



MEDIA RELEASE  
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## Sydney Film Festival, 5-16 June, announces Guest Line Up for 2013

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Sydney Film Festival announces the list of stars and filmmakers coming to Sydney this June. These distinguished guests will walk the red carpet for their Australian premieres, introduce their films and participate in Q&A sessions.

Highlights include:

Actors **Aaron Pedersen**, **Jack Thompson**, **Hugo Weaving**, **Samara Weaving**, **Tasma Walton** (with partner Rove McManus), **David Field**, **Roy Billing**, **Zoe Carides**, **Robert Mammone**, **Damian Walsh-Howley**, **Lillian Crombie**, **Dan Roberts**, **Bruce Spence** and other cast members, as well as director **Ivan Sen** and producer **David Jowsey** will attend the World Premiere SFF Opening Night film ***Mystery Road***. This Australian Outback-set crime thriller screens Wednesday 5 June at 7:30pm at the State Theatre (red-carpet arrivals from 6:30pm).

**Toni Collette** will be at the Sydney Film Festival to introduce the Australian Premiere of the coming-of-age comedy ***The Way, Way Back*** on **Thursday 6 June at 9:30pm** at the State Theatre (red-carpet arrivals from 8:45pm).

Acclaimed South Korean director **Park Chan-wook** (*Joint Security Area*, *Thirst*, the *Vengeance* trilogy) and Australian actress **Mia Wasikowska** (*Alice in Wonderland*, *The Kids Are All Right*, *Jane Eyre*, *Restless* and *Albert Nobbs*) will grace the red carpet of the Australian Premiere of the thriller ***Stoker*** on Friday 7 June at 8:30pm at the State Theatre (red-carpet arrivals from 7:45pm).

### Official Competition Jury President:

Sydney Film Festival is proud to announce Australian actor **Hugo Weaving** as **Jury President** for the 2013 Official Competition. One of Australia's most acclaimed and respected actors, Weaving's multitudinous credits range from international blockbusters *Cloud Atlas*, *The Hobbit* and *The Matrix* and *The Lord of the Rings* trilogies to award-winning Australian films such as *Oranges and Sunshine*. He has appeared on stage in over 20 productions for the Sydney Theatre Company including *Les Liaisons dangereuses*, *Hedda Gabler* and *Uncle Vanya*. Weaving received the Australian Film Institute's Best Actor award for his performance in the low-budget *Proof* (1991) and also for *Little Fish* (2005). In 1998, he

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received the Best Actor award from the Montreal Film Festival for his performance in *The Interview*. Hugo will also feature in a lead role in SFF's Opening Night film, *Mystery Road*.

### Official Competition Guests:

Director **Joshua Oppenheimer**, co-director **Christine Cynn** and producer **Signe Byrge Sørensen** will be here to introduce the Australian Premiere of *The Act of Killing*, winner of the Documentary Audience Award at the 2013 Berlinale. Oppenheimer's films are known to push the boundaries of fiction and documentary. Influenced by the experimental montage of his mentor, Dusan Makavejev, his first feature film *The Entire History of the Louisiana Purchase* (1997) won a Gold Hugo from the Chicago International Film Festival (1998).

Award-winning Romanian Director **Călin Peter Netzer** will be in Sydney to present the Australian Premiere of *Child's Pose*. This is the third feature film for this Romanian New Wave director. *Child's Pose* won the Golden Bear at the 2013 Berlinale.

Director **Paul Wright** will attend the Australian Premiere of his first feature film *For Those in Peril* direct from Cannes. Wright studied film at the RSAMD in Glasgow, where he made his first short *Hikikomori* (2007), which won the Scottish BAFTA for Best New Work and the Best Drama Award at the Royal Television Society awards. In the same year he made *Believe*, which won the Golden Leopard for Best International Short Film at Locarno as well as major awards at Winterthur and Leeds International Film Festival. His next short, *Photos of God*, was selected for the 2010 Berlinale. Paul's graduation film, *Until the River Runs Red*, won the BAFTA for Best Short Fiction Film in 2011.

Indian Director **Amit Kumar** will attend the Australian Premiere of his feature-film debut *Monsoon Shootout* direct from Cannes. His student films, *Judgement Day* and *The Bypass*, screened at festivals including Edinburgh and Cannes and won him a number of international awards and artists residencies. He worked as an associate director with BAFTA-winning UK director Asif Kapadia on *The Warrior*, and Oscar®-winning German director Florian Gallenberger on *Shadows of Time*.

German director **Jan Ole Gerster** will be here to present his hit *Oh Boy*. Shot in black and white, this comedy is Jan's feature-film debut. He won Best Direction at the 2013 German Film awards, along with most of the other top prizes, and Best Feature Film Debut at the 2013 German Film Critics Association awards. Gerster started as a production assistant on the box office hit *Good Bye, Lenin!* (2003), the comedy about German reunification directed by Wolfgang Becker; and he studied directing and screenwriting at the German Film and Television Academy in Berlin.

The charming new Australian film *The Rocket* will have its Australian Premiere at SFF 2013. The film recently won the Best Narrative Feature and Best Actor prizes at Tribeca. It was also awarded three prizes at the 2013 Berlinale including the Crystal Bear. Australian director **Kim Mordaunt** and producer **Sylvia Wilczynski**, cast members **Alice Keohavong**, **Sitthiphon Disamoe**, **Lungnam Kaosinam**, **Thep Po-ngam**, **Boonsri Yindi**, **Pauline Phayvanh Phoumindr** will attend along with other cast and crew. Mordaunt and Wilczynski are well known for their feature-length documentary *Bomb Harvest* (SFF 2007) which was nominated for Best Documentary (IF Awards, ATOM Awards and Film Critics Circle of Australia Awards), Best Director (ADG Awards), Best Cinematography (AFI Awards) and won Best Feature (children's rights) at Hollywood's Artist Awards.

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Saudi Arabia's first woman filmmaker director **Haifaa Al Mansour** (a University of Sydney graduate) will be in Sydney to present the Australian Premiere of **Wadjda**, the first-ever feature film shot in Saudi Arabia. Winner of the Best Arab Feature Film at the 2013 Dubai International Film Festival, this is Haifaa's debut feature film, a remarkable achievement considering cinemas are banned in Saudi Arabia.

#### **Feature-film and documentary festival guests:**

**Jeff Desom**, the award-winning European artist and music director, will present his video installation **Rear Window Loop** exclusively at the SFF Festival Hub.

Danish producer **Signe Byrge Sørensen** will attend SFF to discuss all of her latest award-winning projects screening at the festival which include **The Act of Killing**, **The Human Scale** and **Char... The No-Man's Island**. At the Festival Hub on **Sunday 9 June, 3-5pm**, Sørensen will introduce her documentary **TPB AFK – The Pirate Bay Away From Keyboard** (a free screening) and participate in a panel discussion on intellectual property and freedoms. **TPB AFK – The Pirate Bay Away From Keyboard** looks at Hollywood lawyers' take on the infamous filesharing website, followed by a panel discussion on piracy and internet freedoms. Signe has produced documentaries for the last 14 years in South Africa, Zimbabwe, Senegal, Thailand, Argentina, Denmark and Sweden.

Director **Ian McDonald** and producer **Geetha J** will attend the World Premiere of their documentary **Algorithms**. McDonald is a documentary filmmaker and sociologist based in the UK. His seemingly effortless 'way of seeing' has resulted in beautifully shot and carefully observed documentaries on art and sport. Geetha received the Göteborg International Film Festival's Development Fund for her first feature script. Her experience as a producer includes several documentaries in the UK and India and she is the founder of AkamPuram, an independent production house. Ian and Geetha's appearance is kindly sponsored by FIDE, the World Chess Federation.

Actor **Patrick Riester** will attend the Australian Premiere of **Computer Chess**. Riester attended the University of Texas at Austin, earning a Bachelor of Science in Radio, Television and Film. Afterwards, he worked as an editor and assistant editor at a local company, Beef and Pie Productions, on commercials as well as documentaries, including **Richard Garriott: Man on a Mission**. In 2011, he met director Andrew Bujalski who cast him in the ensemble for **Computer Chess**. This is his first film as an actor. **Computer Chess** had its World Premiere in the NEXT Section of the **2013 Sundance Film Festival**, where it won the Alfred P. Sloan Feature Film Prize; it also screened at the **Berlinale**.

Director **Andreas Dalsgaard** and Gehl Architects' **David Sim** will attend the screening of their documentary **The Human Scale**. In partnership with SFF and Vivid Live they will present a talk entitled **Transform Your City** at the MCA Sydney on Thursday 6 June, 7-9pm. After the free screening of **Cities on Speed: Bogota Change** (also directed by Dalsgaard), Dalsgaard will join a panel of urban visionaries to explore models for creative place-making at the SFF Festival Hub.

Award-winning filmmaker **Pia Marias** will introduce the Australian Premiere of the South African thriller **Layla Fourie**, awarded a special jury mention at the Berlinale 2013. Marais made her feature debut with **The Unpolished** (2007) which won the Tiger Award at the International Film Festival Rotterdam. Her second feature film **At Ellen's Age**, was developed at the Résidence du Festival de Cannes and premiered at the International Competition in the Locarno Film Festival in 2010. Marais is also a member of SFF 2013's Official Competition jury.

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Director **Tom Berninger** and producer **Craig Charland** will attend the Australian Premiere of their entertaining music documentary ***Mistaken for Strangers***. The documentary chronicles life on the road with the indie band The National. Tom Berninger is the brother of the National's singer Matt Berninger.

Attending the World Premiere of psychological drama ***Nerve***, a Sydney-based production, will be director **Sebastien Guy**, co-writer **Sarah Smith**, producers **Andrew Morris** and **Neal Kingston**, and a cast of well-known and upcoming Australian actors including **Gary Sweet**, **Christian Clark**, **Georgina Haig**, **Craig Hall**, **Andrea Demetriades** and **Denise Roberts**.

Indian director **Anand Gandhi** will attend the festival for the screening of his film ***Ship of Theseus***. This is Gandhi's first feature. Gandhi is a filmmaker, playwright and artist, deeply interested in philosophy, evolutionary psychology and magic. His work in theatre, television and short cinema has won him several prestigious awards in the past decade. *Ship of Theseus* premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival. The film has received accolades the world over. He is now engaged in producing cutting edge, contemporary world cinema under his banner Recyclewala Films Private Limited. Gandhi is also a member of the Official Competition jury.

For New Zealand feature ***Shopping***, cast member **Kevin Paulo** and producer **Sarah Shaw** will be here to present this film, the winner of the Grand Prix of the Generation 14plus at the 2013 Berlinale.

Director **Daniel Hoesl** will be here to present his first feature film ***Soldate Jeannette***, awarded the Tiger Award at the Rotterdam international Film Festival. He will also discuss his experience working as an assistant director to Austrian director Ulrich Seidl on the award-winning ***Paradise*** trilogy, also screening at this year's festival.

Australian performance artist **William Yang**, director **William Fox**, producer **Donna Chang** and executive producer **Bridget Ikin** will be present at the World Premiere of his documentary ***William Yang: My Generation***. SFF, in partnership with ABC TV Arts, will present *William Yang: My Generation* at 7pm on Saturday 8 June at Dendy Opera Quays cinemas, followed by *William Yang: In Conversation* at the Museum of Contemporary Art, hosted by Vivid Ideas, and on ABC1's *Sunday Arts Up Late* at 10:30pm, on Sunday 16 June.

Australian Director **Ned Lander**, producer **Graeme Isaac** and members of the cast and crew will attend the World Premiere of the digital restoration of the groundbreaking 1981 film ***Wrong Side of the Road***, based on the real lives of seminal Australian bands Us Mob and No Fixed Address, and presented in partnership with the National Film and Sound Archive of Australia. It returns an important story to our cultural history, looking and sounding even better than it did when it was released over 30 years ago.

**Other SFF 2013 festival guests who will be here to present their films are:**

**Foxtel Australian Documentary Guests:**

***Audrey of the Alps*** | Producer: **Claire Jager**

***Big Name No Blanket*** (World Premiere) | Director: **Steven McGregor**, producers **Rachel Clements** and **Lisa Watts** and subjects **Neil Murray**, **Sammy Butcher** and **Ronan O'Connor**

***Buckskin*** (World Premiere) | Director: **Dylan McDonald** and producer **Penelope McDonald**

***Love City Jalalabad*** (World Premiere) | Director **George Gittoes** and partner **Hellen Rose** and producer **Lizzette Atkins**

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**Miss Nikki and the Tiger Girls** (Australian Premiere) | Director **Juliet Lamont** and producer **Jessica Douglas-Henry**

**Nothing on Earth** (World Premiere) | Director: **Michael Angus** and photographer **Murray Fredericks**

**Red Obsession** | Directors and Producers: **David Roach and Warwick Ross**, subject **Andrew Caillard** and producer **Robert Coe**

**The Crossing** (World Premiere) | Director: **Julian Harvey**, producer **Enzo Tedeschi** and producers/subjects **Chris Bray and Clark Carter**.

**The Sunnyboy** (World Premiere) | Director: **Kaye Harrison**, producer **Tom Zubrycki**, musician **Jeremy Oxley** as well as **Mary Oxley Griffiths** and **Peter Oxley**

**The Unlikely Pilgrims** (World Premiere) | Directors and Producers: **Kirsten Mallyon** and **John Cherry**, and subjects from the film

#### Dendy Short Film Award Guests:

**A Cautionary Tail** | Director **Simon Rippingale**, screenwriter **Erica Harrison** and producer **Pauline Piper**

**All God's Creatures** (World Premiere) | Director **Brendon McDonall**, producer **Taylor Litton-Strain** and screenwriter **Jess Paine**

**Heaven** (World Premiere) | Director **Maziar Lahooti** and producer **Andrew Brismead**

**Ngurrumbang** (World Premiere) | Director: **Alex Ryan**, producer **Jiao Chen** and screenwriter **Jonathan Shaw**.

**Perception** (World Premiere) | Director **Miranda Nation** and producer **Lyn Norfor**.

**Ravage** (World Premiere) | Director: **Jaime Lewis**, producer **Leonie Rothwell** and screenwriter **Joshua Longhurst**.

**Record** | Director: **David Lyons**

**The Last Time I Saw Richard** (World Premiere) | Director **Nicholas Verso** and producer **John Molloy**, and cast members **Cody Fern** and **Toby Wallace**

**Sydney Film Festival celebrates its 60th anniversary this 5-16 June bringing a packed program of screenings and special events to even more venues across Sydney.** For tickets and full up-to-date program information please visit [www.sff.org.au](http://www.sff.org.au).

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#### ABOUT SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL

Sydney Film Festival screens feature films, documentaries, short films and animations across the city at the State Theatre, Event Cinemas George Street, Dendy Opera Quays, the Art Gallery of NSW and the Hayden Orpheum Picture Palace Cremorne. 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 twelve 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 Festival Official Competition winners include: *Alps* (2012), *A Separation* (2011) – which went on to win an Academy Award®, *Heartbeats* (2010), *Bronson* (2009) and *Hunger* (2008).

The 60th 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:** 5-16 June, 2013

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Tickets & Info: 1300 733 733 [www.sff.org.au](http://www.sff.org.au)

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