



MEDIA RELEASE

EMBARGOED UNTIL 10:00 WEDNESDAY 7 MAY

SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL REVEALS WEIRD AND WONDERFUL FREAK ME OUT PROGRAM

The 61st Sydney Film Festival today announced six films in the popular and strange **Freak Me Out** program strand.

Dedicated to horror, fantasy, shock, schlock and extreme arthouse cinema, **Freak Me Out** brings a decidedly demented dimension to SFF.

"**Freak Me Out** is for everyone from hard-core gore hounds and students to cinephiles and mainstream audiences curious about the wild side of cinema," says **SFF Freak Me Out guest programmer, Richard Kuipers**. "**Freak Me Out** embraces material that until recently was largely restricted to genre-specific film festivals. Thanks to many factors including the wealth of information and weird material now available on the Internet, **Freak Me Out** has been able to capture a substantial audience in a prestigious festival such as SFF."

This selection includes the official Sundance selection title ***Dead Snow 2: Red vs. Dead***, which follows the entertaining plight of a small zombie squad battling a brutal horde of undead Nazis; ***Willow Creek***, a found-footage horror from iconic indie comedy director Bobcat Goldthwait; horror-musical ***Stage Fight***, in which the cast of a musical theatre summer camp is terrorised by a kabuki-masked, knife-wielding slasher; French comedy-horror film ***Goal of the Dead***, an eclectic combination of soccer and zombies; the first ever Indonesian-Japanese horror film ***Killers*** from LA Screamfest award-winning director duo the Mo brothers; and ***Love Eternal***, the recent winner of the inaugural Fresh Blood award at the Black Bear Film Festival in Warsaw, an adaptation of Kei Oishi's intense Japanese novel 'Loving the Dead', set in Ireland. It's described by the Hollywood Reporter as "blackly comic tragedy and macabre melodrama rolled into one".

Note: To introduce his specially curated program strand, **Richard Kuipers** will provide a sneak peak of the freakiest films chosen to feature in **Freak Me Out 2014** on Thursday May 22, 9-10pm at the Surry Hills Library, showcasing snippets from the films and discussing the process of selection. Audience members are invited to bring along their questions, curiosity and courage, as this year's selection is bound to set pulses racing.

Richard Kuipers has been guest programmer of SFF's **Freak Me Out** for four years. He is an Adelaide-based film critic for *Variety* and a specialist in cult cinema.

SFF 2014 Freak Me Out films:

Dead Snow 2: Red vs Dead Norway | 2014 | 105 mins | In English and Norwegian with English subtitles | Australian Premiere

Director: Tommy Wirkola | Screenwriters: Tommy Wirkola, Vegar Hoel, Stig Frode Henriksen | Producers: Terje Stromstad, Kjetil Omberg | Cast: Vegar Hoel, Orjan Gamst, Martin Starr | Distributor: Madman Entertainment

You just can't stop those crazy Nazi zombies! Showing no signs of battle fatigue after the delirious ***Dead Snow*** (SFF 2009), Commander Herzog and his hideous hordes return for another very funny and very bloody

blitzkrieg in Norway. It's fast and furious action from the moment Martin, sole survivor of the first film, wakes up to discover the infected arm he chainsawed off has been replaced by a transplanted zombie limb. He's also accused of murdering his girlfriend. Can things get any worse? Once Herzog and his gangrenous goosesteppers decide to settle an old score with the entire population of a small town the answer is a big *ja, vol!* But Herzog hasn't reckoned on Martin's resourcefulness, and then there's the little-known fact that Nazis weren't the only soldiers frozen in the Scandinavian snow 70-odd years ago. Enter a re-awakened Red Army battalion and the stage is set for a zombie vs. zombie smackdown of fabulously entertaining proportions.

Goal of the Dead France | 2014 | 120 mins | In French with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Directors: Benjamin Rocher, Thierry Poiraud | Screenwriters: Tristan Schulmann, Marie Garel Weiss | Producers: Raphaël Rocher, Jérôme Vidal | Cast: Alban Lenoir, Charlie Bruneau, Tiphaine Daviot | World Sales: Films Distribution

When small-town soccer club Caplongue host Olympique de Paris, the highly fancied visitors get much more than a tricky away game. Seeking a competitive edge, Caplongue's star player has taken a performance-enhancing substance of dubious Eastern European origin, transforming him into a highly contagious homicidal maniac. Before anyone can alert the anti-doping agencies, the hotly anticipated match is interrupted by an apocalyptic outbreak of murder and mayhem. The Olympique veteran and a transfer-listed star battle to survive a fate far worse than relegation, while hordes of bloodthirsty zombies rampage. A handsomely produced gore shocker with a wonderfully witty script, *Goal of the Dead* is everything fans of both soccer and horror hope it will be.

Killers Japan, Indonesia | 2014 | 137 mins | In Japanese and Indonesian with English subtitles | Australian Premiere
Director: The Mo Brothers | Screenwriters: Timo Tjahjanto, Takuji Ushiyam | Producers: Yoshinori Chiba, Kimo Stamboel, Shinjiro Nishimura, Takuji Ushiyama, Timo Tjahjanto | Cast: Kazuki Kitamura, Oka Antara, Rin Takanashi | Distributor: Vendetta Films

Cinema doesn't get more confronting than the latest from cult-hero Indonesian co-directors the Mo Brothers (*Macabre*). Nomura is a handsome Tokyo businessman who kills people in his designer house and uploads videos of his grisly deeds to a secret website. When Bayu, a Jakarta journalist on an obsessive mission to expose a corrupt politician, stumbles across Nomura's videos, he decides to follow suit and administer his own form of justice while carrying a camera. When the seasoned psycho and the new guy on this extremely sick block ultimately connect, the stage is set for intense psychological drama. Smoothly assembled and dotted with deadly black humour, *Killers* takes hold of your senses from the very first frame and never lets you go.

Love Eternal Ireland, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Japan | 2013 | 94 mins | In English | Australian Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Brendan Muldowney | Producers: Conor Barry, Manami Fukawa | Cast: Robert de Hoog, Pollyanna McIntosh, Amanda Ryan | World Sales: Reel Suspects S.A.R.L.

Ian is a 26-year-old who hasn't left his bedroom for 10 years. He is unable to understand basic human emotions and is obsessed with death. When his mother dies, he calmly decides to end his own life. Driving into the woods on Christmas Eve, Ian plans to gas himself, when he witnesses a family doing the exact same thing. Instead of completing his own ritual, Ian takes the lifeless body of a teenage girl to his house. He adores his companion, but when her body decays he searches suicide chat rooms and grief-therapy groups for replacements. Irish filmmaker Brendan Muldowney (*Savage*) has crafted a riveting adaptation of Japanese novelist Kei Oishi's *Loving the Dead*. Every carefully composed shot combined with Robert de Hoog's meticulous central performance creates a tale that is by turns extremely bizarre and strangely beautiful.

Stage Fright USA | 2014 | 89 mins | In English | Australian Premiere
Director, Screenwriter: Jerome Sable | Producers: Jonas Bell Pasht, Ari Lantos | Cast: Allie MacDonald, Meat Loaf, Minnie Driver | Distributor: Roadshow Films

Bouncy tunes and bloody murders combine in the delightfully demented feature debut by Jerome Sable. The story begins with a masked maniac murdering Broadway star Kylie Swanson after a performance of *Haunting of the Opera*. Ten years later, Kylie's daughter Camilla and son Buddy are cooks at a musical-theatre camp run by Roger, their mother's pompous old manager (played by none other than Meat Loaf). Desperate to revive his fortunes, Roger revives *Haunting of the Opera* as the camp production. Determined to follow her mother's footsteps (the becoming-famous part, that is) Camilla plucks up the courage to audition, but there's stiff competition. Worse still, there's somebody in the shadows with a mask, a knife and a deep dislike of

showtunes. Complete with Broadway-quality production numbers and smartly executed bloodshed, *Stage Fright* is a rare musical-horror-comedy treat.

Willow Creek USA | 2013 | 78 mins | In English | Australian Premiere

Director, Screenwriter: *Bobcat Goldthwait* | Producers: *Sarah de Sa Rego, Aimee Pearson* | Cast: *Alexie Gilmore, Bryce Johnson, Bucky Sinister* | Distributor: *Vendetta Films*

The legend of Bigfoot stomps back onscreen in this top-notch found-footage chiller from comedian-turned-highly accomplished filmmaker Bobcat Goldthwait (*Shakes the Clown, God Bless America*). His latest visits the site of the famous Patterson-Gimlin footage that's been debated since it surfaced in 1967. Is that a real creature or a man in an ape suit? An enthusiastic believer sets out to camp in the California hotspot where the hairy beasts are said to roam; his sceptical but supportive girlfriend tags along. Goldthwait expertly lays the foundations, with the couple meeting locals both friendly and otherwise. When it comes to delivering what you've been waiting for, Goldthwait and the excellent actors do not disappoint. *Willow Creek* is scary stuff indeed.

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

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

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

Principal State Government partner



Strategic partner



Government partners

