



MEDIA RELEASE

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SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL HUB: TALKS, PARTIES & ART

The 62nd Sydney Film Festival announces the Festival Hub will return to Sydney's Town Hall, bringing a program of talks, entertainment, parties, performances and art to enhance the Festival experience.

"The Hub is the nucleus of the Festival; a place to meet before or after screenings, discuss films, and speak to Festival program specialists for recommendations," said **Festival Director Nashen Moodley**. "The Hub's Herman Miller Lounge is particularly comfortable and stylish, with a bar and food on offer, and a major video art exhibition created by emerging and established artists from around the world. The Hub is a place for filmmakers, Festival guests, industry and audiences to mingle," he said.

A lounge, gallery, bar, and Festival party space, the Hub is open to the public all nights and select days 4-13 June. Highlights include: the **Sydney Contemporary** video-art exhibition, showcasing unique works by Australian and internationally celebrated artists; **Foxtel Movies Blue Screen**, where clever technology puts audiences in the picture; the **Herman Miller Collection Lounge**; and **Program Gurus** to consult on the Festival films and activities.

Parties include: the **Studio 54 Disco Party**, following a screening of *54: The Director's Cut*; the **Beach Boys**-themed **Mercy Me!** party following the premiere of *Love & Mercy*; and the **National Film and Sound Archive's The Vinyl Lounge** with experts sharing rare and fascinating records from the archive and giving festivalgoers the chance to share and show off some of their own vinyl.

Talks and panels in the **Treasury Room** at the **Hub** tackle topics as diverse as: *The Return of Can Documentaries Change the World?* and *Why Do We Need to Engage with Difficult Films?* to *The History of Animation* and a *Horror Tragic Talkfest*. They are led by specialist Festival guests, from filmmakers to programmers, industry, critics and media.

Upstairs at Town Hall, the **Ian McPherson Memorial Lecture** returns with **David Stratton** and producer **Jan Chapman** in conversation, Monday 8 June, 4pm; and **Margaret Pomeranz** and **David Stratton** presenting *The Films We Love: The Neglected and the Unexpected*, Sunday 7 June, 3:30pm.

Vivid Ideas and **Sydney Film Festival** will co-present the special talk **Alex Gibney: In Conversation** with the internationally acclaimed documentarian at Sydney's Town Hall on Sunday 7 June, 11am. The discussion will explore the nature of telling complex, real-world stories, with particular reference to his new film *Going Clear: Scientology and the Prison of Belief*, which is premiering at the Festival. Gibney is one of the world's most prolific and controversial filmmakers (*We Steal Secrets: The Story of Wikileaks*, SFF 2013). His film *Mr Dynamite: The Story of James Brown*, will also premiere at the Festival in 2015.

Many more talks, performances and events will be added to the Festival Hub program as the start

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of the Festival gets closer.

Here is the 2015 Hub program as of Wednesday 6 May. For the most up-to-date program visit sff.org.au or the [Sydney Film Festival Hub Facebook Event Page](#).

HUB TALKS AND PANELS AT TOWN HALL

- **Micro-Talks** Saturday 6 June, 3-4:30pm
This very popular session from Sydney University returns again this year with short and informative 15-minute talks by leading film academics.
- **The History of Animation** Saturday 6 June, 5-6PM
Join Malcolm Turner, Sydney Film Festival programmer and animation researcher, as he talks us through the last 100 years of Australian animation.
- **Horror Tragic Talkfest** Sunday 7 June, 6:15-7:15pm
Join Freak Me Out guest programmer Richard Kuipers and producer and horror aficionado Ant Timpson (*Deathgasm*, *Turbo Kid*) for a freewheeling discussion about all things horror. Be part of the lively discussion on the past, present and future of the most durable movie genre of them all.
- **Refugees on Screen** Monday 8 June, 6:30-7:30pm
Following the screening of *Freedom Stories*, OzDox will host a discussion on how refugees are represented on Australian screens big and small.
- **The Making of Sherpa** Tuesday 9 June, 6:30-7:30pm
Join director Jennifer Peedom, producers Bridget Ikin and John Smithson, the filmmakers behind the extraordinary Official Competition documentary *Sherpa*.
- **Film Festivals Australia Brings Their Monthly Catch-Up to the Hub** Wednesday 10 June, 7-8pm
Learn what it takes to run a film festival and their growing importance to filmmakers and the industry.
- **Why Do We Need to Engage with Difficult Films?** Thursday 11 June, 6-7pm
Join ABC Radio National's Jason di Rosso as he ponders this question with fellow critics Margaret Pomeranz, Jack Sargeant and Dr. Sarinah Masukor.
- **Human Rights Watch** Thursday 11 June, 8-8:30pm
After the Festival's screening of *The Look of Silence*, Joshua Oppenheimer will join us via Skype to discuss his sequel to award winning *The Act of Killing* (SFF 2013), moderated by Andreas Harsono, Indonesian researcher from Human Rights Watch.
- **The Return of Can Documentaries Change the World?** Friday 12 June, 7-8pm
After last year's full-house session it is clear there's still much to discuss.
- **Panel: Dendy Awards Finalists** Sunday 14 June, 1-3:30pm
Meet the Dendy Awards finalists for 2015 at this enlightening panel hosted by Metro Screen, and grill them on what it took to bring their acclaimed short film from idea to red-carpet premiere.
- **Margaret and David: The Films We Love – The Neglected and the Unexpected** Sunday 7 June, 3:30pm at Sydney Town Hall (\$15)
Australia's favourite film critics join the Sydney Film Festival stage once more with an entertaining overview of some of the films that they feel deserve our closer consideration. After 28 years and one of the longest and most enduring partnerships on Australian television, Margaret Pomeranz and David Stratton recorded the final episode of *At the Movies* late last year. But fortunately for us, they can't get enough of discussing the films they really love.
In this candid conversation at Sydney Town Hall, David will champion the films he loves that were overlooked by critics or audiences, or both. Margaret will reveal some of her unexpected pleasures, from *The Fast and the Furious* to even more surprising selections.

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Their choices, and the reasons behind those choices, will make for a fascinating, lively and thought-provoking event.

IAN MCPHERSON MEMORIAL LECTURE 2015

Jan Chapman and David Stratton in Conversation

Monday 8 June, 4pm, The Festival Hub at Sydney Town Hall

David Stratton brings his consummate interviewing skills to bear as host of a special discussion featuring one of the most respected and successful film producers in Australia, Jan Chapman. Chapman has produced some of Australia's most celebrated and popular films, including the Academy Award-nominated *Bright Star*; *Lantana*, winner of the Australian Film Institute Award for Best Film; and *The Piano*, which won three Academy Awards. Her films have won over 38 AFI Awards along with numerous other honours around the world. Chapman was Jury President at SFF 2010 and the 2012 Asia Pacific Screen Awards; and has served on juries at the Berlinale, Istanbul and Rotterdam film festivals. In 2004 Jan was honoured for her outstanding contribution to Australian film as a recipient of the Order of Australia; and is currently on the boards of the Australian Centre for the Moving Image (ACMI) and SFF. She is producer, along with Nicole O'Donohue, of this year's Official Competition film *The Daughter*.

Register for free tickets at sff.org.au / 1300 733 733.

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.

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