

Press Release
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[MIFF Media Centre](#)

INAUGURAL MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED



Neptune Frost

EMBARGOED 8PM AEST, 20 AUGUST 2022

The **Melbourne International Film Festival (MIFF)** tonight announced the inaugural **MIFF Awards** recipients. Chosen by a distinguished independent jury of industry figures presided over by Jury President, **Shareena Clanton**, the \$140,000 **Bright Horizons Award** winner, supported by VicScreen, was **Neptune Frost** by **Anisia Uzeyman** and **Saul Williams** and the recipient of the \$70,000 **Blackmagic Design Australian Innovation Award** was **Jub Clerc** for direction in **Sweet As**. The **MIFF Audience Award Winner** was **Greenhouse** by **Joost** directed by **Bruce Permezel** and **Rhian Skirving**.

Alongside Jury President, acclaimed stage and screen actor and director **Shareena Clanton** (*Wentworth, Redfern Now*), the jury comprised Emmy award-winning filmmaker and artist **Lynette Wallworth**, internationally acclaimed Australian cinematographer **Adam Arkapaw** (*Animal Kingdom, True Detective*) and Indonesian film director and screenwriter **Mouly Surya** (*Marlina the Murderer in Four Acts*). The jury gathered at Olinda Hall, the site of the very first Melbourne Film Festival event in 1952, to deliberate and determine the 2022 category winners.

Jury President **Shareena Clanton** shared the following comments on behalf of the jury:

On **Neptune Frost**:

Neptune Frost was like nothing we have ever seen before. By disrupting the colonial gaze and connecting the rising influence of technology in all our lives, this film penetrates deeply into your heart and soul to say that you are not too far disconnected from me. It felt at once absolutely specific, and entirely global.

On **Jub Clerc**:

This film was more than just 'sweet'. It crossed worlds and intersected certain realities – incredibly difficult to achieve, even for any accomplished filmmaker. We are so excited to see what happens next in this filmmaker's journey, and hope that this award encourages their future filmmaking projects; that it not just inspires more Indigenous women to be central characters in their own stories, but helps show just how resilient and beautiful Indigenous women are.

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Innovation Award Partner



The newly introduced **MIFF Awards**, which include the **Bright Horizons Competition and Award** and the **Blackmagic Design Australian Innovation Award**, were launched as part of the 70th anniversary alongside the return of the **MIFF Audience Award**. As some of the richest film prizes in the world, the MIFF awards reinforce the festival's place – and that of the Australian film sector – as a major influence within the international festival circuit.

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The establishment of **Bright Horizons** represents a milestone in the festival's storied history and a significant addition to screen culture in the state. The **Bright Horizons Competition** elevates bold Australian and international directorial voices and fresh filmmaking talent, with a specific focus on first and second-time features.

The announcement of the winners was made at MIFF's **Closing Night Gala** at the Forum Theatre Melbourne. With 11 films selected for the Bright Horizons competition, many of the filmmakers were in attendance including international guests **Charlotte Wells** (*Aftersun*), **Lola Quivoron** and **Antonia Buresi** (*Rodeo*), **Natalia López Gallardo** (*Robe of Gems*), **Martika Ramirez Escobar** (*Leonor Must Never Die*) and **Ariel Escalante Meza** (*Domingo and the Mist*) and Australian directors **Thomas M. Wright** (*The Stranger*) and **Alena Lodkina** (*Petrol*, MIFF Premiere Fund).



Jub Clerc

Of the MIFF Bright Horizons Award announcement **Minister for Creative Industries, Steve Dimopoulos**, said: "Through this competition we've supported MIFF to become one of the leading film festivals in the world, showcasing Victoria as a global screen powerhouse with cutting-edge production facilities, iconic locations and world class creative talent."

"Backing our premier film festival is part of our \$191.5 million VICSCREEN strategy which supports local talent, businesses, productions and events to grow the industry, boost jobs in our creative workforce."

"Congratulations to all the winners, nominees and participating filmmakers. This landmark competition is a fantastic way to wrap up two weeks of screen brilliance here in Melbourne."

The **Blackmagic Design Australian Innovation Award** of \$70,000 award recognises an Australian filmmaking talent for their work – be it as director, creative lead or cinematographer, or other key creative – within an Australian feature length film screening at the festival.

"Congratulations to Jub Clerc for winning the Blackmagic Design Australian Innovation Award. What an amazing film and everyone at Blackmagic Design feels honoured to be part of recognizing your creativity. *Sweet As*, as well as the other nominated films, represented the constant innovation we are seeing in the Australian filmmaking world and I can't wait to see what next year's nominees will bring," said **Grant Petty, CEO, Blackmagic Design**.

Selected by MIFF festival-goers from amongst a program of over 250 features, the **2022 MIFF Audience Award** winner was *Greenhouse by Joost*, a Melbourne made documentary with global sustainability at its heart, directed by **Bruce Permezel** and **Rhian Skirving** and supported by the MIFF Premiere Fund.

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Greenhouse by Joost

Of the awards and the 2022 festival, **MIFF Artistic Director, Al Cossar**, said: "MIFF's Awards are about elevating distinctive, ambitious, bold new voices that deserve and demand a global stage. My congratulations to *Neptune Frost*'s Anisia Uzeyman and Saul Williams, and to Jub Clerc, for their incredible work and deserved recognition as our inaugural awards recipients."

"We are vastly proud of the introduction of MIFF's Bright Horizons Competition this year – a truly jaw dropping line up of emerging international and Australian filmmaking, featuring attendances from a worldwide collection of breakthrough filmmakers. We look forward to presenting more incredible cinema, and welcoming further incredible artists, as Bright Horizons and the MIFF Awards continue into the future," continued Cossar.

Encore presentations of **Bright Horizons Award** winner, *Neptune Frost*, and the **Blackmagic Design Australian Innovation Award** winner **Jub Clerc's** *Sweet As* (supported by the MIFF Premiere Fund) will be held at The Capitol on Sunday 21 August. Session details and tickets are available on miff.com.au.

Presented by Nicolas Feuillatte, the festival's **70th Anniversary Closing Night Gala** played host to the Australian premiere of *Clean* – the inspirational portrait of local 'trauma cleaner' **Sandra Pankhurst**. Premiering to acclaim at this year's SXSW, **Lachlan McLeod's** riveting documentary celebrates the compassion and resilience of its endearingly plain-spoken subject. The film screens again on Sunday 21 August at various locations.

Further encore sessions of festival favourites, *My Old School* and *Anak*, have also been announced for MIFF's closing weekend. Final screenings continue throughout the day and evening on Sunday 21 August ahead of the festival's last in-cinema event, a late-night showing of **David Cronenberg's** first film in eight years, *Crimes of the Future*.

As the world's longest film festival – clocking up **25** consecutive days – MIFF 2022 exploded across more Victorian cinema screens than ever before with a blockbuster **26** venues running simultaneously on one day of the schedule. This year, the festival also provided an expanded audience experience in cinema, with their first relaxed and sensory screenings catering to neurodiverse audiences and delivery of cry-baby sessions for new parents.

MIFF was once again proud to continue its vital work as the largest purveyor of Australian cinema in the world, with the 2022 event showcasing **107** Australian releases amidst an expansive international program totalling **371** features and shorts and represented by **71** languages.

Festival records were also smashed with **61** titles arriving from Cannes and a further record **11** MIFF Premiere Fund Films making their world premieres in recent weeks. Attendance was strong across MIFF venues, with MIFF members and the general public demonstrating their voracious appetite for the festival's in-cinema programs and a shared love of cinema.

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The 70th anniversary event was enlivened with the festival's first XR-commission, **Night Creatures**, by long-term collaborators **Isobel Knowles** and **Van Sowerwine** whose playful new work celebrated the holy space that is a MIFF queue. Meanwhile the curated **MIFF Signatures** entertained audiences prior to screenings with three specially commissioned short films from Australian filmmakers **Justin Kurzel** (*Nitram*), **Ivan Sen** (*Mystery Road*) and **Soda Jerk** (*Terror Nullius*).

2022 also saw the launch of **Melbourne on Film: Cinema That Defines Our City**, a book of engaging essays paying tribute to the city's unique cinematic past, including *Monkey Grip*, *Ghosts... of the Civil Dead*, *The Castle* and *Mad Max*. With writing from beloved Melbourne names, including Christos Tsiolkas, Sarah Krasnostein, John Safran, Osman Faruqi, Tristen Harwood and Judith Lucy, **Melbourne on Film** is available in bookstores and online.

Audiences around Australia continue to have the opportunity to catch some of the most talked-about films of the season through the festival's streaming platform, **MIFF Play**. The platform offers access to six of the **Bright Horizons** competition features, various **Melbourne on Film** gems and other highly sought-after films including *The Lost City of Melbourne*, MIFF Premiere Fund titles *Volcano Man*, *Franklin*, *Because We Have Each Other*, *The Endangered Generation* and *Under Cover*, and the lauded documentary thriller, *Navalny*. Hosting **105** festival features and shorts, MIFF Play is available until **28 August**.

2022 MIFF AWARD WINNERS

Bright Horizons Award presented by VicScreen

Neptune Frost

Blackmagic Design Australian Innovation Award

Jub Clerc for *Sweet As*

MIFF Audience Award

Greenhouse by Joost by Bruce Permezel and Rhian Skirving

MIFF AWARDS JURY BIOS

Shareena Clanton (Jury President) is a Wongatha, Yamatji and Ballardong Noongar, Gitja yorga (woman) from Boorloo (Perth) in Whadjuk Noongar Boodjar, who lives in the unceded lands of the Wurundjeri and Boon Wurrung peoples in Melbourne. Her father is African-American, Etowah Cherokee and Blackfoot. She is an acclaimed screen presence across stage, film and television, including *Wentworth*, *Redfern Now*, *Ash vs Evil Dead*, *Fires* and *Joe vs Carol*. She made her film debut in the 2015 feature *Last Cab to Darwin* and her directorial debut in 2019 with Ilbjerri Theatre Company, directing Richard Franklin's *Conversations With the Dead*. Clanton has been nominated for Best Guest or Supporting Actress in a Television Drama at the AACTA Awards (2013), the Graham Kennedy Award for Most Outstanding New Talent at the Logie Awards (2014) and Best New Talent at the Astra Awards (2014). She will next be seen in *The Lost Flowers of Alice Hart* for Amazon Studios, alongside Sigourney Weaver.

Mouly Surya was born and raised in Indonesia, and studied at Swinburne University in Melbourne. She is best known for the critically acclaimed feminist western film *Marlina the Murderer in Four Acts*, which world-premiered in Cannes Directors' Fortnight. Her films have been selected for prestigious film festivals all over the world, including Cannes, Sundance, Toronto and Busan, among many others. She is currently working on her first English-language film for Netflix, starring Jessica Alba.

Lynette Wallworth is an Australian artist/filmmaker who works primarily in immersive environments, including 360-degree film, virtual reality, interactive video and digital fulldome, as well as in feature documentary. Wallworth has received multiple awards (including two Emmys) for her work, which has been shown at numerous locations including the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, The Smithsonian, and the Venice, London and Sundance film festivals, among many others. Wallworth is a member of the World Economic Forum's Global Future Council on Augmented and Virtual Reality and the director of the Forum's New Narratives Lab. She currently sits on the board of the Sundance Institute.

Adam Arkapaw is one of Australia's most respected cinematographers, known for his work across film and television on titles such as *Animal Kingdom*, *True Detective*, *Top of the Lake*, *The Light Between Oceans* and *The King*, among many others. Arkapaw studied at the Victorian College of the Arts in Melbourne, graduating in 2006. He is a recipient of numerous Australian and international awards for his craft, including two Creative Emmy Awards, the Spotlight Award from the American Society of Cinematographers and the AACTA's Byron Kennedy Award in 2015.

– ENDS –

NOTES TO EDITOR

- The 2022 Melbourne International Film Festival (MIFF) runs from 4-28 August
- This is the 70th MIFF event
- In cinemas from 4-21 August
- The MIFF Bright Horizons Award is supported by VicScreen. The winner receives \$140,000
- The Blackmagic Design Australian Innovation Award is supported by Blackmagic Design. The winner receives \$70,000
- MIFF Play, the festival's Australia-wide streaming platform, will be available from 11-28 August
- MIFF's suburban and regional Victorian screenings run 12-21 August
- MIFF's regional program runs in Bairnsdale, Bendigo, Bright, Castlemaine, Echuca, Geelong, Mildura, Sorrento and Warrnambool
- To purchase tickets and explore the full program visit miff.com.au

MEDIA KIT

Imagery and synopsis sheets are available [here](#)

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