SHIFTING

HUMAN RIGHTS ARTS & FILM FESTIVAL

PATTERNS 22 APRIL - 1 MAY 2021

TEAM

Imogen Thomas CEO Awak Kongor Cultural & Inclusion Officer Alice McShane Program Manager Leslie Gurusinghe Partnerships & Development Manager Leia Alex Festival Coordinator Sophie Parr Impact Producer Erin Leach Impact Writer Sinead Stafford Design Lead One & Other Design Lead Jessie Alice Marketing Coordinator Sam Amar Community Manager Alexander Back Copywriter Grace Packer Event Coordinator Keegan Lillo Digital Lead Kayla Larson Shorts Coordinator Waashil Habib Shorts Programmer Alexander Back Shorts Programmer Rebecca Mery Shorts Programmer Phebe Shields Features Programmer Brandon Watson Features Programmer Chelsey O'Brien Features Programmer Trevor Shard Finance Manager

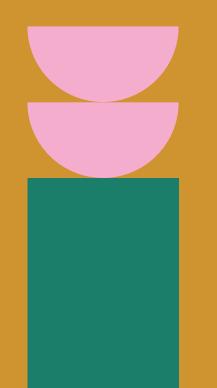
BOARD

Evelyn Tadros Co-Founder Roj Amedi Chairperson Christine Mathieson Vice-Chair Russell Gordon Treasurer Sean Chamberlin Secretary Michaela Davis Matthew Nguyen Andy Hibbert Tom Uhlhorn Gareth Hart Claire Snyder

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

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.



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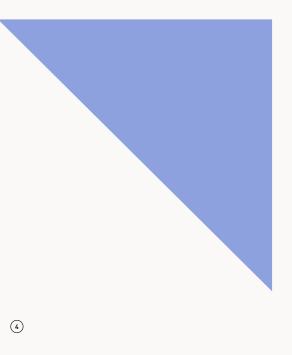
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Introduction

The Human Rights Arts & Film Festival is a not-for-profit arts organisation dedicated to cultivating a vibrant human rights community, culture and conversation in Australia.

Artists and creatives have always been at the vanguard of social change. Throughout history, humans have turned to artists to make sense of the world. Celebration, loss and contemplation have long been articulated by artists in a way that helps us better understand ourselves and each other.

That critical nexus of creative cultural expression and the bold and brave storytelling of the artists, filmmakers and musicians is the heart and soul of what the Human Rights Arts & Film Festival is all about.





IMOGEN CEO

At long last - we're so happy to welcome you to HRAFF 2021!

The festival theme this year is Shifting Patterns - a nod to the individual, social and systemic changes we are witnessing or working towards at this moment in time.

The essence of this theme is balance - balance of ideas, voices, priorities, perspectives and power. Balance enables us to move forward. Balance creates space for clarity, to help us see things as they really are. When in balance, we can accept and embrace change. We delight in the details we discover about ourselves and each other, we find courage to contend with what we no longer accept, and find motivation to act in support of balance for others.

Patterns become clear. We connect the dots, and create conditions for change. We choose to let go, we choose to move forward. We recognise that movement is constant, essential, and powerful.

Through this lens HRAFF 2021: Shifting Patterns has been created, with the intention to offer the stage for the people and organisations who are leading the way in this regard. Shaped by the generous storytelling of the many artists, activists and advocates in our program, and brought to life by a dedicated team of exceptional volunteers and staff.

I hope the people, ideas and creativity in this program inspire and re-energise you as profoundly as they have us. Thank you so much for being a part of HRAFF 2021 - we look forward to sharing it with you.

Farewell Amor

THURSDAY 22 APRIL 6:30PM

"A moving exploration of the meaning of home." — The Hollywood Reporter

NARRATIVE | INTERNATIONAL | DANCE

Reunited after a 17 year separation, Walter, an Angolan immigrant, is joined in the U.S. by his wife, Esther, and teenage daughter Sylvia. Now absolute strangers sharing a one-bedroom apartment, they discover a shared love of dance that may help overcome the distance between them.

Nominated for the Grandy Jury Prize at Sundance, director Ekwa Msangi crafts a vibrant, eye-opening film full of music, atmosphere, and emotional complexity. There are three sides to every story in Farewell Amor, an intergenerational, and truthful exploration of family, and rediscovery.

FEATURING A SPECIAL PRE-FILM ARTIST PERFORMANCE BY NIASHA



NIASHA is the true definition of dynamites come in small packages! Singer, songwriter, and spoken word poet (maybe even a dancer). She is a Zimbabwean-born soul performer who will surely get you in your feelings as she delves into the topics of love, identity, celebration of self and others and what it means to live a fulfilled and purpose-filled life. With her eclectic band that has been delivering powerhouse performances around Melbourne music venues, it's no wonder she is the one to watch. Her artistry is set to leave your soul taste buds tingling for more!

LOCATION

ACMI Cinema 1, Federation Square, Melbourne Plan your visit to ACMI

TICKETS

General Admission \$30 Friends of the Festival \$25 Concession \$22

OVERVIEW

Director Ekwa Msangi Country USA Year 2020 Duration 101 minutes Language English and Portuguese with English subtitles Genre Narrative Rating Unclassified 15+

FESTIVAL SELECTION

Sundance Film Festival 2020

AWARDS

Nominee, Grand Jury Prize - Dramatic, Sundance Film Festival 2020

Nominee, Someone to Watch Award, Ekwa Msangi, Film Independent Spirit Awards 2021

PRESENTING PARTNER





COMMUNITY IMPACT

Western Edge Youth Arts is a not-for-profit arts organisation, working with young people from the western suburbs of Naarm.







Underplayed

FRIDAY 23 APRIL 6:15PM

"'Underplayed' guides viewers through the systemic and historical ways women have been pushed out of the industry, their contributions shortchanged and earlier pioneers forgotten." — Monica Castillo, RogerEbert.com

"Everybody is responsible for ensuring the future of the electronic music industry is going to be sustainable, is going to reflect the world around us and that it is inviting everybody in." — Stacev Lee

DOCUMENTARY | PREMIERE | MUSIC

Electronic music was born from the ideals of diversity, community, and inclusivity, and yet in 2019 only five of Billboard's top 100 DJs were women.

Filmed over the summer festival season, New Zealand-born director Stacey Lee's Underplayed presents a portrait of gender, ethnic, and sexual equality issues through the female pioneers, nextgeneration artists, and industry leaders who are championing change. Ultimately, the film explores gender disparity that transcends music and finds relevance in many of today's industries. It will leave you pumping your fist in solidarity with these DJs while simultaneously bopping your head to their infectious beats.

FEATURING A SPECIAL PRE-FILM PERFORMANCE BY JACKI TUT



Jacki Tut is a South-Sudanese Australian artist from deep in Melbourne's South-East. Not seeing herself as belonging to any single genre, Jacki instead moves through RnB, Soul and Hip-Hop to cultivate her sound. Her most recent single "Black Tears" will be released April 9 on all streaming platforms with her EP dropping in the second half of 2021.

LOCATION

ACMI Cinema 1, Federation Square, Melbourne <u>Plan your visit to ACMI</u>

TICKETS

General Admission \$30 Friends of the Festival \$25 Concession \$22 IUMAN RIGHTS ARTS & FILM FESTIVAL 202

OVERVIEW

Director Stacey Lee Country Canada Year 2020 Duration 87 minutes Language English Genre Documentary Rating MA15+ Strong coarse Language

FESTIVAL SELECTION Toronto International

Film Festival Tribeca Film Festival

PRESENTING PARTNER



COMMUNITY IMPACT PARTNER

GRID (Grass Roots Indie Development) is an artist development program supporting outer suburban emerging musicians around Australia and strengthening communities through music.



Femme Shorts

FRIDAY 23 APRIL 9:00PM



AUSTRALIAN

PREMIERE

End-O

OVERVIEW

Director Alice Seabright Country UK Year 2019 Duration 15 minutes Language English Genre Narrative

Jaq wants to have sex. But her Endometriosis is out to sabotage her with chronic pain and unpredictable bleeding at the very worst time.

Unliveable

OVERVIEW Director Matheus Farias, Enock Carvalho Country Brazil Year 2020 Duration 19 minutes Language Portuguese Genre Narrative

The world experiences a phenomenon never seen before. Marilene searches for her daughter Roberta, a trans woman who went missing. While running out of time, she discovers a hope for the future.

Mothers Of

OVERVIEW

Director Ross Lai Country Canada Year 2019 Duration 19 minutes Language English, Spanish Genre Documentary

The unconscionable story of Teodora del Carmen Vasquez, who suffers a stillbirth at full term and is cruelly sentenced to an 11-year jail sentence in El Salvador under some of the harshest anti-abortion laws in the world. AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE



Doublespeak

OVERVIEW

Director Hazel McKibbin Country USA Year 2021 Duration 10 minutes Language English Genre Narrative

A young woman grapples with the aftermath of reporting sexual harassment in the workplace in this 2021 Sundance Grand Jury Prize nominee.

OVERVIEW Director Hiwot Admasu Getaneh Country France

A Fool God

AUSTRALIAN

PREMIERE

Country France Year 2019 Duration 18 minutes Language Amharic Genre Narrative

When young Mesi steps in for her squeamish brother to perform a traditional — maleonly — ritual, she faces blame for the negative outcome. Instead, she defiantly questions the wisdom of her elders' beliefs, in Hiwot Admasu Getaneh's magical realist and gently irreverent drama.

LOCATION

ACMI Cinema 1, Federation Square, Melbourne Plan your visit to ACMI HUMAN RIGHTS ARTS & FILM FESTIVAL 2021

TICKETS

General Admission \$22 Friends of the Festival \$19 Concession \$18

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE



Many Bloodlines [êmîcêtôcêt]

OVERVIEW

Director Theola Ross Country Canada Year 2020 Duration 11 minutes Language English Genre Documentary

A queer, bi-racial couple from the beginning of their IVF process and the birth of their first child together. Through their journey, they address the effects of colonization on their relationship and family and navigate decolonizing & Indigenizing the pregnancy of a white partner carrying their Indigenous baby.

Cowboys

SATURDAY 24 APRIL 2:00PM

"There's not very many roles for trans kids, even small roles, especially transmasculine roles. It's cool to be a part of something that's breaking barriers." — Sasha Knight

NARRATIVE | GENDER | MENTAL HEALTH

Troy (Steve Zahn) and his young child Joe (Sasha Knight) are on the run in rural western Montana. They think they can make it to the Canadian border, if they can just manage to keep a low enough profile while they journey north. But Joe's mother Sally (Jillian Bell) has discovered they're missing, and an outsider within the local police force, Faith (Ann Dowd), is in hot pursuit. As Faith discovers more about the case, she finds this supposed kidnapping is more than it seems. Troy is attempting to free his transgender son from the bigotry of his mother.; Troy also has mental health issues, and is without his much-needed medication.

Winner of Best Screenplay and Best Actor at the 2020 Tribeca Film Festival, writer/director Anna Kerrigan captures a portrait of a pivotal childhood experience with a compassionate and sturdy lens. Guided with care and vision, this modern-day western has an emotional veracity that simply must be seen.



LOCATION

ACMI Cinema 1, Federation Square, Melbourne <u>Plan your visit to ACMI</u>

TICKETS

General Admission \$25 Friends of the Festival \$22 Concession \$19

OVERVIEW

Director Anna Kerrigan Country USA Year 2020 Duration 83 minutes Language English Genre Narrative Rating Unclassified 15+

FESTIVAL SELECTION

Tribeca Film Festival

AWARDS

Winner, Best Screenplay, Best Actor, Tribeca Film Festival 2020 Frameline Film Festival 2020

Winner, Outstanding Performance in a U.S. Feature (Sasha Knight), L.A. Outfest 2020

COMMUNITY IMPACT PARTNER

Minus18 are champions for LGBTQIA+ young people. We're leading change, building social inclusion, and advocating for an Australia where all young people are safe, empowered, and surrounded by people that support them.



FEATURING A PANEL DISCUSSION AFTER THE FILM



REBECCA SCOTT, OAM

Bec has spent her whole career working in innovation, the first half of it in science at the CSIRO, the second half as a social entrepreneur. She's particularly interested in how we can solve complex systemic issues using multidisciplinary practice. She's the Co-founder and CEO of STREAT, a Melbourne-based social enterprise that works towards human and planetary health. STREAT works with marginalised young people aged 16-24 years and provides them with a healthy self, job and home.

QUINN EADES



Quinn Eades is a writer, researcher, editor, gutter philosopher and poet, whose book Rallying was awarded the 2018 Mary Gilmore Award for best first book of poetry. He is the author of all the beginnings: a queer autobiography of the body, and is currently working on two books: an autobiography from the transitioning body titled is the body home; and a sole-authored essay collection. Quinn is a Tracey Banivanua Mar Research Fellow and a Senior Lecturer in Gender, Sexuality and Diversity Studies at La Trobe University, Melbourne.

HARVEY ZIELINSK

Harvey Zielinski is a transgender actor, writer and advocate (he/him) based in Melbourne.

Harvey graduated from The National Theatre Drama School in 2017, as their 2017 Cybec Foundation Scholarship recipient. Harvey was the Red Stitch Actors' Theatre graduate ensemble member for 2018, performing there in Hir (Dir: Daniel Clarke), The Antipodes (Dir: Ella Caldwell) and Suddenly Last Summer (Dir: Stephen Nicolazzo). Also in 2018, Harvey won a Casting Guild of Australia Rising Star Award and was a Heath Ledger Scholarship top ten finalist.

Harvey plays series lead Abel in the Catherine Hardwicke (Twilight) directed U.S sci-fi series, Don't Look Deeper, for Quibi, opposite Don Cheadle, Helena Howard, and Emily Mortimer. Currently, Harvey is rehearsing for the role of Laertes in Malthouse Theatre Company's production Because the Night (Matt Lutton).

Harvey has always balanced his love for acting with a love of writing, and he was thrilled to receive development assistance from the Australian Broadcasting Commission for Sweet Milk Lake, his debut feature film screenplay. Harvey wants to continue to create original content that both speaks from and advocates for marginalised perspectives, and fights for the diversification of storytelling in Film and TV.

Kuessipan

SATURDAY 24 APRIL 6:30PM

"I wrote Kuessipan, which means 'it's your turn' in Innu. I said it's my turn to talk, my turn for my people and I to talk about our community. I wanted to portray the people of our community with the love I have for them: my grandmother, my cousins, my friends, and all the people who live there." — Naomi Fontaine

NARRATIVE | YOUTH | INDIGENOUS

GIRLS C

Adapted from Naomi Fontaine's acclaimed novel, Kuessipan is an honest portrait of the connections between people, places, and possibilities. In a Quebec Innu community, Mikuan (Sharon Fontaine-Ishpatao) and Shaniss (Yamie Grégoire) struggle to maintain their close friendship. When Mikuan falls in love with a white boy and considers a life beyond the tiny reserve, her bond with Shaniss and her family is put to the test.

A coming-of-age story told with humour, tenderness, and heartbreak, Kuessipan explores the evolution of friendship and tradition. Kuessipan is told through an Indigenous lens yet remains relevant to us all as we discover the power of community — along with the individual strength it takes to follow our own path.

LOCATION

Village Cinemas Century City, 285-287 Springvale Rd, Glen Waverley, Vic 3150 <u>About this cinema</u>

TICKETS

General Admission \$22 Friends of the Festival \$19 Concession \$18

OVERVIEW

Director Myriam Verreault Country Canada Year 2019 Duration 117 minutes Language Innu, French, English with English subtitles Genre Narrative Rating Unclassified 15+

FESTIVAL SELECTION

Toronto International Film Festival

AWARDS

Nominee, Best Film, Göteborg Film Festival 2020

Nominee, Best Canadian Film, TIFF 2019

PRESENTING PARTNER





MONASH



UMAN RIGHTS

(15)

MLK/FBI

SATURDAY 24 APRIL 6:30PM

"By the film's end, Martin Luther King Jr. and J. Edgar Hoover — who met face-to-face only once — emerge as an inseparable American pair." — K. Austin Collins, Rolling Stone

DOCUMENTARY | POLITICS | ACTIVISM

Based on newly declassified files, Sam Pollard's resonant film explores the US government's surveillance and harassment of Martin Luther King, Jr.

MLK/FBI performs the vital task of examining J. Edgar Hoover's relentless campaign of surveillance and harassment against Martin Luther King, Jr. Today, when King is celebrated across political spectrums as a moral hero, it's jolting to confront the years when US agents targeted him as a villain. This film is a crucial way to connect the past to the present.

FEATURING A PANEL DISCUSSION AFTER THE FILM

LOCATION

ACMI Cinema 1, Federation Square, Melbourne Plan your visit to ACMI

TICKETS

General Admission \$25 Friends of the Festival \$22 Concession \$19

OVERVIEW

Director Sam Pollard Country USA Year 2020 Duration 104 minutes Language English Genre Documentary Rating Unclassified 15+

FESTIVAL SELECTION

Toronto International Film Festival

AWARDS

Winner, Best Documentary, San Diego International Film Festival 2020

Shortlist, Documentary Feature, 93rd Academy Awards

PRESENTING PARTNER

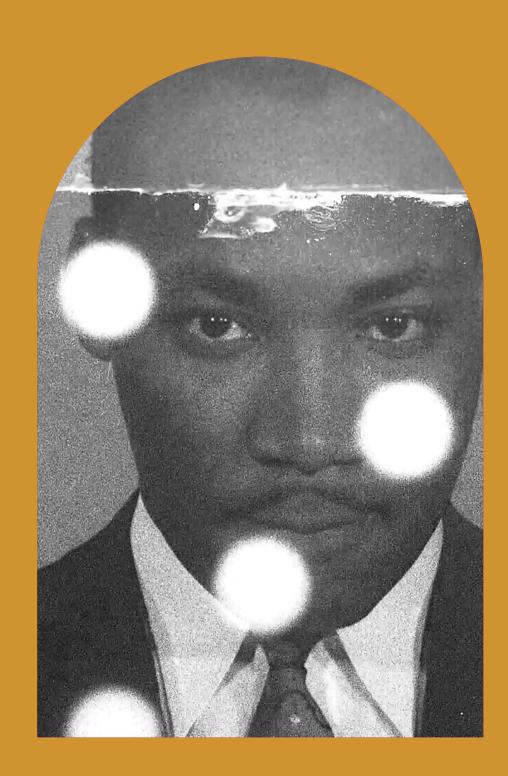




COMMUNITY IMPACT PARTNER

The Human Rights Law Centre uses strategic legal action, policy solutions and advocacy to support people and communities to eliminate inequality and injustice and build a fairer, more compassionate Australia.







Ai Weiwei: Yours Truly

SUNDAY 25 APRIL 1:15PM

"It is your duty as an artist to fight for freedom of speech. That is the soul of any creativity." — Ai Weiwei

DOCUMENTARY | ART-IVISM | INTERNATIONAL

In 2013 artist Ai Weiwei and curator Cheryl Haines created an interactive art installation '@Large' on the notorious Alcatraz Island. Formerly imprisoned by the Chinese government for his art and political activism, Ai Weiwei used his experiences as inspiration. Through a unique combination of kites, Legos and postcards, Ai and Haines pay tribute to prisoners of conscience across the globe.

Ai Weiwei: Yours Truly offers a unique look at Ai's artistic process, along with the impact of @Large on both the exhibition's visitors and the political prisoners who received postcards, while delving Ai Weiwei's own experiences of exile. Visually impressive and uplifting, this film is a celebration of freedom of speech, human rights and the power of art.

FEATURING A SPECIAL PRE-FILM PERFORMANCE BY MALAIKA



Malaika Mfalme {Angel King} is a singer, songwriter, and guitarist producing on Gadigal Land. Angel King writes beautifully evoking music that'll step on your heart and lift you away from daily chaos and monotony. Malaika is here to create a safe space focused on healing with a powerful message of kindness, acceptance and reflection vibrating through every one of their sonic outputs. Mfalmes ink-stained fingers play sweet melodic guitar alongside strikingly smooth vocals layered with a looping pedal that reminds you their name is Angel for a reason. Malaika's work gifts you with the intention to feel and remember those of us we've lost, their debut Single "Imagine If You Were Here" is a tribute to those who grieve uniting any room with the knowledge of our one true constant in life.

LOCATION

ACMI Cinema 1, Federation Square, Melbourne Plan your visit to ACMI

TICKETS

General Admission \$30 Friends of the Festival \$25 Concession \$22

OVERVIEW

Director Cheryl Haines Country USA Year 2019 Duration 78 minutes Language English, Mandarin with English subtitles Genre Documentary Rating Unclassified 15+

FESTIVAL SELECTION

DOC NYC Film Festival 2019

COMMUNITY IMPACT PARTNER

The PEN Melbourne Centre is one of 147 PEN International centres worldwide whose members defend freedom of expression and promote the written word. PEN Melbourne brings writers together from across cultures to share experiences. ideas and conduct public conversations about how literature transforms, influences and fosters cross-cultural exchange.



Firestarter: The Story of Bangarra

SUNDAY 25 APRIL 4:15PM

"Bangarra has, time and time again, stepped up to the challenge of sharing stories through dance to create moments of access for all Australians who hold a relationship with this land's First Nations' peoples, its living colonial history and Country itself." — Brooke Collins-Gearing, The Conversation

AUSTRALIAN | INDIGENOUS | DANCE

Marking Bangarra Dance Theatre's 30th anniversary, The Story of Bangarra is a captivating documentary that tells the story of Stephen, David and Russell Page – three young Aboriginal brothers who turned a newly born dance group into one of Australia's leading performing arts companies.

Firestarter explores the loss and reclaiming of culture, the burden of intergenerational trauma and crucially, the extraordinary power of art as a messenger for social change and healing. Directed by Wayne Blair (The Sapphires, Top End Wedding) and Nel Minchin (Matilda & Me), this poignant documentary has already won multiple awards, including the AACTA-Award for Best Documentary.

**Content warning: This film contains scenes or themes of suicide that some audience members may find disturbing. Viewer discretion advised.

FEATURING A SPECIAL PRE-FILM PERFORMANCE BY KULULU WARIA



Kululu Waria is a singer/songwriter whose pop sound can be attributed to the eclectic range of music she heard growing up. She bares her soul with her honest and relatable lyricism but delivers it through catchy hooks and upbeat production.

Kululu has the ability to draw you in with her warm and inviting presence but it's her raw yet sincere performances that'll keep you around. Currently she resides in Brisbane where she is working on new music to be released this year.

LOCATION

ACMI Cinema 1, Federation Square, Melbourne Plan your visit to ACMI

TICKETS

General Admission \$30 Friends of the Festival \$25 Concession \$22

OVERVIEW

Director Wayne Blair, Nel Minchin Country Australia Year 2020 Duration 96 minutes Language English Genre Documentary Rating M. Mature themes and coarse language

FESTIVAL SELECTION

Brisbane International Film Festival

Sydney Film Festival

AWARDS

Winner, Best Documentary, Adelaide Film Festival 2020

Winner, Best Documentary, Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts (AACTA) Awards 2020

PRESENTING PARTNER



COMMUNITY IMPACT PARTNER

Deadly Story is a resource that aims to support Aboriginal children and young people to grow in their knowledge of; Who you are, who you belong to, where you belong, where you come from, what you do, what you believe, what symbolises your Aboriginal culture.





Australian Shorts

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

MONDAY 26 APRIL 6:30PM

LOCATION

ACMI Cinema 2, Federation Square, Melbourne Plan your visit to ACMI

TICKETS

General Admission \$25 Friends of the Festival \$22 Concession \$19



Two Sands

A Rare Breed

OVERVIEW

Director Thomas José Field Country Australia Year 2019 Duration 11 minutes Language English Genre Documentary

Rob is a world-renowned chicken breeder from Tasmania who has travelled all over the world to exhibit his chickens, as well as his own body...

OVERVIEW

Director Poppy van Oorde-Grainger Country Australia Year 2020 Duration 7 minutes Language English Genre Narrative

As Garang struggles on his first day at high school in Australia, memories of being lost in South Sudan are triggered. When past and present collide, Garang must find a way to bridge the gap between where he is and where he's come from.

The Inclusive Filmmaker

OVERVIEW

Director Sophie Hawkshaw, Genevieve Kaiser Country Australia Year 2019 Duration 5 minutes Language English Genre Animation

Through stop motion animation, three creatives share their experiences in living with a disability in the Australian film industry.

FEATURING A FILMMAKER PANEL AFTER THE FILM

MODERATED BY VYSHNAVEE WIJEKUMAR



Peter Gak is the CEO of the South Sudanese Australian Traditional Wrestling Association. He is a respected community leader who regularly organises interstate traditional wrestling tournaments and advocates for the South Sudanese community in Melbourne.

THOMAS FIELD

PETER GAK

Thomas José Field is a 29 year old filmmaker from Launceston. After years of working odd jobs and bludging in Melbourne, Thomas went home and studied a Diploma of Screen in 2017 at TasTAFE. He began to work as a runner on TV productions filming in Tasmania at the time, which is where Thomas met Rob Wilson: the subject and hero of A Rare Breed. Thomas is currently based in Melbourne and works freelance as a producer/camera operator/whatever in TV, or makes things independently with Red Wombat Productions. Thomas loves watching documentary films and is particularly interested in unheralded stories.

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE



Chicken

OVERVIEW

Director Alana Hicks Country Australia Year 2019 Duration 10 minutes Language English Genre Narrative

All Barbara wants to do is watch The Simpsons, but her recently migrated mum has just been overcharged at the local shops, and it's up to Barbara to sort it out. As usual.

OVERVIEW Director Chloë Beckley Country Australia Year 2020 Duration 7 minutes Language English Genre Documentary

Save Our Soul

Follow the sacrifices and triumphs of June, an elderly activist desperately trying to save the Great Barrier Reef.

Ngumpin Kartiya

OVERVIEW

Director Ben McFadyen Country Australia Year 2020 Duration 18 minutes Language English Genre Documentary

Produced by the Gurindji Aboriginal Corporation, this film tells untold stories of the Wave Hill Walk-off and the Gurindji people while also revealing the true significance of the iconic song From Little





Ophir

TUESDAY 27 APRIL 6:15PM

"The story of Bougainville and its people who are hoping for peace, working for freedom and protecting their Indigenous culture." — ABC Radio Australia

DOCUMENTARY | INDIGENOUS | ENVIRONMENT

Ophir tells the story of Bougainville and its people, who hope for peace, freedom and protection.

Ophir describes the attempts of an Australian-owned mining company to take over the residents of Bougainville, to legislate away their rights to life and the things that sustain that life.

The beauty, poetry and philosophy of the residents of Bougainville contrast with the dirt of the mining company and the businesses who exploit every possible loophole in their quest to destroy land. A dramatic ode to the indelible thirst for freedom, culture and sovereignty offers a gripping exposition of the visible and invisible chains of colonisation.

FEATURING A PANEL DISCUSSION AFTER THE FILM

KEREN ADAMS

Keren Adams is a Legal Director at the Human Rights Law Centre, where she leads the Centre's work on business and human rights. Since 2019, she has been working directly with communities in Bougainville to document the human rights and environmental impacts of Rio Tinto's legacy in Panguna, and in 2020 filed a human rights complaint with the Australian Government on behalf of 156 residents from communities living around the mine.

WAYNE COLES-JANNESS (FILMMAKER)

Wayne Coles-Janess is an Award-Winning Writer, Director and Producer of Drama and Documentary programs. His previous films include international award-winning "On the Border of Hopetown", "In the Shadow of the Palms", and "Life at the End of the Rainbow". Screening at over 35 international film festivals, his film focusing on Bougainville - "Our Island, Our Fight" has won numerous International Awards.

LOCATION

ACMI Cinema 1, Federation Square, Melbourne Plan your visit to ACMI IUMAN RIGHTS

ARTS & FILM FESTIVAL 202

TICKETS

General Admission \$25 Friends of the Festival \$22 Concession \$19

OVERVIEW

Director Olivier Pollet, Alexandre Berman Country France, UK Year 2020 Duration 97 minutes Language English, Tok Pidgin, Nasioi with English subtitles Genre Documentary Rating Unclassified 15+

FESTIVAL SELECTION DOC Edge

AWARDS

Winner, Grand Prix, FIFO 2020

COMMUNITY IMPACT PARTNER

The Jubilee Australia Research Centre engages in research and advocacy to promote economic justice for communities in the Asia-Pacific region and accountability for Australian corporations and government agencies operating there.



The Forum

WEDNESDAY 28 APRIL 6:15PM

"At places like Davos, people like to tell success stories. But their financial success has come with an unthinkable price tag." — Greta Thunberg

DOCUMENTARY | INTERNATIONAL | EXPOSÉ

In times of rampant populism and growing mistrust, director Marcus Vetter accompanies Klaus Schwab, the 81-year-old founder of the controversial World Economic Forum, as he works to achieve his goal of improving the state of the world.

Since 1971, Schwab has brought together leaders from international business, politics and civil society in the small Swiss mountain village of Davos, For the first time in the 50-year history of the World Economic Forum, a filmmaker is allowed access to go behind the scenes. The documentary follows Schwab over the course of two tumultuous years marked by the climate crisis, Brexit, the burning of the Amazon rainforest, the election of Jair Bolsonaro in Brazil, and the trade war between the USA and China.

FEATURING A PANEL DISCUSSION AFTER THE FILM



WENDY SYFRET

Wendy Syfret is a Melbourne based writer, editor, and author of How to Think Like an Activist (Hardie Grant) and The Sunny Nihilist: How a Meaningless Life Can Make You Truly Happy (Profile). Formerly, she served as the Managing editor of VICE Asia. Before taking on that role she was the Head of Editorial for VICE Australia, Australian editor of pioneering fashion publication i-D, and associate editor at VICE.com.

LOCATION

ACMI Cinema 2, Federation Square, Melbourne Plan your visit to ACMI

TICKETS

General Admission \$25 Friends of the Festival \$22 Concession \$19

OVERVIEW

Director Marcus Vetter Country Germany, Switzerland Year 2019 Duration 118 minutes Language German, English, Spanish with English subtitles Genre Documentary Rating Unclassified 15+

FESTIVAL SELECTION

IDFA Documentary Film Festival



Blaxcellence: Film in Focus

WEDNESDAY 28 APRIL 6:30PM



Lil Bois

OVERVIEW

Director Grant Thompson Writer Grant Thompson Stars Walter Rogers, Ethan Roberts, Andy Lukuman Peters Country Australia Year 2018 Duration 17 minutes Language Ngandi (also features Wagilak and Roper Kriol) Genre Short/Drama

FESTIVAL SELECTION

(28)

28th Flickerfest International Film Festival Darwin International Film Festival 2018

After swimming with his friends in a billabong, a nervous little boy returns to his camp and discovers everything has changed. (Source: IMDb)

Road Dogs

OVERVIEW

Director Ez Eldin Deng Writer Ez Eldin Deng Stars Wol Riak, Deng Tebir, Abigail Martin Country Australia Year 2019 Duration 12 minutes Language English Genre Short

FESTIVAL SELECTION

Global Indie Film Fest (GIFF)

Moza, a 20-year-old South Sudanese, migrant rap-singer, faces suspicion, racism and lateral violence throughout this challenging day. Can he find his voice and sing his anthem to the wider community?

FEATURING

barrier to participation. If you A SPECIAL ARTIST PERFORMANCE BY TÉBIR AND ARTIST or members of your community SPEAKER AWAK KONGOR AND A NETWORKING EVENT would like to attend but don't AFTER THE FILM.

TÉBIR



We never want cost to be a

have the financial capacity

to do so please email

General Admission \$28 Friends of the Festival \$25

PRESENTING PARTNER Nostalgic Events stages

interesting and innovative

showcase talented artists

emerging from South-East

Melbourne's burgeoning

BLAXCELLENCE

VicHealth[®]

Concession \$23

experiences that

SUPPORTED BY

scene.

LOCATION

Loop Bar

TICKETS



Tèbir is a unique Melbourne-based singer, songwriter, and dancer who fuses together African soul and neo-funk genres to create striking music and live performance art.

> His passion for music was shaped by his parents' Sudanese heritage and musical culture, and from a young age Tèbir absorbed the musical influence of many soul, funk, and R& B artists including Anthony Hamilton, Michael Jackson, John Legend and T-Pain.

At the age of 11, Tèbir was exposed to the bass guitar which he began learning by ear and soon after he added the piano and acoustic guitar to his musical repertoire.

Tebir weaves his distinctively sultry and smouldering voice with a command of rhythm, rap, and unique lyrics to create songs which range from the intimate to the powerful, combining expressive solos and explosive climaxes.

The artful combination of vocal and instrumental performance produces a vivid, vibrant, unique musical experience of soul-infused, neo-funk and R&B music.

You cannot help but feel the passion and love when Tèbir performs.

ARTIST SPEAKER: AWAK KONGOR

Self proclaimed procrastinated queen and woman trying to squeeze in a nap, Awak Rech Kongor is a South Sudanese Dinka woman, intersectionalist, abolitionist and a mental health advocate for young people within the South Sudanese community.

How does she do it? Short bursts of energy and 4 day long naps, of course.

An aspiring writer director, Awak founded a production company of her own to celebrate South Sudanese talent, history and stories through visual narratives and creative direction. Follow her on awak k for all things Awak, and procrastinated p for all things creatively black, woman and unapologetic.

Femme Shorts – Encore

THURSDAY 29 APRIL 6:00PM

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

End-O

OVERVIEW

Director Alice Seabright Country UK Year 2019 Duration 15 minutes Language English Genre Narrative

Jaq wants to have sex. But her Endometriosis is out to sabotage her with chronic pain and unpredictable bleeding at the very worst time.

AUSTRALIAN

PREMIERE

OVERVIEW Director Matheus Farias, Enock Carvalho Country Brazil Year 2020 Duration 19 minutes Language Portuguese Genre Narrative

Unliveable

The world experiences a phenomenon never seen before. Marilene searches for her daughter Roberta, a trans woman who went missing. While running out of time, she discovers a hope for the future.

Mothers Of

OVERVIEW

Director Ross Lai Country Canada Year 2019 Duration 19 minutes Language English, Spanish Genre Documentary

The unconscionable story of Teodora del Carmen Vasquez, who suffers a stillbirth at full term and is cruelly sentenced to an 11-year jail sentence in El Salvador under some of the harshest anti-abortion laws in the world. AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE



Doublespeak

OVERVIEW

Director Hazel McKibbin Country USA Year 2021 Duration 10 minutes Language English Genre Narrative

A young woman grapples with the aftermath of reporting sexual harassment in the workplace in this 2021 Sundance Grand Jury Prize nominee.

OVERVIEW Director Hiwot Admasu Getaneh Country France Year 2019 Duration 18 minutes

A Fool God

AUSTRALIAN

PREMIERE

Language Amharic Genre Narrative When young Mesi steps in for her squeamish brother to perform a traditional — maleonly — ritual, she faces blame for the negative outcome. Instead, she defiantly questions the wisdom of her elders' beliefs, in Hiwot Admasu Getaneh's magical realist and gently irreverent drama.

LOCATION

ACMI Cinema 2, Federation Square, Melbourne Plan your visit to ACMI HUMAN RIGHTS ARTS & FILM FESTIVAL 2021

TICKETS

General Admission \$22 Friends of the Festival \$19 Concession \$18



Many Bloodlines [êmîcêtôcêt]

OVERVIEW

Director Theola Ross Country Canada Year 2020 Duration 11 minutes Language English Genre Documentary

A queer, bi-racial couple from the beginning of their IVF process and the birth of their first child together. Through their journey, they address the effects of colonization on their relationship and family and navigate decolonizing & Indigenizing the pregnancy of a white partner carrying their Indigenous baby.

International Shorts

THURSDAY 29 APRIL 8:30PM

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

A Concerto Is Along the A Conversation Winisk River

OVERVIEW

Director Kris Bowers, Ben Proudfoot Country USA Year 2021 Duration 13 minutes Language English Genre Documentary

In this 2021 Oscarnominated short, a virtuoso jazz pianist and film composer tracks his family's lineage through his 91-year-old grandfather from Jim Crow Florida to the Walt Disney Concert Hall.

OVERVIEW

AUSTRALIAN

PREMIERE

Director Janna Kyllästinen Country USA Year 2020 Duration 10 minutes Language English, Genre Documentary

A remote Indigenous community embarks on a caribou hunt in the freezing subarctic winter. Witness their struggle for survival in the age of climate change — where traditional practices have been made both dangerous and difficult.

OVERVIEW

AUSTRALIAN

PREMIERE

Director Laura Carreira Country UK, Portugal Year 2020 Duration 9 minutes Language English Genre Narrative

The Shift

Anna, an agency worker, takes her dog for a morning walk before doing her shopping. As she heads towards the checkout, her agency calls—she has lost her shift. The film reveals the ever-close distance separating employment and poverty, security and tumult.

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE



Mawhialeo Ote Alowha (Our Love)

OVERVIEW

Director HValeriya Golovina Country New Zealand Year 2020 Duration 16 minutes Language Tokelauan, English Genre Documentary

Meli and her husband Avito reflect on the pivotal decision of their lives. With much trepidation they left the tiny atoll of Tokelau for New Zealand seeking a better life for their son. 43 years on, they find themselves pulled between family and a longing for home. AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE



A Horse Has More Blood Than A Human

OVERVIEW

Director Abolfazl Talooni Country Iran, United Kingdom Year 2020 Duration 20 minutes Language Azerbaijani, Persian Genre Documentary

This understated documentary focuses on an Azeri couple's home village, whose only means of survival is by risking everything to smuggle Afghan refugees across the Turkish border.

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

LOCATION

TICKETS

ACMI Cinema 2

General Admission \$22 Friends of the Festival \$19 Concession \$18

Federation Square, Melbourne Plan your visit to ACMI



Excess Will Save Us

OVERVIEW

Director Morgane Dziurla-Petit Country Sweden Year 2019 Duration 14 minutes Language French Genre Documentary

In a small village north of France, the beginning of the dove hunting season and an argument between drunk Polish workers sets off an alarm around the country. An absurd unravelling that asks us to examine our own paranoias. HUMAN RIGHTS ARTS & FILM FESTIVAL 2021



Midnight Traveler

THURSDAY 29 APRIL 6:45PM

"It was this film that gave me hope. It was this film that gave me the feeling of being alive. Shooting this film gave me the feeling that one day I'd succeed. One day, the problems will end. One day, we'll arrive at last" — Hassan Fazili

DOCUMENTARY | WAR | MIGRATION

In 2015, after Hassan Fazili's documentary 'Peace in Afghanistan' aired on Afghan national television, the Taliban assassinated the film's main subject and put a price on Fazili's head. Fearing for their survival, the Fazili family fled Kabul for Tajikistan. Yet after 14 months spent submitting asylum applications that were rejected again and again, they were deported back to Afghanistan. It was at this juncture that Fazili picked up his cell phone and hit the record button.

Winner of a 2020 Peabody Award, Midnight Traveler chronicles every step from inside the action, Fazili, his filmmaker wife, and their young daughters trek across Iran, Turkey, Bulgaria, and Serbia. As they endure smugglers, gangs, and refugee camps, the camera witnesses not only the danger and desperation but also the exuberance and tenderness of this irresistible, loving family. For Fazili, framing their story becomes an assertion of control, humanity, and self-expression in a situation where none exists. With its radical subjectivity, visceral footage, and poetic form, Midnight Traveler is a migration story like no other.

LOCATION Sun Theatre

Sun Theatre 8 Ballarat Street, Yarraville, VIC, 3013 <u>About this cinema</u>

TICKETS

General Admission \$22 Friends of the Festival \$19 Concession \$18

OVERVIEW

Director Hassan Fazili with additional camerawork by Fatima Hussaini, Nargis Fazili, Zahra Fazili Country Qatar, UK, Canada, USA Year 2019 Duration 89 minutes Language Persian, English, Turkish, Bulgarian with English subtitles Genre Documentary Rating Unclassified 15+

FESTIVAL SELECTION Sundance Film Festival 2020

AWARDS

Winner, Prize of the Ecumenical Jury, Berlin Film Festival 2020

Winner, World Cinema Documentary Special Jury Award, Sundance Film Festival 2019

Winner, Peabody Award 2020

PRESENTING PARTNER



COMMUNITY IMPACT PARTNER

Diversitat is the leading provider in services for ethnic communities in Geelong. We have been serving the community for 45 years. Our services include: settlement, training, youth services, financial counselling, disability and aged support.



IUMAN RIGHTS ARTS & FILM FESTIVAL

Body of Truth

FRIDAY 30 APRIL 6:30PM

"Expertly crafted and intellectually engrossing, Body of Truth is a film not to be missed." — Joshua Brunsting, CriterionCast

DOCUMENTARY | ART-IVISM | GENDER

Four women artists, including Marina Abramovic, bring war, violence and suppression into their work, using the most intimate canvas available to them - their body, using the most personal feature available: their own bodies.

Body of Truth profiles these four unique artists exploring complex personal and universal themes. Shirin Neshat works with the female body both as a sensual entity and a political space; Marina AbramoviĐ pushes through physical pain to attain freedom; Sigalit Landau uses her art to heal inner wounds; and Katharina Sieverding examines the artist's duty to question ideas of national identity. Mining their personal histories for inspiration, these four female artists create challenging works of vulnerability and strength



LOCATION

ACMI Cinema 1, Federation Square, Melbourne <u>Plan your visit to ACMI</u>

TICKETS

General Admission \$35 Friends of the Festival \$30 Concession \$25

OVERVIEW

Director Evelyn Schels Country Germany Year 2019 Duration 95 minutes Language English and German with English subtitles. Subtitles available by request Genre Documentary Rating Unclassified 15+

FESTIVAL SELECTION DOC NYC 2019

COMMUNITY IMPACT PARTNER

The Women's Art Register is Australia's living archive of women's art practice (cis, non-binary and trans inclusive) and an artist-run community and resource.

Since 1975 W.A.R. has provided a platform for research, education, advocacy and support to enhance the status of women artists and address issues of professional practice, equity and cultural heritage.

WOMEN:S ART REGISTER

Australian Premiere

FEATURING

A SPECIAL PRE-FILM ARTIST PERFORMANCE BY MANISHA ANJALI



Manisha Anjali is a Fiji-born artist, writer and dream documentarian. She embodies a creative practice rooted in poetry, performance and improvisation of the throat and tongue.

Manisha believes the artist must work between two realms – the dream realm and the waking realm. She is the founder of School of Dreams, a research platform for dreams, visions and hallucinations. In 2020, School of Dreams hosted the COVID-19 Collective Dream Journal, an open diary of dreams experienced by the People of the World during the coronavirus pandemic.

A POST-FILM PANEL DISCUSSION WITH ELLE RUSCH DRAKOS, CARO LLEWELLYN, HANNAH FOX AND MANISHA ANJALI. MODERATED BY JESSIE ALICE



An award-winning conceptual and ideas-driven Artistr, Contemporary Art Curator and Art Consultant with an international background and a wide range of visual and strategic strengths in the creative industries. Career highlights include working as a Creative Director and Art Consultant for the Olympic Games and high-profile brands such as Samsung, Vodafone, Sky Television and UEFA.

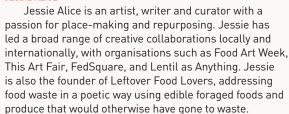
CARO LLEWELLYN Caro Llewe

ELLE RUSCH DRAKOS

Caro Llewellyn is the CEO of the Wheeler Centre for Books, Writing and Ideas and author of the 2020 Stella Prize shortlisted memoir, Diving into Glass. The former artistic director of a number of high-profile literary Festivals including Sydney Writers' Festival and Festival des Écrivains du Monde in Paris, she also directed the World Voices Festival in New York City for Salman Rushdie and the human rights organisation, PEN.



JESSIE ALICE



Westside Event

SATURDAY 1 MAY 2:00PM

Free for Maribyrnong City Council Residents

Found in a Dream

A story about community issues around young, migrant African men set in Melbourne, Australia. Namely, issues of feeling alone and a sense of not belonging that leads young immigrants to struggle with relationships, education and work. Through a lack of love and understanding, often they turn to drugs. Found in a Dream explores these themes and issues through Abeselom, a hardened drug dealer. His world is rocked when he meets Netsanet and for the first time he feels real love again. Found in a Dream is about love, culture, money and ultimately, finding comfort within each other.



LOCATION

Footscray Community Arts Centre 45 Moreland Street, Footscray, Victoria, 3011 <u>Plan your visit to FCAC</u>

TICKETS

General Admission \$22 Friends of the Festival \$19 Concession \$18

OVERVIEW

Director Helen Kassa Country Australia Year 2019 Duration 97 minutes Language English, Amharic with English subtitles Genre Narrative

FESTIVAL SELECTION

26th Pan African Film Festival (PAFF) 2018 in LA

PRESENTING PARTNER

Footscray Community Arts Centre (FCAC) is an independent creative precinct in the western suburbs of Melbourne. FCAC is a place for artistic vibrancy, new work, big ideas and important conversations.

FCAC



FEATURING

A TRADITIONAL ETHIOPIAN COFFEE CEREMONY

MUSIC BY DANIEL ATLAW SEIFU AND JAZMARIS (ETHIO-JAZZ ENSEMBLE)



Daniel Seifu is a professionally trained Ethiopian jazz, traditional and contemporary musician graduated from the Yared School of Music in Ethiopia's capital, Addis Ababa. Before arriving in Australia in 2007, he was a resident musician, composer, arranger and teacher at the Ethiopian National Theatre. He has produced and performed in a number of initiatives in collaboration with Arts Centre Melbourne, Multicultural Arts Victoria, Footscray Community Arts Centre (FCAC), and City of Melbourne. He is passionate about bringing Ethiopian culture to the wider community through music, performance, events, and connection with local businesses.

Daniel is the founder and band leader of Ethio Jazz ensemble JAzmaris, He was a proud support musician and artistic curator for the music projects of the legendary Ethiopian legend performers:, Mahmoud Ahmed, Alemayhu Eshete and Ali Birra on their Australian tour performing at the Arts Centre Melbourne and the MONA FOMA festival in Hobart.

A TALK BETWEEN HELEN KASSA (FILMMAKER) WITH RAS-SAMUEL WELDA'ABZGI (LEAD)

HELEN KASSA



Helen Kassa was born in Asmara, Eritrea and raised in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Helen grew up reading the works of legendary Ethiopian writers and poets, inspiring a deep desire to craft her own storytelling and share it with the world. In 2004 Helen moved to Australia, where she further pursued her dream of sharing her storytelling through film, and in 2014 completed a bachelor of Film and Production at SAE Institute of Melbourne.

RAS-SAMUEL WELDA'ABZGI



Ras-Samuel Welda'abzgi was born on February 20, 1997 in Ethiopia as Samuel Weledaabzgi. He is an actor and writer, known for Westermarck Effect, Found in a Dream (2019) and Neighbours (1985).



The Last Tree

SATURDAY 1 MAY 6:30PM

"Powerful performances, tactile visuals and an elegantly fluid score add to the impact of this impressively understated yet profoundly moving tale." — Mark Kermode, Observer UK

NARRATIVE | PREMIERE | IDENTITY

Nominated for the Grand Jury Prize at the Sundance Film Festival, Shola Amoo's semi-autobiographical second feature focuses on young protagonist Femi, a boy caught between different mothers and backgrounds.

Femi (played by BIFA award-winner Sam Adewunmi), a British boy of Nigerian heritage, enjoys a happy childhood in rural England where he is raised by doting foster mother Mary —until his birth mother Yinka reclaims him and deposits him into a much different life in her small inner-London flat. With little emotional bond to his biological mother and no remembrance of their cultural heritage, Femi struggles to adapt. As he adjusts to his new environment, he neglects the wishes of both of his "mothers," he is faced with a decision about what kind of a man he wants to become, and must forge ahead in a courageous pursuit of his own identity. Featuring stunning cinematography evocative of Barry Jenkins's Moonlight, this is a powerful portrait of young British masculinity.

FEATURING A SPECIAL GUEST PERFORMANCE BY WESTERN EDGE YOUTH ARTS



Western Edge Youth Arts works across Melbourne's western suburbs, providing space for young people to come together to tell their own stories, in their own way and with their own voice. By providing a safe space to explore creativity, learn new artistic practices, and develop leadership skills, WEYA constructs supportive pathways for young people to achieve their own creative agency.

LOCATION

ACMI Cinema 1, Federation Square, Melbourne <u>Plan your visit to ACMI</u> UMAN RIGHTS

ARTS & FILM

TICKETS

General Admission \$30 Friends of the Festival \$25 Concession \$22

OVERVIEW

Director Shola Amoo Country United Kingdom Year 2019 Duration 99 minutes Language English Genre Narrative Rating Unclassified 15+

FESTIVAL SELECTION

Sundance Film Festival 2020

AWARDS

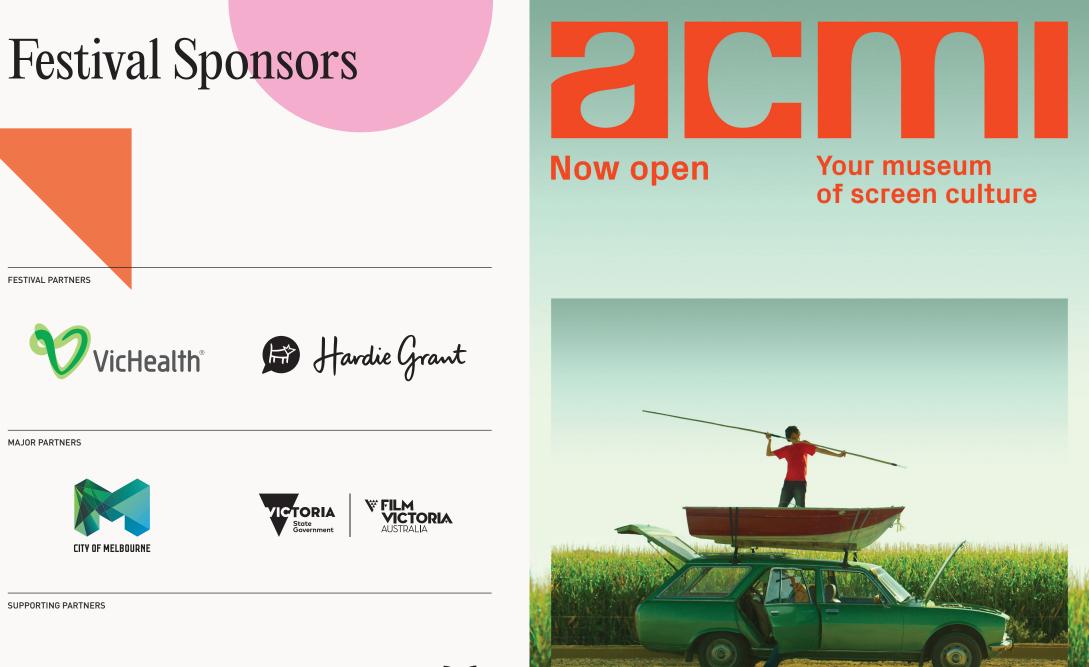
Nominee, Grand Jury Prize - World Cinema, Sundance Film Festival 2019

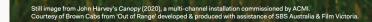
Winner, Most Promising Newcomer (Samuel Adewunmi), Best Supporting Actress (Ruhtxjiaïh Bèllènéa), British Independent Film Awards 2019

COMMUNITY IMPACT PARTNER

For 16 years, AIME has been using imagination, mentoring and building bridges to transform education from the inside, to create equity, more access to opportunities, and a fairer world for young people ready to flip this idea that they are the problem - to being the solution!

AIME





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Canada

Maribyrnong

CITY OF

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HUMAN RI



Proudly supporting the Human Rights Arts & Film Festival

FEMINISM

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#shiftingpatterns