

DOWN Film Festival UNDER



Berlin
26–29 Sept 2024

Copenhagen
3–5 Oct 2024



@downunderfilmfestival

downunderfilmfest.eu

Ngā mihi nui ki a koe

Down Under Film Festival wishes to acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia. We recognise their continuous relationship to the land and pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

Cover Artwork: *New Beginnings*, Dylan Mooney (AU)
Image Courtesy of the artist and N.Smith Gallery, Sydney

Drawing from his rich cultural heritage, *New Beginnings* translates community stories passed down to Dylan Mooney into a bold contemporary image. Legally blind, Dylan harnesses the power of digital media to create this high-impact illustration with vibrant and saturated colours that resonate with his keen interest in politics, activism, and the fusion of digital technology and social commentary.

Accreditation

Journalists, filmmakers and organisers of other festivals who wish to report on the festival may apply for accreditation.

Please contact niklas.marzinek@downunderberlin.de for more information.

DOWN Film Festival UNDER

Berlin _____ 26–29 Sept 2024

Copenhagen _____ 3–5 Oct 2024

Europe's Leading
Australian & New Zealand
Film Festival

We are thrilled to welcome you to the 2024 Down Under Film Festival.

It is with immense joy and gratitude that we share this year's journey with you, one shaped by imagination, connection, and the power of storytelling.

This year marks a significant milestone as we celebrate our 12th edition, showcasing a fresh wave of Australian and New Zealand filmmakers. Our festival returns to Berlin, with screenings at Moviemiento Kino in Kreuzberg and City Kino Wedding from September 26 to 29. We are also thrilled to expand to Copenhagen for the first time, where our films will be showcased at the Danish Film Institute, Cinemateket, from October 3 to 5. This expansion allows us to share these powerful stories with a broader European audience, fostering even greater cultural exchange and understanding.

A special highlight of this year's festival is the exclusive acting masterclass by acclaimed Australian director Kim Farrant, marking her European debut. This masterclass offers Europe's acting community a rare opportunity to learn from one of Australia's most talented and visionary directors, further enriching the festival's offerings.

We are also honoured to collaborate with Indigenous Australian artist Dylan Mooney, whose work adds a profound layer of meaning to this year's festival poster. When we first encountered Dylan's work at the Australian Embassy in Berlin, it left an indelible impression on us. His piece, *New Beginnings*, inspired by Dreamtime - the ancient stories of Indigenous Australians - captivates and uplifts, speaking directly to the heart. This artwork serves as a fitting symbol for our festival, where imagination and creativity are in full motion, bridging cultural divides and connecting us all.

Imagination is not just the spark that ignites art; it is the bridge that connects us, heart to heart, across different cultures and life experiences. It allows us to step into another's shoes, see the world through their eyes, and feel what they feel.

This year has been a whirlwind - a time when many of us have felt like we're caught in a vortex, being pushed and pulled in every direction without a clear sense of progress. Politically, economically, environmentally, and emotionally, the world is in constant motion. Living in the heart of Europe, we feel the pulse of this turmoil acutely. Yet, there are moments when we dip our feet (either in real life or in our imaginations), in the salty waters of Australia or the rich soils of New Zealand's majestic mountains, and the chaos seems to fade.

Like many of you, there have been times this year when we've watched (or chosen not to watch) the news, feeling helpless, small, and afraid. The weight of the world's challenges has made our chests tighten with fear for a future where we are kept in separate corners, blaming and shaming one another. But in those moments, we remind ourselves of something important: sometimes, the mud needs to rise to the surface to clear the water, allowing fresh, clear water to flow. And it is in that clarity that our imaginations can truly soar. Imagination gently reminds us to stay soft, open, and kind.

As we embark on the 2024 Down Under Film Festival, we invite you to ignite your imagination through the stories we have carefully curated for you. These are stories that exist outside the mainstream - stories that challenge, inspire, and connect us in profound ways. Together, let us explore the rich tapestry of human experience, celebrate the diversity of voices, and find new ways to connect with ourselves and each other.

Thank you for being here.
Let your imagination take flight.

Warm regards,
Mala Ghedia and Angus McGruther
Festival Directors

Festival Directors
Mala Ghedia
Angus McGruther

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Angus McGruther
Mala Ghedia

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About Us

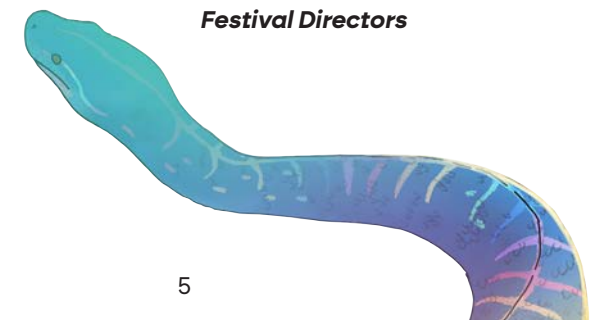
Down Under Film Festival has been a vital hub for enthusiasts of Australian and New Zealand cinema and culture since 2011. Most of the poetic, visually stunning images, distinct quirkiness, dark humour and authentic storytelling-which in their combination are unique to Australian and New Zealand cinema-are too often lost to European and German audiences. Here, DUFF steps in to bring fresh filmmaking from Australia and New Zealand to Europe, offering a platform for these incredible films and bridging new audiences with Down Under.



Mala Ghedia

Angus McGruther

Festival Directors



The 2024 Down Under Film Festival is supported by the Australian Government through the Australian Cultural Diplomacy Grants Program



Australian Government
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Down Under Film Festival wishes to thank the following for their support:

- HE Ambassador Kerin Ayyalaraju
- Adam Munnings
- Benjamin Kanthak - SBS German
- Grace Bridger - Netflix Germany
- Hannah Deans - Catalyst Institute for the Creative Arts & Technology
- Jochen Gutsch - Goethe Institut Australien
- Kate Brüne - Australian Embassy Germany
- Maryanne Redpath
- Michael Damiani - Australian Embassy Denmark
- Molly Reynolds
- Nadi Sha
- Pete Gately
- Rheinfrank Antique Jewellery
- Stefan Hunt
- Susanne Kalbantner - Australian Embassy Germany

Dear fellow film enthusiast,

The launch in Copenhagen of the highly successful Down Under Film Festival is a moment to celebrate the close connection between Australia and Denmark, bringing us together from opposite sides of the globe to share unique Australian perspectives, cultivate creative sector collaboration with Danish partners and foster cultural dialogue.

The Down Under Film Festival in Copenhagen allows us to share with our friends in Denmark, the rich tapestry of Australian culture and identity through cinema. Through a curated selection of films, the festival celebrates unique perspectives and voices of First Nations and independent storytellers, offering a platform for Indigenous narratives to be shared with audiences in Denmark. The festival will highlight the talent and innovation of Australian filmmakers, directors and actors.

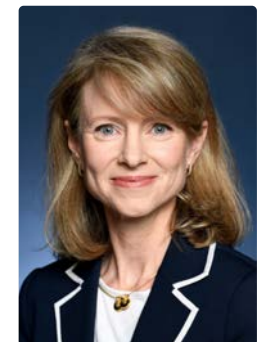
As Ambassador, a wonderful part of my job is to bring people together, to build people-to-people links, facilitate dialogue, engagement, and connection. And the Down Under Film Festival is an important platform to achieve this among audiences and filmmakers.

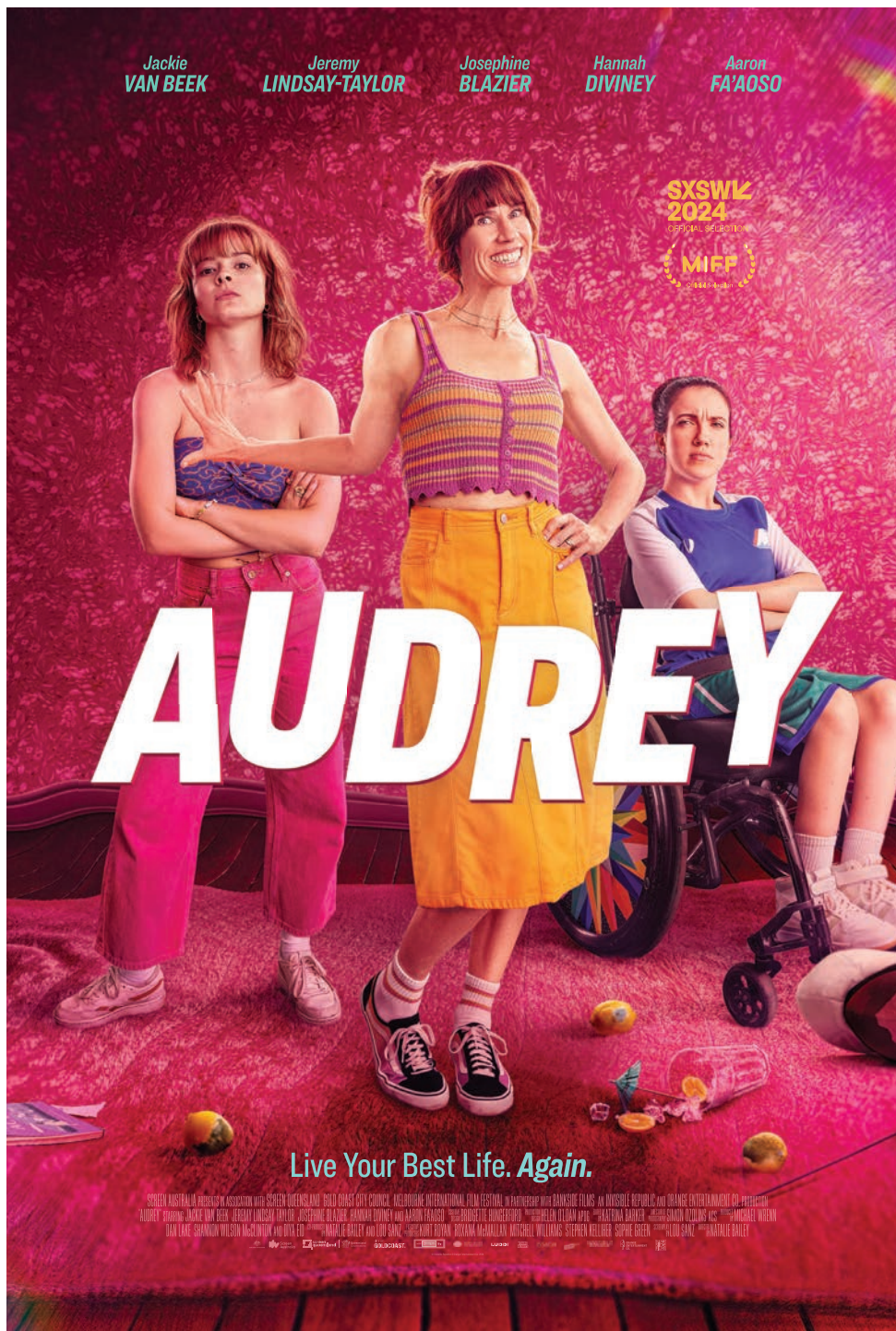
I give special thanks to Festival Directors Angus McGruther and Mala Ghedia for bringing the Down Under Film Festival to Cinemateket, and I look forward to seeing everyone throughout the festival.

All my best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kerina'.

Kerin Ayyalaraju
Australian Ambassador to Denmark,
Norway and Iceland





Spotlight Feature Film

Audrey

Feature Film | Dramedy
European Premiere
English | English subtitles
Australia | 2024 | 100 min
Director: Natalie Bailey
Starring: Jackie van Beek, Josephine Blazier

Self-appointed "Mother-of-the-Year", Ronnie has given her daughter Audrey everything, so when Audrey selfishly falls into a coma, Ronnie has no choice but to keep their dreams alive by assuming her identity.

Natalie Bailey began her career as an actor, editor and short filmmaker before joining the BBC to work with French and Saunders and later Armando Iannucci. Since leaving the BBC, she has carved out a career as a director and producer specialising in satire, black comedy and witty dramas including *The Thick of It* and most recently *Bay of Fires*. She has worked with talent including Kate McKinnon, Phoebe Waller-Bridge, John Cameron Mitchell and Hugh Laurie. *Audrey* is Natalie's first feature-length film.

Opening Night in **Berlin** Closing Night in **Copenhagen**

 **SXSW Film Festival**
 Nominated Grand Jury Award 2024
Melbourne International Film Festival
 Official Selection 2024





Spotlight Feature Film

The Moogai

AU | 2024 | 86 min | Thriller
European Premiere
English | German subtitles
Director: Jon Bell
Starring: Shari Sebbens, Meyne Wyatt

Sarah and Fergus, a hopeful young Aboriginal couple, give birth to their second baby. But what should be a joyous time of their lives becomes sinister when Sarah starts seeing a malevolent spirit she is convinced is trying to take her baby. Fergus, who can't see it but desperately wants to believe her, grows increasingly worried as she becomes more unbalanced. Is the child-stealing spirit real or is she the biggest threat to the safety of their family?

Jon Bell is one of the most experienced Indigenous Screenwriters in Australia. His television credits include *Cleverman* (ABC), which won a Screen Producers Australia Award for Best Drama as well as being nominated for an AACTA for Best Television Series in 2017. Jon recently made his feature film directing debut from his own script with *The Moogai*.


Sydney Film Festival
 Winner - Audience Award 2024

SXSW Film Festival
 Nominated - Audience Award 2024
Melbourne International Film Festival
 Official Selection 2024

Closing Night in **Berlin**
Opening Night in **Copenhagen**





Sahela (Companion)

AU | 2023 | 93 min | Drama
English | English subtitles
Director: Raghuvir Joshi
Starring: Antonio Aakeel, Anula Navlekar

Sahela (Companion) tells the story of Vir Oza and Nitya Behl, an Indian-Australian couple living in suburban Sydney. Both grapple with Vir's recently discovered gay identity. They must navigate traditional expectations and modern norms, the pressures of family, finances, and Nitya's dreams for their future.

Raghuvir Joshi embarked on his filmmaking journey by studying directing in Mumbai, India's cinematic epicentre. Following his studies, he built a successful career, contributing to critically acclaimed international films such as *The Man Who Knew Infinity*, *Hotel Mumbai*, and *The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel*.

In addition to his directing prowess, Raghuvir showcased his versatility by co-producing the film *Monkey Man*.

With a growing list of accomplishments, Raghuvir Joshi continues to captivate audiences and solidify his reputation as a talented force in the world of cinema.

Adelaide Film Festival
 Nominated International Feature Award 2023
 Mardi Gras Film Festival
 Official Selection 2024

Showing in
 Berlin

Showing in
 Copenhagen



Sweet As

AU | 2022 | 87 min | Drama
English | No subtitles
Director: Jub Clerc
Starring: Shantae Barnes-Cowan, Mark Coles Smith

With problems on the home front, 16-year-old Murra is on the verge of lashing out. That is, until her policeman uncle averts her self-destructive behaviour with a lifeline: a "photo-safari for at-risk kids". On the trail, the teens learn about friendship, first crushes and their true selves, as well as the forces of 'reality' that puncture the bubble of youth.

Jub Clerc is a Nyul Nyul/Yawuru woman from the Kimberley in Western Australia. Jub spent many years in theatre before moving into film and television. In 2014, she directed and adapted *Abbreviation*, a chapter from Tim Winton's *The Turning* and in 2020 she directed 2 episodes of *The Heights S2*. Jub's debut play *The Fever and the Fret* premiered at Yirra Yaakin Theatre Co, and won the 2017 Kate Challis Award. The French translation of the play is in partnership with Maison Antoine Vitez and The Australian Embassy in Paris. Jub credits the experience of the Photo Safari as the inspiration for her life's journey as a filmmaker. It is fitting that her first feature film should be inspired by this remarkable story.

Berlin International Film Festival (Berlinale)
 Official Selection 2023

Showing in
 Berlin



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The Moon Is Upside Down

NZ | 2023 | 100 min | Dramedy
German + Danish Premiere
English | No subtitles
Director: Loren Taylor
Starring: Victoria Haralabidou, Elizabeth Hawthorne

Three very different women's lives fleetingly intersect as they search for belonging in an upside down world. Natalia, a mail-order bride who discovers that her dream of running a cafeteria at her shy husband's remote petrol station is far from reality. Briar, a lonely anaesthetist whose online relationship with her sister's ex disintegrates on their first romantic weekend together. Faith, a wealthy empty-nester forced to reassess her opulent life when her latest investment property includes a dead tenant in its chattels.

Loren Taylor is a director, actor and writer from Aotearoa New Zealand. Her feature directorial debut *The Moon is Upside Down* won Best First Feature at Tallinn Black Nights and played to sell out houses at the 2024 Sydney Film Festival. Her most recent short film *Hey Brainy Man* co-directed with Jo Randerson was awarded Best Short Film at NZIFF 2023.

Loren won Best Actress at the Newport International Festival for her role as Lily in *Eagle vs Shark*. She co-wrote the award-winning screenplay, which was developed through the Sundance Feature Lab, with Taika Waititi.

 Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival
 Winner - Best First Feature

Showing in
 Berlin

Showing in
 Copenhagen



Two Hands

AU | 1999 | 103 min | Dramey
English | English subtitles
Director: Gregor Jordan
Starring: Heath Ledger, Rose Byrne

Nineteen-year-old strip club promoter Jimmy (Heath Ledger) is just scraping by in the red-light district of Sydney. When local crime lord Pando (Bryan Brown) offers him a shot at working for his syndicate, Jimmy jumps at the chance to deliver a costly package. But, when Jimmy gets jacked by a couple of kids, he's indebted to the dangerous gangster for \$10,000. Running out of time, he schemes to rob a bank to save himself and the beautiful girl he desires (Rose Byrne) from a gruesome demise.

Gregor Jordan is an Australian film director, writer and actor. Jordan's films include *Two Hands*, *Buffalo Soldiers*, and *Ned Kelly*. *Two Hands* won the Australian Film Institute Award for Best Direction and Best Screenplay in 1999.

As we mark the 25th anniversary of *Two Hands*, we remember the film that not only captivated audiences with its gritty charm and Australian authenticity but also introduced us to the remarkable talent of Heath Ledger at the dawn of his career. This iconic film, blending crime, comedy, and drama, set the stage for Ledger's meteoric rise in Hollywood, showcasing his undeniable charisma and depth as an actor. *Two Hands* remains a timeless classic, reminding us of the early brilliance of a star who would leave an indelible mark on cinema history.

Showing in
Berlin

Showing in
Copenhagen



Uproar

NZ | 2023 | 106 min | Drama
English + Māori | Danish subtitles
Director: Paul Middleditch
Starring: Minnie Driver, Julian Dennison, Rhys Darby

A 17-year-old student is forced to get off the fence he has actively sat on all his life to stand up for himself, his whanau (family) and his future in this heartwarming story of identity.

Paul Middleditch has directed four feature films to date and is regarded as one of the top performance/action TV Commercial Directors in the world. He is Australasia's most awarded Commercial Director, having over 300, with 8 Cannes Lions, 4 of which are gold, and numerous International and National awards to his credit. He was recently ranked 8th Best Commercial Director of all time, based on Lüzer's Archive. He has continually upheld a Number One Director World Ranking on Best Ads on TV, with Carlton Draught's *Big Ad* being awarded the Best Beer Ad of All Time. His work has featured at the Super Bowl for 6 consecutive years and he is one of the few Australian creatives to have appeared on the cover of Shots Magazine.

Showing in
Berlin

Showing in
Copenhagen



The Carnival

AU | 2023 | 85 min | Documentary
European Premiere
English | No subtitles
Director: Isabel Darling

The Bells and their workers have a mission: to keep their carnival alive and thriving, and to keep it in the family. This sixth-generation travelling show family have been touring Australia for a hundred years, and now, facing some of the toughest times they've ever seen, are preparing to hand over the reins to the next generation with the empire expected to be handed down to the next boy in line. Filmed over 7 years, this epic road trip unveils not only the mystery of the travelling show-people, but also reveals a family grappling with traditional life in a modern world.

Showing in
 Berlin

Isabel Darling's feature documentary, *The Carnival*, made its debut at the 70th Sydney Film Festival and received considerable recognition in The Guardian, Sydney Morning Herald, and had The Monthly hailing it as one of the 'top two Australian films at the Melbourne International Film Festival'. Her short film *Being Frank* (2015) received international recognition and her film *Corey The Warrior* (2017), was a finalist at both the Melbourne Documentary Film Festival and the Cannes International Film Festival on Disability. In 2023, Isabel was nominated for a prestigious Walkley award for her work on *The Carnival*, which is currently screening on SBS.

Melbourne International Film Festival
 Official Selection 2023



The Koalas

AU | 2024 | 91 min | Documentary
European Premiere
English | No subtitles
Directors: Gregory Miller, Georgia Wallace-Crabbe

On East Coast Australia, where forests meet the urban fringe, koalas face unprecedented challenges to their ongoing survival. *The Koalas* sheds light on a disturbing truth: the entities entrusted with safeguarding our iconic species are contributing to their demise. The film takes us on a journey following the lives of individual koalas - Wonnie, Bexley, Tom, Baz and joeys Hope and Pala.

Showing in
 Berlin

Showing in
 Copenhagen

Georgia Wallace-Crabbe produced documentaries including the 2005 award-winner, *Jabe Babe: A Heightened Life*. As director, Georgia's credits include *New Beijing-Reinventing a City* (2009) about Beijing's redevelopment and the 5-channel immersive video, *The Earth and the Elements*, made for a Doctorate of Creative Arts and shown in galleries.

Gregory Miller produced and directed numerous documentaries and series including: *Cultivating Murder* on the 2014 murder of environment officer Glen Turner and the wind-back of NSW environment laws; *Breaker Morant - The Retrial* (series, 2013, coproduction); *The Tipping Points* (2012); *Cool School Antarctica* (2010); *Angels in New York* (series, 2008), and *Besieged-The Ned Kelly Story* (2003, coproduction).



Freedom Is Beautiful

AU | 2023 | 67 min

Documentary | European Premiere

English + Kurdish | No subtitles

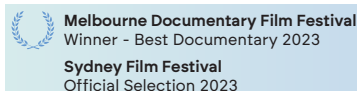
Director: Angus McDonald

Starring: Mostafa Azimitabar,
Farhad Bandesh

Freedom Is Beautiful is the story of two extraordinary Kurdish refugees, Farhad Bandesh and Mostafa (Moz) Azimitabar who fled persecution in Iran & arrived separately by boat to Australia seeking asylum in 2013.

Beautifully told in their own words, *Freedom Is Beautiful* is an uplifting story of the power of love and our shared humanity.

Angus McDonald is an award-winning visual artist and documentary filmmaker. He is a committee member for Human Rights Watch Australia and was an Ambassador for World Vision's #KidsOffNauru campaign. *Freedom Is Beautiful* is McDonald's first feature film.



Showing in
Berlin

Showing in
Copenhagen



Ghost Town Cricket

AU | 2023 | 30 min

Documentary | European Premiere

English | English subtitles

Director: Matt Sterne

In the remote South Australian Outback lies Farina, a once-thriving railway town abandoned in 1967. One day each year, regional stockmen, far-flung locals, and grey nomads converge for a unique cricket match in this ghost town, reviving its spirit and ensuring its legacy endures.

Renowned as a successful Australian advertising creative director, **Matt Sterne** found his true passion in documentary storytelling, guided by a deep instinct for connecting with people. His debut indie pilot, *Ghost Town Cricket*, highlights Matt's multifaceted talents, establishing an emerging presence in the field. A tragic sports enthusiast, Matt aims to become a leading global sports and cultural documentary filmmaker, fuelled by his insatiable curiosity, creative experience, and a profound love for storytelling.

Showing in
Berlin



Keeping Country Strong

AU | 2023 | 29 min

Documentary | German Premiere

English | English subtitles

Director: Bettina Richter

Starring: Elaine Crombie,
Indigenous Rangers

From the heart of the desert to the islands and estuaries of Sea Country, Indigenous Protected Areas span over 93 million hectares of land and sea and now cover over 50% of Australia's reserves on land. Indigenous Rangers are on the frontline. Working in some of the most remote corners of the planet they are safeguarding endangered species, fighting wildfires and invasive species, and practising culture in the face of a changing climate.

Beginning her career at ABC TV Sydney, **Bettina Richter** went on to work on documentaries *John Farrow: Hollywood's Man in the Shadows*, *Global Haywire*, *AQUA*, *Namatjira* and has written, directed and produced two ABC Radio National documentaries. Bettina oversees all the films at Country Needs People, an Indigenous-led NGO that supports Indigenous Rangers across Australia.

Showing in
Berlin



Truth

AU | 2024 | 21 min

Documentary | World Premiere

English | No subtitles

Director: Agnes Burrell

Starring: Kathy Donnelly

In a small town in northern New South Wales, Australia, Aunty Kathy's journey to Brewarrina unravels a gripping tale of trauma, resilience, and hope. *Truth* delves into 200 years of Aboriginal history, shedding light on the ongoing struggle for treaty-making and reconciliation. As Kathy's powerful narrative unfolds, it becomes a call to action against racism, urging us to confront the past and forge a better future.

Agnes Burrell's passion for storytelling and creative projects has driven her to create impactful content for NGOs and charities across Africa, Asia and currently working on a feature documentary in Ukraine. With a deep understanding of diverse human experiences, Agnes crafts narratives that resonate universally, delving into the complexities and nuances of each story.

Showing in
Berlin

Showing in
Copenhagen

Berlin Film Schedule



Thursday 26.09.24

19:30 | City Kino Wedding
Australian Opening Film
Directors & Embassy
Welcome

Bonus Preview Short
Favourites (pg 29)

Feature Film
Audrey (pg 8)

21:00 | City Kino Wedding
Opening Night Reception

Friday 27.09.24

18:00 | Movimiento | Kino 1
Hidden Voices Section

1. System Errors (pg 35)
2. Keeping Country Strong (pg 21)
3. Migration (pg 33)
4. Ghost Town Cricket (pg 20)

20:30 | Movimiento | Kino 1
New Zealand Night
Upoar (pg 17)

Saturday 28.09.24

12:00 | Movimiento | Kino 1
Aussie Queer Cinema
Sahela (pg 12)

14:15 | Movimiento | Kino 1
Quick Flicks 1 -
Short Films Showcase

1. Truth (pg 21)
2. Bottle Money (pg 28)
3. Freedom Fighter (pg 30)
4. Sick Day (pg 35)
5. Anastasis (pg 28)
6. Heart Throb (pg 31)
7. ROE (pg 34)
8. Love Is Dead (pg 32)

17:00 | Movimiento | Kino 1
Journeys beyond Borders

Unspoken (pg 36)
Freedom Is Beautiful (pg 20)

19:00 | Movimiento | Kino 1
Aotearoa Feature Film

The Moon Is Upside Down (pg 15)

20:00 | Movimiento | Kino 3
Retrospective Cinema:
25th Anniversary
Two Hands (pg 16)

Sunday 29.09.24

12:00 | Movimiento | Kino 3
Aussie Doco
The Carnival (pg 18)

14:00 | Movimiento | Kino 3
Reel Australia Section
Sweet As (pg 13)

16:00 | Movimiento | Kino 3
Environmental Documentary
Cinema
The Koalas (pg 19)

16:30 | City Kino Wedding
Quick Flicks 2 -
Short Films Showcase

1. Yeah The Boys* (pg 37)
2. Mary* (pg 33)
3. Lea Tupu'anga/Mother Tongue (pg 32)
4. The Choice To Love* (pg 36)
5. Yargh* (pg 37)
6. Pinch* (pg 34)
7. Forever Yours (pg 30)
8. Lurrpungu (pg 32)
9. Datsun (pg 29)
10. Favourites (pg 29)

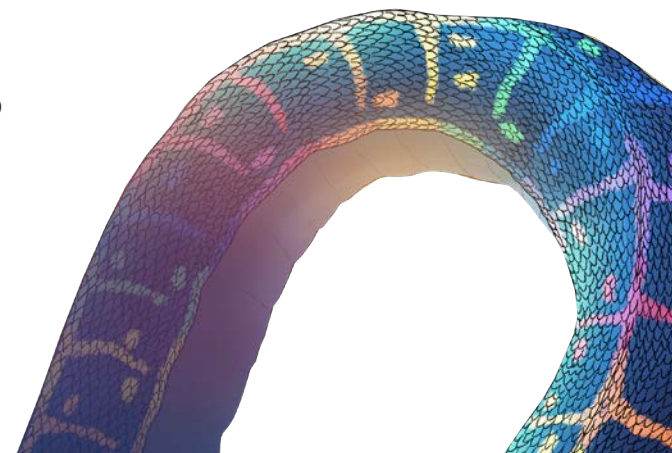
*Attending filmmakers

18:30 | City Kino Wedding
Filmmakers Q&A (pg 40)

19:30 | City Kino Wedding
Australian Closing Film
Directors & Embassy
closing speeches

Feature Film
The Moogai (pg 10)

21:00 | City Kino Wedding
Closing night reception



Copenhagen Film Schedule

Thursday 03.10.24

19:00 | Cinemateket Australian Opening Film

Directors & Embassy
Welcome

Bonus Preview Short
Favourites (pg 29)

Feature Film
The Moogai (pg 10)

21:00 | Cinemateket Bar Opening Night Reception

21:45 | Cinemateket
Journeys beyond Borders
Freedom Is Beautiful (pg 20)

Friday 04.10.24

16:30 | Cinemateket Aotearoa Feature Film

Bonus Preview Short
System Errors (pg 35)

Feature Film
The Moon Is Upside Down
(pg 15)

19:15 | Cinemateket
Aussie Queer Cinema
Sahela (pg 12)

21:30 | Cinemateket
New Zealand Night
Uproar (pg 17)

Saturday 05.10.24

16:30 | Cinemateket Quick Flicks - Short Films Showcase

1. Yeah The Boys (pg 37)
2. Mary (pg 33)
3. Lurppungu (pg 32)
4. Lea Tupu'anga/
Mother Tongue (pg 32)
5. Pinch (pg 34)
6. Unspoken (pg 36)
7. Truth (pg 21)
8. Sick Day (pg 35)
9. Favourites (pg 29)

19:00 | Cinemateket
Australian Closing Film
Directors & Embassy closing
speeches

Feature Film
Audrey (pg 8)

21:00 | Cinemateket Bar
Closing night reception

21:30 | Cinemateket
**Retrospective Cinema: 25th
Anniversary**
Two Hands (pg 16)

Sunday 06.10.24

15:30 | Cinemateket
**Environmental Documentary
Cinema**
The Koalas (pg 19)

As part of DUFF's collaboration with the Danish Film Institute in its inaugural Copenhagen edition, Cinemateket will continue to screen a selection of our program throughout the month of October.

Grab your mates and come back for more great Aussie and Kiwi cinema this month!

For tickets go to:
dfi.dk/cinemateket

Extra Screenings

Audrey
Wednesday 16.10.24 | 21:45

Freedom Is Beautiful
Wednesday 9.10.24 | 17:00

Sahela (Companion)
Tuesday 7.10.24 | 18:00
Tuesday 14.10.24 | 21:45

The Koalas
Thursday 17.10.24 | 16:30

The Moogai
Monday 07.10.24 | 21:00
Tuesday 22.10.24 | 21:45

The Moon Is Upside Down
Tuesday 15.10.24 | 16:30
Tuesday 29.10.24 | 21:45

Two Hands
Wednesday 8.10.24 | 21:30
Wednesday 21.10.24 | 21:00





**Sooner | Pure Cinema
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SOONER



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Anastasis: A Visual Album

AU | 2023 | 17 min

Arthouse | European Premiere

Directors: Lachlan Kramer, Henry West

Starring: Henry West, Richard Miller

A visual concept for Henry West's Visual album *Anastasis*.

This film follows the story of rebirth and the innate mystery of divine intervention. Throughout the film you will hear the soundtrack from the EP written and composed by Henry West.

Henry West made his debut as a filmmaker for his visual album *Anastasis*. He is a multidisciplinary creative writing the script, acting, producing and composing all the music in the film.

Showing in
Berlin



Bottle Money

NZ | 2023 | 14 min

Drama | European Premiere

Director: Rebekah Tyler

Starring: Jack Tyler, Romy Hooper

As 16-year-old Nelson protects his siblings from the chaos of their unstable mum, he must decide: how much longer can he stand to love her?

Rebekah Tyler is a writer/director who lives in Auckland, New Zealand. In 2023, Rebekah wrote and directed the short film, *Bottle Money*. Rebekah is currently developing *Bottle Money's* feature-length film.

Showing in
Berlin



DATSUN

NZ | 2021 | 15 min | Drama

Director: Mark Albiston

Starring: Mickey Reddish,
Billy R. McCarthy

Matt is your typical angst-ridden fourteen-year-old boy. It's just his Mum, Jo, and little brother Artie in the house after their Dad died. Matt sets off when he learns of Jo's plans to sell her deceased husband's Datsun.

In 2007, **Mark Albiston** received recognition at the Cannes Film Festival for his short film *Run*. Albiston's follow-up short *The Six Dollar Fifty Man* was a break-out hit on the festival circuit; winning the award for best international short at The Sundance Film Festival. He also won three awards at the 2009 Qantas Film and Television Awards – including Best Short at the 2010 Flickerfest festival, Australia. Albiston Premiered feature film *Shopping* at the Berlin International Film Festival. The film earned awards at Sundance, Berlinale and the NZ Film & TV Awards.

Showing in
Berlin



Favourites

AU | 2023 | 6 min

Comedy | German + Danish Premiere

Director: Nick Russell

Starring: Stephen Curry, Sibylla Budd

Two parents face an impossible choice when their family camping trip goes terribly wrong.

Nick Russell is an award-winning actor who has starred on Australian and international screens for 26 years. Appearing in *Wentworth*, *Utopia*, and *Winners & Losers*, he also had the lead role in *Signs*, which won a Gold Lion Cannes award. Nick directed beloved sketch comedy group *The Peloton* and their Hollywood television pilot *Diplomatic Immunity* for the Emmy-nominated EUE Sokolow. *Favourites* is his short film directorial debut.

Showing in
Berlin

Showing in
Copenhagen



Forever Yours

NZ | 2024 | 15 min

Thriller | European Premiere

Director: Elliott Louis McKee

Starring: Andrea Ariel, James Tuft

Following a devastating accident that leaves the love of her life paralysed, Valeria becomes his dedicated caretaker. Yet, beneath the surface of unwavering devotion, a disturbing obsession begins to emerge.

Elliott Louis McKee grew up amidst the scenic landscapes of New Zealand's South Island, eventually studying Film and Philosophy at the University of Auckland. Since moving to Berlin in 2011, Elliott has worked as a musician, actor and filmmaker.

Showing in
Berlin



Freedom Fighter

NZ | 2023 | 16 min

Drama | European Premiere

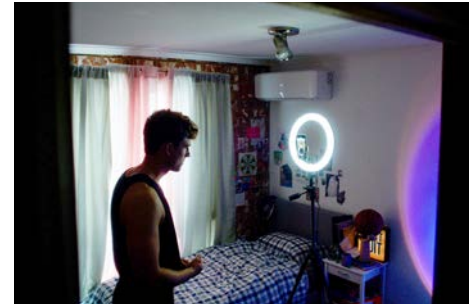
Director: Tusi Tamasese

Starring: Luz-Eliana Folau-Brown,
Matt Sunderland

There is no safe place to hide when the desire to dance calls Luli'a, an overstayer, to choose between her own freedom and the safety of those she is responsible for.

Tusi Tamasese is a Samoan-born and bred New Zealander. His first two feature films *The Orator* (2011 Venice Orizzonti) and *One Thousand Ropes* (2017 Berlinale – Panorama) and his short film *Va Tapuia* all had strong festival runs, and significant cultural impact in NZ and Australia. He has several projects in development; commissioned and independent. Tusi has an MA in screenwriting from Victoria University of Wellington, having graduated from the NZ Film School, and prior to that, with a BA degree in Screen and Media Studies (Waikato). He now lives in Wellington with his wife and three children.

Showing in
Berlin



Heart Throb

AU | 2023 | 15 min

Drama | European Premiere

Director: Greta Nash

Starring: Gabriel Cali, William McKenna

In the summer after high school, aspiring social media star Gray spends his time making videos and working at the pizza shop with his longtime best friend Angelo. Gray feels a deep attraction and love for his best friend, but will it be able to withstand betrayal?

Greta Nash (they/she) is a Melbourne-based screenwriter and director. Their short films have been screened at festivals worldwide. Their 2018 short film *Two Piece* won Tropfest, and their 2017 short film *Locker Room* Premiered at MIFF and went on to attract over 13 million views online. In 2022 Greta completed a Screen Australia funded Director's Attachment on *Run Rabbit Run*. In 2021 Greta wrote a polished draft of their first feature, *School Camp*, funded by Screen Tasmania. In 2019, Greta completed a Director's attachment on *Preacher S4*.

Showing in
Berlin



Lea Tupu'anga / Mother Tongue

NZ | 2024 | 17 min

Drama | German + Danish Premiere

Director: Vea Mafile'o

Starring: Luciane Buchanan,
Albert Rounds

Katherine, a young speech therapist of Tongan and European heritage has lied about her Tongan language skills to work with Siaoisi - an elderly patient with aphasia who has lost his ability to speak English. Out of her depth, Katherine must find a way to communicate or risk her patient's life.

Vea Mafile'o is a director of film and television who has worked extensively throughout the Pacific. Her debut documentary feature *For My Father's Kingdom* (2019) had its world Premiere at Berlinale. It was the first Tongan feature documentary for cinema; the first directed by a Tongan female in the world. In 2021, Vea directed two episodes of the primetime New Zealand television drama *The Panthers*. *Lea Tupu'anga / Mother Tongue* is Vea's first narrative film.

Showing in
Berlin

Showing in
Copenhagen



Love Is Dead

NZ | 2023 | 7 min

Arthouse | European Premiere

Director: Dylan Poihipi

Starring: Lilo Viagafa, Sepi To'a

An evening drive through The Tunnel forces Yellow to face her relationship with Pink. She's confronted by Orange, Blue and The Light which help her come to terms with what she already knew.

A filmmaker in heart & soul. To kōrero is in his blood. **Dylan Poihipi** has a strong vision to weave raw and honest stories about people who embrace their complexities with aroha. His Short Film debut *Love is Dead* is making its way around the national and international film festival circuit.

Dylan won the Warner Bros. Best Film 22-24 Age Group Award at the New Zealand Youth Film Festival 2023.

Showing in
Berlin



Lurrpungu

AU | 2022 | 6 min

Animation | World Premiere

Directors: Bernadette Trench-

Thiedeman, Lynley Marlingia Nargoodah

Starring: Mayarn Julia Lawford,

Nyawurru Jean Tighe

Lurrpungu is an animated Dreaming story from Walmajarri Country, telling the story of the relationship between the Nakayayah (Major Mitchell cockatoo) and the Gling Gling (Pink Galah). Narrated in Walmajarri language, this animation was created using paintings from three generations of artists. Produced in conjunction with Mangkaja Arts and Marninwarntikura Womens' Resource Centre in Fitzroy Crossing, Western Australia.

Bernadette Trench-Thiedeman

is an award-winning Australian artist and filmmaker.

Lynley Marlingia Nargoodah

is a proud Walmajarri/Nyikina woman and award-winning artist who is learning to keep stories alive from the elders of the community.

Showing in
Berlin

Showing in
Copenhagen



Mary

AU | 2023 | 17 min

Drama | European Premiere

Director: Aaron Lucas

Starring: Joshua McElroy,

Jeremy Lindsay Taylor

Mary is a true story about a boy and his horse on an Australian cattle station. Forced to complete an impossible task, Peter must reconcile the blood and dust with the all-consuming majesty of the Australian environment.

Aaron Lucas is a Jewish, German-Australian writer and director, living between Sydney and Berlin. He has directed short films *Free Therapy* (2019), *Mary* (2024) and music videos for *Born Mild* and *Flight to Dubai*. His independent pilot *Privileged* won best comedy at SeriesFest and Stareable LA. His animated documentary *I'll Be Frank* claimed First Prize 'Hearst Minds Soul Award' at Flickers' Rhode Island International Film Festival. More recently, he was selected for TIFF's Filmmaker Lab and TIFF's Writers Studio with *Luna*, his debut feature film in development.

Showing in
Berlin

Showing in
Copenhagen



Migration

AU | 2023 | 24 min

Drama | European Premiere

Director: Levi Lamour

Starring: Kwame N. Kamara,

David Chol Marial

Kwame, a young African immigrant has recently moved to the suburb of Blacktown, Western Sydney. On a random encounter, he meets Deng, a warm Sudanese youth, well-known in the area. This chance meeting sets off a chain of events that draws Kwame into the shadows of the street, where his buried traumas resurface and threaten to overwhelm him.

Levi Lamour, a South African mixed-race immigrant residing in Western Sydney, has pursued filmmaking since moving to Australia at age seven. After studying Media Arts Production at UTS and gaining experience on sets and with music videos, he was accepted into the highly competitive AFTRS Talent Camp for emerging filmmakers. Through this, he completed a traineeship with NBC Universal on *The Fall Guy*, whilst finalising his debut short film, *Migration*.

Showing in
Berlin



Pinch

AU | 2023 | 9 min

Drama | German + Danish Premiere

Director: Aimee Patmore

Starring: Aimee Patmore, Vicki Gard

A high school student battles a silent illness which she hides from her mother as her health quietly declines.

Aimee Patmore has worked as an actor in the Australian industry for more than 10 years and appeared in award-winning films and TV shows such as *Wolf Like Me* and *My Place*. Aimee has also studied acting internationally in Los Angeles at the Art of Acting studio where she trained in a conservatory program that teaches the Stella Adler technique.

Pinch is Aimee's directorial debut and has had a successful run on the film festival circuit including being nominated for the renowned "Young Australian Filmmaker of the Year" award at the Byron Bay International Film Festival.

Showing in
Berlin

Showing in
Copenhagen



ROE

AU | 2023 | 5 min

Drama | European Premiere

Director: Alison Stanton-Cook

Starring: Natalie Venettacci,
Lachlan Cooper

ROE (Running On Empty) follows a teacher at an underfunded public school in Tasmania as she tries to establish boundaries with her students. *ROE* is a love letter to teachers everywhere and recognises how complex the role is; and how much we owe to those in this tough profession.

Alison Stanton-Cook is an acting coach, writer, director and intimacy coordinator based in Nipaluna/Hobart, Tasmania. Alison's debut short film *ROE (Running On Empty)* has been selected at festivals including St Kilda Film Festival, Fleurieu Film Festival, CinefestOZ and the Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival in the USA. Alison was the Director's Attachment on ABC's production *Bay of Fires S2* with support from Screen Australia and Screen Tasmania.

Showing in
Berlin



Sick Day

AU | 2023 | 11 min

Drama | European Premiere

Director: Stephen Packer

Starring: Kai Baker, Miriam Clough

On his first day home alone from school, ten-year-old Oliver accidentally stumbles upon his father's browsing history, and then must decide how to respond when his best friend Tati arrives to hang out.

Stephen Packer is an award-winning Australian writer/director. Named early in his career as South Australia's Emerging Filmmaker of the Year, Stephen's short film *Hard Rubbish* Premiered at Vancouver International Film Festival before continuing its circuit at Australia's academy award qualifying festivals St Kilda and Flickerfest. Stephen's latest short film *Sick Day* is currently on the festival circuit. His next proof-of-concept short film *Alpha Test* has received funding from the South Australian Film Corporation and will go into production later this year.

Showing in
Berlin

Showing in
Copenhagen



System Errors

AU | 2023 | 25 min

Short Film | Danish Premiere

Director: Clementine Lloyd

Starring: Trix, Opal Blak

System Errors delves into the diverse experiences of online sex workers. Seeking to humanise those who are frequently dehumanised by societal norms.

Clementine Lloyd weaves narratives that explore the human condition and challenge societal structures. As a creative storyteller, her work aims to educate, inspire, and assist, transcending traditional boundaries. With a commitment to meaningful storytelling, Clementine's films prompt reflection, foster dialogue and contribute to the collective growth of society.

Showing in
Berlin



The Choice To Love

AU | 2023 | 12 min

Drama | German + Danish Premiere

Director: Anna Dvorak

Starring: Diana McLean,
Gennie Nevinson

A hardworking Australian high school teacher takes care of her elderly Czech mother. When she is offered a promotion at work, she is confronted with the tough choice of picking between her professional obligation and her familial responsibility.

Anna Dvorak is a trilingual filmmaker from Sydney, Australia with a Czech and Slovak background. Anna's previous work has been recognised internationally by many notable festivals including Flickers' Rhode Island International Film Festival, Byron Bay International Film Festival and Canberra Short Film Festival.

In 2024, Anna's short film *The Choice To Love* is streaming on SBS on Demand in Australia and Anna is continuing to work on numerous other productions.

Showing in
Berlin

Unspoken

AU | 2024 | 21 min

Drama | German + Danish Premiere

Director: Damian Walshe-Howling

Starring: Kat Dominis, Goran Grigić

1979. As volatile protests for Croatian independence break out across the city of Sydney, Croatian-born Marina is forced to expose a secretive love affair with her Australian boyfriend, as an escalating political storm spills into her childhood home with devastating consequences.

Damian Walshe-Howling won the prestigious International Lexus Short Film Series and was awarded close to half a million dollars to write and direct his third short film *Messiah* starring David Gulpilil and Stephen Hunter.

Damian has written and directed his 4th short film *Unspoken* and has been working as a Writer/Director with production company Guilty Content as well as developing a number of his own independent Film and TV projects.

Showing in
Berlin

Showing in
Copenhagen



YARGH!

NZ | 2024 | 12 min

Comedy | German + Danish Premiere

Director: Kris Brown

Starring: Saul Barnes, Nye Green

In the year 1700-and-something, a merry trio of pirates unearth a stash of riches on the beach of a remote island. But when carelessness sees their boat taken by the tide, they are quick to turn on one another and squabble over their prize. To make matters worse, the three learn that they're not alone on the island. The pirates have to get past their greed and come together if they stand any chance of escaping with the loot, and their skins, intact.

Kris Brown is a self-taught Kiwi filmmaker. Kris' creative and professional background was in animation. However, a deep yearning to escape from the computer and connect with nature and people drew him to the live-action arena. With his debut short, *YARGH!*, he managed to achieve exactly that while also playing "pirate" on the gorgeous beaches of his homeland with friends and family.

Showing in
Berlin

Yeah The Boys

AU | 2023 | 8 min

Dramedy | European Premiere

Director: Stefan Hunt

Yeah The Boys follows six young Aussie men as they sink beers at a backyard sesh well into the night. In essence, this film explores the celebration of Aussie larrikinism, and how fun it is... until it's not.

Stefan Hunt's whimsical take on life, death, and the dizzying complexity of the human condition has won him numerous accolades that include a BAFTA, Webby, Flickerfest, St Kilda and multiple Vimeo staff picks, as well as nominations for the UKVMAs. Palm Springs Short Fest and Raindance Film Festival. As a multi-disciplinary artist, his work is often simple and naive, using childlike wonder to spark self-reflection and remind us that we were all once children.

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Q&A with Filmmakers

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Aaron Lucas (AU)
Writer + Director
Mary

Anna Dvorak (AU)
Director + Producer
The Choice To Love
& Pinch

Kris Brown (NZ)
Director
Yargh!

Justin Besser (AU)
Steadycam Operator
Yeah The Boys!

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