

# SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL

05-16 JUNE 2019



## MEDIA RELEASE

**EMBARGOED UNTIL 11.00am WEDNESDAY 8 MAY 2019**

## SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES RETURN OF EUROPE! VOICES OF WOMEN IN FILM

The 66<sup>th</sup> Sydney Film Festival (5-16 June), in partnership with European Film Promotion, and media partners *Screen International* and *Fade to Her* announces **Europe! Voices of Women in Film**: a program of 10 new films from vital European women filmmakers.

Filmmaker guests from across the continent will introduce their films and take part in a public talk: **In Conversation: Europe! Voices of Women in Film** at The Hub (Sunday, 9 June, 3:00pm), examining what steps towards gender parity have been made in recent years with Screen International's Sarah Ward

In attendance to present their films at the Festival will be: German filmmaker Carolina Hellsgård (*Endzeit - Ever After*), Greek director Marianna Economou (*When Tomatoes Met Wagner*), Icelandic director Asthildur Kjartansdóttir (*The Deposit*), Cypriot filmmaker Tonia Mishiali (*Pause*), Dutch director Esther Rots (*Retrospekt*), and Austrian director Elina Tikhonova (*Caviar*).

"The Europe! Voices of Women in Film program is just one of many ways the Festival stands proudly with talented women filmmakers, in an industry still struggling with equality," said **Sydney Film Festival Director Nashen Moodley**.

"The Festival continues to provide a platform for the incredible stories of talented European women filmmakers: from one of the year's most controversial films about a successful lawyer's affair with her teenage stepson, to an engaging documentary on finding hope in organic tomato farming amidst financial crisis," he said.

"Sydney Film Festival has made a thrilling selection of works by women directors based on the wonderfully diverse nominations of our EFP member organisations from the whole of Europe," said **EFP Managing Director Sonja Heinen**.

"From a psychological-drama-turned-narrative-experiment by award-winning Dutch writer and director Esther Rots, to an extraordinary zombie film interpretation by Swedish filmmaker Carolina Hellsgård, they bring an exciting new perspective to cinematic storytelling."

"But even though the awareness for gender equality in film has increased in the past four years since we started our programme, there is still a long way to go and we are proud to be able to support and promote such outstanding filmmakers at the Festival," she said.

"In an industry still struggling to achieve gender parity and inclusivity, still reluctant to champion female filmmakers in general, but overflowing with pioneering talents worthy of attention, it remains crucial to showcase women directors," said **Sarah Ward, Screen International film critic**.



“Partnering with European Film Promotion and the Sydney Film Festival for the third consecutive year, Screen International is proud to co-present the Europe: Voices of Women in Film program — helping to shine a spotlight on important and essential stories both on- and off-screen,” she said.

### Europe! Voices of Women in film screenings and talks include:

#### Films:

- **THE BEST OF DORIEN B.** | Belgium, Netherlands | 2019 | Australian Premiere | Director, Screenwriter: Anke Blondé
- **CAVIAR** | Austria | 2019 | Australian Premiere | Director: Elena Tikhonova
- **THE DEPOSIT** | Iceland | 2019 | Australian Premiere | Director, Screenwriter: Ásthildur Kjartansdóttir
- **ENDZEIT – EVER AFTER** | Germany | 2018 | Australian Premiere | Director: Carolina Hellsgård
- **ONLY YOU** | UK | 2018 | Australian Premiere | Director, Screenwriter: Harry Wootliff
- **PAUSE** | Cyprus, Greece | 2018 | Australian Premiere | Director, Screenwriter: Tonia Mishiali
- **QUEEN OF HEARTS** | Denmark, Sweden | 2019 | Australian Premiere | Director: May el-Toukhy
- **RETROSPEKT** | The Netherlands, Belgium | 2018 | Australian Premiere | Director, Screenwriter: Esther Rots
- **SCHEME BIRDS** | Sweden, UK | 2019 | Australian Premiere | Directors, Screenwriters: Ellen Fiske, Ellinor Hallin
- **WHEN TOMATOES MET WAGNER** | Greece | 2019 | Australian Premiere | Director: Marianna Economou

#### Talks at The Hub:

- **In Conversation: Europe! Voices of Women in Film**  
Sunday 9 June, 3:00pm  
While gender parity has proven an important topic of discussion in the film industry in recent years, has anything really changed? Filmmakers from Sydney Film Festival’s Europe! Voices of Women in Film program discuss their experiences.

The full Sydney Film Festival 2019 program can be found online at [sff.org.au](http://sff.org.au).

Sydney Film Festival runs 5 – 16 June 2019. Tickets for Sydney Film Festival 2019 are on sale now. Please call 1300 733 733 or visit [sff.org.au](http://sff.org.au) for more information.

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\*\*\*Sydney Film Festival Press Pack and Images Available [HERE](#)



## EDITOR'S NOTES

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### ABOUT SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL

From Wednesday 5 June to Sunday 16 June 2019, the 66<sup>th</sup> Sydney Film Festival offers Sydneysiders another exciting season of cinema amidst a whirlwind of premieres, red-carpet openings, in-depth discussions, international guests and more.

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: *The Heiresses* (2018), *On Body and Soul* (2017); *Aquarius* (2016); *Arabian Nights* (2015); *Two Days, One Night* (2014); *Only God Forgives* (2013); *Alps* (2012); *A Separation* (2011); *Heartbeats* (2010); *Bronson* (2009); and *Hunger* (2008).

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

The 66<sup>th</sup> Sydney Film Festival is supported by the NSW Government through Create NSW and Destination NSW, the Federal Government through Screen Australia and the City of Sydney. The Festival's Strategic Partner is the NSW Government via its tourism and major events agency, Destination NSW.

