



## MEDIA RELEASE

**EMBARGOED UNTIL 00.01AM FRIDAY 04 MAY 2018**

## LEXUS AUSTRALIA SHORT FILM FELLOWSHIP 2018 JURY AND WORLD PREMIERES ANNOUNCED

---

Lexus Australia and Sydney Film Festival today announced leading Australian actress Marta Dusseldorp will chair the 2018 Lexus Australia Short Film Fellowship Jury, and the screening date for films made by 2017's four Lexus Fellows.

**Jury Chair Marta Dusseldorp** said, "The Lexus Australia Short Film Fellowship for 2018 will give four Australian filmmakers the support to carry on telling their unique stories. I'm thrilled to be a part of this meaningful contribution to great artistic voices, which continue to be as important as ever."

Respected across stage and screen, Dusseldorp is best known for Australian television drama series *Place to Call Home* and *Janet King*. Joining her will be Sydney Film Festival Director Nashen Moodley, Lexus Australia's Vin Naidoo, Australian producer Greer Simpkin (*Sweet Country*) and President of the Australian Directors' Guild Samantha Lang.

The jury of industry luminaries will also announce four new successful Fellows at the Premiere, each of whom will receive \$50,000 to make their next short film. Their films will World Premiere at the Sydney Film Festival in 2019.

"Lexus Australia strongly supports initiatives that unearth progressive creative talent. Through the Fellowship, we aim to encourage emerging Australian filmmakers to explore new ideas, refine their craft and keep their art form moving forward," said **Vin Naidoo, Senior Manager, Sales & Marketing, Lexus Australia**.

The World Premieres of the four short films created by the recipients of the 2017 Fellowship films: *The Coin* by Thomas Baricevic, *Fitting* by Emily Avila, *Kaya* by Lara Köse, and *My Boy Oleg* by Goran Stolevski will screen at Dendy Opera Quays on Tuesday 12 June at 6:30pm (during the Festival, 6-17 June).

The four filmmakers each received a \$50,000 grant to make their short film, after being selected by a jury chaired by renowned Australian actor David Wenham at the Sydney Film Festival last year. You can watch trailers for the respective films [here](#).

**Nashen Moodley Sydney Film Festival Director** said, "The Festival is proud to present the trailers of these four outstanding new Australian films today. With stories of female companionship, ethnically diverse voices and a fresh take on the classic Western, the Lexus Fellows have proved to be of the highest calibre of emerging talent in Australia."

"As a new director, the Lexus Australia Short Film Fellowship was an extraordinary gift. It afforded me the means to make my second short film, and the confidence to pursue directing seriously. It has truly set my directing career in motion and will have a lasting impact on my trajectory as a filmmaker," said filmmaker Emily Avila (*Fitting*).



“The Fellowship has given me an incredible opportunity to make a film in a landscape where funding for short films is a scarcity. I’m hoping the screening will give the film a boost both here in Australia and internationally,” said filmmaker Thomas Baricevic (*The Coin*).

“The Fellowship has given me the chance to begin the journey of exploring my Alevi heritage through film, and I’m so grateful for that,” said filmmaker Lara Köse (*Kaya*).

“The Fellowship has been a wonderful experience, a singular opportunity to hone and expand my visual style. As a result, we’ve created a story with a protagonist that’s vivid, gripping and like no one else we’ve seen on screen before,” said filmmaker Goran Stolevski (*My Boy Oleg*).

The Lexus Australia Short Film Fellowship allows young filmmakers to be assessed by key industry figures and premiere their work at Sydney Film Festival. The Fellowship aims to develop and foster young talent and ultimately contribute to the longevity of the medium, and the Australian filmmaking industry.

### **Lexus Australia Short Films and Filmmakers:**

#### *The Coin*

A neo-urban western adventure, *The Coin* is the story of Suli, a supermarket trolley collector and his quest to find a rare lost coin, which he hopes will bring him a better life.

- Thomas Baricevic is a writer-director of shorts, documentaries and music videos. He was a jury member for the AACTA Awards and co-founded two monthly short film festivals.

#### *Fitting*

Inside a lingerie fitting room, two strangers – a customer who has recently undergone a mastectomy and a bra fitter – are bound on a mission to find a bra that works.

- Emily Avila’s first short film, *In a Cane Field* (2016), premiered at the Brisbane Asia Pacific Film Festival. *Fitting* is her second short film.

#### *Kaya*

In a remote Turkish village, an ostracised orphan girl seeks out the forbidden Alevi community in her quest for freedom.

- Lara Köse is a graduate of Swinburne University and Victorian College of the Arts. Her graduate short film, *Crush* (2015) was nominated for an Australian Screen Editors award.

#### *My Boy Oleg*

A festival performance brings a Ukrainian actress to Melbourne with her toddler. But her off stage antics reveal the true nature of her visit: to find her child’s father.

- Goran Stolevski is an award-winning director. *You Deserve Everything* (2016) won the Rouben Mamoulian Award for Best Director Award at SFF and *Would You Look at Her* (screening in this year’s SFF) won Best International Short at Sundance.

**Sydney Film Festival runs 6 – 17 June 2018.**

**Tickets for the 65<sup>th</sup> Sydney Film Festival 2018 are on sale now. Please call 1300 733 733 or visit [sff.org.au](http://sff.org.au) for more information.**

---

## MEDIA ENQUIRIES

**Amber Forrest-Bisley, Publicity Manager**

E: [amber@cardinalspin.com.au](mailto:amber@cardinalspin.com.au) P: 02 8065 7363 M: 0405 363 817

**Amy Owen, Communications Advisor**

E: [amy@cardinalspin.com.au](mailto:amy@cardinalspin.com.au) M: 0404 977 338

\*\*\*Sydney Film Festival Press Pack and Images Available [HERE](#)

## EDITOR'S NOTES

---

### ABOUT THE LEXUS AUSTRALIA SHORT FILM FELLOWSHIP

The Lexus Australia Short Films Fellowship is a \$200,000 investment by Lexus Australia, presented by Sydney Film Festival, to support future generations of emerging filmmakers. The fellowship is the largest cash fellowship for short film in Australia. Up to four fellowship winners will receive \$50,000 each to produce their next short film in 2018, to premiere at the 66<sup>th</sup> Sydney Film Festival in 2019.

---

### ABOUT SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL

From **Wednesday 6 June to Sunday 17 June 2018**, the 65<sup>th</sup> Sydney Film Festival offers Sydneysiders another exciting season of cinema amidst a whirlwind of premieres, red-carpet openings, in-depth discussions, international guests and more.

Sydney Film Festival also presents an Official Competition of 12 films that vie for the Sydney Film Prize, a highly respected honour that awards a \$60,000 cash prize based on the decision of a jury of international and Australian filmmakers and industry professionals. Previous Sydney Film Prize winners: *On Body and Soul* (2017); *Aquarius* (2016); *Arabian Nights* (2015); *Two Days, One Night* (2014); *Only God Forgives* (2013); *Alps* (2012); *A Separation* (2011); *Heartbeats* (2010); *Bronson* (2009); and *Hunger* (2008).

The Festival is a major event on the New South Wales cultural calendar and is one of the world's longest-running film festivals. For more information visit: [sff.org.au](http://sff.org.au).

The 65<sup>th</sup> Sydney Film Festival is supported by the NSW Government through Create NSW, via its tourism and major events agency, Destination NSW and by City of Sydney. Federal Government support is provided through Screen Australia.