



FLICKERFEST 2024

33rd INTERNATIONAL SHORT FILM FESTIVAL

Festival: 19th - 28th January 2024, Bondi Beach, Sydney, Australia

Tour: February - October 2024, 40+ venues Australia-wide

**Now in its 33rd year, FLICKERFEST Short Film Festival
returns to Bondi in January 2024, before touring the nation!**

KEY INFORMATION

19th Jan - 28th Jan, 2024, Bondi Beach Touring Nationally, Feb - Oct (50+ dates)

[LINK](#) to Flickerfest Highlight Still images

FLICKERFEST RELEASES ITS 2024 PROGRAMME

This summer, Flickerfest, Australia's largest Short Film Competition and the only one with Academy® Qualification and BAFTA recognition, will once again grace our shores, rolling out the red carpet at Bondi Beach from the 19th - 28th January.

Celebrating its 33rd year, this not to be missed ten-day event will showcase a handpicked selection of Australia's and the world's most exciting short films under the stars and in the theatre at the Bondi Pavilion, presenting a stunning season showcasing our most exciting emerging cinema talent.

The 2024 programme is now live, with over 210 of the most inspiring short films, enjoying their world and Australian premieres, handpicked from this year's massive pool of over 3,400 entries, to move, inspire and entertain audiences with the very best short films Australia and the world has to offer, showcased across 24 dedicated festival programmes. **62** Australian films are officially selected for the Best of Australian Competition, **42** International films in the Best of International Competition and **16** Documentaries across the Best of Documentary Competition. A further **100** films will also feature across Flickerfest showcase sessions.

Flickerfest's prestigious Academy® Qualifying Competitions of 130 short films include **43 World Premieres, 61 Australian Premieres and 14 NSW premieres**. Giving our audiences first look at the most outstanding short films on offer.

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 Panasonic Lumix for Best Australian Short Film and the Flickerfest Award for Best Documentary - all of which are Academy® Qualifying.

Alongside the best of short films from Australia and the world in competition, audiences will also be delighted with FlickerUp, a celebration of youth filmmaking from across Australia, 'Rainbow Shorts' amazing LBTQI films in competition at home and across the world, FlickerKids, special showcases of kids and family-friendly films 'Love Bites', films about relationships and 'Short Laughs' hilarious comedy films.

Flickerfest director Bronwyn Kidd says: "With a record of over 3400 entries received Flickerfest 2024 will again deliver an outstanding programme celebrating our most talented contemporary storytellers, both here in Australia and from around the world. With so many outstanding films to choose from I am so excited to present our audiences with programmes that applaud bold, inspiring, creative and unforgettable short films from talent who are destined to inform the future of cinema"

Following the festival in Sydney, Flickerfest will share the short film love on tour to over 40 venues across Australia between February and October, 2024. Celebrating 33 years in 2024 Flickerfest hits Bondi Beach from 19th - 28th January 2024. For further information head to www.flickerfest.com.au



Celebrating 33 Years - flickerfest.com.au

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KEY EVENT DETAILS

What - FLICKERFEST

When - 19th - 28th January 2024 (Touring Nationally Feb - Oct, 40+ dates)

Where - Bondi Pavilion, Bondi Beach NSW 2026

Cost- starting from \$22 for a session ticket (<https://flickerfest.com.au/ticket-info/>)

What - FLICKERFEST, Australia's most respected and only Academy® Qualifying International short film festival, screens the best short films from Australia and the world, all guaranteed to make you laugh, cry and gasp with delight. This year, Flickerfest will once again be hosted at its home of over two decades, the stylishly refurbished Bondi Pavilion for indoor and outdoor screenings. The Panoramic beach side festival bar is open daily before each session and into the night.

FLICKERFEST WEBSITE

[IMAGES](#)

[PROGRAM](#)

Flickerfest 2024 Programme Highlights Summary

Flickerfest is thrilled to reveal some **highlights** of just a few of the incredible films that have made the cut in our Academy® Qualifying Australian competition, showcasing the depth & enormous talent that exists in our local film industry.

Poignant and memorable with moments of laugh-out-loud humour, **COLD WATER**, written and directed by Melbourne brothers Jay and Shaun Perry, stars industry legend Bruce Spence, who delivers an electrifying performance as a man for whom the past cannot be divorced from the present.

Also screening is the world premiere of the outstanding drama **UNSPOKEN**, set in the 80s amongst the Australian Croatian community and starring an incredible ensemble cast, masterfully written and directed by critically acclaimed actor, director and Flickerfest Alumni Damian Walshe-Howling.

Flickerfest Alumni Milena Bennett returns with her new film **CACTUS**. Starring Tiarnie Coupland, this delicate film is a beautiful love letter to the Inner West suburb of Marrickville and the friction that exists in a melting pot of different cultures, people and cats.

Another must-see home grown film is **FINDING HOME** from Bondi local Lester Jones. This powerful documentary uses a combination of live action footage and animation to tell the extraordinary story of Yousef Mohammadi who fled his home country of Afghanistan to escape the dangers of war.

If comedy is what you're after, then don't miss **ASHES** (Short Laughs Comedy Showcase), written and directed by Georgina Haigh (The Sapphires, Back to the Rafters), who stars alongside laugh-out-loud performances from comedy masters Michael Caton and Michala Banas and catch an intimate and fragile performance from Sophie Lowe, as an actress who reveals her vulnerabilities in front of her critical partner in **SHOWPONY** (Lovebites Showcase), written and directed by Clare Hoey.

In the Oscar Qualifying International competition, watch out for the Australian premiere of **7 MINUTES**, a new dark comedy directed by BAFTA and EMMY winner and comedy legend Ricky Gervais, the outstanding **WAR IS OVER**, a 10-minute animated production set to the track *Happy Xmas (War is Over)* by John Lennon and Yoko Ono, celebrating the 50th anniversary of the song's release and brought to life by co-executive producers Sean Ono Lennon and Peter Jackson and the world premiere of **MY WEEK WITH MAISY** starring a tear-jerking performance from queen of the stage and screen Joanna Lumley.



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Australian Programme

UNSPOKEN

Australia | 18:00 | 2023

WORLD PREMIERE

DIR: DAMIAN WALSH-HOWLING

WRI: KAT DOMINIS / DAMIAN WALSH-HOWLING / MARIANA RUDAN

PROD: DAMIAN WALSH-HOWLING

Synopsis: 1979. As volatile protests for Croatian independence break out across the city of Sydney, Croatian born Marina is forced to expose a secretive love affair with her Australian boyfriend, as escalating political violence spills into her childhood home with devastating consequences.

DIR. Bio: Damian Walshe-Howling has an impressive list of Film and Television credits. UNDERBELLY, HE DIED WITH A FALAFEL IN HIS HAND, MYSTERY ROAD, THE REEF, SECRET LIFE OF US, EAST WEST 101, JACK IRISH, WILFRED, BLUE HEELERS, BIKIE WARS, and the critically acclaimed ABC series JANET KING. He has most recently been seen in Paramount Plus's smash hit TV series LAST KING OF THE CROSS. As a Writer/Director, Damian won the prestigious International LEXUS SHORT FILM SERIES for his third short film MESSIAH starring David Gulpilil and Stephen Hunter. Damian's previous short films THE BLOODY SWEET HIT and SUSPENDED also opened a number of esteemed international festivals, including Locarno in Switzerland, Cannes Cinephiles, Nashville, Slamdance, Flickerfest and St Kilda.

COLDWATER

Australia | 20:00 | 2023

NSW PREMIERE

DIR: JAY PERRY and SHAUN PERRY

WRI: JAY PERRY and SHAUN PERRY

PROD: JAY PERRY and SHAUN PERRY

Synopsis: Inspired by true events.

Set in St Kilda, Australia, an elderly woman's peaceful retirement is interrupted when her husband takes up a bizarre new hobby.

DIR. Bio: Jay and Shaun Perry are a writer/director duo based in Melbourne, Australia. They grew up in the small mountain town of Olinda, nestled up within the hills of the Dandenong Ranges. In 2018, Jay and Shaun began writing their debut feature film, Grandeur, which made the top ten in the 2019 Michael Collyer Memorial Fellowship. It was also included in the top 15% in the Academy's prestigious Nicholls Fellowship

CACTUS

Australia | 17:40 | 2023

NSW PREMIERE

DIR: MILENA BENNETT

WRI: MILENA BENNETT

PROD:

Synopsis: When twenty-something year old Grace meets her elderly Portuguese neighbour Mr Rodrigues, it's instant friction; but mutual dislike soon grows into a bond of respect and understanding after an unexpected encounter forces them to connect.



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DIR. Bio: Milena Bennett is a Sydney based writer/director. She completed multiple director's attachments, including on Channel Seven's "Secret Daughter" (Season Two), Channel Nine's "Bite Club" and most recently completing her third consecutive director's attachment on Channel Nine's "Bad Mothers". Her short films "A Day in Your Life" (starring Geoff Morrell) and "The Listening", have both screened globally. "The Listening" is currently in development for a feature length version. CACTUS is her third short film.

BEAUTIFUL THINGS

Australia | 09:53 | 2023

WORLD PREMIERE

DIR: PAUL PINGA MATEREKE

WRI: PAUL PINGA MATEREKE

PROD: MICHAEL Z LIN

Synopsis: A struggling poet. A recovering addict. A resentful matriarch. A fractured family, held together by a yearly ritual. However, this year there's an unexpected visitor. I met David McBride at his home in Bondi to discuss making a documentary about his trials and tribulations as a whistle-blower. I was struck by his vulnerability and openness. At its heart, 'Beautiful Things' examines the all-too-familiar story of the fractured family unit. Sonya, Kate and Ralphe are bound only by grief for their late mother/wife. Their bond exists only in service of the late matriarch's memory. Will they find space in their hearts for the living as well as the dead? Can they salvage their broken relationship?

FENCES

Australia | 10:52 | 2023

WORLD PREMIERE

DIR: DUNCAN RAGG

WRI: DUNCAN RAGG

PROD: DIANNA LA GRASSA

Synopsis: When his son sends an AI version of himself to mend the fences on the family property, an ageing farmer must adapt to the change, or else lose his relationship with his son entirely.

Starring Indigenous actor Meyne Wyatt and Scottish-Australian actor Colin Friels.

DIR Bio:

Duncan Ragg is a writer, actor and director living in regional NSW. He has written feature films Liberty St and Unraveling, and his short film Theo & Celeste garnered 80,000 views in a week on Vimeo. His films have been shown around the world, including MIFF, VIFF, Flickerfest, GBiennale and Just for Laughs. Duncan's television acting credits include: Last Days of the Space Age, Last King of the Cross, Doctor Doctor, Home and Away and Lift and films: Liberty St, Night of the Lotus, Marley, Someone, Shadows and 2:22. FENCES is his directorial debut

International Programme

SEVEN MINUTES

UK | 09:57 | 2023

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

DIR: RICKY GERVAIS

WRI: JONATHAN PARRAMINT AND HARRY CARLILE

PROD: HUSSAIN CASEY-AHMED

Synopsis: A desolate train track seems the perfect spot to end it all, until someone else turns up with the same idea. Awkward.



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DIR. Bio: Considered one of the most influential British comedians since Charlie Chaplin, Ricky Gervais is the creator and star of *The Office*, *Extras*, *Derek*, and the critically acclaimed recent Netflix hit *After Life*. Gervais has won countless awards, and has enjoyed huge critical success for the outstanding first two series of *After Life*, with the third having launched on Netflix in January 2022. His hit series *The Office* is the most successful British comedy of all time, shown in more than 90 countries with eight remakes. Ricky has hosted the Golden Globes awards five times, in 2010, 2011, 2012, 2016 and 2020.

MY WEEK WITH MAISY

UK | 18:10 | 2023

WORLD PREMIERE

DIR: MIKA SIMMONS

WRI: MARK OXTOBY

PROD: GEORGINA FRENCH

Synopsis: Mrs Foster (Joanna Lumley), a retired, middle-class Daily Mail reader, whose cup is half empty, is starting chemotherapy and is understandably anxious. The last thing she needs is to have to share the treatment room with a 'know-it-all child' who wants to grow up to be a lesbian. But through their unexpected friendship, Maisy gives Mrs Foster much more than just a glimmer of hope.

DIR. Bio: Mika Simmons is a British actress and filmmaker. Her directorial debut, 'Rain Stops Play', won the Silver Remi for best comedy at Houston World Film Festival and in 2019 and was nominated at BAFTA qualifying Underwire Festival and CBFF. As an actress Mika has played in a diverse range of work on stage and screen - including the *Showtrial* (BBC), *Frenchman's Creek* (ITV) and *Unforgotten* (ITV); BAFTA award winning 'Falling Apart'; Film London's 'Balcony' which went on to win the Crystal Bear at the Berlin Film Festival and BFI nominee Dictynna Hood's 'Us Among The Stones'.

WAR IS OVER

USA | 09:45 | 2023

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

DIR/WRI: DAVE MULLINS

PROD: BRAD BOOKER

Synopsis: WAR IS OVER! is a 10-minute animated short film created in partnership with ElectroLeague and The John Lennon Estate, featuring the original recording of WAR IS OVER (Happy Xmas) by John Lennon and Yoko Ono on the 50th anniversary of its release. Set in an alternate WWI reality where a senseless war rages between two armies, the opposing sides have been entrenched in battle for what feels like an eternity.. The two engage in friendly but feverish game. Who will win and who will lose? Can there be a winner in this game as the war rages on?

DIR. Bio: DAVE MULLINS began his Pixar career as an animator on FINDING NEMO. He has worked as an animator on a number of films such as THE INCREDIBLES, CARS and RATATOUILLE. He also co-directed MONSTERS INC. commercials for McDonalds and directed CARS commercials for General Motors. He was a directing animator on UP and supervising animator on CARS 2, THE GOOD DINOSAUR, THE INCREDIBLES 2 and SOUL.



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Documentary Programme

FINDING HOME

Australia | 10:41 | 2023

WORLD PREMIERE

DIR: LESTER JONES

WRI: LESTER JONES

PROD: LESTER JONES

Synopsis: FINDING HOME tells the extraordinary story of Yousef Mohammadi, who as a young Afghani boy was forced to flee from his home country to avoid the dangers of war. In this contemporary documentary live action footage is combined with animation to share the emotive and inspiring story of how Yousef embarked on a journey from Afghanistan to Australia to find his place in the world.

DIR Bio:

Lester Jones is a Sydney based film-maker.

Originally from London, Lester's work focuses on an emotive quality that seeks a human connection while maintaining a considered visual approach. Lester works across advertising, long form and short form projects

KALA KUNBOLK (COLOUR COUNTRY)

Australia | 14:40 | 2023

NSW PREMIERE

DIR: JAMES HASKARD AND NINA HAIGH

WRI: NONE LISTED

PROD: INJALAK ARTS

Synopsis: Kala Kunbolk follows women of Gunbalanya, Arnhem Land, in their quest to preserve their age-old tradition of collecting pandanus leaves and natural colour on country to create handcrafted baskets.

LINE RIDER

Slovenia | Australia | 24:49 | 2023

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

DIR: Simon Intihar

WRI: Simon Intihar

PROD: Pete Ireland and David Sipoš

Synopsis: Like any mad genius, Boštjan Čadež lives life on his own creative terms. Art. Music. Robotics. There's nothing his mind can't conquer – except perhaps the legacy of his globally famous, generation-defining video game "Line Rider"...and his tendency to self-destruct.

DIR Bio: Simon Intihar is a writer, director and producer from Slovenia. Simon Graduated in Film and TV directing at UL AGRFT in Ljubljana and has directed several short films such as his graduation short 'Kopanje (Diving-In)' (2014) and 'Nisi Pozabil (You Didn't Forget)' (2016) and his upcoming Slovenian Film Centre funded short 'Container' (2022). His work has been screened at over 50 film festivals around the world, winning several international awards. He attended the Talents Sarajevo program as a director in 2017 and the Berlinale Talents programme in 2019.



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Rainbow Shorts Programme

SLOW DOWN THE FALL

Germany | 19:52 | 2023

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

DIR: CAMILLE TRICAUD, FRANZISKA UNGER

WRI: CAMILLE TRICAUD

PROD: FELIX HERRMANN, MAXIMILIAN BUNGARTEN, CAMILLE TRICAUD

Synopsis: In the light of the Alps, a great ski-jumping hill flashes metallically. Two ski jumpers synchronously rehearse movements in the valley, answer generic questions in front of a green screen and pose on the hill while being watched by a film crew. It is the first reunion for the two athletes since their separation.

DIR Bio:

Camille Tricaud (1992, Bordeaux) is a French director and producer. She studied philosophy in Bordeaux and directing at the University of Television and Film Munich (HFF). She has directed several short films selected and awarded internationally (Cannes Next Generation, finalist at the Student Academy Awards, selections in IKFF Hamburg, Entrevues Belfort, Oberhausen, Clermont Ferrand, Côté-Court, Ji.hlava. In 2022, she founded Benedetta Films in Munich with Felix Herrmann and Maximilian Bungarten and is currently working on her first feature film, a german-french melodrama.

Franziska Unger was born in Heilbronn in 1988. She works as a director, as an art director and as a visual artist. Her works have been exhibited in numerous galleries and screened and awarded internationally. With Camille Tricaud together, she co-directed "Apocalypse Airlines" (Short Tiger Award -Next Generation at the Festival de Cannes 2020) and „Apocalypse Baby, We Advertise The End Of The World“ (finalist of the Student Academy Awards (Oscars) 2021).

FLORES DEL OTRO PATIO

Switzerland | 15:00 | 2022

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

DIR: JORGE CADENA

WRI: JORGE CADENA

PROD: YAN DECOPPET, GABRIELA BUSSMANN

Synopsis: In the north of Colombia, a group of queer activists use extravagant performative actions to denounce the disastrous exploitation by the country's largest coal mine.

DIR Bio:

After studying photography in Buenos Aires, Jorge Cadena obtained a BA in cinema at HEAD – Geneva, graduating with «El Cuento de Antonia», which won the IFFR Tiger Award. He then completed his MA at ECAL/HEAD with «The Jarariju Sisters», which was awarded at Berlinale. An alumnus of EFP Future Frame, TIFF Lab, and Berlinale Talents, he is currently working on his first feature film.

Short Laughs Showcase

ASHES

Australia | 13:15 | 2023

SYDNEY PREMIERE (SHORT LAUGHS PROGRAM)

DIR: GEORGINA HAIG

WRI: GEORGINA HAIG

PROD: GEORGINA HAIG



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Synopsis: Bereft after the loss of her beloved Dad James (Michael Caton), Frances misses the appointment to pick up his ashes. Through a bizarre posthumous prank, can James rectify his daughter's habitual lateness, even after he's gone? A darkly comedic story about grief, tough love and the unexpected ways those who have passed continue to influence us.

DIR. Bio: A graduate of the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts, Georgina Haig's acting credits include Late Night with the Devil, The Mule, The Sapphires, Wasted on the Young, Where we Disappear, Road Train and Crawl. Some of her television credits include Archive 81, Once Upon a Time, Fringe, A Moody Christmas, Secret Bridesmaid's Business, Snow Piercer, Back to the Rafters, The Crossing and INXS Never Tear us Apart. Georgina makes her directorial debut with her personal dark comedy Ashes.

Lovebites Showcase

SHOWPONY

Australia | 04:32 | 2023

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

DIR: CLARE HOEY

WRI: CLARE HOEY

PROD: SOPHIE LOWE, VALENTINA NOVAKOVIC

Synopsis: Based on Sophie Lowe's real experiences of filming self-tapes with partners who would try to sabotage her ... particularly if her role contained a sex scene, Showpony is a hyperreal slice of a relationship. Familiarity breeds contempt, and the film's toxic dynamic will resonate with anybody who's fought with their partner. But Showpony takes it to the next level, portraying emotional abuse, gaslighting, and manipulation with a lightness of touch that makes you laugh before you realise it's probably not very funny.

DIR. Bio: Born and raised in Brisbane Clare Hoey is currently developing MANE, her debut feature film with Minor Realm, with Dev Patel attached to star. She has also written and will direct the short film QUEEN KONG for 2023 Sky Comedy Shorts. She has developed various TV and film projects across UK, US, and Australia, including with Netflix, Channel 4, Audible, and NBC Universal

Flickerkids Showcase

WILFRID GORDON MCDONALD PARTRIDGE

AUSTRALIA | 14:56 | 2023

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

DIR: HATTIE ARCHIBALD

WRI: JACOB MELAMED

PROD: CALEB IRWIN

Synopsis: When 6 year old Wilfrid finds out that his 96 year old best friend Nancy has lost her memory, he sets out to see if he can get it back. A live-action adaptation of the classic children's book by Mem Fox and illustrated by Julie Vivas, 'Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge' is a heartwarming story about memory loss and intergenerational connection, featuring celebrated actors Benita Collins (Play School) and Bruce Spence (Mad Max, Star Wars).

DIR. Bio: Hattie Archibald is an emerging director, producer, writer and assistant director originally from rural NSW. After completing her Master of Arts: Screen in Directing at the Australian Film Television and Radio School her graduating project, 'Gut Feeling', a 3x12 minute comedy-drama web series was picked up by ABC Comedy + iView in 2020 and won several awards internationally, including the Audience Choice at Melbourne WebFest and Minnesota WebFest. Hattie's



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recent directing work includes the 'Down On The Farm' special for 'Play School', the first episode filmed outside of the studio since 1999.

MR CHICKEN GOES TO MARS

AUSTRALIA | 03:15 | 2023

WORLD PREMIERE

DIR: KATRINA MATHERS AND LEIGH HOBBS

WRI: LEIGH HOBBS

PROD: KATRINA MATHERS

Synopsis: Mr Chicken Goes to Mars was inspired as Leigh was writing and illustrating his newest children's book of the same name. The film is an explosive, fun and quirky story about a chicken who sets his sights on outer space.

DIR. Bio: KATRINA MATHERS is an Australian AACTA-winning filmmaker; her 20+ shorts have screened at leading international film festivals such as Annecy, Stuttgart, Clermont Ferrand, TIFF, Sitges and SIGGRAPH, and won over 50 awards, including at Melbourne, Sydney, Flickerfest, St Kilda and Adelaide film festivals locally; and internationally at Aspen Shortsfest, Bradford Animation, Palm Springs Shortsfest and many others. Two animations Katrina produced were Academy® accredited - The Gallant Captain which she directed with Graeme Base, and Nullarbor which was released as Highly Commended in the 2012 Oscar® Nominated Shorts Collection and has almost 8 million YouTube views.

ABOUT FLICKERFEST

As Australia's leading Academy® Qualifying short film festival, 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. Plus a host of other hotly contested prizes, which recognise the various craft areas inherent in making a great short film.

Now in its 33rd 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 country's film industry royalty.

"It was more than 30 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 filmmakers 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**



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