



CANBERRA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL 2017 - PROGRAM ANNOUNCED

The **Canberra International Film Festival (CIFF)** turns 21 this year and comes of age with a bold re-design of its program.

The Festival, running from **26 October to 5 November** at the **National Film and Sound Archive**, has just announced its program, and tickets are now on sale from the Festival website: www.ciff.com.au

For its 21st year, the Festival is celebrating with a program that makes it unique in Australia. The new program is a blend of highlights of contemporary world cinema and an important retrospective program which delves deep into cinema history to re-discover long-forgotten gems.

As part of the new retrospective strand, **CIFF** will celebrate the work of *Googie Withers*, on the centenary of her birth. A major star of British cinema in the 1940s, Ms Withers migrated to Australia in 1958, where she became a prominent figure in our national theatre scene until she was in her late 80s.

CIFF will screen two of the most highly regarded of Ms Withers' British films, the social realist drama, **IT ALWAYS RAINS ON SUNDAY** (1947) and the hospital drama, **WHITE CORRIDORS** (1951).

The retrospective program will also highlight the work of *Jacques Tourneur*, a French director who worked in Hollywood in the 1940s and 50s where he specialised in low-budget supernatural thrillers and intense psychological dramas. He was also renowned for his female pirate movie, **ANNE OF THE INDIES** (1951), and the classic "film noir", **OUT OF THE PAST** (1946) with *Robert Mitchum* at his best as a trench-coated private eye.

In the Festival's contemporary strand, co-programmers *Alice Taylor* and *Andrew Pike* have selected major prize-winners from the Cannes and Berlin Festivals to screen this year. Films like **THE SQUARE**, an irreverent comedy about the glittering art world, starring *Elizabeth Moss*, are destined to become audience favourites.

The Festival director, *Andrew Pike*, said today, "*Our retrospective program gives us a chance to re-appraise areas of cinema that have fallen under the radar but which are still remarkable and exciting. The classics we are showing are real eye-openers! When they're positioned alongside extraordinary contemporary films like THE SQUARE, the Festival gains a rich diversity that we hope will make it great fun for filmgoers.*"

Full details of the program and ticketing information are available on the Festival website: www.ciff.com.au

Media enquiries: Please contact the Festival office on 02 6248 0851 or email: info@ciff.com.au
