



MEDIA RELEASE

EMBARGOED UNTIL 00.01AM THURSDAY 20 JULY 2017

2018 LEXUS SHORT FILMS AND LEXUS AUSTRALIA SHORT FILM FELLOWSHIP CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

With just five weeks until submissions close (24 August), **Sydney Film Festival** and **Lexus Australia** are encouraging all Australian filmmakers to make their submissions for the **Lexus Australia Short Film Fellowship**. To be eligible, filmmakers will need to enter the international competition, **Lexus Short Films**.

Lexus Short Films is a global contest that gives four filmmakers the chance to collaborate with Oscar-winning film studio **The Weinstein Company** on their own film project - this year with the theme 'transformation'.

All Australian entries will be automatically submitted into the 2018 Lexus Australia Short Film Fellowship for the opportunity to be one of four filmmakers awarded the largest cash fellowship (AUD \$50,000 per filmmaker) for short film in Australia.

"Winning the Lexus Short Film Series has been an extraordinary experience for me as a filmmaker." said Australian actor-director **Damian Walshe-Howling**.

"The competition allowed me to write and direct my third film concept *MESSIAH*, in collaboration with The Weinstein Company, travel around the world for premieres at international Festivals - including our World Premiere at Sydney Film Festival, make invaluable connections, and ultimately to discover so much more about the filmmaking process," he said.

"The generous budget and support that the Lexus fellowship gives Australian directors, creates an opportunity to reach further, try new things, and be daring. I encourage every passionate Australian filmmaker to submit their CV to Lexus Short Films, and also through this competition, the Lexus Australia Short Film Fellowship."

"It's a rare and powerful opportunity." he said.

"Lexus Australia encourages all emerging Australian filmmakers to enter Lexus Short Films and the Lexus Australia Short Film Fellowship," said **Vin Naidoo, Corporate Manager of Lexus Australia**. "Through both the international and local film competitions, Lexus aims to propel new talent to the fore, so that they may innovate, create and perhaps one day transform their craft," he said.

Australian filmmakers must enter the international Lexus Short Films series before 24 August 2017, where their film will be viewed by The Weinstein Company, who will select the Australian finalists.

2018 Finalists will be announced in November 2017, and the inaugural Lexus Australia Short Film Fellows will be announced in June 2018, and see their work premiered at the 2019 Sydney Film Festival.



It's a simple process with no entry fee and no complex application processes. All filmmakers have to submit by 24 August is an eligible film and CV.

Australian filmmakers also have the chance to be one of the international winners of the series, who go on to direct short films that will be produced and receive first-look deals courtesy of The Weinstein Company, and tour to four international film festivals, including Sydney Film Festival.

For more information on the Lexus Australia Short Film Fellowship, visit www.sff.org.au/fellowship. For Lexus Short Films eligibility criteria and submission details, as well as entry submission, visit www.lexus-int.com/lexusshortfilms.

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 2017, to premiere at the 65th Sydney Film Festival in 2018.

ABOUT LEXUS SHORT FILMS

In 2013, Lexus Short Films was launched with the goal of supporting and nurturing a new generation of emerging filmmakers. These aspiring directors and writers have received a unique opportunity supported by Lexus to collaborate with acclaimed film studio The Weinstein Company to produce and showcase their work on an international stage. For more information, visit www.lexusshortfilms.com

ABOUT SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL

Sydney Film Festival screens feature films, documentaries, short films and animation across greater Sydney. 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 www.sff.org.au

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

