



MEDIA RELEASE

SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL REVEALS A PROGRAM OF FILMS TO FREAK YOU OUT

The 63rd Sydney Film Festival today announces seven new films in **Freak Me Out**, the Festival's horror, cult, macabre and extreme arthouse film program.

Returning to **Dendy Newtown** and **Event Cinemas George Street**, as well as **Skyline Drive In Blacktown**, Sydney Film Festival's blood-curdling **Freak Me Out** program, curated by **Richard Kuipers**, is dedicated to weird, wild and shocking cinema.

"Now in its sixth year, the 2016 program is the most international **Freak Me Out** yet," said **Freak Me Out Programmer Richard Kuipers**, a Variety film critic specialising in cult cinema. "Seven new cutting-edge titles ranging from gore shockers to ghost movies and mind-bending mysteries have been carefully selected to send shivers up the spine and get pulses racing."

"A special thrill this year is welcoming **Red Christmas** – the very first Australia feature to join the unholy ranks of **Freak Me Out**. It's also thrilling to be returning to **Freak Me Out's** outdoor stomping ground at **Skyline Drive-In Blacktown** for a screening of **High-Rise**, the hotly-anticipated adaptation of J.G. Ballard's classic novel about a social apocalypse in luxury surroundings," he said.

As **Freak Me Out** continues its dedication to presenting wonderful weirdness from around the world, Festivalgoers can also look forward to the world premiere of Australian thriller **Red Christmas** starring horror legend Dee Wallace, from multitalented director **Craig Anderson**; and **The Devil's Candy**, where heavy metal and horror combine memorably in the Texas-set film by Tasmanian director Sean Byrne (*The Loved Ones*) with Ethan Embry (*Cheap Thrills*). Anderson and Byrne will present their films at the Festival.

The Canada-U.S. co-production **Patchwork** from director **Tyler MacIntyre** is a fabulously funny female variation on the Frankenstein story, which won leading lady Tory Stolper best actress at **Screamfest** for her multi-faceted performance. Somewhere in Europe extremely strange and very beautifully filmed things are happening in **Evolution**, the eagerly awaited and elegantly crafted second feature by French filmmaker **Lucile Hadžihalilovic** (*Innocence*, 2004).

Tehran, 1988, is the location for Sundance hit **Under the Shadow**, a scary and emotionally compelling Persian ghost story by talented newcomer **Babak Anvari**. Existing in a timeless, dateless American gothic world of its own is the sublimely creepy and beautifully horrifying arthouse piece **The Eyes of My Mother** directed by feature debutant Nicolas Pesce.

Freak Me Out favourite **Ben Wheatley** (*Kill List*, SFF 2011) returns with **High-Rise**, a lavishly appointed descent into communal chaos set in London, with an all-star cast (Tom Hiddleston, Jeremy Irons, Sienna Miller) premiering at the **Skyline Drive-In Blacktown**.

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SFF 2016 SFF Freak Me Out films:

- **THE DEVIL'S CANDY** USA | 2015 | 80 mins | In English
Director, Screenwriter: Sean Byrne | Producers: Keith Calder, Jessica Calder | Cast: Ethan Embry, Shiri Appleby, Pruitt Taylor Vince | Distributor: Transmission Films
- **EVOLUTION** France, Belgium, Spain | 2015 | 81 mins | In French with English subtitles
Director: Lucile Hadžihalilovic | Screenwriters: Lucile Hadžihalilovic, Alante Kavaite, in collaboration with Geoff Cox | Producers: Sylvie Pialat, Benoît Quainon, Jérôme Vidal, Sebastian Alvarez, Genevieve Lemal, John Engel | Cast: Max Brebant, Roxane Duran, Julie-Marie Parmentier | World Sales: Wild Bunch
- **THE EYES OF MY MOTHER** USA | 2016 | 77 mins | In English and Portuguese with English subtitles | International Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Nicolas Pesce | Producers: Max Born, Jacob Wasserman, Schuyler Weiss | Cast: Kika Magalhães, Will Brill, Paul Nazak | World Sales: Magnolia Pictures
- **HIGH-RISE** UK | 2015 | 118 mins | In English | Australian Premiere
Director: Ben Wheatley | Screenwriter: Amy Jump | Producer: Jeremy Thomas | Cast: Tom Hiddleston, Jeremy Irons, Sienna Miller | Distributor: Transmission Films
- **PATCHWORK** Canada, USA | 2015 | 87 mins | In English | Australian Premiere
Director: Tyler MacIntyre | Screenwriters: Chris Lee Hill, Tyler MacIntyre | Producers: John Negropontes, Aaron Webman, Ethan Webman, Jason Klein | Cast: Tory Stolper, Tracey Fairway, Maria Blasucci | Production Company: Infinite Lives Entertainment
- **RED CHRISTMAS** Australia | 2016 | 82 mins | In English | World Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Craig Anderson | Producers: Craig Anderson, Belinda King, Bryan Moses | Cast: Dee Wallace, Geoff Morrell, Sarah Bishop | Production Company: Red Christmas Pty Ltd
- **UNDER THE SHADOW** UK, Jordan, Qatar | 2016 | 84 mins | In Farsi with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Babak Anvari | Producers: Lucan Toh, Oliver Roskill, Emily Leo | Cast: Narges Rashidi, Avin Manshadi, Bobby Naderi | Distributor: Rialto Distribution

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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