

# CANBERRA INTERNATIONAL FILM FEST

National Film and Sound Archive, McCoy Circuit, Acton, ACT

[www.ciff.com.au](http://www.ciff.com.au)

CANBERRA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL 5 - 15 NOVEMBER 2015



## CANBERRA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL 2015 5 - 15 NOVEMBER

at the NATIONAL FILM AND SOUND ARCHIVE, McCoy Circuit, Acton

**BOOK NOW!** ALL TICKETS - ALL SESSIONS  
\$15 adult \$12 concessions (children, pensioners, students)

Book online at [www.ciff.com.au](http://www.ciff.com.au) or tickets across the counter during office hours at the National Film and Sound Archive.  
Enquiries: 02 6248 0851 or [info@ciff.com.au](mailto:info@ciff.com.au)

**Classification: All films are classified MA15+ unless otherwise indicated.**

The Festival is presented in association with the National Film and Sound Archive

NATIONAL  
FILM  
& SOUND  
ARCHIVE



The Canberra International Film Festival is a community-run not-for-profit organisation and relies on public support and the generosity of its sponsors. The Festival is grateful for financial support from the ACT Government (through artsACT and EventsACT), the University of Canberra, and Screen Australia.

Supported by



We are also grateful for the support of our commercial and in-kind sponsors:

QT Hotel, Eden Road Wines,  
The Canberra Times,  
Taipei Economic and Cultural Office.



The Canberra Times





**INTRODUCING CIFF 2015:** this year the Festival takes a new direction, with a program hand-picked by a team of local film specialists, and specifically designed for Canberra's audience. CIFF celebrates the work of Canberra's own film-makers, alongside a superb array of films from Australia, Asia and the Middle East that offer a rich diversity of ideas and cinematic experiences. The Festival's new link to the National Film and Sound Archive enables a showcase of archival films to enrich the program and a dedicated space to engage with festival-goers and filmmakers at the CIFF Festival Hub.



**Fri Nov 6 6pm  
CHOICE LIFESTYLES**

From the Central Australian Aboriginal Media Association (CAAMA) in Alice Springs comes a selection of films that act as a window into life and culture on remote Aboriginal communities. Rarely do audiences have access to the specialised cultural knowledge and practices being passed on through these treasured films. CAAMA has long been the training ground for new Indigenous filmmakers, and some of their remarkable work will be presented in this program.



**Sat Nov 7 1pm  
WE ARE MANY**

Director: **Amir Amirani**  
110 mins Australia

On 15 February 2003, 30 million people across the globe took to the streets in the single largest organised protest of all time against the impending war on Iraq. Told by activists involved and a star-studded line-up of contributors including Susan Sarandon, Danny Glover, Richard Branson, Noam Chomsky and many more, *We Are Many* explores the struggle to stop the war, the political fall-out and the resulting disheartenment of a generation of pacifists.



**Sat Nov 7 5.30pm  
THE TRIBE**

Director: **Myroslav Slaboshpytskiy**  
132 mins Ukraine

**Note: Classified R18+** You know those beautiful, well-intentioned 'disability' films about the overcoming of adversity? This movie takes films like that behind the bike shed and beats them up for their lunch money. When Sergey enters a school for the deaf, he falls in with the student mafia that really run the show. Acted entirely in sign language by a largely amateur but entirely brilliant all-deaf cast. A caustic piece of filmmaking, classified R18+ for explicit sex and violence.



**SUN Nov 8 1pm  
TRIBUTE TO PETER FINCH #1**

also **Monday Nov 9 at 11am**

One of Peter Finch's most popular films, *THE SHIRALEE* (1957) made for Ealing Studios by director Leslie Norman: the story of a fiercely independent itinerant labourer in the Australian bush and his turbulent relationship with his 5-year old daughter. Plus a rare 35mm print of *THE DAY* (1960), a charming but seldom seen short film directed by Finch on the Spanish island of Ibiza.



**Sun Nov 8 3.30pm  
CORN ISLAND**

Director: **George Ovashvili**  
100 mins Georgia

An understated, perfectly crafted epic, winner of multiple festival awards. With minimal dialogue and gorgeous imagery, *Corn Island* tells a moving story of perseverance and survival. On a small island in the middle of a river, an old man and his granddaughter farm corn to survive. But their island lies in the middle of territory contested by forces on both sides, and when a soldier washes ashore, their neutrality is tested.



**Thurs Nov 5 7.30pm  
NEON**

also **Fri Nov 6 at 11am**  
Director **Lawrence Johnston**  
83 mins Australia

Science begets art begets commerce in Lawrence Johnston's fond and fascinating portrait of the fading practice of creating neon. As the world moves on to brighter (and less environmentally friendly) ways to light its used car yards, casinos and caravan parks, Johnston chronicles a simpler time and the artisans who helped light it up and sell it. Produced by Canberra's own WildBear Entertainment. Screens with local Canberra short *GIRL + GHOST*.



**Fri Nov 6 8.15pm  
PRISON SONGS**

Director: **Kelrick Martin**  
56 mins Australia

Stories from inside Darwin's maximum security Berrimah Prison are told through song in Australia's first documentary musical. Winner of the Australian Directors Guild award for best direction of a documentary, the heart and soul of the inmates is raw, moving and musical. Plus *BLUEY*, the latest short film by Darlene Johnson, the story of a young woman fresh out of prison who finds her emotional outlet when she puts on a pair of boxing gloves.



**Sat Nov 7 3.30  
FROM LITTLE THINGS...**

Welcome to the new wave of short films to explore Indigenous Australia. This selection of recent short films showcases the talents of both emerging and established filmmakers, which will delight and surprise audiences. Films include *KARROYUL* by Kelrick Martin, *NULLA NULLA* by Dylan River and *UNDER SKIN, IN BLOOD* by Larissa Behrendt. Each of the film's creators are destined to become prominent players in the future of Australia's film landscape.

**Sat Nov 7 8.15pm  
TEHRAN TAXI**

also **Tuesday Nov 10 at 11am**  
Director: **Jafar Panahi** 82 mins Iran

Banned by the Iranian government from making films since 2010, Panahi continues to defy the censors to pursue his art in secrecy. In *Tehran Taxi*, with a camera perched on the dashboard, he drives around picking up passengers who share their observations on their lives and their city. Winner of the Golden Bear at Berlin, the result is a masterful balance of sensitive direction and joyously unscripted humanity, at once hopeful and frequently very funny.



**Sun Nov 8 6pm  
TIMBUKTU**

Director: **Abderrahmane Sissako**  
97 mins France/Mauritania

In this cry from the heart, an African community is torn apart by religious fundamentalism. Music, laughter, even soccer, are banned, women harassed, and improvised courts issue absurd sentences. Based on a news story from Mali, the film offers a complex response to outrage and horror, even trying to get inside the minds of the aggressors. Timbuktu is no longer the magical place of legend, but a grim, unforgiving place, where lives teeter between hope and despair.





**Sun Nov 8 8.15pm**  
**TRIBUTE TO PETER FINCH #2**

**NETWORK** (1975, 121 mins) was the film for which Peter Finch won a posthumous Oscar for his bravura performance as the TV news host who breaks down live-to-air and becomes a New Age prophet. Paddy Chayefsky's Oscar-winning screenplay is flawlessly directed by Sidney Lumet, delivering a savage satire on corporate America and appalling media behaviour that is still as relevant today as when it was made. Finch is brilliantly counterpointed by Faye Dunaway and William Holden.



**Mon Nov 9 8.15pm**  
**A TIME TO LIVE, A TIME TO DIE**

Director **Hou Hsiao-Hsien** 138 mins Taiwan  
One of the great masterworks of Asian cinema, this auto-biographical epic made in 1985, confirmed Hou Hsiao-Hsien's international status. The film explores a family's life when they settle in Taiwan after the Chinese civil war. Grandma still wants to visit the ancestors 'back home', but her grandson finds security in a local gang. Hou's mastery of understatement and paths are evident in this rare screening of a 35mm print from the NFSA's collection. Hou also directed *The Assassin*.



**Tues Nov 10 8.15pm**  
**WITH YOU, WITHOUT YOU**

Director **Prasanna Vithanage**  
90 mins Sri Lanka

With the Sri Lankan highlands as an imposing physical backdrop, Prasanna Vithanage and his cinematographer MD Mahindapala construct a blue-hued beauty of a film, exquisitely tracing the growing love between a lonely man and woman. But with the decades-long civil war as its emotional backdrop, their film is a devastating portrait of a marriage complicated by time and politics in a clever reimagining of Dostoevsky's novella *A Gentle Creature*.



**Wed Nov 11 8.15pm**  
**THE TENTMAKERS OF CAIRO**

Director **Kim Beamish** 93 mins Australia

Filed over three years, spanning the turbulent years from Egypt's 25 January 2011 revolution through to the June 2014

election of Abdel Fatah Al Sisi as President, this intimate documentary observes current events through the eyes of artisan tentmakers in a back alley of Cairo. This remarkable film by Kim Beamish, a Canberra filmmaker and University of Canberra lecturer, won a major award at this year's Visions du Reel in Switzerland. **Australian Premiere!**



**Thurs Nov 12 8.15pm**  
**THE ASSASSIN**

also **Fri Nov 13 11am**  
Director **Hou Hsiao-Hsien** 105 mins Taiwan

In this long-awaited martial arts (wuxia) movie, Hou's signature understatement is uncompromising, overthrowing all expectations of the genre. The result has a sublime beauty that won Hou the Best Director Award at Cannes. In the 9th century Tang dynasty, a young girl is kidnapped and trained as an assassin, meting out justice on corrupt officials. When she fails one mission, she is sent to kill her cousin to whom she was betrothed as a child. Hou also directed *A Time to Live, A Time to Die*.



**Fri Nov 13 8.15pm**  
**THE LOOK OF SILENCE**

Director **Joshua Oppenheimer**  
103 mins Denmark

Far from the circus of horrors of the earlier *Act of Killing*, this film is both reflective

and subtle and gives voice to the victims of the 1965 Indonesian genocide rather than the perpetrators. In Aceh, a young local eye specialist uncovers the details of his innocent brother's brutal murder, then attempts to confront his murderers - who consider themselves national heroes. Winner of many awards including the Grand Jury Prize, Cannes Film Festival.



**Mon Nov 9 6pm**  
**SUNNY AND THE DARK HORSE**

Directors **David and Judith MacDougall**  
86 mins Australia

A delightful documentary from 1987 - the story of Aboriginal stockman, Sunny Bancroft, and his enthusiasm for "picnic races" on bush tracks in NSW. The film is a foray into "ethno fiction" in which the filmmakers facilitate the charismatic Sunny in spinning his own yarn. Made by the Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies (now AIATSIS) in Canberra, this film is rich in pleasures, and like all of the Institute's films from this period was at the cutting edge of documentary practice world-wide.



**Tues Nov 10 6pm**  
**THE HORSES OF FUKUSHIMA**

Director **Matsubayashi Joju**  
74 mins Japan

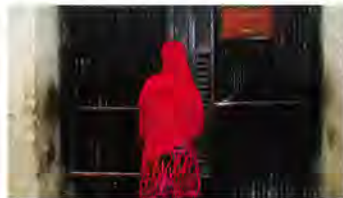
This insight into the aftermath of the Fukushima disaster tells the story of a stable of horses trapped inside the 20km exclusion zone around the doomed power-plant. Matsubayashi is one of Japan's leading documentary filmmakers and has crafted a film rich in unexpected humour and breathtaking imagery, which has won many major awards. Critic Tony Rayns called it "the most original and moving of the many documentaries" made after Fukushima.



**Wed Nov 11 6pm**  
**25 APRIL**

Directed by **Leanne Pooley**  
85 mins New Zealand

Inspired by graphic novels, this remarkable re-telling of the Anzac story through animation, is the collaboration of producer Matthew Metcalfe, a former Canberran, and Leanne Pooley, a New Zealand documentary director. Liberated from the constraints of archival imagery, the film's innovative approach allows scope for imaginative reconstruction, grounded in a soundtrack of excerpts from actual letters and diaries. The result brings the past to life for a new generation of viewers. **Australian Premiere!**



**Thurs Nov 12 6pm**  
**NO BURQAS BEHIND BARS**

Directors **Nima Sarvestami and Maryam Ebrahimi** 77 mins Iran/Sweden

This award-winning documentary explores life in an Afghani women's prison where, ironically, the women enjoy more freedom and security than they would outside. Having fled abusive households or arranged marriages, or being jailed for "moral crimes", the women live safely in prison with their children. Made by two Iranian filmmakers now resident in Sweden, this intimate film was shot under difficult conditions with the full cooperation of the women and the prison officials.



**Fri Nov 13 6pm**  
**BEAST**

Directors **Tom and Sam McKeith**  
100 mins Australia/Philippines

A gritty first-feature filmed entirely on location in the heart of Manila, that recalls the raw power of the Dardenne brothers. A young Filipino-American boxer is talked into cheating by his trainer father. In one roller-coaster night, he must choose between the bonds of family and his sense of justice. From producer Rob Coe of acclaimed documentary *Red Obsession*.



**Fri Nov 13 11pm (Late)**  
**YAKUZA APOCALYPSE**

Director **Tadashi Miike** 125 mins Japan

**Note: Classified R18+**

Vampire yakuza?! The coolest of underworld genres are crossbred into what cult director Miike calls his "rampage back to the basics". A tough vampire joins the yakuza, fighting his way to the top. But when a mysterious gang hunts him down, he barely manages to transmit his powers to his loyal protégé. Will this fledgling vampire have what it takes to avenge his boss? A delirious mix of after-life bling, martial arts and underworld rivalries make for high-energy mayhem.





**Sat Nov 14 1pm**  
**SIMPLE BEING**

Director **Marco Ferrarri** 92 mins USA

When he was tearing tickets at Dendy Canberra while saving his pennies for NIDA, Canberra-raised and now Los Angeles-based

actor Sol Mason dreamed of headlining a Hollywood movie, and his honest and strong performance here does that dream proud. Mason plays an actor immersing himself in a three-week experiment to deprive himself of sight, sound and speech. His findings and the reactions of those around him are by turns moving and funny.



**MEMORIES ON STONE**



**Sat Nov 14 3pm**  
**FREEDOM STORIES**

Director **Steve Thomas** 99 mins Australia

An exploration of the achievements and struggles of former 'boat people': now Australian citizens, they arrived seeking

asylum from the Middle-East around 2001 - a watershed year in Australian politics sparked by the Tampa affair and John Howard's declaration: "We will decide who comes to this country and the circumstances in which they come". It has taken astonishing resilience and over a decade for them to build secure lives in their new homeland.

**Sat Nov 14 5.30pm**  
**MEMORIES ON STONE**

Director **Shawkat Amin Korki** 97 mins Iraqi Kurdistan

A comedy (albeit very dark) from one of the world's most troubled countries: problems escalate when two friends decide to make a film about the mass slaughter of Kurds in Iraq in 1982. Some of their troubles resonate for filmmakers anywhere: inadequate budget, temperamental stars, censorship, weather. But others are specific: smuggling an actress by donkey across a border, a husband insanely jealous of his wife's scenes with another man, and more. A work of great visual and comedic flair.



**Sat Nov 14 8.15pm**  
**VICTORIA**

Director **Sebastian Schipper** 140 mins Germany

German actor-turned-director Sebastian Schipper appeared in *Run Lola Run*, and

the influence of Tom Twyker's film can be felt in this visionary nightlife-cum-bank-heist movie, remarkably shot in a single take. One night in Berlin, a Spanish waitress Victoria gets roped into unexpected high-stakes crime. Relying entirely on performance and an outstanding cinematographer, Schipper's film deserved every single one of its dozens of awards, including the Silver Bear at Berlin.



**Sun Nov 15 3.30pm**  
**THE SILENCES**

also **Thurs Nov 12 11am**  
Director **Margot Nash** 73 mins Australia

Margot Nash's exploration of her family's secrets and her relationship with her mother, is an exemplary personal diary film. It speaks

volumes about living with mental illness in the family, and emerges as a work that is both lyrical and emotionally intense. Rich with images of extraordinary beauty and poignancy, the film is exquisitely crafted, and engages us deeply in the gradual unfolding of unspoken dramas that lie behind suburban facades.



**Sun Nov 15 1pm**  
**ENTER THE FAUN**

also **Wed Nov 11 11am**  
Directors **Tamar Rogoff & Daisy Wright** 71 mins USA

Cystic Fibrosis had left Gregg Mozgala with a distinct walk, toes curled downwards. His unique physicality led choreographer Tamar Rogoff to cast him in a dance performance. In the process of training

Mozgala to move like a dancer and withstand the rigours of performance, art trumps medicine as the pair make surprising advances in the man's physical abilities.

Plus **LOVE IN FULL COLOUR** (Australia, 37 mins) A moving documentary by Suzi Taylor about gay teens finding acceptance for the first time at a same-sex formal.

**Sun Nov 15 6pm**  
**SPECIAL CLOSING EVENT**

Please check website at  
[www.ciff.com.au](http://www.ciff.com.au)

## Extra Voices at CIFF 2015

*What sets a film festival apart from just a bunch of films being screened together are the intimate and first-hand experiences on offer to the audience, and CIFF 2015 is bursting at the seams with those opportunities.*

Under the moniker Extra Voices, we offer a free series of talks, every morning over brunch, from both our visiting Festival guests and local film practitioners.

Everybody has a screenplay in them, and we will help you to channel your inner writer with two great sessions on **Sunday 8 November** with **Writing for the Screen** at **12pm** and **4pm** featuring table-reads of unproduced local works, performed by the NFSA Players.

Extra Voices takes place (mostly) in the Festival Hub - the exquisitely renovated (and only mildly haunted) Federation-era gallery off the NFSA courtyard, where you can find lounges to put your feet up, dark corners for deep and meaningful conversations, and great food from NFSA's award-winning Bench Room Cafe - and wine from our sponsor Eden Road Wines.

For the full complement of discussions, panels, workshops and activities, keep an eye on [www.ciff.com.au](http://www.ciff.com.au)

**BONUS: The sound curators from NFSA will present a special movie soundtrack-themed VINYL LOUNGE, free, on Friday 6 November at 5.30pm in the NFSA Theatrette.**