



MEDIA RELEASE

SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES 10 FINALISTS FOR DENDY AWARDS FOR AUSTRALIAN SHORT FILMS

The 63rd Sydney Film Festival announces the 10 finalists in the Dendy Awards for Australian Short Films.

The Festival's short-film competition – now in its 47th year – has been sponsored by **Dendy Cinemas** for 28 of those years. These ground-breaking awards have kick-started the careers of many prominent filmmakers, with past competitors Warwick Thornton, Ariel Kleiman, Cate Shortland, Jane Campion, Phillip Noyce and Ivan Sen among Dendy Awards among the alumni.

This year's 10 finalists will be screened twice, on Saturday 18 June and again on Sunday 19 June, in two sessions. The winners will be announced at the Festival's **Closing Night Gala on Sunday 19 June**, at the State Theatre.

The 10 finalists compete for three prizes: the **Dendy Live Action Short Award**, which provides a \$5000 cash prize; the **Yoram Gross Animation Award**, which carries a \$5000 cash prize; and the **Rouben Mamoulian Award for Best Director**, which offers a \$5000 cash prize. In addition, each finalist (and all of the Australian shorts in the Festival) qualifies for the **Event Cinemas Australian Short Screenplay Award**.

"The Dendy Shorts Award is such an important opportunity for talented filmmakers to get exposure in the local film industry," said **Dendy Cinemas National Film, Content and Programming Manager, Claire Gandy**. "Dendy takes immense pride in providing local talent with such a prestigious platform as Sydney Film Festival to showcase their visions to a diverse and receptive audience."

The competition for Australian Short Films was established by the Festival in 1970. Winners of the Best Live Action Short Film award and the Yoram Gross Animation Award (sponsored by Yoram Gross Films) are **Academy Award-eligible**, opening new pathways for many Australian filmmakers.

Yoram Gross, the Polish-born pioneer of animated films in Australia, died last year aged 88. His contribution to the industry is celebrated with the Yoram Gross Animation Award.

Winners of all Sydney Film Festival are presented with the Festival's signature mesmeric swirl award, designed and handmade in Sydney by our partners Dinosaur Designs.

SFF 2016 Dendy Awards for Australian Short Films finalists:

- **THE ALBATROSS** Australia | 2015 | 7 mins | In English Australian Premiere
Directors, Screenwriters: Alex Jeremy, Joel Best, Alex Karonis | Producer: Deborah Szapiro | Production Company: University of Technology Sydney
- **THE CROSSING** Australia | 2016 | 11 mins | In English | World Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Marieka Walsh | Producer: Donna Chang | Cast: Colin Friels | Production Company: Studio Balloon
- **EAGLEHAWK** Australia | 2016 | 22 mins | In English | World Premiere

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Director: Shannon Murphy | Screenwriter: Marisa Nathar | Producer: Jessica Carrera | Cast: Tilda Cobham-Hervey, Ryan Corr, Wayne Blair | Production Company: Dollhouse Pictures

- **THE MEEK** Australia | 2015 | 7 mins | In English
Director, Screenwriter: Joe Brumm | Producer: Laura DiMaio | Cast: Danniella Markovic | Narrator: Myf Warhurst Production Company: Studiojoho
- **MY BEST FRIEND IS STUCK ON THE CEILING** Australia | 2015 | 10 mins | In English
Director, Screenwriter: Matt Vesely | Producers: Sophie Hyde, Christine Williams | Cast: Tom Ward, Erin James | Production Company: Closer Productions
- **NATHAN LOVES RICKY MARTIN** Australia | 2016 | 7 mins | In English and Russian | World Premiere
Director: Steven Arriagada | Screenwriters: Llewellyn Michael Bates, Steven Arriagada | Producers: Steven Arriagada, Llewellyn, Michael Bates, Bryan Chau | Cast: Verity Higgins, Dennis Manahan, Albert Goikhman | Production Company: Diverse Films
- **SLAPPER** Australia | 2015 | 15 mins | In English | World Premiere
Director: Luci Schroder | Screenwriters: Luci Schroder, Samuel West | Producers: Luci Schroder, Jason Byrne, Stephanie Westwood, Michael Latham | Cast: Sapphire Blossom, Dylan Peck, Maddy Brady | Production Company: Guilty Content
- **THE SPA** Australia | 2015 | 8 mins | In English | World Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Will Goodfellow | Producer: Lucy Gaffy | Cast: Chris Haywood, Jay Laga'aia, Peter Moalaeua | Production Company: GOONO
- **WELCOME HOME ALLEN** Australia | 2016 | 11 mins | No dialogue | World Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Andrew Kavanagh | Producer: Ramona Telecan | Cast: John Brumpton, Trevor Major, Jane Bayly | Production Company: Radioactive Gigantism Films
- **YOU DESERVE EVERYTHING** Australia | 2015 | 19 mins | In English | World Premiere
Director, Screenwriter, Producer: Goran Stolevski | Cast: Sachin Joab, Jean Bachoura, Wahibe Moussa

Sydney Film Festival runs 8 – 19 June 2016.

Tickets for Sydney Film Festival 2016 are on sale now. Please call 1300 733 733 or visit sff.org.au for more information.

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***Sydney Film Festival Press Pack and Images Available [HERE](#)

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ABOUT SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL

From **Wednesday 8 June to Sunday 19 June 2016**, the 63rd Sydney Film Festival offers Sydneysiders another exciting season of cinema amidst a whirlwind of premieres, red-carpet openings, in-depth 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 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: *Arabian Nights* (2015); *Two Days, One Night* (2014); *Only God Forgives* (2013); *Alps* (2012); *A Separation* (2011); *Heartbeats* (2010); *Bronson* (2009); and *Hunger* (2008).

The Festival takes place across greater Sydney: at the State Theatre, Event Cinemas George Street, Dendy Opera Quays, Dendy Newtown, Skyline Drive-In Blacktown, 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 63rd 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. The Festival's Strategic Partner is the NSW Government through Destination NSW.

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