



FlickerLab 2023

A ONE-DAY JOURNEY FROM SHORTS TO FEATURES
FRIDAY 27 JANUARY from 10am-5.15pm

PRESENTED BY

AFTRS

Australian Film Television
and Radio School

FlickerLab gives you the chance to immerse yourself in the latest filmmaking trends as you spend the day with some of the industry's leading film experts, offering up their expertise and wisdom with a range of panels designed to enhance and develop your creative ideas and get your film noticed in the marketplace. The entire scope of the film making experience is covered, from initial concept through to script, producing, marketing, distribution and the latest cross platform and alternative distribution methods.

Listen, share, network and engage as our panellists guide you through the joys and challenges of filmmaking. Absorb essential tips and knowledge and be inspired on your own creative journey.

Our panellists on the day will include:

George Miller (*Mad Max, Happy Feet, Three Thousand Years of Longing*),
Hannah Barlow (*Sissy*), Kane Senes (*Sissy*), Tsu Shan Chambers (*Unsound*),
Dean Francis (*Lonesome*), Rachel Gardner (Curio Pictures, *The Stranger*),
Megan Riakos (*Crushed*), Dov Kornits (Screen Inc.), Huna Amweero (*Blaze*),
Del Kathryn Barton (*Blaze*), Fiona Williams (Managing Editor SBS Movies),
Dean Francis (*Lonesome*), Paul Struthers (*Lonesome*), Kristen Hodges (Screen Australia),
Garry Maddox (SMH Senior Writer/Film Writer).

For the full speaker schedule VISIT: www.flickerfest.com.au

FRIDAY 27 JANUARY
4 x1.5HR SESSIONS

SESSION 1: FROM IDEA TO PAGE **10.00am – 11.30am**

Everyone will tell you a good script is an essential ingredient for any good film. Our panel of experienced screenwriters will discuss turning a good idea into a good script, looking in detail at development, collaboration and script editing. They will share their insights about their own transitions from independent shorts to lauded feature films. Discussions will also include observations about writing for some of television's most successful and acclaimed dramas. This valuable session is a must for all budding screenwriters and filmmakers looking to develop and write scripts.

WRITER'S PANEL moderated by Fiona Williams



As SBS On Demand's Head of Curation, Fiona leads a team that helps Australian audiences discover and connect with a diverse and multilingual range of films, TV series, shorts, news, sport and documentaries from around the world.

She is also the award-winning host and producer of SBS Australia's Handmaid's Tale companion podcast, Eyes On Gilead, and with her background in film criticism and entertainment journalism, Fiona is a past editor of Encore Magazine, and Australia / New Zealand correspondent, Screen International.

WRITER'S PANEL



Hannah Barlow is an AACTA-nominated Australian filmmaker and actor. Her sophomore feature *SISSY* (2022), which she co-wrote, co-directed and starred in, opened the prestigious SXSW Midnighters program, winning multiple awards on the festival circuit (including a People's Choice Award at the renowned Sitges Film Festival) before becoming a Shudder Original. The film is Certified Fresh on Rotten Tomatoes at 97% from 60+ critics and received multiple AACTA nominations, including Best Direction and Best Film. Hannah's debut feature *FOR NOW*, which she co-wrote, co-directed, produced and starred in, was nominated for best film at multiple international film festivals and is available worldwide on Amazon Prime. Hannah is a

graduate of the National Institute of Dramatic Art (NIDA) and former finalist of the coveted Heath Ledger Scholarship. Hannah is repped by WME and Grandview Management.



Kane Senes is an award-winning filmmaker from Sydney, Australia. His feature film credits include *SISSY* (2022), *FOR NOW* (2019) and *ECHOES OF WAR* (2015). Written & directed with Hannah Barlow, *SISSY* was the opening night film of the prestigious SXSW Midnighters program and won multiple awards on the festival circuit before becoming a Shudder original. It currently sits at 97% from critics on Rotten Tomatoes and has been nominated for three AACTA awards, including Best Direction and Best Film.

FOR NOW, Kane's first collaboration with Barlow, was nominated for best film at multiple film festivals. Kane's debut feature, *ECHOES OF WAR*, starring Maika Monroe, James Badge Dale and Ethan Embry, won the Special Jury Prize at the Dallas International Film Festival. Kane is repped by WME & Grandview Management.

Hannah Barlow and **Kane Senes** are a writing / directing duo from Sydney, Australia. Their sophomore feature *SISSY*(2022) opened the prestigious SXSW Midnighters program, winning multiple awards on the festival circuit (including a People's Choice Award at the renowned Sitges Film Festival) before becoming a Shudder Original. The film is Certified Fresh on Rotten Tomatoes at 97% from 60+ critics and has received multiple AACTA nominations, including Best Direction and Best Film.

The pair's debut feature *FOR NOW*, which they co-wrote, co-directed, produced and starred in, was nominated for best film at multiple international film festivals and is available worldwide on Amazon Prime. Hannah and Kane are repped by WME and Grandview Management.



Huna Amweero is a screenwriter and graduate of AFTRS, where she completed the Graduate Certificate (2012) and Diploma (2013) in Screenwriting.

Huna has written two short film scripts, *Embrace* (dir. George Nagle) and *Bo Mi* (dir. Andrew Lee), and served as a script editor on the short film *Like Breathing* (dir. Liz Cooper, 2013). Huna was a recipient of the Emerging Filmmakers Fund from Screen NSW for her short script *Alone* (dir. Erin Good, 2014). That same year, she ranked 8th in the world for the NYC Short Screenplay Challenge. Huna's short films have screened at film festivals including Sydney Film Festival, St Kilda Film Festival and Cleveland International Film Festival.

Huna served as co-writer on the Screen Australia funded web series *Jade of Death* (dir. Erin Good, 2018) for Last Frame Productions; the story follows a small-town girl who can hear how and when people will die.

Huna was recently selected to attend the Bunya Productions Engendered Masterclass for Female Genre Writers and Directors which was hosted by Jeremy Podeswa (*Game of Thrones*, *Boardwalk Empire*, *Six Feet Under*, *The Handmaid's Tale*) and writer and showrunner Raelle Tucker (*Supernatural*, *True Blood*, *Jessica Jones*).

Huna has co-written two feature scripts with visual artist Del Kathryn Barton; *Blaze* for Causeway Films (earning her a 2022 AWGIE win for Best Feature Film – Original) and *Flower* for Aquarius Films. *Blaze* (2022) follows a young girl who, after witnessing a violent sexual assault, retreats into her imagination where a shimmering magic dragon who has been her childhood companion, allows her to express her rage and ultimately find renewal. The film had its World Premiere at the Tribeca Film Festival, and its Australian Premiere at the Sydney Film Festival. Huna is also developing a drama TV series.

SESSION2: THE DIRECTOR'S JOURNEY

11.45am – 1.15pm

Intimately follow the career path of an esteemed Australian director from independent short filmmaker to feature film director. Areas of discussion will include script development, working collaboratively, casting, directing actors, where ideas come from and how to make the leap from shorts to features.

DIRECTOR'S PANEL moderated by Garry Maddox



George Miller AO

Director, screenwriter and producer George Miller AO (b. 1945) is an icon of the Australian and International film industry. With a career spanning more than 50 years, Miller's *Mad Max* films began in 1979 and the latest instalment *Furiosa* is currently in production.

George Miller's filmmaking talent, however, is not limited to the action genre, as evidenced by the medical drama *Lorenzo's Oil* (1992), the comedy-drama *Babe* (1995) and the musical animated feature *Happy Feet* (2006). His latest film *Three Thousand Years of Longing* was released in 2022 and received thirteen AACTA Award nominations.

George Miller is a multi-award-winning filmmaker. His film *Mad Max:Fury Road* received six Academy Awards from ten nominations. He earned an Academy Award for best

animated feature film for *Happy Feet* and has been nominated for five other Academy Awards. Miller has also had success at the BAFTAs, Golden Globes and AACTA Awards, amongst more than 75 other forms of national and international recognition.

George Miller was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) in 1996 for his services to the film industry. In 2016, he was selected as Jury President at the prestigious Cannes Film Festival.



Del Kathryn Barton is a multidisciplinary artist and director living and working in Sydney, Australia. In addition to a highly established fine art career, Barton has recently directed and released her debut feature film, *Blaze*, following two short films, 'Red' and 'Oscar Wilde's Nightingale and the Rose'.

Following its premier at Tribeca Film Festival, 'Blaze' has shown widely to international and local audiences and been highly praised critically. 'Blaze' reflects Barton's complex interior world and her belief in the healing power of the imaginary world which centres every element of her creative practices. Following solo painting shows in Sydney and

Los Angeles in the last year, Barton looks forward to an upcoming London show and continuing her film making practice.

SESSION 3: MAKING IT HAPPEN 2.00pm – 3.30pm

The Producer oversees the entire film from the initial idea, right through to production and distribution. They are key in *making it happen*. Our panelists discuss the role of the producer, from budgeting and financing to marketing and distribution and everything in between. All producers are different and this diverse and hard-working panel will share their differing approaches to the very important task of getting the film made.

PRODUCER'S PANEL moderated by Kristen Hodges



Tsu Shan Chambers, Sydney born and Darwin raised, is an Actor/Writer/Producer, passionate about bringing awareness to issues that matter through telling provoking stories. She was elected to the Screen Producers Australia's Council this year and was previously one of SPA's "Ones to Watch" in 2018. She was also awarded the Charlies Grant Residency with Australians in Film in 2021. Tsu Shan holds a Graduate Certificate in Creative Producing AFTRS and a Master in Public Health.

This year, Tsu Shan was selected in the AWG/Create NSW's "First Break" - her latest feature screenplay, *My Eyes*, ranked in Coverfly's top 7% of scripts from around the world and obtained development support from VICScreen. She has also been selected to be on numerous industry committees, including the inaugural Diversity Justice Lens group for screen equity and inclusion and the AFTRS Alumni Advisory Committee.

Tsu Shan produced romance drama feature UNSOUND about deaf culture and pride. It won and was nominated for a raft of key industry awards including 'Best Indie Film' at the AACTA awards in 2020 and has obtained distribution in multiple international territories, including Netflix in ANZ and Fuse TV in the US. She has recently completed her latest feature length project, *Suka*, a multi-cultural action Romeo and Juliet action drama, due to be released in 2023.



Dean Francis is a multi-award winning director, producer and cinematographer whose work has screened in more than 200 international film festivals. Dean holds a Master of Arts in Film & Television from AFTRS.

Francis' first feature as director, the supernatural thriller ROAD TRAIN (aka ROAD KILL) was released in 50 countries and garnered critical acclaim on its 2010 Australian theatrical release including the Special Jury Prize at the Melbourne Underground Film Festival.

Dean's second feature DROWN (director, producer, cinematographer) film, became the best selling picture in the history of Sydney's Mardi Gras Film Festival, before its theatrical release in Australia and the USA. The film went on to win 7 International film festival awards and gain distribution throughout the world.

In 2022, Dean produced and shot the feature LONESOME (directed by Craig Boreham), which was nominated for an AACTA award, and theatrically released in Europe, USA and Australia, after an extensive film festival run.

Dean has also directed and shot a dozen short films which have been honoured with awards for direction, cinematography and acting. His short VERMIN was nominated for an Australian Directors Guild Awards and premiered at the Karlovy Vary Film Festival. BOYS GRAMMAR attracted national media attention for its graphic depiction of homophobic sexual violence and generated over a two million views online.

Dean is the founder and CEO of JJ Splice, an all-media production company working on commercials, music videos, branded content and feature films. He has taught at Australia's leading creative institutions including the National Institute of Dramatic Art (NIDA) and the Australian Film, Television and Radio School. Currently, Dean is preparing his third feature film BODY BLOW which he will direct in 2023.



Rachel Gardner is Creative Director of recently launched Curio Pictures, a Sony Pictures International company, where she oversees all creative aspects of the company's scripted slate.

Prior to joining Curio, Rachel spent seven years at See-Saw Films, most recently as Head of Drama, and prior to this as Head of Drama at New Zealand's Great Southern Film and Television, which she co-owned.

Recent credits include Producer of THE STRANGER, by writer/director Thomas M Wright starring Joel Edgerton and Sean Harris, which screened in competition in Un Certain Regard at the 2022 Cannes Film Festival and had its Australian premiere at MIFF before breaking all ratings for an Australian film on global Netflix; and Executive Producer of Warwick Thornton and Brendan Fletcher's critically acclaimed Indigenous vampire hunter series FIREBITE, which launched AMC+ in Australia. She was Executive Producer of Sam Strauss's acclaimed series THE END for Foxtel, Showtime and Sky, and both seasons of Australia's first Netflix Original THE NEW LEGENDS OF MONKEY, winner of multiple International Emmy Craft Awards. She was Producer of writer/director John Maclean's SLOW WEST, starring Michael Fassbender and Ben Mendelsohn, which launched at Sundance Film Festival and won the World Cinema Jury Prize.

SESSION 4: MARKET TO MARKET, CONQUER THE WORLD ON ALL PLATFORMS; DISTRIBUTION, FESTIVALS & MULTI-PLATFORM DISTRIBUTION

3.45pm – 5.15pm

Now your short film is finished. What next? How do you launch your next project? This informative session puts the spotlight on current marketing and distribution trends to get your feature, web or TV series seen by the largest audiences possible. The panel will dissect traditional distribution models and offer up innovative cross platform alternatives. In the age of digital distribution, find out how these new models can enhance the viewing potential of your film and build your filmmaking reputation.

DISTRIBUTOR'S PANEL moderated by



Dov Kornits is a UNSW graduate in Film & Theatre, with Honours in Film Studies, Dov Kornits worked as a freelance film journalist out of university, contributing to the likes of Courier Mail, Capital Q, Nine MSN and Oyster Magazine, before co-founding FilmInk Magazine in 1997. He continues to publish www.filmink.com.au today.

In 2018, Dov worked as Head of Theatrical for Umbrella Entertainment, releasing films such as *The Namatjira Project*, *Rip Tide*, *Jungle*, *Cargo* and *You Were Never Really Here* into cinemas. In 2020, Dov founded distribution company Filmink Presents, which became Pivot Pictures, releasing films such as *The Legend of the Five*, *The Swallows of Kabul*, *Crock of Gold*, *Love You Like That* and *The Killing of Two Lovers* into cinemas. In 2022, Dov founded distribution company Screen Inc., handling Australian films such as *The Land* and *The Red Shoes: Next Step*, and international title *OLGA*.



Megan Riakos is a dynamic filmmaker bringing a distinctive female lens to the world of genre filmmaking.

She is the writer/director/producer of the suspenseful thriller *Crushed*, creator of Australia's first female horror anthology *Dark Whispers – Volume 1* and follows these up as writer/director of *No Pain No Gain*, an unnerving episode of the *Deadhouse Dark* horror series currently on Shudder.

Megan compliments her filmmaking with advocacy for gender equality, she co-founded the Not-For-Profit organisation Women in Film & Television (WIFT) Australia and founded Raising Films Australia, she merges these two fields of creativity and advocacy via her company Hemlock & Cedar Films, which focuses on amplifying female voices.

Megan is an innovative, collaborative and driven filmmaker with a strong visual style and a particular strength in delivering projects with tight schedules and budgets.

Megan is also a consultant and teacher with an infectious enthusiasm for the art and craft of filmmaking and has taught at UNSW, AFTRS, QUT, NIDA and ACA amongst others.



Paul Struthers is a producer, programmer, and consultant with roots in Scotland, Ghana, USA, and Australia. Co-founder of the groundbreaking Programmers of Colour Collective launched at the 2019 Sundance Film Festival, Paul was Festival Director for Mardi Gras Film Festival before heading to San Francisco as Frameline's Director of Programming from 2017 to 2020.

He is currently consulting for Tribeca, Sydney Film Festival and the Adelaide Film Festival in programming. He has additionally served on the Queer Palm jury at Cannes and the jury for Berlinale's Teddy Award. As a producer, he is developing the Berlinale Teddy-Award nominated Craig Boreham's third feature *DOWN THE HUME*, and is Executive Producer on the Australian filmmaker's sophomore feature *LONESOME* which premiered at the 2022 Seattle International Film Festival and will be released in Australian cinemas on February 23rd this year.

Other producing credits include, Associate Producer on *WE ARE STILL HERE*, which opened the 2022 Sydney Film Festival and had its International Premiere at TIFF 2022, alongside being Consulting Producer on *THE LONGEST WEEKEND*, which had its world premiere at Sydney Film Festival 2022. *LONESOME* and *THE LONGEST WEEKEND* are both from Breathless Films, who Paul is a Strategic Consultant for. Prior to arriving in Sydney, Paul worked in exhibition, sales and distribution in London.

presented by

AFTRS

Australian Film Television
and Radio School