



HUMAN
RIGHTS
ARTS &
FILM
FESTIVAL

28 April - 7 May 2022
hraff.org.au



Our team is based on the sovereign lands of the Wurundjeri and Boon Wurrung people of the Kulin Nation. We respect them as the traditional custodians of these land areas, and honour their continued connection and contribution to land, water, community, and the social justice movement.

Always was, always will be, Aboriginal land.

Human Rights Arts and Film Festival (HRAFF)

Purpose

The Human Rights Arts and Film Festival purpose is to celebrate, support and motivate social justice through creativity.

Our mission is to use the momentum and universal language of art and film to compel reflection and action, creating an ecosystem of people and organisations that champion change.

We are working towards our vision of a vibrant and equitable human rights community, culture and conversation in Australia.

The Team

Sophie Parr - Festival Director

Ayesha Mehta - Program Director

Leia Alex - Festival Manager

Leslie Gurusinghe - Partnerships & Development Manager

Alice McShane - Program Manager

Brooke Giacomini - Creative Producer

Muhib Nabulsi - Marketing Manager

The Board

Roj Amedi - Chair

Kavisha Kuruk

Christine Mathieson

Gareth Hart

Amy Schwebel

Tom Uhlhorn

Giselle Diego

 [Learn more about the HRAFF Team](#)



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2022 Annual Festival Introduction

The interconnectedness of our world defies a singular and reductive narrative. The magnitude of changes in recent years have made us sensitively aware of how everything overlaps. More than ever, we are aware of the simultaneity of our feelings, experiences, and existence.

HRAFF 2022 is about following the threads that weave all of our stories together. Through art and film our themes of Bodies, Environment, Ancestors and Distance all interconnect. We make space for nuance, depth, and complexity in how we relate to identities and our physical selves, the people we meet and the non-human world.



HRAFF Directors Introduction

We are thrilled to welcome you to the 2022 Human Rights Arts and Film Festival!

This year we have shifted into a Co-Directorship model with a brilliant and expanded festival team. Weaving between the immense changes we have all felt, witnessed, experienced and chosen is a motivation to listen. We are listening to the stories of grief, creativity and perseverance that have emerged in recent years, and sharing these with you through film and art.

We wanted to bring the stories told in this year's films to our homes, reminding us of what is happening here in our personal and physical worlds that is crucial to discuss and acknowledge. It is such an extraordinary joy that we are able to come together in person to all of the spaces across Melbourne for this year's festival. We are looking forward to sharing with you our film program this year, which is elevated by an incredible array of artists, storytellers, speakers and activations throughout the 10 days.

We look forward to sharing HRAFF 2022 with you.

Ayesha and Sophie

Message From The Minister For Creative Industries

Human Rights Arts and Film Festival program message

Since 2007, the Human Rights Arts and Film Festival has used the power of cinema and art to celebrate and amplify diverse and important stories, ideas and voices.

Through its program of film and events, the 2022 festival continues to explore the most pressing social and cultural issues of our time, opening our eyes to new perspectives and sparking vital conversations.

It also highlights the interconnections between our lives, people across the globe and the world around us.

We are proud to support the festival, enabling it to play a unique and important role in Victoria's creative and cultural calendar.

Congratulations to the HRAFF team on another brilliant program. Enjoy the festival!

The Hon. Danny Pearson MP

Minister for Creative Industries

Festival Themes

The driving motif of the 2022 HRAFF annual festival is interconnectedness. Highlighting the interwoven nature of our world—between people, ideas, non-human organisms, artworks, and environments—through storytelling.

Making space for nuance, depth, and complexity in how we relate to our identities, our physical selves, other people, and the non-human world, HRAFF 2022 is about following the threads that weave our stories together.

 [Explore our 2022 theme's here!](#)



Bodies

Searching or still, always expressive

Exploring the breadth, joy and power we can find in these extraordinary vehicles that we inhabit, we ask: how do our identities connect us to our bodies?



Ancestors

The stories that make and remake us

What does it mean to pay attention to the moment we're in now and behave as good ancestors for all those who will come after us?



Environment

All that surrounds us, natural, built, and human

Deepening our connection to the vulnerability, depth, wildness, humility and surrender that this planet inspires.



Distance

Product of space and time, seen through a virtual eye

How has our concept of space and time been altered by the technologies that we use to communicate, thrive and connect? Who gets to be more proximate to the possible and who has a longer path to walk? Only by first identifying our separation can we feel the strength of coming together.

Thursday 28 April | Opening Night

Dear Future Children

Opening Night Celebration
Thursday 28 April | 7:00PM | ACMI

This dynamic, powerful and mobilising documentary from 22-year-old director Franz Böhm follows three young women activists from Hong Kong, Uganda and Chile, examining the impact of their advocacy as young people on their daily lives.

Director Franz Böhm offers a special recorded introduction to his film for Opening Night.

Film Info

Director: Franz Böhm
 Country: Germany, UK, Austria
 Year: 2021
 Duration: 89 minutes
 Language: English, Spanish, Cantonese and Luganda with English subtitles
 Genre: Documentary
 Awards: "Audience Award", Max Ophüls Preis, Documentary Competition, Germany (2021); "Audience Award", FIFDH - International Film Festival and Forum

on Human Rights, International Competition, Switzerland (2021); "Hot Docs Audience Award", Hot Docs Film Festival, Canada, World Showcase (2021); and more.
 Screening Location: ACMI Federation Square, Melbourne.
> Plan your visit to ACMI

Accessibility: 
 Rating: Unclassified 15+

 To purchase tickets or read more click here!



"A film about the next generation, made by the next generation"
 - Dear Future Children



"This rousing documentary follows the reporters of India's only all-women news outlet as they pivot to digital journalism while battling personal and political challenges." - Variety

Friday 29 April

Writing with Fire + Panel Discussion

Centrepiece Event at Westside


Nominated for Best Documentary at this year's Academy Awards®, Writing with Fire is an inspiring documentary about the trailblazing journalists behind India's all-female news network Khabar Lahariya and their tenacious grassroots reporting.

Writing with Fire will be followed by a panel discussion.

Film Info

Melbourne Premiere
 Director: Rintu Thomas, Sushmit Ghosh
 Country: India
 Year: 2021
 Duration: 93 minutes
 Language: In Hindi with English Subtitles
 Genre: Documentary
 Awards: Academy Awards: Nominee, Best Documentary Feature; Sundance: Winner, World Cinema Documentary Special Jury Award: Impact for Change; World Cinema Documentary Award World Cinema Documentary Award
 Screening Location: Sun Theatre, 8 Ballarat St, Yarraville VIC 3013

> Plan your visit to Sun Theatre

Accessibility: 
 Rating: 

Festival Selection: Sundance 2021 (World Cinema Documentary Special Jury Award: Impact for Change); San Francisco Film Festival 2021 (Best Documentary Feature); Wisconsin Film Festival 2021 (Audience Choice Award Winner).
 Supporting Partner: Maribyrnong City Council

 To purchase tickets or read more click here!

Friday 29 April

Well Rounded + Panel Discussion

Friday 29 April | 7:00PM | ACMI

Shana Myara's documentary focuses on fat and fierce babes in Canada using their creativity to clap back at a diet culture that seeks to shrink marginalised bodies. Interviewees tell stories of struggle, self-actualisation and radicalisation, and taking back charge in a fatphobic, racist heteronormative society.

Well Rounded will be accompanied by a panel discussion curated by A Plus Market.



Film Info

Australian Premiere
 Director: Shana Myara
 Country: Canada
 Year: 2020
 Duration: 61 minutes
 Language: English
 Genre: Documentary
 Awards: Winner Best Canadian Film, Reelout Queer Film Festival 2021

> Plan your visit to ACMI
 Screening Location: ACMI Federation Square, Melbourne.
 Accessibility: 
 Rating: Unclassified 15+
Festival Selection: BFI London Film Festival 2021; Inside Out Toronto LGBT Film Festival 2020; Reelout Queer Film Festival 2021 (Winner: Best Canadian Film).

 To purchase tickets or read more click here!



"Just like Pride was a riot, body positivity is a riot" - Ivory

Saturday 30 April

Burning + Director Q&A + Panel

Saturday 30 April | 4:00PM | ACMI

From Oscar-winning Australian director Eva Orner (Chasing Asylum), Burning takes an unflinching look at the 2019-2020 Black Summer bushfires, delving into the subsequent inaction of the government and how to ensure this never happens again.

This event will feature a pre-recorded Q&A from Academy and Emmy-award winning Australian filmmaker Eva Orner.

Film Info

Director: Eva Orner
 Country: Australia
 Year: 2021
 Duration: 86 minutes
 Language: English
 Genre: Documentary
 Awards: Sydney Film Festival's inaugural Sustainable Future Award; Amazon's first feature-length Australian documentary commission
 Screening Location: ACMI Federation Square, Melbourne

> Plan your visit to ACMI

Accessibility: 
 Rating: Unclassified 15+

Festival Selection: Sydney Film Festival 2021 (Sustainable Future Award)

Burning is available exclusively on Amazon Prime Video.

 To purchase tickets or read more click here!



"Eva Orner's bushfire exposé boils your blood and rattles your bones as it addresses the climate crisis head on and rips into the dark heart of modern Australia." - Luke Buckmaster, The Guardian

Saturday 30 April

Flee

Saturday 30 April | 7:15PM | ACMI

Nominated for a record 3 Oscars for Best Animated Feature, Best Documentary Feature and Best International Feature Film, Flee follows queer refugee Amin Nawabi as he finally reveals his story to high school friend and director Jonas Poher Rasmussen.

Film Info

Director: Jonas Poher Rasmussen
Country: Denmark/France/Sweden/Norway
Year: 2021
Duration: 90 minutes
Language: Danish with English
Subtitles
Genre: Documentary
Awards: Dragon Award Best Nordic Documentary - Göteborg Film Festival; Grand Jury Prize Winner - 2021 Sundance Film Festival
> [Plan your visit to ACMI](#)

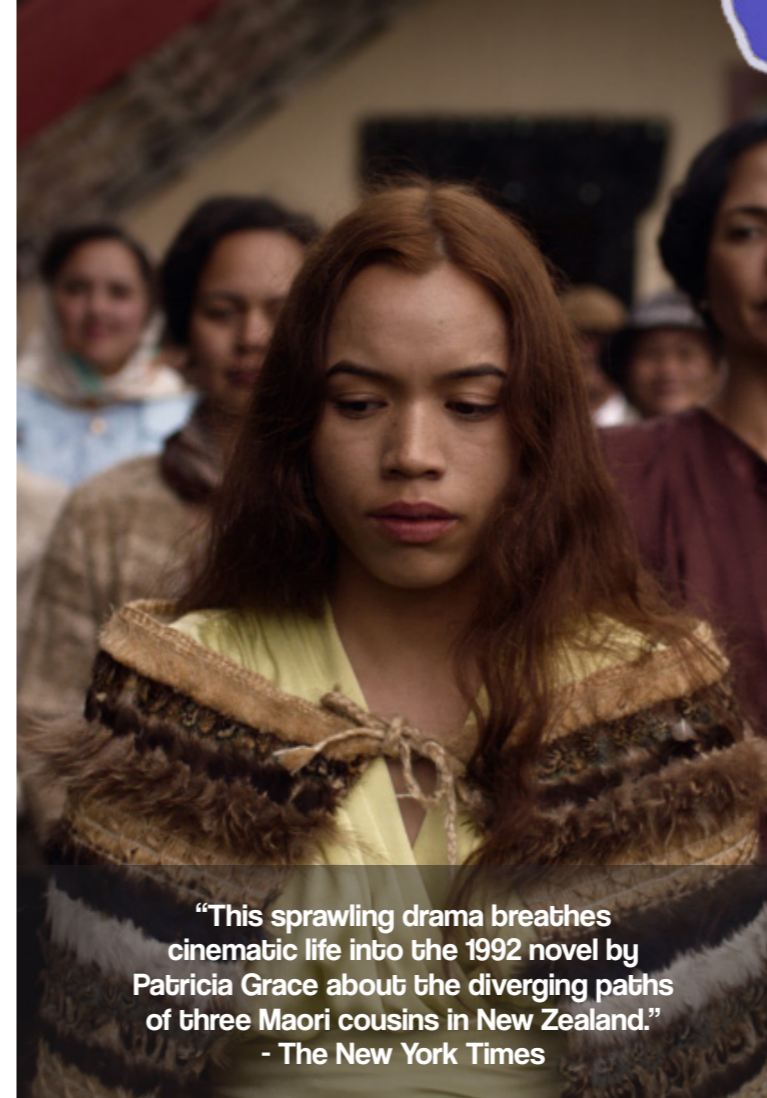
Accessibility: 

Rating: 

 To purchase tickets or read more click here!



“A powerful memoir of personal struggle and self discovery . . . Flee expands the definition of documentary.” - The Hollywood Reporter



“This sprawling drama breathes cinematic life into the 1992 novel by Patricia Grace about the diverging paths of three Maori cousins in New Zealand.” - The New York Times

Saturday 30 April

Cousins + Performance

Westside Event

Sunday 1 May | 5:30PM | ACMI

In this remarkable drama from two of the writer/directors of Waru, three Māori cousins spend a lifetime in search of each other after one is forcibly removed from their home and placed in an orphanage, based on the 1992 novel.

Pre-film kapa haka performance by TuiaTHT

Before this screening, we will be honoured with an introduction, performance and ceremony in celebration of Maori traditions, including some of those depicted in the film, Cousins.

Film Info

Director: Ainsley Gardiner, Briar Grace Smith
Country: Aotearoa New Zealand
Year: 2021
Duration: 98 minutes
Language: English, Maori
Genre: Narrative

Awards: Māoriland Film Festival – Opening Night Film, Wairoa Māori Film Festival, Nuuk International Film Festival, imagineNATIVE Film + Media Arts Festival
Screening Location: ACMI,

Federation Square, Melbourne
> [Plan your visit to ACMI](#)

Accessibility: 

Rating: 

Festival Selection: Māoriland Film Festival, Wairoa Māori Film Festival, Nuuk International Film Festival, imagineNATIVE Film + Media Arts Festival.

 To purchase tickets or read more click here!

Sunday 1 May

Interconnected Shorts Eastside Event | Sunday 1 May | 4:00PM | Clayton Theatrette

These shorts reflect the interconnected themes core to our program for this year's festival.

Locally Curated Arts Event

Curated by Margot Tanjutco, this event will include performances by Amanda Anastasi, Ate Cheska, and Yara.

Short Films

Taboo

Theme: Ancestors
Olivia Altavilla / Australia / 2018 / 14 min / Narrative / HRAFF Retro Short
After witnessing the local priest abuse his power, Sofia attempts to convince her devout Catholic family to act.

Nasir

Theme: Distance
Jackson Kroopf, Nasir Bailey / USA / 2021 / 17 min / Documentary
Musician Nasir calls several family members by phone to discuss the decision to transition.

Recycle Project

膠著人生
Theme: Environment
Peng Hsiao-yin / Taiwan / 2021 / 10 min / Dance
Recycle Project, directed by Peng Hsiao-yin, is the dance film produced by Danceecology. It's the commission work of Jumping Frames International Dance Video Festival 2016, and has been screened in the USA, Hong Kong, Italy, Mexico, Netherlands, Macau, Norway, Malaysia, Australia and Beijing.

Where Is My Darling?

Theme: Environment
Adam Finney / Australia / 2021 / 20 min / Documentary
“Where is My Darling?” follows Lanz Priestley, a charismatic homeless man who owns nothing but a phone and a Facebook page. When Lanz discovers that taps have run dry in the drought-stricken outback, he raises the money to deliver drinking water himself

Play It Safe

Theme: Bodies
Mitch Kalisa / UK / 2021 / 13 min / Narrative
Coaxed into playing a racial typecast in a fellow student's play, Black drama student Jonathan is faced with an all too familiar decision: to challenge prejudice, or play it safe.

Listen to the Beat of Our Images/Écoutez le Batement des nos Images

Theme: Distance
Audrey Jean-Baptiste, Maxime Jean-Baptiste / France, Guyana / 2020 / 15 min / Documentary
A narrated fictional documentary, Listen to the Beat of Our Images explores the construction of the Kourou Space Centre in French Guyana as seen through the eyes of the local population.

Screening Info

Screening Location: Clayton Theatrette (inside the Clayton Community Centre), 9/15 Cooke St, Clayton VIC 3168
> [Plan your visit to Clayton Theatrette](#)

Accessibility: 

Supported By: City of Monash

 To purchase tickets or read more click here!

Sunday 1 May

Off Country

Sunday 1 May | 3:00PM | ACMI

Navigating through exams, friends and the fever of high-school, Off-Country follows seven Indigenous students as they leave their communities for a year-long private school experience at one of Australia's oldest and most elite boarding schools.

Film Info

Director: John Harvey & Rhian Skirving
Country: Australia
Year: 2021
Duration: 96 minutes
Language: English
Genre: Documentary
Awards: Official Selection - CinefestOz 2021; Official Selection Melbourne International Film Festival 2021
> [Plan your visit to ACMI](#)

Accessibility: 

Rating: Unclassified 15+

Festival Selection: MIFF 2021

Major Partner: VicScreen

 To purchase tickets or read more click here!



“Off Country tackles tough questions around identity, belonging, coming of age away from home and how best to ‘close the gap’ without creating a new one.” - MIFF



Monday 2 + Wednesday 4 May

SalamaTea School of Cooking & Culture

Special Event

Monday 2 May | 5:30 - 8:30PM | Sunshine
Wednesday 4 May | 5:30 - 8:30PM | Sunshine

Join SalamaTea for a unique cooking class taught by Nayran or Niro. This class will be a three-hour hands-on learning experience, providing the chance for deep connection, storytelling, listening and delicious food!

Event Info

2 May - Syrian feast with Nayran

Supported By:
Brimbank City Council

4 May - Tamil feast with Niro

Limited space available.
All proceeds go directly to SalamaTea.

 [To purchase tickets or read more click here!](#)



Tuesday 3 May

Queen of Glory + Performance

Tuesday 3 May | 7:00PM | ACMI

A bold diasporic comedy-drama, the directorial debut from Nana Mensah (Farewell Amor, HRAFF Opening Night 2021) announces the arrival of a visionary new filmmaker.

Pre-film performance by Western Edge

This event begins with a unique performance and introduction from a Western Edge artist - a not-for-profit arts organisation creating safer spaces for young artists from Melbourne's west to tell their own stories, with their own voice, in their own way.

Film Info

Melbourne Premiere
 Director: Nana Mensah
 Country: USA
 Year: 2021
 Duration: 78 minutes
 Language: English
 Genre: Narrative
 Awards: Best New Narrative
 Director, Tribeca Film Festival 2021
 Screening Location: ACMI Federation Square, Melbourne
 > [Plan your visit to ACMI](#)

Accessibility: 

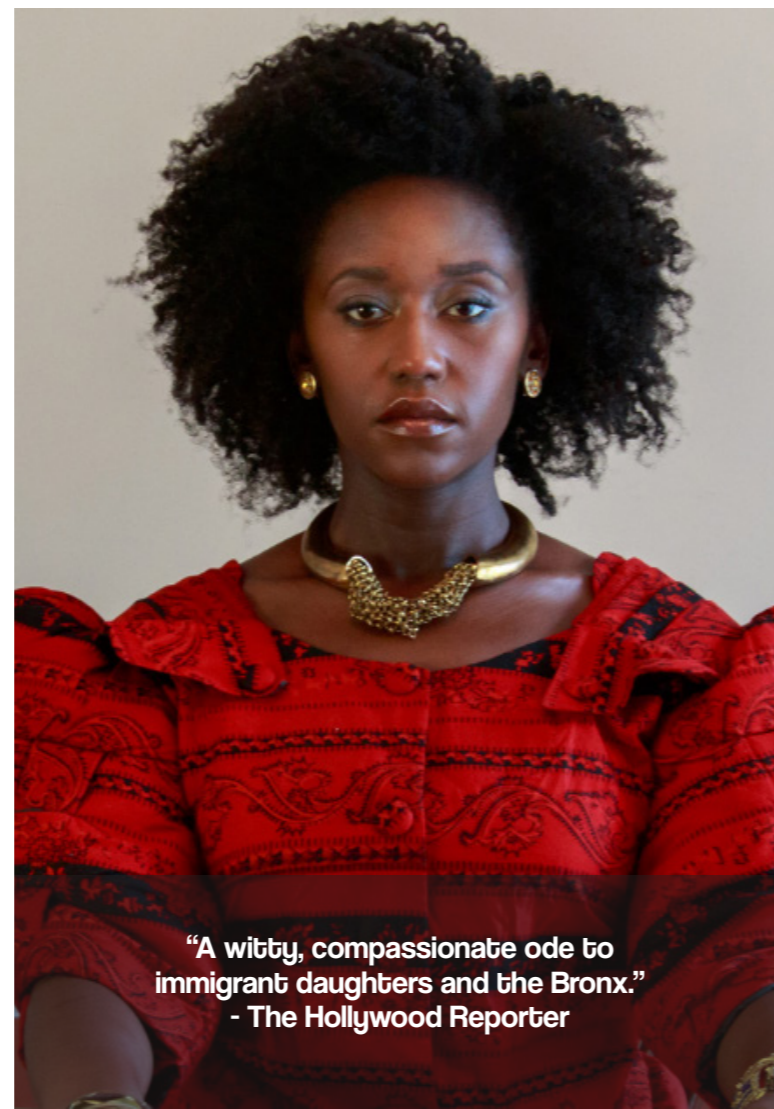
Rating: Unclassified 15+

Festival Selection: Tribeca Film Festival (2021); BFI London Film Festival (2021)

Supported By: Consulate General of the USA Melbourne



 [To purchase tickets or read more click here!](#)



"A witty, compassionate ode to immigrant daughters and the Bronx."
 - The Hollywood Reporter

Tuesday 3 May

The Man Who Sold His Skin + Performance

Westside Event

Tuesday 3 May | 7:00PM | Sun Theatre

Director Kaouther Ben Hania draws on real life events for this biting art-world satire, nominated for Best International Film at the Oscars. Sam Ali, a sensitive, young and impulsive refugee, flees Syria for Lebanon to escape the war. Unable to access a visa to get to Europe, he accepts to have his back tattooed by a provocative contemporary artist in exchange for freedom. But as he is displayed in a museum, Sam realises that his decision might actually mean anything but.

Film Info

Melbourne Premiere
 Director: Kaouther Ben Hania
 Country: Tunisia, France, Belgium, Sweden, Germany
 Year: 2020
 Duration: 104 minutes
 Language: Arabic, English, French with English Subtitles
 Genre: Narrative
 Awards: 2021 Academy Award
 Nominee for Best International Feature Film - Tunisia; Glocal Images
 Nominee for 2021 Cyprus Film Days

International Festival
 Screening Location: Sun Theatre, 8 Ballarat St, Yarraville VIC 3013
 > [Plan your visit to Sun Theatre](#)

Accessibility: 

Rating: 

Festival Selection: Venice Film Festival
Supporting Partner: Maribymong City Council

 [To purchase tickets or read more click here!](#)

Friday 29 April

Night Raiders

Monday 2 May | 7:00PM | ACMI

With several groundbreaking short films behind her, Cree-Métis filmmaker Danis Goulet makes her feature debut with one of the most important Canadian films in recent memory. A searing thriller set in the near future, Night Raiders digs deep into Canada's painful past to craft a compelling, propulsive piece of genre cinema, executive produced by Taika Waititi.

Film Info

Melbourne Premiere
 Director: Danis Goulet
 Country: Canada, New Zealand
 Year: 2021
 Duration: 101 minutes
 Language: English
 Genre: Narrative
 Awards: Emerging Talent Award, Toronto International Film Festival 2021
 Screening Location: ACMI Federation Square, Melbourne
 > [Plan your visit to ACMI](#)

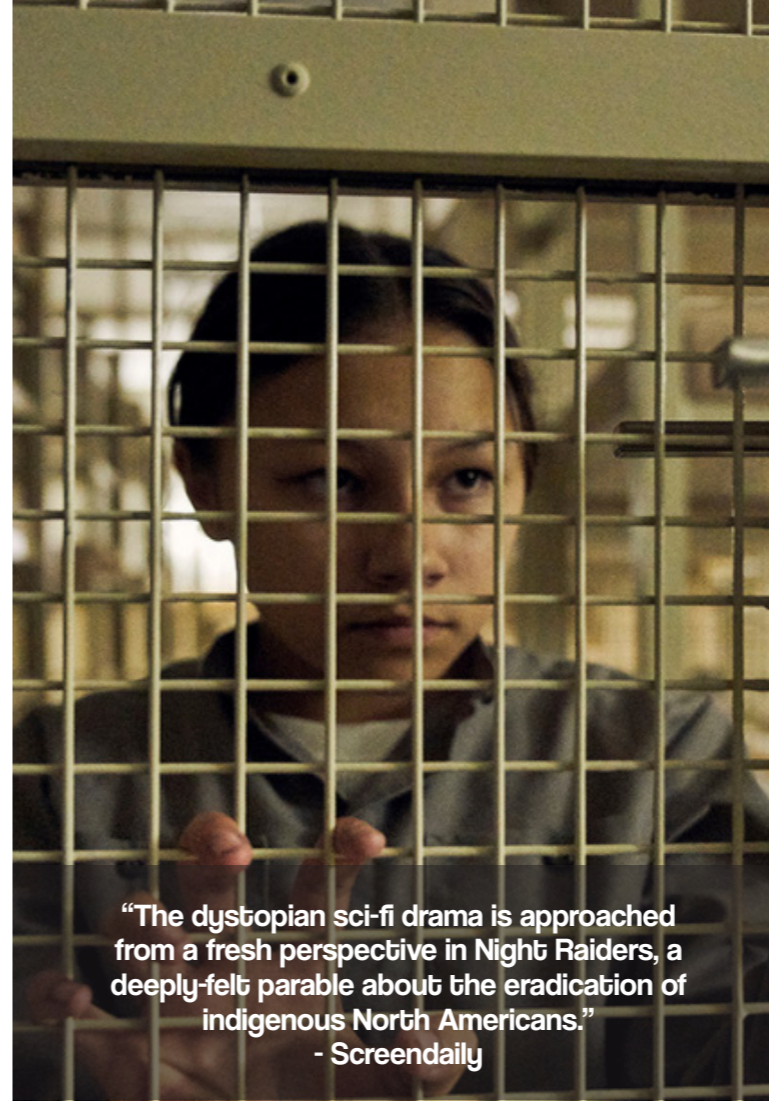
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Rating: 

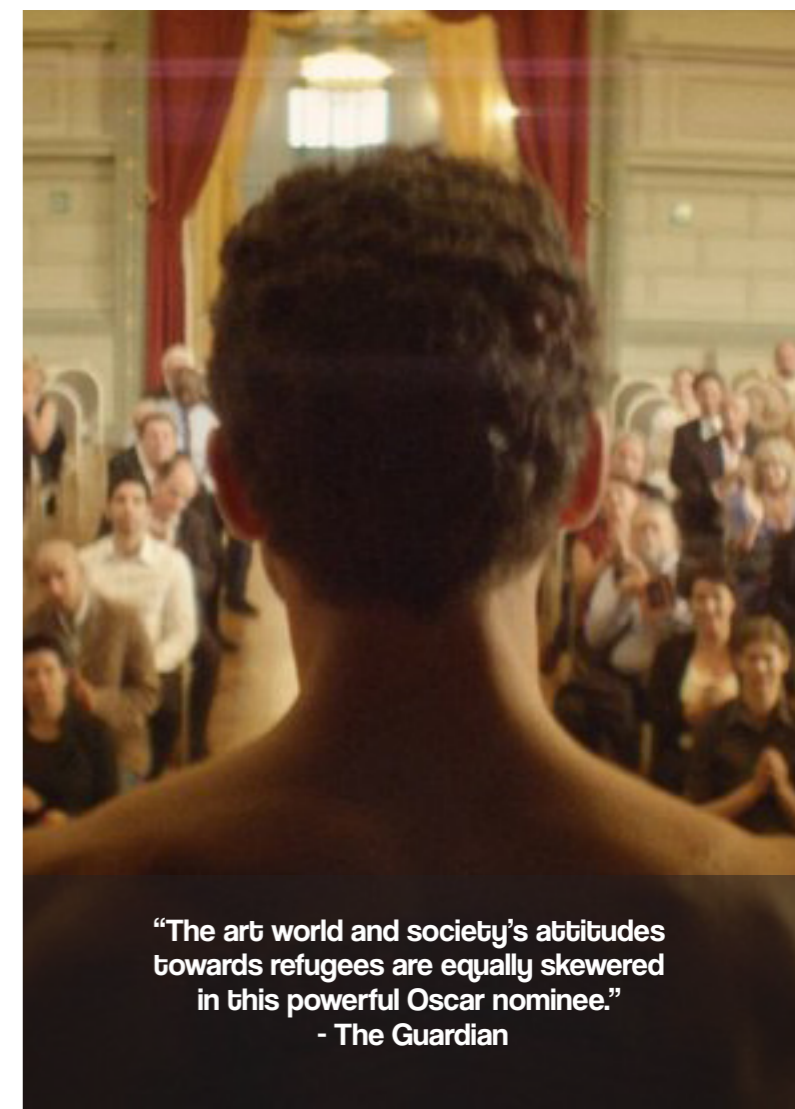
Festival Selection: Berlinale 2021, Sydney Film Festival,

Supported By: Government of Canada

 [To purchase tickets or read more click here!](#)



"The dystopian sci-fi drama is approached from a fresh perspective in Night Raiders, a deeply-felt parable about the eradication of indigenous North Americans."
 - Screendaily



"The art world and society's attitudes towards refugees are equally skewered in this powerful Oscar nominee."
 - The Guardian

Wednesday 4 May

Homegrown Shorts

Wednesday 4 May | 7:00PM | ACMI

These shorts reflect the interconnected themes core to our program for this year's festival.

From Established Filmmakers

The Ninth Tower

Kauthar Abdulalim / Australia / 2021 / 14 min / Drama

Teenager Hassan, a carer for his ill mother, is pushed to the brink when the state government suddenly imposes a hard lockdown at the nine towers in Flemington and North Melbourne housing estates.

Blind Body

Allison Chhorn / Australia / 2020 / 14 min / Documentary

As abstract shapes come into focus, dim memories surface. With Blind Body, Allison Chhorn offers an impressionistic portrait of her grandmother Kim Nay, a survivor of the Khmer Rouge. Partially blind, Kim spends her days in a mostly sonic and textural world, in which the sound of rain, the voices of Khmer radio, and distant birdsong summon the sensations of a lost homeland.

Wurundjeri Baggarrook

Rochelle (Rocky) Humphrey / Australia / 2021 / 16 min / Documentary / Australian Premiere

The last Coming of Age ceremony held by the Wurundjeri people took place at Coranderrk, 185 years ago; after that, all cultural practice was forbidden. Now, a group of Wurundjeri women—descendants of the families who went through the last recorded Wurundjeri

ceremony determined to be a 'living culture'—revive ceremonial practice. Wurundjeri Baggarrook both documents this history in the making and demonstrates complexities of contemporary Aboriginal identity. While Australia begins to confront its real history, these brave Wurundjeri women build a strong, proud community.

From the HRAFF Emerging Filmmakers Fund: Join us for a post-film panel to hear from our three inaugural recipients of the HRAFF Emerging Film Fund.

How To Build A Forest

Jenn Tran / Australia / 2022 / 6 min / Narrative

Over a century after all humans have left Earth, a scientist returns on a mission to understand how her colony might build its first forest. She reflects on the nature of her task and the complexity of the ecology she seeks to replicate, centering her perspective from Agnes Denes' land artwork 'A Forest For Australia' (1998). What begins as a scientific mission becomes a meditation on place, memory, loss and the weight of progress.

I Am Not A Virus

Jacqueline Dixon / Australia / 2022 / 9 min / Documentary

A short-film exploring identity in the face of crisis, discussing pandemic related

racism and presenting a heartfelt counter-narrative from three young Asian Australians with strong ties to their community; Elle Shimada, a Japanese violinist; Ngoc Tran, business owner of Shop Bao Ngoc, and Cr Anthony Tran, Australia's youngest mayor.

Facade

Alice Gilbert / Australia / 2022 / 5 min / Claymation

A claymation that explores the theme of identity. FACADE follows the central character from a quirky cocktail party into an

abstract world of imagery, as they shed their layers to reveal different parts of themselves. As each layer is revealed, the film considers the overarching question: who are we at our core?

Supported By: Directors Circle

Screening Info

Screening Location: ACMI, Federation Square, Melbourne | Plan your visit to ACMI

Accessibility: 

 To purchase tickets or read more click here!



"Incarceration Nation is a powerful and honest look at ourselves as Australians. It highlights the complete failure of our current justice system and gives us an insight into who we strive to be. It's time for change!" - Cathy Freeman

Thursday 5 May

Incarceration Nation

Free Event

Thursday 5 May | 6:30PM | The Edge, FedSquare

Indigenous Australians comprise 29% of the prison population but only 3.3% of the population. Incarceration Nation connects the relentless government intervention since colonisation to the trauma and disadvantage experienced by Indigenous Australians - two key drivers of incarceration. We're amidst an internationally recognised human rights catastrophe. It's time for change.

Film Info

Director: Dean Gibson
Country: Australia, USA
Year: 2021
Duration: 90 minutes
Language: English
Genre: Documentary
Awards: Finalist Nominee - 66th Walkley Foundation Awards for Excellence in Journalism; Nominee for Sydney Film Festival Awards.
Screening Location: The Edge, Swanston St & Flinders St, Melbourne VIC 3000.
> [Plan your visit to ACMI](#)

Accessibility: 

Rating: 

Festival Selection: Sydney Film Festival 2021 (Finalist: Documentary Australia Foundation for Best Australian Documentary); QLD & NT ACS Awards 2021 (Silver: Documentary Category); 66th Walkley Awards 2022 (Finalist: Documentary).

Event Partner: FedSquare

 To purchase tickets or read more click here!

Thursday 5 May

Unseen Skies + Discussion

Thursday 5 May | 7:00PM | ACMI

Join us before the screening for a complimentary drink on arrival.

Yaara Bou Melhem's first feature-length documentary follows Trevor Paglen, one of the 21st century's most visionary artists, on one of his most audacious projects to date.

Director Yaara Bou Melhem will be joining us at the event for an in-conversation discussion.

Film Info

Melbourne Premiere
Director: Yaara Bou Melhem
Country: Australia, USA
Year: 2021
Duration: 98 minutes
Language: English
Genre: Documentary
Awards: Best Documentary Feature Nominee - San Francisco International Film Festival (2021); Best Australian Documentary Nominee - Sydney Film Festival (2021). Screening Location: ACMI, Federation Square, Melbourne

> [Plan your visit to ACMI](#)

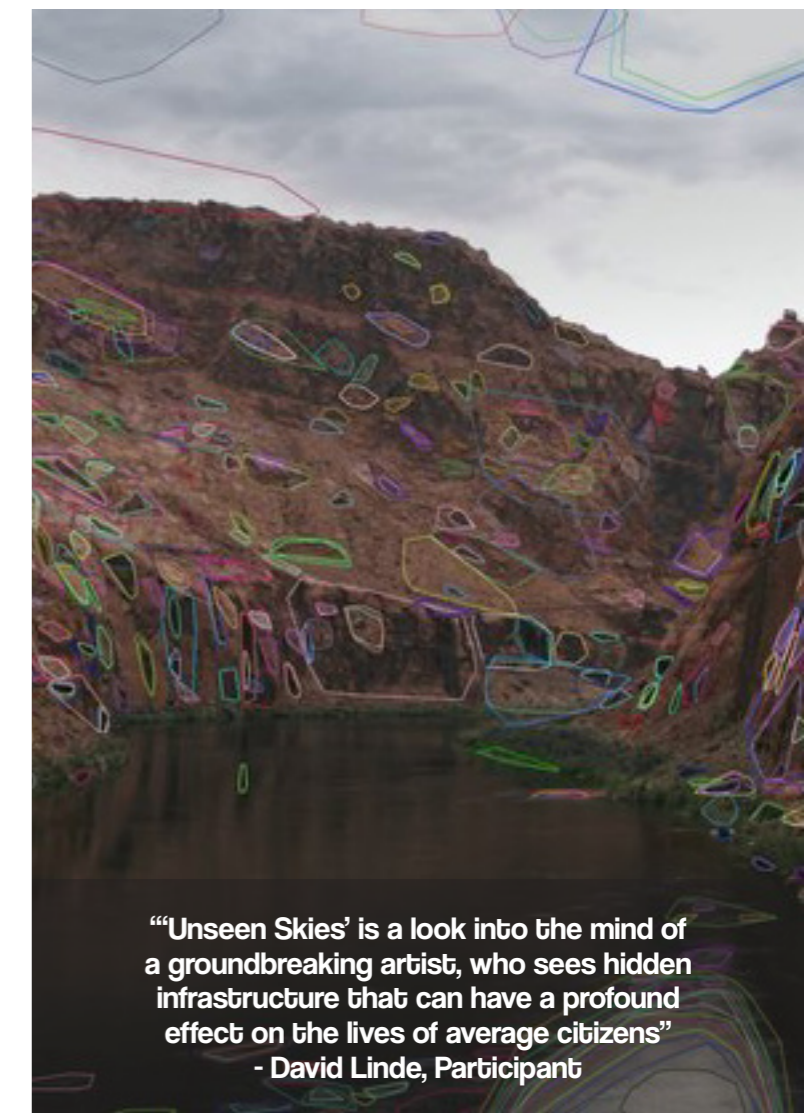
Accessibility: 

Rating: Unclassified 15+

Festival Selection: San Francisco International Film Festival 2021 (Nominee: Best Documentary Feature); Sydney Film Festival (Nominee: Best Australian Documentary).

Co-presented With: ACMI

 To purchase tickets or read more click here!



"'Unseen Skies' is a look into the mind of a groundbreaking artist, who sees hidden infrastructure that can have a profound effect on the lives of average citizens" - David Linde, Participant

Friday 6 May

River

Friday 6 May | 7:00PM | ACMI

Just a few years after her award-winning Mountain (2017), with River, Jennifer Peedom delivers yet another cinematic experience like no other.

Pre-film Artist Performance by Allara

Before the screening, we will be honoured by an immersive and powerful musical performance by Yorta Yorta storyteller Allara, supported by Ayesha Mehta.

Film Info

Director: Jennifer Peedom
Country: Australia
Year: 2021

Duration: 75 minutes
Language: English
Genre: Documentary
Awards: Nominated Sydney Film Festival Sustainable Future Award; Nominated Australian Screen Editors ASE Award Best Editing in a Documentary Feature

> [Plan your visit to ACMI](#)

Accessibility: 

Rating: Unclassified 15+

Festival Selection (Laurels):
Telluride Film Festival 2021; MIFF 2021

 To purchase tickets or read more click here!

“A visually majestic, significantly airborne journey over a wide variety of rivers around the world.” - Deadline

Friday 6 May

Feminist Shorts

Friday 6 May | 7:00PM | Kindred Studios | Live music and visuals by nomadicstatic

Westside Event Feminist Shorts is exactly what the title states: a curated selection of some of the most striking contemporary feminist short films.

Following the film screening, Naarm/Melbourne-based DJ Jeevi Ka will take over the space at Kindred with a captivating live DJ and projection art performance.

Saba

Mohammad Reza Khavari / Iran / 2020 / 13 min / Drama

After Iran's ban on women's presence in football stadiums, Saba's father suggests she disguises herself as a boy to sneak in. At a cafe, he lets her in on a secret: when Saba was three, he realised he could not be a man any more. On the pretext of helping her enter the stadium, he creates a circumstance where his daughter has to put herself into his shoes, thereby hiding her true identity.

Becky

Nicola Cross / Kenya / 2020 / 13 min / Narrative

“Becky” is an unexpectedly uplifting story about a Kenyan woman's resilience on her journey to feeling complete.

Wurundjeri Baggarrook

Wurundjeri Baggarrook documents a group of Wurundjeri women—descendants of the families who went through the last recorded Wurundjeri ceremony determined to be of a ‘living culture’—revive ceremonial practices. While Australia begins to confront

its real history, these brave Wurundjeri women build a strong, proud community.

My Mother's Girlfriend

Arun Fulara / India / 2021 / 15 min / Narrative

RENUKA is in love with SADIYA a neighbour who lives in the same slum as her. They are out celebrating RENUKA's birthday but unknown to them, MANGESH, her son, is around. The film is the story of these two relationships colliding.

Annah la Javanaise

Fatimah Tobing Rony / Indonesia / 2020 / 6 min / Narrative

In 1893, a 13-year-old girl came to work for French painter Paul Gauguin as his maid and model. They called her Annah la Javanaise. This is a reimagining of her story.

Screening Location: Kindred Studios, 3 Harris St, Yarraville VIC 3013

Supported By: Maribyrnong City Council

Accessibility: 

 To purchase tickets or read more click here!

Saturday 7 May | Closing Night

A Bell Rings Across the Valley

Saturday 7 May | 2:00PM | Footscray Community Arts

Presented at Footscray Community Arts as part of PHOTO2022

As part of HRAFF's Westside program this year, we are thrilled to present a multifaceted event at Footscray Community Arts. The event centres around the photography exhibition PHOTO2022, bringing live music, dance and food into conversation with the artists to explore themes of identity, heritage and change.

Artists

Ashfika Rahman (Bangladesh), Indu Antony (India), Sheelasha Rajbhandari (Nepal) / Nepal Picture Library, Devika Bilmoria (Australia), Shwe Wutt Hmon (Myanmar), will present new work.

Curated by Shivanjani Lal.

> [Plan your visit to Footscray Community Arts](#)

Supported By: Maribyrnong City Council

 To purchase tickets or read more click here!



Saturday 7 May | Closing Night

The Right to Rock + Performance

Saturday 7 May | 7:00PM | ACMI

When two Filipina-American sisters got together to play music in sunny 1960s Sacramento, they didn't know they'd evolve into Fanny, the first all-woman band to release an LP with a major record label.


Closing Night: Rock Concert by Jag

At the HRAFF Closing Night event, we're excited to present an explosive set by local musician JAG and her band. A wailing rocker in the ilk of Howlin' Wolf, her guttural renditions transcend by sheer viscerality.

Film Info

Director: Bobbi Jo Hart
Country: USA
Year: 2021
Duration: 96 minutes
Language: English
Genre: Documentary
Awards: Top Five Audience Favourite HotDocs 2021
Screening Location: ACMI Federation Square, Melbourne.

> [Plan your visit to ACMI](#)

Accessibility: 

Rating: Unclassified 15+

Festival Selection (Laurels):
HotDocs 2021 (Top Five Audience Favourite)

 To purchase tickets or read more click here!



“Revivify Fanny. And my work is done.” - David Bowie

Throughout the Festival

Northside: Three Exhibitions at Counihan Gallery

Free event: Counihan Gallery, 233 Sydney Rd, Brunswick VIC 3056

HRAFF is partnering with the Counihan Gallery again in 2022 to showcase three exhibitions:

Yeki Bood, Yeki Nabood
The Sky After Rain
William Kelly: Toward the Big Picture

We invite our audiences to spend some time with the works and reflect on the 2022 festival themes, Bodies, Environment: Ancestors, Distance.

Yeki Bood, Yeki Nabood
‘Yeki Bood, Yeki Nabood’ means ‘one was there, one was absent’ in Farsi. It’s a phrase used to begin a story, similar to ‘once upon a time’. This solo exhibition by Hootan Heydari explores the compulsion to return to the past. Returning to the past can be an act of resistance against historical erasure and a mode of cultural preservation.

William Kelly: Towards the Big Picture
William Kelly’s work explores issues of human rights, social justice, violence against women and children, and peace. The exhibition features ‘The Prison of History or the Poetry of Possibilities’, precursor to the monumental work in the film ‘Can Art Stop a Bullet?’ William Kelly’s Big Picture’.

From intimate to wall-sized works, this exhibition reflects Kelly’s commitment to drawing and politics over the past four decades.

The Sky After Rain
‘The Sky After Rain’ shares the stories of three queer members of the Iranian diaspora: Payam, Shyla, and Shaya. Told through a combination of interviews, spoken word poetry, moving images, sound design and dance, the work is brought together by choreographer and dancer Tara Jada Samaya, whose body acts as a medium for queer voices and bodies.

The Sky After Rain is proudly supported by Australia Council for the Arts, the Victorian Government through Creative Victoria, Manningham Council’s Community Grant Program, and Access Health and Community.



Special Event

When the Camera Stopped Rolling

Thursday 21 April | 6:00PM | ACMI

A daughter turns her camera onto the life of her trail-blazing filmmaker mother to find troubling shadows behind their stunning images.

Q&A with Director Jane Castle
Join us for a Q&A with Writer, Director, Narrator, & Cinematographer Jane Castle

Film Info

Director: Jane Castle ACS
Country: Australia
Year: 2021
Duration: 75 minutes
Language: English
Genre: Documentary
Awards: Nominated for Best Australian Documentary
Screening Location: ACMI Federation Square, Melbourne.
> [Plan your visit to ACMI](#)

Accessibility: 

Rating: 

Festival Selection (Laurels):
2021 AACTA Awards (Nominated: Best Documentary); Sydney Film Festival 2021 (Finalist: Documentary Australia Foundation for Best Australian Documentary); International New York Film Festival 2021 (Best Feature Category).

Supported By: Vicscreen

 To purchase tickets or read more click here!

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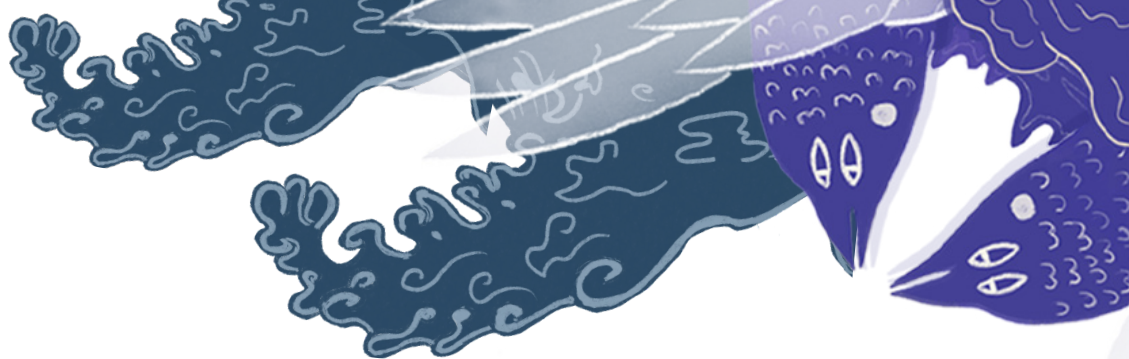


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