



MEDIA RELEASE
8 MAY 2013

Biography

Nashen Moodley

Sydney Film Festival Director

2013 marks Nashen Moodley's second year as Festival Director of the Sydney Film Festival. His first year at the helm was a record-breaking year for SFF with attendances at films and talks growing by **10% to 122,000**.

Other key highlights in his first year included the introduction of the new free public space **Festival Hub at the Lower Town Hall** and the **World Premiere** of *Mabo*, which was attended by real-life protagonist **Bonita Mabo** and received an emotional reception and standing ovation.

Moodley's impressive career in film programming has encompassed leadership roles as Manager and Head of Programming at South Africa's **Durban International Film Festival** (2001–2011) and Tehran's first South African Film Festival (2006). Moodley also consults as Director of AsiaAfrica Programs for **Dubai International Film Festival** (2008–present).

During Moodley's 11 years at Durban International Film Festival - South Africa's longest running film festival- he was responsible for expanding the content and reach of the festival. He also raised the profile of the African film industry by establishing the **Durban FilmMart**, a program that provides African filmmakers with the opportunity to pitch film projects to leading financiers.

In addition to programming, Moodley has served as advisor to India's **International Film Festival of Kerala**, South Korea's **Busan International Film Festival** and **Africala** in Mexico City. Moodley has also worked as an Industry Consultant at the **International Film Festival Rotterdam**, and as an expert at the **Berlinale Talent Campus**.

Born in South Africa in 1978, Moodley studied English and Philosophy at the University of Natal and worked as a journalist before turning to film. His film writing and criticism has appeared in newspapers and magazines including **GQ**, **The Sunday Tribune**, **The Sunday Independent**, and **Mail&Guardian**.

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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. The full program will be announced on **Wednesday 8 May 2013**. For tickets and full up-to-date program information please visit www.sff.org.au.

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

Sydney Film Festival also presents twelve films that vie for the 'Official Competition'; a highly respected international honour that awards a \$60,000.00 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

Tickets & Info: 1300 733 733 www.sff.org.au

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