



MEDIA RELEASE

TUESDAY 28 APRIL 2015

SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES NEW FAMILY PROGRAM

The 62nd Sydney Film Festival announces a new expanded program of family-friendly cinema, with weekend daytime sessions, to suit families and children of all ages. The films will be screened at the Festival in June, and have been selected from the best Australian and international festival-quality cinema.

The inaugural program includes four feature-length films: the Oscar nominated Irish animation *Song of the Sea*; Indian live-action adventure *The Crow's Egg*; the new Australian documentary, *Gayby Baby*; and *Wide Open Sky*, an uplifting documentary about an Australian outback Choir. Also screening at the Festival is a *Kids Animation Showcase* with work from around the world, for ages 3 and above.

Tickets to the family program go on sale Tuesday 28 April via sff.org.au or 1300 733 733.

“Sydney Film Festival’s expanded family program is tailor-made and programmed with a range of styles and genres,” said **Sydney Film Festival Director Nashen Moodley**. “The Festival aims to ignite a love of film in audiences both young and old, for a unique experience to be shared together.”

“From the Oscar nominated *Song of the Sea*; to the charming and funny story of two slum-dwelling children’s adventure to try a slice of pizza in *The Crow’s Egg*; to growing up with same-sex parents, told from the child’s point of view in *Gayby Baby*; a diverse and intelligent family program is assured,” he said.

The SFF 2015 family program includes:

KIDS ANIMATION SHOWCASE

A selection of animated short films chosen for a discerning young audience. Expect lots of clever animals, plenty of laughs and the odd scary moment for good measure! Suitable for children aged 3-8 years.

GAYBY BABY

Director: Maya Newell | Australia | 85mins | In English

Kids raised by same-sex couples are growing in numbers worldwide. This intimate, humorous doco offers a refreshingly frank picture of the Gayby-Boom we seem to be experiencing in the midst of the marriage equality debate. Suitable for children aged 6+ years.

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SONG OF THE SEA

Director: Tomm Moore | Ireland, Luxembourg, Belgium, France, Denmark | 90mins | In English

Nominated for Best Animated Feature at this year's Oscars, this magical treat for families, inspired by Celtic legend, is chock-full of glorious hand-drawn imagery, captivating critters and lilting Gaelic music. Suitable for children aged 6+ years.

THE CROW'S EGG

Director: M. Manikandan | India | 99mins | In Tamil

Dubbed the new *Slumdog Millionaire*, this is a funny, charming South Indian tale of two mischievous, resourceful brothers from a Chennai slum who become determined to taste pizza for the very first time. Suitable for children aged 8+ years.

WIDE OPEN SKY

Director: Lisa Nicol | Australia | 79mins | In English

This heart-warming doco about childhood, creativity and community chronicles the journey of an outback Australian children's choir from auditions to their end-of-year concert and all the trials they face along the way. Suitable for children aged 6+ years.

Sydney Film Festival runs 3 – 14 June 2015.

The full program of 200+ films will be launched on Wednesday 6 May at 11am.

ABOUT SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL

From **Wednesday 3 June** to **Sunday 14 June 2015**, the 62nd Sydney Film Festival offers Sydneysiders another exciting season of cinema amidst a whirlwind of premieres, red-carpet openings, panel 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 local 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: *Two Days, One Night* (2014); *Only God Forgives* (2013); *Alps* (2012); *A Separation* (2011), which went on to win an Academy Award; *Heartbeats* (2010); and *Bronson* (2009).

The Festival takes place across greater Sydney: at the State Theatre, Event Cinemas George Street, Dendy Opera Quays, Dendy Newtown, 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 62nd Sydney Film Festival is supported by the NSW Government through Screen 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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