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SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL PRESENTS EUROPE'S WOMEN TO WATCH

The 63rd Sydney Film Festival (8-19 June), in partnership with European Film Promotion and *Variety* announces a new program of European Cinema, showcasing 10 new films by 10 of Europe's most promising women storytellers.

"**European Cinema: 10 Women Filmmakers to Watch**, is an important new Festival initiative that provides a platform for showcasing women's voices and storytelling," said **Sydney Film Festival Director Nashen Moodley**. "Audiences will discover a range of exciting and diverse films from these emerging filmmakers including stirring documentaries, sensitive character portraits, moving family dramas, and even a mermaid-vampire musical," he said.

The Festival will host five European filmmakers whose films are presented in the program: director and acclaimed Serbian actress **Mirjana Karanović**, Swedish visual artist and documentary filmmaker **Sara Jordenö**, Danish filmmaker **Frederikke Aspöck** whose films have screened at Cannes, one of Poland's most talented filmmakers **Agnieszka Smoczynska**, and actress and director **Nicolette Krebitz** from Berlin. Each are attending and will present their films to Festival audiences.

Renate Rose, Managing Director, European Film Promotion said, "With the support of our respective members, we are very happy to showcase an exciting variety of European women filmmakers, ranging from Serbia's acclaimed actress-turned-helmer Mirjana Karanović, who will present her directorial debut *A Good Wife* to Spain's experienced, award-winning Icíar Bollaín and her family drama *The Olive Tree*. And for EFP, this is also a wonderful occasion to expand our worldwide promotion activities to Australia, a very interesting market for European films."

Steven Gaydos, Vice President and Executive Editor, Variety said, "Having partnered with European Film Promotion for nearly 20 years in our new European filmmakers curation program known as *Variety Critics Choice* at the prestigious Karlovy Vary Film Festival in the Czech Republic, we were excited at the opportunity to help this dynamic organization in their efforts to highlight the bold and bracing achievements of Europe's women filmmakers at a world-renowned festival such as Sydney," he said.

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European Cinema: 10 Women Filmmakers to Watch films:

- **CHEVALIER** Greece | 2015 | 99 mins | In Greek with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director: Athina Rachel Tsangari | Screenwriters: Efthimis Filipou, Athina Rachel Tsangari | Producers: Maria Hatzakou, Athina Rachel Tsangari | Cast: Yorgos Kendros, Panos Koronis, Vangelis Mourikis | Distributor: Vendetta Films
- **A GOOD WIFE** Serbia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina | 2016 | 94 mins | In Serbian with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director: Mirjana Karanović | Screenwriters: Stevan Filipović, Darko Lungulov | Producer: Snežana Penev | Cast: Mirjana Karanović, Boris Isaković, Bojan Navojec | World Sales: Films Boutique
- **KIKI** Sweden, USA | 2016 | 94 mins | In English | Australian Premiere
Director: Sara Jordanö | Screenwriters: Sara Jordanö, Twiggy Pucci Garçon | Producers: Annika Rogell, Lori Cheatle | World Sales: Films Boutique
- **THE LURE** Poland | 2015 | 92 mins | In Polish with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director: Agnieszka Smoczyńska | Screenwriter: Robert Bolesło | Producer: Włodzimierz Niderhaus | Cast: Marta Mazurek, Michalina Olszanska, Jakub Gierszal | World Sales: WFDiF Documentary and Feature Film Studio
- **THE OLIVE TREE** Spain, Germany | 2016 | 98 mins | In Spanish | Australian Premiere
Director: Icíar Bollain | Screenwriter: Paul Laverty | Producer: Juan Gordon | Cast: Anna Castillo, Javier Gutiérrez, Pep Ambròs | World Sales: Seville International
- **OUR EVERYDAY LIFE** Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Slovenia | 2015 | 89 mins | In Bosnian with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Ines Tanović | Producer: Alem Babić | Cast: Uliks Fehmiu, Emir Hadžihafizbegović, Jasna Ornela Bery | Production Company: Dokument
- **ROSITA** Denmark | 2015 | 92 mins | In Danish with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director: Frederikke Aspöck | Screenwriter: Kim Fupz Aakeson | Producers: Thomas Heinesen, Lea Vestgaard | Cast: Mikkel Boe Følsgaard, Mercedes Cabral, Jens Albinus | World Sales: TrustNordisk ApS
- **STRIKE A POSE** Netherlands, Belgium | 2016 | 83 mins | In English | Australian Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Ester Gould, Reijer Zwaan | Producers: Denis Wigman, Reijer Zwaan, Sander Verdonk, Rosan Boersma, Ester Gould | World Sales: Cinephil
- **THANK YOU FOR BOMBING** Austria | 2015 | 104 mins | In English and German with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director: Barbara Eder | Screenwriters: Barbara Eder, Tommy Pridnig | Producers: Tommy Pridnig, Peter Wirthensohn | Cast: Erwin Steinhauer, Manon Kahle, Raphael von Bargen | Production Company: Lotus-Film GmbH

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- **WILD** Germany | 2016 | 97 mins | In German with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Nicolette Krebitz | Producer: Bettina Brokemper | Cast: Lilith Stangenberg, Georg Friedrich, Silke Bodenbender | World Sales: The Match Factory

Sydney Film Festival runs 8 – 19 June 2016.

Tickets for Sydney Film Festival 2016 are on sale now. Please call 1300 733 733 or visit sff.org.au for more information.

MEDIA ENQUIRIES

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

EDITORS NOTES

ABOUT SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL

From **Wednesday 8 June to Sunday 19 June 2016**, the 63rd 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. Each year the Festival's programming team curates 12 days of cinema sourced from world-famous film festivals, including Cannes, Sundance, Toronto and the Berlinale; as well as Australia's finest productions.

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 are: *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 takes place across greater Sydney: at the State Theatre, Event Cinemas George Street, Dendy Opera Quays, Dendy Newtown, Skyline Drive-In Blacktown, Art Gallery of NSW, Hayden Orpheum Picture Palace Cremorne, Casula Powerhouse, the Festival Hub at Sydney Town Hall and SFF Outdoor Screen.

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.

The 63rd Sydney Film Festival is supported by the NSW Government through Screen NSW and Destination NSW, the Federal Government through Screen Australia and the City of Sydney. The Festival's Strategic Partner is the NSW Government through Destination NSW.

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