

MELBOURNE & SYDNEY FANTASTICFILMFESTIVAL.COM.AU





ARTISTIC DIRECTOR WELCOME

The gates open once again to the 5th edition of Fantastic Film Festival Australia, a kaleidoscopic showcase of the world's most exciting voices in cult, genre, arthouse and alternative cinema.

Featuring 24 premieres, the festival kicks off with the highly anticipated Australian premiere of *Sting* from maverick Sydney filmmaker Kiah Roache-Turner (*Wyrmwood*). This righteous old school monster movie, expertly exploiting our innate fear of eight-legged critters, will make your skin crawl long after the credits roll.

Other highlights include Luc Besson's delirious *Dogman*, starring Caleb Landry Jones (*Nitram*); the stunning new 2K restoration of Geoffrey Wright's *Romper Stomper* follow-up, *Metal Skin*; the deranged love story *Cannibal Mukbang*; the controversial Sundance knockout *Krazy House*; and of course, no FFFA is complete without the annual nude screening. This year, we're excited to strip off for the iconic (and aptly titled) comedy classic *The Naked Gun*.

To end on a high note, we are wrapping up festivities with a 15th anniversary screening of Gaspar Noé's sensorial overload *Enter The Void*, accompanied by an original live score from Sydney electronic artist Corin.

And that's just scratching the surface. Each film in this year's program has been selected because we genuinely believe it's something you've never seen before, that will provoke, or that is just damn fun. We hope you enjoy the festival. Keep taking risks, and stay weird.

HUDSON SOWADA

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

FESTIVAL TEAM

Artistic Director Hudson Sowada
Executive Director Lindy Tamir
Catalyst Eddie Tamir
Festival ManagerPaulette Arvizu
Festival CoordinatorBettina Kinski
Festival & Marketing Assistant Oliver John
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Moving Story Marketing Jaymes Durante
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SPECIAL THANKS

Emily Milledge, Hannah Chen, Benji Tamir, Felix Hubble, Nikita Leigh-Pritchard, Ari Harrison, Richard Sowada. Special thanks also to the dedicated teams at Moving Story Entertainment, Lido & Ritz Cinemas and Thornbury Picture House.

PRODUCED BY

MOVINGSTORY

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STING

- IN-PERSON Q&A WITH DIRECTOR KIAH ROACHE-TURNER

On a cold, stormy night, a mysterious egg falls from the sky and smashes through the window of a run-down New York City apartment building. From this egg emerges a strange little spider that is discovered by Charlotte, a rebellious 12-year-old girl who keeps it as a secret pet named Sting. As Charlotte's fascination grows, so does Sting and its insatiable appetite for blood. Neighbours' pets start to go missing, and so do the neighbours themselves. Soon, Charlotte's family and the eccentric tenants of the building realise that they are all trapped in the web of a ravenous, supersized arachnid with a taste for human flesh – and Charlotte is the only one who knows how to stop it.

The latest work from Sydney-based maverick Kiah Roache-Turner, *Sting* is a pitch perfect, old school monster movie romp, featuring an iconic Aussie cast (Ryan Corr, Alyla Browne, Noni Hazelhurst, Penelope Mitchell, Silvia Colloca) facing off against an iconic monster.

Get your exterminator suit on, and lets blast some creepy crawlies!

AUSTRALIA/USA • 2024 • 91 MIN	
DIRECTOR	KIAH ROACHE-TURNER
LANGUAGE	ENGLISH
SESSIONS	LIDO CINEMAS THU 18 APRIL ★ 7:00PM ARRIVALS FOR 7:45PM FILM
	RITZ CINEMAS WED 17 APRIL ★ 7:00PM ARRIVALS FOR 7:45PM FILM

★ Opening Night includes drinks, DJ and Q&A with Director Kiah Roache-Turner. Special prices apply. For more details see page 31



ENTER THE VOID - WITH A LIVE SCORE BY CORIN

"**** This is a grandiose hallucinatory journey into, and out of, hell: drugged, neon-lit and with a fully realised nightmare-porn aesthetic that has to be seen to be believed." — THE GUARDIAN

Oscar is an American drug dealer living with his sister in Japan. Killed during a drug bust, Oscar's spirit enters the astral plane. His journey through life after death takes him back to the past and through the present neon club scene of Tokyo after dark.

Gaspar Noé, a true outlaw filmmaker, cemented himself as the leading voice the of New French Extremity movement with his most challenging and exhilarating film: a hallucinatory meditation on life, death and rebirth, shot entirely in the first person. Described by Noé as a "psychedelic melodrama", Enter the Void is a powerful, transcendent and immersive cinematic experience like no other.

The film is accompanied by an adaptation of the original score (which was a soundscape made in collaboration between Noé and Thomas Bangalter's of Daft Punk fame) from Sydney-based Filipina-Australian electronic music producer Corin, a leading figure in performance art and sound design for theatre and club spaces.

FRANCE/JAPAN • 2009 • 141 MIN	
DIRECTOR	GASPAR NOÉ
LANGUAGE	ENGLISH
SESSIONS	LIDO CINEMAS THU 9 MAY ★ 7:00PM ARRIVALS FOR 7:30PM FILM
	RITZ CINEMAS FRI 10 MAY ★ 7:00PM ARRIVALS FOR 7:30PM FILM

CANNES FILM FESTIVAL 2009 (NOMINEE: PALME D'OR), SUNDANCE FILM FESTIVAL 2010, TORONTO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL 2009, SITGES 2009 – WINNER BEST CINEMATOGRAPHY

Closing Night includes drinks and an original in-cinema live score performance from electronic artist Corin. Special prices apply. For more details see page 31

f 4





- IN-PERSON Q&A WITH DIRECTOR GEOFFREY WRIGHT

"Wright shoots and cuts with an energy that would make George Miller proud" — AV CLUB

Revheads, hot roads and satanic mysticism coarse through the mean streets of the Melbourne suburb of Altona in this singularly dark Australian thriller.

Joe, a timid teenager grappling with the challenges of caring for his ailing father, finds solace in his obsession with petrol-guzzling muscle cars. Joe worships his best mate and fellow gearhead Dazey (a young Ben Mendelsohn), whose womanising ways have strained his romance with Roslyn. Joe's bleak worldview begins to expand when he falls for the devil-worshipping mystic Savina. But it is Dazey that Savina truly desires, entwining the fates of all four on a journey destined for tragedy.

This breathtaking new 2K restoration awakens the complex depths of director Geoffrey Wright's follow-up to the classic *Romper Stomper*, breathing new life into its gritty aesthetic and revolutionary editing techniques, and making it ripe for rediscovery and a cult classic of cinematic grime.

AUSTRALIA •	1994 • 115 MIN
DIRECTOR	GEOFFREY WRIGHT
LANGUAGE	ENGLISH
SESSIONS	LIDO CINEMAS WED 24 APRIL, 6:30PM ★ TUE 7 MAY, 6:15PM
	THORNBURY PICTURE HOUSE MON 29 APRIL, 6:20PM
	RITZ CINEMAS FRI 26 APRIL, 6:30PM ★ THU 2 MAY, 6:15PM

NOMINATED FOR 6 AFI AWARDS, VENICE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL 1994, TORONTO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL 1994

★ For Q&A details see page 31



THE RAID

SERBUAN MAUT

"A slam-bang, knock-your-socks-off action bonanza with some of the most peerlessly shot, performed and choreographed fight sequences you're likely to see on screen." — LA TIMES

Rama (Iko Uwais) is a rookie member of a special forces team trapped in the 30-story-high safe house of a notorious crimelord. What starts as a covert operation quickly unravels into a breathtaking battle of survival against highly trained goons as the squad traverses the building floor-by-floor, punch-by-punch.

The most propulsive 100 minutes in action cinema history, with backbreakingly intense fight choreography showcasing the traditional Indonesian martial form of pencak silat, *The Raid* was a bonafide classic on arrival. Every punch, kick and grapple hits even harder in this brand new 4K restoration, which turns the intensity up to a whole new level.

INDONESIA • 2011 • 101 MIN	
DIRECTOR	GARETH EVANS
LANGUAGE	INDONESIAN (ENGLISH SUBTITLES)
SESSIONS	LIDO CINEMAS SAT 20 APRIL, 6:15PM
	RITZ CINEMAS FRI 19 APRIL, 6:15PM SAT 4 MAY, 8:30PM

SUNDANCE FILM FESTIVAL 2012, TORONTO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL 2011



THE BRAZEN

BEZKAUNĪGIE

"...dissects the ugliest truths of a seemingly pristine family." — $\mbox{\it CINEEUROPA}$

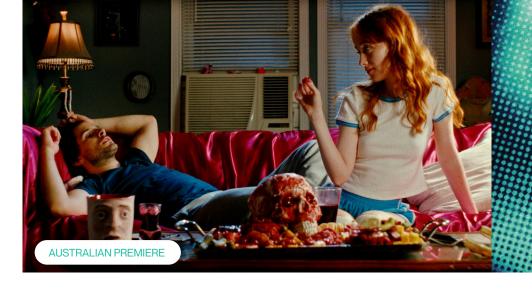
Helena feels unfulfilled in her marriage to university lecturer husband Rihards as they move with their children into a remote house in the countryside, where Helena hopes to renovate the run-down property and convert it into a dance retreat. They soon discover that the house, belonging to her late entomologist father, appears to be plagued by an endless infestation of bugs.

The infestation at the center of *The Brazen* creeps its way past the tropes of the "family moves into a fixer-upper home – frights ensue" horror and into the cracked façade of a seemingly perfect family, using black humour and psychological horror to evoke Lars von Trier as much as it does Argento and Cronenberg, and to crawl under your skin.

Screens with Theda (pg 29)

LATVIA • 2023 • 78 MIN	
DIRECTOR	AIK KARAPETIAN
LANGUAGE	LATVIAN, FRENCH (ENGLISH SUBTITLES)
SESSIONS	LIDO CINEMAS THU 25 APRIL, 8:50PM WED 1 MAY, 6:00PM
	RITZ CINEMAS THU 2 MAY, 8:10PM MON 6 MAY, 8:00PM

TALLINN BLACK NIGHTS FILM FESTIVAL 2023



CANNIBAL MUKBANG

"...a veritable buffet of guts, blood, and bones."

- HORROR PRESS

Shy and looking for love, Mark becomes smitten with the outgoing and mysterious Ash, who, much to his surprise, reciprocates the attraction. As his feelings for her intensify, so does his unexpected submersion into Ash's biggest fixation: the wild world of mukbanging. And with it, lots of bloodshed.

A dash of *Jennifer's Body*, a twist of *Scott Pilgrim*, and a pinch of *Pearl* are the tasting notes for this knockout indie rom-com turned gonzo exploitation horror by first-timer Aimee Kuge. Carried by a razor-sharp script, palpable chemistry between its lead performers, and enough blood and bone to make a butcher blush, *Cannibal Mukbang* is a deviant delight and certainly one of the most unhinged love stories ever set to celluloid.

ISA • 2023 •	101 MIN
DIRECTOR	AIMEE KUGE
ANGUAGE	ENGLISH
ESSIONS	LIDO CINEMAS SAT 27 APRIL, 8:30PM MON 6 MAY, 8:30PM
	THORNBURY PICTURE HOUSE FRI 26 APRIL, 8:40PM
	RITZ CINEMAS WED 24 APRIL, 6:00PM

BROOKLYN HORROR FILM FESTIVAL 2023, AUSTIN FILM FESTIVAL 2023, SCREAMFEST LOS ANGELES 2023

★For Q&A details visit the website



THE CHILDE

GWI-GONG-JA

"*** This twisty thriller...is what might happen if
Quentin Tarantino, with a bit of an assist from John
Woo, Park Chan-wook's 'Old Boy' and the spirit of Alfred
Hitchcock, had directed an episode of 'Succession'."

- HOUSTON CHRONICLE

In a bid to find money for his mother's surgery, Marco, an amateur boxer living on the dark, grimy streets of the Philippines, searches for his estranged Korean father. When he's visited by a group of mysterious guests claiming to be his father's associates, Marco knows something is off. Before he knows it, he's whisked away on a one-way flight to Korea with an eccentric assassin with Machiavellian objectives on his tail, leaving a trail of violence in his wake.

A neo-noir, non-stop nail-biter, *The Childe* features some of the most insane, gravity-defying action you'll see this year, with slick, larger-than-life characters, touches of dark humour, and one of the most unhinged antagonists in recent memory.

SOUTH KOREA • 2023 • 118 MIN	
DIRECTOR	PARK HOON-JUNG
LANGUAGE	KOREAN (ENGLISH SUBTITLES)
SESSIONS	LIDO CINEMAS SAT 4 MAY, 6:15PM
	RITZ CINEMAS SAT 27 APRIL, 6:15PM

FANTASIA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL 2023, SITGES FILM FESTIVAL 2023



THE DEEP DARK

GUEULES NOIRES

"...A taut genre exercise in fear and tension, *The Deep Dark* in its best moments leaves us as breathless as it does its motley collection of desperate, trapped miners"

- ALEXANDRA HELLER-NICHOLAS

In 1956, a crew of hardened coalminers are forced to escort a professor on an expedition into a cave one thousand meters beneath the surface. Trapped by a landslide and with no way out, they unseal an abandoned crypt, uncovering a godlike creature of Lovecraftian horror that reveals the true purpose of their mission.

Evoking horror classics like *The Thing* and *The Descent*, this claustrophobic creature feature grows more tense and intriguing as director Mathieu Turi delves deeper into the catacombs, crafting the kind of subterranean thriller that feels lost to time. *The Deep Dark* is the kind of creature feature that would always catch your eye at the video store as a kid, and somehow lived up to your most horrific hopes.

Screens with Ancient Lore (pg 28)

RANCE • 2023 • 102 MIN	
IRECTOR	MATHIEU TURI
ANGUAGE	FRENCH (ENGLISH SUBTITLES)
ESSIONS	LIDO CINEMAS SAT 20 APRIL, 8:30PM TUE 7 MAY, 8:10PM
	RITZ CINEMAS FRI 26 APRIL, 8:30PM TUE 7 MAY, 8:25PM

FANTASTIC FEST USA 2023, SITGES FILM FESTIVAL 2023



DIVINITY

"A boldly demented science fiction saga that melds the unsettling body horror of David Cronenberg and the seductive surrealism of David Lynch with a menacing video game-inflected spirit of its own."

- THE DAILY BEAST

In a barren dystopia, scientist Sterling Pierce has dedicated his life to the quest for immortality, slowly creating the building blocks of a groundbreaking serum named 'Divinity'. His son Jaxxon (Stephen Dorff) now controls and manufactures his father's once-benevolent dream, and is developing plans to commercialise the drug, causing horrible ramifications for humanity. That is, until two cosmic brothers crash into the decaying Earth to abduct Jaxxon and put a stop to his monstrous scheme.

Written and directed by Eddie Alcazar, produced by Steven Soderbergh (*Solaris*) and gorgeously shot on 16mm black and white reversal film, *Divinity* is a mind-melting retro-futurist experience like no other. Featuring an eclectic ensemble cast that includes Stephen Dorff, former teen star Bella Thorne (*The DUFF*), four-time Mr. Universe champion Michael O'Hearn, TV star Karrueche Tran (TNT's *Claws*) and contemporary adult film performer Emily Willis. This future cult classic must be seen to be believed.

USA • 2023 • 88 MIN	
DIRECTOR	EDDIE ALCAZAR
LANGUAGE	ENGLISH
SESSIONS	LIDO CINEMAS FRI 19 APRIL, 8:45PM WED 1 MAY, 8:10PM
	THORNBURY PICTURE HOUSE TUE 30 APRIL, 8:35PM
	RITZ CINEMAS SAT 20 APRIL, 8:40PM WED 1 MAY, 6:00PM

FANTASIA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL 2023, FANTASTIC FESTIVAL USA 2023, SITGES FILM FESTIVAL 2023, SUNDANCE FILM FESTIVAL 2023



DOGMAN

"Dogman may be the closest thing the director has come to making an autobiography — that is if you get past all the barking, mascara and blood."

- THE HOLLYWOOD REPORTER

As a child, Douglas was abused by a violent father who literally threw him to the dogs. Instead of attacking him, the dogs protected him. Traumatized, and leading a life on the margins of society, completely isolated except for the company of his dogs, Douglas descends into murderous madness.

One of the most outrageous films of the year, this delightfully dark mix of *Taxi Driver*, *Beethoven* and even *Home Alone* features an incredible lead performance from Caleb Landry Jones (*Nitram*) as a man broken by trauma, disability and rejection, but held together by a deep passion for Shakespeare, Edith Piaf and exacting brutal vengeance alongside a four-legged army.

FRANCE • 2023 • 114 MIN	
DIRECTOR	LUC BESSON
LANGUAGE	ENGLISH
SESSIONS	LIDO CINEMAS WED 24 APRIL, 8:15PM FRI 3 MAY, 6:00PM
	RITZ CINEMAS FRI 19 APRIL, 8:30PM SUN 5 MAY, 5:45PM

VENICE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL 2023, BUSAN INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL 2023

Screens with Bold Eagle (pg 28)



HOOD WITCH

ROQYA

Life is far from easy for Nour, who is navigating the challenges of single parenthood while earning a risky living as a smuggler of exotic flora and fauna. In hopes of a better future for her son, she creates a mobile app that connects clients with mystical marabout healers. At first, it seems like they're on the path to success, but after a patient's consultation devolves into tragedy, Nour faces a backlash of extreme violence that threatens her son's life and her own.

A riveting feature-length chase starring Golshifteh Farahani (*Paterson*) and Denis Lavant (*Holy Motors*, *Beau Travail*), *Hood Witch*'s thrills are packed with social commentary, offering a refreshing take on the ways in which social media can fuel the flames of outrage. It's one woman against the world in this strong directorial debut from a promising talent.

Screens with Coléoptère (pg 29)

FRANCE • 2024 • 96 MIN	
DIRECTOR	SAÏD BELKTIBIA
LANGUAGE	FRENCH (ENGLISH SUBTITLES)
SESSIONS	LIDO CINEMAS TUE 23 APRIL, 6:15PM TUE 30 APRIL, 6:10PM
	RITZ CINEMAS MON 22 APRIL, 6:00PM TUE 7 MAY, 6:00PM

SITGES FILM FESTIVAL 2023, SXSW FILM FESTIVAL 2024



KRAZY HOUSE

"This is the American dream – and the nuclear family – bloodily exploded." – SIGHT & SOUND

Christian homemaker Bernie (Nick Frost) and his wife Eva (Alicia Silverstone) live with their perfect family in an idyllic 1990s sitcom, complete with canned laughter. When cracks start to appear in their blissful, TV-friendly lives, Bernie enlists the help of a bloodthirsty Russian criminal and his crack-smoking, mullet-toting teenage sons. Soon enough, their reality devolves into increasingly violent chaos, and when Bernie's faith is pushed to the ultimate breaking point, a voice speaks to him from the great beyond to "kill them all".

Coming hot off its infamous Sundance premiere, this utterly unhinged comedy features one of the most bananas genre shifts since *Hot Fuzz*. The English-language debut from Dutch provocateurs Steffen Haars and Flip Van der Kuil, *Krazy House* consistently outdoes itself with increasing levels of depravity and blood-curdling horror. A bonafide cult hit in the making, nothing is sacred in this gloriously unsettling nuking of the family unit.

NETHERLANDS • 2024 • 86 MIN
DIRECTOR STEFFEN HAARS &

FLIP VAN DER KUIL

LANGUAGE ENGLISH, RUSSIAN (ENGLISH SUBTITLES)

SESSIONS LIDO CINEMAS

SAT 4 MAY, 8:45PM WED 8 MAY, 8:10PM

RITZ CINEMAS SAT 27 APRIL, 8:45PM

SAT 27 APRIL, 8:45PN FRI 3 MAY, 8:15PM

SUNDANCE FILM FESTIVAL 2024 – MIDNIGHT SCREENING, ROTTERDAM FILM FESTIVAL 2024



THE LAST STOP TO YUMA COUNTY

"Galluppi knocks it out of the park with his take on the crime thriller with a sprinkle of pitch-black comedy"

- DREAD CENTRAL

A travelling knife salesman (*Thunder Road*'s Jim Cummings) is caught in a twist of fate when a pair of fleeing bank robbers storm a roadside diner after a routine stop. The diner's patrons and staff are thrust into a perilous hostage scenario and, like a pot of hot bitter coffee, tensions brew as allegiances shift, drawn guns sway power and the bank heisters' spoils await the last man standing.

With a simple premise, sharp-tongued dialogue, and an ensemble of beloved character actors as a cast of oddball locals, this directorial debut is a single-location crime thriller that delights at every tense turn.

Harkening back to an era of revisionist genre cinema like Reservoir Dogs, Fargo and Two Hands and slyly infused with fresh humour and nasty personality, The Last Stop in Yuma County is a genuine blast from a new filmmaker of immense promise.

Screens with Ten of Swords (pg 29)

USA • 2024 • 90 MIN	
DIRECTOR	FRANCIS GALLUPPI
LANGUAGE	ENGLISH
SESSIONS	LIDO CINEMAS FRI 19 APRIL, 6:15PM FRI 3 MAY, 8:30PM
	RITZ CINEMAS THU 25 APRIL, 6:30PM SAT 4 MAY, 6:00PM

SITGES 2023 – WINNER: BEST FEATURE FILM IN THE ÒRBITA SECTION, FANTASTIC FEST USA 2023



MAMI WATA

"★★★★ The sleek, stark images of this film are hypnotic; the faces are compelling and the hallucinatory finale is rather inspired. An arresting piece of work."

- THE GUARDIAN

In the oceanside village of lyi, the revered Mama Efe acts as an intermediary between the people and the all-powerful water deity Mami Wata. When a young boy is lost to a virus, Efe's devoted daughter Zinwe and skeptical protégé Prisca warn Efe about unrest among the villagers. With the sudden arrival of a mysterious rebel deserter named Jasper, a conflict erupts, leading to a violent clash of ideologies and a crisis of faith for the people of lyi.

Nigeria's third-ever Oscar entry, this potent modern fable from C.J. Fiery Obasi deploys vivid, monochromatic black-and-white cinematography, rich sound design, and a hypnotic score in a folk-futurist style, both earthy and otherworldly, to depict a pitched battle between opportunistic militants promising technological progress and a matriarchal spiritual order living in fragile harmony with the ocean.

Mami Wata transports us to a place that seems both suspended in time and perhaps running out of time as the threats of modern life wash upon its shores.

NIGERA/FRANCE/SWITZERLAND
2022 - 107 MIN

SESSIONS	LIDO CINEMAS
LANGUAGE	WEST AFRICAN PIDGIN (ENGLISH SUBTITLES)
DIRECTOR	C.J. 'FIERY' OBASI

SAT 27 APRIL, 6:15PM THU 2 MAY, 6:30PM

RITZ CINEMAS THU 18 APRIL, 6:00PM SUN 28 APRIL, 6:15PM

SUNDANCE FILM FESTIVAL 2023

— WINNER, WORLD CINEMA
DRAMATIC SPECIAL JURY AWARD:
CINEMATOGRAPHY, NIGERIA'S ENTRY
TO THE ACADEMY AWARDS FOR BEST
INTERNATIONAL FEATURE FILM,
NOMINATED FOR BEST INTERNATIONAL
FEATURE FILM AT THE 2024
INDEPENDENT SPIRIT AWARDS



MARS EXPRESS

"Périn brings fresh ideas and a level of granular detail to this gritty and downbeat view of the near future."

- SCREEN INTERNATIONAL

In the 23rd century, a private detective and her android partner are hired by a wealthy businessman to hunt down an infamous cybernetics hacker. On Mars, they venture deep into the heart of the planet's capital, discovering a web of intrigue involving brain farms, corruption and a girl's disappearance that may reveal a truth about robots that could revolutionize society.

Mars Express fuses the science fiction neon noir of Blade Runner with the sleek animation of mind melters like Ghost in the Shell and Paprika to reach for new philosophical insight into our relationship with technology, without ever compromising the excitement of its raceagainst-the-clock pacing.

Screens with AstroNots (pg 28)

FRANCE • 20)23 • 88 MIN
DIRECTOR	JÉRÉMIE PÉRIN
LANGUAGE	FRENCH (ENGLISH SUBTITLES)
SESSIONS	LIDO CINEMAS FRI 26 APRIL, 8:15PM WED 8 MAY, 6:00PM
	THORNBURY PICTURE HOUSE THU 25 APRIL, 6:15PM
	RITZ CINEMAS TUE 30 APRIL, 8:15PM THU 9 MAY, 6:00PM

CANNES FILM FESTIVAL 2023, ANNECY INTERNATIONAL ANIMATION FESTIVAL 2023, NOMINATED — BEST ANIMATED FILM, CÉSAR AWARDS 2023



"A fantastically avant garde work of docu-fiction that is fabulously shot and sonically designed."

- LETTERBOXD USER GLENN DUNKS

After a genre-bending, form-defying and rule-breaking run of shorts dealing with Al cyborgs, geoengineering and tropical mysticism, rising star Riar Rizaldi makes his feature debut with *Monisme*.

Mount Merapi, the world's most active stratovolcano, hangs over the city of Yogyakarta like a ticking time bomb. Many communities and subcultures inhabit the volcano's ridges and valleys, each with their own conception of Merapi. Gangsters roam the region, thirsty for blood; volcanologists study the earth, hoping to preempt disaster; and miners work in the shafts, just making ends meet.

Riar's boundary-pushing style reaches new highs in *Monisme*, taking us to the unexpected nexus of B-horror, hybrid doco, and gangster flick, culminating in an animistic trance freak out, and leaving us asking where the line is between fact and fiction, and between this plane and the next.

CO-PRESENTED BY



INDONESIA/QATAR • 2023 • 115 MIN		
DIRECTOR	RIAR RIZALDI	
LANGUAGE	INDONESIAN, JAVANESE (ENGLISH SUBTITLES)	
SESSIONS	LIDO CINEMAS SUN 21 APRIL, 6:00PM THU 2 MAY, 9:00PM	
	RITZ CINEMAS SUN 21 APRIL, 6:20PM WED 1 MAY, 8:15PM	

SÃO PAULO 2023, FID MARSEILLE 2023



THE NAKED GUN - NUDE SCREENING EVENT

FFFA's nude screening event returns with a very special presentation of the irresistibly silly and aptly named classic, *The Naked Gun*. To quote Leslie Nielson, "I'm sure we can handle this situation maturely."

"The Naked Gun is a furiously funny farce."

- DAVID STRATTON. THE MOVIE SHOW SBS

Leslie Nielson stars as the uncompromisingly incompetent Lieutenant Frank Drebin. When investigating the murder of his partner, Derbin uncovers that respected businessman Vincent Ludwig (Ricardo Montalban) may be planning to brainwash a baseball player with a mind-control device to assassinate Queen Elizabeth II.

USA • 1988 • 85 MIN	
DIRECTOR	DAVID ZUCKER
LANGUAGE	ENGLISH
SESSIONS	LIDO CINEMAS SUN 28 APRIL, 4:00PM ★
	RITZ CINEMAS SUN 28 APRIL, 4:00PM ★

() SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR EVENT GUIDELINES



NEW LIFE

"...As the film's initial scope of Jessie and Elsa continues to zoom out, we suddenly all know the traumatic horror of *New Life* all too well. And we feel for our hero to a depth that action-thrillers have never known. What a delight, what a discovery." — ROGEREBERT.COM

Jessica is on the run. Scrounging for her next meal whilst dodging the authorities who are hot on her tail, her life has been ripped from her for reasons she cannot fully comprehend. All she knows is that she has to make it to the Canadian border to regain some form of freedom. On the other side is Elsa, a 'fixer' operating in a legal grey zone, tasked with hunting down Jessica. As the pursuit tightens, a horrific truth is revealed, and the stakes of their inevitable confrontation become greater than either of them could have ever imagined.

A powerhouse thriller that begins as a classic game of cat and mouse, only for the rug to be pulled from underneath us as it shifts into jaw dropping, unexpected territory, keeping us on the edge of our seats as its many layers begin to peel away. *New Life* is a blazing debut from John Rosman, who treats us to a fresh, commanding and unforgettable chase film of world-ending proportions.

JSA • 2023 •	85 MIN
DIRECTOR	JOHN ROSMAN
ANGUAGE	ENGLISH
SESSIONS	LIDO CINEMAS MON 22 APRIL, 8:30PM
	FRI 26 APRIL, 6:15PM
	THORNBURY PICTURE HOUSE SAT 27 APRIL, 9:15PM

FANTASIA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL 2023, FRIGHTFEST 2023



ONCE WITHIN A TIME

"*** Once Within a Time proposes that, in the search for viable alternatives to techno-fascism and climate apocalypse, we might look to the margins of our world, to unfulfilled experiments (including those of cinema) and cultures supposedly left behind by history. It's still not too late to set ourselves on some other trajectory." — SLANT MAGAZINE

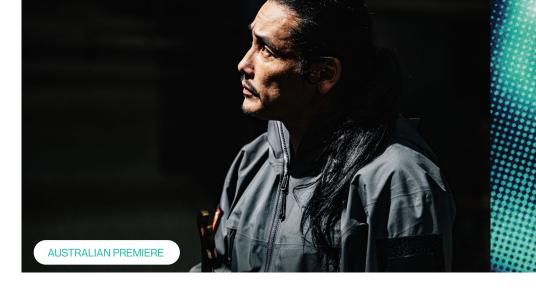
After ten years, celebrated auteur Godfrey Reggio (Koyaanisqatsi) returns with a bold new experimentation unlike anything we've seen in his already daring career: a bardic fairy tale about the end of the world and the beginning of a new one, tinged with apocalyptic comedy, rapturous cinematography, unforgettable vistas, and the innocence and hopes of a new generation.

Featuring an electrifying score composed by Reggio's longtime collaborator Philip Glass, with additional vocals from Sussan Deyhim, and co-directed by veteran editor and filmmaker Jon Kane, *Once Within a Time* is the indie revelation of the year.

Screens with Stranger (pg 29)

USA • 2023 • 52 MIN	
DIRECTOR CO-DIRECTOR	GODFREY REGGIO JON KANE
LANGUAGE	ENGLISH
SESSIONS	LIDO CINEMAS THU 25 APRIL, 6:00PM SUN 5 MAY, 4:45PM
	RITZ CINEMAS TUE 23 APRIL, 6:30PM WED 8 MAY, 6:30PM

TORONTO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL 2023



ONE PERCENTER

"Pure action filmmaking confidence executed on a level most in the world could only hope to achieve... one of the great action films of 2023." — CINAPSE

Takuma Toshiro is a man with only one goal: the perfection of action film acting. When his samurai-like approach to this holy profession clashes with an industry addicted to wires, CGI and quick edits, Toshiro and his trusty apprentice, Akira, decide to make their dream film themselves. When actual violence finds its way onto their film set in the form of yakuza mobsters looking for a hidden cache of drugs, Toshiro and Akira are suddenly thrust into very real action. Is this the ideal opportunity to take his profession to the next level? As lives are lost and chaos ensues, Toshiro finds that the gap between action film "fantasy" and "reality" isn't quite what he thought.

Adrenaline-pumping, pure action filmmaking featuring some of the best martial arts choreography since *The Raid* (also screening in this year's FFFA), *One Percenter* is both an invigorating love letter and five finger punch to a genre in dire need of a fresh vision.

JAPAN • 2023 • 85 MIN	
DIRECTOR	YÛDAI YAMAGUCHI
LANGUAGE	JAPANESE (ENGLISH SUBTITLES)
SESSIONS	LIDO CINEMAS SUN 28 APRIL, 6:00PM
	RITZ CINEMAS MON 22 APRIL, 8:30PM THU 9 MAY, 8:15PM

FANTASIA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL 2023, FANTASTIC FEST USA 2023, BRUSSELS INTERNATIONAL FANTASTIC FILM FESTIVAL 2023



PANDEMONIUM

"...a disturbing and distressing manifestation of the afterlife." - THN

Nathan wakes up on a cold, desolate mountain road, unsure how he got there. He's not alone though. Other tortured figures emerge around him, similarly perplexed by their strange situation. When two mysterious doors suddenly appear on the road, they soon realise that a moment of divine judgement is upon them.

A macabre spin on *Dante's Inferno* and Milton's *Paradise Lost*, multi-disciplinary director Quarxx pushes us through a series of increasingly twisted fantasies, delving into the darkest recesses of the human experience to construct this multi-textured existential fantasy. His signature spin on visceral horror, peppered with surprising moments of comedy, conjures a disturbing but deeply profound vision of madness, sin, suffering and the terror of our own mortality.

FRANCE • 2023 • 92 MIN	
DIRECTOR	QUARXX
LANGUAGE	FRENCH (ENGLISH SUBTITLES)
SESSIONS	LIDO CINEMAS MON 22 APRIL, 6:30PM MON 29 APRIL, 6:10PM
	RITZ CINEMAS WED 24 APRIL, 8:15PM MON 6 MAY, 6:00PM

FANTASIA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL 2023, SITGES FILM FESTIVAL 2023



THE PRIMEVALS

"A wonderful throwback to the films that once inspired us." — SCREENANARCHY

A film over 50 years in the making, *The Primevals* is the culmination of the life's work of the legendary Oscarnominated visual effect artist David Allen (*Howling, Young Sherlock, Ghostbusters II, Willow*). After budgetary woes and David's tragic early passing at just 54, the film sat unfinished for decades – until now. A glorious tribute to the classic films of Ray Harryhausen and 70s special effects, blending stop motion animation with live action, *The Primevals* is a true time capsule, and a remarkably eyepopping adventure in its own right.

Deep in the Himalayas, a group of sherpas kill a towering humanoid creature. Convinced that it is the legendary Yeti, Dr. Claire Collier organises an expedition with a crew of experts, including her former student Matt Connor, a long-time believer in the creature's existence, and big-game hunter Rondo Montana, to search for more specimens. What awaits them is something bigger and more frightening than what any of them could have imagined.

USA • 2023 • 91 MIN	
DIRECTOR	DAVID ALLEN
LANGUAGE	ENGLISH
SESSIONS	LIDO CINEMAS SUN 21 APRIL, 4:00PM MON 29 APRIL, 8:15PM
	RITZ CINEMAS SUN 21 APRIL, 4:15PM MON 29 APRIL, 6:20PM

FANTASIA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL 2023, SITGES FILM FESTIVAL 2023



VINCENT MUST DIE

VINCENT DOIT MOURIR

"Come for the violence, stay for the giggles"

- DREAD CENTRAL

Random strangers have suddenly started attacking Vincent with murderous intent in this nerve-shredding, ground-breaking movie riding the new wave of French horror. Vincent's existence as a completely unremarkable man is overturned, and as things spiral violently out of control, he is forced to change his life completely.

An apocalyptic, bodysnatching, zombified horror-comedy-romance (yes, you read that right), this devilish genre mash-up is as outrageous as it sounds, but at its core is a wickedly clever satire of our collective capacity for anger and selfishness in the modern world.

After premiering at Cannes Critics' Week and snatching up two top prizes at Sitges, *Vincent Must Die* might just make you want to shove a pencil in a co-worker's eye.

FRANCE • 2023 • 115 MIN	
DIRECTOR	STÉPHAN CASTANG
LANGUAGE	FRENCH (ENGLISH SUBTITLES)
SESSIONS	LIDO CINEMAS TUE 30 APRIL, 8:30PM SUN 5 MAY, 6:30PM
	RITZ CINEMAS SAT 20 APRIL, 6:15PM SUN 5 MAY, 8:10PM

CANNES FILM FESTIVAL CRITICS' WEEK 2023, BFI LONDON FILM FESTIVAL 2023, FANTASIA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL 2023 — WINNER: BEST NEW DIRECTOR, BEST ACTOR, FANTASY FILMFEST 2023, BEYOND FEST 2023



THE VOURDALAK

LE VOURDALAK

"A dark, delicious fairytale fantasy brought to life with profound emotional integrity, *The Vourdalak* breathes new life into the far-too-often pedestrian vampire movie." — ALEXANDRA HELLER-NICHOLAS

Lost in a hostile forest, the Marquis d'Urfé, a noble emissary of the King of France, finds refuge in the home of a strange family whose patriarch, away at war, returns in the form of the vampiric Vourdalak.

Based on A.K. Tolstoy's classic gothic novella, a proto-vampire story preceding Stoker's *Dracula* by 50 years, *The Vourdalak* is a refreshing depiction of the iconic horror monster that is unafraid to embrace its gothic roots. Reminiscent of old school Jean Rollin and Hammer Horror, with authentically vintage 70s vibes, *The Vourdalak* is just as dreamy as it is scary.

Screens with The Christ of the Skull (pg 28)

FRANCE • 2023 • 90 MIN	
DIRECTOR	ADRIEN BEAU
LANGUAGE	FRENCH (ENGLISH SUBTITLES)
SESSIONS	LIDO CINEMAS TUE 23 APRIL, 8:45PM MON 6 MAY, 6:15PM
	RITZ CINEMAS THU 18 APRIL, 8:25PM TUE 30 APRIL, 6:00PM

VENICE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL 2023 - CRITICS' WEEK, SITGES FILM FESTIVAL 2023

PRE-FEATURE SHORT FILMS

Experience a cinematic appetizer with our pre-feature lineup of short films. A tantalizing array of storytelling morsels from around the world perfectly paired alongside a feature film feast.



ANCIENT LORE

GERMANY • 2023 • 6 MIN • DIRECTOR PATRICK MÜLLER

Troubled waters and accursed thaumaturges: Lovecraft's haunting vision of the sea and the unfathomable mysteries that lie within its depths, but also the ancient lore hidden beneath the waters.

Screens with The Deep Dark (pg 11)



ASTRONOTS

AUSTRALIA • 2023 • 10 MIN • DIRECTOR ANDREW JOHN JAMES SEATON

Astronots is a short comedy about two astronauts about to take off on a vital mission to Mars. One of them has inextricably fumbled his way through training and ended up in the most important seat in the universe.

Screens with Mars Express (pg 18)



BOLD EAGLE

PHILIPPINES • 2022 • 16 MIN • DIRECTOR WHAMMY ALCAZAREN

Trapped at home during the pandemic, Bold suffers an existential crisis of the self and finally confronts his daddy issues. Together with his talking cat and with the help of some hallucinogenic drugs, Bold takes a deep dive into the chaos of the Internet.

Screens with Divinity (pg 12)



THE CHRIST OF THE SKULL

SPAIN • 2023 • 14 MIN • DIRECTOR CHUS LARA

Set in 13th-century Toledo, the two friends, Lope Sandoval and Alonso de Carrillo, engage in a deadly duel at midnight for the love of Inés de Tordesillas.

Screens with The Vourdalak (pg 27)



COLÉOPTÈRE

FRANCE • 2023 • 15 MIN • DIRECTOR MARTIN GOUZOU

Grégoire Samsa is a solitary young man, a building caretaker, always ready to help everyone in order to exist. Scorned, even by his adoptive mother, Grégoire will begin an uncontrolled mutation.

Screens with Hood Witch (pg 14)



STRANGER

FRANCE • 2023 • 19 MIN • DIRECTOR JEHNNY BETH & IRIS CHASSAIGNE

For the past 548 days, A has been absent from her own life, unable to feel anything. One night, J appears and takes her along with her, looking for ways to make her heart beat again. *Stranger* is a musical tale, the story of an awakening.

Screens with Once Within a Time (pg 22)



TEN OF SWORDS

UK • 2023 • 16 MIN • DIRECTOR FAYE JACKSON

Jay wakes up dead - obviously murdered - and discovers that everything the agency told him about becoming a zombie was a lie.

Screens with Last Stop to Yuma County (pg 16)



THEDA

AUSTRALIA • 2023 • 15 MIN • DIRECTOR CALLUM MOORE

When Maya is dragged out to a desolate country home by her fiancé Lucas, she begins to realise the pitfalls of her relationship through strange manifestations of their older selves.

Screens with The Brazen (pg 8)

MELBOURNE SHORT FILMS

We're presenting a stacked lineup of the best and brightest shorts made in Naarm. Come and meet local voices on the cutting edge with films that capture the time, place and mood of genre cinema now.

Lido Cinemas — Thursday 2 May, 6:15pm



ALIEIN WAIT

19 MIN • DIRECTOR EDVARD CHRISTIE

Asked to house-sit while the owners are away, Paul Syndle arrives to find Ken and Trudy Finch still home, having missed the last bus of the day.



INFLUENCE

17 MIN . DIRECTOR NICK VIDLER

A segregated Christian cult and the world of internet fame collide when Abigail Aberdeen is told to make videos for God's eyes only.



LITHIUM

12 MIN • DIRECTOR ERIN MCMAHON

A young woman depends on her partner for happiness. As her mental stability wavers, their relationship strains and loneliness take a hold.



RAGDOLL

11 MIN • DIRECTOR ALEXANDER ZACHARY HODGE

Lucy drags Max to a nightclub to test the waters of their relationship and get him out of his comfort zone. As they settle in, however, Max is hit with a desire that comes from an unexpected place.



ROAD TO SATURN

16 MIN • DIRECTOR CALLUM THOMAS

After the world falls to a mysterious form of contagious dementia, an evacuating couple in rural Australia must decide whether to leave their sick friend behind or risk their own safety to save her.



TORC

10 MIN • DIRECTOR JOE WINKLER

In an effort to make rent, a young woman takes a job at an experimental mental health clinic.

EVENTS

OPENING NIGHT

Experience the Australian Premiere of the new Aussie horror *Sting* with director Kiah Roache-Turner in attendance.

Drinks and DJ on arrival. The film will be followed by a Q&A.



Sydney

Ritz Cinemas

Wednesday 17 April — 7:00pm arrivals, 7:45pm screening followed by Q&A

Melbourne

Lido Cinemas

Thursday 18 April — 7:00pm arrivals, 7:45pm screening followed by Q&A

Adult \$35 / Concession \$29 / Member \$28

CLOSING NIGHT

A one night only audio-visual sensory experience not to be missed, electronic artist Corin performs an in-cinema live score to accompany a special 15th anniversary screening of Gaspar Noé's *Enter the Void!* Includes drinks on arrival.



Corin is an electronic music producer and DJ working in the field of performance art, sound design, theatre and club spaces. Her productions are an assemblage of converging styles moving between IDM, EBM, trance, and baroque-laden ambience.

Melbourne

Lido Cinemas

Thursday 9 May — 7:00pm arrivals, 7:30pm Enter the Void screening

Sydney

Ritz Cinemas

Friday 10 May — 7:00pm arrivals, 7:30pm Enter the Void screening

Adult \$38 / Concession \$34 / Member \$33

METAL SKIN – Q&A WITH GEOFFREY WRIGHT – 30TH ANNIVERSARY



Join us for a post-film conversation with Geoffrey Wright at these special screenings.

Melbourne

Lido Cinemas

Wednesday 24 April — 6:30pm screening followed by Q&A

Sydney

Ritz Cinemas

Friday 26 April — 6:30pm screening followed by Q&A

SESSION TIMES

MELBOURNE — LIDO CINEMAS, HAWTHORN

8:50PM

THU 18 APRIL		
7:00PM	Opening Night event for 7:45pm screening of Sting ★	
FRI 19 APRIL		
6:15PM	The Last Stop to	
	Yuma County	
8:45PM	Divinity	
SAT 20 APRIL		
6:15PM	The Raid	
8:30PM	The Deep Dark	
SUN 21 APRIL		
4:00PM	The Primevals	

The Primevals 6:00PM Monisme

MON 22 APRIL 6:30PM Pandemonium 8:30PM New Life

TUE 23 APRIL 6:15PM Hood Witch 8:45PM The Vourdalak **WED 24 APRIL** 6:30PM Metal Skin * 8:15PM Dogman

THU 25 APRIL 6:00PM Once Within a Time

The Brazen

FRI 26 APRIL 6:15PM New Life 8:15PM Mars Express

SAT 27 APRIL 6:15PM Mami Wata 8:30PM Cannibal Mukbang

SUN 28 APRIL 4:00PM The Naked Gun * 6:00PM One Percenter

MON 29 APRIL 6:10PM Pandemonium 8:15PM The Primevals **TUE 30 APRIL**

6:10PM Hood Witch 8:30PM Vincent Must Die

WED 1 MAY 6:00PM The Brazen 8:10PM Divinity

THU 2 MAY 6:15PM Melbourne Shorts * 6:30PM Mami Wata 9:00PM Monisme

FRI 3 MAY 6:00PM Dogman 8:30PM The Last Stop to Yuma County

SAT 4 MAY 6:15PM The Childe Krazy House SUN 5 MAY

4:45PM Once Within a Time

6:30PM Vincent Must Die

MON 6 MAY

6:15PM The Vourdalak 8:30PM Cannibal Mukbang

TUE 7 MAY 6:15PM

Metal Skin 8:10PM The Deep Dark

WED 8 MAY

6:00PM Mars Express 8:10PM Krazv House

THU 9 MAY

7:00PM **Closing Night** drinks for 7:30pm

screening of Enter the Void *

MELBOURNE — THORNBURY PICTURE HOUSE, THORNBURY

NEW VENUE

THU 25 APRIL

6:15PM Mars Express

FRI 26 APRIL

8:40PM Cannibal Mukbang

SAT 27 APRIL

9:15PM New Life

MON 29 APRIL

6:20PM Metal Skin

TUES 30 APRIL

8:35PM Divinity



SYDNEY — RITZ CINEMAS, RANDWICK

WED 17 APRIL 7:00PM Opening Night event for 7:45pm screening of Sting * **THU 18 APRIL** 6:00PM Mami Wata 8:25PM The Vourdalak FRI 19 APRIL 6:15PM The Raid 8:30PM Dogman **SAT 20 APRIL** Vincent Must Die 6:15PM 8:40PM Divinity

SUN 21 APRIL

MON 22 APRIL

The Primevals

Monisme

Hood Witch

One Percenter

4:15PM

6:20PM

6:00PM

8:30PM

TUE 23 APRIL 6:30PM Once Within a Time 8:10PM New Life

WED 24 APRIL 6:00PM Cannibal Mukbang

8:15PM Pandemonium **THU 25 APRIL**

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6:30PM Metal Skin * 8:30PM The Deep Dark

SAT 27 APRIL 6:15PM The Childe 8:45PM Krazv House

SUN 28 APRIL

4:00PM The Naked Gun * Mami Wata

MON 29 APRIL

6:20PM The Primevals **TUE 30 APRIL**

6:00PM The Vourdalak 8:15PM Mars Express

WED1MAY 6:00PM

Divinity 8:15PM Monisme

THU 2 MAY 6:15PM Metal Skin 8:10PM The Brazen

FRI 3 MAY 6:30PM Cannibal

Mukbang * 8:15PM Krazy House

SAT 4 MAY 6:00PM The Last Stop to Yuma County 8:30PM The Raid

SUN 5 MAY

5:45PM Dogman 8:10PM Vincent Must Die

MON 6 MAY

6:00PM Pandemonium 8:00PM The Brazen

TUE 7 MAY

Hood Witch 6:00PM 8:25PM The Deep Dark

WED 8 MAY

6:30PM Once Within a Time

THU 9 MAY

8:10PM

6:00PM Mars Express 8:15PM One Percenter

New Life

FRI 10 MAY 7:00PM

Closing Night drinks for 7:30pm screening of Enter the Void *



TICKETS & VENUES

Book now at

fantasticfilmfestival.com.au



MELBOURNE

Lido Cinemas

675 Glenferrie Rd. Hawthorn (03) 8658 0000 lidocinemas.com.au

Thornbury Picture House

802 High St, Thornbury (03) 9995 0040 thornburypicturehouse.com.au

SYDNEY

Ritz Cinemas

45 St Pauls St, Randwick (02) 8324 2500 ritzcinemas.com.au

ALL VENUES

Single Tickets

Adult \$25 Concession \$19.50 Member \$18.50

Group Bookings (20+)

Groups \$16

Lido and Ritz Cinemas group booking enquiries: events@movingstory.com.au Thornbury Picture House group booking enquiries: hello@thornburypicturehouse.com

Special Event Pricing

Opening Night — Adult \$35 / Concession \$29 / Members \$28 Closing Night — Adult \$38 / Concession \$34 / Members \$33

Festival Film Passes*

5 pass \$85 (\$17 per ticket)

10 pass \$155 (\$15.50 per ticket)

VIP pass \$255 (Valid for 1x redemption on every film. Includes Special Events)

*Festival passes are for separate sessions for one person. Five and ten film passes cannot be used for Opening, Closing or Special Events. Festival passes are only valid at the venues they are purchased at. Ten film passes and VIP passes are not available at Thornbury Picture House

Terms and conditions

Single ticket concession rates apply to students, healthcare and pension cardholders and seniors. All tickets are nonrefundable. Tickets can be exchanged for a film at the same venue for a fee of \$2.50 per ticket at least 24 hours prior to screening. VIP festival passes are for separate sessions for one person and can be redeemed on special events.

CODE OF CONDUCT

Fantastic Film Festival Australia does not tolerate inappropriate or unacceptable behaviour, nor any off-screen activities that cause anyone to feel uncomfortable or unsafe. If you experience any of this behaviour, we encourage you to approach festival staff. For Nude Screening guidelines, see our website.

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18 APRIL—9 MAY

THORNBURY PICTURE HOUSE, THORNBURY

25-30 APRIL

RITZ CINEMAS, RANDWICK

17 APRIL—10 MAY

LIDO RITZ Thornbury



