



FLICKERFEST 2020

29th INTERNATIONAL SHORT FILM FESTIVAL

Festival: 10th Jan - 19th Jan 2020, Bondi Pavilion, Bondi Beach, Sydney Australia

Tour: Jan - May 2020, 50 Venues Australia-wide

PRESS RELEASE

December 12, 2019

29th FLICKERFEST INTERNATIONAL SHORT FILM FESTIVAL PROGRAM ANNOUNCED FOR 2020

The 29th Flickerfest International Short Film Festival is thrilled to announce the full list of short films officially selected into the Academy® qualifying and BAFTA recognised competitions for 2020. Over 10 thrilling days, Flickerfest, a beloved Sydney summer institution will once again delight audiences with the very best in short films from Australia and around the world, screened under the stars at the iconic Bondi Pavilion in January.

A record 3,500 entries from over 100 countries have been received for Flickerfest 2020; a testimony to the fact that Flickerfest is one of the world's leading and most respected platforms for short film. From this large entry field only around 200 of the very best most creative and inspiring shorts will be screened at the Festival across 17 competitive programmes and four showcase programmes all guaranteed to make you laugh, cry and gasp with delight.

The shorts in competition at Flickerfest are fiercely vying for a number of prestigious prizes including the Flickerfest Award for Best International Short Film, the Yoram Gross Award for Best International Animation, the Flickerfest Award for Best Australian Short Film and the Flickerfest Award for Best Documentary- All are Academy® Qualifying. Plus, a host of other hotly contested prizes, which recognise the various craft areas inherent in making a great short film.

The Flickerfest jury of film industry luminaries in 2020 includes multi-award winning and Academy® nominated cinematographer Don McAlpine, actress and writer/director Gracie Otto, award winning writer/director Dylan River and award-winning Australian director Samantha Lang.

The Australian program includes some brilliant entries for 2020 with key highlights including the Australian premiere of **Chicken** by Papuan-Australian director and writer, Alana Hicks. The Australian Premiere of **The Diver** a film by Michael Leonard and Jamie Helmer which had its world premiere at Venice Film Festival, **Backpedal** by Dani Pearce which has been selected for Sundance and the world premiere of **Closed Doors** written and directed by Hunter Page Lochard and Fred Carter Simpkin featuring an all-star indigenous cast including award winning actor and director Wayne Blair.

The International program will feature the Australian premiere of all of the following films, fresh from Cannes in competition **White Echo**, the third short film project which American actress Chloë Sevigny has written and directed; **The Marvelous Misadventures Of the Stone Lady** by Portuguese director Gabriel Abrantes which was highly commended this year at Cannes Directors Fortnight; French/American film **Talk** starring William Baldwin; award winning actress Clemence Poesy's (Harry Potter, Gossip Girls) **The Tear's Thing** and a special EU showcase screening of the new short film **Nimic** by Oscar nominated Greek Director Yorgos Lanthimos (The Favourite, The Lobster).



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Flickerfest is Australia's largest short film competition dedicated to showcasing the very best short films from Australia and around the world from live action to documentaries and animation. In addition to being BAFTA recognised, there are three Academy-qualifying competitions plus a number of showcases and regional competitions including a new **ASEAN region competition** for 2020 in partnership with DFAT and Australian now, The Best of EU competition in partnership with the European Union to Australia, our celebration of amazing LBTQI films in competition from across the globe (**Rainbow Shorts**) and special showcases of kids and family friendly films (**FlickerKids**), films about relationships (**Love Bites**), and hilarious comedy films (**Short Laughs**).

In 2020 our **SAE FlickerUp** competition also returns celebrating filmmakers 18 and under from across Australia.

The festival culminates with the prestigious awards presentation held under the summer stars at Bondi Pavilion in celebration of the world's most innovative short form filmmaking and storytelling.

Following the Bondi season, Flickerfest hits the road for a massive, 5-month national tour from January to May of the very best films from the festival. The tour will reach 50+ metro and regional venues across all states, bringing the joy of Flickerfest to the rest of the country! Flickerfest has been a major launching pad for some of Australia's and the world's most celebrated filmmakers, for further information visit: www.flickerfest.com.au

KEY EVENT DETAILS

What - FLICKERFEST

When - 10th - 19th January 2020 | Touring Nationally Jan - May (50+ dates)

Where - Bondi Pavilion, Queen Elizabeth Dr, Bondi Beach NSW 2026

Cost- starting from \$18 for a session ticket: www.flickerfest.com.au/ticket-info

What - FLICKERFEST, Australia's most respected short film festival, screening the best short films from Australian and the world all guaranteed to make you laugh, cry and gasp with delight.

URL - www.flickerfest.com.au

IMAGES - www.dropbox.com/sh/c09pijsrgt8ksfs/AABdI3uWHuFrW_hUX4OfsFT6a?dl=0



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE BEST OF AUSTRALIAN SHORTS PROGRAM

This year the Academy® qualifying Australian competition will screen 60 films including 21 world premieres, 9 Australian premieres and 19 NSW premieres in competition.

CHICKEN

Australian Premiere

WRI / DIR: Alana Hicks | PROD: Sleena Wilson

SYNOPSIS: Alana is a Papuan-Australian director and writer, who have worked on a range of projects from short films and documentaries to web sketch comedy and theatre. It's 1994, and all Barbara wants to do is watch the Simpsons. Too bad her recently migrated Papuan mother has just been ripped off at the local shops, and needs her to help fix it. The much older, cooler teen shop assistant has no interest in helping the mother and daughter, and wants them to go away - preferably, back to where they came from.

BACKPEDAL

NSW Premiere

WRI / DIR: Dani Pearce | PROD: Sarah Nichols

SYNOPSIS: Backpedal screened at Cannes New Creators Showcase and won the Cannes Young Director Award. The only Australian short film selected for Sundance 2020 Backpedal is an experimental narrative adapted from the poem of the same title in collaboration with poet, Olivia Gatwood – the film stars Brenna Harding. A young woman laments her teen years, her home town and the death of a friend.

THE DIVER

Australian Premiere (The film had its world premiere at Venice Film Festival)

WRI / DIR / PROD: Michael Leonard, Jamie Helmer

SYNOPSIS: "Rage, chaos and confusion consume Callan's mind, creating a destructive environment for all those around him. Only the solitude of the underwater world is capable of soothing his volatility. But when his base instincts are left unchecked, the violence he is capable of displays its full potential."

THE HITCHHIKER

WRI / DIR: Adele Vuko | PROD: Chloe Rickard, Johanna Somerville

SYNOPSIS: Adele Vuko is an emerging talent from Sydney's Bondi with a background in writing and directing. In 2016, Adele was a co-writer, co-director and co-creator of WHAM BAM THANK YOU MA'AM which aired on ABC TV, iVeiv and NBCU's SEESO in the US. She is also behind the viral hits Activewear and I Got That Flow - which have accrued, over 60 million views. The Hitchhiker merges Adele's three main loves - comedy, supernatural fiction and badass female characters. It is an all-girl, vampire road movie, set to the rich tapestry of dub- step beats, neon rave hats, blood and gore. It's a fun twisted genre comedy, but ultimately a story about making the choice between fighting or running away from your problems.

CLOSED DOORS

Australia / 15min / 2019

WRI / DIR: Hunter Page-Lochard and Carter Fred Simpkin | PROD: Mitchell Stanley and Toni Stowers

SYNOPSIS: Regaining consciousness in a car wreck, a young father finds that his daughter is missing.

HIGHLIGHTS OF BEST OF INTERNATIONAL SHORTS

Flickerfest's Academy® qualifying international programme will feature 36 including 4 world premieres, 30, Australian premiers and 2 NSW premiere.

WHITE ECHO

Australian Premiere (The film had its world premiere at Cannes Film Festival)

WRI / DIR: Chloë Sevigny

PROD: Lizzie Nastro

SYNOPSIS: White Echo, is the third short film project from critically-acclaimed writer and director Chloë Sevigny. White Echo is a story of a young woman, Carla, and her relationship with her inner power. As Carla gets her friends to join in a game of Ouija, we explore group dynamics: power of persuasion, belief, and frenzy. The film culminates in Carla being visited by a spirit, thus being confronted in a terrifying way by the supernatural powers she only used to claim to posses.

THE MARVELOUS MISADVENTURES OF THE STONE LADY

Australian Premiere

Portugal / 20min / 2019

WRI/DIR: Gabriel Abrantes

PROD: Justin Taurand, Gabriel Abrantes

SYNOPSIS: Tired of being a banal architectural ornament, a sculpture runs away from the Louvre to confront real life on the streets of Paris.

TALK

Australian Premiere

France / 25mins / 2019

WRI/DIR/PROD: Boulanger Romuald

SYNOPSIS: In a Los Angeles radio station. The host of an emblematic night talk show gives advice to live callers. One day will destroy his career, his family, his life.

NIMIC

Australian Premiere

Germany / UK / USA / 12 min / 2019

WRI / DIR: Yorgos Lanthimos

PROD: Rekorder, Superprime, Merman, Droga5

SYNOPSIS: A professional cellist has an encounter with a stranger on the subway which has unexpected and far-reaching ramifications on his life a new short film by multi academy nominated Greek director Yorgos Lanthimos.



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SHOWCASE OF FLICKERKIDS

Featuring 10 charming short films aimed at 6-12-year-old children and their parents. With 9 Australian Premiers, this year's program will entertain parents as much as the kids.

BAGOLD!

Australia / 5 min / 2019

WRI: Maija O'Keefe

DIR: Andrew O'Keefe

PROD: Tuuli Forward

SYNOPSIS: A sister and brother set out to discover which of their chickens laid the golden egg.

THE FOX AND THE BIRD

Australian Premiere

Switzerland / 12min / 2019

WRI: Vincent Gessler, Christophe Pagnon

DIR: Samuel Guillaume, Frederic

Guillaume PROD: Robert Boner

SYNOPSIS: A solitary fox finds itself improvising fatherhood for a freshly hatched baby bird.

HIGHLIGHTS OF BEST OF DOCUMENTARY SHORTS

Flickerfest's Academy[®] qualifying documentary programme will feature 13 films including 1 world premiere, 11 Australian premieres and 1 NSW Premiere

BRIGHT LIGHTS - THE PERILS OF THE POKIES

Australian Premiere

Australia / 14min / 2019

WRI / DIR / PROD: Charby Ibrahim

PROD: Rob Innes

SYNOPSIS: A 25-year addiction to poker machines has cost 'Sharon' almost everything... and very nearly her life in this short, fully animated documentary, voiced by Claudia Karvan.

INFERNO

Australian Premiere

Mexico, Australia / 16min / 2018

WRI/DIR: Patrick Fileti

PROD: Patrick Fileti, Antonio Tonitzin Gomez

SYNOPSIS: INFERNO is an explosive portrait of the lives of artisans and their families in the lead up to the festival of San Juan de Dios, when blazing revelry engulfs the town. Shot in Mexico by acclaimed Tamarama based Australian director Patrick Fileti.

ANAS V. THE GIANT

Australian Premiere

United States / 17min / 2019

WRI: Karen K. H. Sim

DIR: Adrienne Collatos

PROD: Karen K. H. Sim, Adrienne Collatos

SYNOPSIS: A newly arrived refugee in Europe takes a selfie that upturns his new life, and lands him as the sole defendant in a case against the richest company known to man Facebook.

SHOWCASE OF RAINBOW SHORTS LGBTQI PROGRAM

The Rainbow Shorts competition has been curated by Sydney based film director, Craig Boreham, who sees this year's line-up as a real window into the global LGBTQI+ world right now.

THE DISTANCE BETWEEN US AND THE SKY

Australian Premiere

France / 9min / 2019

WRI/DIR: Vasilis Kekatos

PROD: Blackbird Production, Tripodes Production

SYNOPSIS: Two strangers meet for the first time in an old gas station. One has stopped to gas his bike, while the other is just stranded. Palme d'Or Cannes 2019 Best Short Film

MY BROTHER IS A MERMAID

Australian Premiere

United Kingdom / 20min / 2019

WRI/DIR/PROD: Alfie Dale

SYNOPSIS: A social realist fairytale about a non-binary teenager, as seen through the eyes of their 7-year-old brother. Examining how a child's unconditional love can be an empowering and disruptive force for good.

IRIS Award Best LGBTQI Short UK 2019

AFTER YOU LEFT

Australian Premiere

United States / 9min / 2019

WRI/DIR: April Maxey

PROD: Maron Warhaftig, Jatnna Villalona

SYNOPSIS: The memories come flooding back when Andrea's ex-girlfriend returns the last few items from their prior life together.



ABOUT FLICKERFEST

Now in its 29th year, Flickerfest is supported by some of the biggest and most respected names in the Australian film industry, See just a few comments from some of the countries film industry royalty.

"It was more than 25 years ago that a few actor friends and myself began our first Theatre Company in what was then the upstairs theatre at the Bondi Pavilion. From there, supported by people in the industry, we were able to get our start, so it's a great thing that just outside the forecourt, Flickerfest now gives a similar opportunity for short film makers to have a stage upon which they can present their short films in our local neighbourhood."

Baz Luhrmann, Director and Flickerfest Supporter

"The Short Film is a place to experiment and push boundaries. Flickerfest allows emerging voices to be seen and heard, and established voices the chance to revitalise. It's fitting that such a cutting edge, internationally recognised film festival takes place in an unconventional and vibrant setting: under the stars, on the beach, in Australia."

Cate Blanchett, Oscar winning actress and Flickerfest Supporter

"Being a Bondi local is not the only reason I've eagerly attended Flickerfest for many years. It's the only international short film festival and it's under the stars. Rare and romantic. I hope we can all enjoy this important showcase for years to come."

Claudia Karvan, Actress and Flickerfest Patron

FLICKERFEST 2020 GREASE INSPIRED TRAILER

Each year, Flickerfest drops an irreverent and hilarious Official Trailer, its own unique parody of an iconic feature film. For 2020, Flickerfest will shine its spotlight on the much-loved musical film 'Grease' giving a modern take to this much-loved story set in the 50's. The short film trailer is written and directed by Flickerfest Alumni Jake Nielsen who won the Academy® Qualifying Australian Short Film Award at Flickerfest 2018 for his finely crafted and hilarious musical 'On Hold.' The trailer features Penny McNamee as *Sandy* and Jake Speer as *Danny*, supported by an all singing, all dancing cast on the sands of Bondi beach paying tribute to the classic musical. (TRAILER LINK [here](#)).

IMAGES FROM TRAILER SHOOT -

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/1kbjfb4elwn2is5/AABqeMqM_PQj1mkBGYV617Hna?dl=0

THE FULL FLICKERFEST 2020 PROGRAMME IS NOW RELEASED AND TICKETS ARE ON SALE AT

WWW.FLICKERFEST.COM.AU