



MEDIA RELEASE  
8 MAY 2013

## An action-packed program of free events: Sydney Film Festival Hub at Lower Town Hall

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Due to popular demand the **Sydney Film Festival Hub at Lower Town Hall** returns for a second year offering the public a **free** venue to relax and mingle before or after screenings, see local and international acts, hear filmmaker talks and grab a drink at the Keystone Bar. The Festival Hub will be the only place to purchase \$10 discount tickets for selected screenings, as well as take part in a new **Film Club**, daily from 5pm to 6pm, to share your festival-going experiences and hear what's hot in Festival Land.

Awarding-winning European artist and filmmaker **Jeff Desom** will open the Festival Hub with a free video installation celebrating Alfred Hitchcock's 60-year-old masterpiece *Rear Window*. In a stunning 20-minute panoramic three-channel video projection shown daily, audiences can see out of the rear window of James Stewart's character's New York apartment and experience firsthand the intrigue and mystery of the classic thriller. Hear about Desom's inspiration for creating **Rear Window Loop** plus his acclaimed music video work on **Sunday 9 June from 6-7pm**.

The Festival Hub will play host to a number of fun live performances and parties inspired by cinema, including **True Lies**, an evening of stand-up comedy featuring a line-up of top Australian talent, a **VHS Party** dedicated to the trash and treasures of that vanishing format, **Cinema Burlesque**, a steamy showcase of cabaret and pole-dancing acts inspired by cult films, and the **Ultimate Film Trivia** night.

**DJs will create the soundtrack for the Hub every evening until midnight**, with nights dedicated to obscure, kitschy and wild film soundtracks, such as the **Freak Me Out Disco** with DJ Richard Kuipers.

"The Sydney Film Festival Hub is an attempt to rediscover the thrill we experienced when we first discovered that cinema spoke to us in a way we didn't think possible," says Hub Programmer Mathieu Ravier. "It gives that thrill a home, a place where it can circulate and energise and shed light, like an electrical current."

"The theme of the Hub program this year is **Cinema, Reconstructed**. I've invited artists, filmmakers, performers, academics and film buffs to remix, re-interpret and perform their own love letter to cinema. The results are unpredictable, entertaining and a lot of fun."

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Screenings at the Festival Hub include timely and controversial documentary ***TPB AFK – The Pirate Bay Away From Keyboard***, in which Hollywood lawyers take on the infamous file-sharing website, followed by a panel discussion on piracy and internet freedoms. Don't miss ***Final Cut: Ladies & Gentlemen***, a collage film telling a new story using over 450 clips from films we know and love.

Directors in conversation at the Hub include 2013 Golden Bear winner Călin Peter Netzer (SFF Official Competition film ***Child's Pose***) and acclaimed documentary filmmaker Joshua Oppenheimer (SFF Official Competition film ***The Act of Killing***). We'll also look back on the Sydney Film Festival's 60-year history with ***Juliea And The Directors***, in which journalist Julie Rigg chats with eight SFF programmers, from the founding artistic director David Donaldson (1954-57) to David Stratton (1966-83) to Nashen Moodley (2012 to now).

For nine nights from 6-14 June and with longer opening hours this year, the Festival Hub will burst at the seams with free talks and performances, screenings, video installations, a bookshop and of course, parties.

And now for the full line-up:

## SCREENINGS AND PROJECTIONS

### **VIDEO INSTALLATION: Jeff Desom's video project *Rear Window Loop***

**Daily, 5-6pm and 10-12pm**

Artist Jeff Desom reconstructs the view out the rear window of James Stewart's character's New York apartment in Alfred Hitchcock's 60-year-old masterpiece, in a stunning 20-minute panoramic three-channel video projection.

### **SCREENING: *Cities on Speed: Bogota Change* and Q&A with director Andreas Dalsgaard**

**Saturday 8 June, 12-2pm**

Andreas Dalsgaard's documentary charts how the violent and corrupt Colombian capital was transformed into a peaceful model city using philosophies and strategies now exported to cities worldwide.

### **SCREENING: *TPB AFK: The Pirate Bay Away from Keyboard* + panel discussion**

**Sunday 9 June, 3-5pm**

Hollywood lawyers take on the Swedish filesharing website in Simon Klose's revealing new documentary, introduced by producer Signe Byrge Sørensen and followed by a panel discussion on intellectual property and freedoms.

### **SCREENING: *VHS Party***

**Saturday 8 June, 8:30-10pm**

Josh Wheatley and puppet critic Harvey Feltztein host a screening party dedicated to the VHS and a popular cinema threatened by extinction. Bring your cued-up tapes and share your favourite scenes!

### **SCREENING: *The Back of Beyond* + book signing**

**Monday 10 June, 1:30-3:30pm**

This influential documentary premiered at the first SFF in 1954 and won the Grand Prize at the Venice International Film Festival. It follows a postman's fortnightly journey from Marree in South Australia, to

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Birdsville in Queensland. Following the screening is a signing by Sylvia Lawson, author of a new work about the film published by Currency Press. Presented with the assistance of the John Heyer Estate.

**SCREENING: Final Cut: Ladies and Gentlemen**

Thursday 6 June, 8pm-9:30pm & Sunday 9 June, 8pm-9:30pm,

The new film by György Pálfi (*Taxidermia*) is an archetypal love story reconstructed in the editing room using over 450 clips from existing movies we know and love, from cult classics to blockbusters. It's a thrilling love letter to cinema! (Tickets \$10)

**VIDEO INSTALLATION: Essential Titles**

Daily, 5pm-midnight

Barr Gilmore isolates and recreates only the title and director's credit from the opening sequences of 100 classic films in a looped typographic projection. A co-presentation with the Toronto International Film Festival

**ENTERTAINMENT AND PERFORMANCE**

**EVENT: Francis Ford Question Mark; Ultimate Film Trivia!**

Thursday 6 June, 6-8pm

Flexipasses and outrageous prizes are up for grabs for film buffs who know their Lynch from their Linklater in this enthralling trivia night hosted by comedy collective Project 52 (Michael Hing and Tom Walker).

**PERFORMANCE: Freak Me Out Disco**

Friday 7 June, 10pm-12am

SFF's Freak Me Out programmer Richard Kuipers re-ignites the decks after last year's wild Cambodian Psychedelic Rock Party, playing rare '60s garage punk, spaghetti-western killers, Italian Giallo and insane rockabilly obscurities.

**PERFORMANCE: 2SER Presents: History of... Film Soundtracks**

Saturday 8 June, 7-11pm

From *Dr No* to *Drive*, *The Breakfast Club* to *Blue Velvet*, 2SER DJs Burt Reynolds, Blofeld and Barry Lyndon soundtrack six decades of film, dropping choice cuts from cult, cheesy and classic cinema.

**THEATRE: This Is It**

Wednesday 12 June, 8:30-9:30pm

You are invited to a press conference emceed by Fairfax journalist Giles Hardie, for a feature film that may not exist and where you, the audience, play the journalists. It's a performance by Team Mess in which anything can happen!

**COMEDY: True Lies**

Thursday 13 June, 8-10pm

A line-up of Australia's top comedians and storytellers take turns on the mic with hilarious confessions inspired by movies, stars and cinema.

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## **PERFORMANCE: Cinema Burlesque**

Thursday 13 June, 9:30-11pm

The talented artists of Bobbi's Pole Studio perform sassy, steamy burlesque and pole-dance routines inspired by cult movies. Diesel Darling, Pristina Sparx, Chilli, Matty Shields and Gipsy & Her Burlesque Babes are on a mission to top last year's outrageous show in every way possible.

## **TALKS & WORKSHOPS**

### **TALK: Friday On My Mind, Hosted by AFTRS**

Friday 7 June, 6-7:30pm

AFTRS bring its popular Friday on My Mind conversation to the Hub, in which acclaimed filmmaker Joshua Oppenheimer (SFF Official Competition film *The Act of Killing*) discusses his work with Radio National's Jason Di Rosso.

### **TALK: Short Cuts 1: Quick Talks by Film Addicts**

Friday 7 June, 8-10pm

A series of five engaging and quirky 15-minute talks by obsessive film buffs, curated by The Yeah Sessions. Topics include 'Re-Queering Australian Cinema' and 'A Vodka Martini... or a Heineken? The Glorious Role of Product Placement in Films'.

### **WORKSHOP: Basement Sound Studio: Live Foley Demo**

Saturday 8 June, 3:30-5pm

Local legend Les Fiddess, the man behind the sound effects for *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy and *Samson and Delilah*, creates live sound effects to cult films in this entertaining hands-on workshop.

### **WORKSHOP: Show and Tell: Hack Your Smartphone Camera!**

Saturday 8 June, 5-6:30pm

Meet and learn from geeks and DIY artists who've made surprising use of their smartphone cameras to create innovative and striking work, in partnership with Lomography Australia and Kino Sydney.

### **TALK: Download This Show: Cinema In the Year 2074**

Saturday 8 June, 6:30-8pm

Radio National host Marc Fennell brings cinema kicking and screaming 60 years into the future. Do cinemas still exist? Are all screens holographic? Find out in this mind-expanding panel.

### **TALK: Julie and the Directors**

Sunday 9 June, 12:30-2:30pm

In celebration of SFF's 60th anniversary, journalist Julie Rigg moderates a panel of Sydney Film Festival programmers past and present, from founding artistic director David Donaldson (1954-57) to David Stratton (1966-1983) to Nashen Moodley (2012 to now). It's an insightful look at six decades of world-cinema trends, festival challenges and juicy celebrity anecdotes.

### **TALK: 2SER IN CONVERSATION WITH JEFF DESOM**

Sunday 9 June, 6-7pm

Paris Pompom (Groovescooter) chats with European filmmaker and artist Jeff Desom (*Rear Window Loop*) about remixing Hitchcock, going viral and shooting music videos with zombie babies.

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**TALK: STILL PHOTOGRAPHERS IN CONVERSATION: ROBERT MCFARLANE AND MARK ROGERS**

Monday 10 June, 4-5pm

Two of Australia's best still photographers share striking images and juicy anecdotes about their work on the sets of iconic homegrown films, from *Heatwave* (1982) to *Wolf Creek 2* (2013). A co-presentation with Head On Photo Festival

**TALK: SHORT CUTS 2: QUICK TALKS BY FILM EXPERTS**

Monday 10 June, 6-7:30pm

A series of four entertaining and fascinating 15-minute talks by film experts and academics including Dr Jane Park on 'Representing Race in Film' and 'Sex on Screen' by Professor Annamarie Jagose. The talks are curated and presented by The University of Sydney.

**TALK: FIVE FILMS FOR AN ALIEN – HOSTED BY AFTRS**

Tuesday 11 June, 6:30-8pm

If you had to tell the story of cinema to an alien visiting our planet, which five films would you choose? Acclaimed filmmakers and practitioners share their picks. Intergalactic peace hangs in the balance!

**TALK: DIRECTOR IN CONVERSATION: CĂLIN PETER NETZER**

Wednesday 12 June, 6:30-8pm

Călin Peter Netzer talks about his process and the challenges he overcame to make Berlinale Golden Bear winner *Child's Pose*. A co-presentation with the Australian Directors Guild.

**TALK: CROWDFUND YOUR DREAMS**

Thursday 13 June, 6:30-8pm

Screen-content creators including Kirsty Stark (web series *Wastelander Panda*), Craig Boreham (*Teenage Kicks*) and Jiao Chen (*Ngurrumbang*) share their successes and disasters crowdfunding their work online. Presented in association with Pozible.com.

**About the programmer Mathieu Ravier:** Matt is the founder and director of The Festivalists, a non-profit company dedicated to the programming and production of cultural events, from Jurassic Lounge at the Australian Museum to the Possible Worlds Film Festival, from World Movies Secret Cinema to short film night Kino Sydney.

**INFO:**

**Where:** Festival Hub @ Lower Town Hall, Sydney Town Hall, 483 George Street, Sydney 2000

**When:** 6 – 16 June.

Sat, Sun, Mon: noon – midnight

Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri: 5pm – midnight

**What:** Drinks, snacks, screenings, performances, DJs, talks, panels, parties, video installations and a bookshop

**Info:** [www.sff.org.au/hub](http://www.sff.org.au/hub) and <http://www.facebook.com/SydneyFilmFestivalHub>

**Tickets:** FREE entry at all times

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Please note: the full up-to-date schedule of events at Festival Hub is now available as a PDF or at [www.sff.org.au](http://www.sff.org.au)

Sydney Film Festival celebrates its 60th anniversary this 5-16 June bringing a packed program of screenings and special events to even more venues across Sydney. The full program will be announced on Wednesday 8 May 2013 Flexi passes are now on sale. For tickets and full up-to-date program information please visit [www.sff.org.au](http://www.sff.org.au).

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## ABOUT SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL

Sydney Film Festival screens feature films, documentaries, short films and animations across the city at the State Theatre, Event Cinemas George Street, Dendy Opera Quays, the Art Gallery of NSW and the Hayden Orpheum Picture Palace. 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](http://www.sff.org.au)

Sydney Film Festival also presents twelve films that vie for the 'Official Competition'; a highly respected international honour that awards a \$60,000.00 cash prize based on the decision of a jury of international and Australian filmmakers and industry professionals. Previous Sydney Film Festival Official Competition winners include: *Alps* (2012), *A Separation* (2011) – which went on to win an Academy Award®, *Heartbeats* (2010), *Bronson* (2009) and *Hunger* (2008).

The 60th Sydney Film Festival is supported by the NSW Government through Screen NSW, the Federal Government through Screen Australia, and the City of Sydney. The Festival's Strategic partner is the NSW Government through Destination NSW.

**What:** Sydney Film Festival

**When:** 5-16 June, 2013

**Tickets & Info:** 1300 733 733 [www.sff.org.au](http://www.sff.org.au)

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