

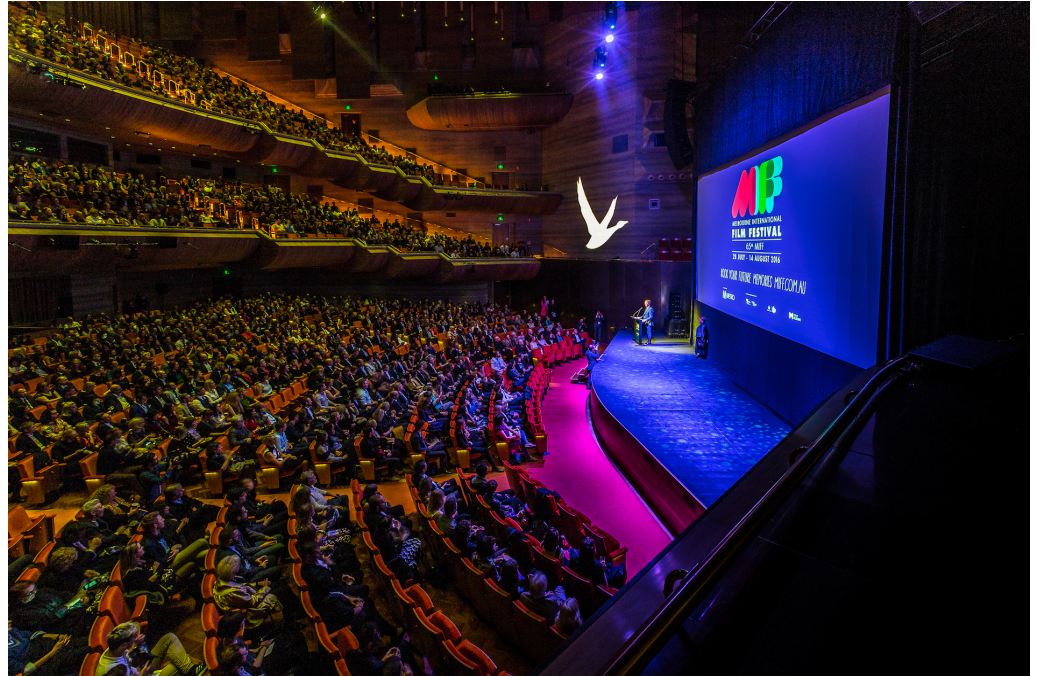
Press Release
4 August 2022

Media Contact
Alice Lewinsky
E alice@commonstate.co
M (+61) 403 837 351

Leigh-Anne Ramirez
E leigh-anne@commonstate.co
M (+61) 439 353 407

[MIFF Media Centre](#)

LIGHTS, CAMERA AND 18 DAYS OF IN-CINEMA ACTION, AS THE 70TH MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL GETS UNDERWAY



The 70th edition of **Melbourne International Film Festival (MIFF)** opens today, with a spectacular gala red carpet event set to usher in the opening weekend of the country's longest running film festival.

Storming back into cinemas for 18 days of action-packed-cinema, MIFF's in-person program – the first since 2019 – will envelop Melbourne CBD with a series of special anniversary events, live gigs, immersive experiences, curated talks and even a Dolly Parton-themed party for the people.

For the first time in three years, MIFF will welcome guests from all over the globe, playing host to some of the world's brightest and boldest filmmakers, who are here to showcase their films first-hand. MIFF's stellar guest line-up features accomplished artists, legendary auteurs and fresh film voices, with the likes of Academy Award-nominee **Brett Morgen**; revered Mexican director **Carlos Reygadas**; and recent Cannes breakout and award-winner **Charlotte Wells** all appearing live, among many others.

Principal Government Partner



An Australian classic in the making, **Goran Stolevski's *Of an Age*** will make its world premiere at the festival's Opening Night Gala, with the film's stars – **Elias Anton**, **Thom Green** and **Hattie Hook** – joining Stolevski for the red carpet event at Hamer Hall this evening.

Major Government Partners



A MIFF Accelerator Lab alumnus and rising star, Stolevski returns to his hometown of Melbourne for the film's premiere having recently been named as one of *Variety's* '10 Directors to Watch' for 2022. Supported by the MIFF Premiere Fund, *Of an Age* follows the brief but lingering romance between two young men over the course of one sweltering summer's day in Melbourne in the late 1990s. Stolevski's debut feature which premiered at Sundance earlier this year, *You Won't Be Alone* is also included in the festival line-up.

MIFF Artistic Director, Al Cossar, said: "We are so thrilled, and so grateful, to return MIFF to Melbourne, in our 70th year – in what will be a true adventure across cinema, and a chance for artists and audiences to reconnect and celebrate after years of separation."

“In 2022, with programming happening across the CBD, suburbs, regional Victoria, as well as MIFF Play presenting festival highlights all across Australia, and our MIFF XR platform taking on the world, MIFF presents an evolution for the festival as much as a return – an extraordinary array of film and filmmakers poised and ready to bring the world on screen to our city, and far beyond.”

Media Contact

Alice Lewinsky
E alice@commonstate.co
M (+61) 403 837 351

Leigh-Anne Ramirez
E leigh-anne@commonstate.co
M (+61) 439 353 407

[MIFF Media Centre](#)

Minister for Creative Industries, Steve Dimopoulos, said: “MIFF is a beloved festival that has woven itself into the cultural fabric of Victoria over the past 70 years, captivating audiences across generations whilst showcasing the state’s dynamic film industry.”

“This year is set to deliver another bumper program for Victorians, while the new \$140,000 Bright Horizons Best Film Award will reinforce the festival’s leading role among top film events and showcase local talent on a global stage.”

“We’re investing in the future of Victoria’s screen industry to deliver growth, jobs and opportunities to our creative industries workforce.”

BRIGHT HORIZONS COMPETITION: JURY AND INNOVATION AWARD SHORTLIST ANNOUNCED

This year, for the first time MIFF is holding the prestigious **Bright Horizons Competition**. The \$140,000 **Bright Horizons Best Film Award**, backed by the Victorian Government, will recognise bold directorial voices and emerging filmmakers. This new competition reinforces MIFF’s position among some of the top film events in the world.

Today, the jury for the inaugural **MIFF Bright Horizons Competition** has been revealed to include Emmy award-winning filmmaker and artist **Lynette Wallworth** alongside internationally acclaimed Australian cinematographer **Adam Arkapaw** (*Animal Kingdom*, *True Detective*), acclaimed stage and screen actor and director **Shareena Clanton** (*Wentworth*, *Last Cab to Darwin*) and Indonesian film director and screenwriter **Mouly Surya** (*Marlina the Murderer in Four Acts*).

The independent jury will award the flagship \$140,000 **Bright Horizons Best Film Award** and the **Blackmagic Design Australian Innovation Award** of \$70,000, which recognises an Australian filmmaking talent for their work – be it as director, creative lead or cinematographer, or other key creative – within a film screening at the festival.

The shortlist for the **Blackmagic Design Australian Innovation Award** was also announced today, with the following creatives recognised:

- David Easteal – *The Plains* – Directing
- Johanna Scott – *Fire Front* – Editing
- Bruce Gladwin, Michael Chan, Mark Deans, Sarah Mainwaring, Simon Laherty, Scott Price, Sonia Teuben – *Shadow* – Screenwriting
- Jub Clerc – *Sweet As* – Directing
- Del Kathryn Barton – *Blaze* – Directing
- Platon Theodoris – *The Lonely Spirits Variety Hour* – Production Design

Of the shortlist, **Grant Petty, CEO, Blackmagic Design**, said: “Congratulations to all the nominees selected for the Blackmagic Design Australian Innovation Award and to the Melbourne International Film Festival for 70 years of supporting global and Australian filmmakers. What a huge honour it is to be sponsoring this award, which mirrors our own vision of constantly innovating to give every creative person the ability to use the best filmmaking technology regardless of budget.”

Winners of both prizes—along with the returning **MIFF Audience Award**—will be announced at the **MIFF Awards Ceremony** on **20 August** at **The Forum Melbourne**, presented by Nicolas Feuillatte.

OPENING WEEKEND

MIFF's opening weekend will also see the Australian premiere of a number of top selections from Cannes 2022, including the Un Certain Regard's 2022 Best Screenplay winner, **Mediterranean Fever** from director **Maha Haj**; **Kristoffer Borgli's** pitch-black satire **Sick of Myself**; **Riley Keough** and **Gina Gammell's** Cannes Camera d'Or winning **War Pony**; and **George Miller's** dreamy **Three Thousand Years of Longing**.

Media Contact

Alice Lewinsky
E alice@commonstate.co
M (+61) 403 837 351

Leigh-Anne Ramirez
E leigh-anne@commonstate.co
M (+61) 439 353 407

Other opening weekend highlights include this year's wildly outrageous Palme d'Or winner **Triangle of Sadness**; the funny and moving **Broker**, from master filmmaker **Hirokazu Kore-eda**; steamy, Cannes Grand Prix-winning romance, **Stars at Noon**; politically charged documentary thriller, **Navalny**; the timely Golden Bear-nominated **Call Jane**, starring **Elizabeth Banks** and **Sigourney Weaver**; and the extraordinary anthology work **Kāinga**, with all eight of the film's directors joining the festival from New Zealand.

Presented by the University of Melbourne, the festival's extensive **Melbourne on Film** retrospective will launch on 5 August with a special screening of **Emma-Kate Croghan's** beloved romantic comedy, **Love and Other Catastrophes** at ACMI. In the weeks to come, a further 40-odd homegrown features and shorts from across Melbourne's rich cinematic history are primed for rediscovery in cinemas, with a selection also available later in the festival via the festival's online streaming platform, **MIFF Play**.

The release of Black Inc.'s accompanying essay collection, **Melbourne on Film: Cinema That Defines Our City**, will be explored and celebrated the following day in an insightful discussion at the Wheeler Centre. MIFF Programmer **Kate Fitzpatrick** will be joined by some of the iconic filmmakers and creatives behind films featured in the book, including award-winning producer **Yael Bergman** (*Love and Other Catastrophes*); legendary director **Richard Lowenstein** (*Dogs in Space*); and acclaimed producer, writer and cinematographer **David Parker** (*Malcolm*).

Australian filmmaking talent is also on show over opening weekend with the heartfelt and moving family documentary, **Everybody's Oma**; the Canberra-shot horror-comedy, **Sissy**, starring **Aisha Dee**; and the Australian premiere of **Bruce Gladwin** and **Back to Back Theatre's Shadow**, which was awarded the Visions section's Audience Award at this year's SXSW.

MIFF Premiere Fund recipients, **Because We Have Each Other** by director **Sari Braithwaite**, and **Volcano Man** from debut filmmaker **James Crawley**, will also have their world premieres over the festival's first weekend.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Over the course of MIFF's 70th anniversary program, Melbourne will come alive with special events and celebratory programming, including the Australian premiere of the epic David Bowie documentary, **Moonage Daydream** at IMAX with director **Brett Morgen** in attendance; the very Melbourne pairing of **Chopper** and **Springtime** with **Mick Harvey** for a live re-scoring event, **Hear My Eyes**; and a Dolly Parton-themed extravaganza to accompany a fun-filled Friday night screening of **Gracie Otto's Seriously Red** at The Astor Theatre.

The lively **MIFF Talks** program, presented by University of Melbourne, will get underway with **Franklin** director **Kasimir Burgess**, and the documentary's subject, **Oliver Cassidy**, discussing environmental activism on screen alongside **Delikado** director, **Karl Malakunas** at the Wheeler Centre. Later, **Jessica Kiangan** hosts an intimate masterclass with revered Mexican director **Carlos Reygadas**, whose revelatory and majestic films have made him a multiple Cannes winner and a leader in the industry.

And in an exclusive MIFF Ambassador screening on Sunday 7th August, acclaimed director **Justin Kurzel** (*Nitram*) presents a gem of Australian cinema, **The Sound of One Hand Clapping**, followed by an illuminating conversation with its director, Booker Prize-winning novelist **Richard Flanagan** and revered actor **Essie Davis**. MIFF Ambassador screenings are personal journeys through cinema, by incredible artists, that only happen at MIFF.

Media Contact

Alice Lewinsky
E alice@commonstate.co
M (+61) 403 837 351

Leigh-Anne Ramirez
E leigh-anne@commonstate.co
M (+61) 439 353 407

[MIFF Media Centre](#)



LOOKING AHEAD

Beginning 12 August, an expansive suburban and regional schedule will invite audiences to join the festivities a little closer to home, with titles arriving direct from Cannes to screens in Coburg, Castlemaine and beyond.

And for those reluctant to leave the comfort of their couch, **MIFF Play** – the festival’s online streaming platform – also returns, with over 100 features and shorts from across the MIFF 2022 program available at home. The Safdies-produced coming-of-age black comedy from A24, ***Funny Pages***, will serve as MIFF Play’s renewed Opening Night feature with a one-off MIFF Play at-home digital launch screening on Thursday 11 August. Other exciting offerings from the at-home platform include **Charlotte Gainsbourg’s** intimate documentary portrait of her mother, ***Jane By Charlotte***; the wildly ambitious Afrofuturist musical, ***Neptune Frost***; and the debut feature from Jafar Panahi’s son Panah, ***Hit the Road***.

Extending beyond the in-cinema schedule, **MIFF Play** is available nationally from 11-28 August, allowing audiences an extra opportunity to catch up on some of the most talked-about flicks of the festival.

The 2022 Melbourne International Film Festival continues through to 21 August, with two-and-a-half weeks of in-cinema action.

– 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
- MIFF encourages all attendees to wear masks indoors.
- 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 on the [MIFF 2022 Media Centre](#).