The synopses and production details listed in this publication have been supplied and approved by the producer of each entered production.

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It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the 2018 AACTA Film Fest. With a record breaking 38 feature films in competition – many of which you can’t see anywhere else – this year’s Festival is an all-inclusive look at Australian film. AACTA Film Fest provides the opportunity to view the outstanding Australian films from the past 12 months competing for our nation’s highest screen accolades – the AACTA Awards.

It’s a fascinating time, as the landscape of our film industry continues to change; from the expansion of non-traditional distribution pathways and the availability of VOD and SVOD services to the role social media plays as a marketing platform, Australian films have more opportunities to find audiences than ever before.

In particular, more and more great Australian independent films are making waves, telling diverse and unique stories that you can’t find anywhere else. This year we’re thrilled to recognise these films and the creative filmmakers behind them who are doing incredible things with small budgets via the AACTA Award for Best Indie Film.

This year’s competing films feature a dynamic mix of genres, including: thrillers such as 1% and CARGO; dramas including BREATH, WEST OF SUNSHINE and BOY ERASED; sci-fi films including UPGRADE and OCCUPATION; comedies such as BROTHERS’ NEST, LADIES IN BLACK and THE MERGER; and family films PETER RABBIT™ and THE LEGO® NINJAGO MOVIE. There are also plenty of familiar faces on-screen, including award-winning home-grown talent such as Nicole Kidman, Russell Crowe, Kylie Minogue, Joel Edgerton, Rose Byrne, Elizabeth Debicki, Jason Clarke, Magda Szubanski, Sam Neill and Simon Baker, among many others. We also enjoy performances from international actors including Helen Mirren, Rooney Mara, Martin Freeman, Julia Ormond and Lucas Hedges.

Almost half of this year’s films were made by first-time directors, who compete alongside some of Australia’s leading directors including Bruce Beresford, Warwick Thornton, Nash Edgerton, Stephen Elliott and Garth Davis. I’m pleased to report another strong year for women in Australian film. There are nine female directors in competition, over half the competing films featuring prominent female leads or female-centric storylines, and seven films where females make up over half the awards candidates. We’re also pleased to see a third of competing films with culturally and linguistically diverse themes and representation.

I’d like to take this opportunity to thank the industry for ensuring Australian film remains vibrant and dynamic through their tireless work, as well as our valued partners, new and continuing, for their generous support throughout the year.

And finally I thank you, our members. Your passion and support of our industry ensures it continues to flourish, as well as allowing us to continue supporting, promoting and celebrating Australian screen productions, practitioners and performers.

I encourage you all to participate in the largest conversation on Australian film and join us at the 2018 Film Fest in cinemas, online and on AACTA TV. Your vote is vital to the peer-assessed Awards process, so remember to make it count! I also hope you will take the time to join us at AACTA Shorts Fest in August and AACTA Docs Fest in October – either in cinema in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Perth or via AACTA TV.

Enjoy the 2018 AACTA Film Fest!

Damian Trewhella
AFI | AACTA
Chief Executive Officer
At the tender age of seven-and-a-half - fractions are important at that age, and when discussing formative moments - my parents took me to the movies to see Pino Amenta’s WHAT THE MOON SAW. When Amenta’s charming tale of burgeoning adolescence unfolded on the big screen before me, I was captivated in a way that was hitherto unknown to me (thanks in no small part to Rose Chong’s AFI Award-winning costumes). A world of possibility opened up to me, one in which uniquely Australian experiences could bewitch and bewilder me just like their international counterparts that the local video store shelves heaved with: there was no turning back.

This is an experience common to all Australian filmgoers, young and old, to this day: when we see ourselves reflected on the silver screen, our understanding of ourselves, our culture and our history deepens.

This year’s AACTA Film Fest offers the cineaste and the curious alike an unparalleled opportunity to dive deep into Australian cinema in 2018. With 38 films in competition, some of which can only be seen during the Festival, the program spans a remarkable range of genres, voices, tones and themes.

Excitingly, Australian filmmakers working outside so-called traditional avenues continue to push the boundaries of what an “Australian film” can be, a groundswell reflected by the 18 feature films in competition made for under $2 million. This independent spirit brings us films like Jed Malone’s warm-hearted BIRTHDAY ADJUSTMENT DISORDER, a micro-budget exploration of mental health made in the true spirit of mumblecore; Jason Raftopoulos’ meditation on working class fatherhood WEST OF SUNSHINE (starring 2016 AACTA Best Original Screenplay and Best Lead Actor nominee Damian Hill); and Donna McRae’s unsettling LOST GULLY ROAD, described by film critic Alexandra Heller-Nicholas as “the most original and powerful Australian haunted house film in years.”

This year, Australian filmmakers embraced genre filmmaking with an enthusiasm that recalls the glory (and gory) days of the Australian New Wave, with the Festival program offering uniquely Australian interpretations of horror, science fiction, thriller and action. Warwick Thornton’s SWEET COUNTRY revives the Australian western, a genre unto itself, and turns an unflinching lens upon colonialism and nationalism.

As my colleague Blake Howard notes in this program, Australian filmmakers are now exploring the narrative possibilities afforded by VOD/SVOD and other digital platforms, and this coupled with international festival interest in Australian films means that audiences for Australian stories are poised to be broader than ever. More and more Australian directors, writers, actors and film artisans are in high demand overseas. The world will come running, but for now, this is your chance to see just how great we can be.
One of the most powerful moments I’ve ever seen on a cinema screen is the chilling opening of David Michôd’s ANIMAL KINGDOM where Josh (James Frecheville) passively consumes game show television while his mother is being treated for a fatal overdose. It’s rich, deftly handled and leaves an indelible, undeniable mental scar. You don’t have to reach back to the canonical Australian New Wave to find incredible works of antipodean cinema. Recently, I was lucky enough to be part of a collective of Australian Film Critics polled for flicks.com.au. The task was to select the ten best Australian films since the year 2000. While in principle that might sound easy, narrowing down the list to a mere ten films was like a torturous cycle in killing your darlings. Australian cinema, especially in the last decade, is stronger than ever. With an unrivalled selection of 38 films (some that cannot be seen anywhere else), AACTA Film Fest is the forum to create the narrative of what Australian cinema is in 2018. While Sydney, Melbourne and now Adelaide Film Festivals do a fantastic job of showcasing Australian films; it is only the AACTA Film Fest’s exclusive focus on Australian cinema that showcases the most authentic picture of contemporary Australia. This year’s AACTA Film Fest showcases the full, diverse range of Australia’s creative voices across all levels of filmmaking. With representation across all genres, 23% of films directed by women, 73% of films in competition from writer/directors, and the triumphant return of some of Australia’s most beloved and successful filmmakers. Maestro Bruce Beresford delivers an adaption of Madeleine St John’s slice of sexual politics in 1959 Sydney in LADIES IN BLACK. Architect of the SAW and INSIDIOUS franchise Leigh Whannell is back in the director’s chair for the second time with body horror/mutation tale UPGRADE. And AACTA Trailblazer Award winner Simon Baker transitions effortlessly from directing television to directing feature film, steering Tim Winton’s coming of age story BREATHE.

As my colleague Clem Bastow points out, what defines an “Australian” film is constantly being re-evaluated. BOY ERASED - an adaption of Garrard Conley’s American novel about gay conversion “therapy” – sees AFI Award winner Joel Edgerton continue to establish himself as a successful auteur and features an all-star Australian team in front of and behind the camera including Oscar® winners Nicole Kidman and Russell Crowe.

This selection features movies that use our past to reflect our present (SWEET COUNTRY, SWINGING SAFARI). This selection leads us on humanitarian missions into conflict zones (JIRGA). Films in this selection tackle institutions and foundation beliefs with revisionist lenses (MARY MAGDALENE, 1%). And finally, this selection uses and bends genre to bring aliens to bare on the local rather than the global (OCCUPATION).

Right now, the production and distribution of Australian movies is in a state of rapid change. Viewing habits have pivoted from merely visiting the cinema, or tuning into pre-programmed broadcast television, to the array of on-demand streaming services like Netflix, Amazon and Stan all available from your phone. SVOD platforms are an exciting avenue to propel great Australian works to international audiences as we’ve seen with productions like MYSTERY ROAD creating an appetite for not only its sequel GOLDSTONE but this year’s acclaimed MYSTERY ROAD: THE SERIES television adaptation. Films like CARGO (for Netflix) and THE SECOND (for Stan) are the exciting early adopters, made as “original” features with tactical screening windows at the cinema.

While Australian creatives such as AACTA winners Judy Davis and Richard Roxburgh (and a 30 strong cohort) lobby the government to impose Australian content quotas on these services; the AACTA Film Fest has the opportunity and the obligation to elevate new work from emerging filmmakers whose distribution trajectory is drastically different to that of their predecessors.
SCREENINGS SCHEDULE

Each film that has not previously been screened as part of AFI | AACTA’s year-round Member Events Program will be screened once in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane. For screening dates, times and locations, please refer to the Program for each State (starting on P42).

Every effort will be made to avoid changes to the Programs; however, in the event that a change does occur, the change will be communicated to all members via email and will also be noted on the AACTA website.

ADMISSION REGULATIONS

AFI | AACTA members receive complimentary entry to all screening sessions upon presentation of their membership card at the cinema box office (in Melbourne) or to the AFI | AACTA representative (in Sydney and Brisbane) at the time of the screening.

Please note that tickets cannot be obtained in advance of screenings.

All members are welcome to bring a guest to screenings, with the exception of Opening Night, by using their complimentary guest passes (located on P48). To gain entry to a screening, guests must complete their details on the reverse of the guest pass and present the completed pass at the cinema box office or to the AFI | AACTA representative at the time of the screening.

All seating is offered on a first come, first serve basis, and is strictly limited by the capacity of each cinema. AFI | AACTA cannot guarantee entry to popular screenings and suggests allowing enough time prior to the time of the screening to ensure your entry.

Latecomers arriving after the scheduled start of a screening may not be admitted.

Persons under the age of 18 are restricted to screenings based on the classification listed for each film. Films without classification are restricted to persons aged 18 and over. Proof of age may be required.

AACTA TV

The majority of feature films in competition will be available for members to view on AACTA TV during the Film Fest period.

Members can also view the nominated short films (available from August 22) and feature length documentaries (available in October) until the conclusion of AACTA’s Festival period.

AACTA TV, AACTA’s online viewing platform, is available to members anytime, anywhere and on any device. To access AACTA TV, please visit aacta.vdyo.co.

NOMINEES AND WINNERS

The Best Short Fiction Film and Best Short Animation nominees have already been announced. Best Feature Length Documentary nominees will be announced in September 2018 ahead of AACTA Docs Fest.

All remaining nominees will be announced in October 2018.

Winners will be announced and presented at the 8th AACTA Awards presented by Foxtel two major events held in Sydney;

• The Industry Luncheon on Monday 3 December; and
• The Ceremony & Official After Party on Wednesday 5 December, televised on Channel Seven with encore screenings on Foxtel.

MORE INFORMATION

For more information regarding AACTA Film Fest, AFI | AACTA membership or the 8th AACTA Awards presented by Foxtel, please contact us on:

E: info@afi.org.au
P: 1300 139 697
W: www.aacta.org
AACTA members (screen professionals who have undergone an accreditation process) hold the privileged right to vote, determining the nominees and winners of all AACTA Award categories.

In line with best practice international models, AACTA members vote on the feature films in competition via a weighted, two-round voting model. This allows for a more consistent and rigorous approach to voting, ensuring that those best qualified to recognise excellence in their specific crafts do so, in turn ensuring that the AACTA Awards represent the pinnacle of film and television achievement in Australia.

AFI members (open to everyone) also have the privileged right to vote to determine the winners in the Best Short Fiction Film and Best Short Animation categories.

Remember, even if you are unable to see all the feature films in competition, you can still vote! All votes will be submitted via an online voting form. Only one voting form per member, per round will be accepted.

Ernst & Young is the official scrutineer for the 8th AACTA Awards presented by Foxtel.

For more information on voting, please visit www.aacta.org.

ROUND ONE VOTING
In Round One voting, each AACTA member votes to determine the nominees in the feature film award category/s specific to their chapter allocation. Feature film nominees will be determined by preferential voting, with nominees in the Best Film category being limited to five.

AACTA and AFI members will also vote to determine the winners in the Best Short Fiction Film and Best Short Animation categories during Round One voting. The nominees in these categories were determined by the AACTA Short Film Branch.

ROUND TWO VOTING
In Round Two voting, all AACTA members (regardless of chapter allocation) vote on the nominees to determine the winner in all feature film categories and in the Best Feature Length Documentary category.

All winners are determined by a simple majority vote, in line with BAFTA and AMPAS methodology.
MEMBER FILM FEST BENEFITS

VOTING RIGHTS
Membership grants you the privileged right to vote, determining the nominees and winners of the 8th AACTA Awards presented by Foxtel.

The AACTA Awards promote Australia’s best and brightest, both at home and abroad. With many AACTA Award nominees and winners receiving new opportunities and funding as well as seeing increases in box office and sales as a direct result, you vote matters.

COMPLIMENTARY ACCESS TO SCREENINGS
Members receive complimentary access to all screenings during AACTA’s three Festivals – Shorts Fest (August), Film Fest (September) and Docs Fest (October). Over 50 feature films, documentaries and short films will screen in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Perth across the three Festivals.

SHARE THE POPCORN
Members are welcome to bring a guest to Film Fest screenings, with the exception of Opening Night, by using the complimentary guest passes on page 48 - because after all, popcorn is always better shared!

To gain entry to a screening, guests must complete their details on the reverse of the guest pass and present the completed pass to the AFI | AACTA representative or at the cinema box office at the time of the screening.

AACTA TV
Can’t make it to a cinema? Members can view the majority of feature films in competition during AACTA Film Fest on AACTA TV – available anytime, anywhere and on any device.

Members also get exclusive access to the nominated short films (available from August 22) and feature length documentaries (available in October) until the conclusion of AACTA’s Festival period.

EXCLUSIVE CINEMA DISCOUNTS
Thanks to AACTA’s cinema partners in each State, members can receive exclusive discounts on food and beverage items at Film Fest screenings upon presentation of their membership card.

More information on special offers can be found on the Program page for each State (starting on P24).

BECOME A MEMBER

Join today from just $70 at www.aacta.org
FEATURE FILMS IN COMPETITION

THE COMING BACK OUT BALL / ACUTE MisFORTUNE / PICNIC AT HANGING ROCK

FILM VICTORIA
SUPPORTING THE VICTORIAN SCREEN INDUSTRY AND THE 8TH AACTA AWARDS PRESENTED BY FOXTEL
**BIRTHDAY ADJUSTMENT DISORDER**

Seven thirty-somethings gather to toast a birthday. A psychologist, a psychiatrist, a neuroscientist, a lawyer, an artist, an army veteran and a carpenter. Cracks in friendships and wine bottles soon appear, revealing an underlying current of deep existential angst. When it’s revealed it’s the anniversary of the death of a beloved cousin, the night descends into an exploration of shadow and loss, which threatens to destroy friendships and lives forever.

**THE BBQ**

Suburban everyman Darren ‘Dazza’ Cook finds his passion for the neighbourhood backyard ‘barbie’ thrust into the competitive international arena of BBQ Festivals. But the stakes are high, and Dazza is going to need some expert tuition if he’s going to make it through to the finals.

**1%**

1% is a story of brotherhood, loyalty and betrayal, set within the primal underworld of outlaw motorcycle gangs. It follows Paddo, heir to the throne of the Copperheads MC, who has to betray his president to save his brother’s life. When this betrayal leads to a split in the club it results in civil war, forcing Paddo to choose between loyalty and blood.

**BOY ERASED**

Jared, the son of a Baptist pastor in a small American town, is outed to his parents and faced with an ultimatum: attend a gay conversion therapy program – or be permanently exiled and shunned by his family, friends and faith. BOY ERASED is the true story of one young man's struggle to find himself while being forced to question every aspect of his identity.
FEATURE FILMS IN COMPETITION

BROTHERS’ NEST

On a cold morning in the middle of country Victoria, two brothers arrive at the family home intent on murdering their step-father Roger. Terry and Jeff’s motive is simple; killing their step-dad will render their dying mother’s plan to change her will in his favour, redundant. A staged ‘suicide’ has been meticulously planned, but there is one thing the boys didn’t take into account, spending an entire day together. Old grudges, different worldviews and a general troubled history will pit these two brothers against each other.

PRODUCER Jason Byrne, Clayton Jacobson
DIRECTOR Clayton Jacobson
WRITER Jaime Browne
EDITOR Dany Cooper
SOUND Robert Mackenzie
CINEMATOGRAPHER Marden Dean, Rick Rifici
COMPOSER Harry Gregson-Williams
PRODUCTION DESIGNER Steven Jones-Evans
COSTUME DESIGNER Terri Lamera
LEAD ACTOR Samson Coulter, Ben Spence
SUPPORTING ACTOR Richard Roxburgh, Simon Baker
SUPPORTING ACTRESS Elizabeth Debicki, Miranda Frangou
CASTING DIRECTOR Nikki Barrett

BREATH

Based on Tim Winton’s award-winning novel set in mid-70’s coastal Australia. Two teenage boys, hungry for discovery, form an unlikely friendship with a mysterious older surfer who pushes them to take risks that will have a lasting and profound impact on their lives.

PRODUCER Mark Johnson, Simon Baker, Jamie Hilton
DIRECTOR Simon Baker
WRITER Gerard Lee, Simon Baker, Tim Winton
EDITOR Dany Cooper
SOUND Robert Mackenzie
CINEMATOGRAPHER Marden Dean, Rick Rifici
COMPOSER Harry Gregson-Williams
PRODUCTION DESIGNER Steven Jones-Evans
COSTUME DESIGNER Terri Lamera
LEAD ACTOR Samson Coulter, Ben Spence
SUPPORTING ACTOR Richard Roxburgh, Simon Baker
SUPPORTING ACTRESS Elizabeth Debicki, Miranda Frangou
CASTING DIRECTOR Nikki Barrett
**THE FIVE PROVOCATIONS**

Marlena is secretly dealing with the loss of her married lover, Rosie. Rosie’s husband Paul is also going through his own grief. Handyman Clinton grapples with parenting a teenage daughter and his own developing gender identity. The lives of these four very different people intertwine as they fall apart, come together and change each other’s lives. Amongst all of this are the mysterious five provocations, played with mischievous charm by the stars of Australia’s cabaret scene.

**PRODUCER** Angie Black  
**DIRECTOR** Angie Black  
**WRITER** Angie Black  
**EDITOR** Kelly Dingeldei  
**SOUND** Andrew McGrath  
**CINEMATOGRAPHER** Matt Jasper  
**COMPOSER** Marcel Borrack, Amelia Barden  
**PRODUCTION DESIGNER** Amanda Morris  
**COSTUME DESIGNER** Lucia Gertos  
**LEAD ACTOR** Tony Moclair  
**LEAD ACTRESS** Sapidah Kian  
**SUPPORTING ACTOR** Blake Osborn  
**SUPPORTING ACTRESS** Rebecca Bower

**BEST INDIE FILM CANDIDATE**  
**SCREENPLAY** ORIGINAL  
**CLASSIFICATION** CTC  
**RUNNING TIME** 94 mins  
**DISTRIBUTOR** INDEPENDENT  
**RELEASE MONTH** MARCH

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**THE FLIP SIDE**

Mired in debt, Ronnie is a struggling Adelaide restaurateur looking after her elderly mother and living with her good-hearted boyfriend Jeff. Five years ago, while catering on a film set in Australia, she had an intense affair with British movie star, Henry. Despite wild declarations of love, as the movie wrapped so did the relationship, crushing Ronnie’s heart. When Henry’s French girlfriend Sophie calls to say they will be in Adelaide on a promotional tour, Jeff excitedly agrees to meet up and unwittingly creates the perfect opportunity for Henry to seduce Ronnie all over again.

**PRODUCER** Marion Pilowsky, Sue Murray, David Willing  
**DIRECTOR** Marion Pilowsky  
**WRITER** Marion Pilowsky, Lee Sellars  
**EDITOR** Denise Haratzis  
**SOUND** Tom Heuzenroeder, Duncan Campbell, Will Sheridan  
**CINEMATOGRAPHER** Steve Arnold  
**COMPOSER** Luis Almau  
**PRODUCTION DESIGNER** Tony Cronin  
**COSTUME DESIGNER** Lucia Gertos  
**LEAD ACTOR** Eddie Izzard, Luke McKenzie  
**LEAD ACTRESS** Emily Taheny, Vanessa Guide  
**SUPPORTING ACTOR** Hugh Sheridan, Tiriel Mora  
**SUPPORTING ACTRESS** Tina Bursill, Susie Youssef  
**CASTING DIRECTOR** Angela Hesom

**BEST INDIE FILM CANDIDATE**  
**SCREENPLAY** ORIGINAL  
**CLASSIFICATION** M  
**RUNNING TIME** 91 mins  
**DISTRIBUTOR** FOX  
**RELEASE MONTH** AUGUST

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**DAD**

After the passing of her mother, Al is left to the hands of the State Government. Her only wish and hope is finding her Dad, whom she barely knows. She sets off on a journey and trusts that her wish will come true, but who she finds is not the man she remembers.

**PRODUCER** Robert Lobosco  
**DIRECTOR** Robert Lobosco  
**WRITER** Robert Lobosco  
**EDITOR** Kelly Dingeldei  
**SOUND** Andrew McGrath  
**CINEMATOGRAPHER** Rah Sharma, Mark Kenfield, Adam Nichols, Prakash Paudel  
**COMPOSER** Carol Dixon  
**LEAD ACTOR** Robert Lobosco  
**LEAD ACTRESS** Lani Hirst  
**SUPPORTING ACTOR** Rajat Sharma, Frank Otis  
**SUPPORTING ACTRESS** Kirsty Snowden, Marie Werrett, Jazi Hall, Veena Prakash  
**CASTING DIRECTOR** Robert Lobosco

**BEST INDIE FILM CANDIDATE**  
**SCREENPLAY** ORIGINAL  
**CLASSIFICATION** CTC  
**RUNNING TIME** 91 mins  
**DISTRIBUTOR** INDEPENDENT  
**RELEASE MONTH** SEPTEMBER

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**CARGO**

Stranded in rural Australia in the aftermath of a violent pandemic, an infected father desperately seeks a new home for his infant child and a means to protect her from his own changing nature.

**PRODUCER** Samantha Jennings, Kristina Ceyton  
**DIRECTOR** Yolanda Ramke, Ben Howling  
**WRITER** Yolanda Ramke  
**EDITOR** Danny Cooper, Sean Lahiff  
**SOUND** Liam Egan  
**CINEMATOGRAPHER** Geoffrey Simpson  
**COMPOSER** Daniel Rankine aka ‘Trials’, Gurrumul Yunupingu, Michael Hohnen, Johnathon Margaari Yunupingu  
**PRODUCTION DESIGNER** Jo Ford  
**COSTUME DESIGNER** Heather Wallace  
**LEAD ACTOR** Martin Freeman  
**LEAD ACTRESS** Simone Landers  
**SUPPORTING ACTOR** Anthony Hayes, David Gulpilil, Bruce R. Carter  
**SUPPORTING ACTRESS** Susie Porter, Caren Pistorius, Natasha Wangelenaen, Kris McQuade  
**CASTING DIRECTOR** Nikki Barrett

**SCREENPLAY** ADAPTED  
**CLASSIFICATION** MA15+  
**RUNNING TIME** 105 mins  
**DISTRIBUTOR** UMBRELLA ENTERTAINMENT  
**RELEASE MONTH** MAY

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**DAD**

After the passing of her mother, Al is left to the hands of the State Government. Her only wish and hope is finding her Dad, whom she barely knows. She sets off on a journey and trusts that her wish will come true, but who she finds is not the man she remembers.

**PRODUCER** Robert Lobosco  
**DIRECTOR** Robert Lobosco  
**WRITER** Robert Lobosco  
**EDITOR** Matthew Poidevin  
**SOUND** Brandon Cvetkovic  
**CINEMATOGRAPHER** Rah Sharma, Mark Kenfield, Adam Nichols, Prakash Paudel  
**COMPOSER** Carol Dixon  
**LEAD ACTOR** Robert Lobosco  
**LEAD ACTRESS** Lani Hirst  
**SUPPORTING ACTOR** Rajat Sharma, Frank Otis  
**SUPPORTING ACTRESS** Kirsty Snowden, Marie Werrett, Jazi Hall, Veena Prakash  
**CASTING DIRECTOR** Robert Lobosco

**BEST INDIE FILM CANDIDATE**  
**SCREENPLAY** ORIGINAL  
**CLASSIFICATION** CTC  
**RUNNING TIME** 94 mins  
**DISTRIBUTOR** INDEPENDENT  
**RELEASE MONTH** MARCH

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**CARGO**

Stranded in rural Australia in the aftermath of a violent pandemic, an infected father desperately seeks a new home for his infant child and a means to protect her from his own changing nature.

**PRODUCER** Samantha Jennings, Kristina Ceyton  
**DIRECTOR** Yolanda Ramke, Ben Howling  
**WRITER** Yolanda Ramke  
**EDITOR** Danny Cooper, Sean Lahiff  
**SOUND** Liam Egan  
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**CASTING DIRECTOR** Nikki Barrett

**SCREENPLAY** ADAPTED  
**CLASSIFICATION** MA15+  
**RUNNING TIME** 105 mins  
**DISTRIBUTOR** UMBRELLA ENTERTAINMENT  
**RELEASE MONTH** MAY

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**DAD**

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**DIRECTOR** Robert Lobosco  
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**CASTING DIRECTOR** Robert Lobosco

**BEST INDIE FILM CANDIDATE**  
**SCREENPLAY** ORIGINAL  
**CLASSIFICATION** CTC  
**RUNNING TIME** 94 mins  
**DISTRIBUTOR** INDEPENDENT  
**RELEASE MONTH** MARCH

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**DAD**

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**CASTING DIRECTOR** Robert Lobosco

**BEST INDIE FILM CANDIDATE**  
**SCREENPLAY** ORIGINAL  
**CLASSIFICATION** CTC  
**RUNNING TIME** 94 mins  
**DISTRIBUTOR** INDEPENDENT  
**RELEASE MONTH** MARCH

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**CARGO**

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**SUPPORTING ACTRESS** Susie Porter, Caren Pistorius, Natasha Wangelenaen, Kris McQuade  
**CASTING DIRECTOR** Nikki Barrett

**SCREENPLAY** ADAPTED  
**CLASSIFICATION** MA15+  
**RUNNING TIME** 105 mins  
**DISTRIBUTOR** UMBRELLA ENTERTAINMENT  
**RELEASE MONTH** MAY
THE GATEWAY

Particle physicist Jane Chandler is happily married to writer, Matt. Together with her lab assistant Regg, Jane experiments with matter teleportation. Later, tragedy strikes; Matt is killed in a car crash. Grieving, Jane falls to pieces. But a few weeks later comes a ray of hope when Jane finds a way to teleport herself to a parallel world where she finds another version of Matt. But this is a very different Matt and before long she realises she's made a terrible mistake and must find a way to send him back to save her family.

PRODUCER John Soto
DIRECTOR John Soto
WRITER John Soto, Michael White
EDITOR Regg Skwarko
SOUND Mark D’Angelo, Christian Scallan, Scott Montgomery
CINEMATOGRAPHER David Le May
COMPOSER Thomas Rouch
PRODUCTION DESIGNER Monique Wajon
COSTUME DESIGNER Lisa Galea
LEAD ACTOR Myles Pollard
LEAD ACTRESS Jacqueline McKenzie
SUPPORTING ACTOR Ben Mortley
SUPPORTING ACTRESS Hayley McElhinney
CASTING DIRECTOR John Soto

GRINGO

A dark comedy mixed with white-knuckle action and dramatic intrigue, GRINGO explores the battle of survival for businessman Harold Soyinka when he finds himself crossing the line from law-abiding citizen to wanted criminal.

PRODUCER Rebecca Yeldham, Nash Edgerton
DIRECTOR Nash Edgerton
EDITOR Luke Doolan, David Rennie, Tatiana S. Riegel
SOUND Paul Pirola, Hayden Collow, Mark Paterson, David Moreno
SUPPORTING ACTOR Joel Edgerton

Please note, GRINGO has been deemed eligible to compete in the listed categories as it received the Department of Communications and the Arts’ PDV Offset and features Australians in key creative roles.

BEST INDIE FILM CANDIDATE
SCREENPLAY ORIGINAL
CLASSIFICATION M
RUNNING TIME 90 mins
DISTRIBUTOR INDEPENDENT
RELEASE MONTH MAY

CLASSIFICATION MA15+
RUNNING TIME 111 mins
DISTRIBUTOR ROADSHOW
RELEASE MONTH MARCH
IN LIKE FLYNN

Before Errol Flynn became one of the biggest movie stars in Hollywood, he was braving cannibals and crocodiles while searching the jungles of Papua New Guinea for gold. After stealing the Sirocco, a yacht belonging to Chinese opium smugglers, Flynn and his ragtag crew set sail on a journey to find adventure and fortune.

PRODUCER Corey Large, James M. Vernon
DIRECTOR Russell Mulcahy
WRITER Marc Fumie, Steve Albert, Luke Flynn, Corey Large
EDITOR Rodrigo Balart
SOUND Thom Kellar, Lachlan Harris
CINEMATOGRAPHER Peter Holland
COMPOSER David Hirschfelder
PRODUCTION DESIGNER Nicholas McCallum
COSTUME DESIGNER Glenn T
LEAD ACTOR Thomas Cocquerel
SUPPORTING ACTOR Clive Standen, Corey Large, William Moseley, David Wenham
SUPPORTING ACTRESS Isabel Lucas
CASTING DIRECTOR Ben Parkinson

.Screenplay: ADAPTED
Classification: CTC
Running Time: 95 mins
Distributor: UMBRELLA ENTERTAINMENT
Release Month: OCTOBER

INNOCENT KILLER

A modern city is hit with a string of inexplicable murders of seemingly random women from different cultural and socio-economic backgrounds. As the murderer carries out his deadly deeds, he appears to be following the directions from a cryptic murder manual, searching for the perfect ‘soul mate’. Then he meets the last standing policewoman on his trail and everything changes.

PRODUCER Jon-Claire Lee, Asif Khan
DIRECTOR Jon-Claire Lee
WRITER Jon-Claire Lee
EDITOR Dion Wilton
CINEMATOGRAPHER Dion Wilton
LEAD ACTOR Asif Khan
CASTING DIRECTOR Jon-Claire Lee

Screenplay: ORIGINAL
Classification: M
Running Time: 92 mins
Distributor: INDEPENDENT
Release Month: DECEMBER 2017

JIRGA

A former Australian soldier, Mike, returns to Afghanistan to find the family of a civilian he accidentally killed during the war. Seeking forgiveness, he puts his life in the hands of the village justice system - the Jirga.

PRODUCER John Maynard
DIRECTOR Benjamin Gilmour
WRITER Benjamin Gilmour
EDITOR Nikki Stevens
SOUND Liam Egan
CINEMATOGRAPHER Benjamin Gilmour
COMPOSER A.J. True
LEAD ACTOR Sam Smith

Screenplay: ORIGINAL
Classification: M
Running Time: 78 mins
Distributor: INDEPENDENT
Release Month: JUNE

INDIGO LAKE

An artist facing a creative crisis is hired by a nightclub owner to paint a portrait of his young wife. When the artist becomes re-inspired by the wife and falls in love, the nightclub owner’s suspicions erupt in violence and the lovers are driven to attempt his murder.

PRODUCER Brian Cobb, Jonas McLallen
DIRECTOR Martin Simpson
WRITER Martin Simpson
EDITOR Julian Griffiths
SOUND Nathan Brand
CINEMATOGRAPHER Rodrigo Vidal-Dawson
COMPOSER Sam Weiss
PRODUCTION DESIGNER Jamie Cranney
COSTUME DESIGNER Lainey Donnelly
LEAD ACTOR Andrew Cutcliffe
LEAD ACTRESS Miranda O’Hare
CASTING DIRECTOR Maura Fay

Screenplay: ORIGINAL
Classification: CTC
Running Time: 92 mins
Distributor: INDEPENDENT
Release Month: DECEMBER 2017

SCREENPLAY: ADAPTED
CLASSIFICATION: CTC
RUNNING TIME: 95 mins
DISTRIBUTOR: UMBRELLA ENTERTAINMENT
RELEASE MONTH: OCTOBER

SCREENPLAY: ORIGINAL
CLASSIFICATION: CTC
RUNNING TIME: 92 mins
DISTRIBUTOR: INDEPENDENT
RELEASE MONTH: DECEMBER 2017

SCREENPLAY: ORIGINAL
CLASSIFICATION: M
RUNNING TIME: 92 mins
DISTRIBUTOR: INDEPENDENT
RELEASE MONTH: JUNE
JUST BETWEEN US

Unadventurous office worker Hannah and her childhood friend Trixie’s world is turned upside down when the ghost of her late sister appears; guiding them on a road trip to scatter her ashes at a destination she once sought but never found. What starts off as a simple journey turns into an unpredictable adventure and the two friends must overcome their sheltered existence and find out who they really are and what they are truly capable of.

PRODUCER Joanne Nguyen, Deanna Ortuso
DIRECTOR Christopher Kay
WRITER Deanna Ortuso
EDITOR Christopher Kay
SOUND Rezzan Ufacikligil
CINEMATOGRAPHER Filip Laureys
COMPOSER Rezzan Ufacikligil
LEAD ACTRESS Deanna Ortuso
SUPPORTING ACTOR Clayton Jacobson, John Jarratt, Matt Prodan, Andy Rhodes
SUPPORTING ACTRESS Joanne Nguyen, Calista Fookes, Kaarin Fairfax, Alison Morley

LADIES IN BLACK

Adapted from the bestselling novel by Madeleine St John, LADIES IN BLACK is an alluring and tender-hearted comedy-drama about the lives of a group of department store employees in 1959 Sydney.

PRODUCER Allanah Zitserman, Sue Milliken
DIRECTOR Bruce Beresford
WRITER Sue Milliken, Bruce Beresford
EDITOR Mark Warner
SOUND David Lee, Andy Wright, Leah Katz, Diego Ruiz
CINEMATOGRAPHER Peter James
COMPOSER Christopher Gordon
PRODUCTION DESIGNER Felicity Abbott
COSTUME DESIGNER Wendy Cork
LEAD ACTOR Ryan Corr
LEAD ACTRESS Julia Ormond, Angourie Rice
SUPPORTING ACTOR Vincent Perez, Shane Jacobson
SUPPORTING ACTRESS Noni Hazlehurst, Susie Porter, Rachael Taylor
CASTING DIRECTOR Christine King

THE LEGO® NINJAGO® MOVIE

In this big-screen NINJAGO adventure, the battle for NINJAGO City calls to action young Master Builder Lloyd, aka the Green Ninja, along with his friends, who are all secret ninja warriors. Led by Master Wu, as wise-cracking as he is wise, they must defeat evil warlord Garmadon, The Worst Guy Ever, who also happens to be Lloyd’s dad. Pitting mech against mech and father against son, the epic showdown will test this fierce but undisciplined team of modern-day ninjas, who must learn to check their egos and pull together to unleash their inner power.

SOUND Wayne Pashley, Fabian Sanjurjo, Tim LeBlanc, Beau Borders
CINEMATOGRAPHER Peter James
COMPOSER Dave Graney, Clare Moore
PRODUCTION DESIGNER Kim Taylor, Felicity Coonan, Simon Whiteley

Please note, The LEGO® NINJAGO® MOVIE has been deemed eligible to compete in the listed categories as it received the Department of Communications and the Arts’ PDV Offset and features Australians in key creative roles.

BEST INDIE FILM CANDIDATE
SCREENPLAY ORIGINAL
CLASSIFICATION M
RUNNING TIME 80 mins
DISTRIBUTOR UMBRELLA ENTERTAINMENT
RELEASE MONTH NOVEMBER 2017

LOST GULLY ROAD

Lucy, a directionless young woman, travels to a secluded cottage in the forest to wait for her sister. With no television and little communication to the outside world she spends her days alone and drinking to pass the time. That is, until her unexpected host decides to keep her company...

PRODUCER Liz Baulch, Donna McRae
DIRECTOR Donna McRae
WRITER Donna McRae, Michael Vale
EDITOR Shannon Michaelas
CINEMATOGRAPHER László Baranyai
COMPOSER Dave Graney, Clare Moore
PRODUCTION DESIGNER Michael Vale
LEAD ACTRESS Adele Perovic
SUPPORTING ACTOR John Brumpton
SUPPORTING ACTRESS Jane Clifton

BEST INDIE FILM CANDIDATE
SCREENPLAY ORIGINAL
CLASSIFICATION M
RUNNING TIME 80 mins
DISTRIBUTOR UMBRELLA ENTERTAINMENT
RELEASE MONTH NOVEMBER 2017

CLASSIFICATION PG
RUNNING TIME 101 mins
DISTRIBUTOR ROADSHOW
RELEASE MONTH SEPTEMBER 2017
ME & MY LEFT BRAIN

What happens when you are in love with someone, you don’t know how they feel about you, you have a job interview in the morning… and you cannot sleep? Arthur spends the night tossing and turning whilst reflecting on the times he has spent with Helen in an attempt to decipher whether she is legitimately interested in him or not. Whilst in this deep reflective analysis, Arthur bickers with his opposing inner-voice, who is extremely opinionated on this particular night.

PRODUCER Iain Canning, Emile Sherman, Liz Watts
DIRECTOR Garth Davis
WRITER Helen Edmundson, Philippa Goslett
EDITOR Alexandre de Franceschi, Melanie Oliver
SOUND Robert Mackenzie, Glenn Newnham, James Ashton, Mario Vacarro
CINEMATOGRAPHER Greig Fraser
COMPOSER Hildur Guðnadóttir, Jóhann Jóhannssón
PRODUCTION DESIGNER Fiona Crombie
COSTUME DESIGNER Jacqueline Durran
LEAD ACTOR Joaquin Phoenix
LEAD ACTRESS Rooney Mara
SUPPORTING ACTOR Tahar Rahim, Chiwetel Ejiofor
SUPPORTING ACTRESS Ariane Labed
CASTING DIRECTOR Jina Jay, Kirsty McGregor, Lilia Trapani

MARY MAGDALENE

Set in the Holy Land in the first century, MARY MAGDALENE is the story of a young woman who leaves her small fishing village and family to join a new movement. Inspired by its charismatic leader, Jesus of Nazareth, and his teachings, Mary sets out with the disciples on the journey to Jerusalem, where she finds herself at the centre of the founding story of Christianity.

PRODUCER Iain Canning, Emile Sherman, Liz Watts
DIRECTOR Garth Davis
WRITER Helen Edmundson, Philippa Goslett
EDITOR Alexandre de Franceschi, Melanie Oliver
SOUND Robert Mackenzie, Glenn Newnham, James Ashton, Mario Vacarro
CINEMATOGRAPHER Greig Fraser
COMPOSER Hildur Guðnadóttir, Jóhann Jóhannssón
PRODUCTION DESIGNER Fiona Crombie
COSTUME DESIGNER Jacqueline Durran
LEAD ACTOR Joaquin Phoenix
LEAD ACTRESS Rooney Mara
SUPPORTING ACTOR Tahar Rahim, Chiwetel Ejiofor
SUPPORTING ACTRESS Ariane Labed
CASTING DIRECTOR Jina Jay, Kirsty McGregor, Lilia Trapani

SCREENPLAY ORIGINAL
CLASSIFICATION M
RUNNING TIME 120 mins
DISTRIBUTOR TRANSMISSION
RELEASE MONTH MARCH

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THE MERGER
In a struggling town where the drought won’t let up, jobs are scarce and the footy team looks like it will fold, former football star Troy Carrington is living a hermit-like existence on the town’s fringe. Troy is coaxed into coaching after striking up an unlikely friendship with young Neil, who is struggling with the recent loss of his father. Troy teams up with Neil’s mum Angie, who runs a nearby refugee support centre, to recruit refugees to ensure the team survives and take the community on a journey of change.

PRODUCER Anne Robinson, Mark Grentell, Damian Callinan
DIRECTOR Mark Grentell
WRITER Damian Callinan
EDITOR Christopher Mill
SOUND Peter Purcell
CINEMATOGRAPHER Tony Luu
COMPOSER David Bridie
PRODUCTION DESIGNER Nicola Stillone
COSTUME DESIGNER Andrew Infanti
LEAD ACTOR Damian Callinan
LEAD ACTRESS Kate Mulvany
SUPPORTING ACTOR Rafferty Grierson, Kate Mestin
SUPPORTING ACTRESS John Howard, Fayssal Bazzi
CASTING DIRECTOR Carly Imrie
WRITER Luke Sparke
SCREENPLAYオリジナル
CLASSIFICATION M
RUNNING TIME 99 mins
DISTRIBUTOR UMBRELLA ENTERTAINMENT
RELEASE MONTH AUGUST

OCCUPATION
After their small Australian country town is annihilated by an overwhelming airborne attack, a group of civilians evade capture and take refuge in the bordering forests. Avoiding detection from the invading ground troops, they set up a hidden settlement camp and soon discover the inescapable truth - they are now among the last remaining survivors of an extra-terrestrial invasion engulfing the entire planet. They must come together as a family and fight back.

PRODUCER Luke Sparke, Carly Imrie, Carmel Imrie
DIRECTOR Luke Sparke
WRITER Luke Sparke
EDITOR Luke Sparke, David Napier
SOUND Chris Goodes, Dale Warren, Ramsey De Marco
CINEMATOGRAPHER Tony O’Loughlan
COMPOSER Christopher Elves
PRODUCTION DESIGNER Stuart Burnside
COSTUME DESIGNER Tracey Rose Sparke
LEAD ACTOR Dan Ewing, Charles Terrier, Temuera Morrison
LEAD ACTRESS Rose Byrne
SUPPORTING ACTOR Colin Moody, David Wenham
SUPPORTING ACTRESS Margot Robbie, Sam Neill
CASTING DIRECTOR Faith Martin, Caitlin Stanton
WRITER Luke Sparke
SCREENPLAYオリジナル
CLASSIFICATION M
RUNNING TIME 110 mins
DISTRIBUTOR Pinnacle Films
RELEASE MONTH JULY

PETER RABBIT™
The mischievous and adventurous hero now takes on the starring role of his own contemporary comedy. Peter’s feud with Mr. Thomas McGregor escalates to great heights, extending to the Lake District and London, as the rabbits fight to gain control of Old McGregor’s coveted vegetable garden and the affections of the warm-hearted animal lover, Bea, who lives next door.

PRODUCER Will Gluck, Zareh Nalbandian
DIRECTOR Will Gluck
WRITER Rob Lieber, Will Gluck
EDITOR Christian Gazal, Jonathan Tappin
SOUND Robert Mackenzie, Andy Wright, Ben Osmo, Kevin O’Connell
CINEMATOGRAPHER Peter Menzies Jr.
COMPOSER Dominic Lewis
PRODUCTION DESIGNER Roger Ford, Lisa Thompson
COSTUME DESIGNER Tracey Rose Sparke
LEAD ACTOR Rose Byrne
SUPPORTING ACTOR Sam Neill, Colin Moody, David Wenham
SUPPORTING ACTRESS Margot Robbie, Elizabeth Debicki, Daisy Ridley, Sia
CASTING DIRECTOR Nikki Barrett
WRITER Luke Sparke
SCREENPLAYオリジナル
CLASSIFICATION PG
RUNNING TIME 93 mins
DISTRIBUTOR Sony
RELEASE MONTH MARCH

THE PRETEND ONE
The heart-warming tale of a young female farmer and her imaginary friend. He’s been by her side for twenty years and counting. Now, as he watches her fall for another man - a real man - it dawns on him: he is in love with her. Unable to face losing her, he must fight to become real himself.

PRODUCER Tony Prescott, Dinusha Ratnaweera
DIRECTOR Tony Prescott
WRITER James Raue, Tony Prescott
EDITOR Laurence van Camp
SOUND Damian Del Borrello
CINEMATOGRAPHER Robert C. Morton
COMPOSER Darren Lim
PRODUCTION DESIGNER Bethany Ryan
COSTUME DESIGNER Anna Cahill
LEAD ACTOR Michael Whalley, Benedict Wall
SUPPORTING ACTRESS Geraldine Hakewill
SUPPORTING ACTOR David Field, Elijah Perris
CASTING DIRECTOR Alice Roberts, Fiona Press
WRITER Tony Prescott, Zareh Nalbandian
SCREENPLAYオリジナル
CLASSIFICATION MA15+
RUNNING TIME 86 mins
DISTRIBUTOR Independent
RELEASE MONTH APRIL
**RABBIT**

Almost a year after her identical twin’s disappearance, 25-year-old medical student Maude Ashton is still haunted by visions of her violent abduction. Convinced she is still alive, Maude follows the clues to a derelict caravan park where she discovers her fate is intrinsically linked to that of her sister, while the entire experiment is controlled by a secret society that ‘likes to watch’.

**PRODUCER** David Ngo  
**DIRECTOR** Luke Shanahan  
**WRITER** Luke Shanahan  
**EDITOR** Stuart Morley  
**SOUND** Tom Heuzenroeder  
**CINEMATOGRAPHER** Anna Howard  
**COMPOSER** Michael Darren  
**PRODUCTION DESIGNER** Amy Baker  
**COSTUME DESIGNER** Anita Seiler  
**LEAD ACTRESS** Adelaide Clemens  
**SUPPORTING ACTOR** Jonny Pasvolsky, Charles Mayer, Alex Russell  
**SUPPORTING ACTRESS** Veerle Baetens  
**CASTING DIRECTOR** Greg Apps

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**PULSE**

How much do our bodies shape who we are? Where is the line between compromising for love and changing yourself for love? Why do we fall in love with the people we fall in love with? A gay, disabled teenage boy changes into the body of a beautiful woman, so that he can make his straight best friend fall in love with him.

**PRODUCER** Daniel Monks, Stevie Cruz-Martin, Gemma Hall  
**DIRECTOR** Stevie Cruz-Martin  
**WRITER** Daniel Monks  
**EDITOR** Daniel Monks  
**SOUND** Joseph Dutaillis  
**CINEMATOGRAPHER** Stevie Cruz-Martin  
**PRODUCTION DESIGNER** Katelyn Collins  
**COSTUME DESIGNER** Brodie Simpson  
**LEAD ACTOR** Daniel Monks  
**LEAD ACTRESS** Caroline Brazier  
**SUPPORTING ACTOR** Scott Lee  
**SUPPORTING ACTRESS** Sian Ewers, Isaro Kayitesi, Jaimee Peasley  
**CASTING DIRECTOR** Annie Murtagh-Monks
**FEATURE FILMS IN COMPETITION**

### STRANGE COLOURS

Milena travels to a remote opal mining community to see her estranged, ill father. Lost and alone, she falls into his bewildering world, where men escape society and share ideals of freedom. Soon, he doesn't want her to leave. Stuck in time, father and daughter try to mend their fractured bond, but their connection is fragile, like the strange, colourful gems he digs up from the earth.

**PRODUCER** Kate Laurie, Isaac Wall  
**DIRECTOR** Alena Lodkina  
**WRITER** Alena Lodkina, Isaac Wall  
**EDITOR** Luca Cappelli  
**SOUND** Livia Ruzic, David Ross, Keith Thomas  
**CINEMATOGRAPHER** Michael Latham  
**COMPOSER** Mikey Young  
**PRODUCTION DESIGNER** Leah Popple  
**COSTUME DESIGNER** Lucie McMahon  
**LEAD ACTOR** Daniel P. Jones  
**LEAD ACTRESS** Kate Cheel  
**SUPPORTING ACTOR** Justin Courtin  

**BEST INDIE FILM CANDIDATE**  
**SCREENPLAY** ORIGINAL  
**CLASSIFICATION** MA15+  
**RUNNING TIME** 85 mins  
**DISTRIBUTOR** INDEPENDENT  
**RELEASE MONTH** OCTOBER

### SURVIVE OR DIE

After a civil war erupts, killing her entire family, 16-year-old Shade escapes to Australia on a refugee boat helmed by the captain of a people smuggling ring. The boat becomes lost at sea and, out of fuel, food and water, the refugees begin to die until a handful of them manage to land in an isolated part of Australia. Lost, desperate and fighting between themselves, only Shade, the captain and a young Rohingya refugee girl named Maiya are left alive to find civilisation and make Australia their new home.

**PRODUCER** Daniel Okoduwa, Mike Kang  
**DIRECTOR** Daniel Okoduwa  
**BEST INDIE FILM CANDIDATE**  
**SCREENPLAY** ORIGINAL  
**CLASSIFICATION** CTC  
**RUNNING TIME** 83 mins  
**DISTRIBUTOR** INDEPENDENT  
**RELEASE MONTH** JUNE

### SWEET COUNTRY

Inspired by real events, **SWEET COUNTRY** follows Aboriginal stockman Sam and his wife Lizzie as they go on the run across the outback after Sam kills a white station owner in self-defence. They are pursued across the glorious but harsh desert country by Sergeant Fletcher, an Aboriginal tracker and two local landowners. As an expert bushman, Sam has little difficulty outlasting them. Eventually, for the health of his pregnant wife, Sam decides to give himself up. He is put on trial, but will justice be served?

**PRODUCER** Greer Simpkin, David Jowsey, David Tranter  
**DIRECTOR** Warwick Thornton  
**WRITER** David Tranter, Steven McGregor  
**EDITOR** Nick Meyers  
**SOUND** David Tranter, Thom Kellar, Sam Gain-Emery, Will Sheridan  
**CINEMATOGRAPHER** Warwick Thornton  
**PRODUCTION DESIGNER** Tony Cronin  
**COSTUME DESIGNER** Heather Wallace  
**LEAD ACTOR** Hamilton Morris  
**SUPPORTING ACTOR** Bryan Brown, Ewen Leslie, Thomas M. Wright, Sam Neill  
**SUPPORTING ACTRESS** Natassia Gorey-Furber  
**CASTING DIRECTOR** Anousha Zarkesh  

**BEST INDIE FILM CANDIDATE**  
**SCREENPLAY** ORIGINAL  
**CLASSIFICATION** MA15+  
**RUNNING TIME** 113 mins  
**DISTRIBUTOR** TRANSMISSION  
**RELEASE MONTH** JANUARY

### THE SECOND

A successful author riding high on the international acclaim of her first book, a sexually explicit autobiography, has everything - money and critical acclaim. Everything is perfect, except she’s struggling to produce a second novel. She has writer’s block. Attempting to meet her deadline, the author, and her publisher and boyfriend, take a long summer weekend at her family’s country estate. The grandeur of the property is breathtaking, but it conceals a dark secret that remains unwritten. When a beautiful friend from the past arrives out of the blue, the secret becomes a deadly problem.

**PRODUCER** Leanne Tonkes, Stephen Lance  
**DIRECTOR** Mairi Cameron  
**WRITER** Stephen Lance  
**EDITOR** Steve Cooper  
**SOUND** Thom Kellar  
**CINEMATOGRAPHER** Mark Wareham  
**COMPOSER** Ryan Walsh  
**PRODUCTION DESIGNER** Jon Dowding  
**COSTUME DESIGNER** Manuela Masoch, Vanessa Loh  
**LEAD ACTOR** Vince Colosimo  
**LEAD ACTRESS** Rachael Blake  
**SUPPORTING ACTOR** Martin Sacks, Will Beazley  
**SUPPORTING ACTRESS** Susie Porter, Susan Prior, Bridget Webb, Megan Dale  
**CASTING DIRECTOR** Ben Parkinson  

**BEST INDIE FILM CANDIDATE**  
**SCREENPLAY** ORIGINAL  
**CLASSIFICATION** MA15+  
**RUNNING TIME** 92 mins  
**DISTRIBUTOR** MIND BLOWING WORLD  
**RELEASE MONTH** APRIL

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**FEATURE FILMS IN COMPETITION**
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SWINGING SAFARI

1970s Australia: A 200-tonne blue whale washes up on a local beach and the kids think it’s the biggest thing that’s ever happened in their lives. Behind closed doors, the Mums and Dads of this quiet suburban cul-de-sac celebrate in their own special way, by joining the sexual revolution.

It’s a time of boxed wine, bad hair, bad styles, bad choices, but good times. And like the rotting whale, it’s all about to go spectacularly wrong.

PRODUCER Al Clark, Jamie Hilton
DIRECTOR Stephan Elliott
WRITER Stephan Elliott
EDITOR Sue Blainey, Laurie Hughes, Annette Davey
SOUND Craig Walmsley, Andrew Neil, Paul Pirola, Jed M. Dodge
CINEMATOGRAPHER Brad Shield
COMPOSER Guy Gross
PRODUCTION DESIGNER Colin Gibson
COSTUME DESIGNER Lizzy Gardiner
LEAD ACTOR Guy Pearce, Julian McMahon, Jeremy Sims, Atticus Robb
LEAD ACTRESS Kylie Minogue, Radha Mitchell, Asher Keddie, Darcey Wilson
CASTING DIRECTOR Ann Robinson

SCREENPLAY ORIGINAL
CLASSIFICATION M
RUNNING TIME 97 mins
DISTRIBUTOR BECKER FILM GROUP
RELEASE MONTH DECEMBER 2017

UPGRADE

After his wife is killed during a brutal mugging that also leaves him paralysed, Grey Trace is approached by a billionaire inventor with an experimental cure that will ‘upgrade’ his body. The cure - an Artificial Intelligence implant called STEM - gives Grey physical abilities beyond anything experienced and the ability to relentlessly claim vengeance against those who murdered his wife and left him for dead.

PRODUCER Jason Blum, Kylie du Fresne, Brian Kavanaugh-Jones
DIRECTOR Leigh Whannell
WRITER Leigh Whannell
EDITOR Andy Canny
SOUND P.K. Hooker, Will Files, Andrew Ramage
CINEMATOGRAPHER Stefan Duscio
COMPOSER Jed Palmer
PRODUCTION DESIGNER Felicity Abbott, Katie Sharrock
COSTUME DESIGNER Maria Pattison
LEAD ACTOR Logan Marshall-Green
SUPPORTING ACTOR Benedict Hardie, Harrison Gilbertson, Simon Maiden
SUPPORTING ACTRESS Betty Gabriel
CASTING DIRECTOR Terri Taylor, Nikki Barrett

SCREENPLAY ORIGINAL
CLASSIFICATION MA15+
RUNNING TIME 100 mins
DISTRIBUTOR MADMAN
RELEASE MONTH JUNE
WATCH THE SUNSET

Danny Biaro, an ex-member of an outlawed bikie gang, is tortured by the choices of his drug-involved past that led to the disintegration of his family. Now longing to be reunited with Sally and their daughter Joey, he travels into the regional town of Kerang. After witnessing the brutal abuse of Charis at a club, a young girl that bears a haunting resemblance to Sally, Danny must race against the clock before the bikie gang reaches his estranged family.

PRODUCER Tristan Barr, Damien E. Lipp, Michael Gosden
DIRECTOR Tristan Barr, Michael Gosden
WRITER Tristan Barr, Chelsea Zeller, Michael Gosden
COMPOSER Richard Labrooy
COSTUME DESIGNER Ollie Savage
LEAD ACTOR Tristan Barr
LEAD ACTRESS Chelsea Zeller
SUPPORTING ACTOR Aaron Walton
SUPPORTING ACTRESS Zia Zantis-Vinycomb

WEST OF SUNSHINE

Separated from his family and caught in a cycle of gambling and debt, Jim has less than a day to repay a loan shark. His day is turned upside down when he must look after his young son who is on school holidays. Jim’s relationship with his son is tested as his plans to pay back the loan fail. When his last desperate effort to repay the debt puts his son’s life at risk, he must make a choice between his past and a second chance at life.

PRODUCER Alexandros Ouzas, Jason Raftopoulos
DIRECTOR Jason Raftopoulos
WRITER Jason Raftopoulos
EDITOR Paul Rowe
SOUND Tristan Meredith
COMPOSER Lisa Gerrard, James Orr
PRODUCTION DESIGNER Anna Russell
COSTUME DESIGNER Alicia Aulsebrook
LEAD ACTOR Damian Hill
SUPPORTING ACTOR Ty Perham, Arthur Angel
SUPPORTING ACTRESS Kat Stewart, Eliza D’Souza
CASTING DIRECTOR Terri Svoronos

WINCHESTER

On an isolated stretch of land 50 miles outside of San Francisco sits the most haunted house in the world. Built by Sarah Winchester, heiress to the Winchester fortune, it is a house that knows no end. Constructed in an incessant 24-hour a day, seven days a week mania for decades, it stands seven stories tall and contains hundreds of rooms. She is building a prison, an asylum for hundreds of vengeful ghosts, and the most terrifying among them have a score to settle with the Winchesters...

PRODUCER Tim McGahan, Brett Tomberlin
DIRECTOR Peter Spierig, Michael Spierig
WRITER Tom Vaughan, Peter Spierig, Michael Spierig
EDITOR Matt Villa
SOUND Paul Pirola
COMPOSER Peter Spierig
PRODUCTION DESIGNER Matthew Putland
COSTUME DESIGNER Wendy Cork
LEAD ACTOR Jason Clarke
LEAD ACTRESS Helen Mirren
SUPPORTING ACTOR Eamon Farren
SUPPORTING ACTRESS Sarah Snook
CASTING DIRECTOR Leigh Pickford

BEST INDIE FILM CANDIDATE
SCREENPLAY ORIGINAL
CLASSIFICATION CTC
RUNNING TIME 83 mins
DISTRIBUTOR INDEPENDENT
RELEASE MONTH SEPTEMBER

BEST INDIE FILM CANDIDATE
SCREENPLAY ADAPTED
CLASSIFICATION MA15+
RUNNING TIME 78 mins
DISTRIBUTOR INDEPENDENT
RELEASE MONTH AUGUST

SCREENPLAY ORIGINAL
CLASSIFICATION M
RUNNING TIME 99 mins
DISTRIBUTOR STUDIOCANAL
RELEASE MONTH FEBRUARY
### FESTIVAL HOSTS

**Clem Bastow**  
Melbourne  

Clem Bastow is a screenwriter and award-winning cultural critic. Her writing appears in The Age, The Saturday Paper and The Guardian and she has spoken at events including The Festival of Dangerous Ideas, Melbourne International Film Festival and Melbourne Writers Festival. She has written and performed numerous shows at Melbourne International Comedy Festival and Melbourne Fringe Festival, and in 2017 she co-created and co-hosted the ABC podcast *Behind the Belt*. Most recently, Clem produced a hardcore wrestling event, Night Massacre, for Dark Mofo 2018. Clem holds a Master of Screenwriting from VCA and teaches screenwriting at University of Melbourne. If nobody stops her, she will be undertaking a PhD in action cinema in 2019.

**Andy Hazel**  
Melbourne  

Andy Hazel is a journalist and editorial assistant at The Saturday Paper. He is the producer and host of Melbourne film podcasts *Cultural Capital* and *Twin Peaks: The Return*, and is an ARIA-nominated musician and composer who has worked with Ben Frost, The Paradise Motel, The Ruby Suns and Björk. Andy also acted in the film *INNUENDO*, and in the forthcoming films *THE WESTERMARCK EFFECT* and *THE LIES WE TELL OURSELVES*.

**Blake Howard**  
Sydney  

Blake Howard is a writer, podcaster, the Editor-in-Chief and Co-Founder of Australian film blog Graffiti with Punctuation and hosts the *One Heat Minute* podcast (the podcast analysing Michael Mann’s 1995 crime opus *HEAT* minute by minute). Blake is a co-host of Gaggle of Geeks on Sydney’s 2SER Community Radio, a columnist at the Australian online institution Dark Horizons, sways the tomato meter with Rotten Tomatoes approved reviews and is a member of the prestigious Australian Film Critic Association and Online Film Critic Society. Blake began his career in criticism in an apprenticeship as co-host of *That Movie Show* 2UE alongside veteran critic Dale Sinden. Blake then began the long-running and acclaimed movie podcast *Pod Save Our Screen* with Maria Lewis.

**Annie Parnell**  
Sydney  

Annie Parnell’s passion for filmmaking spans short film, television, fiction and documentary feature length films, creating a solid career in the screen industry. As a member of AFI | AACTA for almost two decades, she’s watched a heck of a lot of Australian films in that time. Her working life credits include festival and distribution manager for Flickerfest, filmmaker and industry manager for Tropfest, film manager and programmer for Dungog Festival and associate producer of award-winning Australian documentary *MadHAITian*. She recently production managed five indigenous horror shorts for Screen Australia’s Shock Treatment. Annie holds a Masters degree in Screen Arts and Business and a BA and Bachelor of Social Work. When she’s not immersed in screen culture, you’ll find her immersed in the ocean.

### Program | Sydney

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MON 3 SEPT</th>
<th>WED 5 SEPT</th>
<th>THU 6 SEPT</th>
<th>SAT 8 SEPT</th>
<th>SUN 9 SEPT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6:30PM THE MERGER</td>
<td>6:30PM WEST OF SUNSHINE</td>
<td>6:30PM 1%</td>
<td>10:30AM WINCHESTER</td>
<td>10:30AM THE LEGO® NINJAGO MOVIE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30PM WATCH THE SUNSET</td>
<td>12:30PM THE GATEWAY</td>
<td>2:30PM OCCUPATION</td>
<td>2:30PM IN LIKE FLYNN</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MON 10 SEPT</th>
<th>WED 12 SEPT</th>
<th>THU 13 SEPT</th>
<th>SAT 15 SEPT</th>
<th>SUN 16 SEPT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6:30PM CARGO</td>
<td>6:30PM THE PRETEND ONE</td>
<td>6:30PM THE SECOND</td>
<td>10:30AM LOST GULLY ROAD</td>
<td>12:30PM PULSE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30PM DAD</td>
<td>8:30PM BIRTHDAY ADJUSTMENT DISORDER</td>
<td>8:30PM THE FIVE PROVOCATIONS</td>
<td>12:30PM SURVIVE OR DIE</td>
<td>2:30PM JUST BETWEEN US</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MON 17 SEPT</th>
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<th>THU 20 SEPT</th>
<th>SAT 22 SEPT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6:30PM LADIES IN BLACK</td>
<td>6:30PM UPGRADE</td>
<td>6:30PM BOY ERASED</td>
<td>10:30AM ME &amp; MY LEFT BRAIN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30PM STRANGE COLOURS</td>
<td>8:30PM INDIGO LAKE</td>
<td>8:30PM THE FLIP SIDE</td>
<td>12:30PM INNOCENT KILLER</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Cinema Offer**  
Members can enjoy a 25% discount on food and beverage items at the AACTA Bar during Film Fest upon presentation of their membership card.

**Venue**  
Event Cinemas Bondi Junction  
Level 7 & 8, Westfield Shopping Town  
500 Oxford St, Bondi Junction NSW 2022  
www.eventcinemas.com.au
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Film Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TUE 4 SEPT</td>
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<td>West of Sunshine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WED 5 SEPT</td>
<td>6:45PM</td>
<td>Brothers’ Nest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THU 6 SEPT</td>
<td>6:30PM</td>
<td>The Pretend One</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRI 7 SEPT</td>
<td>6:30PM</td>
<td>The Second</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAT 8 SEPT</td>
<td>10:30AM</td>
<td>Survive or Die</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12:30PM</td>
<td>Innocent Killer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUN 9 SEPT</td>
<td>4:30PM</td>
<td>Rabbit</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>6:30PM</td>
<td>Winchester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8:30PM</td>
<td>The Merger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TUE 11 SEPT</td>
<td>6:30PM</td>
<td>Strange Colours</td>
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<tr>
<td>WED 12 SEPT</td>
<td>6:45PM</td>
<td>Indigo Lake</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THU 13 SEPT</td>
<td>6:30PM</td>
<td>The Gateway</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRI 14 SEPT</td>
<td>6:30PM</td>
<td>The Gateway</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAT 15 SEPT</td>
<td>10:30AM</td>
<td>The LEGO® Ninjago Movie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12:30PM</td>
<td>Just Between Us</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2:30PM</td>
<td>The BBQ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4:30PM</td>
<td>In Like Flynn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUN 16 SEPT</td>
<td>4:30PM</td>
<td>The Flip Side</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6:30PM</td>
<td>Ladies in Black</td>
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<td></td>
<td>8:30PM</td>
<td>The Five Provocations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TUE 18 SEPT</td>
<td>6:30PM</td>
<td>LADIES IN BLACK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WED 19 SEPT</td>
<td>6:30PM</td>
<td>THE FIVE PROVOCATIONS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**VENUE**

CINEMA NOVA
380 Lygon Street, Carlton, VIC 3053
www.cinemanova.com.au

**CINEMA OFFER**

Members can enjoy a 10% discount on alcoholic drinks at the Cinema Nova bar during Film Fest upon presentation of their membership card.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wed 5 Sep</td>
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<td>The Merger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu 6 Sep</td>
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<td>Upgrade</td>
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<td>Sat 8 Sep</td>
<td>10:30AM</td>
<td>The Flip Side</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun 9 Sep</td>
<td>10:30AM</td>
<td>Watch the Sunset</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 10 Sep</td>
<td>6:00PM</td>
<td>Indigo Lake</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tue 11 Sep</td>
<td>6:00PM</td>
<td>Innocent Killer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 12 Sep</td>
<td>6:00PM</td>
<td>Cargo</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thu 13 Sep</td>
<td>6:00PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat 15 Sep</td>
<td>10:30AM</td>
<td>Dad</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun 16 Sep</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 17 Sep</td>
<td>6:00PM</td>
<td>LADIES IN BLACK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tue 18 Sep</td>
<td>6:00PM</td>
<td>The Second</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 19 Sep</td>
<td>6:00PM</td>
<td>Birthday Adjustment Disorder</td>
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<td>Thu 20 Sep</td>
<td>6:00PM</td>
<td>ME &amp; MY LEFT BRAIN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat 22 Sep</td>
<td>10:30AM</td>
<td>Just Between Us</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun 23 Sep</td>
<td>10:30AM</td>
<td>Survive or Die</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 24 Sep</td>
<td>6:00PM</td>
<td>Boy Erased</td>
</tr>
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<td>Tue 25 Sep</td>
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<td>The BBQ</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue 11 Sep</td>
<td>8:30PM</td>
<td>Sweet Country</td>
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<td>8:30PM</td>
<td>Brothers’ Nest</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat 15 Sep</td>
<td>8:30PM</td>
<td>The Pretend One</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun 16 Sep</td>
<td>8:30PM</td>
<td>The Five Provocations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 17 Sep</td>
<td>8:30PM</td>
<td>In Like Flynn</td>
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<td>Tue 18 Sep</td>
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<td>Gringo</td>
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<td>8:30PM</td>
<td>The BBQ</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Fourth Wall is the Collective of Creators**

A strategic, creative and long-term project partner for progressive and forward-thinking organisations.

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Fourth Wall is proud to be an official production partner of the 8th AACTA Awards presented by Foxtel.

fourthwall.com.au

#fourthwallmade

**VENUE**

EVENT CINEMAS BRISBANE CITY MYER CENTRE
Level 3, Brisbane Myer Centre
Elizabeth Street, Brisbane City, QLD 4000
www.eventcinemas.com.au

**CINEMA OFFER**

Members can enjoy the special AACTA Combo (one small drink, one small popcorn and a choc top) for $12 at the Candy Bar during Film Fest upon presentation of their membership card.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

AFI | AACTA PATRON
Dr. George Miller

AFI | AACTA AMBASSADOR
Cate Blanchett

AFI | AACTA BOARD
Alan Finney (Chair)
Mark Morrissey

Noni Hazlehurst
George Souris

Jennifer Huby
Anita Jacoby

Robert Sessions
Tony Petani

Margaret Pomeranz

AFI | AACTA EXECUTIVE
Damian Trehella
Dr. George Miller

Jennifer North
Cate Blanchett

Chloe Krushka
Mark Morrissey

Sam Buckland
George Souris

Ivan Vukusic
Anita Jacoby

Jane Carracher
Tony Petani

Michelle Berg
Margaret Pomeranz

Bradley Arden

Chloe Krushka

Becky Charlton

Sam Buckland

Daniel Carracher

Ivan Vukusic

Hayley Toth

Jennifer North

Lauren Jankovskis

Jennifer Huby

Anie Hamilton, Amelia Hamra,

Georgia Imfeld, Adrian Lapiz,

Grace Purnamasari, Nicole Thomson

FILM FEST HOSTS

Clem Bastow, Andy Hazel,

Blake Howard, Annie Parnell

VOTING SCRUTINEERS

Ernst & Young

47 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS