



CANBERRA FILMS FOR CANBERRA'S FESTIVAL

For the Canberra International Film Festival, the word "Canberra" is critically important, referring not just to the location but, as Festival Director, Andrew Pike says, "*the festival serves as a unique high-profile platform for Canberra's own filmmakers, and places their work in an international and historical context*".

The Festival will take place from **26 October to 5 November**, in the state-of-the-art **Arc Cinema** at the National Film and Sound Archive.

Canberra was the home for **Roger Pulvers** for 8 important years in the 1970s: it was a creative time for him, when he began to stretch his wings as a playwright and theatre director. Now Pulvers has just completed **STAR SAND**, his first feature film as writer-director. It is a poignant love story set during the war in Okinawa, and was made entirely in Japan with an all-Japanese crew.

STAR SAND has just been released in Japan to rave reviews, and the Canberra Festival will be giving it the first screening outside Japan, on **Sunday 29 October**, with Pulvers in attendance for Q&A.

The Festival will also present the world premiere of **OYSTER**, a feature-length documentary by local filmmaker, **Kim Beamish**, screening on **Saturday 28 October**. The story of a family-run oyster farm on the NSW south coast, **OYSTER** looks at the effects that climate change is having on the marine life of the coastal waters. Beamish refers to oysters as "the canaries in our estuaries", and the film reveals the fact that warmer water is creating new problems for sensitive oysters, and by extension, the livelihoods of the oyster-farmers of the area.

This year the Festival has a strong retrospective component and is paying tribute to the work of the late **Kim McKenzie**, an ethnographic filmmaker from Canberra who made documentaries that are still regularly screened internationally.

A special program dedicated to McKenzie's work will be presented by the Festival in conjunction with AIATSIS. Films for the screening include **WAITING FOR HARRY** made in Arnhem Land in 1979-80 which looks at tensions during the preparations for an elaborate ceremony. ***The film won the Best Film Award in its year from the Royal Anthropological Institute in England.***

In addition to these films, a number of hand-picked short films by Canberra's filmmakers will be screened, including **JOJO IN THE STARS** made in 2003 by **Marc Craste**. The film is a haunting sci-fi love story from a strange future world. ***The film won the 2004 BAFTA Award for Best Animated Short***, and set Craste up for an on-going career in the film industry in London.

Full details of the program and tickets 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
