



MEDIA RELEASE

EMBARGOED UNTIL 11:00 WEDNESDAY 6 MAY 2015

SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL'S INDIGENOUS FILMS, SCREEN: BLACK

The 62nd Sydney Film Festival in partnership with Screen Australia's Indigenous Department announces that Screen: Black will return for a third year. Screen: Black is a Festival platform for Indigenous Australian filmmakers.

Two initiatives will premiere at the Festival in 2015 to tell significant Indigenous Australian stories. The first, **Songlines on Screen** presents six short films from the remote parts of Western, Northern and Central Australia that represent Aboriginal people's ongoing connection to land and culture as told throughout time in the way of creation songs.

Echoing the diversity from the regions, **Songlines on Screen** display the full spectrum of Aboriginal languages and storytelling including dance, song, art, body painting and sites of significance. The shorts are all World Premieres and will see the producers, directors and traditional owners of the films, attend the screening. **Songlines on Screen** is a special collaboration between Screen Australia and NITV.

The second **Screen: Black** program, **Pitch Black Shorts** is a collection of seven new short films including five World Premieres from an array of experienced and emerging Indigenous filmmakers. The selection is a display of extraordinary Indigenous talent, from directors and producers to screenwriters and actors.

Nulla Nulla, by director **Dylan River** (*Buckskin*, SFF Australian documentary prize winner, 2013) stars **Khan Chittenden** (*Underbelly*) and **Wayne Blair** (*The Sapphires*). **YouTurn**, directed by **Ryan Griffen** (producer of *The Chuck In*, SFF 2013), was produced by **John Harvey**; Harvey also produced **Under Skin, In Blood** directed by **Larissa Behrendt** (author of the novel *Home*) and starring **Aaron Pedersen** (*Mystery Road*, SFF 2013) and **Margaret Harvey**; and **Man Real** is directed by **Tracey Rigney** (*Abalone, Endangered*), will screen.

"Screen: Black will host over 40 Indigenous filmmakers from around the country who will attend the Festival and showcase our best creative talents," said **Penny Smallacombe, Head of Indigenous at Screen Australia**. "This year's Screen: Black will see a record number of Indigenous filmmakers descend upon Sydney from around the country. Over two nights they will showcase our diverse creative talents and continue to celebrate our rich partnership with Sydney Film Festival."

The SFF 2015 Screen Black films:

SONGLINES ON SCREEN

BULUNU MILKARRI Australia | 2015 | 25 mins | In Djambarrpuyngu with English subtitles | World Premiere

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Director: Sylvia Nulpinditj | Producer: Gaia Osborne

One woman's journey to learn an endangered songline from remote Arnhem Land that explores cycles of death, life, rain and tears; the replenishment and abundance of land, sea and spirit. A quest to ensure this ancient songline is practiced for generations to come.

FOOTPRINTS Australia | 2015 | 10 mins | In English | World Premiere

Director: Cornel Ozies | Producers: Nganyamea Nagarra (Eileen) Torres, Eloise Schnierer

In 2014, a group of young Aboriginal men from a tribe which had almost completely lost their songs discovered that a law boss from a neighbouring tribe knows some of their cultural songs and dances. They have not been performed for more than 50 years and it was thought they had been lost forever.

GOORRANDALNG: BROLGA DREAMING Australia | 2015 | 10 mins | In English and Miriwoong with English subtitles | World Premiere

Director: Ju Ju Wilson | Producer: Robyn Marais | Production Company: Bigapitja Pty Ltd

Granny Sheba Dignari travels to Miriwoong country in northern Australia's Keep River National Park to teach some kids a song for country about the brolga.

NAJI Australia | 2015 | 9 mins | In English | World Premiere

Director: Kimberley West | Producer: Jodie Bell

A story from the Bugarregarre time (the dreamtime) when the spirit beings came out of the ocean, and woke up the silent, barren land as they moved from west to east to source fresh water. This creation story comes to life through the use of re-enactments as Richard Hunter, an elder of the Goolarabooloo people, recounts the steps of his first people.

TJAWA TJAWA Australia | 2015 | 12 mins | In Kukatja with English subtitles | World Premiere

Director: Mark Moora | Producer: Neil Turner

Tjawa Tjawa is a Ngarti traditional story told in Kukatja language about a group of women who travelled from Roebourne in the northwest of Western Australia to the Great Sandy Desert south of Balgo in search of husbands.

WURRAY Australia | 2015 | 15 mins | In Yolngu with English subtitles | World Premiere

Director: Keith Lapulung Dhamarrandji | Producer: Paul Williams

Yolngu song men trace the epic Dreamtime story of their great nomadic warrior, Wurray, across the wilderness of North East Arnhemland.

PITCH BLACK SHORTS

KARROYUL Australia | 2015 | 15 mins | In English | World Premiere

Director: Kelrick Martin | Producers: Jaclyn Hewer, Melissa Kelly

Kelly, a young Aboriginal girl, wants nothing more than to be left alone after her mother's death. On the day of the funeral her uncle, fulfilling a promise to Kelly's jailbird father, takes her back to the taboo historical massacre site of her ancestors.

MAN REAL Australia | 2015 | 11 mins | In English | World Premiere

Director: Tracey Rigney | Producer: John Harvey

Recently released inmate Carp is initiating his childhood friend with a backyard tattoo. His beer soaked stories grow darker as he tells his friend what it means to be a man.

NULLA NULLA Australia | 2014 | 6 mins | In English, Warlpiri and Anmatyere with English subtitles
Australian Premiere

Director: Dylan River | Producer: Tanith Glynn-Maloney

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Fresh out of the academy, White Cop (Khan Chittenden) experiences his first taste of Aboriginal community life, as Black Cop (Wayne Blair) puts him to the test.

ON STAGE Australia | 2015 | 10 mins | In English | Australian Premiere

Director: Benjamin Southwell | Producer: Ian Ludwick

Dee, a cross-dressing performer (Warren Clements), is about to perform her encore for the crowd when she receives some unexpected news.

MAAP MORDAK Australia | 2014 | 7 mins | In English and Noongar with English subtitles | World Premiere

Director: Dot West | Producer: Jodie Bell

A distraught young girl (Cheyenne Carter), confused about her own identity, finds answers and comfort from an unlikely source.

UNDER SKIN, IN BLOOD Australia | 2015 | 12 mins | In English | World Premiere

Director: Larissa Behrendt | Producer: John Harvey

A woman (Margaret Harvey) clings to memories of happier times with her husband (Aaron Pedersen) and son, before the asbestos-riddled town ruined their lives: based on real experiences of Aboriginal workers at the Baryugil mine.

YOU TURN Australia | 2015 | 11 mins | In English | World Premiere

Director: Ryan Griffen | Producer: John Harvey

After a bungled robbery, James is on the run from the law with nothing but the open road ahead of him. Thinking he is in the clear, he tries to relax, before realising that he has two unexpected passengers on board.

Sydney Film Festival runs 3 – 14 June 2015.

Tickets for Sydney Film Festival 2015 are on sale now. Please call 1300 733 733 or visit sff.org.au for more information.

ABOUT SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL

From **Wednesday 3 June to Sunday 14 June 2015**, the 62nd Sydney Film Festival offers Sydneysiders another exciting season of cinema amidst a whirlwind of premieres, red-carpet openings, panel discussions, international guests and more. Each year the Festival's programming team curates 12 days of cinema sourced from world-famous film festivals, including Cannes, Sundance, Toronto and the Berlinale; as well as Australia's finest local productions.

Sydney Film Festival also presents an Official Competition of 12 films that vie for the Sydney Film Prize, a highly respected honour that awards a \$60,000 cash prize based on the decision of a jury of international and Australian filmmakers and industry professionals. Previous Sydney Film Prize winners are: *Two Days, One Night* (2014); *Only God Forgives* (2013); *Alps* (2012); *A Separation* (2011), which went on to win an Academy Award; *Heartbeats* (2010); and *Bronson* (2009).

The Festival takes place across greater Sydney: at the State Theatre, Event Cinemas George Street, Dendy Opera Quays, Dendy Newtown, Art Gallery of NSW, Hayden Orpheum Picture Palace Cremorne, Casula Powerhouse, the Festival Hub at Sydney Town Hall and SFF Outdoor Screen.

The Festival is a major event on the New South Wales cultural calendar and is one of the world's longest-running film festivals. For more information visit: www.sff.org.au.

The 62nd Sydney Film Festival is supported by the NSW Government through Screen NSW and Destination NSW, the Federal Government through Screen Australia and the City of Sydney.

MEDIA ENQUIRIES

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