TransACT proudly presents the ...

12th CANBERRA INTERNATIONAL

FILM FESTIVAL

Wednesday 29 October — Sunday 9 November 2008

DENDY CINEMA

Dendy Cinemas Canberra Level 2, North Quarter Canberra Centre

ARC CINEMA

National Film and Sound Archive McCoy Circuit Acton





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Welcome

Some years ago I spent some time in New Orleans and fell in love with Creole cooking. I met the owner of a great little bookstore who showed me a cookbook (she said her mother



swore by it) called *Talk About Good*. Why am I talking about Creole cooking and a book? Because this year's Festival feels like it has all the right ingredients and recipes — a gumbo for every palate — *talk about good*!

The festival has expanded considerably – 75 screenings, 41 films, 12 days – and served from the state-of-the-art facilities at the Dendy Cinemas and Arc Cinema. Screenings at the NFSA are legendary, and this year there are 5 totally gourmet selections, including Fassbinder's epic. Another new ingredient is that most days will have screenings from lunch through to supper, so there's an opportunity for everyone to taste what the world has to offer. Each day is jam packed with cinematic delights.

The Festival is only made possible through the commitment of our dedicated partners. The University of Canberra, our founding partner, continues its support, as does DHL Worldwide Express who constantly amaze us by how swiftly they transport prints around the globe.

Our Government partners, Festivals ACT and Screen Australia continue with zest, as do our media partners — The Canberra Times, 666 ABC Canberra and Prime Television — as they inform Canberra about what we cook up. Bluestar Print Group along with Bearcage Productions, provide a great platform for our visual feasts.

Our biggest thanks this year, however, goes to TransACT, the Gordon Ramsay of them all, who stepped in when the kitchen was at its hottest and secured our presence for another year. We cannot thank TransACT enough for rescuing the Festival amidst a trying financial melt down.

It's Film Festival time again in Canberra and I hope you will devour what we serve up and savour each and every bite.

Michael Sergi

Artistic Director

PS: I forgot to say, *Talk About Good* sold 670,001 copies – could this be an omen for this year's festival!





TransACT

The Canberra International Film Festival celebrates much more than just the opportunity to view the very best of cinema from around the globe. It gives people the opportunity to view films that will intrigue, impress, challenge and leave you thinking long after the credits have rolled.

The festival will provide Canberra's residents with the chance to experience a wide choice of screenings of many genres of the highest calibre, which is akin to the core business of TransACT

We strive for excellence in innovative ideas and solutions for our customers, and so as the 2008 principal partner we are extremely proud to be able to present this iconic Canberra event that is innovative and very much part of the Canberra landscape.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your interest and support in this wonderful event. While you enjoy the variety of films on offer, remember that TransACT can extend your festival experience long after the event is over with our great range of communication and entertainment services.

TransACT offers not only choice, but also convenience and savings, and can provide centralised communication solutions to both residents and businesses

We know that this year's festival is set to be the best yet with an amazing range of genres to suit all tastes. TransACT is grateful to be part of this unique and very special event. On behalf of TransACT I welcome you to the 2008 Canberra International Film Festival.

Enjoy!

Ivan Slavich

TransACT Chief Executive Officer

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TransACT is proud to present the 12th Canberra International Film Festival.

This 12-day festival will showcase 41 extraordinary films from around the world.

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PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

DATE	TIME	FILM	COUNTRY	DURATION
OCTOBER				
Wednesday 29	7.30 pm	Vicky Cristina Barcelona	Spain/USA	96 min
Thursday 30	6.15 pm	Playing Solo	Finland	100 min
	7.30 pm	* Lou Reed's Berlin	USA/UK	85 min
	8.15 pm	Black Ice	Finland	100 min
Friday 31	12.30 pm	Playing Solo	Finland	100 min
	4.15 pm	Black Ice	Finland	100 min
	6.15 pm	Shall We Kiss	France	96 min
	8.15 pm	I've Loved You So Long	France	115 min
NOVEMBE	R			
Saturday 1	11.00 am	* Berlin Alexanderplatz: Episode 1	Germany	82 min
	12.15 pm	Bigger, Stronger, Faster	USA	105 min
	1.00 pm	* Berlin Alexanderplatz: Episode 2–4	Germany	177 min
	12.30 pm	I've Loved You So Long	France	115 min
	2.30 pm	Rats & Cats	Australia	87 min
	4.15 pm	Newcastle	Australia	106 min
	4.30 pm	* Berlin Alexanderplatz: Episodes 5–6	Germany	117 min
	6.15 pm	Don't Think About It	Italy	105 min
	7.30 pm	* Berlin Alexanderplatz: Episode 7–9	Germany	179 min
	8.15 pm	Quiet Chaos	Italy	105 min
Sunday 2	11.00 am	* Berlin Alexanderplatz: Episodes 10–11	Germany	118 min
	12.15 pm	Don't Think About It	Italy	105 min
	12.30 pm	Aleksandra	Russia/France	95 min
	1.30 pm	* Berlin Alexanderplatz: Episodes 12–14	Germany	229 min
	2.15 pm	Quiet Chaos	Italy	105 min
	2.30 pm	Wendy and Lucy	USA	80 min
	4.15 pm	Bliss	Turkey	126 min
	4.30 pm	Dying Breed	Australia	91 min
	6.30 pm	Crossed Tracks	France	103 min
	8.15 pm	Katyn	Poland	118 min
Monday 3	12.15 pm	Crossed Tracks	France	103 min
	4.15 pm	Bliss	Turkey	126 min
	4.30 pm	Katyn	Poland	118 min
	6.15 pm	Dot.com	Portugal	100 min
	6.30 pm	Noodle	Israel	90 min
	8.15 pm	In Love We Trust	China	115 min
	8.30 pm	Gonzo	USA	118 min
	-			

DATE	TIME	FILM	COUNTRY	DURATION
Tuesday 4	12.15 pm	Dot.com	Portugal	100 min
	2.15 pm	In Love We Trust	China	115 min
	4.30 pm	Gonzo	USA	118 min
	6.15 pm	World's Apart	Denmark	90 min
	8.15 pm	Terribly Happy	Denmark	105 min
Wednesday 5	12.15 pm	Noodle	Israel	90 min
	12.30 pm	World's Apart	Denmark	90 min
	2.30 pm	The Song of Sparrows	Iran	96 min
	4.30 pm	Terribly Happy	Denmark	105 min
	6.15 pm	The Kautokeino Rebellion	Norway	96 min
	8.15 pm	The Wackness	USA	99 min
	8.30 pm	Night of the Wolf	Norway	90 min
Thursday 6	12.30 pm	The Kautokeino Rebellion	Norway	96 min
	2.30 pm	Night of the Wolf	Norway	90 min
	4.30 pm	The Wackness	USA	99 min
	6.15 pm	Vaclav	Czech	100 min
	7.30 pm	* The Coca Cola Kid	Australia	93 min
	8.15 pm	Emotional Arithmetic	Canada	100 min
	8.30 pm	The Karamazovs	Czech	110 min
Friday 7	12.30 pm	Vaclav	Czech	100 min
	2.30 pm	The Karamazovs	Czech	110 min
	4.15 pm	Emotional Arithmetic	Canada	100 min
	6.15 pm	Shall We Kiss	France	96 min
	8.15 pm	Honeydripper	USA	121 min
	8.30 pm	Y.P.F	Canada	90 min
Saturday 8	12.15 pm	Honeydripper	USA	121 min
	2.30 pm	Three Blind Mice	Australia	94 min
	4.30 pm	* Salvation	Australia	100 min
	4.30 pm	The Tumbler	Australia	75 min
	6.15 pm	Y.P.F	Canada	90 min
	7.30 pm	* Rain of the Children	New Zealand	98 min
	8.15 pm	A Complete History of My Sexual Failures	UK	90 min
	8.30 pm	Cherry Blossoms	Germany	127 min
Sunday 9	12.15 pm	Bigger, Stronger, Faster	USA	105 min
	2.15 pm	Cherry Blossoms	Germany	127 min
	2.30 pm	A Complete History of My Sexual Failures	UK	90 min
	4.15 pm	Wendy and Lucy	USA	80 min
	4.30 pm	Aleksandra	Russia/France	95 min
	6.30 pm	The Song of Sparrows	Iran	96 min
	8.00 pm	The View From Greenhaven	Australia	90 min

NOTE: Films marked * will be screened at the ARC CINEMA AT THE NATIONAL FILM & SOUND ARCHIVE, McCOY CIRCUIT ACTON.





THE AUSTRALIAN



■ 7.30 pm Wednesday 29 October

VICKY CRISTINA BARCELONA

Country:	USA/Spain
Language:	English
Duration:	96 minutes
Distributor:	Hopscotch Films
Director:	Woody Allen
Starring:	Javier Bardem / Penelope Cruz/ Scarlett Johansson / Rebecca Hall / Patricia Clarkson / Chris Messina
Genre:	Comedy

In a magnificent return to form, Woody Allen wields his razor sharp wit to observe modern relationships in a gloriously romantic setting.

Two young American women, best friends Vicky (Rebecca Hall) and Cristina (Scarlett Johansson), go to Barcelona for the summer. As told by a narrator (Christopher Evan Welch), Vicky is practical and traditional in her approach to love and commitment and is engaged to the reliable but unromantic Doug (Chris Messina), while Cristina is spontaneous and unsure of what she wants from life.

When the two women meet the charming, mysterious and rich painter Juan Antonio (Javier Bardem) he proposes they all go away for the weekend together and things start to simmer. Enter Penelope Cruz as Juan's ex-wife and the thermostat is turned to boiling point. The choices they make and opportunities they take will turn all their lives upside down.

With a finely nuanced script, a frisson of sexual chemistry between the characters, vibrant cinematography and top-notch performances all-round, this is a modern classic. Woody Allen, the perceptive, intelligent examiner of the human heart, is back.



PREMIERE!

- 6.15 pm Thursday 30 October
- 12.30 pm Friday 31 October





PLAYING SOLO

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

SOOI OII UA

Genre:	Romantic comedy	
Starring:	Saija Lentonen / Kari-Pekka Toivonen / Kristiina Elstelä	
Director:	Lauri Nurkse	
Distributor:	Finnish Film Foundation	
Duration:	99 minutes	
Language:	Finnish	
Country:	Finland	

Playing Solo is a funny and touching story of what happens when your world is turned upside down.

Emma (Saija Lentonen), an intelligent and independent urban reporter, is suddenly sent to interview successful conductor and ladies' man Joel Abrahamsson (Kari-Pekka Toivonen). The interview is a total flop but surprisingly Emma finds herself falling for Joel and within a week they are both head over heels in love.

Emma could never have imagined that in just a few weeks she would be living in an old country house with Joel's demented and temperamental mother (Kristiina Elstelä), while Joel races around the world from concert to concert.

Director Lauri Nurkse hits the funny bone with his first full-length movie.

What the Critics say!

WINNER: Best Supporting Actress (Kristiina Elstelä) – Jussi Awards Helsinki

■ 7.30 pm Thursday 30 October





LOU REED'S BERLIN

CANBERRA PREMIERE

Country:	USA
Language:	English
Duration:	85 mins
Distributor:	Madman Films
Director:	Julian Schnabel
Starring:	Lou Reed / Emmanuelle Seigner / Julian Schnabel
Classified:	PG

In 1973, Lou Reed's *Berlin* – a despairing, autobiographical cycle of songs about (in Reed's words) "…love's dark sisters: jealousy, rage and loss" – was released to fan confusion and critical rejection.

In 2006 artist, filmmaker and fellow-New Yorker Julian Schnabel (*The Diving Bell and the Butterfly*) worked with his own daughter Lola to encourage Lou Reed to finally realise a long envisaged musical theatre version of *Berlin* – now one of the most acclaimed recordings in rock history.

Schnabel's film is rare chance to be a part of *Berlin's* highly anticipated and unique premiere run, filmed over five special nights at Brooklyn's St Ann's warehouse.

Emmanuelle Seigner (partner of director Roman Polanski) cameos as the album's ethereal drug muse, Caroline; whilst the on-stage band includes Steve Hunter, Fernando Saunders, Tony 'Thunder' Smith and Antony Hegarty.







- 8.15 pm Thursday 30 October
- 4.15 pm Friday 31 October





BLACK ICE

CANBERRA PREMIERE

Country:	Finland
Language:	Finnish/English
Duration:	100 minutes
Distributor:	Potential Films
Director:	Petri Kotwica
Starring:	Outi Mäenpää / Ria Kataja / Martti Suosalo
Genre:	Drama

Saara (Outi Mäenpää) is a beautiful and successful middle-aged doctor who finds out that her architect husband Leo (Martti Suosalo) is having an affair with a younger woman, Tuuli (Ria Kataja). Instead of revealing her true identity, Saara pretends to be someone else and makes friends with Tuuli. At the same time, she is planning the best way to revenge her husband and his lover, plunging them all into a maelstrom of deceit.

Director Petri Kotwica has produced a deeply involving and ambitious psychological thriller that convinces at every turn of its darkly humorous plot.

This intelligent and beautifully crafted film will keep you on the edge of your seat.

What the Critics say!

"a showcase for Finnish acting talent" — european-films.net

WINNER: Best Film, Best Script (Petri Kowica)

WINNER: Best Director (Petri Kowica)

WINNER: Best Leading Actress (Outi Mäenpää)

WINNER: Best Original Music (Eicca Toppinen)

WINNER: Best Editing (Jukka Nykänen) – Jussi Awards Helsinki 2008

- 6.15 pm Friday 31 October
- 6.15 pm Friday 7 November





SHALL WE KISS UN BAISER S'IL VOUS PLAÎT

CANBERRA PREMIERE

Country:	France
Language:	French
Duration:	96 minutes
Distributor:	Arkles Entertainment
Director:	Emmanuel Mouret
Starring:	Virginie Ledoyen / Emmanuel Mouret / Julie Gayet / Michaël Cohen
Genre:	Romantic comedy

Woody Allen meets Eric Rohmer in writer-director-actor Emmanuel Mouret's delicately droll romantic comedy.

The clever story-within-a-story begins when visiting textile designer Emilie (Julie Gayet) accepts a lift, then a date, from a stranger (Michaël Cohen) but refuses his goodnight kiss. She understands the danger of a kiss because of what happened to her friend Judith (Virginie Ledoyen).

Judith, a lab researcher, is best friends with math's teacher Nicolas (Emmanuel Mouret) who has been so starved of affection that he needs a little help loosening up — perhaps just a little kiss. One thing of course leads to another.

This is far from a simple kiss-and-tell tale with Mouret's ingenious interweaving of characters and courtship keeping us consistently engaged and delighted as the romance becomes more intense and more complicated. This humane and entertaining film reveals Emmanuel Mouret to be a master of the bittersweet love story.

What the Critics say!

- "..funny and melancholic" Gregory Valens Hollywood Reporter
- "Emmanuel Mouret continues his winning streak ... this is upscale French entertainment at its best" Derek Elley Variety.com
- "...thoroughly hilarious ... highly recommended" Amie Simon Prost Amerika
- "Stunningly good ... bring on the sequel!" Première Magazine

"Subtle, witty, ravishing: the best French romantic comedy in a long time ...

Mouret's fourth feature is absolutely dazzling." — Le Monde

canherrafilmfestival com au

- 8.15 pm Friday 31 October
- 12.30 pm Saturday 1 November





I'VE LOVED YOU SO LONG

II Y A LONGTEMPS OUF JE T'AIME

PREMIERE

Country:	France
Language:	French
Duration:	115 minutes
Distributor:	Palace Films
Director:	Philippe Claudel
Starring:	Kristen Scott Thomas / Elsa Zylberstein / Serge Hazanavicius / Laurent Grévill
Genre:	Drama

This profoundly touching story about isolation and redemption was an enormous critical and box office success upon its release in France.

The story starts with a shell-shocked Juliette Fontaine (Kristen Scott Thomas) returning to her family after a 15-year absence. Juliette is taken in by her younger sister Léa (Elsa Zylberstein), who has an exciting job and a young family.

Despite the family's rejection of Juliette so long ago, she does her best to rebuild the relationships and lead an ordinary life, making friends with her nieces and looking for work.

But everyone wants to know where this beautiful, troubled woman has been hiding. As circumstances around her past are revealed, painful secrets are brought to the surface and threaten to devastate her life all over again.

At the core of this deeply moving film is a phenomenal performance by Kristen Scott Thomas who has already been suggested for Oscar consideration.

What the Critics say!

"Rarely do head and heart coalesce to such sublime effect in film" Maggie Lee - Hollywood Reporter

"...utterly engrossing" Derek Elley - Variety.com

WINNER: Prize of the Ecumenical Jury and Reader Jury of the Berliner Morgenpost, Berlin International Film Festival 2008

Saturday 1 November

11.00 am Episode 1

1.00 pm Episodes 2 - 4

4.30 pm Episodes 5 - 6

7.30 pm Episodes 7 - 9

Sunday 2 November

11.00 am Episodes 10 - 11 1.30 pm Episodes 12 - 14





BERLIN ALEXANDERPLATZ

CANBERRA PREMIERE

Country:	Germany	Unclassified: 18+
Language:	German	
Duration:	Epi. 1, 82 mins; Ep	i, 2-13, 55 mins; Epi 14. 112 mins
Distributor:	Bavaria Media	
Director:	Rainer Werner Fa	ssbinder
Starring:	Günter Lamprech Gottfried John / C	t / Hanna Schygulla / Barbara Sukowa / laus Holm

Rainer Werner Fassbinder's only work for television is also one of cinema's most inspired literary adaptations; epic in its casting (including Fassbinder regulars like Hanna Schvoulla, Barbara Sukowa and Gottfried John), 360° in its survey of an entire epoch, in keeping with Alfred Döblin's sprawling 1929 source novel.

It starts with a ferocious realism and in moral outrage, as ex-con Franz Biberkopf (Günter Lamprecht) emerges from jail and tries to go straight in a Weimar-era Germany run by criminals. It ends in a tour-de-force final episode, as we enter into Biberkopf's apocalyptic visions of Germany's future – of Nazism, holocaust and a Cold War-divided nation

Although made to feature-film production values, each episode stands in its own right, and its interlaced narratives also pioneered the slow-fuse story-arcs of modern limited TV series like *Heimat, The Sopranos* or our own *Underbelly*. Newly restored by the Fassbinder Foundation, this will be one of only three Australian screenings of the complete work.

Berlin Alexanderplatz passes: \$45 (no conc.) Single sessions at regular Arc prices

(We regret that 'Max' passes are not redeemable for Berlin Alexanderplatz)

What the Critics say!

"A Mt. Everest of Modern Cinema" – Andrew Sarris





- 12.15 pm Saturday 1 November
- 12.15 pm Sunday 9 November





BIGGER, STRONGER, FASTER

Country:	USA
Language:	English
Duration:	105 minutes
Distributor:	Madman Australia
Director:	Chris Bell
Genre:	Documentary

CANBERRA PREMIERE

From the makers of *Bowling for Columbine* and *Fahrenheit 9/11* comes a film that unflinchingly explores the American win-at-all-cost culture through the lens of a personal journey.

Filmmaker and gym-bunny Chris Bell grew up idolizing muscular giants like Hulk Hogan, Sylvester Stallone and Arnold Schwarzenegger. When he found out his heroes were all on steroids it shocked him to the core.

But as he and his brothers set their sporting ambitions higher they each had to make the choice whether to follow the rules or follow their heroes into the steroid subculture and become bigger, stronger, faster.

Turning the camera on his own family to ask why athletes choose to use performance-enhancing drugs, Bell opens the door on an issue with ramifications in the worlds of politics, morality, mortality and ethics.

American culture rewards speed, size and above all else winning — at sport, at business and at war. This thoughtful film poses the question: is it still cheating if everyone's doing it?

What the Critics say!

"Raucously funny" - LA Times

"Bell ... keeps the film pumped on interesting, at times hilarious, visuals while providing a barrage of information." Brian Chen – Reel.com

"Bell's documentary is an absolute must see." Film Threat - Don R.Lewis

"Super Size Me on steroids" - Variety

WINNER: Special mention, Karlovy Vary Fresh Films Festival 2008

2.30 pm Saturday 1 November





RATS & CATS

CANBERRA PREMIERE

Country:	Australia	
Language:	English	
Duration:	87 minutes	
Distributor:	Jason Byrne Productions	
Director:	Tony Rogers	
Starring:	Jason Gann / Adam Zwar / Anya Beyersdorf / Paul Denny	
Genre:	Comedy	
Classified:	M	

This feature debut from the director of *Wilfred* is a dark comic tale of fame and its associated downsides.

Actor Darren McWarren (Jason Gann) starred in soaps, mini-series and films before destroying his career with a series of indiscretions. Now that McWarren is out of the industry and living in Gladdington, a small town in Western Victoria, he can do whatever he wants.

When magazine journalist Ben (Adam Zwar) decides to write a "Where Are They Now" profile on McWarren, he finds the former star has become the front man for a rock band and a modern-day Errol Flynn. The local girls want to bed him and their blokes want to fight him.

And between slipping into his past characters and regurgitating their lines, Darren can't quite work out who the real Darren McWarren is.

Artfully wrought characters and an assured delivery from the cast give this subtle Australian comedy a serious cutting edge.

What the Critics say!

"Entertaining and funny, truthful and surprising, *Rats and Cats* should find a strong cult following" – *Andrew L. Urban*

"Superb performances across the board ... Zwar is fantastic ... Paul Denny is sublime" – Hoopla

■ 4.15 pm Saturday 1 November





NEWCASTLE

CANBERRA PREMIERE

Country:	Australia
Language:	English
Duration:	106 minutes
Distributor:	Dendy Films
Director:	Dan Castle
Starring:	Lachlan Buchanan / Xavier Samuel / Reshad Strik / Anthony Hayes / Shane Jacobson
Genre:	Drama

A gritty coming of age drama set in the surf-breaks and shipyards of Newcastle from writer/director Dan Castle.

Seventeen-year-old Jesse (Lachlan Buchanan) lives in the shadow of his older brother Victor (Reshad Strik) and Victor's failure to become surfing's "Next Big Thing". The coal barges on the horizon taunt him about his blue-collar future but his natural skills could take him out of this reality and onto the international circuit.

What is supposed to be a momentous weekend away with his mates results in the heat of first love and an unexpected, devastating tragedy, leading Jesse to discover what's truly important, and also to the performance of a lifetime.

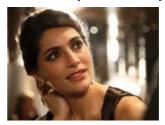
The surfing is amazing, but it's just the hook here — themes of parental responsibility, sibling rivalry and unspoken sexuality make this confronting film one of the most interesting to come out of Australia this year.

With outstanding photography from Richard Michalak and a crash-hot score, Newcastle stands out from the surf-flick crowd like a beacon.

What the Critics say!

"mind-blowingly gorgeous" - Amie Simon, Prost Amerika

- 6.15 pm Saturday 1 November
- 12.15 pm Sunday 2 November





DON'T THINK ABOUT IT

CANBERRA PREMIERE

NON PFNSARCI

Country:	Italy	
Language:	Italian	
Duration :	105 minutes	
Distributor:	Hopscotch Films	
Director:	Gianni Zanasi	
Starring:	Valerio Mastandrea / Anita Caprioli / Giuseppe Battiston / Caterina Murino	
Genre:	Comedy	

A funny and original story about a family with a multitude of problems from one of Italy's hottest young directors.

At the age of 36, Stefano Nardini (Valerio Mastandrea) is still playing with a young punk rock band in Rome. He used to be magazine fodder but he hasn't brought out a record in four years and his audience makes him feel old. Without a girlfriend or even a real bed to sleep in, he decides to return to his hometown of Rimini to reconnect with his family and lead a more simple life.

Despite being happy to see him, the family is in the middle of its own crisis. His father's had a heart attack, leaving the family fruit-packing factory in the hands of depressed brother Alberto (Giuseppe Battiston) and the business on the brink of collapse. His mother is taking classes from a kooky guru while his sister Michela (Anita Caprioli) has become a lesbian and quit university to work with dolphins.

Stefano does his best to help out, finding himself more needed than needing, but he soon finds out that taking on everyone else's problems is not going to solve his own. This bittersweet and charming comedy shows director Gianni Zanasi has a sharp eye for real life as well as laughs.

What the Critics say!

"Solid script and exceptional performances from a cast that could give lessons on ensemble acting." Jay Weissberg – Variety.com

WINNER: Best Film - Venice Film Festival 2007

WINNER: Young Talent Award (Gianni Zanasi) - Venice Film Festival 2007

WINNER: FEDIC Award - Venice Film Festival 2007

WINNER: Sergio Leone Award, Annecy Italian Cinema Festival 2007

- 8.15 pm Saturday 1 November
- 2.15 pm Sunday 2 November





QUIET CHAOS CAOS CALMO

CANBERRA PREMIERE

Country:	Italy	
Language:	Italian	
Duration :	105 minutes	
Distributor:	Sharmill Films	
Director:	Antonio Luigi Grimaldi	
Starring:	Nanni Moretti / Alessandro Gassman / Valeria Golino / Isabella Ferrari	
Genre:	Drama	

This simple and touching story of a man coping with the sudden death of his wife combines the star power of some of Italy's and France's finest actors with an elegant restraint.

Nanni Moretti plays Pietro Paladini, a successful TV executive whose wife drops dead in the garden, just as he and his brother (Alessandro Gassman) are saving two women from drowning at the beach. Left alone to care for his 10-year-old daughter, Pietro promises to wait for her outside the gate on her first day back at school.

One day turns into a week, then into months, as he sits on a park bench in front of the school, observing and getting to know the neighbourhood and passersby. His family and colleagues try to get him to return to work with no success and slowly the tables turn as people seek him out not to offer consolation but to ask his advice. The film is already a hit in Italy and has generated much debate.

What the Critics say!

"It is a tribute to Grimaldi's subtle direction, an emotive pop score, amusing script and flawless acting that Quiet Chaos pulls off an original and complex study of the unpredictability of human reaction."

Maxine Harfield - Cinemattraction

"Beautifully modulated, fluidly told film" Jay Weissberg -Variety.com

WINNER: Best Supporting Actor (Alessandro Gassman) - David di Donatello Awards 2008

WINNER: Best Music - David di Donatello Awards 2008

WINNER: Best Original Song - David di Donatello Awards 2008

- 12.30 pm Sunday 2 November
- 4.30 pm Sunday 9 November





ALEKSANDRA

CANBERRA **PREMIERE**

Country:	Russia/France	
Language:	Russian / Chechen	
Duration:	95 minutes	
Distributor:	Rezo Films International	
Director:	Alexander Sokurov	
Starring:	Galina Vishnevskaya / Vasily Shevtsov / Raisa Gichaeva	
Genre:	Drama	

Lovingly written and directed by Alexander Sokurov, this moving yet unsentimental story was shot under extreme conditions in and around war-torn Grozny. An elderly Russian woman, played by legendary opera star Galina Vishnevskaya, takes a train trip to visit her grandson at his remote army camp inside Chechnya. The two haven't seen each other for 7 years.

Aleksandra is opinionated, proud, stubborn and forthright and is appalled by the lack of discipline on the base and the state of her grandson Denis's uniform. She watches soldiers barely old enough to grow facial hair clean their guns while the soldiers stare back at her – their minds returning to civilian life and of home

Unbound by army restrictions, Aleksandra talks her way past a guarded checkpoint and wanders into the town markets where she meets a Chechen stall-holder named Malika. The two old women bond and venture back to Malika's bomb-blasted apartment where they share a cup of tea and the kind of neighbourly warmth denied their grandsons. Together they discover their differences and their similarities, and war is revealed for what it is: brutal. crushing and ugly.

What the Critics say!

"...graceful, humane story ... Vishnevskaya is marvellous as the matriarch who casts a sad eye at the pain and heartbreak caused by war ..."

** * * * Jason Anderson – eyeweekly.com

"...featuring a performance of monumental depth by opera legend Galina Vishnevskaya" Jay Weissberg - variety.com

★★★ Chris Cabin – reel.com

"A film of startling originality and beauty." – New York Times

canberrafilmfestival.com.au

- 2.30 pm Sunday 2 November
- 4.15 pm Sunday 9 November





WENDY & LUCY

CANBERRA PREMIERE

Country:	USA	
Language:	English	
Duration:	80 minutes	
Distributor:	Potential Films	
Director:	Kelly Reichardt	
Starring:	Michelle Williams / Will Patton / Will Oldham / John Robinson	
Genre:	Drama	

In this surprising and moving offering from indie idol Kelly Reichardt, the underbelly of America's consumption-driven society is exposed in all its harsh reality.

Michelle Williams stars as a young woman on the edge of financial ruin. On her way to what she hopes will be a lucrative job in Alaska, her car breaks down, leaving her stuck in a small town in Oregon. She gets separated from her dog and only companion Lucy, and in the ensuing red tape the thin fabric of her financial situation comes apart.

Shot with a keenly poetic eye for the landscape of America's margin-dwellers, this carefully observed story is painful and devastating to watch.

Michelle Williams' performance was hailed as transcendent when the film screened in the Un Certain Regard section at Cannes.

■ What the Critics say!

"...remarkable for its emotional intimacy as wrenching as it is astutely rendered" ** ** ** Eyeweekly.com

"The degree to which Wendy and Lucy slowly-but-surely grows on the viewer is nothing short of astounding" David Nusair – Reel Film Reviews

"...the film ... sticks with patient and profound sympathy to Michelle Williams' incredible performance" – *The Auteurs' Notebook*

"Reichardt's ... style is elegant and unobtrusive" - Alison Willmore, ifc.com

- 4.15 pm Sunday 2 November
- 4.15 pm Monday 3 November





BLISS MUTLULUK

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Country:	Turkey	
Language:	Turkish / English	
Duration :	26 minutes	
Distributor:	ANS Productions	
Director:	Abdullah Oguz	
Starring:	Talat Bulut / Özgü Namal / Murat Han	
Genre:	Drama	

Adapted from internationally acclaimed author Zülfü Livaneli's novel, *Bliss* is an unconventional road movie in which the executioner of an honour killing and his victim go on a journey of self-discovery.

When 17-year-old Meryem (Özgü Namal) is found dishevelled and unconscious by the side of a lake, her family believes the worst — that her chastity has been lost and that she has been a willing accomplice in its disposal. They turn to the ancient principle of "tore", a strict moral code governing the rules of sexual practice, that condemns Meryem to death. The duty of defending the family's honour is given to distant cousin Cemal (Murat Han), who must take Meryem to Istanbul and kill her along the way.

The two begin to fall for each other and their journey takes an unexpected turn when they meet Irfan (Talat Bulut), an academic escaping his big city angst, who is also looking for a second chance in life. Set against the impressive backdrop of Turkey's natural wonders, *Bliss* pits tradition against modernity, urban against rural and East against West, all the while refusing to settle for easy answers.

■ What the Critics say!

"The most significant work to emerge from Turkey in the past decade \dots provocative, thoughtful, heartrending and soul-stirring" NP Thompson – Movies into Film

"...pure heavenly cinema ... mesmerised by this feast for the eye and ear" Jugu Abraham – dearcinema.com

WINNER: Best Actress (Özgü Namal) – Antalya Golden Orange Film Festival WINNER: Best Actor (Murat Han) – Antalya Golden Orange Film Festival

With thanks to the Embassy of the Republic of Turkey

4.30 pm Sunday 2 November





DYING BREED

CANBERRA PREMIERE

Country:	Australia	
Language:	English	
Duration:	01 minutes	
Distributor:	Hoyts Distributors	
Director:	Jody Dwyer	
Starring:	Leigh Whannell / Nathan Phillips / Billie Brown / Mirrah Foulkes	
Genre:	Horror	

Set in the primitive wilderness of Tasmanian forests and drawing on the early colony's violent past, *Dying Breed* is the latest in a strong tradition of Australian horror movie hits.

Zoology student Nina (Mirrah Foulkes) sets out with three friends to search for Tasmania's legendary tiger and prove its existence. She is armed with a crucial piece of evidence: a paw print taken by her sister just before she met with a fatal accident eight years earlier.

The part of Tasmanian history Nina doesn't know anything about is when murderous convict Alexander Pearce (known as the Pieman) broke out of prison and survived by eating his fellow escapees. Pearce was hung for cannibalism in 1824.

When the group stumbles on an isolated village of Pearce's descendents, they discover Tasmania's terrifying secrets and their expedition turns into a nightmare. In an ungodly wilderness, the Pearce clan has not only survived but is proud of its blood-thirsty past and purity of bloodline.

Soon they must fight for their own lives or risk becoming Tasmania's next endangered species.

What the Critics say!

"Jump for jump, you'll not see a more frightening movie all year" Dean Treadway — Filmicability

- 6.30 pm Sunday 2 November
- 12.15 pm Monday 3 November





CROSSED TRACKS ROMAN DE GARE

Country:	France	Classification: M	AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE
Language:	French		Pheiviiene
Duration :	103 minutes		
Distributor	Distributor: Arkles Entertainment		
Director:	Claude Lelouch		
Starring:	Dominique Pinon / Fanny Ardant / Audrey Dana / Michèle Bernier		
Genre:	Drama		

From one of France's best-known directors comes this captivating detective story underpinned by reflections about identity.

Popular novelist Judith Ralitzer (Fanny Ardant) is interrogated by police about her possible connection to a serial killer known as The Magician, a man who may also turn out to be her ghost writer.

Meanwhile, Pierre Laclos (Dominique Pinon) finds himself at a motorway rest stop attempting to console Huguette (Audrey Dana), a stranger whose fiancé dumped her there and left with the car. While Pierre gives her a lift to her parents' house, Huguette asks him to pretend to be the fiancé to appease her overly critical family.

Are the two stories connected? Who is Pierre really? And in this world of the imagination, what is real and what is fiction?

Lelouch's intriguing movie zigzags back and forth in time, playfully toying with our notions of reality and relationships.

■ What the Critics say!

"...ingenious, deceptive and slippery" - Roger Ebert

"...ace performance ... from Pinon, whose unconventional leading-man looks and sly mixture of malevolence and heroic charisma are perfectly in keeping with Lelouch's conviction that nothing is quite as it appears to be"

Scott Foundas –Variety

"Coup de théâtre, enchanting actors ... virtuoso camerawork; the Lelouch mayonnaise has taken!" Isabelle Giordano – Femme Actuelle

NOMINATED: Most Promising Actress (Audrey Dana) – César Awards

canberrafilmfestival.com.au

- 8.15 pm Sunday 2 November
- 4.30 pm Monday 3 November





KATYN

CANBERRA PREMIERE

Country:	Poland	
Language:	Polish	
Duration:	118 minutes	
Distributor:	TVP SA	
Director:	Andrzej Wajda	
Starring:	Artur Zmijewski / Maja Ostaszewska / Andrzej Chyra	
Genre:	Drama	

Katyn is is a heart-wrenching story of families — wives waiting for husbands, mothers for sons and children for their fathers. It tells the tragedy of a generation, all waiting for their men to come home.

In 1939, after Nazi Germany's invasion of Poland, the Red Army crossed the Polish border, placing all Polish officers under Soviet internment. By the end of October the detained officers were imprisoned in Soviet camps. In the spring of 1940, Stalin ordered some 20,000 Polish POWs to be taken to the forest of Katyn and two other NKVD centres, where they were systematically slaughtered. Director Andrzej Wajda's father was among them.

In 1943, when the Germany army discovered the mass graves at Katyn, the USSR authorities denied everything, continuing to do so until 1989. All this time, their families waited, hoping the men were still alive. *Katyn* is a film about an invincible struggle for memory and truth and an uncompromising reckoning with the lies the communist powers created to force Poland to forget those who had been killed.

What the Critics say!

"...master filmmaker Andrzej Wajda vividly and movingly dramatizes one of the last major crimes of World War II" Kirk Honeycutt – hollywoodreporter.com

"Expert cinematography, compelling acting, and a story that leaves the viewer both sorrowful and angry" – The Economist

WINNER: Best Film - Polish Film Awards 2008

WINNER: Best Supporting Actress - Polish Film Awards 2008

WINNER: Best Cinematography – Polish Film Awards 2008

NOMINATED: Best Foreign Language Film, The Oscars® 2008

6.15 pm Monday 3 November

■ 12.15 pm Tuesday 4 November





DOT.com

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Country:	Portugal		
Language:	Portuguese		
Duration:	03 minutes		
Distributor:	M-appeal		
Director:	Luís Galvão Teles		
Starring:	João Tempera / María Adánez / Marco Delgado		
Genre:	Comedy		

A tiny village in Portugal is being threatened with a huge lawsuit by a Spanish multinational corporation because the town's website has the same name as a brand of mineral water the company has trademarked.

Should the picturesque town shut down its site, should it fight the company that has patented the name or should it pay the €500,000 the company demands if it wants to stay online?

A judicial battle begins, and when the international media gets hold of the story the village becomes a cause célèbre pulling in everyone from national politicians to the local priest, who goes so far as to claim that if Jesus were alive he'd have his own website.

A charmingly funny and beautifully filmed comedy that highlights the absurdity of conflicts of rights in cyberspace.

What the Critics say!

WINNER: Audience Award – Coimbra Caminhos do Cinema Português 2008



- 6.30 pm Monday 3 November
- 12.15 pm Wednesday 5 November





NOODLE

CANBERRA PREMIERE

Country:	Israel	
Language:	Hebrew / Mandarin	
Duration:	90 minutes	
Distributor:	IsraeliFilms	
Director:	Ayelet Menahemi	
Starring:	Mili Avital / BaoQi Chen / Anat Waxman	
Genre:	Drama	

Winner of the prestigious Special Grand Jury Prize at the Montreal World Film Festival, *Noodle* is a charming and moving comic-drama about a young Israeli woman and a Chinese boy whose lives converge in the most surprising manner.

At 37, El Al flight attendant Miri (Mili Avital) has been twice-widowed by war. One day her Chinese housekeeper asks if Miri can mind her six-year-old son for an hour and walks out, never to return. The boy cannot speak English or Hebrew and neither Miri nor her sister Gila (Anat Waxman), with whom she lives, can speak Mandarin. As Miri and Gila attempt to search for the mother of the boy, nicknamed Noodle, Miri's well-regulated but emotionally empty existence is turned upside down.

These two human beings, who are as different from each other as Tel Aviv is from Beijing, go on a remarkable journey together, one that takes them both back to a meaningful life.

This is a touching film with outstanding performances where little moments speak volumes from the heart.

What the Critics say!

"...genuinely tense and inspired ... performances are spot-on" Eddie Cockrell – Variety.com

WINNER: Special Grand Jury Prize - Montreal Film Festival

WINNER: Best Supporting Actress (Anat Waxman) – Israeli Film Academy Awards

With thanks to The Embassy of Israel

- 8.15 pm Monday 3 November
- 2.15 pm Tuesday 4 November





IN LOVE WE TRUST

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

ZUO YOU

Country:	China	
Language:	Mandarin	
Duration:	115 minutes	
Distributor:	r: Films Distribution	
Director:	Wang Xiaoshuai	
Starring:	Liu Weiwei / Zhang Jiayi / Cheng Taishen / Yu Nan	
Genre: Drama		



The University of Canberra Celebrating 40 Years

Real estate agent Mei Zhu (Liu Weiwei) and her graphic designer husband Lao Xie (Cheng Taishen) live with five-year-old Hehe, Mei Zhu's daughter from her first marriage. When they learn that Hehe has leukemia, they call in her natural father Xiao Lu (Zhang Jiayi). All are on civil terms but when tests show that neither of the blood parents is suitable for a bone marrow transplant, without which Hehe will have only two or three more years to live, another way must be found.

Mei Zhu becomes convinced that the only way to save her daughter is for her and Xiao Lu to have another child, whose bone marrow would be compatible. Trouble is. Xiao Lu has also remarried.

This is a stimulating and thought-provoking story of parenthood, love, married life, betrayal, trust and giving. It strips back changes in contemporary society and family life to expose the moral and ethical dilemmas brought on by modernity.

What the Critics say!

"as the good-hearted Xie, Cheng is exceptionally good, bringing some real heart to the final reel" Derek Elley – variety.com

"one of the masterfully handled denouements we've seen in Chinese movies, for a long time" — China Film Journal

"Diamond performances perfectly calibrated." Maggie Lee – The Hollywood Reporter

WINNER: Silver Berlin Bear for Best Screenplay – Berlin Film Festival WINNER: Best Actress is a Foreign Film (Liu Weiwei) – Pula Film Festival, Croatia

canberrafilmfestival.com.au

- 8.30 pm Monday 3 November
- 4.30 pm Tuesday 4 November





CANBERRA PREMIERE

GONZO: THE LIFE & WORK OF DR. HUNTER S. THOMPSON

Country:	USA	Classification: M
Language:	English	
Duration:	118 minutes	
Distributor:	Madman Australia	
Director:	Alex Gibney	
Narrated by:	Johnny Depp	
Genre:	Documentary	

From the maker of Oscar-winning Iraq war expose *Taxi* to the *Dark Side*, comes another remarkable documentary. With his profound effect on American journalism and the imagination, writer Hunter S. Thompson makes a ripe subject for examination. Fuelled by a raging libido, and superhuman doses of drugs and booze, Thompson was a true original.

Johnny Depp narrates and reads from Thompson's work, as we are treated to an iconic soundtrack, interviews with Jimmy Carter and Tom Wolfe among others, and a stream of unpublished footage and manuscripts. But director Alex Gibney allows Hunter S. Thompson's uncompromising writing to tell his own story of a passionate and fearless man.

What the Critics say!

- "...absolutely riveting and extraordinary film" Patricia Bosworth Vanity Fair
- "...a no-helmet motorcycle blitz through the literary bad boy's most tumultuous years" Sarah Wexler Marie Claire
- "...all you could wish for in a doc about the man" Roger Erbert
- "...cheers to Alex Gibney ... mesmerizing" Rolling Stone
- "A biographical documentary doesn't get any better than this." Kirk Honeycutt The Hollywood Reporter
- "A mesmerizing look at the mythic quality and anarchic spirit of the irreverent and rabble-rousing journalist." Claudia Puiq, USA Today

NOMINATED: Grand Jury Prize (Documentary) - Sundance 2008

- 6.15 pm Tuesday 4 November
- 12.30 pm Wednesday 5 November





WORLDS APART

TO VFRDFNFR

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Country:	Denmark
Language:	Danish
Duration:	108 minutes
Distributor:	Danish Film Institute
Director:	Niels Arden Oplev
Starring:	Anders W. Berthelsen / Rosalinde Mynster / Pilou Asbæk
Genre:	Drama

Based on a true story, this provocative film poses a raft of questions about the place of fundamentalist thinking in the lives of young people.

Sara Dahl (17-year-old newcomer Rosalinde Mynster) has led a sheltered life in the devoted arms of her Jehovah's Witness family and faith. She goes from door-to-door with her fellow believers, preaching on eternal salvation for Jehovah's chosen ones.

But when she meets Teis (Pilou Asbæk) and they fall in love, Sara is confronted with her most difficult choice yet in life. Teis is not a Jehovah's Witness and despite the minister's (Anders W. Berthelsen) reminders about dogma, Sara's passion grows through stolen, secret meetings.

Torn between her conscience, faith and her heart, Sara is forced to make a choice between her love of a man and her family.

World's Apart is the official Danish entry in the 2009 Oscar® nominations for Best Foreign Language Film.

What the Critics say!

"Intriguing subject matter combined with charismatic performances by the two young leads" Alissa Simon – variety.com

With thanks to the Royal Danish Embassy

- 8.15 pm Tuesday 4 November
- 4.30 pm Wednesday 5 November





TERRIBLY HAPPY

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

FRYGTELLIG LYKKFI IG

Country:	Denmark
Language:	Danish
Duration:	95 minutes
Distributor:	Danish Film Institute
Director:	Henrik Ruben Genz
Starring:	Jakob Cedergren / Kim Bodnia / Lene Maria Christensen
Genre:	Drama

From Denmark's answer to the Cohen brothers comes this darkly comic tale of a fish out of water.

Copenhagen policeman Robert (Jakob Cedergren) has a number of skeletons in his closet, which he is determined to bury. When he's temporarily reassigned to a provincial town he sees it as an opportunity to create a new future for himself. He just needs to do well and generally behave by the book.

However, village life and the macabre local customs don't sit well with his new plans. When he uncovers troubling secrets the peaceful façade is shattered. Small-town life will never be the same again.

With spectacular camera work and an impressive cast, this genre-bending thriller is an inspired take on the universal nature of compromise and corruption.

What the Critics say!

"....stunning cinematography and strong performances" — Czech Radio

"Entertaining and full of surprising twists ... impressive" Alissa Simon – Variety.com

"Jakob Cedergren looks stellar in the lead" Todd Brown - twitch

WINNER: Crystal Globe Grand Prix – Karlovy Vary International Film Festival 2008

With thanks to the Royal Danish Embassy

- 2.30 pm Wednesday 5 November
- 6.30 pm Sunday 9 November





THE SONG OF SPARROWS

CANBERRA PREMIERE

AVAZE GONJESHK-HA

Country:	Iran
Language:	Farsi
Duration:	96 minutes
Distributor:	Fortissimo Films
Director:	Majid Majidi
Starring:	Reza Naji / Maryam Akbari / Kamran Dehghan
Genre:	Comedy

From one of Iran's most renowned director's comes a beautifully crafted, gently humorous tale of simple folk with simple problems.

Karim is a kind and honest man who works on an ostrich farm outside Tehran. When one of the ostriches runs away, Karim is blamed for the catastrophe and fired from his job, forcing him to pack up his family and re locate to the city.

While out on an errand one day, Karim is mistaken for a taxi driver when a businessman jumps on the back of his motorbike. So begins Karim's new career and his entrée into the world of capitalism.

Much to the distress of his wife and family, Karim's contact with the middleclasses and their material goods starts to corrupt their beloved family man and transform his once generous and honest nature. It is up to those closest to Karim to restore the values that he had once cherished.

What the Critics say!

"With its sweeping cinematography, utterly affectless acting, and humane perspective, *The Song of Sparrows* was a treat in every sense of the word.

** * * Chris Barsanti – Filmcritic.com

"a metaphor-driven tale...spiked with gentle humour...that audiences can identify with" Deborah Young — Hollywood Reporter

"deeply humanistic story set among society's underprivileged ... beautifully crafted" Alissa Simon – variety.com

"a briskly likeable comedy ... " Jonathan Romney – Screendaily

WINNER: Silver Bear for Best Actor (Reza Naji) – Berlin Film Festival

WINNER: Best Director - Fair International Film Festival

canberrafilmfestival.com.au

- 6.15 pm Wednesday 5 November
- 12.30 pm Thursday 6 November



THE KAUTOKEINO REBELLION

KAUTOKEINO-OPPRØRET

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Country:	Norway
Language:	Norwegian
Duration:	96 minutes
Distributor:	Norwegian Film Institute
Director:	Nils Gaup
Starring:	Anni-Kristiina Juuso / Asle Mathis Gaup / Mikael Persbrandt
Genre:	Drama

An ice-cold drama with fire in its belly, this tale of revolution in the most remote part of Norway is a visual masterpiece.

It is 1852 and modernisation is about to enter the desolate village of Kautokeino, inhabited for centuries by the native Sami population and their reindeers. The ruthless and prosperous Swedish liquor store owner Ruth (Mikael Persbrandt) rules the roost with his steady supply of alcohol to the local men, leaving the herds neglected and the women bitter.

When strong-willed Elen (Anni-Kristiina Juuso) refuses to shop at the store that keeps her husband drunk, she sets in motion a serious of events that will lead to one of the most dramatic episodes in northern Scandinavian history.

Based on a true story, and 10 years in the making, this beautiful film is one of Norway's finest.

What the Critics say!

"sweeping panoramas and magnificent snowbound landscape, handsomely lensed" Jay Weissberg – variety.com

WINNER: Best actress (Anni-Kristiina Juuso) – Amanda Awards, Norway 2008

With thanks to the Royal Norwegian Embassy



- 8.15 pm Wednesday 5 November
- 4.30 pm Thursday 6 November





THE WACKNESS

CANBERRA PREMIERE

Country:	USA
Language:	English
Duration :	99 minutes
Distributor:	Madman Australia
Director:	Jonathan Levine
Starring:	Josh Peck / Ben Kingsley / Famke Janssen
Genre:	Comedy/Drama
Classification:	MA 15+

Fuelled by a roaring hip-hop score, this emotional coming-of-age drama brilliantly captures the spell of New York in the summertime of 1994. There's a pager in every pocket, Tupac is still alive, but Kurt Cobain has just died.

Luke Shapiro (Josh Peck) is fresh out of high school and strung out on dope and depression. He travels the streets of Manhattan selling bushels of weed from an ice-cream cart and befriends his psychiatrist (Ben Kingsley), a fellow addict and kindred lost soul who allows Luke to pay for his sessions with contraband.

The decadent doctor's best advice is for Luke to get laid but when the target of Luke's affection turns out to be the doc's own stepdaughter, an ethical minefield awaits.

Funny and moving, *The Wackness* is an offbeat tale of two lost souls stumbling towards maturity.

What the Critics say!

"A funny, touching mood piece" Michael Sragow – Baltimore Sun

"Both darkly funny and life-affirming" Claudia Puig -USA Today

"A smart comedy" Steven Rea - Philadelphia Inquirer

"A rollicking performance by Ben Kingsley ... The Wackness is a tightly packed entertainment" Duane Byrge – Hollywood Reporter

"Peck ... is the most recognizable and lovable teenager we've seen in a film for years." Nicholas Barber – The Independent

WINNER: Audience Award, Sundance 2008

- 8.30 pm Wednesday 5 November
- 2.30 pm Thursday 6 November





NIGHT OF THE WOLF

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

UIVFNATTFN

Country:	Norway
Language:	Norwegian
Duration:	90 minutes
Distributor:	Norwegian Film Institute
Director:	Kjell Sundvall
Starring:	Anneke von der Lippe / Dejan Cukic / Christian Skolmen
Genre:	Drama

This tight suspenseful thriller, inspired by classics such as *The China Syndrome*, is a nervy and unflinching look at terrorist tactics.

During a live TV debate a group of armed Chechens break into the studio and take hostages, demanding that their actions be broadcast live on air.

While the world watches in horror, the police and negotiators work frantically behind the scenes to get as many people as possible out alive.

In the best tradition of action-thrillers, the fast "newscast" type scenes follow the drama from moment to moment until its final, shocking denouement.

What the Critics say!

"Kjell Sundvall's direction is concise, unbiased and effective"

- The Fresh Film Review

With thanks to the Royal Norwegian Embassy



- 6.15 pm Thursday 6 November
- 12.30 pm Friday 7 November





VACLAV

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Country:	Czech Republic
Language:	Czech
Duration :	100 minutes
Distributor:	Simply Cinema
Director:	Jirí Vejdelek
Starring:	Ivan Trojan / Emília Vásáryová / Jan Budar
Genre:	Drama

Václav Vingle (Ivan Trojan) is in his forties, bordering on autistic and living with his mother on the outskirts of a rural village. The villagers hate him, viewing him as nothing but trouble. But, his brother Frantisek (Jan Budar) envies the attention he gets from their mother (Emília Vásáryová), while Václav is haunted by the mysterious death in 1978 of their father.

The tension rises as Frantisek's mistress Lida starts showing an attraction to the wild but charmingly innocent Václav. When the truth about their father's death comes out, an explosive situation erupts between the brothers and in the village.

The tragic consequences cannot be written off as the actions of a village idiot so Václav is imprisoned. For the first time without his mother's shelter, Václav faces the real world and becomes the easy target of his fellow prisoners. When his mother asks for a presidential pardon, the villagers must decide whether to sign a letter supporting his return to the village.

Based on true events that took place during president Havel's prison amnesty program in the early 1990s, this involving drama earned huge acclaim on its Czech release.

■ What the Critics say!

"...risk-taking, precisely calibrated performance from Czech veteran Ivan Trojan ... his fascinating, commanding Václav never approaches excess or caricature." Eddie Cockrell – variety.com

WINNER: Best Actor - Czech Lions 2008

WINNER:Best Supporting Actor - Czech Lions 2008

WINNER: Best Actress – Shanghai International Film Festival 2008

WINNER: Best Screenplay - Shanghai International Film Festival 2008

canberrafilmfestival.com.au

■ 7.30 pm Thursday 6 November





THE COCA COLA KID

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Country:	Australia
Language:	English
Duration:	93 mins
Distributor:	David Roe / Grand Bay Films / NFSA
Director:	Dusan Makavejev
Starring:	Eric Roberts / Greta Scacchi / Tony Barry / Bill Kerr / Chris Haywood
Rated:	M

A new print from the NFSA's Atlab/ Kodak Project

One of the most anticipated projects of Australian cinema in 1980s was controversial Yugoslavian director Dusan Makavejev's adaptation of Frank Moorhouses' *The Americans, Baby.*

It promised to be a wicked comic allegory of American-Australian cultural (and sexual) relations, as an Atlanta cola executive (Eric Roberts) tries to sell the local Coke franchise to an old-time fizzy-drink manufacturer (Bill Kerr).

But despite a cast clearly having a lot of on-screen fun (including Greta Scacchi, Tony Barry, and Chris Haywood) the film had a troubled production and muted critical reception, with many expecting more satirical fireworks from the director of *WR: Mysteries of the Organism*.

Twenty-five years on, novelist and scriptwriter Frank Moorhouse joins producer David Roe to present the Australian premiere of a new print of the film, from the National Film and Sound Archive's Atlab/Kodak Cinema Project. Moorhouse and Roe will take a fresh look at *The Coca Cola Kid* and revisit their tall-buttrue memories of working with one of European cinema's greats.





- 8.15 pm Thursday 6 November
- 4.15 pm Friday 7 November





AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

EMOTIONAL ARITHMETIC

Country:	Canada
Language:	English
Duration:	99 minutes
Distributor:	Celluloid Dreams
Director:	Paolo Barzman
Starring:	Susan Sarandon / Christopher Plummer / Gabriel Byrne / Max von Sydow
Genre:	Drama

Emotional Arithmetic is a story of redemption, healing, and reconciliation ignited by the re-union of three survivors of Drancy, a World War II internment camp just outside of Paris.

In 1945, Jakob Bronski (von Sydow), a young dissident held at Drancy, takes two children, Melanie and Christopher, under his charge. Forty years later Melanie (Sarandon) discovers that the now elderly Jakob, whom she believed had been taken from Drancy to Auschwitz and killed, is still alive. She immediately invites him to live with her and her family on their farm in Canada.

Jakob arrives with Christopher (Byrne) as a surprise for Melanie and she and Christopher must face the truth of the life-long bond between them.

The past explodes into the present in an unexpected and tender love story, which is life altering for them and those around them.

A top-notch cast and lush cinematography by Luc Montpellier makes this drama a must-see.

What the Critics say!

"...the incredible cast basically put on a master class of humanistic acting, ensuring that *Emotional Arithmetic* equals profound impact" Scott A. Gray — Exclaim!

"Sarandon delivers an outstanding performance ... Max von Sydow stands out ... in a delightful performance ... a heartbreaking drama ... profoundly moving film." Geoffrey D. Roberts — Reel Talk

"This is an emotional film that will captivate the audience while relating a deeply human story." — hometheatreinfo.com

"Performed with consummate intelligence, conviction and skill by its superb cast" *Toronto Star*

- 8.30 pm Thursday 6 November
- 2.30 pm Friday 7 November





THE KARAMAZOVS

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

KARAMAZOVI

Country:	Czech Republic / Poland
Language:	Czech / Polish
Duration:	110 minutes
Distributor:	Negativ
Director:	Petr Zelenka
Starring:	Martin Mysicka / Radek Holub / Lenka Krobotová
Genre:	Drama

This truly original film from one of Poland's great directors is a stunning blend of theatre and the real world.

On a sweltering summer day, a group of actors from Prague walk into the industrial grime of a run-down steel mill in Krakow. There to rehearse for a performance for the city's alternative theatre festival, they are all but ignored by the few remaining steel workers there, who are preoccupied with a serious accident that happened at the mill the day before.

As they rehearse their play, an adaptation of Dostoevsky's masterpiece *The Brothers Karamazov*, which tells the story of a son on trial for the murder of his father, we are drawn into its issues of faith, immortality and the salvation of the human soul.

Meanwhile, the real world of the workers remains at the edges of the performance, despite their own personal tragedy striking similar chords to events within the play, until the two threads become inextricably knotted. Suddenly the biggest drama is not on stage but in the audience.

Director Petr Zelenka interweaves real performances by Prague's Dejvice Theatre company with lovingly realised fictional characters to create an exceptional piece of filmmaking.

- 8.15 pm Friday 7 November
- 12.15 pm Saturday 8 November





HONEYDRIPPER

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Country:	USA
Language:	English
Duration:	123 minutes
Distributor:	Rezo Films International
Director:	John Sayles
Starring:	Danny Glover / Charles S. Dutton / Lisa Gay Hamilton / Gary Clark Jr.
Genre:	Drama

Iconoclastic filmmaker John Sayles continues his examination of the complexities and shifting identities of American sub-cultures in this fable about the birth of rock 'n' roll.

It's 1950 in Harmony, Alabama and Tyrone Purvis (Danny Glover), boogie-woogie piano player and owner of the Honeydripper Lounge, is struggling to make ends meet. He owes almost everyone in town and is feeling the heat from the bar down the road and its jukebox blasting the new sounds. Desperate to bring the crowds back to his joint, he comes up with a plan to risk it all on a one-night gig by famous guitar player Guitar Sam.

Off the next train hops Sonny Blake (Gary Clark Jr.), a young man with big dreams and a guitar with no hole in it. Tyrone sends him packing and he is arrested for vagrancy and rented out as a cotton picker. But when Guitar Sam fails to show up, Sonny and his electric guitar are Tyrone's only hope of success. The stage is set for a night they'll never forget ...

What the Critics say!

"Drenched in atmosphere and dripping with rhythm, John Sayles' 16th feature film will have you rockin' in the aisles. "...one of Sayles' best films"

John Anderson – variety.com

"All of the musical performers with the exception of Glover are actual musicians and the level of authenticity elevates the film."

Kevin Crust – Los Angeles Times

"...universally strong performances" Jason Korsner – UKscreen

"Rich with characters and flowing with music" Roger Ebert -Chicago Sun-Times

WINNER: Best Screenplay – San Sebastian International Film Festival 2007

WINNER: Image Award for Outstanding Independent or Foreign Film – Image Awards 2008

canberrafilmfestival.com.au

- 8.30 pm Friday 7 November
- 6.15 pm Saturday 8 November





Y.P.F

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Country:	Canada
Language:	English
Duration :	90 minutes
Distributor:	All Interactive Distribution
Director:	Martin Gero
Starring:	Aaron Abrams / Diora Baird / Sonja Bennett / Callum Blue
Genre:	Comedy
Classification:	R 18+

This razor-sharp sex comedy with soul is an ensemble gem that festival audiences have hailed a real crowd-pleaser.

Young People F***king is about exactly that. The film intertwines the stories of five couples over the course of one night. As the couples attempt to have some seemingly straightforward sex, they run into all sorts of problems.

There is the ex-boyfriend and girlfriend reuniting for one night; the best friends helping each other out; the couple who have lost their spark; the first date; and the two roommates who might just turn into three.

This first feature from director/co-writer Martin Gero and actor/co-writer Aaron Abrams manages to cover sex in many of its glorious forms while retaining a deeply human connection to its characters.

What the Critics say!

- "...smart, fast dialogue and embarrassingly keen observations" Vanessa Farquharson – National Post
- "...just so f***king good" Jason Whyte efilmcritic.com
- "Nimble writing and appealing performances make YPF fun, smart and sexy" Now Toronto

WINNER: Best Supporting Actress in a Canadian Film (Sonja Bennett) – Vancouver Film Critics Circle 2008

2.30 pm Saturday 8 November





THREE BLIND MICE

CANBERRA PREMIERE

Country:	Australia	Classification: M
Language:	English	
Duration:	94 minutes	
Distributor:	Odin's Eye Entertainment	
Director:	Matthew Newton	
Starring:	Ewen Leslie / Toby Schmitz / Matthew Newton / Tina Bursill	
Genre:	Drama	

This tight ensemble piece with a dark heart is a tremendous second feature from writer-director-actor Matthew Newton.

Three young Australian naval cadets hit Sydney for one final night of fun before being shipped off on a tour of duty in Iraq. Their last tour was marred by the violent actions of their former XO and they are determined to make the most of their last few hours of freedom

Sam (Ewen Leslie), who has been mistreated at sea, is thinking about going AWOL, Dean (Toby Schmitz) has a fiancé and the future in-laws to meet, while Harry (Matthew Newton) just loves causing mischief.

During the course of the night the boys pinball around the city, losing each other but finding themselves, and along the way discover courage, friendship and redemption.

With tight performances from the main characters plus a roll call of well-known Australian actors, which include Bud Tingwell, Barry Otto, Brendan Cowell and Jackie Weaver. This smart and sophisticated entrée into the modern war genre is a gem of ensemble acting.

What the Critics say!

- "The three central performances are excellent, with Newton in particular standing out for his multi-faceted turn." Mark Lavercombe Hoopla
- "...fresh and authentic thanks to vibrant, off-the-cuff dialogue and excitingly raw performances" Matt Riviera

SPECIAL COMMENDATION — Sydney Film Festival 2008 for "its energy, passion, superb ensemble cast and such a fine collaboration by a talented group of young filmmakers" — Gillian Armstrong

■ 4.30 pm Saturday 8 November





SALVATION

CANBERRA PREMIERE

Country:	Australia	
Language:	English	
Duration:	100 mins	
Distributor:	Hopscotch Films	
Director:	Paul Cox	
Starring:	Natalia Novakova / Bruce Myles / Wendy Hughes	
Classification:	M	

Paul Cox's new film (his first shot digitally) returns to some of the themes of his early triumph *Man of Flowers*. It's a meditation and sometimes satire on modern life's quest for spiritual enlightenment: either packaged, marketed and made easily digestible by televangelism; or wrestled with, worked through and tested in the nuanced passions of human relationships.

Bruce Myles stars as the aging academic seeking his spiritual redemption in the unlikely love of a Russian refugee and sometime sex worker (Natalia Novakova). Wendy Hughes rejoins Cox's ensemble cast in the role of a brash and domineering televangalist. There are cameos for Barry Humphries and Cox regulars such as Chris Haywood, Terry Norris, Charles 'Bud' Tingwell, Monica Maughan, and Tony Llewellyn-Jones.

Wendy Hughes and Paul Cox will introduce the screening.





■ 4.30 pm Saturday 8 November





THE TUMBLER

CANBERRA PREMIERE

Country:	Australia	
Language:	English	
Duration:	75 minutes	
Distributor:	Mondayitis/ZTudio	
Director:	Marc Gracie	
Starring:	Gary Sweet / Hazem Shammas / Louise Crawford	
Genre:	Drama	

This tightly wound political thriller shot in outback South Australia is about people looking for a way to reconcile their hidden pasts.

Stumbling through the desert are Hurtle Hamilton (Gary Sweet), an old-school ace safe cracker looking for one last shot at the big score, and Afghan-Australian Tahir (Hazem Shammas), a man with a plan. They're looking for British gold, buried on an abandoned military base during World War II.

The base was once part of the Brisbane Line, a secret government plan to defeat the Japanese if they ever invaded, but is now guarded by lone American soldier Private Jen O'Leary (Louise Crawford) who has her own past to wrestle with.

Can she afford to risk one more screw-up to help them? Is the gold even there? And is that really why they came?

■ What the Critics say!

WINNER: Best screenplay – Victorian Premier Literary Awards 2007

■ 7.30 pm Saturday 8 November





RAIN OF THE CHILDREN

CANBERRA PREMIERE

Country:	New Zealand	
Language:	English / Maori	
Duration :	98 mins	
Distributor:	Rialto Distribution	
Director:	Vincent Ward	
Starring:	Vincent Ward / Rena Owen / Temuera Morrison / Waihoroi Shortland	
Rating:	M	

New Zealander Vincent Ward (*Vigil, The Navigator: a Medieval Odyssey*) revisits his youth as a Pakeha raised amongst North Island Maori communities, and memories of Puhi, an elderly Maori woman he befriended and filmed (in an early documentary, *In Spring One Plants Alone*) in the 1970s.

But Ward also tells us now what he didn't know then: of Puhi's links to the tragic New Zealand Land Wars of the mid-19th century, and to Rua Kenana, the messianic Maori leader who emerged in their aftermath.

In part the film's power comes from Ward's harnessing of the CGI tools of Peter Jackson's Weta Digital, to finally bring to life genuine legends and histories from the New Zealand landscape. But its Ward's very old-fashioned use of his archive of original footage of Puhi, and his loving, to-camera engagement with memories of his friend, that gives us a new insight into Maori-Pakeha relations over the past 150 years.

What the Critics say!

WINNER: Grand Prix - Era New Horizons Film Festival, Poland





- 8.15 pm Saturday 8 November
- 2.30 pm Sunday 9 November





A COMPLETE HISTORY OF MY SEXUAL FAILURES

CANBERRA PREMIERE

Country:	UK
Language:	English
Duration:	90 minutes
Distributor:	Madman Australia
Director:	Chris Waitt
Genre:	Documentary

Independent filmmaker Chris Waitt has a bad dating history. He's heading towards 30 and still single so he decides to find out what went wrong.

In this revealing and cringingly frank documentary, Waitt attempts to interview all his ex-girlfriends to find out why they dumped him and, even more humiliating, the source of his erectile dysfunction.

With raw authenticity from the women in his life, a fantastic turn from Waitt's long-suffering mother and some hilarious episodes on the nature of dating, this gonzo-style piece of filmmaking is a bona-fide sexual and emotional odyssey.

What the Critics say!

"...a clever and compelling exercise in humiliation-comedy" Caleb Starrenburg – The Lumière Reader

"The film's scrapbook style and the immediacy of the hand-held camera work belie a sophisticated piece of documentary-making"

Emma Slawinski – Eye For Film

"...thoroughly entertaining" Jason Korsner – UK Screen

"...screamingly funny" Dennis Harvey - Variety

NOMINATED: Grand Jury Prize (Documentary), Sundance 2008

- 8.30 pm Saturday 8 November
- 2.15 pm Sunday 9 November





CHERRY BLOSSOMS

CANBERRA PREMIERE

Kirschblüten – Hanami

Country:	Germany	
Language:	German / English / Japanese	
Duration:	126 minutes	
Distributor:	Bavaria Film International	
Director:	Doris Dörrie	
Starring:	Elmar Wepper / Hannelore Elsner / Aya Irizuki	
Genre:	Drama	

Multiple award-winning German Director Doris Dörrie reconfirms her exceptional talent with this tender, emotionally intense and profoundly moving story of marital love and devotion.

Rudi doesn't know he is terminally ill yet his devoted wife Trudi does. When the doctor suggests that they do something special together, Trudi decides not to tell her husband about the gravity of his illness and to follow the doctor's advice so she convinces Rudi to visit their children and grandchildren in Berlin. However, family life in Berlin is so busy that the family seem to begrudge the time spent with their ageing parents.

Suddenly, Rudi and the family are plunged into profound grief after receiving devastating news. Through his grief, Rudi begins to see Trudi with new eyes and embarks on an inspirational journey to Tokyo. The city is in the midst of the cherry blossom festival, a celebration of beauty, impermanence and new beginnings . . .

What the Critics say!

"Cast is spot-on, with craft package to match" Eddie Cockrell - variety.com

WINNER: Gold LOLA for Best Performance by an Actor in a leading role – German Film Awards 2008

WINNER: Best Actor & Best Production - Bavarian Film Awards 2008

WINNER: Silver LOLA for Outstanding Feature Film – German Film Awards 2008

WINNER: Gold LOLA for Best Costume Design - German Film Awards 2008

■ 8.00 pm Sunday 9 November





THE VIEW FROM GREENHAVEN

CANBERRA PREMIERE

Country:	Australia	
Language:	English	
Duration:	90 minutes	
Distributor:	Movie Network Channels	
Director:	Simon MacRae / Kenn MacRae	
Starring:	Chris Haywood / Wendy Hughes / Russell Dykstra	
Genre:	Drama	
Classification:	PG	

From the winners of Screentime/Movie Extra's \$1m Project Greenlight filmmaking competition comes this moving and uplifting story of a couple in search of happiness.

Dorothy and Dashiell live in an idyllic coastal town and have a perfect life — only grumpy Dashiell refuses to see it. To snap them out of their misery, their adult children surprise them on their wedding anniversary with a mystery train tour — but it just so happens it is a tour of their own home town.

Dashiell is forced to look at life from a new perspective and confront the disturbing possibility that everything he could ever want is already right on his doorstep.

With the production skills of Martin Brown, of *Moulin Rouge* and *Romeo + Juliet* fame, this is the first feature film from the MacRae brothers whose passion for telling great stories with real heart has earned them accolades in the world of short films



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FESTIVAL INFORMATION

Facts



WHERE: Dendy Cinemas Canberra

Level 2 North Quarter Canberra Centre

Arc Cinema, National Film and Sound Archive McCoy Circuit Acton

WHEN: Wednesday 29 October – Sunday 9 November 2008

RATINGS: The Office of Film And Literature Classification ratings are included where films have been classified at the time of printing. All other films are classified R18+.

For further details or enquiries please contact the Festival office.

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canberrafilmfestival.com.au

For the full festival program plus information on Q & A's, workshops, seminars and other festival events.

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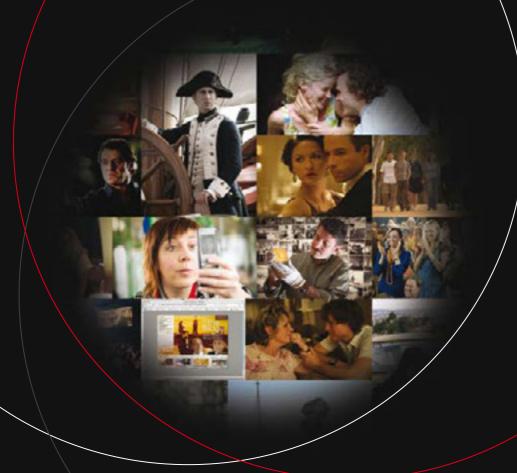


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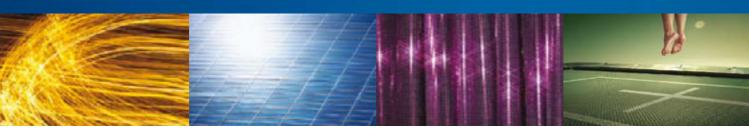
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