



MEDIA RELEASE

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS AT THE STATE

The 63rd Sydney Film Festival today announced 15 titles, including award winners and a world premiere to screen as Special Presentations at the State Theatre.

Presented by Princess Cruises, the program offers audiences the ultimate Festival experience with screenings at the magnificent State Theatre, often with special filmmaker guests in attendance.

“For a third year running, Princess Cruises is delighted to bring to audiences some of the world’s most talked about cinema,” said **Stuart Allison, Princess Cruises Vice President, Australia and New Zealand**. “In these Special Presentations at the magnificent State Theatre, audiences will journey to new places both within Australia and around the world. This is a perfect partnership for Princess Cruises, who have been providing guests with memorable escapes and meaningful experiences around the world for over 50 years,” he said.

“Seeing a film at the State Theatre is one of the true delights of the Festival,” said **Festival Director Nashen Moodley**. “Each Special Presentation title is hand-picked from a selection of some of the most highly anticipated films in the world today and this incredibly unique setting only serves to heighten the excitement, knowing you’re about to witness a crucial new work of cinema,” he said.

Of the 15 films selected to screen at the State Theatre, four titles come direct to Sydney Film Festival from Cannes. These include American filmmaker **Matt Ross’s *Captain Fantastic*** starring **Viggo Mortensen** and Australian actor **Nicholas Hamilton**; and Oscar winning Spanish filmmaker **Pedro Almodóvar’s *Julieta***. American filmmaker **Jim Jarmusch’s *Gimme Danger***, a documentary love letter to punk icons Iggy Pop and his band The Stooges; and French director **Jean-François Richet’s *Blood Father*** starring Oscar winning filmmaker-actor **Mel Gibson**, also selected for Midnight Screenings at Cannes.

The Festival has announced that a number of award-winning filmmakers will attend in 2016 from both Australia and abroad. Many of the guests are attached to Special Presentations at the State Theatre and will be in attendance to introduce their films. The visiting filmmakers include Oscar winning filmmaker-actor **Mel Gibson**, star of the Cannes selected film ***Blood Father***; young Australian filmmaker **Abe Forsythe** whose provocative black comedy ***Down Under***, set during the aftermath of the Cronulla Riots, will have its world premiere at the Festival. New Zealand’s **Lee Tamahori** (*Once Were Warriors*), director of ***Mahana***, together with stars **Temuera Morrison** and **Akukata Keefe**; Academy Award winning Pakistani filmmaker **Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy** director of ***A Journey of A Thousand Miles***; and Irish musical comedy ***Sing Street*** stars **Ferdia Walsh-Peelo** and **Mark McKenna** will also present their films’ premieres at the State Theatre.

Princess Cruises will also present Sydney Film Festival’s Closing Night Film ***Love & Friendship***, **Whit Stillman’s** adaptation of Jane Austen’s comical early novella ‘Lady Susan’ – starring **Kate Beckinsale**, **Chloë Sevigny**, Australian actor **Xavier Samuel** and **Stephen Fry**.

Principal State Government Partner



Strategic Partners



Government Partners





MEDIA RELEASE

SFF Talks and Panels at the Town Hall

Vivid Ideas and Sydney Film Festival present a series of FREE talks at the SFF Hub at Town Hall. The series includes:

- Oscar-winning filmmaker-actor **Mel Gibson**, to discuss his role in the Cannes selected film **Blood Father** and his latest directorial offering **Hacksaw Ridge**.
- Academy Award-winning **Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy** shares her experiences as a woman making films in Pakistan following the screening of her documentary **A Journey of A Thousand Miles**, hosted by Macquarie University's **Kathryn Millard**.

Also, FREE public Meet the Filmmaker talks return to the Apple Store Sydney and feature New Zealand's **Lee Tamahori** (*Once Were Warriors*) director of **Mahana**, together with stars **Temuera Morrison** and **Akuhata Keefe**.

2016 Special Presentations at the State:

- **BLOOD FATHER** France | 2016 | 87 mins | In English | Australian Premiere
Director: Jean-François Richet | Screenwriters: Andrea Berloff, Peter Craig | Producers: Chris Briggs, Pascal Caucheteux, Sebastien Lemercier | Cast: Mel Gibson, Erin Moriarty, William H. Macy | Distributor: Icon Film Distribution
- **CAPTAIN FANTASTIC** USA | 2016 | 119 mins | In English | Australian Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Matt Ross | Producers: Lynette Howell Taylor, Jamie Patricof, Shivani Rawat, Monica Levinson | Cast: Viggo Mortensen, Frank Langella, George MacKay | Distributor: Entertainment One Australia
- **DEMOLITION** USA | 2015 | 100 mins | In English | Australian Premiere
Director: Jean-Marc Vallée | Screenwriter: Bryan Sipe | Producers: Lianne Halfon, Russ Smith, Molly Smith, Trent Luckinbill, Sidney Kimmel, Jean-Marc Vallée | Cast: Jake Gyllenhaal, Naomi Watts, Chris Cooper | Distributor: Twentieth Century Fox Film Distribution
- **DOWN UNDER** Australia | 2016 | 88 mins | In English | World Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Abe Forsythe | Producer: Jodi Matterson | Cast: Lincoln Younes, Rahel Romahn, Michael Denkha | Distributor: StudioCanal
- **ELVIS & NIXON** USA | 2016 | 86 mins | In English | Australian Premiere
Director: Liza Johnson | Screenwriters: Joey Sagal, Hanala Sagal, Cary Elwes | Producers: Holly Wiersma, Cassian Elwes, Cary Elwes | Cast: Michael Shannon, Kevin Spacey, Alex Pettyfer | Distributor: Entertainment One Australia
- **EVERYBODY WANTS SOME!!** USA | 2016 | 117 mins | In English | Australian Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Richard Linklater | Producers: Richard Linklater, Megan Ellison, Ginger Sledge | Cast: Blake Jenner, Tyler Hoechlin, Ryan Guzman | Distributor: Roadshow Films
- **GIMME DANGER** USA | 2016 | 108 mins | In English | Australian Premiere
Director: Jim Jarmusch | Producer: Carter Logan | Distributor: Transmission Films
- **A JOURNEY OF A THOUSAND MILES: PEACEKEEPERS** Pakistan, USA | 2015 | 95 mins | In English, Bengali and Creole with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director, Producer: Geeta Gandbhir, Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy | Production Company: SOCFilms and G2P2films

Principal State Government Partner



Strategic Partners



Government Partners





MEDIA RELEASE

- **JULIETA** Spain | 2016 | 98 mins | In Spanish with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Pedro Almodóvar | Producer: Esther Garcia | Cast: Adriana Ugarte, Emma Suarez, Daniel Grao | Distributor: Transmission Films
- **MAGGIE'S PLAN** USA | 2015 | 99 mins | In English | Australian Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Rebecca Miller | Producers: Rachael Horovitz, Damon Cardasis, Rebecca Miller | Cast: Greta Gerwig, Ethan Hawke, Julianne Moore | Distributor: Sony Pictures Releasing
- **MAHANA** New Zealand | 2016 | 102 mins | In English and Maori | Australian Premiere
Director: Lee Tamahori | Screenwriter: John Collee | Producers: Robin Scholes, Janine Dickins | Cast: Temuera Morrison, Akuhata Keefe, Nancy Brunning | Distributor: Entertainment One Australia
- **SAINT AMOUR** France, Belgium | 2015 | 101 mins | In French with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Directors, Screenwriters: Benoit Delépine, Gustav Kervern | Producers: Jean-Pierre Guérin, Benoit Delépine, Gustave Kervern | Cast: Gerard Depardieu, Benoît Poelvoorde, Vincent Lacoste | Distributor: Madman Entertainment
- **SING STREET** Ireland | 2016 | 105 mins | In English | Australian Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: John Carney | Producers: Anthony Bregman, Martina Niland, John Carney | Cast: Ferdia Walsh-Peelo, Jack Reynor, Lucy Boynton | Distributor: Roadshow Films
- **SUBURRA** Italy | 2015 | 135 mins | In Italian with English subtitles
Director: Stefano Sollima | Screenwriters: Stefano Rulli, Sandro Petraglia | Producers: Cattleya, La Chuave-Souris | Cast: Pierfrancesco Favino, Elio Germano, Claudio Amendola | Distributor: Madman Entertainment
- **WAR ON EVERYONE** UK | 2015 | 97 mins | In English | Australian Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: John Michael McDonagh | Producers: Chris Clark, Flora Fernandez Marengo, Phil Hunt | Cast: Alexander Skarsgård, Michael Peña, Caleb Landry Jones | Distributor: Icon Film Distribution

CLOSING NIGHT, presented by Distinguished Partner, Princess Cruises

- **LOVE & FRIENDSHIP** Ireland, France, Netherlands | 2016 | 93 mins | In English | Australian Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Whit Stillman | Producers: Katie Holly, Lauranne Bourrachot, Whit Stillman | Cast: Kate Beckinsale, Xavier Samuel, Morfydd Clark | Distributor: Transmission Films

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.

MEDIA ENQUIRIES

Amber Forrest-Bisley, Publicity Manager, Sydney Film Festival

E: amber@cardinalspin.com.au P: 02 8065 7363 M: 0405 363 817

Amy Owen, Communications Advisor

E: amy@cardinalspin.com.au M: 0404 977 338

Principal State Government Partner



Strategic Partners



Government Partners





MEDIA RELEASE

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

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.

Principal State Government Partner



Strategic Partners



Government Partners

