

## MEDIA RELEASE

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# SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES INAUGURAL SUSTAINABLE FUTURE AWARD SHORTLIST

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The 68<sup>th</sup> Sydney Film Festival in cinema (3-14 November) and now on demand (12-21 Nov), has today announced the eight documentaries shortlisted for the Festival's inaugural **Sustainable Future Award**, a \$10,000 cash prize presented to a narrative or documentary film of any length that deepens our knowledge and awareness of the impact of the global climate emergency.

From around the world, the shortlisted films are: Australian documentaries, *Burning* and *A Fire Inside*, each exploring the 2019-20 bushfires in very different ways; two from Scandinavia - Berlinale-selected *From the Wild Sea* and CPH:DOX-selected *How to Kill a Cloud*; tales from the frontlines of climate change in *The Magnitude of All Things*; Jen Peedom and the Australian Chamber Orchestra's latest collaboration *River* narrated by Willem Dafoe; an inspiring life story of an eco-warrior in *The Seeds of Vandana Shiva*; and stunningly beautiful yet shocking Georgian documentary *Taming the Garden*.

Sydney Film Festival Director Nashen Moodley said, "The Festival is proud to introduce this new addition to our awards program. The Award is philanthropically motivated and funded by a syndicate of climate activists who believe deeply in the power of film to heighten community awareness of the need for action."

"All films will screen in-cinema at the 68<sup>th</sup> Sydney Film Festival, with a number of titles also screening in SFF On Demand's online program (12-21 November)," he said.

SFF's prestigious jury of filmmakers and climate advocates comprised: school student and Strike4Climate activist **Natasha Abhayawickrama**; documentary filmmaker **Bettina Dalton**; Deputy-Vice Chancellor Research Office and Climate Council Member **Professor Leslie Hughes**; actress and philanthropist **Amanda Maple-Brown**, and documentary filmmaker **Tom Zubrycki**.

**The winner of the Sustainable Futures Award will be revealed on Monday 11 October 2021.**

### SUSTAINABLE FUTURE AWARD SHORTLIST

- *Burning*, from the lens of Oscar-winning filmmaker Eva Orner (*Taxi to the Dark Side* - SFF 2008, *Bikram: Yoga, Guru, Predator* and *Chasing Asylum*), the Australian Amazon Original documentary takes an unflinching look at the unprecedented and catastrophic Australian bushfires of 2019-2020, known as 'Black Summer'.

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- ***A Fire Inside***, Grammy-nominated Australian filmmakers Justin Krook's and Luke (Red Hill) Mazzaferro's documentary, reflects on the selfless acts of everyday Aussies that inspired the nation during the 2019-20 bushfires.
- ***From the Wild Sea*** by Danish director Robin Petré screens in SFF program strand, Europe! Voices of Women In Film. The documentary, which premiered in the 2021 Berlinale, tells the story of the volunteers working tirelessly to rescue Europe's marine life from pollution and violent weather fuelled by climate change.
- ***How to Kill a Cloud***, also screens in SFF program strand, Europe! Voices of Women In Film. The film from director Tuija Halttunen follows a Finnish scientist who takes on a multimillion-dollar project to make rain in the desert, but soon becomes caught in an ethical dilemma between research, finance and the environment.
- ***The Magnitude of All Things***, from multi-award-winning director Jennifer Abbott (*The Corporation*, SFF 2004), is a potent look at the frontlines of climate change, featuring interviews with Greta Thunberg and other vital activists.
- ***River*** is from the Australian creative team behind *Mountain* (SFF 2017), Jennifer Peedom and Joseph Nizeti. A cinematic love-letter to the world's waterways, narrated by Willem Dafoe, the film features eye-opening footage from 39 countries, matched by the Australian Chamber Orchestra's score that includes music by Bach, Jonny Greenwood and Radiohead, and First Nations musician William Barton.
- ***The Seeds of Vandana Shiva***, tells the remarkable life story of eco-activist Dr. Vandana Shiva, the rock star of the organic food movement. From the Himalayan forests to the Sydney Peace Prize, childhood to activism, a difficult marriage and to the world stage, Shiva's life story is exceptionally inspiring.
- ***Taming the Garden***, from Georgian director Salomé Jashi tells a shocking, surreal environmental tale that follows the journey of ancient trees uprooted from their home in a Georgian coastal community by a wealthy, anonymous man. This singular film was selected for Sundance, New Directors/New Films, CPH:DOX and Berlinale this year.

The full Sydney Film Festival 2021 program can be found online at [sff.org.au](https://sff.org.au).

Sydney Film Festival runs in cinema 3–14 November 2021. SFF On Demand's online program runs 12-21 November. Tickets to Sydney Film Festival 2021 are on sale now. Please call 1300 733 733 or visit [sff.org.au](https://sff.org.au) for more information.

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

#### EDITOR'S NOTES



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## ABOUT SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL

From Wednesday 3 November to Sunday 14 November 2021, the 68<sup>th</sup> Sydney Film Festival offers Sydneysiders another exciting season of cinema amidst a whirlwind of premieres, in-depth discussions with film guests, and now a virtual offering with **SFF On Demand** streaming nationally from 12-21 November.

Sydney Film 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 [sff.org.au](http://sff.org.au).

The 68th Sydney Film Festival is supported by the NSW Government through Screen NSW, the Federal Government through Screen Australia and the City of Sydney.



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