MEDIA RELEASE
EMBARGOED UNTIL 10:00 WEDNESDAY 7 MAY 2014
SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES
NEW IN 2014: EVENT CINEMAS
AUSTRALIAN SHORT SCREENPLAY AWARD

The 61st Sydney Film Festival is proud to announce the new Event Cinemas Australian Short Screenplay Award.

This year, SFF announces the inaugural Event Cinemas Australian Short Screenplay Award sponsored by Event Cinemas. This award provides a $5000 cash prize for best short screenplay in one of the short fiction films selected for the SFF program. All Australian short films screening in the Festival are eligible and the winner is announced at the Closing Night Gala on Sunday 15 June at the State Theatre.

“Event Cinemas is thrilled to extend its continued collaboration with Sydney Film Festival, as a venue partner,” said Event Cinemas George Street General Manager, Anthony Kierann. “By supporting short-film screenwriting we are acknowledging our wonderful Australian writers – the storytellers that allow our home grown talent to create diverse, exciting, thought-provoking films that represent Australia to the world. Event Cinemas is pleased to be the Australian Short Screenplay Award partner for 2014.”

The Australian short films eligible for the 2014 Event Cinemas Australian Short Screenplay Award are:

Crochet Noir Australia | 2013 | 8 mins | In English
Director, Screenwriter: Jessica Harris | Cast: Ant Neate, Chess Julia Allan, Jacinta Stapleton

Embrace Australia | 2013 | 16 mins | In English
Director: George-Alex Nagle | Screenwriter: Huna Amweero

Grey Bull Australia | 2013 | 15 mins | In English and Denka with English subtitles
Director, Screenwriter: Eddy Bell | Cast: Dylan Watson, Mayik Deng, Akuein Kueth

The iMom Australia | 2013 | 14 mins | In English
Director, Screenwriter, Producer: Ariel Martin | Cast: Matilda Brown, Marta Dusseldorp, Karl Beattie

I Want to Dance Better at Parties Australia | 2013 | 29 mins | In English
Director, Screenwriter: Matthew Bate, Gideon Obarzanek | Cast: Steven Rodgers, Elizabeth Nabben, Phillip Rose

MAN Australia | 2013 | 19 mins | In English
Director: Richard Hughes | Screenwriter, Producer: Dave Christison | Cast: Shane Connor, James Rolleston, Richard Sutherland
**Meeting Susan**  
Australia | 2014 | 9 mins | In English  
*Director: Darius Devas | Cast: Alison Bell, Jan Friedl, David Patterson*

**Phantom Limb**  
Australia, UK | 2013 | 5 mins | In English  
*Director, Screenwriter, Producer: Alex Grigg | Cast: Clifford Hume, Sarah Jones*

**Pocket Money**  
Australia | 2013 | 10 mins | In English  
*Director, Screenwriter: Matt Durrant | Cast: Majdi Slaibi, Taha Saleh, Bill Kalaoun*

**Showboy**  
Australia | 2013 | 15 mins | In English  
*Director, Screenwriter: Samuel Leighton-Dore | Cast: Lucas Pittaway, Mal Kennard, Richie Finger*

**Stuffed**  
Australia | 2013 | 22 mins | In English  
*Director, Screenwriter: Warwick Young | Cast: Travis Cotton, Anita Hegh, Jan Oxbouald*

**The Video Dating Tape of Desmondo Ray, Aged 33 and ¾**  
Australia | 2013 | 4 mins | In English  
*Director, Screenwriter: Steve Baker | Cast: Bill Waters*

**Welcome to Iron Knob**  
Australia | 2013 | 21 mins | In English  
*Director, Screenwriter: Dave Wade | Cast: Linda Cropper, Jessica Ryles, Chris Duncan*

The 61st Sydney Film Festival runs 4-15 June and brings a packed program of screenings and special events to even more venues across Sydney. For tickets and full up-to-date program information visit [sff.org.au](http://sff.org.au)

**ABOUT SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL**
Sydney Film Festival screens feature films, documentaries, short films and animated films across the city at the State Theatre, Event Cinemas George Street, Dendy Opera Quays, the Art Gallery of NSW, Hayden Orpheum Picture Palace Cremorne, the Apple Store, SFFTV at Martin Place, Skyline Drive-In Blacktown, and the Festival Hub at Town Hall.

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](http://www.sff.org.au)

Sydney Film Festival also presents 12 films that vie for the Official Competition, a highly respected international 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 include: *Only God Forgives* (2013), *Alps* (2012), *A Separation* (2011) – which went on to win an Academy Award, *Heartbeats* (2010), *Bronson* (2009) and *Hunger* (2008).

The 61st 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.

**What:** Sydney Film Festival  
**When:** 4-15 June, 2014  
**Tickets & Info:** 1300 733 733 sff.org.au

**MEDIA ENQUIRIES**

**Amber Forrest-Bisley** Director Cardinal Spin  
E: amber@cardinalspin.com.au P: 02 8065 7363 M: 0405 363 817

**Katie Eastment** Communications Advisor Cardinal Spin  
E: katie@cardinalspin.com.au P: (02) 8065 7363 M: 0435 918 466

**Sophie Hodges** Publicity Manager Sydney Film Festival  
E: sophie@sff.org.au P: 02 8220 6619 M: 0403 959 528