



CANBERRA INTERNATIONAL FILM **Festival**

Electric Shadows City Walk Canberra City Bookings/ticketing: 02 6247 5060

Ticket prices: Adults \$14 | Concession \$12 Six Tix \$54 (6 ticket voucher) Children's matinee \$9 all tickets **MUFF films** \$9 all tickets Short Film Festival \$9 all tickets

28 October – 7 November 2004

Proudly supported by

20:30:40/Taiwan



The Canberra Times The Canberra Times



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www.canberrafilmfestival.com.au

Canberra International Film Festival 2004 28 October – 7 November 2004

Welcome to the 8th Canberra International Film Festival. I warmly encourage you to experience this year's extraordinary collection of films - they are bound to broaden our minds, dazzle our eyes and hopefully soften our hearts.

Our motto Fostering Understanding reminds us that cinema is far more than entertainment it is also a means by which the cultures of the world communicate with one another. I am especially thrilled that this year, for the first time, the Festival has additional screenings and industry events. We are delighted to present special screenings of selected films from the 2004 Canberra Short Film Festival and The Best of the Melbourne Underground Film Festival (MUFF). With the support of the US Embassy, US Independent Director Mark Milgard will be at the Festival to introduce his film Dandelion.

In association with the Australian Screen Directors Association and the Australian Writers Guild, we will explore the writer/director relationship and follow the filmmaking process from inception through to completion. And in conjunction with the ACT Film and Television Council, we will be hosting some of Australia's top film distributors for an afternoon seminar on international film distribution. These events are open to the public so check the Festival web site or email the Festival office for details.

The Canberra International Film Festival is only made possible thanks to the foresight and commitment by the ACT Government, through its funding bodies artsACT and Festivals ACT. I would also like to acknowledge the very generous support and continued confidence of our corporate partners, whose wonderful sense of community have greatly assisted in bringing this year's event to the big screen.

I hope we'll see you there.

Michael Sergi I Artistic Director

Thursday 28 October 2004 – 8.30pm Plus Rhythm is it! 2004 Wednesday 3 November – 6pm

OP

Director:	Thomas Grube, Enriqu Sanchez Lansch
Producers:	Thomas Grube, Andre Thilo
Starring:	Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra, Simon Ratt Royston Maldoom
Country:	Germany
Language:	English
Running time:	100 minutes
Festivals:	Berlin, Sydney, Munich Tribeca

Distributor: SND Films

Rhythm Is It! records the first big educational, youth orientated project of the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra under Sir Simon Rattle. The orchestra ventured out of the ivory tower of high culture into the poor and disadvantaged boroughs of Berlin. Two hundred and fifty children and teenagers, who were strangers to classical music, were pushed to their physical and emotional limits by choreographer

Royston Maldoom as they prepared to dance to Stravinsky's 'The Rite of Spring'. Recorded with a breathtaking fidelity of sound, this film documents the stages of the project as well as offering a rare insight into the rehearsal process of the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra. A delightful and moving film where the young people of the boroughs are the real stars.

Saturday 30 October – 8.30pm

Garden State 2003

Director:	Zach Braff
Producers:	Gary Gilbert, Dan Halsted, Richard Klubeck
Screenplay:	Zach Braff
Starring:	Zach Braff, Ian Holm, Peter Sarsgaard, Armando Riesco
Country:	USA
Language:	English
Running time:	104 minutes
Festivals:	Sundance, Los Angeles, US Con Arts Festival Aspen

Distributor: Miramax Rated: MA

Andrew Largeman is a struggling actor living in Los Angeles. He was diagnosed as clinically depressed as a child by his psychiatrist-father and medicated. For as long as he can remember, he has felt numh

Andrew returns to his home after nine years to attend his mother's funeral. Stunned to find himself in his hometown after such a long absence, Andrew meets up with some old high school friends – a gravedigger, an inventor and someone who sells pyramid schemes. At home, he does his best to avoid a long-simmering confrontation with his emotionally distant and controlling father. Andrew's medicated state has made him impervious to deep feelings, but having left his pills at home, his encounter with the warm and vibrant local girl Sam, has a liberating effect. Andrew is about to confront his personal demons – and he may just find that life is worth living.

The soundtrack includes songs from Coldplay, Simon and Garfunkel, Frou Frou and The Shins.

Films at a glance See main listing for times

Dhuahara ta 141	C	Thursday, 20 Octobe
Rhythm Is It!	Germany	Thursday 28 Octobe
Distant (Uzak)	Turkey	Friday 29 Octobe
Ae Fond Kiss	Scotland	Friday 29 Octobe
Kitchen Stories (Salmer fra kjøkkenet)	Sweden	Saturday 30 Octobe
Garden State	USA	Saturday 30 Octobe
The Bottom of the Sea (El Fondo del Mar)	Argentina	Sunday 31 Octobe
20:30:40	Taiwan	Monday 1 Novembe
The Debutantes (Los Debutantes)	Chile	Tuesday 2 Novembe
Rhythm Is It!	Germany	Wednesday 3 Novembe
Walk on Water (LaLehet Al HaMayim)	Israel	Wednesday 3 Novembe
Pupendo	Czech Republic	Thursday 4 Novembe
Dandelion	USA	Friday 5 Novembe
Aftermath (Lad de sma born)	Denmark	Friday 5 Novembe
Captain Sabertooth	Norway	Saturday 6 Novembe
Deep Blue	England	Saturday 6 Novembe
Buddy	Norway	Saturday 6 Novembe
Your Next Life (La Vida que te espera)	Spain	Sunday 7 Novembe

All information correct at time of printing

Friday 29 October – 6pm

Distant (Uzak) 2004



Cannes, Karovy Vary, Moscow, Copenhagen, Hong Kong, Auckland, Toronto, New York, Buenos Aires, Mexico, Sydney, Melbourne, Montpellier

Distributor:

Mahmut is a village boy made good working in Istanbul as a professional photographer. His younger cousin Yusef leaves their recession-hit village for Istanbul to look for work on a ship to help support his desperately poor family. When Yusef temporarily moves in with Mahmut, the distance between the two men is immediately obvious. Mahmut has adjusted to big city life, and suffers from many of its neuroses; Yusef is a lonely, eccentric country worker with annoying habits and a sick mother back home he must somehow support. When the ship job falls through, Yusef spends much of his time wandering the streets searching for work and romance – but love is also thin on the ground. Yusef's presence gradually gets on his cousin's nerves. Though relatively welloff financially, Mahmut has problems of his own and the pressures mount. This is a film of stunning visual beauty.

Sunday 31 October – 6.30pm

The Bottom of the Sea 2003 (El Fondo del Mar)

STRALIAN

Damián Szifron Sebastian Aloi Damián Szifron Daniel Hendler, Dolores Fonzi, Gustavo Garzói Argentina

Argentinean Film Critics Association 2003 Silver Condor; Clarin Entertainment Awards

del Plata Film 2003, Audience Award, Best Ibero-American Film

Distributor: Alfa Films

CANBERRA PREMIERE

CIFF Facts

- WHERE: Electric Shadows Cinema, City Walk, Canberra City
- WHEN: Thursday 28 October – Sunday 7 November 2004
- RATINGS: Office of Film and Literature Classification ratings are included where films have been classified at time of printing. For all other films, please check with Electric Shadows Cinema

The Canberra International Film Festival is proud

2004 Canberra Short Film Festival

Screening: 11pm Friday 29 October and 11pm Saturday 30 October

to present a special selection from the

PREMIERF

- Pre-purchase tickets from Electric Shadows Cinema, Canberra City TICKETS: Electric Shadows information line: 02 6247 5060 Ticket Prices: Adults \$14 Concession card holders \$12 Students \$12 Six Tix \$54 Children's matinee: \$9 all tickets **MUFF films: \$9 all tickets**
- Short Film Festival: \$9 all tickets
- www.canberrafilmfestival.com.au WEB:

CONTACT THE FESTIVAL: filmfest@bdwspecialevents.com.au



Friday 29 October – 8.30pm Ae Fond Kiss 2004 CANBERRA

Ken Loach Director: Producer: Rebecca O'Brier Paul Laverty Screenplay: Starring: Atta Yaqub, Eva Birthistle, Shabana Bakhsh Country: Scotland English Language: **Running time:** 104 minute Awards: Berlin, Prize of the Ecumenical Jury Berlin, Sydney, Melbourne, Auckland Festivals: Distributor: Rialto Entertainmen MA Rated:

Casim is a second generation Glasgow Pakistani. He works as a DJ in Glasgow's coolest venues, where he dreams of buying his own club. His

parents, Tariq and Sadia, are devout Muslims who have arranged for him to marry his first cousin Jasmine. Her arrival from Pakistan is imminent. However, plans go awry when Casim meets Roisin, a teacher at Casim's sister school. Rosin is different from any girl he has ever met. She is intelligent, independent and beautiful - as well as white and a Catholic. They fall in love but Casim knows all too well that, even if he wasn't due to marry, his parents would never accept a 'goree', a white girl. Roisin finds that her own community isn't supportive either. When their relationship is discovered, the repercussions of the scandal are far reaching. Sparks fly as cultures clash and personalities collide. How much are they prepared to sacrifice for the uncertainty of love?

CANBERRA

PREMIERE

Monday 1 November – 6.30pm

20:30:40 2004

Sylvia Chang Director: **Producers:** Hsu Li Kong, Patricia Cheng Screenplay: Sylvia Chang, GC Goo Bi, Cat Kwan Sylvia Chang, René Liu, Starring: Anaelica Lee

Taiwan Country: Mandarin with English subtitles Language Running time: 113 minutes Berlin, Melbourne Festivals: Columbia Tristar Films Distributor:

Rated:

A romantic comedy/drama about the complexity of modern relationships, following three women at different stages of life and love. Set in Taipei, while the city is experiencing minor earthquakes, the women's love lives are as unpredictable and turbulent as the tremors they live through.

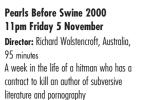
Xiao Jie, twenty, innocent and impressionable, escapes her overbearing parents to follow her dream of a pop music career. Flight attendant Xiang Xiang, thirty something and slightly jaded about love, is caught between a turbulent affair with a married man and a persistent younger lover she refuses to take seriously. Lily Zhao, a forty year-old divorcee, faces a new life as a single woman, with often hilarious results.

Each woman learns about herself through the drama of her relationships and finds that her vision of the future is not what she though



Entry restricted to 18 years and over

The Maaician 2003 11pm Thursday 4 November Director: Scott Ryan, Australia, 80 minutes A video student hooks up with a hit man and documents his life



Defenceless 2003 11pm Saturday 6 November Director: Mark Savage, Australia 90 minutes Vengeance springs from a watery grave after the life of an environmental campaigner is ended

Saturday 30 October – 6pm

ATE NIGHT SCREENINGS

Electric Shadows Cinema

The best of

Kitchen Stories 2003 (Salmer fra kjøkkenet)

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Director:	Bent Hamer
Producers:	Bent Hamer, Jörgen Bergmark
Screenplay:	Bent Hamer, Jörgen Bergmark
Starring:	Joachim Calmeyer, Tomas Norström, Bjørn Floberg
Country:	Sweden
Language:	Swedish and Norwegian with English subtitles
Running time:	95 minutes
Awards:	Copenhagen 2003, Best Director: Flar



landers 2003, Best Screenplay; Copennagen 2003, Best Director; rianders 2003, Best Screer São Paulo 2003. Best Director: Tromsø 2003. FIPRESCI prize

Cannes, Karlovy Vary, Copenhagen, Toronto, Tromsø Festivals: Palace Films Rated: PG Distributor:

In the 1950s, researchers from the Swedish Home Research Institute observed homemakers performing daily tasks in an attempt to devise more efficient kitchens. Director Bent Hamer takes this idea further, imagining that instead, these studies were performed on older bachelors in Norway. The film's laboratory subject is Isak, a Norwegian farmer of questionable hygiene who volunteered for the study because he thought it came with a free horse. The Swedish researcher, Folke, arrives and sits in the corner of Isak's kitchen on a tennis umpire's chair observing Isak's kitchen habits but making no contact with him. Both men are reserved and set in their ways, so the no-contact rules actually help them start a friendship, much to Folke's supervisor's dismay. Part surreal satire on human domesticity, part gentle study of male loneliness there is much to

Tuesday 2 November – 6.30pm

like in this quirky, highly amusing film.

The Debutantes 2003 (Los Debutantes)

Andrés Waissbluth Director: **Producers:** Sebastián Freund Andrés Waissbluth, Julio Rojas Screenplay: Antonella Ríos, Néstor Cantillana, Starring: Juan Pablo Miranda, Alejandro Trejo Chile Country: Language: Spanish with English subtitles Running time: 115 minutes Festivals:

Montréal, Rotterdam, Toulouse, Moscow Philadelphia, Denmar Vision International Distributor:

Styled in the manner of *Pulp Fiction*, this Chilean crime drama follows the story of two brothers who

get involved with a sexy stripper and her boss, Don Pascual, a notorious gangster and the nightclub king of Santiago. When Silvio takes his younger brother Victor to a strip club/brothel for his 18th birthday, Victor immediately falls for the charms of a stripper, Gracia. Meanwhile, Silvio subdues a drunken customer and Don Pascual is so impressed he offers him a job as his driver and errand boy. Victor pursues Gracia, and tries to date her - without realising she is the mistress of the abusive and domineering Don Pascual. So begins a story where Gracia manipulates the brothers in an effort to control her own fate and start a new life. She strings Victor along, and seduces Silvio when Don Pascual is out of town. The tension grows when Pascual returns and when Victor sees Silvio and Gracia together. This sexy, gritty and emotional film exposes the



CANBERRA

PREMIERE



Festivals: Mar del Plata, Lleida, Toulouse

Toledo, a 25-year-old student architect, suffers from acute jealousy. He is obsessed with his girlfriend's every move. Toledo arrives home one day to find Ana on edge and repeatedly asking to go out for a drink. He can't understand her behaviour until he realises that his worst nightmare has come true: she has another man - and he's hiding under the bed! Stunned, he leaves the apartment with a lame excuse and waits outside for the lover. So begins a one-of-a-kind all-night persecution through the city to discover the identity of Ana's lover, which brings him to discover things about his own life he never knew. A comedy/unusual thriller.

Screenplay: Starring: **Country:** Language: Running time: 110 minute Awards: Festivals:

Wednesday 3 November - 8.30pm

Walk on Wate (LaLehet Al HaMayim)

Eytan Fox **Director: Producers:** Amir Harel Gal Uchovsky Screenplay: Lior Ashkenazi, Knut Berger Starring: Caroline Peters Country: lsrae English/German/Hebrew Language with English subtitles time: 104 minutes Running Berlin, Melbourne Festival:

Sharmill Films

Distributor:

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Eyal, a homophobic hit man for Mossad, is on a mission to track down Alfred Himmelman, a famous ex Nazi officer and suspected war criminal thought to be still in hiding. Posing as a tourist quide, Eyal befriends Alfred's grandson Axel, who is in Israel to visit his sister, Pia. Axel wants Pia to return to Germany for their father's 70th birthday party. Axel tours the country, with Eyal as his guide, and Axel's frank and open attitudes challenge Eyal's rigid clichéd values. The two men's friendship grows until Eyal learns that Axel is gay.

When Eyal goes to Germany to continue his mission, he visits Axel. It is a visit that forces them both to face and question the meaning and kind of life they lead.

Capt (Kaptein	tain Sabe Sabeltann)	rtooth 2003	AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE
Director:	Stig Bergqvist	ALL NOT	
Producer:	Jon Wigfield	(JIRK BAR	This section of
Screenplay:	Terje Formoe	ALL	And and a start of the
Starring:	Øystein Dolmen, Terje Formoe, Brit Elisabeth Haagensli, Helge Jordal (voices)		
Country:	Norway		200 - Con
Langvage:	English SAT	UPN	PI
Running time:	75 minutes	URDAY MATINEE	The second
Festivals:	Tribeca	INEE	0
Distributor:	Norwegian Film Institute		

seas – and gold is his passion. In this magical adventure, the Captain and his crew take a rollicking old-fashioned pirate journey in search of Gruesome Gabriel's treasure. Pinky is the young cabin boy who longs to make Captain Sabertooth proud by growing up to become a real pirate. But when Pinky learns the truth about the Captain's ruthless plans for the seaport town of Kjuttaviga, he teams up with a local girl, Sunniva, to take on Captain Sabertooth, recover the treasure, and save the town.

Thursday 4 November – 6.30pm

Pupendo 2003 Director: Jan Hrebejk

Jaroslav Kucera, Ondrej Trojan Producers: Petr Jarchovsky based on books by Screenplay: Petr Sabach Bolek Polívka, Eva Holubová, Starring: Jaroslav Dusek, Vilma Cibulková Czech Republic Country:

Czech with English subtitles Language: Running time: 122 minutes Czech Lion 2004, best supporting Awards: actress, audience award **Festivals:** Karlovy Vary, Toronto, Hamburg, Philadelphia, Brisbane

Distributor: Menemsha Entertainmer

The biggest box-office hit in the Czech Republic since 1989, this charming tragi-comedy focuses on the country's 1980s pre-Velvet Revolution Communist regime and one artist's fight to retain his integrity. Mára, a prominent sculptor, is unable to exhibit his art or find much work due to his open antagonism toward the ruling Communist Party. He lives a Bohemian life, contemptuous of society and often drunk. His wife supports the family by making kitsch souvenirs for tourists. Brecka is a school principal who denounces the party in private but supports them in public. When Mára accepts a commission to do a mural at Brecka's school, their fortunes become intertwined. The artworks and music used in the film are by artists whose works were suppressed at the time, and this is the first time many have been seen or heard outside their own country.

Saturday 6 November – 6.30pm

Deep Blue 2003

Andy Byatt, Alastair Fothergil **Director**: Sophokles Tasioulis Producers: Alix Tidmarsh Narrator: Michael Gambon

England/Germany Country:

Language: English Running time: 90 minute:

Festivals: Cannes, San Sebastián

Distributor: Hopscotch What Microcosmos did for creepy crawlies

and Travelling Birds did for our feathered friends, Deep Blue does for ocean dwellers. Costing \$5 million and filmed

over three years across many locations, this feature-length documentary from the BBC offers a spectacular look into the mysterious, harsh and astonishingly beautiful underwater world of our oceans. Sequences include an entire, layered food chain which constantly reshapes itself as predators enter, killer whales separating a whale from her pup and footage of the little known creatures of the Great Mariana Trench, seven miles beneath the surface. Backed by a colourful orchestral score performed by the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra, it features only minimal narration by Michael Gambon, to let viewers immerse themselves in the stunning imagery.

Friday 5 November – 6pm **Dandelion** 2004

Mark Milgard **Director:** Molly M Mayeux **Producers:** Mark Milgard, Richard Murphy Screenplay: Robb Willian Starring: Vincent Kartheiser, Taryn Manning, Arliss Howard, Mare Winningham

USA Country: English Language: Running time: 94 minutes Karlovy Vary 2004, Independent Awards: Camer Festivals: Sundance, Karlovy Vary, Rotterda

Distributor: Ballistic Media Group Dandelion is the touching story of a boy searching for love and acceptance. Mason Mullich's family leads a life of quiet

desperation in a small rural town amongst infinite wheat fields and skies. His mother numbs herself with pills and alcohol; his father is frustrated about the missed opportunities in his life. His beloved uncle is mentally disturbed and his best friend Eddie suffers under his dominant brother. When Mason meets Danny, the new girl in town, it looks like something special will blossom between them - until a tragic accident changes everything. A sensitive emotional drama about growing up, the chaos of first love, and family values. Director Mark Milgard will be at the Festival to introduce his film. A visually beautiful film

Saturday 6 November – 8.30pm

Morten Tyldum Gudny Hummelvoll Lars Gudmestad Nicolai Cleve Broch, Aksel Hennie, Anders Baasmo Kristianse Norway

Norwegian with English subtitles

Norwegian IFF 2003, Audience Award; Warsaw 2003, Audience Award **Festivals:** Karlovy Vary, Norway, London, Warsaw, Philadelphia Norwegian Film Institute Distributor:

Kristoffer is a billboard hanger, 24-years-old and carefree. When his girlfriend dumps him for her boss, his life falls to pieces. By coincidence, the producer of the popular talk show 'Karsten Tonight' finds some of Kristoffer's video diaries and Kristoffer's life becomes top rating TV entertainment. Audiences love the sequences from his shared flat in suburban Oslo: Kristoffer's half-twisted view of his surroundings, his crazy best friend Geir, and the weird web designer Stig Inge, who hasn't set foot outside the local shopping centre for two years. People love Kristoffer and his future looks bright. But revealing your life on national television has a price — his friends start suffering. Geir's big secret is revealed, and Stig Inge's personal problems are more serious than Kristoffer imagined. It will cost him a great deal to win his friends back. Kristoffer knows what he wants, but does he have the heart to do the right thing?

Friday 5 November – 8.30pm

Aftermath 2004 (Lad de sma born)

Paprika Steen Director: Producer: Thomas Heineser Kim Fupz Aakeson, Paprika Stee Screenplay: Sofie Gråbøl, Michael Birkkjær, Starring: Karen-Lise Mynster, Laura Christe Denmark Country Danish with English subtitles Language: Running time: 104 minutes Karlovy Vary 2004, Best Actress Awards: Don Quixote Award - special ment Paprika Steen Karlovy Vary, Sâo Paulo, NatFilm Festivals: Denmark Danish Film Institute **Distributor:**



Celebrated actress, Paprika Steen makes an assured directing debut with this hard-hitting (nondogma) drama about a couple, Britt and Claes, attempting to cope with the tragic loss of their teenage daughter who was killed by a drunk driver. Claes neglects his work as an architect while Britt, a social worker, finds solace in becoming too emotionally involved in the case of a young irresponsible mother. But neither can find the way out of this vicious cycle of sadness and pain. Claes' desire for revenge leads him to follow the woman who killed their daughter. And when Britt clashes with the irresponsible mother and Claes confronts the woman, it becomes clear that revenge cannot conquer grief. An intimate and probing psychological story about emotional loss in a sensitive testimony to the strength of the marital bond.

Sunday 7 November – 6.30

Your Next Life 2003 (La Vida que te espera)

Manuel Gutiérrez Aragón Director: Producers: Pancho Casal, Gerardo Herrero Manuel Gutiérrez Aragón, Screenplay: Ángeles González Sinde Juan Diego, Luis Tosar, Marta Etura, Clara Lago Starring: Spain Country: Spanish with English subtitles Language: Running time: 100 minutes Festival: Berlin, Official Selection Distributor: Alta Films S.A



Gildo is a farmer and a widower, living with his daughters, Val and Genia, in the del Pas valley in the mountains of Cantabria. One day, one of Gildo's cows wanders onto his neighbour Severo's land, where she is inseminated by Severo's prize bull. The men quarrel over who will have the unborn calf but finally agree it will belong to Severo. However, months later when Val takes the new-born calf to Severo, he flies into a rage, claiming it is not the right calf, and he takes Val hostage. Gildo tries to rescue his daughter and, in the ensuing struggle, Severo dies. At Severo's funeral, Val and her father offer their condolences to Severo's son and heir, Rai, a hairdresser. For Val and Rai it is love at first sight but Rai has no idea Val is the daughter of the man responsible for his father's death

Buddy 2003 Director: Producer: Screenplay: Starring:

Country: Language Running time: 104 minutes Awards:

Karlovy Vary 2003, Audience Award;