visionary, Rolf de Heer (*Ten Canoes*, *Charlie's Country*), will present the NSW Premiere of his first feature film in nine years at SWIFF'23, *The Survival of Kindness*.

BlackWoman (Mwajemi Hussein), locked in a cage under the desert's scorching sun, has been abandoned by her masked captors. Escaping, she ventures through apocalyptic landscapes, entering new scenarios, up the Mountain, and on to the City, where BlackWoman is pressed to reckon with her identity, her mission, and her will.

Watching Rolf de Heer's *The Survival of Kindness* is like extrapolating beautiful poetry, punctuated by moments of action, brutality, sincerity – and kindness.

Festival guests in attendance.



THE ROAD TO PATAGONIA



SAT 22 APR · 6PM · BMH
FRI 28 APR · 6.45PM · CHEC

MATTY HANNON · 90 MINS · 15+ · AUS

WINNER · BEST FILM · BYRON BAY FILM FESTIVAL

The lives of two strangers are changed forever when they cross paths on the surfing adventure of a lifetime, discovering love, downshifting and four charismatic Chilean horses.

Ecologist Matty Hannon heads out on an incredible solo adventure, from the top of Alaska to the tip of Patagonia. But the joy of travel lies in twists and turns of the journey – not the final destination.

Riding south, Matty joins paths with permaculture farmer Heather, meeting Zapatista rebels, Amazonian shamans and Mapuche leaders whose salient words crack the adventurers' cultural veneer. Shot over 16 years, *The Road to Patagonia* is a stunning, intimate, and unflinching series of love letters between people and the planet.

English, Spanish & Mentawai with English subtitles

Festival guests in attendance.



SHADOW



THU 27 APR · 2.30PM · JMT
THU 4 MAY · 2.30PM · CHEC

BRUCE GLADWIN · 57 MINS · 15+ · AUS

WINNER · AUDIENCE AWARD · SXSW

World-renowned Geelong theatre company Back to Back takes their acclaimed play to film with *Shadow*, which ponders whether an AI-led society would further disenfranchise those living with disabilities in this ground-breaking crowd pleaser.

A trio of intellectually disabled activists call a Town Hall meeting to discuss the impacts of AI on their community. Fearing the worst, the trio start to devise plans on how to best safeguard those closest to them and the world, only for their discussion to descend into chaos.

Could their greatest threat be right there in the room with them? Exciting, humorous, and developed almost entirely with a cast and crew of creatives with a disability, this ground-breaking film is a fierce and essential example of authentic community-led storytelling.

Shadow screens with Open Captions



WATANDAR, MY COUNTRYMAN

SAT 29 APR · 3.30PM · BMH
SUN 30 APR · 3.30PM · JMT

JOLYON HOFF · 90 MINS · 15+ · AUS

From acclaimed director Jolyon Hoff (*That Was Then, This is Now*, SWIFF'22 - *The Staging Post*, SWIFF'18) comes a deeply touching journey of self-discovery, identity, and connection through the eyes of Afghan refugee, Muzafar Ali.

Muzafar, a father, husband, and photographer living in rural Australia discovers the rich history of cameleers in Australia, stretching back 160 years. In a bid to understand his own Afghan-Australian identity, he begins to meet with the traumatised yet resilient community, and photograph their people, a mix of Aboriginal, Afghan, and British descendants, learning more about Australia's complicated history.

Muzafar Ali's journey is interrupted when Afghanistan is handed back to the Taliban, as he races to help the friends and colleagues left behind.

Festival guests in attendance.



YOU CAN GO NOW

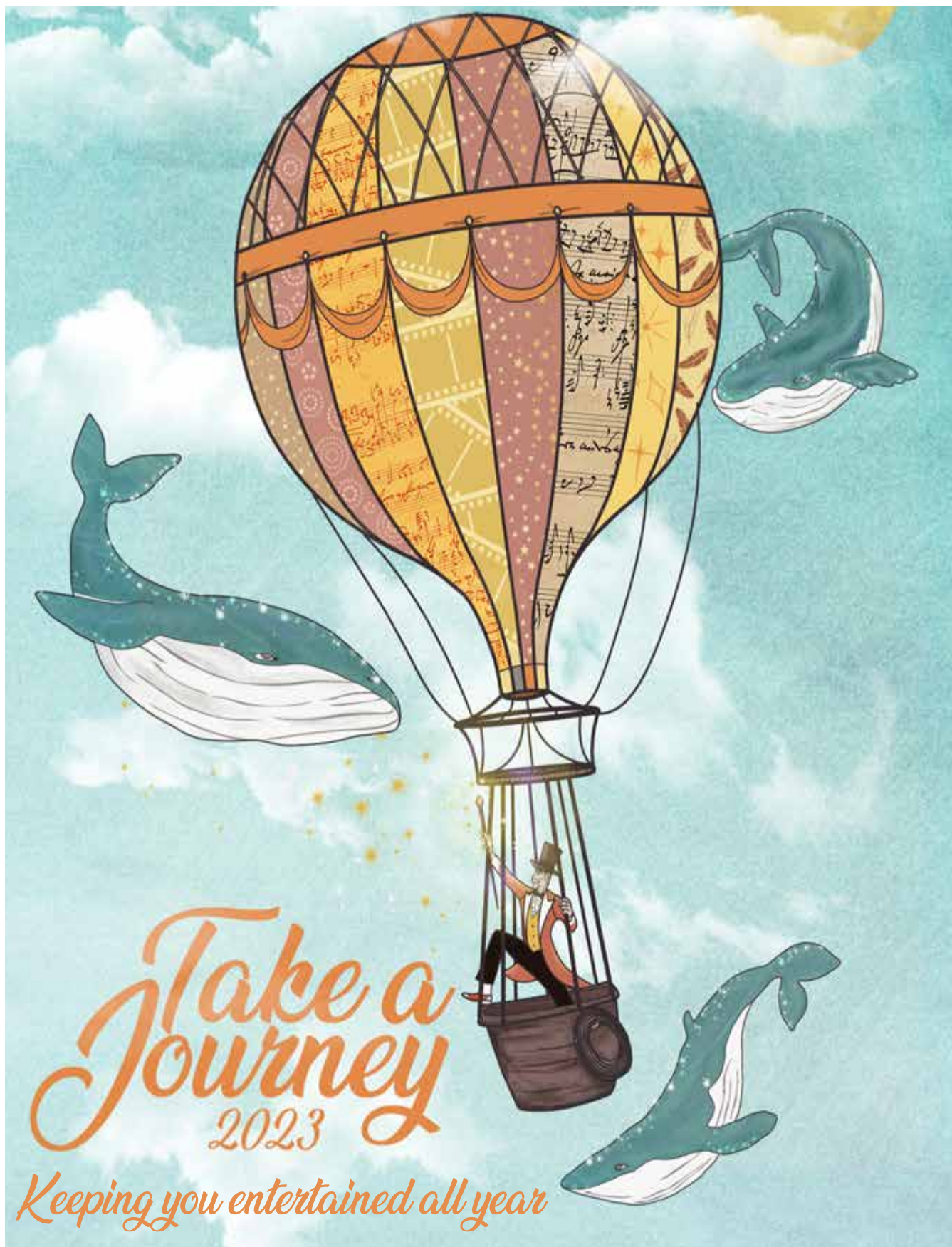
FRI 21 APR · 4PM · BMH
TUE 25 APR · 4PM · CHEC

LARISSA BEHRENDT · 82 MINS · M · AUS

Provocateur. Poet. Piss-taker. 50 years of First Nations activism with artist Richard Bell.

Richard Bell is a self-styled 'activist masquerading as an artist'. His confrontational art and attitude have stirred the Australian art scene while being lauded internationally, having seen the prestigious walls of the Tate Modern. But Bell has one goal: justice and land recognition for First Nations people in Australia.

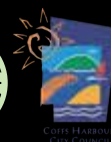
Documentarian Larissa Behrendt ruminates on Richard's life and powerful work, assembling a supporting cast of artists, academics, and activists, from his childhood on Bidjara Country (Charleville, QLD), his schooling on the streets of Redfern and the Canberra Tent Embassy, Bell's art reflects on how much has been done towards achieving Indigenous emancipation, while being aware of the long road ahead.



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THE ROLF DE HEER REVOLUTION

One of Australia's undisputed film visionaries, Rolf de Heer's filmography is rich with a signature lateral vision that rises above storytelling and nuance in filmmaking, with concept and methodology at the core of his films, never bucking away from the conversations Australia has to have.



BAD BOY BUBBY

SUN 23 APR · 9PM · BMH

ROLF DE HEER · 114 MINS · R18+ · AUS, ITA

WINNER · GRAND SPECIAL JURY PRIZE · VENICE

Celebrating its 30th anniversary this year, Rolf de Heer's cult masterpiece remains to date one of Australia's most classically confronting and uncompromising films.

35-year-old Bubby (Nicholas Hope) has never left his apartment. Tricked by his God-fearing mother into believing toxic gas will kill him if he leaves, Bubby leads a sheltered life, shaped and controlled by his mother.

When Bubby's father suddenly appears, the relationship complicates, and Bubby must leave the apartment to find life anew for the very first time.

This searing black comedy was a critical smash hit, sweeping awards for its innovation, dark humour, and experimental techniques – and gaining infamy for its quotability, now eternally enshrined in pop culture.



DINGO

MON 1 MAY · 1PM · JMT

ROLF DE HEER · 110 MINS · PG · AUS, FRA

The first and last feature film role starring magnetic jazz icon Miles Davis, Rolf de Heer's *Dingo* is an ode to passion and chasing ambitions.

When John 'Dingo' Anderson (Colin Friels) was twelve years old, jazz legend Billy Cross (Miles Davis) unexpectedly lands on the airstrip of Dingo's outback town and puts on a spontaneous concert while the plane is being repaired.

Igniting an obsession for jazz, Dingo makes it his life goal to make good on Billy's throwaway invitation - to look him up, if he is ever in Paris.

When those around him tell Dingo he is a hopeless dreamer, the outback trumpeter begins his pilgrimage to the City of Lights, chasing his destiny.



THE SURVIVAL OF KINDNESS

THU 20 APR · 6PM · CHEC

FRI 21 APR · 6PM · BMH

SAT 29 APR · 6.15PM · CHEC

ROLF DE HEER · 96 MINS · M · AUS

NOMINEE · GOLDEN BEAR · BERLINALE

Subversive Australian film visionary, Rolf de Heer (*Ten Canoes*, *Charlie's Country*), will present the NSW Premiere of his first feature film in nine years at SWIFF'23, *The Survival of Kindness*.

BlackWoman (Mwajemi Hussein), locked in a cage under the desert's scorching sun, has been abandoned by her masked captors. Escaping, she ventures through apocalyptic landscapes, entering new scenarios, up the Mountain, and on to the City, where BlackWoman is pressed to reckon with her identity, her mission, and her will.

Watching Rolf de Heer's *The Survival of Kindness* is like extrapolating beautiful poetry, punctuated by moments of action, brutality, sincerity – and kindness.

Festival guests in attendance.



THE TRACKER

TUE 25 APR · 1PM · JMT

ROLF DE HEER · 90 MINS · M · AUS

**WINNER · SIGNIS AWARD · VENICE FILM FESTIVAL
WINNER · BEST ACTOR · AACTA AWARDS**

It's 1922, and in the Australian desert, colonial justice must be upheld for the murder of a white woman. Suspicions are cast on The Fugitive (Noel Wilton), an Aboriginal man last seen deep in Country.

Three white colonialists, The Fanatic (Gary Sweet), The Veteran (Grant Page), and The Follower (Damon Gameau) form a posse to apprehend their suspect, led by a chained Indigenous man, The Tracker (an award-winning performance by David Gulpilil).

"This is strong and uniquely Australian storytelling at its very best" - Herald Sun

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MUSIC AND THE MAKERS

From revolutionary gamechangers to new voices raging to be heard. Tune into the frequency where music and cinema fuse, and connect with the sounds and the scenes, the music and the makers.



AGE OF RAGE: THE AUSTRALIAN PUNK REVOLUTION



SAT 22 APR · 1PM · BMH

JENNIFER ROSS · 82 MINS · 18+ · AUS

"Then out of the blue came this sound and this attitude of fuck you, fuck the world, fuck everything. And I was like....yeahhhhhh" - Ross Knight, Cosmic Psychos

Australia's punk revolution emerged as a reaction to conservative values of the late 1970s, in parallel with the punk scene blowing up in the UK, clashing against authoritarian values in the Bjelke-Peterson era, and championing social issues including First Nations causes.

Depicting an insular but inclusive scene, that sat proudly below the surface of the attention of mainstream music, *Age of Rage: The Australian Punk Revolution* is a comprehensive compendium of the raging, subversive national punk rock scene in Australia, with director Jennifer Ross giving equal weighting to both interviews and celebration of music and culture.



ENNIO: THE MAESTRO

TUE 2 MAY · 10.30AM · JMT

GIUSEPPE TORNATORE · 156 MINS · M · ITA

A celebration of the life and legacy of legendary Italian composer Ennio Morricone, from Oscar-winning director Giuseppe Tornatore (*Cinema Paradiso*, *SWIFF23*).

Centered around an in-depth interview with Morricone recorded shortly before his death in 2020, aged 91, and conducted by Tornatore, this affectionate, career-spanning portrait of the maestro weaves together archival footage, music, and testimonies from artists, directors, and collaborators, including Bernardo Bertolucci, Dario Argento, Quentin Tarantino, Bruce Springsteen, and Hans Zimmer.

Delving into the life of the most prolific film composer of the 20th century (who composed over 500 unforgettable scores), from his early arrangements to his cinema debut with Sergio Leone, to his Academy Award-winning score for *The Hateful Eight*.

Italian, Portuguese & Wu Chinese with English subtitles



MOONAGE DAYDREAM

SUN 23 APR · 1PM · BMH
SUN 30 APR · 11AM · CHEC

BRETT MORGEN · 129 MINS · M · USA

An immersive, genre-defying, cinematic odyssey exploring David Bowie's creative and musical journey, five years in the making, and featuring never-before-seen footage.

Narrated via archival audio, by Bowie himself, *Moonage Daydream* ricochets from the familiar (clips from the final Ziggy Stardust performance in the 70s, restored to astonishing new life) to the thrillingly obscure (Bowie's experimental videos and paintings, backstage footage, and eerie ambient performances).

A masterfully edited kaleidoscopic collage, piecing together David Bowie's career in a chaotic and coherent language of its own, this is a concert experience not to be missed - turned up loud and vivid on the big screen.

"A wildly creative tribute to everything Bowie achieved ... it leaves you buzzing." - UK



NOTHING COMPARES

SAT 22 APR · 10.30AM · CHEC

KATHRYN FERGUSON · 97 MINS · 15+ · IRL, UK

WINNER · AUDIENCE AWARD · SFF

"Everybody felt it was OK to kick the shit out of me." – Sinéad O'Connor

At the peak of Sinéad O'Connor's rise to worldwide fame her iconoclastic actions resulted in her exile from the pop mainstream. Focusing on her prophetic words and deeds from 1987-1993, director Kathryn Ferguson shows O'Connor as a guiding light for the current generation, and her legacy as a fearless trailblazer through a contemporary feminist lens.

Featuring era-defining music videos and concert performances alongside a range of contributions from friends and fellow peers, including Kathleen Hanna, Peaches, and Public Enemy's Chuck D, and underpinned by new interviews with O'Connor herself reflecting on her early career, and her visibility and vulnerability as a radical young woman on the world stage.



SIRENS

FRI 28 APR · 2.30PM · CHEC

RITA BAGHDADI · 78 MINS · 15+ · USA, LBN

Metal may be dominated by male acts, but *Slave To Sirens*, the only all-female Middle Eastern thrash band, have more reason to scream truth to power than anyone in this Sundance smash hit.

Director Rita Baghdadi gets backstage access, capturing what shifting the cultural pendulum really looks like - a poorly advertised Glastonbury gig, venues that ban heavy metal, the band's struggle to gain traction outside their dedicated fans, and the volatile relationship between its founders and guitarists, Shery and Lilas.

Despite the odds stacked against them, the magnetic women of *Slaves To Sirens* are determined to be a call for revolution in a culturally and politically turbulent Lebanon.

Arabic with English subtitles



THIS MUCH I KNOW TO BE TRUE

SAT 29 APR · 1.30PM · JMT

ANDREW DOMINIK · 105 MINS · M · UK

Andrew Dominik (*Chopper*, *Blonde*) collaborates with Nick Cave, holding the spotlight like only an international rock star can, and Warren Ellis, the creative musical genius-savant behind Dirty Three, in the spiritual follow-up to 2016's deliberate, heartfelt feature performance *One More Time With Feeling* (SWIFF'17) - a warehouse performance piece created specifically for film audiences.

Where its predecessor reflected the loss in Nick Cave's life, this is a jubilant celebration of life and music, bringing in the phenomenal vocals of Marianne Faithfull, and representing Nick Cave's two most recent albums.

This Much I Know To Be True is through-and-through all about the music. It's near-impossible not to get enraptured by the beating heart of creative expression being exuded from a collective of some of Australia's finest artists.



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**A HOUSE MADE OF SPLINTERS**

MON 24 APR · 4PM · JMT
FRI 28 APR · 2PM · JMT

SIMON LERENG WILMONT · 87 MINS · 15+ · DEN

WINNER · DIRECTING AWARD · SUNDANCE

It's early morning, Mrs Irina makes the rounds through the Eastern Ukraine's Lysychansk Centre, gently waking the children, getting them ready for breakfast and morning exercise. She oozes warmth and understanding and love – but these aren't her children. All have been surrendered or removed from their parents, staying at the Centre for up to nine months before entering the system, the wards of three very caring matrons who move mountains to provide stability for their wards.

Filmed prior to the current war in Ukraine, Wilmont provides a soft heart and a respectful lens to the children as they make Tik Tok videos, navigate their evolving life situation, and are just kids being kids.

Ukrainian with English subtitles

**ALL THE BEAUTY AND THE BLOODSHED**

SUN 23 APR · 3PM · CHEC
SAT 29 APR · 10.30AM · BMH

LAURA POITRAS · 113 MINS · R18+ · USA

WINNER · GOLDEN LION · VENICE

Nan Goldin's raw portraiture redefined contemporary photography in the 1970s, and in the early 1980s, she was among the first to document the rising AIDS crisis and raise funds for those suffering from the disease. Goldin next founded advocacy group P.A.I.N (Prescription Addiction Intervention Now) to hold the pharmaceutical dynasty, the Sackler family, accountable for the deadly opioid epidemic and protest their use of arts philanthropy to distract the public.

An essential, urgent, and arrestingly structured documentary directed by Academy Award-winning filmmaker Laura Poitras (*Citizenfour*), that stirringly connects personal tragedy, political awareness, and artistic expression.

"A towering and devastating work of shocking intelligence and still greater emotional power." – IndieWire

**BECOMING GIULIA**

THU 27 APR · 4PM · JMT
WED 3 MAY · 11AM · JMT

LAURA KAEHR · 103 MINS · ALL AGES · CHE

WINNER · AUDIENCE AWARD · ZURICH

Just four months after giving birth, principal dancer Giulia Tonelli is returning to the prestigious stage of the Zurich Opera Haus. But in an environment where commitment to art is apex of aspiration, is there a place for her?

Filmed over 3 years between 2019 to 2021, Laura Kaehr's elegant and empathetic documentary peeks into the microcosm of elite ballet, and sees a woman torn between two lives, both demanding every part of her, reconciling with changes in her body and identity, and Giulia's resilience and determination to find balance between her two worlds.

"...celebrates progress, connection, parenthood and dance." – Deadline

Italian, German & French with English subtitles

**CHILDREN OF THE MIST**

SUN 30 APR · 11AM · JMT
THU 4 MAY · 1.30PM · JMT

DIỄM HÀ LỆ · 92 MINS · 15+ · VNM

WINNER · BEST DIRECTOR · IDFA

In a village hidden in the mist-shrouded northwest Vietnamese mountains resides an Indigenous Hmong community, home to 12-year-old Di, part of the first generation of her people with access to formal education.

A feisty, free-spirited teen, Di is indifferent about her community's tradition of kidnapping into child marriage. But when Lunar New Year approaches, Di is kidnapped by scooter-riding local boy Vang and swiftly disappears into the night.

Vietnamese filmmaker Diễm Hà Lệ, who planted herself within Di's family over the course of three years, creates a bold and curious portrait of a community on the cusp between tradition and modernity, and a vulnerable girl on the precipice of her destiny.

Hmong & Vietnamese with English subtitles



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CROWS ARE WHITE

FRI 21 APR · 11.30AM · CHEC

AHSEN NADEEM · 97 MINS · 15+ · USA

From Japan to Cavan, filmmaker Ahsen Nadeem is on the hunt for enlightenment. Crashing into monks and his own inner conflict, a story of love and contradictions unfolds.

After decades of living a secret life, Nadeem travels to a strict Japanese monastery in search of guidance as he questions the traditions of his Muslim parents, in particular the command to marry another Muslim. There he meets unorthodox monk, Ryushin, who loves heavy metal, desserts, and gadgets, and together the two help each other find a path that reconciles faith, family duties, and love.

A humorous and brutally honest film about embracing our contradictions and the messy parts of life where our beliefs, values, truth, and desires converge.

Japanese with English subtitles



FIRE OF LOVE

SUN 23 APR · 10.30AM · CHEC

SAT 29 APR · 10.30AM · CHEC

SARA DOSA · 93 MINS · PG · CAN, USA

NOMINEE · BEST DOCUMENTARY · ACADEMY AWARDS

Winner of over 25 awards, Sara Dosa's illuminating *Fire of Love* is an explosive true tale of volcanic passions between French celebrity volcanologist couple Katia and Maurice Krafft.

As a student, Katia fell deeply in love with Maurice, entranced by his burning passion to further the scientific understanding of why Earth's mountains occasionally explode. The two travelled the world, dedicating their shared lives to studying the science behind violent volcanic eruptions.

Featuring the most spectacular volcano footage ever captured on film, and anchored by Miranda July's honeyed lilt narration, *Fire of Love* is a distillation of two peoples' determined lives and loves, dedicating themselves to the most dangerous eruptions in the world in order to better understand the people in it.

English & French with English subtitles



GEOGRAPHIES OF SOLITUDE

THU 27 APR · 1.30PM · CHEC

SUN 30 APR · 11AM · BMH

JACQUELYN MILLS · 104 MINS · 15+ · CAN

A poetic immersion into the rich ecosystem of Sable Island.

Originally visiting as a young artist, naturalist Zoe Lucas has lived 40 years making a daily pilgrimage across Sable, collecting ecological data. As filmmaker Jacquelyn Mills joins these daily walks, traversing the island alongside Sable's famed flora and fauna, the two artists fall in step, collaborating with the island itself.


Together they develop 16mm film through horse dung and algae, make music from the footsteps of beetles, and document the evidence of the outside world that washes ashore as plastic. Their playful and reverent innovations chronicle the special connection between people and place, flora and fauna, and science and art, taking the audience on a refreshingly authentic and soley unique journey.

"Deliriously gorgeous." - AFI



MY OLD SCHOOL

SAT 22 APR · 10.30AM · BMH

TUE 25 APR · 1.30PM · CHEC 

JONO MCLEOD · 104 MINS · M · UK

It's 1993, and 16-year-old Brandon is the new kid in school. Soon he's top of the class, acing exams and even taking the lead in the school musical. He's the model pupil, until he's unmasked...

Pressing into the "truth is stranger than fiction" genre, *My Old School* utilises playful, period-specific animation, a pitch-perfect soundtrack, and the talents of actor/comedian Alan Cumming to bring this incredible tale to life.

Digging deep into the same energy as films like *Three Identical Strangers* (SWIFF19), Jono McLeod's entertaining film examines a true story that sits just beneath the surface, beyond the limits of reasonable probability, before going right down the rabbit hole.

"Exceedingly creative and endlessly clever" - Rolling Stone

 TUE 25 APR screens with Open Captions



NELLY & NADINE

MON 24 APR · 11AM · JMT

WED 3 MAY · 1.30PM · JMT

MAGNUS GERTTEN · 92 MINS · 15+ · BEL, NOR, SWE

WINNER · JURY PRIZE · BERLINALE

Ravensbrück concentration camp, Christmas Eve, 1944: A female inmate is ordered to sing Christmas carols, when a voice calls out "Sing something from Madame Butterfly!" Hauntingly, the singer chooses "Un bel di" — the ultimate expression of longing and hope. So begins the long-hidden, extraordinary love story of two prisoners from the Resistance: Nelly and Nadine.

For many years their love story was kept a secret, even to some of their closest family. Now, Nelly's grandchild, Sylvie, has decided to open Nelly and Nadine's unseen personal archives of letters, photos, and Super 8 films that she hasn't dared look at for 20 years, and uncover a remarkable love story between two cultured women who found each other — and stayed together — against all odds.

French, Spanish & Swedish with English subtitles



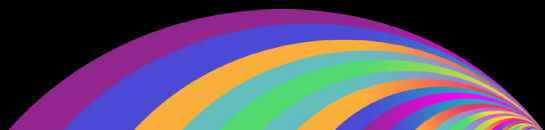
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FESTIVAL SCHEDULE



DATE · TIME	FILM	VENUE	PG
THU 20 APR · 6PM FOR 7PM	THE SURVIVAL OF KINDNESS · OPENING NIGHT	CHEC	12
FRI 21 APR · 11.30AM	CROWS ARE WHITE	CHEC	30
FRI 21 APR · 1.30PM	ALCARRÀS	CHEC	34
FRI 21 APR · 2PM	BECAUSE WE HAVE EACH OTHER	BMH	20
FRI 21 APR · 4PM	THE PASSENGERS OF THE NIGHT	CHEC	40
FRI 21 APR · 4PM	YOU CAN GO NOW	BMH	22
FRI 21 APR · 6PM	THE SURVIVAL OF KINDNESS	BMH	22, 24
FRI 21 APR · 6.30PM	AFTERSUN	CHEC	34
FRI 21 APR · 8.30PM	TRIANGLE OF SADNESS	CHEC	42
FRI 21 APR · 8.30PM	SISSY	BMH	47
SAT 22 APR · 10AM	WHO'S WHO ON THE CREW	CHEC	58
SAT 22 APR · 10.30AM	NOTHING COMPARES	CHEC	26
SAT 22 APR · 10.30AM	MY OLD SCHOOL	BMH	30
SAT 22 APR · 12.30PM	MARCEL THE SHELL WITH SHOES ON	CHEC	38, 51
SAT 22 APR · 1PM	AGE OF RAGE: THE AUSTRALIAN PUNK REVOLUTION	BMH	26
SAT 22 APR · 2PM FOR 3PM	NEXTWAVE YOUTH FILM AWARDS	CHEC	16, 52-55
SAT 22 APR · 3PM	THE EIGHT MOUNTAINS	BMH	36
SAT 22 APR · 6PM	INDUSTRY CONNECT	CHEC	58
SAT 22 APR · 6PM	THE ROAD TO PATAGONIA	BMH	22, 50
SAT 22 APR · 6.15PM	TO LESLIE	CHEC	42
SAT 22 APR · 8.30PM	PLEASE BABY PLEASE	CHEC	47
SAT 22 APR · 8.30PM	CRIMES OF THE FUTURE	BMH	44
SUN 23 APR · 10AM	SCREENWRITING WORKSHOP	CHEC	58
SUN 23 APR · 10AM, 11.30AM, 2PM, 3.30PM	ALON ILSAR'S TRAVELLING AIRSTICKS LABORATORY	CHEC	14, 51
SUN 23 APR · 10.15AM	CINEMA PARADISO	BMH	48, 51
SUN 23 APR · 10.30AM	FIRE OF LOVE	CHEC	30
SUN 23 APR · 12.45PM	THE ENDLESS SUMMER	CHEC	50
SUN 23 APR · 1PM	MOONAGE DAYDREAM	BMH	26
SUN 23 APR · 2PM	RÓISE & FRANK	JMT	40
SUN 23 APR · 3PM	ALL THE BEAUTY AND THE BLOODSHED	CHEC	28
SUN 23 APR · 4PM	EO	JMT	37
SUN 23 APR · 4PM	CLOSE	BMH	36
SUN 23 APR · 5.30PM	THE FABELMANS	CHEC	37, 48
SUN 23 APR · 6PM	THE SON	JMT	42
SUN 23 APR · 6.30PM	NEPTUNE FROST + RETURN CHUTE	BMH	39
SUN 23 APR · 8.30PM	JOYLAND	CHEC	38

DATE · TIME	FILM	VENUE	PG
SUN 23 APR · 8.30PM	FUNNY PAGES	JMT	37
SUN 23 APR · 9PM	BAD BOY BUBBY	BMH	24
MON 24 APR · 11AM	NELLY & NADINE	JMT	30
MON 24 APR · 1PM	MASQUERADE	JMT	38
MON 24 APR · 4PM	A HOUSE MADE OF SPLINTERS	JMT	28
MON 24 APR · 6PM	CORSAGE	JMT	36
MON 24 APR · 6.30PM	TRIVIA AT ELEMENT BAR	ELEMENT	18
MON 24 APR · 8.15PM	THE EXORCIST	JMT	18
TUE 25 APR · 1PM	THE TRACKER	JMT	24
TUE 25 APR · 1.30PM	MY OLD SCHOOL	CHEC	30
TUE 25 APR · 3.30PM	ONE FINE MORNING	JMT	40
TUE 25 APR · 4PM	YOU CAN GO NOW	CHEC	22
TUE 25 APR · 6PM	CORNERS OF THE EARTH: KAMCHATKA	CHEC	50
TUE 25 APR · 6PM	BROKER	JMT	36
TUE 25 APR · 8.15PM	FILM ANNOUNCED SOON - SWIFF.COM.AU	CHEC	
TUE 25 APR · 8.30PM	I LOVE MY DAD	JMT	38
WED 26 APR · 11AM	MORE THAN EVER	JMT	39
WED 26 APR · 1.30PM	LYNCH/OZ	JMT	49
WED 26 APR · 4PM	EO	JMT	37
WED 26 APR · 4.30PM	BIRTH OF THE ENDLESS SUMMER	CHEC	50
WED 26 APR · 6.15PM	SWIFF LIVE: SAFETY LAST!	JMT	14, 51
WED 26 APR · 6.30PM	FUNNY PAGES	CHEC	37
WED 26 APR · 8.30PM	THE FLY	CHEC	44
WED 26 APR · 8.30PM	LA PIETÀ	JMT	46
THU 27 APR · 12.30PM	GENTLE	JMT	37
THU 27 APR · 1.30PM	GEOGRAPHIES OF SOLITUDE	CHEC	30
THU 27 APR · 2.30PM	SHADOW	JMT	22
THU 27 APR · 4PM	BECOMING GIULIA	JMT	28
THU 27 APR · 4.15PM	RETURN TO SEOUL	CHEC	40
THU 27 APR · 6.15PM	CLOSE	JMT	36
THU 27 APR · 6.45PM	AFTERSUN	CHEC	34
THU 27 APR · 8.30PM	YOU WON'T BE ALONE	JMT	42, 47
THU 27 APR · 8.45PM	LUX AETERNA + THE SPIRAL	CHEC	46
FRI 28 APR · 12PM	ONLY IN THEATERS	JMT	49
FRI 28 APR · 1.30PM	THE BLUE CAFTAN	BMH	34
FRI 28 APR · 2PM	A HOUSE MADE OF SPLINTERS	JMT	28
FRI 28 APR · 2.30PM	SIRENS	CHEC	27
FRI 28 APR · 4PM	CORSAGE	JMT	36
FRI 28 APR · 4PM	CLOSE	BMH	36



DATE · TIME	FILM	VENUE	PG
FRI 28 APR · 4.15PM	SAINT OMER	CHEC	40
FRI 28 APR · 6PM	OF AN AGE	JMT	22
FRI 28 APR · 6.30PM	PLEASE BABY PLEASE	BMH	47
FRI 28 APR · 6.30PM	TRIVIA AT DIGGERS	DIGGERS	18
FRI 28 APR · 6.45PM	THE ROAD TO PATAGONIA	CHEC	22, 50
FRI 28 APR · 8.30PM	TRIANGLE OF SADNESS	JMT	42
FRI 28 APR · 8.30PM	THE BIG LEBOWSKI	BMH	18
FRI 28 APR · 9PM	I LOVE MY DAD	CHEC	38
SAT 29 APR · 10.30AM	FIRE OF LOVE	CHEC	30
SAT 29 APR · 10.30AM	ALL THE BEAUTY AND THE BLOODSHED	BMH	28
SAT 29 APR · 11AM	ONE FINE MORNING	JMT	40
SAT 29 APR · 12.45PM	CORNERS OF THE EARTH: KAMCHATKA	CHEC	50
SAT 29 APR · 1PM	KEEP STEPPING	BMH	20
SAT 29 APR · 1.30PM	THIS MUCH I KNOW TO BE TRUE	JMT	27
SAT 29 APR · 3PM	THE EIGHT MOUNTAINS	CHEC	36
SAT 29 APR · 3.30PM	WATANDAR, MY COUNTRYMAN	BMH	22
SAT 29 APR · 4PM	THE GIANTS	JMT	20
SAT 29 APR · 6PM	TRIANGLE OF SADNESS	BMH	42
SAT 29 APR · 6.15PM	THE SURVIVAL OF KINDNESS	CHEC	22, 24
SAT 29 APR · 6.45PM	BROKER	JMT	36
SAT 29 APR · 8.30PM	OF AN AGE	CHEC	22
SAT 29 APR · 9PM	CRIMES OF THE FUTURE	JMT	44
SAT 29 APR · 9PM	FINAL CUT	BMH	48
SUN 30 APR · 11AM	MOONAGE DAYDREAM	CHEC	26
SUN 30 APR · 11AM	CHILDREN OF THE MIST	JMT	28
SUN 30 APR · 11AM	GEOGRAPHIES OF SOLITUDE	BMH	30
SUN 30 APR · 1PM	NINGLA-A-NA	JMT	20
SUN 30 APR · 1.15PM	EO	BMH	37
SUN 30 APR · 1.45PM	MARCEL THE SHELL WITH SHOES ON	CHEC	38, 51
SUN 30 APR · 3.15PM	THE GIANTS	BMH	20
SUN 30 APR · 3.30PM	WATANDAR, MY COUNTRYMAN	JMT	22
SUN 30 APR · 3.45PM	KEEP STEPPING	CHEC	20
SUN 30 APR · 6PM	FILM ANNOUNCED SOON - SWIFF.COM.AU	JMT	
SUN 30 APR · 6PM	JOYLAND	BMH	38
SUN 30 APR · 6.15PM	CORSAGE	CHEC	36
SUN 30 APR · 8.30PM	NEPTUNE FROST	CHEC	39
SUN 30 APR · 8.30PM	LUX AETERNA + THE SPIRAL	JMT	46
SUN 30 APR · 8.30PM	FILM ANNOUNCED SOON - SWIFF.COM.AU	BMH	
MON 1 MAY · 11AM	GENTLE	JMT	37

DATE · TIME	FILM	VENUE	PG
MON 1 MAY · 1PM	DINGO	JMT	24
MON 1 MAY · 3.30PM	THE PASSENGERS OF THE NIGHT	JMT	40
MON 1 MAY · 6PM	TO LESLIE	JMT	42
MON 1 MAY · 8.30PM	SISSY	JMT	47
TUE 2 MAY · 10.30AM	ENNIO: THE MAESTRO	JMT	26
TUE 2 MAY · 1.30PM	MORE THAN EVER	JMT	39
TUE 2 MAY · 4PM	RÔISE & FRANK	JMT	40
TUE 2 MAY · 6.15PM	FILM ANNOUNCED SOON - SWIFF.COM.AU	JMT	14
TUE 2 MAY · 8.30PM	VIDEODROME	JMT	44
WED 3 MAY · 11AM	GREENHOUSE BY JOOST	CHEC	20
WED 3 MAY · 11AM	BECOMING GIULIA	JMT	28
WED 3 MAY · 1.30PM	NELLY & NADINE	JMT	30
WED 3 MAY · 2PM	ONLY IN THEATERS	CHEC	49
WED 3 MAY · 3.30PM	RETURN TO SEOUL	JMT	40
WED 3 MAY · 4.15PM	BECAUSE WE HAVE EACH OTHER	CHEC	20
WED 3 MAY · 6PM	THE EIGHT MOUNTAINS	JMT	36
WED 3 MAY · 6.30PM	FILM ANNOUNCED SOON - SWIFF.COM.AU	CHEC	
WED 3 MAY · 8.45PM	GIVE ME PITY!	CHEC	46
WED 3 MAY · 9PM	YOU WON'T BE ALONE	JMT	42, 47
THU 4 MAY · 11AM	SAINT OMER	JMT	40
THU 4 MAY · 1.30PM	CHILDREN OF THE MIST	JMT	28
THU 4 MAY · 2.30PM	SHADOW	CHEC	22
THU 4 MAY · 3.30PM	THE BLUE CAFTAN	JMT	34
THU 4 MAY · 4.15PM	ALCARRÀS	CHEC	34
THU 4 MAY · 6PM	THE SON	JMT	42
THU 4 MAY · 6.45PM	AFTERSUN	CHEC	34
THU 4 MAY · 8.30PM	LA PIETÀ	JMT	46
THU 4 MAY · 8.45PM	FUNNY PAGES	CHEC	37
FRI 5 MAY · 6PM FOR 7PM	CLOSING NIGHT GALA	CHEC	12

FESTIVAL SCHEDULE KEY

JMT = JETTY MEMORIAL THEATRE

CHEC = COFFS HARBOUR EDUCATION CAMPUS THEATRE

BMH = BELLINGEN MEMORIAL HALL

CHEC GATHERING SPACE

CHEC = COFFS HARBOUR EDUCATION CAMPUS O BLOCK THEATRE

CHEC = COFFS HARBOUR EDUCATION CAMPUS WORKSHOP SPACE

ELEMENT = ELEMENT BAR

DIGGERS = DIGGERS TAVERN

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AFTERSUN

FRI 21 APR · 6.30PM · CHEC
 THU 27 APR · 6.45PM · CHEC
 THU 4 MAY · 6.45PM · CHEC 

CHARLOTTE WELLS · 98 MINS · M · UK

WINNER · JURY PRIZE · CANNES

Scottish director Charlotte Wells makes her spellbinding feature debut with this deeply affecting familial drama of a father-daughter bond.

Taking place over the course of a brooding weekend at a fading coastal resort in Turkey, 11-year-old Sophie (newcomer Francesca Corio) and her idealistic father, Calum (Oscar nominee, Paul Mescal), share a close and loving bond that creates an entire world unto itself. As the world of adolescence creeps into Sophie's view, beyond her eye Calum struggles under the weight of life outside of fatherhood. Twenty years later, Sophie's tender recollections of their last holiday become a powerful and heartrending portrait of their relationship, as she tries to reconcile the father she knew with the man she didn't.

"Aftersun...is the type of movie from which you don't walk away the same person." - The Wrap

 THU 4 MAY screens with Open Captions



ALCARRÀS

FRI 21 APR · 1.30PM · CHEC
 THU 4 MAY · 4.15PM · CHEC

CARLA SIMÓN · 120 MINS · M · ITA, ESP

WINNER · BEST FILM · BERLINALE

For as long as they can remember, the Solé family have spent every summer picking the peaches from their orchard in Alcarràs, a small village in Spain. But this year's crop will be their last, as they soon discover, the landowners of the orchards they farm plan to replace peach trees with solar panels.

As the children and the adults get together for the harvest, the family finds themselves at odds as to how they should go on, and risk losing more than their home.

Writer/director Carla Simón's film is a personal and beautifully observed ensemble drama, inspired by her own family story, balancing a bristling political conscience against its tenderly observed domestic drama.

Catalan with English subtitles



THE BLUE CAFTAN

FRI 28 APR · 1.30PM · BMH
 THU 4 MAY · 3.30PM · JMT

MARYAM TOUZANI · 122 MINS · M · MAR

WINNER · FIPRESCI PRIZE · CANNES


A delicate, human three-hander, Maryam Touzani (*Adam*) tenderly explores a complex marriage in one of Morocco's oldest medinas, weaving an elegant tale about the convergence of tradition, culture, and love.

Mina and Halim run a bespoke caftan business, built on a lifetime together. But to keep up with modern demands, they must hire new help. The talented young apprentice, Youssef, is dedicated to learning embroidery, and while the three become friends, Halim and Youssef grow closer.

Featuring impeccable performances, *The Blue Caftan* is a profound and nuanced portrait of a marriage built on a love and understanding that transcends sexuality and societal expectations.

"A film that oozes love from almost every frame." - IndieWire

Arabic with English subtitles



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BROKER

TUE 25 APR · 6PM · JMT
SAT 29 APR · 6.45PM · JMT

KORE-EDA HIROKAZU · 129 MINS · M · KOR

WINNER · BEST ACTOR · CANNES

Sometimes we do get to choose our family.

Five years after winning the Palme d'Or for *Shoplifters* (SWIFF'19), Academy Award nominee Hirokazu Kore-eda returns with his cherished themes of forsaken childhood, adoption, and broken families, starring Cannes Best Actor winner Song Kang Ho (*Parasite*).

Sang-hyeon runs a humble laundry business but also a more lucrative sideline: he and business partner Dong-soo find adoptive parents for abandoned babies, for a fee. When mother So-young returns to the church where she left her son, she discovers that he's been swiped by the pair and joins them to help screen for his new parents.

Tempering its caper-like story with all of his trademark warmth, humanity and humour, *Broker* is a testament to Kore-eda being one of the era's most beloved auteurs.

"Achingly empathetic...miraculous in its sensitivity" - IndieWire

Korean with English subtitles



CORSAGE

MON 24 APR · 6PM · JMT
FRI 28 APR · 4PM · JMT
SUN 30 APR · 6.15PM · CHEC

MARIE KREUTZER · 113 MINS · M · AUT, FRA, DEU

WINNER · BEST FILM · LONDON FILM FESTIVAL

Sisi the Empress gets an irreverent make-over in Austrian director Marie Kreutzer's exhilarating period drama.

In a perceptive, mesmerizing performance, Vicky Krieps (also in *More Than Ever*, SWIFF'23), quietly dominates the screen as Empress Elizabeth of Austria, who begins to see her life of royal privilege as a prison as she reaches her 40th birthday.

Suffocating in the stuffy Hapsburg court, she finds herself carrying out desperate acts of rebellion.

Reminiscent of *The Favourite* and *Marie Antoinette*, *Corsage* is a remarkable vision of a strong-willed political figure whose emergence from a veiled, corseted existence stands for a Europe on the cusp of major, irrevocable transformation.

German, French, Hungarian & Italian with English subtitles



CLOSE

SUN 23 APR · 4PM · BMH
THU 27 APR · 6.15PM · JMT
FRI 28 APR · 4PM · BMH

LUKAS DHONT · 105 MINS · M · BEL

WINNER · GRAND PRIX · CANNES

WINNER · SYDNEY FILM PRIZE · SFF

Thirteen-year-olds Léo and Rémi spend the long summer holidays in innocent intimacy, making forts in Léo's family dahlia farm and dreaming of the future.

Come the new school year, their friendship is the subject of comments and questions which neither quite know the answer to, or how to fit in. Suddenly, a rift develops.

Lukas Dhont's sophomore feature after *Girl* (SWIFF'19), is an emotionally transformative and unforgettable portrait of the intersection of friendship and love, identity and independence, and heartbreak and healing. Featuring exceptional performances from two newcomers (Eden Dambrine & Gustav de Waele), *Close* is a soul-stirring masterpiece of poignant naturalism and sympathy.

French & Dutch with English subtitles



THE EIGHT MOUNTAINS

SAT 22 APR · 3PM · BMH
SAT 29 APR · 3PM · CHEC
WED 3 MAY · 6PM · JMT

CHARLOTTE VANDERMEERSCH, FELIX VAN GROENINGEN · 147 MINS · 15+ · BEL, FRA, ITA

WINNER · JURY PRIZE · CANNES

Set in northwest Italy's spectacular Aosta Valley region and adapted from Paolo Cognetti's novel with transfixing beauty, *The Eight Mountains* explores the extraordinary lifelong friendship between two men, Bruno (Alessandro Borghi) and Pietro (Luca Marinelli), who, once divided as children, now find themselves reconnected as they embark on building a mountain cabin – reforesting and restoring an irreplaceable bond.

An epic story expressed through intimate gestures and set amidst the spectacular panoramas of the Alps and Nepal, *The Eight Mountains* is a heartfelt reflection on our connection to nature and the strength and fragility that coexist within us.

"Rich, beautiful and inexpressibly sad ... A movie with air in its lungs and love in its heart. Five stars." – The Guardian

Italian with English subtitles



EO

SUN 23 APR · 4PM · JMT
WED 26 APR · 4PM · JMT
SUN 30 APR · 1.15PM · BMH

JERZY SKOLIMOWSKI · 87 MINS · 15+ · POL, UK, FRA, ITA

WINNER · JURY PRIZE · CANNES

Polish master Jerzy Skolimowski dares us to confront the way we perceive the world by presenting a different vision: one through the eyes of a gentle grey donkey named EO.

Unconventional and empathetic, we follow EO on a modern-day fable across Poland as he experiences outrageous twists of fortune through a series of vignettes: a brief stint as a circus performer, a football mascot, and bystander of a bourgeois melodrama involving Isabelle Huppert.

A stoic passenger throughout a mysterious and uncontrollable world, and shot with an ethereal, sweeping majesty, *EO* serves to remind us that our greatest gift in this life is humility and compassion.

"No movie I've seen this year has moved me as deeply, made me feel as optimistic about cinema or engaged me with such intellectual vigor" – The New York Times

Polish, French & Italian with English subtitles



FUNNY PAGES

SUN 23 APR · 8.30PM · JMT
WED 26 APR · 6.30PM · CHEC
THU 4 MAY · 8.45PM · CHEC

OWEN KLINE · 86 MINS · 18+ · USA

A hilarious, black comedy about a teenage cartoonist, who rejects the comforts of his suburban life in a misguided quest for soul.

Robert (Daniel Zolghadri) is missing the lived experience that gives his cartoonist idols, like Robert Crumb, their edge. Trading in his parent's middle-class home for a dingy basement apartment, Robert meets a bizarre veteran cartoon colourist, Wallace (Matthew Maher), and has to decide whether the cost of getting an edge to his art is worth the payoff.

Produced by the Safdie Brothers (*Good Time*, *Uncut Gems*), *Funny Pages* is an acidly hilarious and refreshingly absurd, unlikely-buddy movie.

"The young director Owen Kline packs worlds of cringe into Funny Pages ... it's all here in this terrific, tonally flawless feature debut." – The New York Times



THE FABELMANS

SUN 23 APR · 5.30PM · CHEC

STEVEN SPIELBERG · 151 MINS · M · USA

WINNER · FILM OF THE YEAR · AFI

WINNER · BEST PICTURE, BEST DIRECTOR · GOLDEN GLOBES

Movies are dreams that you never forget.

Cinematic master Steven Spielberg delivers his most personal film in his 7-time Oscar nominated *The Fabelmans*—a deeply affecting drama in Spielberg's signature romantic style, reflecting on family, filmmaking, and love mirrored in his own adolescent life.

It's post-WWII America. Sammy (newcomer Gabriel Labelle), the oldest child of untameable concert pianist Mitzi (Michelle Williams) and genius scientist Burt (Paul Dano), aspires to become a filmmaker. The family, joined by Burt's best friend, Bennie (Seth Rogen), celebrate all the formative moments of Sammy's teen years together as Sammy discovers his unquenchable passion for making and screening moving pictures – and in the process, discovering a shattering family secret.

"Left me with a floating feeling of happiness." – The Guardian



GENTLE

THU 27 APR · 12.30PM · JMT
MON 1 MAY · 11AM · JMT

ANNA NEMES, LÁSZLÓ CSUJA · 93 MINS · 18+ · HUN, DEU

A heartsore story of a hardbody that flexes all the right muscles.

Day and night, Edina and her partner/trainer Adam obsessively plan for her success: with an exhaustive training schedule, restrictive dieting, and steroid shots that push her body and mind to the brink. When Edina secretly joins a niche escort service where men can play out their fantasies of being with a strong muscular woman, she begins to find a sense of freedom and playfulness in her work - something she cannot afford to do in her real life.

Starring real-life Hungarian bodybuilder Eszter Csonka, *Gentle* is an unexpectedly tender drama contrasting the harsh realities and brutal dedication it takes to excel in this distinctive world.

Hungarian with English subtitles



I LOVE MY DAD

TUE 25 APR · 8.30PM · JMT
FRI 28 APR · 9PM · CHEC

JAMES MOROSINI · 96MINS · M · USA

WINNER · GRAND JURY, AUDIENCE AWARD · SXSW

A hilarious, cringe-inducing cautionary tale for the modern age, *I Love My Dad* follows Chuck, a dad who takes reconnecting with his son to magnificently desperate and awkward lows.

Frank (played by director James Morosini), fresh out of a mental health facility, decides it's best for him to block his estranged dad on socials. Chuck (a charmingly foolish Patton Oswalt), in a half-baked plan to re-establish a bond with his son, creates a fake online persona named "Becca" that works a little too well, inadvertently becoming Frank's internet girlfriend.

Based on director James Morosini's own story with his own father, *I Love My Dad* is an equal parts cringe with tears-in-your-eyes comedy.



JOYLAND

SUN 23 APR · 8.30PM · CHEC
SUN 30 APR · 6PM · BMH

SAIM SADIQ · 126 MINS · 15+ · PAK

WINNER · QUEER PALM · CANNES

A stay-at-home husband secretly takes on a job as a backup dancer in an erotic theatre in Lahore, Pakistan, in this fearless Cannes Film Festival favourite.

Spirited daydreamer Haider happily bucks the status quo as a stay-at-home carer for his father and nieces, while his wife works as a make-up artist.

But as generational pressure from the family patriarch mounts, Haider secretly seeks out a job as a background dancer in an erotic theatre. Increasingly drawn to the star of the show, the ambitious and glamorous trans starlet Biba, the ripples from their impossible romance slowly illuminates a desire for rebellion and freedom.

"Tartly funny and plungingly sad in equal measure, this is nuanced, humane queer filmmaking." - Variety

Urdu & Punjabi with English subtitles



MARCEL THE SHELL WITH SHOES ON

SAT 22 APR · 12.30PM · CHEC
SUN 30 APR · 1.45PM · CHEC

DEAN FLEISCHER-CAMP · 90 MINS · PG · USA

WINNER · GRAND JURY, AUDIENCE AWARD · SXSW

A beloved character gets his big-screen debut in this hilarious and heartwarming story about finding connection in the smallest corners.

Marcel (Jenny Slate) is an adorable one-inch-tall shell who ekes out a colourful existence with his grandmother Connie (Isabella Rossellini) and their pet lint, Alan. Once part of a sprawling community of shells, they now live alone as the sole survivors of a mysterious tragedy. But when a documentary filmmaker discovers them amongst the clutter of his Airbnb, the short film he posts online brings Marcel millions of passionate fans, as well as unprecedented dangers and a new hope at finding his long-lost family.

"Hilarious and extremely sweet... a feel-good movie that's not like anything you've seen before" - Vox



MASQUERADE

MON 24 APR · 1PM · JMT

NICOLAS BEDOS · 142MINS · MA15+ · FRA

"The French Riviera is a sunny place for shady people"

Ex-dancer Adrien (Pierre Niney) now squanders his young adulthood in idleness, living off the opulence of former movie star Martha (a divine Isabelle Adjani). His bored life is transformed when he meets the captivating Margot (Marine Vach) who would rather spend her youth pulling off scams and amorous deceit. Together, they concoct a diabolical scheme.

Generating a lot of buzz at Cannes, and featuring a terrific support cast, including François Cluzet and Emmanuelle Devos, director Nicolas Bedos (*La Belle Époque*), expertly delivers a romantic caper of lies, manipulation, and French sunshine.

"...a Hollywood-like extravaganza that Hollywood would unlikely be able to make, Mascarade... serves up a succulent spread" - Cineuropa

French with English subtitles



MORE THAN EVER

WED 26 APR · 11AM · JMT
TUE 2 MAY · 1.30PM · JMT

EMILY ATEF · 122 MINS · 15+ · FRA, DEU, LUX, NOR

Hélène (Vicky Krieps), also starring in *Corsage* (SWIFF23), and Mathieu (Gaspard Ulliel, in his final screen performance), have been happily sharing their lives together for many years. When faced with a life-threatening illness, Hélène travels alone to Norway to seek peace, an act that will test the strength of their love and shape their future forever.

Picking up an Un Certain Regard Award nomination at Cannes, Emily Atef’s masterful, subtle direction paired with Krieps and Ulliel’s palpable chemistry, presents a moving and intimate depiction of a couple’s relationship, and of a woman looking for peace and control over her life.

“*Vicky Krieps and Gaspard Ulliel are superb in this sensitive romantic drama*” – Screendaily

French, English & Norwegian with English subtitles



NEPTUNE FROST

SUN 23 APR · 6.30PM · BMH
SUN 30 APR · 8.30PM · CHEC

ANISIA UZEYMAN, SAUL WILLIAMS · 105 MINS · M · RWA, USA, FRA, CAN

WINNER · BRIGHT HORIZONS AWARD · MIFF

Ambitious and experimental, sci-fi musical *Neptune Frost* is a radical, afro-futurist vision of anti-colonialism from slam poet and musician Saul Williams.

A hacktivist group working from the hills of Burundi are attempting to take down the oppressive authoritarian regime exploiting the region’s people and resources. When an escaped coltan miner and intersex outcast join forces, their transcendent connection could be the missing link needed to take down the Authority once and for all.

Set between states of being, male and female, waking and sleeping, memory and prescience, *Neptune Frost* is a deeply cerebral, punk gut-punch to the binary that redefines what it means to tell a story.

English, French, Kinyarwanda, Kirundi & Swahili with English subtitles

Screens with short film, *Return Chute: Survival of a small town’s video store* SUN 23 APR (page 49).

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ONE FINE MORNING

TUE 25 APR · 3.30PM · JMT
SAT 29 APR · 11AM · JMT

MIA HANSEN-LØVE · 110 MINS · MA15+ · FRA, DEU

WINNER · BEST EUROPEAN FILM · CANNES

The luminous Léa Seydoux, also in *Crimes of the Future* (SWIFF'23), stars in this deeply personal new drama from festival favourite, writer/director Mia Hansen-Løve (*Bergman Island*, SWIFF'22).

Hansen-Løve returns to Parisian home-turf with a nuanced, bittersweet tale of Sandra (Léa Seydoux), a widowed single mother and translator, whose life revolves around nurturing her young daughter and caring for her ailing father – until a chance encounter with an old friend reintroduces love and all its complications into her life.

“Shot in gorgeous natural light...[Hansen-Løve] delivers her finest in years by doing what she's always done best: a humanistic story of when to love and when to let go.”
—The Film Stage

French with English subtitles



THE PASSENGERS OF THE NIGHT

FRI 21 APR · 4PM · CHEC
MON 1 MAY · 3.30PM · JMT

MIKHÄEL HERS · 111 MINS · 18+ · FRA

Charlotte Gainsbourg (also in *Lux Aeterna*, SWIFF'23), shines in this warmly optimistic portrait of a 1980's Parisian family, pulling through together in troubled times.

On election night in 1981, there is an air of hope and change throughout Paris. But for Elisabeth, her marriage is coming to an end, and she will now have to support her family alone. Finding work as a late-night radio host, she meets Talulah, a charismatic young woman who is struggling, and invites her home. Here, Talulah experiences the warmth of family, and Elisabeth's family are inspired by her free spirit.

A heart warming drama, filled with small acts of kindness, vinyl LPs, political optimism, talkback radio, eighties atmosphere, and a family and mother repairing over time.

French with English subtitles



RETURN TO SEOUL

THU 27 APR · 4.15PM · CHEC
WED 3 MAY · 3.30PM · JMT

DAVY CHOU · 119 MINS · M · FRA, DEU, KOR

The pulsing megacity of Seoul attracts the young and glamorous from around the globe to its infamous nightclubs and bar scene – including French national, Freddie (Park Ji-min). But the nightlife isn't the only thing pulling Freddie back to Seoul.

Born to Korean parents and adopted out at birth, Freddie spontaneously finds herself tracking the South Korean birth parents she has never met while on vacation in Seoul, seeking to discover her past, without letting it claim her future.

Cambodian-French filmmaker Davy Chou spins an unpredictable, careering narrative taking place over eight years, staying close on the roving heels of its impetuous protagonist, who moves to her own turbulent rhythms (as does the galvanizing Park, a singular new screen presence).

“A restless, graceful drama about identity formed rather than found” — Variety

Korean & French with English subtitles



RÓISE & FRANK

SUN 23 APR · 2PM · JMT
TUE 2 MAY · 4PM · JMT

RACHAEL MORIARTY, PETER MURPHY · 84 MINS · 15+ · IRL

This delightful Irish-language comedy follows a grieving widow, and the mysterious shaggy dog determined to connect with her.

Róise (a heartfelt and authentic performance from Bríd Ní Neachtain - *The Banshees of Inisherin*) lost the love of her life Frank two years ago and struggles to get out of bed; her son can only watch her descent into melancholy. That is until a charming pooch appears on the scene, who seems to know Frank's old routines—he even has a knack for hurling, Frank's favourite sport. The appearance of the pup in Róise's life heralds significant change, but is it for the better?

Utterly charming, *Róise & Frank* treks the delicate and personal journey of grief to healing, which is proven easier with a four-legged friend in-tow.

Gaelige with English subtitles



SAINT OMER

FRI 28 APR · 4.15PM · CHEC
THU 4 MAY · 11AM · JMT

ALICE DIOP · 123 MINS · M · FRA

WINNER · GRAND JURY PRIZE · VENICE

One of the most buzzed-about films of the 2023 awards season, and the narrative debut of acclaimed documentarian Alice Diop (*Nous*).

Saint-Omer court of law. Young novelist Rama attends the trial of Laurence Coly, a young woman accused of killing her 15-month-old daughter by abandoning her to the rising tide on a beach in northern France. But as the trial continues, the words of the accused and witness testimonies will shake Rama's convictions and call into question our own judgement.

“Extraordinary. An unblinking stunner. Saint Omer extends the clear-eyed gaze and burning social interest of Diop's non-fiction work into new narrative terrain, with nary a tremor of uncertainty” — The Guardian

French with English subtitles



COFFS COAST

Photo credit: Chris Hewgill

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THE SON

SUN 23 APR · 6PM · JMT
THU 4 MAY · 6PM · JMT

FLORIAN ZELLER · 123 MINS · M · UK

Hugh Jackman, Laura Dern, Vanessa Kirby, and Anthony Hopkins star in Florian Zeller's dramatic follow-up to *The Father*, scoring a nomination for Venice Film Festival's coveted Golden Lion Award.

Peter (Hugh Jackman) is a New York lawyer, just having had a baby with his second wife Beth (Vanessa Kirby) and is happy in his domestic bliss. When ex-wife Kate (Laura Dern) and their son Nicholas (Australian newcomer Zen MacGrath) turn up on his doorstep, with Nicholas suffering a mental health crisis, the families are plunged into a world of troubled legacies, wrapped in the often complicated relationships between fathers and sons.

"The Son is a beautifully composed and literate drama with impeccable performances..."
– The Guardian



TO LESLIE

SAT 22 APR · 6.15PM · CHEC
MON 1 MAY · 6PM · JMT

MICHAEL MORRIS · 119 MINS · M · USA

Andrea Riseborough (see *Please Baby Please*, SWIFF'23) offers up a masterclass in performance, attracting a Best Actress Oscar nomination, as a down-and-out Texan lottery winner.

Leslie (Riseborough), a single mother struggling to provide for her son, has won the literal lottery. But within a few short years of living hard and fast, the money is gone and Leslie is back on her own.

Living at the bottom of a bottle and running from heartbreak, Leslie tries to rebuild her life for a second chance connection with her son.

Featuring a superb cast and a stomping country and western soundtrack, *To Leslie* is a miniature masterpiece of raw emotion and unflinching vulnerability.

"Riseborough's performance is nothing short of spectacular." -Variety



TRIANGLE OF SADNESS

FRI 21 APR · 8.30PM · CHEC
FRI 28 APR · 8.30PM · JMT
SAT 29 APR · 6PM · BMH

RUBEN ÖSTLUND · 149 MINS · M · SWE

WINNER · PALME D'OR · CANNES

Scoring Ruben Östlund (*The Square* – SWIFF'18), his second Palme d'Or plus an eight-minute standing ovation – and walkouts – at Cannes, *Triangle of Sadness* is a wickedly wild and outrageous satire of the vulgarly rich and beautiful.

Male model Carl (Harris Dickinson) and professional influencer Yaya (Charlbi Dean) are comp'd tickets aboard a \$250 million private cruising yacht, helmed by an alcoholic captain (Woody Harrelson), ferrying the obscenely wealthy from port to port, lacquered with elite class service – where the word 'no' is not in "the help's" vocabulary.

But money can't buy you everything. When a storm hits, it is every man, woman, and billionaire for themselves, as stewards' priorities switch from service to survival.



YOU WON'T BE ALONE



THU 27 APR · 8.30PM · JMT
WED 3 MAY · 9PM · JMT

GORAN STOLEVSKI · 109 MINS · MA15+ · AUS, SRB, UK

WINNER · JURY AWARD · SITGES

Noomi Rapace (*Angel of Mine*, SWIFF'20, *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*) stars in Australian-Macedonian director Goran Stolevski's (*Of An Age*, SWIFF'23) ravishing, gothic, mythological folk fable.

After escaping from her overprotective mother's clutches, 16-year-old Nevena encounters the Wolf-Eateress, the witch that terrorises her 19th-century Macedonian village, and discovers a mysterious shared power between them. Upon this revelation, Nevena must learn to navigate a world that is hostile to those it does not understand.

Spanning multiple lifetimes experienced through the eyes of a supernatural being, yet constantly framed in the lush green beauty of rural Macedonia, *You Won't Be Alone* is an utterly enthralling and uncompromising work that questions identity, femininity, and what it means to belong.

Macedonian with English subtitles

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A black and white photograph of a woman with her hand on her chin, wearing round sunglasses that reflect a bright, sunny landscape. She is looking out of a car window, with the car's interior visible in the foreground.

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DAVID CRONENBERG: THESE VIOLENT DELIGHTS

Deep within the fleshy tissue of creative filmmaking there is one director who has a signature like no other. David Cronenberg, the godfather of the "body horror" genre, subverts the human form, creating eye-popping cinematic visuals and transformative stories. Don't be afraid.



CRIMES OF THE FUTURE

SAT 22 APR · 8.30PM · BMH
SAT 29 APR · 9PM · JMT

DAVID CRONENBERG · 107 MINS · MA15+ · CAN, FRA, GRC, UK

NOMINEE · PALME D'OR · CANNES

"Surgery is the new sex"

Body horror master David Cronenberg (see *The Fly*, *Videodrome* at SWIFF'23), returns with his first film in eight years, a seductive and haunting vision of the future where the lines between technology and humanity have been blurred and humans have moved beyond their natural state.

As the human species adapts to a synthetic environment, the body undergoes new transformations and mutations. With his partner Caprice (Léa Seydoux), Saul Tenser (Viggo Mortensen) - a celebrity artist - publicly showcases the metamorphosis of his organs in avant-garde performances. Timlin (Kristen Stewart), an investigator from the National Organ Registry, obsessively tracks their movements, while an anarchic cult is embracing change in a shadowy underworld. Long live the new flesh!



THE FLY

WED 26 APR · 8.30PM · CHEC

DAVID CRONENBERG · 96 MINS · R18+ · USA

Be afraid. Be very afraid.

Brilliant molecular physicist Seth Brundle (Jeff Goldblum) has unlocked the secret of teleportation, using Telepods to break his body down at a molecular level, then rebuilding it in a sister Telepod located metres away. But what happens if Seth isn't the only living thing in the Telepod?

Jeff Goldblum and Geena Davis, both rocking phenomenal '80s perms, star with a stirring and intense chemistry, emboldened by cutting edge makeup and visual effects that earned the film a 1986 Oscar.

David Cronenberg's *Shivers* may have been the genesis of the body horror subgenre, but *The Fly*, undoubtedly swats the competition as the genre's opus dei, asking the question - when do we stop being human?



VIDEODROME

TUE 2 MAY · 8.30PM · JMT

DAVID CRONENBERG · 87 MINS · R18+ · CAN

40TH ANNIVERSARY SCREENING

Long live the new flesh!

Max Renn (James Woods), a programmer for an underground cable network, discovers Videodrome, a mysterious channel that's dedicated to depravity of all persuasions. He enlists the help of his lover Nicki (a campy & kinky Debbie Harry), in searching for the source of the signal, and together they uncover a dark and bizarre network that threatens the fabric of reality.

Pioneering beautifully grotesque sequences of biomechanical metamorphosis combining man with machine, a concept that had never seen the light of cinema, through *Videodrome*, Cronenberg's brand of filmmaking became an adjective, with ultra-violent, psychosexual satire that sets sensationalist media in its sights, and birthing an entirely new horror subgenre.



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WILD SIDES

Welcome to the provocateurs' playground. Shed your cinematic inhibitions and plunge into a world beyond your own - a filmic amusement park where bizarre and exciting ideas can be explored and dissected, where there is no right and wrong - there is only experience. We'll see you on the other side.



GIVE ME PITY!

WED 3 MAY · 8.45PM · CHEC

AMANDA KRAMER · 80 MINS · 15+ · USA

Sissy St. Claire has scored a television special, and she has some treats in store for her captive yet unseen audience. But who's the masked figure waiting in the wings? Is Sissy being stalked, or is her desperation for fame giving way to something far more sinister?

Sophie von Haselberg (daughter of the divine Bette Midler) is a force to be reckoned with as Sissy - heaving and begging through dance numbers, lavishly corny monologues, and awkward avant-garde skits - but as things go wrong and Sissy's panic rises, well, the show must go on.

Written and directed by Amanda Kramer (*Please Baby Please*, SWIFF'23), *Give Me Pity!* is a star-spangled-soft-focus descent into kitsch hysteria.

"A thing of beauty and wonder ... Give Me Pity! is yet another spectacular accomplishment to add to Kramer's already formidable filmography." - Alliance of Women Film Journalists



LA PIETÀ

WED 26 APR · 8.30PM · JMT
THU 4 MAY · 8.30PM · JMT

EDUARDO CASANOVA · 80 MINS · 18+ · ESP, ARG

This hilarious and gorgeously vulgar tragicomedy storms out the gate with such fierce abandon and outlandish beauty, it would make John Waters and Yorgos Lanthimos blush.

Living together in their pink pastel-hued, museum-like abode, Lili and Mateo are mother and son who have a profound relationship of mutual dependence. Their fragile harmony is shattered when Mateo is diagnosed with cancer, forcing him to cut the cord.

Drawing comparisons to *Bad Boy Bubby* (SWIFF'23) with the aesthetic of Arizona Iced Tea, *La Pietà* is an off-kilter, hilarious melodrama, featuring an iconic performance from legendary Almodóvar favourite, Angela Molina.

"...with the sensibilities of John Waters at his most acerbic and the aesthetics of a deranged Wes Anderson.... La Pietà is a film that will leave an indelible mark on viewers." - Screenanarchy

Spanish & Korean with English subtitles



LUX AETERNA + THE SPIRAL

THU 27 APR · 8.45PM · CHEC
SUN 30 APR · 8.30PM · JMT

THE SPIRAL

MARIA SILVIA ESTEVE · 20 MINS · 18+ · ARG

Psychedelic spirals and hypnotic escalations abound in this daring Cannes short, as a woman records her anxiety attack, ruminating on home and the perception of memory as she becomes entangled within a labyrinth of conscious and subconscious fear.

LUX AETERNA

GASPAR NOÉ · 51 MINS · 18+ · FRA

Actors Charlotte Gainsbourg, also in *The Passengers of the Night* (SWIFF'23), Béatrice Dalle, and Australia's Abbey Lee, play fictional versions of themselves on set, making a film about witches, and discussing their craft. When technical problems occur, psychotic outbreaks on set gradually see the film spiral into stroboscopic hysteria.

"Wry comedy about filmmaking's collaborative nature... a naughty look at what can happen when branded content flies off the rails... art thrives on chaos, and Noé wouldn't have it any other way" - IndieWire

English & French with English subtitles

Contains extended sequences of flashing lights that may impact people with photosensitive epilepsy.





PLEASE BABY PLEASE

SAT 22 APR · 8.30PM · CHEC
FRI 28 APR · 6.30PM · BMH

AMANDA KRAMER · 95 MINS · 18+ · USA

Give yourself to desire!

Bohemian newlyweds Suze and Arthur become dangerously entangled with a uniquely alluring greaser gang, The Young Gents. The two plunge into a queer underworld, embarking on an identity-odyssey fuelled by musical numbers and leather-clad West-Side-Story surrealism.

This hyper-stylised, technicolour dream boasts some of the most playful performances of the year, as an electric Andrea Riseborough (*Possessor*, SWIFF'21, *To Leslie*, SWIFF'23) and Harry Melling (*The Queen's Gambit*) lead a lush explosion of theatrical camp delight. None other than Demi Moore shines as Suze's glamorous upstairs neighbour, who has lovers and – even more impressively – a dishwasher.

"The kitsch mischief of Amanda Kramer's genderqueer underworld odyssey is as lurid as the colour palette – electric blues and hot vaginal pinks abound." – Screen Daily



SISSY

FRI 21 APR · 8.30PM · BMH
MON 1 MAY · 8.30PM · JMT

HANNAH BARLOW, KANE SENES · 102 MINS · R18+ · AUS

Boasting a stellar central performance from Aisha Dee (*The Bold Type*), *Sissy* is a delightfully schlocky, Aussie comedy satire of influencer culture.

Cecilia and Emma were home-video-making, matching bracelet-wearing childhood besties – until it all went sour when Emma swapped Sissy for a new bestie, the bully Alex. Now, Cecilia/Sissy is internet famous, slinging wellness advice...even while not doing that well. A chance encounter and rekindling with Emma (co-director Hannah Barlow), leads to an invite to an outback hen's weekend, amid a cast of clueless new friends. When it turns out the isolated mansion belongs to that very primary school bully, tensions rise and rise – to bloody breaking point.

"A breath of fresh air for Australian cinema" – FilmInk



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WED 3 MAY · 9PM · JMT

GORAN STOLEVSKI · 109 MINS · MA15+ · AUS, SRB, UK

WINNER · JURY AWARD · SITGES

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Macedonian with English subtitles



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'How great are movies!' This passionate cry echoes throughout SWIFF headquarters on a regular basis. The love, the loss, the inspiration, and the humanity. Cinematic storytelling and artistry receives a special dedication at SWIFF'23.



CINEMA PARADISO

SUN 23 APR · 10.15AM · BMH

GIUSEPPE TORNATORE · 124 MINS · PG · ITA, FRA

WINNER · BEST FILM · OSCARS
WINNER · GRAND JURY PRIZE · CANNES

Roma. The Eighties. At Night.

The ringing phone surprises filmmaker Salvatore di Vitta. His mother's voice and these few words: "Alfredo is dead". It's enough to make his childhood come flooding back to him: the Giancaldo village in Sicily, the dusty and white square, the church and the parish cinema, where rules the almighty figure of Alfredo, the projectionist...

Regarded as one of the all-time greatest love letters to cinema, winning hearts and awards across the world, including the Academy-Award for Best Foreign Language Film, and the Grand Jury Prize at Cannes, *Cinema Paradiso* also marked the first collaboration between director Giuseppe Tornatore and legendary composer Ennio Morricone, with Tornatore also directing *Ennio: The Maestro* (SWIFF'23) – the pair's final film together.

Italian with English subtitles



THE FABELMANS

SUN 23 APR · 5.30PM · CHEC

STEVEN SPIELBERG · 151 MINS · M · USA

WINNER · FILM OF THE YEAR · AFI
WINNER · BEST YOUNG ACTOR · CRITICS CHOICE AWARDS

Movies are dreams that you never forget.

Cinematic master Steven Spielberg delivers his most personal film in his 7 times Oscar nominated *The Fabelmans* – a deeply affecting drama in Spielberg's signature romantic style, reflecting on family, filmmaking, and love mirrored in his own adolescent life.

It's post-WWII America. Sammy (newcomer Gabriel Labelle), the oldest child of untameable concert pianist Mitzi (Michelle Williams) and genius scientist Burt (Paul Dano), aspires to become a filmmaker. The family, joined by Burt's best friend, Bennie (Seth Rogen), celebrate all the formative moments of Sammy's teen years together as Sammy discovers his unquenchable passion for making and screening moving pictures – and in the process, discovering a shattering family secret.

"Left me with a floating feeling of happiness." – The Guardian



FINAL CUT

SAT 29 APR · 9PM · BMH

MICHEL HAZANAVICIUS · 110 MINS · MA15+ · FRA

OPENING NIGHT · CANNES

From Michel Hazanavicius, Oscar-winning director of *The Artist*, comes a playful and stylish film set satire.

Rémi (Romain Duris, the Spanish Apartment trilogy) is a down on his luck director, eager to please his Tarantino-loving teen with his next project – no matter how questionable the offer. Once on the film set, the cast and crew are beset by a myriad of zombified mishaps.

An entertaining splatter spectacle, full of goofy, giddy surprises, *Final Cut* is both an ode to the delights of B-movie magic, and a surprising new example of their charm.

"Arguably the goriest film to ever open the Cannes Film Festival...meta zombie comedy *Final Cut* is also one of the more clever and giddily entertaining ones." – Hollywood Reporter

French & Japanese with English subtitles



LYNCH/OZ

WED 26 APR · 1.30PM · JMT

ALEXANDRE O. PHILIPPE · 108 MINS · 15+ · USA

"There is not a day that goes by when I don't think of *The Wizard of Oz*." – David Lynch.

A deep dive down the rabbit hole of film obsession and how the things we love make us who we are, Alexandre O. Philippe's elegant and entertaining film explores the enduring symbiosis between David Lynch's singular brand of popular surrealism, and Victor Fleming's foundational fairy-tale, *The Wizard of Oz*.

Cruising through cinematic chapters with clips from *It's a Wonderful Life*, *Suspicion*, *Gone With the Wind* and *The Big Lebowski* (SWIFF'23), and featuring film aficionados David Lowery (*The Green Knight*), Karyn Kusama (*Destroyer*), John Waters (*Hairspray*), Rodney Ascher (*A Glitch in the Matrix*), and critic Amy Nicholson, each conversing and celebrating the enduring resonance of Lynch, and *Oz*.



ONLY IN THEATERS

FRI 28 APR · 12PM · JMT

WED 3 MAY · 2PM · CHEC

RAPHAEL SBARGE · 92 MINS · ALL AGES · USA

1938. Two European-Jewish immigrant brothers escape fascist Germany for America, right before World War II. They open a movie theatre.

Over four generations and over 85 years, the Laemmle family dedicated themselves to elevating the art of film: bringing foreign film to Los Angeles, popularising independent cinema, documentary films and their makers, and opening six arthouse theatres.

Today, despite seismic pressure, the Laemmle's remain determined to continue their legacy and see cinema survive. Filmed over two turbulent years, and featuring appearances from Cameron Crowe, Ava DuVernay, James Ivory, Nicole Holofcener and more, *Only in Theaters* is all at once a peek into the state-of-industry, a love letter to cinema, and an irresistible tale of a multi-generational family business built on a burning passion for film.



RETURN CHUTE: SURVIVAL OF A SMALL TOWN VIDEO STORE

SUN 23 APR · 6.30PM · BMH

SIMONE ATALLAH · 15 MINS · AUS

Rod O'Hara bought Bellinghen Video Connection in 2018 when video stores were already considered to be on the way out – if not already dead. Now, years later, against all the odds, and after facing many personal setbacks, Rod and the local community have kept this iconic local business and bastion for lovers of television, film and screen culture alive – but for how long?

Join us on the opening weekend of SWIFF's return to the beloved Bellinghen Memorial Hall in celebrating a love of classic video stores, the Bellinghen community, and the hard work of the O'Hara family and Bellinghen Video Connection crew.

Screens ahead of afro-futurist sci-fi musical *Neptune Frost* (page 39), SUN APR 29.



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CALL OF THE SURF

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Pack your board.
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roof of the SWIFF
van. We're going
cinema surfing!
From the breaks
of Chile, to the
frozen coastlines
of Russia, and the
icons that brought
surf filmmaking to
the mainstream,
paddle out beyond
the line-up to feel
the call at SWIFF.



BIRTH OF THE ENDLESS SUMMER

WED 26 APR · 4.30PM · CHEC

RICHARD YELLAND · 83 MINS · M · USA

Filmmaker Richard Yelland charts California surfer Dick Metz's journey around the world, and his role in inspiring one of the most beloved surf docs of all time.

"A perfect movie," said the New Yorker. Every surfer's dream in the 1960s was to explore foreign places, finding waves that had never been ridden. But what was the dream before the dream?

Rewind the clock to 1950s Laguna Beach. Pioneering surfers such as Metz and "Peanuts" Larson were exploring the waves around where they lived. Hobie Alter started making wooden surfboards out of his dad's garage. It'd become the nexus of the surf culture explosion only a few years later.

Discover the breaks that would later become legendary in Bruce Brown's classic *The Endless Summer* – also screening at SWIFF'23.



CORNERS OF THE EARTH: KAMCHATKA



TUE 25 APR · 6PM · CHEC

SAT 29 APR · 12.45PM · CHEC

SPENCER FROST, GUY WILLIMENT · 90 MINS · 15+ · AUS

East of Siberia lies Kamchatka, an arctic peninsula along the frozen, largely unexplored coastline of Russia. The idea of a frozen coastline dotted with 150 volcanoes on the far eastern coast of Russia isn't every Aussie surfer's ideal location for the perfect wave - but that's exactly why these guys went there.

With 150kg of equipment in tow, they get on their flight to Moscow...on the day Russia's "special military operation" is declared in Ukraine. The plot thickens. Mi-8 helicopters, skidoos, frozen campsites, and frozen bank accounts, this surf trip quickly became far more than anyone could imagine.

A spiritual successor to *A Corner of the Earth* (SWIFF'19), Spencer Frost and Guy Williment, along with surfers Letty Mortenson and Fraser Dovell, team up for this big screen surf extravaganza.

Just try and avoid the icebergs where you can.



THE ENDLESS SUMMER

SUN 23 APR · 12.45PM · CHEC

BRUCE BROWN · 95 MINS · G · USA

It's always summer somewhere in the world.

Bruce Brown's legendary tale of two Californian surfers, Robert August and Mike Hynson, hitting the road in pursuit of an eternal surf season, comes to SWIFF for one screening only. Frothin'!

From Africa to Australia, via New Zealand, Tahiti, and Hawaii, *The Endless Summer* follows the places and breaks that change the duo's lives, all in their quest to find the perfect wave.

Fuelled by an original soundtrack by The Sandals with dreamy 8mm and 16mm footage, this cornerstone of surf cinema shaped the modern documentary. For all the extra untold stories, make sure to check out *The Birth of The Endless Summer* (also at SWIFF'23) and rediscover what makes *The Endless Summer* endlessly rewatchable.



THE ROAD TO PATAGONIA



SAT 22 APR · 6PM · BMH

FRI 28 APR · 6.45PM · CHEC

MATTY HANNON · 90 MINS · 15+ · AUS

WINNER · BEST FILM · BYRON BAY FILM FESTIVAL

The lives of two strangers are changed forever when they cross paths on the surfing adventure of a lifetime, discovering love, downshifting and four charismatic Chilean horses.

Ecologist Matty Hannon heads out on an incredible solo adventure, from the top of Alaska to the tip of Patagonia. But the joy of travel lies in twists and turns of the journey – not the final destination.

Riding south, Matty joins paths with permaculture farmer Heather, meeting Zapatista rebels, Amazonian shamans and Mapuche leaders whose salient words crack the adventurers' cultural veneer. Shot over 16 years, *The Road to Patagonia* is a stunning, intimate, and unflinching series of love letters between people and the planet.

English, Spanish & Mentawai with English subtitles

Festival guests in attendance.

FAMILY FIESTA

Movie-lovers come in all shapes and sizes! The littlest SWIFF fans have their own special section this year, including a fun interactive music show, a showcase of award-winning shorts, a brand new comedy feelgood, and unmissable iconic classics.



ALON ILSAR'S TRAVELLING AIRSTICKS LABORATORY

SUN 23 APR · 10AM, 11.30AM, 2PM, 3.30PM · CHEC O BLOCK THEATRE

ALON ILSAR · 35 MINS · ALL AGES · AUS

An interactive kids show comes to SWIFF! Cutting edge technology meets crazy fun.

Two scientists take kids on a wild magical ride where movement becomes music, turning anything and everything into musical instruments. Yes, new technology can turn the actions of a human body, a pot-plant, or even a shampoo bottle, into any sound known to humanity. So move it!

A funny interactive all-ages family show exploring the history of sound and music, including the thoughts and feelings behind any toot, ding, dong or symphony, featuring the incredibly exciting technology of Airsticks.

Great for kids aged 5-12 but enjoyable and fun for any age.

\$15 Adult | \$10 Under 12



CINEMA PARADISO

SUN 23 APR · 10.15AM · BMH

GIUSEPPE TORNATORE · 124 MINS · PG · ITA, FRA

WINNER · BEST FILM · OSCARS

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Roma. The Eighties. At Night.

The ringing phone surprises filmmaker Salvatore di Vitta. His mother's voice and these few words: "Alfredo is dead". It's enough to make his childhood reappear: the Giancaldo village in Sicily, the dusty and white square, the church and the parish cinema, where rules the almighty figure of Alfredo, the projectionist...

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Italian with English subtitles



MARCEL THE SHELL WITH SHOES ON

SAT 22 APR · 12.30PM · CHEC
SUN 30 APR · 1.45PM · CHEC

DEAN FLEISCHER-CAMP · 90 MINS · PG · USA

WINNER · GRAND JURY, AUDIENCE AWARD · SXSW

A beloved character gets his big-screen debut in this hilarious and heartwarming story about finding connection in the smallest corners.

Marcel (Jenny Slate) is an adorable one-inch-tall shell who ekes out a colourful existence with his grandmother Connie (Isabella Rossellini) and their pet lint, Alan. Once part of a sprawling community of shells, they now live alone as the sole survivors of a mysterious tragedy. But when a documentary filmmaker discovers them amongst the clutter of his Airbnb, the short film he posts online brings Marcel millions of passionate fans, as well as unprecedented dangers and a new hope at finding his long-lost family.

"Hilarious and extremely sweet... a feel-good movie that's not like anything you've seen before" - Vox



NEXTWAVE YOUTH FILM AWARDS

SAT 22 APR · 3PM · CHEC

The Nextwave Youth Film Awards (NYFA) brings the thrills, laughter, and excitement to the big screen, with short films from the next generation of young filmmakers across Australia.

This not-to-be-missed annual SWIFF signature event features live music, guest speakers, and a major awards ceremony, alongside the 28 incredible short films from a record-breaking 150+ submissions.

Join us in the CHEC Gathering Space from 2pm for live music and red-carpet arrivals before heading into the cinema for the screening and awards. Decide the 2022 Peoples' Choice Award Winner and celebrate the next generation of Australian filmmakers at SWIFF's Nextwave Youth Film Awards, presented by Southern Cross University.

Full finalist film line up and more info on pages 52-55. Regular ticket pricing applies.



SWIFF LIVE: SAFETY LAST!

WED 26 APR · 6.15PM · JMT

FRED C. NEWMAYER, SAM TAYLOR · 67 MINS · G · USA

An icon reimaged.

Comedy legend Harold Lloyd's slapstick masterpiece, *Safety Last!*, celebrates its 100th anniversary in 2023, presented at SWIFF with a live-on-stage soundtrack led by Coffs Harbour Regional Conservatorium Director, Pat Brearley.

Comic genius Harold Lloyd, often mentioned in the same breath as Charlie Chaplin and Buster Keaton, was an innovator of cinematic techniques, death-defying stunts, sharp social commentary, and laugh-out-loud comedy.

This all-ages live performance, exclusive to SWIFF, is a collaboration between the Screenwave International Film Festival and the Coffs Harbour Regional Conservatorium.

\$35.00 Full | \$30.00 Conc | \$25 Under 25.

WELCOME TO NEXTWAVE



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Nextwave Program Managers

Filmmaking is photography, composition, colour and framing. Filmmaking is also scriptwriting, imagination, storytelling, and direction. It's also music-making, sound design and technical recording. It's editing, timing, special effects and collaboration. It's performance, set design, prop building and long hours.

Filmmaking is love, dedication, and passion for sharing stories. Whether that be with the world, or just with your friends.

The teams of filmmakers who entered Nextwave 2022 (over 150 of them from across Australia!) did all of the above, and more. And every single one of them are under 25.

So thank you, for your hard work, your creativity, and your dedication. Thank you for sharing it with the world, with us, and with the SWIFF audience. We hope you had fun, connected with friends and family, and expressed yourselves at Nextwave, presented by Southern Cross University.

We can't wait to see the next one.



VISIT
NEXTWAVE ONLINE



Finalists of the Nextwave 2022 competition are invited to take part in a dedicated skills acceleration workshop, proudly presented by Southern Cross University.

NEXTWAVE YOUTH FILM AWARDS

SAT 22 APR · 2PM FOR 3PM · CHEC THEATRE, COFFS HARBOUR EDUCATION CAMPUS

Join us in celebrating the Nextwave of Australian filmmakers. Arrive from 2pm for live music in the CHEC Gathering Space, before walking the red carpet into the CHEC Theatre at 3pm. Hear from SWIFF's Nextwave Team and guests before the big screen premiere of 28 outstanding short films. With a short intermission to vote for the Peoples Choice Award, before the exciting announcement of the winners of over 10 awards and \$30,000 in prizes.

Some films contain mild horror themes.

NEXTWAVE FINALISTS



REJUVENATED

IMOGEN LARKIN · 4.00 · 10-14 YEARS

Peggy wakes up to find that something has changed. When encouraged by her dearest friend Mabel, shenanigans ensue.



THE POSSESSION

AYLA CADZOW-SMITH · 2.29 · 10-14 YEARS

A girl at home alone wakes up in the middle of the night hungry, but the BLOB is hungrier....



QUEBEC

CORI STANTON · 1.54 · 10-14 YEARS

Nightmare and reality blend as a pleasant morning takes a turn.



ABSENCE MAKES THE HEART GROW STRONGER

ARTHUR GERRANS · 3.00 · 10-14 YEARS

A regular man, living in a regular town, finds his life thrown upside down when an annoying pixie starts transforming all of his earthly possessions.



LOST IN TRANSLATION

OLIVIA HUE-JUN WONG · 4.26 · 10-14 YEARS

Nam struggles to understand his teacher and friends at his new school. Suddenly a secret note appears, teaching him new words every day... but who sent it?



SUBMERGED

DANNY RUMSBY & ARTHUR FRANCIS · 5.00 · 10-14 YEARS

Two young freedivers take you into Tasmania's underwater world, showing you why they love it, and why it is so important to protect.



MOJO!

NEWTOWN HIGH SCHOOL OF THE PERFORMING ARTS · 4.55 · 15-17 YEARS

Reflecting on a quest for the perfect band and a time when hope almost felt lost...



GREEN WITH ENVY

HARRY DRYNAN · 4.10 · 15-17 YEARS

Two friends are participating in an acting competition, when the opposition leaves one of the actors green with an envy that soon consumes him.



DEATH WORKS A DESK JOB

MALI SMEDTS · 4.00 · 15-17 YEARS

Follow the days in the lives of an overworked office worker.



MOSAIC

ISABEL PARK · 2.26 · 15-17 YEARS

"Have no fear of perfection - you'll never reach it." - Salvadore Dali



THE TRAVELLER'S SHIP

RYWINNE LOGAN · 3.42 · 15-17 YEARS

Creatures and characters come alive in a desert landscape.



GREEN ROOM

BEN ROSENBERG · 3.27 · 15-17 YEARS

A man entrapped within a small room discovers he is being experimented on by powers greater than himself.



HE HULK

JACK SOUTHGATE · 4.17 · 15-17 YEARS

A scientist obsessed with Hulk pursues his dreams to transform into a green creature. He soon discovers there might be a possible downside of exposing himself to radiation...



WAVES

MARKELLO SOUVLIS · 2.42 · 15-17 YEARS

An experimental short film that follows a person who experiences waves of anxiety attacks induced by agoraphobia.



GHOST TOWN

CHANEL BOCMAN · 3.56 · 15-17 YEARS

Visit a young girl's ghost town – a place where she can escape her worries and revisit her loved ones.



LANDING

MILA JANCIC · 2.34 · 15-17 YEARS

A poetic reminder to nurture your heritage and be connected to the environment around you.



IN OUR MINDS

TABITHA MURDOCH · 5.00 · 15-17 YEARS

A beautiful love story fraught with age-old challenges, *In Our Minds* follows a relationship from its inception, depicting the trauma experienced by a couple when kept apart.



HATCHED

KOKODA CADZOW-SMITH · 2.09 · 15-17 YEARS

Feathered friend becomes feathered foe.



ALTERATION

ARCHIE CARTER · 3.21 · 15-17 YEARS

The world is coming to an end, and instead of sitting around in fear a young hiker has decided to get as far away from civilisation as he can.



THE ATAR EXPERIENCE

JON COPSON-PACAL · 4.07 · 15-17 YEARS

A student finishing high school fights to balance his social life with school life, discovering truths about how people deal with school related struggles.



MURDER ON SESAME STREET

CLIFF BROWN · 4.07 · 15-17 YEARS

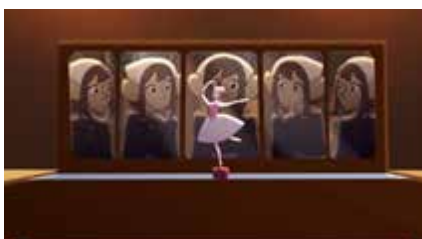
Socks are being fatally discarded left, right and centre. Who will save them? Will it be Supersock?



THE EXISTENTIAL OVERWHELM OF A CONVERSATION CATALYST

NOAH BAILEY · 2.13 · 15-17 YEARS

Some simple small talk escalates to an existential crisis.



LAMELLAE

FREYA DAHLSTRÖM · 3.40 · 18-25 YEARS

On one rainy evening, a girl comes face to face with her scariest customer yet.



VOID

AARON BRUGGEMANN · 5.00 · 18-25 YEARS

After awakening in the Void, Mark must confront his past.



LURKERS

BRAYDEN CURETON · 5.00 · 18-25 YEARS

Loud bumps and thumps suggest this young man may not be as alone as he thought. Have prying eyes been stalking him in the shadows all along?



HIREATH

KAELYN WARD · 4.44 · 18-25 YEARS

Hireath - noun - a homesickness for a place you can never return.



MIS-TAKEN

SAM DAVISON · 4.40 · 18-25 YEARS

A young man obsessed with an action movie franchise finds himself in a situation in which he must prove himself as Hollywood's next action movie star.



BEARZEBUB

ROY SISSON · 4.44 · 18-25 YEARS

An old and unloved teddy bear attempts to regain his owners affections through the darkest of methods.

NEXTWAVE COMPETITION 2023

The Nextwave 2023 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 2023 competition theme **STRENGTH**, and including the signature item **TORCH**.

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



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SWIFF CREATE

PRESENTED BY SCREENWORKS

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 a variety of workshops and networking events - all supporting more film production on the Coffs Coast.

Bookings essential at SWIFF.COM.AU



INDUSTRY CONNECT

SAT 22 APR · 6PM · CHEC - GATHERING SPACE

\$25 Full | \$15 Under 25

Local Film and Creative Industry professionals at all career levels, and those wanting to get their foot in the door, are invited to join us for a drink and some snacks and mingle with fellow industry cohorts. Hosted by Screenworks in the CHEC Gathering Space, with so many creatives new to the region, now is a great time to connect and reconnect, fostering new collaborations, and growing our industry.

Screenworks recommends you check out the Nextwave Youth Film Awards happening right before this event, and see the big screen premiere of 28 of the best and brightest short films made by young people from across Australia.

Session will feature a technology and art demonstration by light/sound artist Alon Ilisar, and includes complimentary refreshments and light snacks.



SUCCESSFUL STORIES: SCREENWRITING WORKSHOP

SUN 23 APR · 10AM · CHEC WORKSHOP SPACE

\$35 Full | \$25 Screenworks Members & Under 25

Ever thought about writing a film? Do you have a good idea for a screenplay but want more tips and tools? Maybe you've written a screenplay but would benefit from professional advice to improve your practice?

In this workshop, screenwriter Alexa Wyatt (*All Saints*, *Janet King*, *McLeod's Daughters*, *Heartbreak High*) will introduce the basics of screenwriting and the key ingredients to write a successful screen story.

Attendees will leave with a foundational understanding of the screenwriting craft, including character development, plot, conflict and resolution, structure, dialogue, theme and setting, genre, choosing the best screen format (feature, short, tv, online), the sources of stories, your audience, and the market.

This session will be of particular interest to beginner to early career writers.



WHO'S WHO ON THE CREW: A GUIDE TO ROLES ON A FILM SET

SAT 22 APR · 10AM · CHEC - O BLOCK THEATRE

Free - Bookings essential at SWIFF.COM.AU

Following on from the success of last year's Who's Who On The Crew session, Screenworks again present a fascinating insight into the unique roles on film sets. This session will uncover what skills you might have that are transferable to film work, even if you don't consider yourself a filmmaker, and what sort of opportunities might be available to work on film productions.

Screenworks will bring successful and highly credited film industry professionals to Coffs Harbour to speak about their own career trajectories and how their specific departments work. Our speakers have an impressive list of credits on block-buster feature films and much loved Australian content. See the SWIFF website for details.

Each speaker will talk through their role, how they started out and what skills you need to build a successful career.

This free panel will be of particular interest to anyone interested in breaking into the screen industry, and is fully subsidised thanks to Netflix and NSW Department of Training as part of the Regional Crew Development program.



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screenworks.com.au

Supporting and developing the screen industry across regional, rural and remote Australia.



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Julia Savage in *Blaze*, directed
by Kathryn Del Barton.

screen.nsw.gov.au



Photo: Daniel Boud

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

SWIFF '23 FESTIVAL TEAM

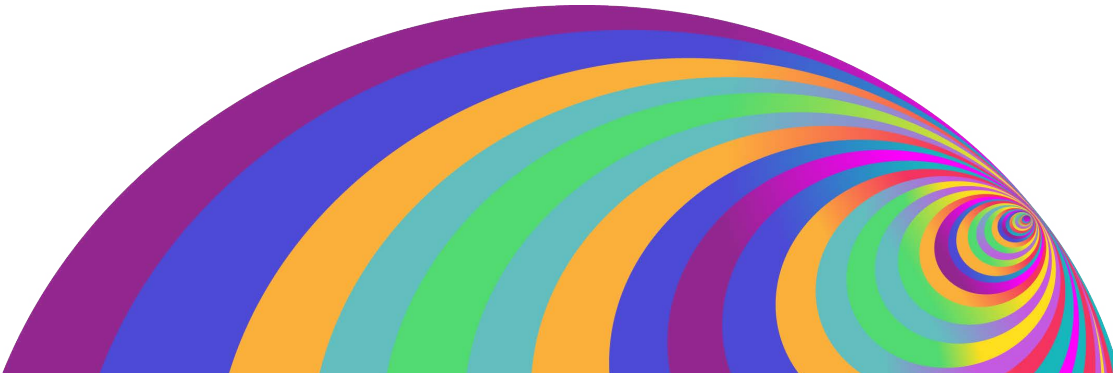
Kate Howat	SWIFF Founder, Artistic Director
Dave Horsley	SWIFF Founder, Festival Director
Saige Browne	Program & Content Coordinator
Giordan Pakes-Sunner	Ticketing & Sponsor Coordinator
Alycia Stanley	Operations Manager
Julie Toussaint	Designer & Brand Manager
Ben Toussaint	Digital Development Manager
Stephanie Sims	Community Engagement
Katherine Walgrave	Guest Coordinator
Beth Hodges	Food and Beverage Coordinator
Peter Papandrea	CHEC Site Manager
Phil Nicholas	BMH Venue Manager
Jay Black	Festival Photographer
Scott Collins	Festival Trailer Composition
Inspired Audio Visual	SWIFF Technical Production Services

VOLUNTEERS

Without the many helping hands of our wonderful volunteers from Coffs Harbour, Bellingen and beyond, SWIFF would not happen. Our sincere thanks to everyone who gave their time, dedication, and passion to bring SWIFF'23 to the community, all for the love of film.

COMMUNITY

Thank you to our audiences. By attending, promoting, talking about, buying tickets, posting about, sharing, and championing SWIFF, you are building a thriving film and screen culture in Coffs Harbour and Bellingen. It takes a whole community to make a film festival come to life. Our sincere gratitude goes out to everyone who bought a ticket, who sponsored the festival, who volunteered their time, worked in a SWIFF venue, and who connected with SWIFF'23. You've played a vital role in making SWIFF a one-of-a-kind festival - something we can all be proud of.

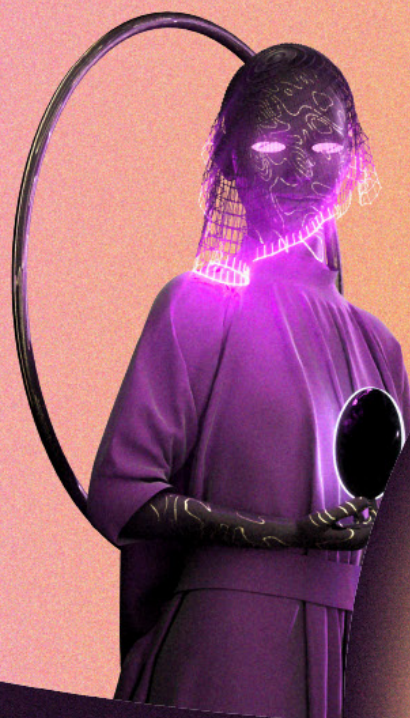


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