

SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL

EMBARGOED UNTIL 00.01am TUESDAY 10 AUGUST 2021

SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES TWO PROGRAMS: DENDY AWARDS FOR AUSTRALIAN SHORT FILMS & EUROPE! VOICES OF WOMEN IN FILM PROGRAM

The 68th Sydney Film Festival (3-14 November 2021) has today announced the return of the 52nd Dendy Awards for Australian Short Films and the sixth annual Europe! Voices of Women in Film program, in partnership with Dendy Cinemas and the European Film Promotion respectively.

SHORT FILM AWARDS

Sydney Film Festival Director Nashen Moodley said, “The Festival is proud to once again showcase the incredible works of Australian filmmakers as part of the Dendy Awards for Australian Short Films. Having launched the careers of countless renowned directors, writers, producers and other film creatives over the course of its 52 year-history, the Festival will premiere another cohort of 10 superb new short films.”

Ten finalists for the prestigious Dendy Awards for Australian Short Films will screen in the Festival. Australia’s longest running short film competition is now in its 52nd year and has been sponsored by Dendy Cinemas since 1989.

Finalists will compete for three coveted prizes: **The Dendy Live Action Short Award**, **The Rouben Mamoulian Award for Best Director** and the **Yoram Gross Animation Award**, announced at the Festival’s Closing Night.

Nick Hayes, Head of Theatrical Sales and Acquisitions, Dendy / Icon said, “Short films have a special place in the hearts of all filmmakers. It is where they first try out their ideas and skills. It is the first time most will ever use the credit of Director. For some filmmakers it will be a form to which they return, even when they have established themselves in the industry. Such is the joy of the perfectly formed film and Dendy is once again so proud to support all the 2021 Dendy finalists.”

Finalists:

- **DWARF PLANET** | 2020 | Australia | Director, Screenwriter: Adrian Chiarella
- **FREEDOM SWIMMER** | 2021 | Australia | Director, Screenwriter: Olivia Martin-McGuire
- **LIFEBLOOD** | 2021 | Australia | Director, Producer: Nicholas Tory
- **THE MOOGAI** | 2020 | Australia | Director, Screenwriter: Jon Bell
- **OFF THE RAILS** | 2021 | Australia | Directors, Screenwriters, Producers: Bel Holborow, Isabelle Coury
- **PEEPS** | 2020 | Australia | Director, Screenwriter: Sophie Somerville
- **SHARK** | 2021 | Australia | Director, Screenwriter: Nash Edgerton
- **THE STRANGER** | 2020 | Australia | Director, Screenwriter: Jenny Hicks
- **TINASHÉ** | 2021 | Australia | Director, Screenwriter: Tig Terera
- **tough** | 2021 | Australia | Director, Screenwriter: Taylor Ferguson



EUROPE! VOICES OF WOMEN IN FILM Supported by European Film Promotion

Sydney Film Festival Director Nashen Moodley said, “Audiences can also look forward to 10 essential films from Europe’s most exciting women directors as part of the Europe! Voices of Women in Film program. From revered award-winners to powerful examinations of prejudice and inequality, as well as a provocative exploration of the U.S. porn industry, these films are sure to resonate with Festival audiences.”

In partnership with European Film Promotion, Sydney Film Festival presents the sixth annual **Europe! Voices of Women in Film**; a program of 10 new films from vital European women filmmakers.

From Slovenia to Sweden, and Kosovo to Greece, Europe! Voices of Women in Film shines a spotlight on exciting, talented women filmmakers.

Impactful debut features that have been selected for Cannes include: ***Pleasure***, a bold drama about a young Swedish woman striving for success in LA’s ruthless porn industry; ***Slalom***, an unflinching portrait of the abuse experienced by a teenage competitive skier at the hands of her domineering coach; and ***Last Days of Spring***, a poignant blend of fiction and documentary exploring the plight of a family facing eviction from a Madrid shantytown.

The program also includes a number of captivating documentaries: ***From the Wild Sea*** dives into the work of volunteers tirelessly trying to rescue Europe’s marine life from pollution and the impacts of climate change; and ***How to Kill a Cloud*** sees a Finnish scientist take on a multimillion-dollar project to make it rain in the desert.

European Film Promotion Managing Director Sonja Heinen said, “We are thrilled that our programme is coming back to Sydney’s cinema screens this year and are looking forward to turning this fine selection of voices by European women directors into an unforgettable cinematic experience.”

“The films in this year’s line-up zoom in on human ambitions colliding with nature and patriarchal, capitalist or xenophobic structures. They deal with the dualisms of our time, focus on ambivalences and offer the audience thought-provoking impulses rather than answers.”

Films:

- ***FROM THE WILD SEA*** | 2021 | Denmark | Director: Robin Petré
- ***GREEN SEA*** | 2020 | Greece | Director, Screenwriter: Angeliki Antoniou
- ***HIVE*** | 2021 | Kosovo, Switzerland, Macedonia, Albania | Director, Screenwriter: Blerta Basholli
- ***HOW TO KILL A CLOUD*** | 2021 | Finland, Denmark | Director, Screenwriter: Tuija Halttunen
- ***LAST DAYS OF SPRING*** | 2020 | Netherlands, Spain | Director, Screenwriter: Isabel Lamberti
- ***NICO*** | 2021 | Germany | Director: Eline Gehring
- ***PLEASURE*** | 2021 | Sweden, Netherlands, France | Director, Screenwriter: Ninja Thyberg
- ***RECONCILIATION*** | 2021 | Slovenia, Serbia, Montenegro, Kosovo | Director: Marija Zidar
- ***SLALOM*** | 2020 | France | Director, Screenwriter: Charlène Favier
- ***WHY NOT YOU*** | 2020 | Austria, Belgium | Director, Screenwriter: Evi Romen

TICKETING & VIEWING

The Dendy Awards for Australian Short Films finalists will screen together at **Event Cinemas George Street** from **2PM** on **Saturday 13** and **Sunday 14 November 2021**.



Tickets on sale now:

- Adults: \$21
- Concessions: \$18
- Youth (15-17 Years): \$14
- Group 10+: \$15.50

Flexipasses are also on sale and can be redeemed for both the Dendy Awards for Australian Short Films finalists and the Europe! Voices of Women in Film line-up:

- Flexipass 10: \$165
- Flexipass 20: \$310
- Flexipass 30: \$435
- Youth Pass 6 (15-24 Years): \$75

The Festival will reveal its **Full Program** in coming weeks, with subscriptions valid for the new dates.

Flexipasses to Sydney Film Festival 2021 are on sale now.
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](#)

EDITOR'S NOTES

ABOUT SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL

From Wednesday 3 November to Sunday 14 November 2021, the 68th Sydney Film Festival offers Sydneysiders another exciting season of cinema amidst a whirlwind of premieres, red-carpet openings, in-depth discussions, film guests and more.

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.

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.

