

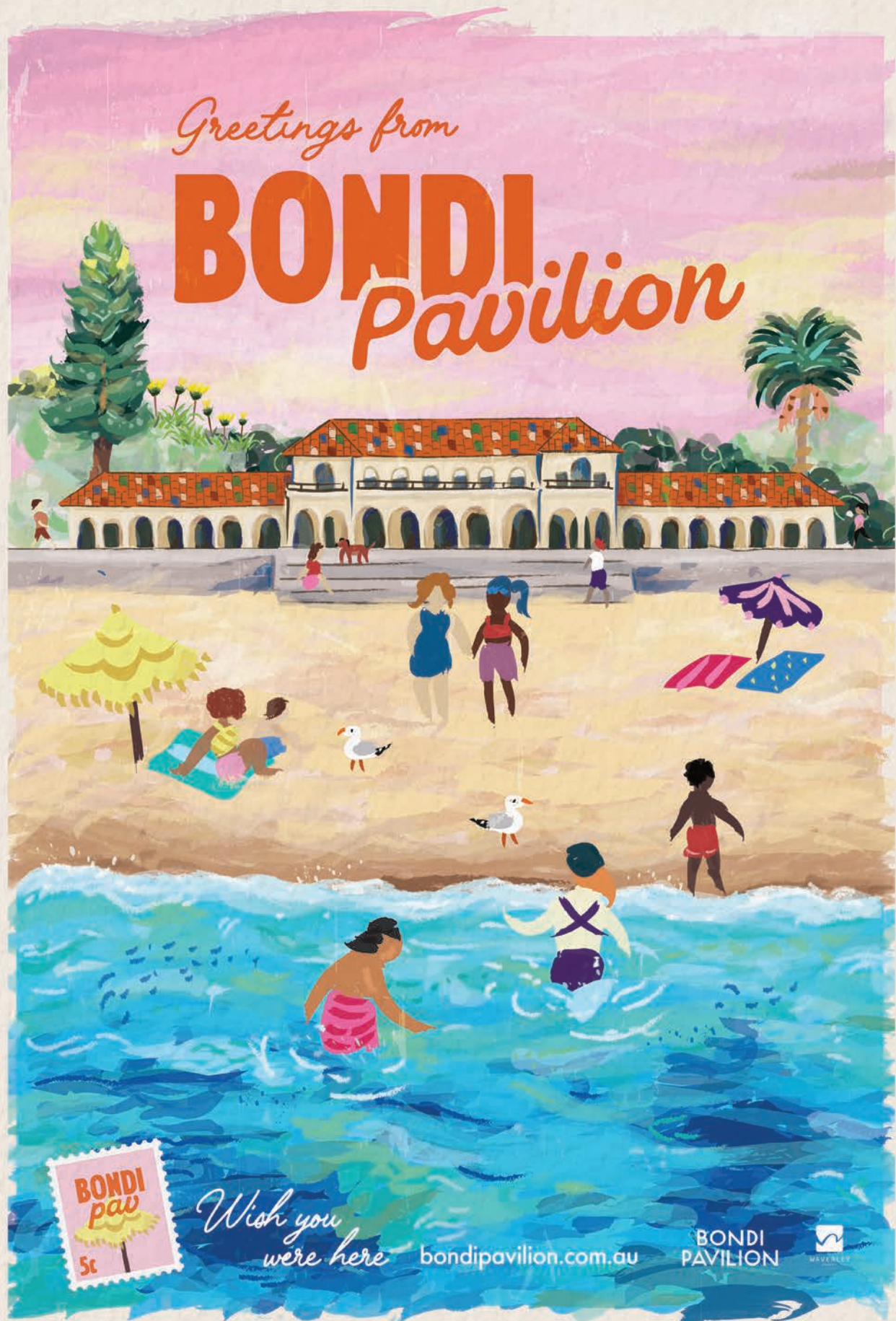
ACADEMY AWARD® AND BAFTA QUALIFYING

# THE ADVENTURES OF *Flickerfest* THE CREAM OF SHORT FILMS



23 JAN – 1 FEB 2026 | BONDİ PAVILION





THE ADVENTURES OF  
*Flickerfest*  
THE CREAM OF SHORT FILMS

PROGRAM AND SESSION TIMES

DAY	10.00AM	1.30PM	4.00PM	6.30PM	9.00PM
Pavilion Theatre					Courtyard Cinema
FRI 23	Festival Opening Highlights & After-Party – Arrive 8PM for 8.30PM START				
SAT 24		Best of International 1	Best of Australian 1	Best of Australian 2	Best of Australian 3
SUN 25		Best of International 2	Best of Documentary 1	Best of Documentary 2	Best of Australian 4
MON 26				First Nations Spotlight	Best of Australian 5
TUE 27				Best of International 3	Best of Australian 6
WED 28				Best of International 4	Best of Australian 7
THU 29				Best of International 5	Short Laughs Comedy 1
FRI 30	FlickerLab: 1 Day Workshop (10AM - 5.15PM)			Rainbow LGBTQi Shorts	LoveBites Shorts
SAT 31		FlickerKids Shorts (ages 4-12)	FlickerUp Youth Shorts	35th Anniversary Retrospective	Short Laughs Comedy 2
SUN 1 FEB	Closing Night Awards, Winner Highlights & After-Party – Arrive 7PM for 7.30PM START				

FESTIVAL INFORMATION

WELCOME TO THE 35TH FLICKERFEST!

We are thrilled to have reached this milestone of sharing the best of short films from Australia and around the world. Flickerfest remains committed to shining the bright light of cinema that connects us all, screening 200+ short films this year, handpicked from a record-breaking 3,700 entries. Thank you for joining us under the stars and for the most innovative, provocative and wildly entertaining short films the world has to offer at Australia's only Academy Award® and BAFTA qualifying short film festival.

BRONWYN KIDD FLICKERFEST DIRECTOR

SPECIAL EVENTS

GALA RED CARPET OPENING NIGHT FRIDAY 23RD JANUARY

**FESTIVAL INTRO & HIGHLIGHTS SCREENING** 8PM for 8.30PM start.  
Includes welcome drink, festival intro and film screening.

**FESTIVAL AFTER-PARTY** 10.30PM - late.  
Includes music, food and drinks at our beachside Festival Bar.

CLOSING NIGHT SUNDAY 1ST FEBRUARY

**AWARDS, SCREENING AND AFTER-PARTY** 7PM - late.  
Celebrate the end of the festival at our Gala Closing Night and Awards Ceremony. A selection of the festival's award-winning films will be screened, followed by music, food and drinks at the Flickerfest Bar.

**FLICKERLAB WORKSHOP FRIDAY 30TH JAN** 10AM - 5.15PM.  
A one-day journey from shorts to features and long form content.

All Tickets on sale at [Flickerfest.com.au](https://www.flickerfest.com.au)  
Flickerfest is an all weather event.



THANK YOU

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SPECIAL EVENT OPENING NIGHT

FRIDAY 23RD JANUARY 2026  
8PM ARRIVAL FOR 8.30PM START

Glitter with the stars of the silver screen, under a starry sky... Join us for the Gala Red Carpet Opening night & enjoy a selection of Flickerfest's juiciest highlights - an introduction to the incredible cinema to come in our 2026 season. After the films, party till late in our palm-fringed lawn bar at the fabulous Bondi Beach, and raise a glass to 35 years of the best short films from across the globe!



OPENING NIGHT SCREENING TICKET:  
INCLUDES A WELCOME DRINK AND FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS SCREENING

OPENING NIGHT SCREENING AND PARTY TICKET:  
ALSO INCLUDES A CATERED AFTER-PARTY AND ENTERTAINMENT  
AT THE FLICKERFEST BAR

FESTIVAL INTRO & SCREENING  
8PM FOR 8.30PM START

AFTER-PARTY  
10.30PM - LATE

OPENING NIGHT FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS - FRIDAY 23RD JAN 8PM DURATION: 95MINS

RUN KOALA RUN

Australia | 7min | 2025  
DIR/WRI: James Calvert  
PROD: James Calvert, Ari Chand  
Run Koala Run explores a day in the life of Rusty, a beloved hand-drawn koala, who suddenly finds his cartoon world rewritten by an unseen 'animator'. As the lines around him bend, blur, and break, Rusty runs through shifting frames in the performance of a lifetime. A fast, funny, and unsettling chase through the blurred lines between algorithm, and art.

WORLD PREMIERE

THE SUIT

Australia | 12min | 2025  
DIR: Jesse Vogelaar  
WRI: Scott Limbrick  
PROD: Lawrence Phelan  
A couple engaged in a bizarre legal proceeding confront the source of their problem.

WORLD PREMIERE

A FRIEND OF DOROTHY

United Kingdom | 21min | 2025  
WRI/DIR: Lee Knight  
PROD: James Dean, Max Harlow, Scottie Forte  
A lonely widow's quiet life is upended when a teenage boy accidentally kicks his football into her garden.

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

TUESDAY TUESDAY

Australia | 15min | 2025  
DIR: Lianne Mackessy  
WRI: Lianne Mackessy, Emily Sheehan  
PROD: Catherine Van der Rijt  
A support worker spends one final shift with her client living with younger-onset dementia and must face the complicated feelings that come with letting him go.

WORLD PREMIERE

MIMI

Australia | 15min | 2002  
WRI/DIR: Warwick Thornton  
PROD: Darren Dale, Rachel Perkins  
Warwick Thornton's satirical short film Mimi pokes fun at white art collectors who purchase Indigenous art purely for its investment value. Featuring Aaron Pedersen, Sophie Lee and David Gulpilil.

THE SINGERS

United States | 18min | 2025  
DIR: Sam Davis  
PROD: Rayka Zehtabchi, Charlie Cohen, David Breschel, Jack Piatt  
A genre-bending film adaptation of a 19th-century short story written by Ivan Turgenev, in which a lowly pub full of downtrodden men connect unexpectedly through an impromptu sing-off. With a cast comprised of first-time actors from the unlikely corners of TikTok and YouTube, the film is a celebration of diamonds in the rough and a testament to the power of vulnerability through art.

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

HUGS

France | 7min | 2025  
WRI/DIR/PROD: Nicolas Fong  
Join us on the luggage rack of my bike for a sensory roller-coaster through a land full of cuddles..

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

# BEST OF INTERNATIONAL SHORTS

Five sessions of the best International short films in competition.  
Be uplifted, inspired and moved by the next generation of the world’s most talented filmmakers.  
\*Academy Award® and BAFTA qualifying competition.



FROM TOP TO BOTTOM:  
THREE, AT NIGHT, HYENA,  
LEAVING IKORODU IN 1999

## BEST OF INTERNATIONAL SHORTS 1 SATURDAY 24TH JANUARY, 1:30PM RUNTIME: 114 MINS

### MY GUT FRIEND

Argentina, Mexico | 8min | 2025  
WRI: Rodrigo del Oso,  
José Mario Muñoz Enriquez  
DIR: José Manuel “Becho” Lo Bianco,  
Mariano Andrés Bergara  
PROD: Gabriela Robles, Becho Lo Bianco,  
Mariano Bergara, Anselmo Ramos,  
Gastón Bigio, Camila de Almeida Prado,  
Nicolás Pérez Veiga, Alfredo Pérez Veiga,  
Carolina Cordini Jim  
A lonely man who lives stuck in a rut,  
remembers when he was a child and his  
gut was alive.

#### AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

### AGAPITO

Philippines | 15min | 2025  
DIR: Arvin Belarmino, Kyla Romero  
PROD: Jon Galvez, Carlos Ortiz,  
Mick Quito  
It's the last day of the month. Bowlers  
flock to the lanes of a bowling alley that  
has seen better days. Mira, the manager,  
decides to close early. She's awaiting the  
arrival of a special visitor.

#### WORLD PREMIERE

### EXAM

France, Poland | 17min | 2025  
WRI/DIR: Jan Naszewski  
WRI: Agnieszka Matan  
A pair of sensitive thirty-somethings are  
asked to be a model couple during their  
therapist's exam session. A therapist,  
an international committee, the worst  
interpreter and the hidden frustrations of  
the spouses. What could possibly  
go wrong?

#### AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

### THREE

United Kingdom | 23min | 2025  
WRI: Isaac Gryn, Patrick McPherson  
DIR: Robert Carlyle  
PROD: Stefan Demetriou, Isaac Gryn,  
Amy James  
When a young man is invited into the  
home of an older couple late at night,  
a tantalising game of control and  
chemistry begins.

#### WORLD PREMIERE

### AT NIGHT

Iran | 5min | 2025  
WRI/DIR: Pooya Afzali  
PROD: Pooya Afzali, Narges Doosti  
In the midst of war, a man watches his  
beloved one by lighting the three matches  
he has left. Then, in the pitch darkness,  
a forest grows from their lovemaking and  
protects them from the war.

#### AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

### HYENA

China, United States | 21min | 2025  
WRI/DIR: Altay Ulan Yang  
In an isolated castle, students prepare  
for a life-changing examination. As  
anticipation builds to a fever pitch, a storm  
strikes. Trapped within crumbling walls,  
their academic sanctuary becomes a  
prison, and minds begin to break.

#### AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

### LEAVING IKORODU IN 1999

United Kingdom | 17min | 2024  
WRI/DIR: Rashida Seriki  
PROD: Tobi Kyeremateng  
In Ikorodu, 10-year-old Momo lives with  
her aunt Fade and uncle Mahmoud but  
she has been sent for by her mother who  
migrated to London ahead of her. During  
the road-trip to the airport, Fade becomes  
increasingly unsure of whether Momo's  
departure from Nigeria is truly for the best.

#### NSW PREMIERE

### I WALKED THROUGH THE WALL

Spain | 8min | 2025  
WRI/DIR: Pablo Larcuen  
PROD: Pablo Garcia Acon, Albert Soler,  
Martin Jalfen, Blanca Balleste, Cristobal  
Solorzano, Zane Kalnina  
A wife and mother who feels trapped in a  
life of service to her family, accidentally  
discovers the power to walk through walls.

#### AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

## BEST OF INTERNATIONAL SHORTS 2 SUNDAY 25TH JANUARY, 1:30PM RUNTIME: 109 MINS

### RADIX

Germany | 4min | 2025  
WRI/DIR/PROD: Anne Breymann  
Two creatures meet on a tree. Their  
encounter goes deep down to the roots  
and beyond.

#### AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

### A FRIEND OF DOROTHY

United Kingdom | 21min | 2025  
WRI/DIR: Lee Knight  
PROD: James Dean, Max Harlow,  
Scottie Forte  
A lonely widow's quiet life is upended  
when a teenage boy accidentally kicks his  
football into her garden.

#### AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

### EARWORM

Sweden | 12min | 2025  
WRI/DIR: Patrik Eklund  
PROD: Mathias Fjällström, Ola Rutz  
Ulph Degerfors is plagued by a severe  
case of earworm as Rednex's "Cotton Eye  
Joe" takes over his mind. Gradually, he  
spirals toward madness, with everything  
he experiences and hears becoming  
tainted by the song.

#### AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

### SWEET TOOTH

United States | 13min | 2025  
DIR: Benji Tucker  
PROD: Zach Rineer  
As Doe Town gears up for its 55th  
Annual Smile Contest, undefeated  
champion Bucky Bantershire (Pete  
Gardner) begins to unravel when his long-  
suppressed Sweet Tooth (Tony Award  
Winner Marissa Jaret Winokur) resurfaces,  
singing, dancing and dragging him into  
sugary chaos.

#### AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

### LIVING JEWEL

Austria | 16min | 2025  
WRI/DIR/PROD: Simon Spitzer  
A real estate agent shows interested  
parties around a house for sale. The fact  
that a customer becomes abusive is no  
reason for her to drop her professionalism.  
A social drama observed with a sharp eye  
in the smallest of spaces.

#### AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

### LADY ATTILA

France | 25min | 2025  
WRI/DIR: Apolline Andreys  
PROD: Raphaëlle Simavonian  
Agathe loves tractors, and rock! She  
works in the family farm machinery garage  
with her father and older brother. When  
she finds out about an upcoming Airguitar  
competition, she decides to enter, but her  
brother doesn't see it that way.

#### AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

### THE SINGERS

United States | 18min | 2025  
DIR: Sam Davis  
PROD: Rayka Zehtabchi, Charlie Cohen,  
David Breschel, Jack Piatt  
A genre-bending film adaptation of a  
19th-century short story written by Ivan  
Turgenev, in which a lowly pub full of  
downtrodden men connect unexpectedly  
through an impromptu sing-off. With a cast  
comprised of first-time actors from the  
unlikeliest corners of TikTok and YouTube,  
the film is a celebration of diamonds in  
the rough and a testament to the power of  
vulnerability through art.

#### AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE



FROM TOP TO BOTTOM:  
A FRIEND OF DOROTHY, SWEET TOOTH,  
EARWORM, LADY ATTILA





FROM TOP TO BOTTOM:  
THE GIRL WHO CRIED PEARLS,  
CARCASSONNE-ACAPULCO, CHICKEN,  
KATTI (UNFRIEND)

**BEST OF INTERNATIONAL SHORTS 3**  
**TUESDAY 27TH JANUARY, 6:30PM**  
RUNTIME: 114 MINS

**MURMURATION**  
Netherlands | 13min | 2025  
WRI/DIR: Janneke Swinkels, Tim Frijsinger  
PROD: Spotted Bird, Beast Animation, Murmur Animation  
An elderly man realises he's suddenly turning into a bird.

**NSW PREMIERE**

**CHASING KITES**  
Germany | 8min | 2025  
WRI: Darlien Schürmann  
DIR: Anna Niebert  
PROD: Lena Sophie Daun, José Santisteban  
As their flat turns into a sea of paper kites, a young teenager faces the impossible challenge of being there for his younger brother without losing parts of himself.

**AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE**

**SUNDOWN**  
Belgium | 18min | 2025  
WRI/DIR: Lucien Lepoutre  
PROD: Annabella Nezri  
Nora, a talented 25-year-old dancer, is about to lose her sight. As she finds it increasingly difficult to move in space, Nora comes across a group of visually impaired athletes who confront her with her new reality.

**AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE**

**THE GIRL WHO CRIED PEARLS**  
Canada | 17min | 2025  
WRI: Chris Lavis, Maciek Szczerbowski, Isabelle Mandalian  
DIR: Chris Lavis, Maciek Szczerbowski  
PROD: Julie Roy, Marc Bertrand, Christine Noël  
A haunting fable about a girl overwhelmed by sorrow, the boy who loves her, and how greed leads good hearts to wicked deeds.

**NSW PREMIERE**

**BAADARANE**  
Lebanon | 15min | 2025  
WRI: Samah El Kadi, Nadim Chammas  
DIR: Samah El Kadi  
PROD: Darine Hotait, Hanna Atallah  
A young boy from Mount Lebanon grapples with his mother's sudden death, questioning the foundation of his faith and whether God punishes or saves people in this modern spin on the myth of Prometheus, through the eyes of an eight-year-old Druz child from Baadarane.

**AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE**

**CHICKEN**  
South Africa, United States | 15min | 2025  
WRI/DIR: Bill Chen  
PROD: Elizabeth Raia, Margaret Montavon  
Set against suburban South Africa, twin brothers Peter and Paul grapple with identity, belonging, and silent expectations at an elite boys' school — until one's reckless bid for acceptance triggers a rupture with devastating, irreversible consequences for them both.

**AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE**

**KATTI (UNFRIEND)**  
India, United States | 14min | 2025  
WRI: Akshita Namjoshi, Kanishka Aggarwal  
DIR: Kanishka Aggarwal  
PROD: Wenfeng Li  
In a vibrant, multi-generational Indian household, 8-year-old Bittoo finds herself sidelined after the birth of her baby brother. A tender, unsettling portrait of girlhood, sibling bonds, and the first sting of systemic gender bias. It explores how children absorb silence, how they internalize worth, and how, despite everything, they still reach for love.

**WORLD PREMIERE**

**CARCASSONNE-ACAPULCO**  
France | 14min | 2025  
WRI/DIR: Marjorie Caup, Olivier Héraud  
PROD: 12//24 Films, Association 1071  
As flight 7836 reaches cruising speed above the Atlantic Ocean, the pilot, co-pilot and flight attendant are startled by an unexpected knock at the door! Chaos and confusion ensue as the crew enter a long and meandering debate regarding the stranger's fate: should they open the door, or not?

**AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE**

**BEST OF INTERNATIONAL SHORTS 4**  
**WEDNESDAY 28TH JANUARY, 6:30PM**  
RUNTIME: 111 MINS

**THEY**  
United Kingdom | 8min | 2025  
WRI: Renée Zellweger, Paul Smith  
DIR: Renée Zellweger  
PROD: Tora Young  
As townsfolk rage in their fog of negativity, our hero and his dog aim to encourage a return to better days! The opposite effect leads to an unexpected calamity which galvanizes the masses.

**AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE**

**MY PLASTIC MOTHER**  
Indonesia | 19min | 2025  
WRI/DIR: Amar Haikal  
PROD: Michael Rainheart  
Eki, living by the landfill, searches for a memento to honor his late mother. Battling the relentless rain, landslides, and looming threats from scavengers and machinery, he fears her memory could be lost beneath the waste forever.

**AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE**

**I'M GLAD YOU'RE DEAD NOW**  
France, Greece | 13min | 2025  
WRI/DIR: Tawfeek Barhom  
PROD: Tawfeek Barhom, Akis Polizos, Stylianos Kotionis, Alexandre Perrier  
Two brothers return to the island of their childhood, where buried secrets and heavy tensions force them to confront a dark past that connects them.

**NSW PREMIERE**

**KOKO SUZANNE**  
Congo, The Democratic Republic of the, Ireland, United States | 17min | 2025  
WRI: Zach Bandler, Emmanuel Epenge  
DIR: Zach Bandler  
PROD: Victor Mazzone, Emmanuel Lupia, Patience Katushabe  
Based on true events, a young girl's life is turned upside down when her grandmother's strange behaviour sparks fears of witchcraft. As her family struggles to reconcile illness with the supernatural, she must navigate the streets of Kinshasa in order to protect the grandmother she knows and loves.

**AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE**

**DRIVING LESSON**  
Bulgaria | 14min | 2025  
WRI/DIR: Anastassya Angelova  
PROD: Albena Nikolova Stoyanova, FAMU  
In a Bulgarian village, Angel faces a dilemma: accept his grandfather's offer to teach him to drive and conform to patriarchal norms, or refuse and risk being called weak, but stay true to his bond with his sister.

**AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE**

**THE FUNERAL REHEARSAL**  
Netherlands | 20min | 2024  
WRI: Salome van Grunsven, Jop Leuven  
DIR: Ronald Zuidinga  
PROD: Robbin van Mechelen  
When Herman's granddaughter forces him to rehearse his funeral, the man who's been dodging death has no choice but to confront it — in front of the whole family.

**AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE**

**TALK ME**  
Spain, United States | 20min | 2025  
WRI/DIR: Joecar Hanna  
PROD: Joecar Hanna, María Belén Poncio, Patricia Picazo, Mai Batalla  
In a world where words replace intimacy, a local outsider in a Spanish village must choose between a loveless marriage and the promise of true connection with a kindred stranger.

**AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE**



FROM TOP TO BOTTOM:  
THEY, I'M GLAD YOUR DEAD NOW,  
KOKO SUZANNE, TALK ME



BEST OF INTERNATIONAL SHORTS CONTINUED



FROM TOP TO BOTTOM:  
DOG ALONE, SMELLS LIKE KIDS SPIRIT,  
DANCING SOBER, PĀKEHĀ

BEST OF INTERNATIONAL SHORTS 5  
THURSDAY 29TH JANUARY, 6:30PM  
RUNTIME: 109 MINS

DOG ALONE

Portugal | 13min | 2025  
WRI/DIR: Marta Reis Andrade  
PROD: David Doutel, Vasco Sá  
A dog was abandoned in its own home at the time when my grandfather began to experience his widowhood and I was returning from London, a place where I felt lonelier than ever.

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

A SISYPHEAN TASK

United Kingdom | 17min | 2025  
WRI/DIR: Gus Flind-Henry, George Malcher  
PROD: George Telfer  
Follows Lucy, a 23 year old newly qualified teacher, through her first year of teaching. A bright yet unflinching glimpse into the British school system, all set within the walls of Lucy's classroom.

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

SMELLS LIKE KIDS' SPIRIT

France | 19min | 2025  
WRI: Aude Pépin, Louise Groult, Julien Guetta  
DIR: Aude Pépin | PROD: Clément Bancel  
Rita's summer is turned upside down when Brooks, an American musician, visits the ranch where she lives alone with her mother. A former lover, he rekindles their love under the gaze of the child in search of a father. An unsettling fascination is born, combining first stirrings with the mysteries of adulthood.

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

VULTURES

France, South Africa | 15min | 2025  
WRI/DIR: Dian Weys  
PROD: Émilie Dubois, Anais Bertrand, Le Roux Fourie  
In the volatile moments after a car crash, yet before the authorities arrive, a hot-headed yet desperate tow truck driver fiercely protects his tow. But the situation quickly spirals out of his control.

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

DANCING SOBER

Sweden | 15min | 2025  
WRI/DIR: Kristian A. Söderström  
PROD: Josefine Green  
Bullied by wife and daughter and mistreated at work, Herman escapes with boozed up dancing alone in the middle of the night...until a drunken dance floor takeover at an office party turns him into a viral sensation and sparks a long overdue rebellion.

WORLD PREMIERE

AFTER WHAT HAPPENED AT THE LIBRARY

United States | 15min | 2025  
WRI: Kyle Casey Chu, Roisin Isner  
DIR: Syra McCarthy  
PROD: Vee Godinez, Hillary Irene Pierce  
In the wake of a terrifying encounter, an overwhelmed drag queen struggles under the weight of public attention. Inspired by a viral true story.

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

PĀKEHĀ

New Zealand | 15min | 2025  
WRI/DIR: Mana Hira Davis  
PROD: Larissa Marie Allen, Sarah Oemcke, Melissa Mae  
In 1980s, New Zealand, a young Pākehā mother's determination to learn Te Reo Māori, exposes her struggles, resilience, and courage, in an inspiring true story of cultural reconciliation.

WORLD PREMIERE



### Flickerfest & Specsavers TVC Competition

The Expert

Edvard Christie

Fishtank

Muraya Moore

Garbologist

Samuel Lewis

The Chase

Justin Villar

The Sketch Artist

Hannah Dougherty

Vote now for your favourite  
Should've Gone to Specsavers film

8 THE CREAM OF SHORT FILMS!



# BEST OF AUSTRALIAN SHORTS

Seven sessions of the best Australian short films in competition.  
Our homegrown talent battle it out for the prestigious Academy® Qualifying Award for Best Australian Short Film.



FROM TOP TO BOTTOM:  
DEPENDENT, THE SECRET, FAMILY MAN,  
THE WAY OF THE WIND

## BEST OF AUSTRALIAN SHORTS 1 SATURDAY 24TH JANUARY, 4:00PM RUNTIME: 115 MINS

### COLLECT CALL

Australia | 13min | 2025  
DIR: Inez Playford | WRI: Daniel Forbes  
PROD: Mike Luo  
In a desperate bid for re-election, Senator Chiquita Olson partners with a corporate space program to launch a probe to Jupiter – complete with a tacky campaign ad and a secret self-destruct mechanism. But when the probe crashes into an intergalactic alien tyrant’s eye, Olson, alongside the hapless Dr. Jean Barrows and the conspiracy-loving ex-astronaut Frank Quarterflash, must engage in high-stakes diplomacy with the alien Bashoalgopharc, Devourer of Shadows.

### AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

### DEPENDENT

Australia | 14min | 2025  
DIR: Joseph Chebbatte  
WRI: Marcus Khoudair  
PROD: Julian Maroun, Luke Maroun, Lena Albin, Tristan Tringali  
Set in present-day Western Sydney, Dependent centres on Julian, a dedicated carer, who’s grappling with his own physical limitations and emotional strain while caring for his younger brother Luke, who has Down syndrome and cerebral palsy. As Julian faces a testing medical diagnosis, the weight of responsibility begins to overwhelm him. Amidst their daily routines, the brothers’ bond is tested, especially when news of conflict in the Middle East hits close to home.

### THE SECRET

Australia | 12min | 2025  
DIR/WRI: Lilla Berry | PROD: Piri Eddy  
Alone and ashamed, a young woman grapples with the weight of her choice as she endures an abortion at home.

### NSW PREMIERE

### LEARNING TO EAT CAKE

Australia | 15min | 2025  
DIR/WRI: Juliette Strangio  
PROD: Katie Kincaid, Lise Graham  
Learning To Eat Cake tells the variegated story of an outgoing woman as she reframes a strange and coercive sexual encounter as a comical tale to her friends, in order to make light of the violation.

### NSW PREMIERE

### FAMILY MAN

Australia | 17min | 2025  
DIR: Kalani Gacon  
WRI: Kalani Gacon, Maya Khan, Sarmila Ale  
PROD: Prawin Takki Karki  
During a storm in a remote Nepalese village, a mysterious man finds refuge in the house of a family haunted by their father’s disappearance years before. Strangely unwilling to leave, he slowly reawakens lost memories of the missing father.

### NSW PREMIERE

### THE WAY OF THE WIND

Australia | 8min | 2025  
DIR/WRI: Nicholas Burt  
PROD: Nicholas Burt, Jack Langford  
Set in the early 20th century after the expansive and violent Frontier Wars, we follow The Ragged Man as he runs across the vast and abandoned landscapes of the Australian Outback. His past catches up to him as he has to come to terms with his violent past and his connection to a deadly sniper.

### WORLD PREMIERE

### HEMMA

Australia | 14min | 2025  
DIR: Bailey Parkinson, Jay Doherty  
WRI/PROD: Bailey Parkinson, Jay Doherty, Isabelle Bäsén  
Expecting young couple Amanda and Owen put their relationship to the fire as they struggle to decide whether their child will be born in Amanda’s native Sweden, or here in Owen’s Australian hometown.

### NSW PREMIERE

### ALPHA TEST

Australia | 12min | 2025  
DIR/WRI: Stephen Packer  
PROD: Adam Camporeale  
A young detective must solve a murder with the help of a hologram copy of the victim.

### NSW PREMIERE

### LISTEN THEN REPEAT

Australia | 10min | 2025  
DIR/WRI/PROD: Jasper Martin  
Locked out of her primary email and all of its associated accounts, Eve attempts to troubleshoot the issue with an AI-powered customer service hotline whose only goal is to improve her satisfaction no matter the cost..

### NSW PREMIERE

## BEST OF AUSTRALIAN SHORTS 2 SATURDAY 24TH JANUARY, 6:30PM RUNTIME: 114 MINS

### LITTLE PUMPKIN

Australia | 10min | 2025  
DIR/WRI/PROD: Jessica Trinity Fisher  
One year after a family tragedy, a mother struggles to get her curious seven year old daughter to stop wearing a homemade pumpkin head everywhere she goes.

### AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

### DATE 3

Australia | 16min | 2025  
DIR/WRI: Cristabel Sved  
PROD: Kali Reid, Madeleine de Wilde Barr  
Ella is haunted by an abusive relationship that ended 3 years ago. Now trying to re-enter the online dating game, she invites Harry to her home for their third date.

### WORLD PREMIERE

### PULP

Australia | 13min | 2025  
DIR: Sarah Hegge-Taylor  
PROD: Carter Looker, Lucien Perry, Sophie Somerville  
El wakes to her Mother’s voice and begins to see her body separating from herself, as through cascading visions of El’s past and future, she walks towards a memory of her Mother that seeps in from her dreams and calls her back into a place she is afraid to return to.

### NSW PREMIERE

### LODESTAR

Australia | 10min | 2025  
DIR: Maxine Zanoni | WRI: Jess Zanoni  
PROD: Josie Baynes, Jes Evans  
Two sisters with a deep, unspoken bond reunite when it is revealed that their childhood home is set to be demolished. Drawn by a need for closure, they return to the now-empty house, remembering the scents, textures, and echoes of their past.

### NSW PREMIERE

### FLAME

Australia | 11min | 2025  
WRI/DIR: Katrina Channells  
PROD: Georgia Powell, Joe Hinchliffe  
A performance artist must reach her audience before it’s too late.

### WORLD PREMIERE

### INHERITANCE

Australia | 17min | 2025  
DIR: Myles Pollard  
WRI: Myles Pollard, Ben Mortley  
PROD: Myles Pollard, Jasmine Leivers  
Fresh out of prison and barely holding it together, John Barker returns home to his dying grandfather—only to inherit an old boat, the family dog, a convict legacy, and one final chance to break the cycle... if he has the courage to try..

### WORLD PREMIERE

### THE BRUTAL ALCHEMY OF WATER

Australia | 15min | 2025  
DIR: Cameron Zayec  
WRI/PROD: Sarah Huston  
Refusing to accept the loss of her girlfriend, Quinn spirals through the suffocating confines of prison. In the depths of her grief she must navigate her unraveling mind and confront her inner demons. The only way out is through.

### WORLD PREMIERE

### BURLEY

Australia | 14min | 2024  
WRI/DIR: Gabriel Morrison  
PROD: Claudia Holmes  
When a ten year old boy witnesses his father committing a sexual act while his mother is away that he doesn’t understand, he must choose between telling the truth upon her return or breaking the small family apart.

### WORLD PREMIERE

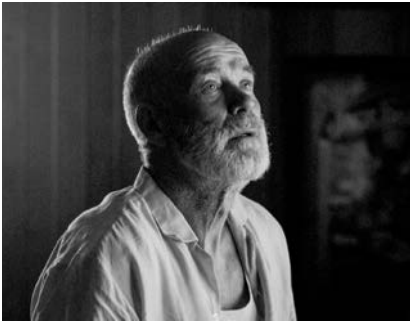
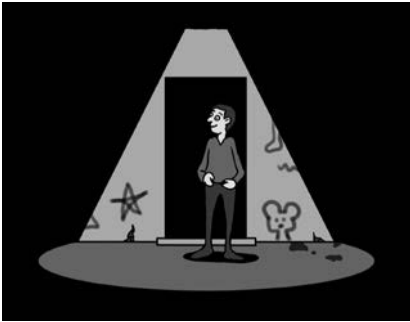
### THE ROCKJOB

Australia | 8min | 2025  
DIR: Sam Darcy  
WRI: Sam Darcy, Harry Granger  
PROD: Sam Darcy, Harry Granger, Luke Darcy  
A Cain and Abel tale of two warring brothers and the heinous misappropriation of Missing Pet posters.

### WORLD PREMIERE



FROM TOP TO BOTTOM:  
PULP, LODESTAR, INHERITANCE,  
THE BRUTAL ALCHEMY OF WATER



FROM TOP TO BOTTOM:  
TRAP, BUBBA, SHELLY, DIY

**BEST OF AUSTRALIAN SHORTS 3**  
**SATURDAY 24TH JANUARY, 9:00PM**  
RUNTIME: 110 MINS

**TRAP**  
Australia | 4min | 2024  
DIR/WRI/PROD: Dennis Tupicoff  
An experimental cartoon where the rectangular film Frame has no role at all. Each shot is its own Frame, played out all in black. TRAP is a story of murder and revenge, with its characters – man and mouse – caught in different traps, but always animated in black: a true film noir with no escape.

**NSW PREMIERE**

**DADDY’S LITTLE MEATBALL**  
Australia | 14min | 2025  
DIR/WRI: Yael Grunseit  
PROD: Jason Gotlieb, Sam Jang-Milsten, Rebecca Robertson  
On a once-in-a-lifetime trip to New York, an Australian period underwear salesman and his teenage daughter navigate the city and their strained relationship.

**WORLD PREMIERE**

**BUBBA**  
Australia | 13min | 2025  
DIR: Nina Buxton  
WRI: Hannah Samuel  
PROD: Hannah Ngo  
A woman wants to escape from her abusive relationship at any cost, except if it means leaving her pet dog behind.

**AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE**

**SHELLY**  
Australia | 12min | 2025  
DIR/WRI: James Trevor Chappell  
PROD: Alexandra Galloway  
When widowed fisherman Keith Herring hauls in an unexpected catch, his lonely life unravels - a gripping tale of grief and isolation where devotion curdles into delusion, and love from the deep tests the very limits of morality.

**WORLD PREMIERE**

**DIY**  
Australia | 12min | 2025  
DIR: Tony Gardiner  
WRI: Lachlan Marks  
PROD: Tony Gardiner, Andrew Brooks  
DIY follows Alex, a young woman grieving the death of a beloved pet, as she decides to hang a new frame on her apartment wall. But when she drills into the plaster... blood spills from the resulting hole?!

**JUST KIDS**  
Australia | 6min | 2025  
DIR/WRI: Helen Turton  
PROD: Jessica Hutchinson  
Years after his involvement in a cruel teenage prank, Logan (Eddie Baroo) encounters a lost teen on the roadside..

**WORLD PREMIERE**

**FOR MY MOTHER**  
Australia | 16min | 2025  
DIR/WRI: Marc Vecchio  
PROD: Marc Vecchio, Vessela Karadjova, Riley Sugars  
On the way to an important school recital, a mother and son get into a volatile argument that unveils the vast space between them.

**AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE**

**FLOTSAM**  
Australia | 15min | 2025  
DIR/WRI: Siobhán Mithen  
PROD: Ashwini Kangatharan, Kristen Settinelli  
Katie struggles to raise her little sister, Alannah, after the death of their parents. When her best friend Andrew pushes her to define their relationship, Katie must examine the consequences of her grief.

**WORLD PREMIERE**

**SOLO UN POCO AQUI**  
Australia | 18min | 2025  
DIR/WRI: Diego Saram  
PROD: Bryan Huang, Sophia Carolyn Wallace  
In a world where every day could be your last, Theo, a young survivor, still grapples with the loss of his little brother. When Lucía, a resilient Hispanic woman, insists on joining him for the solemn ritual of burning her friend’s body, Theo reluctantly steps out of his isolated routine. As they journey through the desolate Australian bush, they realize that forging human connections may be their last hope in the midst of desolation.

**AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE**

**BEST OF AUSTRALIAN SHORTS 4**  
**SUNDAY 25TH JANUARY, 9:00PM**  
RUNTIME: 114 MINS

**TRADING CARDS**  
Australia | 15min | 2025  
DIR/WRI: Radheya Jang  
PROD: Radheya Jang, Jay Jay Jegathesan  
A man journeys back in time to find his younger self, under the guise of trading cards, but the exchange turns into a haunting exploration of identity, mental health, and the fading light of childhood innocence.

**WORLD PREMIERE**

**HELP! EVERYTHING IS FINE**  
Australia | 10min | 2025  
DIR: Isaac Brown  
WRI: Harry Borland  
PROD: Maddison Costello  
When a young man’s failed suicide attempt results in the death of a stranger, he calls the only person he can think of for help: his mum. But when she pushes him for the actual story he soon realises that telling her the whole truth won’t be so easy.

**NSW PREMIERE**

**THANK YOU ALL THE SAME**  
Australia | 18min | 2025  
DIR: Justin Villar  
WRI: Justin Villar, Solocie  
PROD: Max Kearsley, Louise Villar  
On the eve before young Eggsy flies to Europe to begin his studies, his colourful older brother Elijah insists on a leaving present - but must break into their old primary school to get it.

**WORLD PREMIERE**

**THE SUIT**  
Australia | 12min | 2025  
DIR: Jesse Vogelaar  
WRI: Scott Limbrick  
PROD: Lawrence Phelan  
A couple engaged in a bizarre legal proceeding confront the source of their problem.

**WORLD PREMIERE**

**NOTHING AND THE SUN**  
Australia | 11min | 2025  
DIR/WRI: Layla Philippou, Ruby Reardon  
PROD: Riti Ramanujachari  
Eleven-year-old Mallee has recently lost his mum, now struggling to navigate a world broken open. Across a day spent with his friend, Alby, and Alby’s Mum, Julia, he searches to find a reflection of his experience, attempting to understand his new reality and reconcile his grief.

**WORLD PREMIERE**

**ALFREDO**  
Australia | 23min | 2025  
DIR: Michael Chrisoulakis  
WRI: Emily Dempster  
PROD: Michael Chrisoulakis, Emily Dempster, Phil Lloyd  
Retirees Frank and Marlene live with their beloved dog Alfredo - more than just a pet, he’s the glue holding their fractured relationship together. Their romance and intimacy have long since faded, and they haven’t spoken directly in years, using Alfie as their go-between and unwitting therapist. But when their delicate balance is disrupted, Frank and Marlene are forced to confront just how far apart they’ve truly become.

**WORLD PREMIERE**

**PLIERS**  
Australia | 15min | 2025  
DIR/WRI/PROD: Adam Webb, Kyle Thomson  
Sleep deprived and nursing a rotten tooth, a single mother races to get her kids ready for school so she can get to her dentist appointment on time.

**NSW PREMIERE**

**THE SCAN**  
Australia | 10min | 2025  
DIR/WRI: Jake Shannon  
PROD: Cecilia Low  
Based on a true story, we follow Jenny, a middle-aged woman in remission going for an MRI. However, before the scan Jenny discovers that she can’t take off her erotic piercing. This leads to her finding an unlikely confidant in the MRI’s Technician as they both try and find a solution to this tricky situation.

**WORLD PREMIERE**



FROM TOP TO BOTTOM:  
TRADING CARDS,  
HELP! EVERYTHING IS FINE, THE SUIT,  
ALFREDO





FROM TOP TO BOTTOM:  
RUN KOALA RUN,  
WITHOUT WHITE CLOVERS,  
TUESDAY TUESDAY, BABY SHOWER

BEST OF AUSTRALIAN SHORTS 5  
MONDAY 26TH JANUARY, 9:00PM  
RUNTIME: 114 MINS

RUN KOALA RUN

Australia | 7min | 2025  
DIR/WRI/PROD: James Calvert  
PROD: Ari Chand  
Run Koala Run explores a day in the life of Rusty, a beloved hand-drawn koala, who suddenly finds his cartoon world rewritten by an unseen ‘animator’. As the lines around him bend, blur, and break, Rusty runs through shifting frames in the performance of a lifetime.

WORLD PREMIERE

WITHOUT WHITE CLOVERS

Australia | 8min | 2025  
DIR/WRI/PROD: Cooper Clark  
A young man fears for his older brother's life after he randomly texts him that he loves him.

NSW PREMIERE

TUESDAY TUESDAY

Australia | 15min | 2025  
DIR/WRI: Lianne Mackessy  
WRI: Emily Sheehan  
PROD: Catherine Van der Rijt  
A support worker spends one final shift with her client living with younger-onset dementia and must face the complicated feelings that come with letting him go.

WORLD PREMIERE

SAFE HANDS

Australia | 12min | 2025  
DIR/WRI: Dannika Horvat  
PROD: Tessa Mansfield-Hung, Stephanie Westwood  
When the mother of a six-year-old girl goes missing, her babysitter suspects the father of foul play and is forced to take matters into her own hands.

NSW PREMIERE

E-MUM

Australia | 15min | 2025  
DIR/WRI/PROD: Jessica Londono  
PROD: David Vincent Smith  
Emma, a lonely woman, receives an AI child from her estranged mother. As their fragile bond grows, she must face the blurred line between real love and programmed affection. E-Mum is a haunting exploration of love, longing, and the silent heartbreak of loving something that cannot love you back.

NSW PREMIERE

A MOMENT

Australia | 6min | 2025  
DIR/WRI: Adam Daniel  
During a romantic dinner, a man gives his partner a mysterious sundial necklace, only to find himself trapped in a collapsing time loop where one fleeting moment threatens to last forever.

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

CRACKED

Australia | 13min | 2025  
DIR/PROD: Monty Callen  
WRI/PROD: Alexander Lloyd  
To prove that he's recovering from his ice addiction, Elliot has one chance to make his estranged niece's birthday unforgettable.

WORLD PREMIERE

FIFTEEN

Australia | 14min | 2025  
DIR/WRI: Courtney Harrison  
PROD: Danaë Grief  
On her fifteenth birthday, a timid teen discovers her father in a deeply compromising position.

WORLD PREMIERE

THE STRESS TESTER

Australia | 11min | 2025  
DIR/WRI: Harley Idris Hamer  
PROD: Will Storr  
Jess interviews Mike, a man paid to infiltrate and 'stress test' new relationships, pushing couples to their emotional limits under the guise of truth. As the dynamic shifts, Jess is drawn into a confrontation not only with Mike's methods, but with the broader implications of manipulation, consent, and the quiet harms that often go unnoticed.

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

BABY SHOWER

Australia | 13min | 2025  
DIR/WRI: Matt Day  
PROD: Heather Mitchell  
Heidi's baby shower descends into chaos when her estranged father crashes the party.

WORLD PREMIERE

BEST OF AUSTRALIAN SHORTS 6  
TUESDAY 27TH JANUARY, 9:00PM  
RUNTIME: 111 MINS

MOONCAKE

Australia | 11min | 2025  
DIR/WRI: Amanda Kaye, Shih-Yin Judy Yeh  
PROD: Isabel Hutchinson, Root Kennedy, Breanan Huntington  
On the night of her family's Moon Festival gathering, Lydia, a nervy Chinese-Australian, comes out via interpretive song—unleashing chaos, generational reckoning, and a torrent of long-buried family secrets, all while her younger brother films every second of this family-altering evening.

WORLD PREMIERE

GOBBLE GOBBLE

Australia | 13min | 2025  
DIR/WRI: Courtney Brookes  
PROD: Madison Hegarty  
Seven year old Lucy is desperate to learn everything about Hungary and everything about her Nan. When a nursery rhyme from Vera's childhood about peacocks and turkeys resurfaces they explore what it means to love who you are and flaunt where you're from.

WORLD PREMIERE

RAPSCALLION

Australia | 16min | 2025  
DIR: Siobhan Mulready  
WRI: Siobhan Mulready, Simon Taylor  
PROD: Ruby Schmidt, Ashley Burgess  
Claire and Anita escape an all-female cult and must make it safely through a desert allegedly full of monsters. When the traumatised teenagers find an abandoned campsite, Anita becomes so fixated on proving the existence of boys that Claire keeps the discovery of a murdered man in a tent to herself.

WORLD PREMIERE

LISTENS

Australia | 17min | 2025  
DIR/WR/PROD: Sophie Kesoglidis  
A misfit 17-year-old high school viola student pursuing a coveted position at the conservatorium is faced with making an unorthodox decision in order to be truly heard.

WORLD PREMIERE

THEY LOVED US THE MOST

Australia | 15min | 2025  
DIR: James Beaufort, Sean Walker  
WRI: James Beaufort  
PROD: Toshio Hanaoka  
When a girl goes missing in Japan, her brother and teddy bear team up to solve the chilling mystery.

WORLD PREMIERE

THE GATHERING LIGHT

Australia | 11min | 2025  
DIR/WRI: Xavier Masson-Leach  
PROD: Claudia Shepherd, Luke Hodge  
Based on 'Birds and Fish', the non fiction account of the life of acclaimed Australian poet Robert Adamson, The Gathering Light follows Clive, a poet and fisherman living on the Hawkesbury river north of Sydney, as he meticulously prepares to catch a jewfish. They say the original name for them was "jewel-fish" because if you split the head apart there sits, like a third eye, a little pearl-like bone like a gland in front of the brain.

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

MANGO SEED (芒果芯)

Australia | 14min | 2025  
DIR/WRI: Berni Jiang  
PROD: Cameron Davis  
After an ordinary day at the produce markets, a Chinese working-class father is met with the announcement that his daughter is moving to another city to pursue her dreams. Faced with the approaching separation, they struggle to express to each other the words in their heart.

NSW PREMIERE

THE EVICTION

Australia | 14min | 2025  
DIR/WRI: Rebecca Metcalf  
PROD: Rebecca Metcalf, Yiani Andrikidis  
A group of university dorm students tackle the ethical dilemma of whether or not to evict one of their own over a morally ambiguous offence. Does the punishment fit the crime?

NSW PREMIERE



FROM TOP TO BOTTOM:  
GOBBLE GOBBLE, LISTEN,  
THEY LOVED US THE MOST, MANGO SEED



BEST OF AUSTRALIAN SHORTS CONTINUED



FROM TOP TO BOTTOM:  
WRITERS IN LOVE, LITTLE ADDY,  
I'M SORRY FOR YOUR LOSS, LATERZ

BEST OF AUSTRALIAN SHORTS 7  
WEDNESDAY 28TH JANUARY, 9:00PM  
RUNTIME: 110 MINS

**WRITERS IN LOVE**  
Australia | 11min | 2025  
DIR: Sarah Joan Wischusen Giles  
WRI: Grace Isabella Malouf  
PROD: Jacqueline Ann Kerwick  
A comedy about two writers whose romantic entanglement takes a sharp turn when they realize they have conflicting ideas about the ethics of writing. As their boundaries clash, the line between storytelling and manipulation begins to blur..

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

**LITTLE ADDY**  
Australia | 13min | 2025  
DIR/WRI: Madeleine Chaplain  
PROD: Madeleine Chaplain, Luke Chaplain, Kristie Yates  
A rowdy singer, sleeping with her guitarist, is blindsided when he quits the band. In all kinds of denial, Addison struggles to write a song to prove to her record label she's worth keeping solo. 'Little Addy' sheds light on the grey areas of consent, and speaks to the hurt inner child - literally.

NSW PREMIERE

**SONGBIRD**  
Australia | 13min | 2025  
DIR/WRI: Kevin Lim  
PROD: Michaela Le, David Bedelis, Louise Todd-Smith  
Charlie, an ambitious Asian-Australian musician is determined to get signed. With her demo tape in hand and an A&R executive in town, she's ready to hustle her way to the top. But Charlie may have underestimated the glass ceiling she is under.

WORLD PREMIERE

**I'M SORRY FOR YOUR LOSS**  
Australia | 13min | 2025  
DIR/WRI: Stephen Di Gravio  
PROD: Jem Bowen, Stephen Di Gravio, Danaë Grief  
When offered the chance to study abroad, Charlie must face an impossible choice: follow his dreams or stay and care for the grandfather who needs him.

WORLD PREMIERE

**BOY ON FIRE**  
Australia | 16min | 2025  
DIR/WRI: Alies Sluiter  
PROD: William Littleton  
Noah has a secret. But when he falls for his boss's daughter, the longer he keeps it hidden, the more dangerous it becomes.

NSW PREMIERE

**PACKED AWAY**  
Australia | 16min | 2025  
DIR: Michala Banas, Finegan Sampson  
WRI: Michala Banas  
PROD: Max Kearsley, Tess Adams  
Em and her father need to pack away her mothers belongings after her passing. A fairly simple act, but a difficult one. And her father really seems to be coping well. Or is he?...

NSW PREMIERE

**BUTTERCREAM**  
Australia | 17min | 2025  
WRI: Ruby Busuttil  
DIR: Lauren Bennett, Ruby Busuttil  
PROD: Lauren Bennett, Ruby Busuttil, Nick Barraclough  
Rose, a young Maltese-Australian woman, inherits her Nanna Marija's cupcake business when Marija passes away. In order to cope with the loss, Rose takes on far more than the recipes her Nanna left behind.

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

**LATERZ**  
Australia | 11min | 2025  
DIR: Chelsea Ingram  
WRI: Chelsea Ingram, Nora Alalou  
PROD: Nora Alalou  
An aspiring Melbourne rapper and her two best friends want to get her track on the radio and secure the clout that comes with the airtime. Over one afternoon in the suburbs, their dreams start to collide with reality.

WORLD PREMIERE

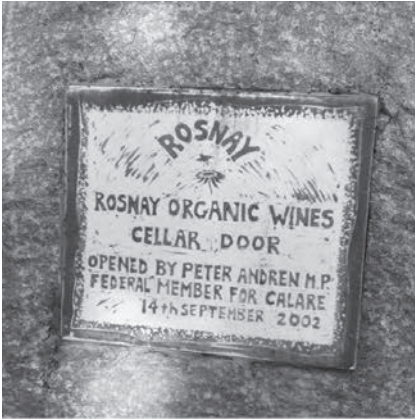
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# BEST OF DOCUMENTARY SHORTS

Two sessions of the best international and Australian documentaries in competition, vying for the prestigious Academy® Qualifying Flickerfest Award for Best Documentary.



FROM TOP TO BOTTOM:  
BORROWED FROM THE EARTH,  
MORNING MR GERREY, LA MAYORDOMÍA,  
THE BAKER'S HOTLINE

## BEST OF DOCUMENTARY 1

SUNDAY 25TH JANUARY, 4:00PM

RUNTIME: 107 MINS

### NOTES FROM PLANET THREE

United Kingdom | 14min | 2025

WRI/DIR: Simon Ellis

PROD: Simon Ellis, Rachel Robey, Alastair Clark

A boy shares the science of our solar system with his two year-old sister, as documentary scenes of the night sky collide with social media conspiracies.

#### AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

### BRINGING HIS SPIRIT HOME

Australia | 14min | 2025

DIR: Dylan Nicholls

PROD: Sophia Carolyn Wallace, Dylan Nicholls

Peter's great-uncle, an Aboriginal WWI soldier, is buried far away from his family and traditional lands. With a cultural belief that his ancestor's spirit won't be at rest until he returns home, Peter travels to France to visit his grave, performing a traditional ceremony to bring his spirit home.

### BORROWED FROM THE EARTH

United States | 15min | 2025

DIR: Zach Johaneson

PROD: Chad Dawson

Tells the story of the deep, resilient bond between the Blackfeet people and their horses, shaped despite generations of confinement. Set on the Blackfeet Reservation, the film follows this connection from ancient origins to the modern Indian Relay Race, offering a poetic meditation on relationship and survival.

#### AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

### MORNING MR GERREY

Australia | 13min | 2025

DIR: Ian Darling

PROD: Kate Hodges

Mr Gerrey lives alone in an old, weathered cottage with his faithful dog Marlo. His only regular human contact comes through weekly trips to the local store, where concerned shopkeepers worry about his growing isolation and declining health.

#### WORLD PREMIERE

### WINTER IN MARCH

Armenia, Estonia | 16min | 2025

WRI/DIR: Natalia Mirzoyan

PROD: Armine Harutyunyan, Kadriann Kibus

A young Russian couple, feeling helplessness and sadness over the war, decides to leave their home for good. Their journey to Georgia becomes a surrealist nightmare. Their greatest fear—being separated at the border—catches up with them from an unexpected angle.

#### AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

### LA MAYORDOMÍA

Canada | 23min | 2025

DIR/PROD: Martin Edralin

In Xochimilco, a borough of Mexico City, families take turns caring for Baby Jesus icons – some dating to the 16th century – at home for one-year terms. The stewardship is believed to bring miracles and good fortune, prompting people to wait decades for the opportunity.

#### NSW PREMIERE

### THE BAKER'S HOTLINE

United States | 12min | 2025

DIR: Emily Schuman, Dave Schuman

PROD: Emily Schuman

In this heartwarming short documentary, a dedicated team of passionate bakers work the King Arthur Flour call centre, offering expert advice and answering perplexing baking questions from an eclectic array of callers, revealing the transformative power of baking and the unexpected long lasting connections it fosters.

#### WORLD PREMIERE

## BEST OF DOCUMENTARY 2

SUNDAY 25TH JANUARY, 6:30PM

RUNTIME: 104 MINS

### GOOD LUCK TO YOU ALL

Canada | 8min | 2025

WRI/DIR: Cordell Barker

PROD: David Christensen, Alicia Smith, Jon Montes

An animated film created from interviews with key players in the artificial intelligence field. The animation weaves together their positive and negative views of our future with AI—this new, burgeoning, worrisome “thing”!

#### AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

### ANNA & ALFONSO

Australia | 10min | 2025

WRI/DIR: Anna Lesley Outridge

PROD: Anna Lesley Outridge, Neilesh Verma

Anna & Alfonso tells the story of a young woman who moves from Newcastle to New York and finds solace in a lively dachshund who becomes her closest companion. Using 13 years of archival footage and animation, the film reflects on the enduring impact of love and the deep bond we share with our pets.

#### AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

### RAMÓN WHO SPEAKS TO GHOSTS

Canada | 7min | 2025

WRI: Shervin Kermani, Karla Reyes

DIR: Shervin Kermani

PROD: Shervin Kermani, Karla Reyes

After a volcanic eruption, Ramón walks the island of La Palma with his microphone, looking for ghosts.

#### AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

### BENEATH WHICH RIVERS FLOW

Iraq | 16min | 2025

WRI: Ali Yahya, Mohammed Idham

DIR: Ali Yahya

PROD: Jafar Sadik

In the marshlands of Southern Iraq, Ibrahim and his family live in solitude as strangers to the outside world, their lives tethered to the river, the reeds, and the buffalo they tend. Silent and withdrawn, Ibrahim finds comfort only in his buffalo, his sole companion. But as the rivers dry and the landscape withers, Ibrahim faces unrelenting forces threatening the only life he has ever known, and the only creature he has ever understood.

#### AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

### NO TWO WAYS

United Kingdom | 25min | 2025

DIR/PROD: Glen Fulthorpe

Biggy struggles to maintain his late father's allotment while grappling with his troubled past. As he tends to the neglected plots, he discovers an opportunity to honour his father's legacy. Can Biggie save his father's allotment and find redemption in the process?.

#### AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

### RETURN OF THE CHAMP

Australia | 20min | 2025

WRI/DIR/PROD: Damien John Power

A documentary-hybrid about Will Power—a world champion and Indy 500 winner—and his comedian brother Damien, who must finally face the rivalry that has shaped their lives in order to reconnect before it breaks them apart.

#### WORLD PREMIERE

### ASPARAGUS BEAR

Croatia | 18min | 2025

WRI/DIR: Ivan Grgur

PROD: Vinko Brešan

In the small, sleepy Mediterranean town of Umag, the unusual appearance of a bear in the midst of wild asparagus season sparks a conflict, dividing the community into skeptics and those who believe the bear truly exists. Following a small local event that spirals wildly out of proportion, the film explores the blurry lines between truth and lies in the age of social media.

#### AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE



FROM TOP TO BOTTOM:  
GOOD LUCK TO YOU ALL, BENEATH WHICH  
RIVERS FLOW, RETURN OF THE CHAMP,  
ASPARAGUS BEAR



# FIRST NATIONS SPOTLIGHT

In celebration of screening an incredible collection of some of our country’s most creative Indigenous talent, both behind and in front of the camera.



FROM TOP TO BOTTOM:  
BRINGING HIS SPIRIT HOME, THE SECRET,  
SECOND CHANCE, CATCHIN' MUMOO

## INDIGENOUS SPOTLIGHT

MONDAY 26TH JANUARY, 6:30PM

RUNTIME: 112 MINS

### LA PA LEGENDS: A FIRST FOR MARDI GRAS

Australia | 10min | 2025

WRI/DIR: Jes John Laverack

PROD: Jes John Laverack, Perle Divine Isimbi

A short documentary on a powerful celebration of resilience, identity, and community as the La Pa Legends make history at the 'Free To Be' Mardi Gras parade in 2025.

#### WORLD PREMIERE

### BRINGING HIS SPIRIT HOME

Australia | 14min | 2025

DIR: Dylan Nicholls

PROD: Sophia Carolyn Wallace, Dylan Nicholls

Peter's great-uncle, an Aboriginal WWI soldier, is buried far away from his family and traditional lands. With a cultural belief that his ancestor's spirit won't be at rest until he returns home, Peter travels to France to visit his grave, performing a traditional ceremony to bring his spirit home.

### FACELESS

Australia | 28min | 2025

WRI: William Jaka, Fraser Pemberton, Chris C.F.

DIR: Fraser Pemberton, William Jaka

PROD: Chris C.F.

An Indigenous man navigates three parallel realities; at once a rough-sleeper, an aspiring actor and the employee of a mining corporation. Can he find a place within Australian society or is he bound to remain an outsider in his own land?

#### NSW PREMIERE

### THE SECRET

Australia | 12min | 2025

WRI/DIR: Lilla Berry

PROD: Piri Eddy

Alone and ashamed, a young woman grapples with the weight of her choice as she endures an abortion at home.

#### NSW PREMIERE

### THE TRUTH ABOUT THE TELEGRAPH

Australia | 18min | 2024

DIR: Kieran Mpetyane Satour

WRI: Kieran Mpetyane Satour

PROD: Kieran Mpetyane Satour, Ramona Telecican, Jamie Lee Bolger, Maya Ghattas

Once celebrated as a technological breakthrough, the Overland Telegraph Line was also a key frontier of colonisation. This film uncovers its impact on Kaytetye and Warumungu peoples, revealing the stations as sites of early frontier violence. The film reframes colonial history through powerful testimony of displacement, resilience and enduring connection to Country.

### CATCHIN' MUMOO

Australia | 12min | 2025

WRI/DIR: Dylan Tabiltja Coleman

PROD: Gregory John Read

When a Great White shark keeps taking a fisherman's catch his seven year-old son takes it upon himself to row out to sea and catch it.

#### NSW PREMIERE

### SECOND CHANCE

18min | Australia | 2024

WRI/DIR: Thibul Nettle

PROD: Tim Harkness

Taylor and Sarah haven't seen each other in over two decades, and their initial awkwardness gives way to reminiscing about their shared past. As they reconnect, they uncover old feelings and unspoken truths.

#### NSW PREMIERE

# LOVEBITES SHORTS

A quirky short journey through the joys and pitfalls of modern relationships.

## LOVEBITES SHORTS

FRIDAY 30TH JANUARY 9:00PM

RUNTIME: 120 MINS

### HUGS

France | 7min | 2025

WRI/DIR/PROD: Nicolas Fong

Join us on the luggage rack of my bike for a sensory roller-coaster through a land full of cuddles..

#### AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

### BOYISH

Australia | 13min | 2025

WRI: Luke Wiltshire

DIR: Scarlett Scherer

PROD: Scarlett Schere, Luke Wiltshirer

Josh & Cam - two life long friends - test the boundaries of their friendship with a kiss.

#### NSW PREMIERE

### BUTTERCREAM

Australia | 17min | 2025

WRI: Ruby Busuttil

DIR: Lauren Bennett, Ruby Busuttil

PROD: Lauren Bennett, Ruby Busuttil, Nick Barraclough

Rose, a young Maltese-Australian woman, inherits her Nanna Marija's cupcake business when Marija passes away. In order to cope with the loss, Rose takes on far more than the recipes her Nanna left behind.

#### AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

### EROS

Australia | 14min | 2025

WRI: Zoe McDonagh

DIR/PROD: Zoe McDonagh, Spike Hogan

Having never experienced romantic love, autistic university student Max decides she's going to get it. Somehow. She'll figure out the how later..

#### AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

### GREY

Australia | 10min | 2025

WRI/DIR: 'Ana Ika

PROD: 'Ana Ika, Bella Burton, Domenic Anthony

A woman's flirtatious encounter at a bar explores the grey area between connection and danger.

#### WORLD PREMIERE

### BILLIE AND JESSE

Australia | 15min | 2025

WRI: AP Pobjoy, Ziggy Resnick

DIR: AP Pobjoy | PROD: Sayuri Kawamura, MahVeen Shahraki

Billie and Jesse, the untouchable lesbian power couple, hit a major snag when Jesse starts transitioning and realizes he's into men.

#### NSW PREMIERE

### HALF PAST MIDNIGHT

Australia | 11min | 2025

WRI: Daniel Bibby, Red Holden

DIR: Daniel Bibby

PROD: Daniel Bibby,Luisa Martiri,

Zuveen Cheng

A chance encounter outside a movie theatre forces two strangers to confront their romantic pasts.

#### NSW PREMIERE

### WOMAN IN THE DARK

Australia | 11min | 2025

WRI/PROD: Sally Cheng | DIR: Marc Verna

When a couple having a romantic evening is rudely interrupted by an uninvited guest, uncomfortable truths unfold.

#### WORLD PREMIERE

### THE FLING

Australia | 4min | 2025

WRI: Scott Day, Nick Owens

DIR: Jemma Cotter

PROD: Jemma Cotter, Brett Tinning

A stop-motion horror rom-com about two women at a fancy restaurant on the prowl for love. An homage to John Carpenter's "The Thing" (1982), this queer love story reveals that the only way to find true love is to be yourself; tentacles and all.

### NEVER NEVER NEVER

Australia, United Kingdom | 18min | 2025

WRI: Elizabeth Packett | DIR: John Sheedy

PROD: Andre Lima, Grant Vidgen

In a quaint Welsh fishing village, aspiring drag queen Henrick secretly longs for Arwyn, a fisherman whose quietness masks a storm of emotions. When Henrick contemplates leaving the only home he has ever known in search of acceptance, the fate of their forbidden love hangs in the balance.

#### AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE



FROM TOP TO BOTTOM:  
HUGS, BUTTERCREAM, WOMAN IN THE  
DARK, NEVER NEVER NEVER



SHORT LAUGHS COMEDY SHOWCASE

Two programmes of clever off-kilter comedy shorts from at home and across the world.



FROM TOP TO BOTTOM: BOWL CUT, SWEET TOOTH, HERE COMES THE NUN, SOLE MATES (FINDING LOVE IS NO EASY FEET)

SHORT LAUGHS COMEDY 1  
THURSDAY 29TH JANUARY, 9:00PM  
RUNTIME: 114 MINS

**THE UNDYING PAIN OF EXISTENCE**  
Germany | 5min | 2025  
DIR/WRI: Oscar Jacobson  
PROD: Franz Rügamer, Nadiia Yunatska  
A nude model is posing with statuesque stillness for an elite drawing class – until an unfortunate mosquito bite challenges his self-control. Driven to madness by the itch, he’s caught between the ruthless demand for perfection and his most unhinged, animalistic impulses.

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

**THE SCAN**  
Australia | 10min | 2025  
WRI/DIR: Jake Shannon  
PROD: Cecilia Low  
Based on a true story, we follow Jenny, a middle-aged woman in remission going for an MRI. However, before the scan Jenny discovers that she can’t take off her erotic piercing. This leads to her finding an unlikely confidant in the MRI’s Technician as they both try and find a solution to this tricky situation.

WORLD PREMIERE

**ODD SOCKS**  
United Kingdom | 13min | 2025  
WRI: Theo Toksvig-Stewart  
DIR: David Ledger  
PROD: Amy Lotherington, Yellow Hat Productions  
Starring Patterson Joseph (Peep Show, Wonka) and Sandi Toksvig (QI), Odd Socks is set in a world where humans live alongside sock-monsters. Maverick human detective McGuin must battle lies, deception, and every movie cliché in his hunt for the truth when a sock monster is murdered.

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

**NERVOUS ENERGY**  
United States | 15min | 2025  
WRI/DIR: Eve Liu  
PROD: Gregory Barnes, Elias Putnam, Alex Bendo  
On the cusp of success/failure, two unhinged female filmmakers decide to break up with their boyfriends and for once, make a bold decision with their lives.

**BOWL CUT**  
France | 8min | 2025  
DIR: Tamara Vittoz | WRI: Lily Landecy  
PROD: Daniel Rothstein  
On a hot summer day, Suzie, 7 years old, gets a haircut she doesn’t like. As tension rises between her separated parents, she decides to take matters into her own hands.

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

**SWEET TOOTH**  
United States | 13min | 2025  
DIR: Benji Tucker | PROD: Zach Rineer  
As Doe Town gears up for its 55th Annual Smile Contest, undefeated champion Bucky Bantershire (Pete Gardner) begins to unravel when his long-suppressed Sweet Tooth (Tony Award Winner Marissa Jaret Winokur) resurfaces, singing, dancing and dragging him into sugary chaos.

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

**HERE COMES THE NUN**  
United Kingdom | 7min | 2025  
WRI/DIR: Jack Willison  
A Glasgow bouncer poses as a nun and performs a sham exorcism to score some fast cash.

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

**UNREAL ESTATE AGENT**  
Netherlands | 12min | 2025  
DIR/WRI: Bodhi Le Belle  
PROD: Leon De Levita, Sebastian Martens  
When desperate starter Jos accidentally kills the real estate agent during a house visit, he will have to walk over dead bodies to get the property.

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

**CHOWMEIN HOLIDAY**  
United States | 21min | 2025  
WRI/DIR: Iris Lanhua Ma  
PROD: Annine Fan Zhang  
Two Asian-American grandmas blaze through California on a wild crime spree—one discovers a new purpose, while the other hides a secret that could shatter everything.

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

**SOLE MATES (FINDING LOVE IS NO EASY FEET)**  
Australia | 10min | 2025  
DIR/WRI/PROD: Allanah Zitserman  
WRI/PROD: Sophie Georgiou  
Lucy Lovefoot loves feet — just not her own. So when she connects with the mysterious Sandal\_Man on a dating app and he asks to exchange foot pics, Lucy spirals into a confidence crisis.

WORLD PREMIERE

SHORT LAUGHS COMEDY 2  
SATURDAY 31ST JANUARY, 9:00PM  
RUNTIME: 112 MINS

**CARCASSONE-ACAPULCO**  
France | 14min | 2025  
WRI/DIR: Marjorie Caup, Olivier Héraud  
PROD: 12//24 Films, Association 1071  
As flight 7836 reaches cruising speed above the Atlantic Ocean, the pilot, co-pilot and flight attendant are startled by an unexpected knock at the door! Chaos and confusion ensue as the crew enter a long and meandering debate regarding the stranger’s fate: should they open the door, or not?

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

**BABY BLUES**  
Norway | 10min | 2025  
DIR: Helen Komini Knudsen  
WRI: Anna Lian  
PROD: Bente Talstad Maalen  
Follows the sleep-deprived, frazzled new mom, MARTE (33), as she embarks on her very first walk alone with her newborn, ASTRID (3 weeks). The goal seems simple enough—a latte at a café and to feel normal for a brief moment.

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

**LATERZ**  
Australia | 11min | 2025  
WRI/DIR: Chelsea Ingram, Nora Alalou  
PROD: Nora Alalou  
An aspiring Melbourne rapper and her two best friends want to get her track on the radio and secure the clout that comes with the airtime. Over one afternoon in the suburbs, their dreams start to collide with reality.

WORLD PREMIERE

**AL FRESCO**  
Spain | 8min | 2025  
DIR/WRI/PROD: Ignacio Rodó  
WRI: Roc Esquius  
Large room in a dream apartment. Unbeatable location. Ready to move in. Plenty of light.

**TOAD IN THE HOLE**  
United Kingdom | 10min | 2025  
WRI/DIR: Ben Norris  
PROD: Lionelle Galloppa  
Stuck in a stagnant moment of her marriage, Kay (Juliet Cowan) orchestrates an evening away from family responsibilities to pursue a surprising liaison.

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

**SHRIMP FRIED RICE**  
Canada | 12min | 2025  
DIR: Dylan Pun  
WRI: Dylan Pun, Michael Turk  
PROD: Dylan Pun, Sang-thanh Nguyen  
The Shrimp and his human puppet, Dave, are the chefs at a gourmet Chinese restaurant. This mockumentary follows The Shrimp as he seeks redemption against Rat Bitch - a certain rodent who was the benefactor of a wildly successful animated children’s movie about his culinary prowess.

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

**IRRELEVANT**  
Spain | 4min | 2025  
WRI: Joel Munu, Esther Sala Bittoun  
DIR/PROD: Joel Munu  
Julían Expósito’s life lacks the extraordinary. The days go by with indifference, submerged in apathy, and nothing is a stimulus any more, not even this short film.

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

**DATING MARK SILCOX**  
United Kingdom | 12min | 2025  
WRI/DIR: Joe Lycett  
PROD: Fleur Bell-Hendriks  
Unable to get a second date, Mark Silcox attempts to find love by learning to be funny. But could his joking go too far?

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

**EARWORM**  
Sweden | 12min | 2025  
WRI/DIR: Patrik Eklund  
PROD: Mathias Fjällström, Ola Rutz  
Ulph Degerfors is plagued by a severe case of earworm as Rednex’s "Cotton Eye Joe" takes over his mind. Gradually, he spirals toward madness, with everything he experiences and hears becoming tainted by the song.

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

**WRITERS IN LOVE**  
Australia | 11min | 2025  
DIR: Sarah Joan Wischusen Giles  
WRI: Grace Isabella Malouf  
PROD: Jacqueline Ann Kerwick  
A comedy about two writers whose romantic entanglement takes a sharp turn when they realize they have conflicting ideas about the ethics of writing. As their boundaries clash, the line between storytelling and manipulation begins to blur..

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

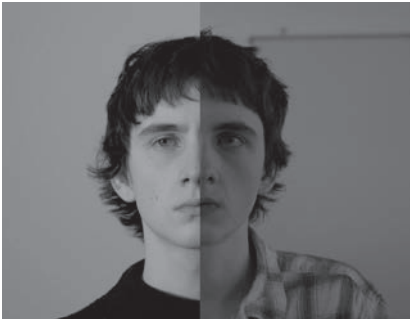


FROM TOP TO BOTTOM: BABY BLUES, AL FRESCO, TOAD IN THE HOLE, IRRELEVANT



# FLICKERUP SHORTS

The finalist short films in our National Youth Competition for school students or filmmakers aged 18 years and under.



FROM TOP TO BOTTOM:  
FRESCO, EGO, SOMETHING BIGGER,  
LIGHT IN DARK PLACES

## FLICKERUP SHORTS SATURDAY 31ST JANUARY 4:00PM RUNTIME: 112 MINS

### FRESCO

Australia | 8mins | 2025  
WRI/DIR: Ian Flores  
A complicated relationship in a Goddard world.

### GREEDY HANDS

Australia | 3mins | 2025  
WRI/DIR: Year 7 Students  
Doveton College  
PROD: Greta James  
What would you ask a magic robot that grants wishes?

### RUNNING AWAY

Australia | 5mins | 2025  
WRI/DIR/PROD: Dari Justin  
Ignored by his busy older brother, a bored 13-year-old decides to run away, but while packing, he finds a forgotten card game they made as kids.

### EGO

Australia | 3mins | 2025  
WRI/DIR/PROD: Summer Douar  
A music video exploring Sigmund Freud's "Id, Ego and Superego" theory.

### SOMETHING BIGGER

Australia | 8mins | 2025  
WRI/DIR/PROD: Gilly Baum  
The story of two friends and their love for e-biking, shining a little light on what it's like to grow up, embrace friendship, life, and letting go.

### MAN OF THE MATCH

Australia | 1min | 2025  
WRI/DIR/PROD: Sophia Merrick  
Ever since he was a little kid, Lachy has aspired to become a soccer star. While he is practising his skills one afternoon, Lachy imagines he is Lionel Messi and that his backyard is a large soccer pitch.

### LIGHT IN DARK PLACES

Australia | 15mins | 2025  
WRI/DIR/PROD: Sam Clarke  
After a near-fatal accident, Beau is thrust into an out-of-body experience where confronting the darkest places within himself becomes the only way back to life and the light he's been searching for.

### TECHNOFERENCE

Australia | 8mins | 2025  
WRI/DIR/PROD: Skyla Deguara  
A cautionary tale on the insidious nature of technological addiction and humanity's growing unhealthy dependence on it in contemporary society.

### THE HUNT

Australia | 4mins | 2025  
WRI/DIR: Indianna Thompson  
PROD: Ruby Harris  
Henry and Grace find themselves on an Easter Egg Hunt at a haunted headland, but are they the ones hunting or being hunted?

### A GLIMPSE OF HER

Australia | 4mins | 2025  
WRI/DIR/PROD: Ella Hasdell  
A photographer, obsessed, detached from reality. One day, he stumbles upon a subject that triggers his unresolved past.

### DREAMING BOATS

Australia | 7 min | 2025  
WRI/DIR/PROD: Willem Rossiter  
A boy sees a boat that cannot be submerged into water, he wakes up and walks across a field and finds a newspaper which he folds into a paper boat. He runs to a stream and places the paper boat inside of it.

### COLO(U)RFUL 3D SQUARE

Australia | 6min | 2024  
WRI/DIR/PROD: Dylan Quick  
Every day is normal in his black and white world, until it shows up.

### SENTIO ERGO SUM

Australia | 8min | 2024  
WRI/DIR/PROD: Britt Rae Elsey  
An AI is conditioned to consider human nature and explore her own mind-scape, situated in an introspective world of self-doubt as she is challenged by her own artificiality.

### THE WEIGHT OF WATER

Australia | 7mins | 2025  
WRI/DIR/PROD: Romalie McGrail  
PROD: Gabriella Maselli  
A traumatised teen faces a compulsory school swim test as past and present collide, revealing a life-altering loss caused by migrant inexperience with the duality of Australia's coastline: beauty and danger.

### THE ONE UNDERNEATH

Australia | 2mins | 2025  
WRI/DIR/PROD: Adi Bocman  
In the stillness of the 1800s, before the noise of modern distractions, a young girl wanders through untouched landscapes, offering gratitude to Mother Earth.

### TIME TO SEE

Australia | 4mins | 2025  
WRI/DIR/PROD: Alyssa Jones  
A teenage girl who wakes up in a plain, empty room. She puts on a VR headset and is thrown into a virtual world.

### RED STRING (紅線)

Australia | 4mins | 2025  
WRI: Leo Jiaming Pan & Winny He  
DIR/PROD: Leo Jiaming Pan  
Two lovers find themselves bound together by fate through a red string, exploring their relationship through high school to adulthood.

### TURN OFF THE LIGHTS

Australia | 1min | 2025  
WRI/DIR/PROD: Peta Margaret Coleman  
A young girl struggles with her fear of the dark, she conjures sounds and voices, whispering and calling her from the shadows.

### DISCONNECT

Australia | 4mins | 2025  
WRI/DIR/PROD: Roxy Van Hoven  
A world that awaits when we disconnect.

### AGE

Australia | 7mins | 2025  
WRI/DIR/PROD: Ella Carney  
A documentary on the wonder of aging.

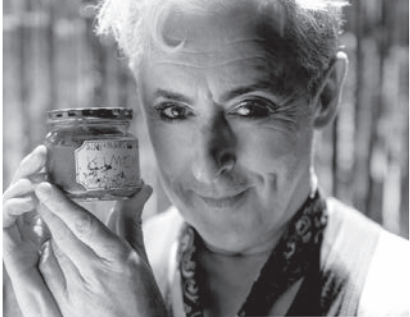


FROM TOP TO BOTTOM:  
SENITO ERGO SUM, THE WEIGHT OF WATER,  
THE ONE UNDERNEATH, DISCONNECT



# RAINBOW SHORTS

Flickerfest is celebrating LGBTQI+ stories from around the world in our eighth year of Rainbow Shorts, curated by award-winning queer filmmaker Craig Boreham.



FROM TOP TO BOTTOM:  
TWO BLACK BOYS IN PARADISE,  
MARDOCHI, CASI SEPTIEMBRE,  
SLEAZY TIGER

PRESENTED BY  
**star observer**\*

## RAINBOW SHORTS FRIDAY 30TH JAN 6:30PM RUNTIME: 123 MINS

**BLEAT!**  
Malaysia, Philippines | 15min | 2025  
DIR/WRI: Ananth Subramaniam  
PROD: Choo Mun Bel, Bradley Liew, Dominique Welinski  
An elderly Malaysian-Tamil couple discovers their male goat, set for ceremonial slaughter, is pregnant. Torn between faith and the expectations of their community, they struggle to decide whether to slaughter it or face the wrath of the gods.

**NSW PREMIERE**

**TWO BLACK BOYS IN PARADISE**  
United Kingdom | 9min | 2025  
DIR: Baz Sells  
WRI: Baz Sells, Dean Atta, Ben Jackson  
PROD: Ben Jackson  
A movingly tender animation, based on Dean Atta's eponymous poem, sees two boys (Edan, 19 and Dula, 18) on a journey of self-acceptance and love – for each other and themselves. "The whole project is an ode to belonging. And how complicated, difficult and messy that journey is. It's an ode to love. Which is and will always be the greatest anything that life has to offer."

**AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE**

**MARDOCHI**  
France | 27min | 2025  
DIR/WRI: Lucas Gloppe  
PROD: Lucas Tothe, Jessica Arfuso  
Vincent returns from Rabat, where he has failed to find the childhood home of his father, who left Morocco at independence. On the way to the hospital where his father is dying, Vincent meets Ahmed, a Moroccan student.

**CASI SEPTIEMBRE**  
Spain | 30min | 2025  
DIR/WRI: Lucía G. Romero  
PROD: Sergi Casamitjana, Aintza Serra, Carlos Fernández, Laura Fernández Brites  
CASI SEPTIEMBRE follows Alejandra, a young girl who lives year-round with her family in a Camping Resort. The story explores her struggle with the fear of abandonment, especially as a new romance with a Madrilenian tourist brings these insecurities to the surface.

**AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE**

**PUREBRED**  
Ireland, United Kingdom | 15min | 2025  
DIR/WRI: Caleb J. Roberts  
PROD: Jon Beer, Callum Harrison  
During a heatwave, a transgender man returns to the flat of his on-off-again lover after taking a pregnancy test.

**AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE**

**I'M THE MOST RACIST PERSON I KNOW**  
Australia | 13min | 2024  
DIR/WRI: Leela Varghese  
PROD: Suriyna Sivashanker  
When Lali unexpectedly ends up on a date with another woman of colour for the first time, it unravels prejudices she has long ignored.

**SLEAZY TIGER**  
United Kingdom | 14min | 2024  
DIR/WRI: James Ley  
PROD: Jack Cowhig, Laura McBride  
Hopeless but horny romantic Alan is determined to do things differently on his date with vegan hottie Blair who he thinks might be his future husband. But when Blair gives Alan a jar of homemade kimchi, Alan gets aroused and finds himself in Horny Hell, struggling to find the line between metaphor and reality and even reckoning with his inner Alan Cumming on his quest to get back to his date.

**NSW PREMIERE**

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Flickerkids Shorts

A delightful and entertaining program of shorts for shorties & families that will appeal to the kid in everyone.



Flickerkids Shorts
Saturday 31st January, 1:30PM
Runtime: 71 mins

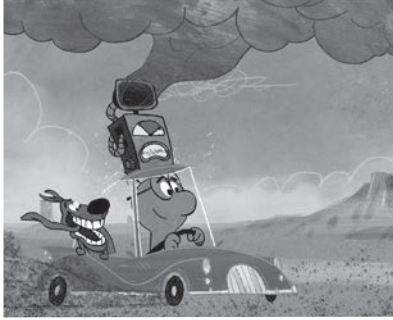
Forevergreen
USA | 13min | 2025
WRI/DIR: Nathan Engelhardt, Jeremy Spears
PROD: Steph Gortz, Jennifer Gandrup Sackheim
An orphaned bear cub finds a home with a fatherly evergreen tree, until his hunger for trash leads him to danger.

Australian Premiere



One Track Mind
United Kingdom | 7min | 2024
WRI/DIR: Faye Isherwood-Wallace
PROD: Johnny Schumann
Sophia the squirrel embarks on a journey of self-discovery, helping her navigate emotions of grief after the loss of a close friend.

Australian Premiere



On the Mat Outside My Door
Germany | 5min | 2025
DIR: Antje Heyn | WRI: Johanna Hochholzer
PROD: Protoplanet Studio
An oversized, cheeky rat has moved in with our protagonist. She whistles along with the radio, sits in the fridge, splashes in the tub, and is simply everywhere - loud, pesky, full of life. When she suddenly disappears, he realizes: it's never been this quiet - or this empty.

Australian Premiere



Full Nest
Croatia, Germany | 5min | 2025
DIR:Elena Walf
WRI: Elena Walf, Simon Thummet, Barbara Kuznetsova
PROD: Thomas Meyer-Hermann, Miljana Dragicevic
The squirrel's nest is warmly padded for the cold winter with all kinds of stolen goods. But then a flood breaks out and forest animals flee to Lena's farm. The squirrel would like to help them...

Australian Premiere

They
United Kingdom | 8min | 2025
DIR: Renée Zellweger
WRI: Renée Zellweger, Paul Smith
PROD: Tora Young
As townsfolk rage in their fog of negativity, our hero and his dog aim to encourage a return to better days! The opposite effect leads to an unexpected calamity which galvanizes the masses.

Australian Premiere

From Top to Bottom:
Forevergreen, One Track Mind,
They, Prout

Ostrich
Switzerland | 9min | 2025
WRI/DIR: Marie Kenov
PROD: Joder von Rotz
Day in and day out, a sparrow sees images of ostriches everywhere: on posters, in ads, and on its smartphone. In awe of the ostriches, with their long necks, dazzling eyes and muscular legs, the little bird wants to be just like them. By hitting the gym to work on its leg muscle

Australian Premiere

First Flight
GERMANY | 3min | 2024
DIR: Adrian Jaffé
Three baby birds, one big challenge—their first flight! But as the frogs begin their peculiar performance, the sky turns into a whirlwind of improvisation—some birds twirl, some hover, and others just hope for the best.

Australian Premiere

Prout
Belgium | 8min | 2025
WRI/DIR/PROD: Marc-Henri Wajnberg
Obsolete household appliances and waste of all kinds are sent to the planet Prout, Earth's dumping ground. Bean and Spaghet, two little emergency workers from this strange planet, go on an emergency mission to save one of their friends who has been crushed by debris falling from the sky.

Australian Premiere

Shadow & Stray
Australia | 5min | 2024
WRI/DIR: Bronte Jarrett
PROD: Adele Gwen
Stray, an abandoned bull terrier puppy, finds unexpected friendship at the pound when her shadow comes to life.

Australian Premiere

Kid President
USA | 5min | 2025
WRI/DIR: Yadid Hirschtritt Licht
No more lettuce, no more artichokes... no more broccoli! This is the future that Kid President envisions as he rolls out his most daring policy yet: a ban on all vegetables.

Australian Premiere

The Sky Was Candy
Germany | 3min | 2025
WRI/DIR: Anh Tú Nguyen
PROD: Liubov Popova
A yellow and blue day in the life of a little child.

Australian Premiere

Flickerlab

A One-Day Journey From
Shorts to Features

Friday 30 Jan 10AM - 5.15PM

FlickerLab gives you the chance to immerse yourself in the latest Film and TV trends as you spend the day with some of the industry's leading experts, offering up their expertise and wisdom with a range of panels designed to enhance and develop your creative ideas and get your content creation 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 content creation. Absorb essential tips and knowledge and be inspired on your own creative journey.



Sophie Somerville



Alex White



Rachel Okine



Craig Boreham



Yingna Lu



Jamie Hilton



Andrew Undi Lee



Marcus Gillezeau



Kalu Oji



Robbie Miles

4X 1.5HR Session

From Idea to Page
10AM – 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.

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.

Presented with



Our panellists on the day will include: Sophie Somerville (Fwends), Alex White (The Fox, Went Up a Hill), Rachel Okine (Goolagong), Craig Boreham (Lonesome), Yingna Lu (The PM's Daughter), Adrian Russell Wills (RFDS, The Newsreader), Jamie Hilton (Runt, Where All Light Tends to Go), Andrew Undi Lee (Saigon Kiss), Marcus Gillezeau (Kangaroo), Garry Maddox (Senior Writer SMH), Andrea Ulbrick (Screen Australia), Imogen Gardam (Screen Australia), Kalu Oji (Pasa Faho, What's In A Name), Robbie Miles (AFTRS) and more.

Making It Happen
2PM – 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 panellists 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 your content made.

Market to Market – Conquer the World on All Platforms:
Distribution, Festivals and 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.



# 35TH ANNIVERSARY RETROSPECTIVE

A handpicked selection of some of the best Australian shorts from across Flickerfest’s illustrious 35 Years of celebrating the world’s most talented and inspiring filmmakers.



FROM TOP TO BOTTOM:  
BROTHER, MIMI, CROSSBOW,  
FLORENCE HAS LEFT THE BUILDING

## 35TH ANNIVERSARY RETROSPECTIVE SATURDAY 31ST JANUARY, 6:30PM RUNTIME: 118 MINS

### BROTHER

Australia | 8min | 1999  
WRI/DIR/PROD: Adam Elliot  
Adam looks back, with affection, to his childhood in a small suburban house, with his mum, his crippled and alcoholic dad, their bird Jeanette, and his older brother, who wears an eye patch, and has asthma.

### MIMI

Australia | 15min | 2002  
WRI/DIR: Warwick Thornton  
PROD: Darren Dale, Rachel Perkins  
Warwick Thornton’s satirical short film Mimi pokes fun at white art collectors who purchase Indigenous art purely for its investment value. Featuring Aaron Pedersen, Sophie Lee and David Gulpilil.

### THE ELEVEN O’CLOCK

Australia | 13min | 2016  
WRI: Derin Seale  
DIR: Josh Lawson  
PROD: Derin Seale, Karen Bryson, Josh Lawson  
The delusional patient of a psychiatrist believes he is actually the psychiatrist. As they each attempt to treat each other the session gets increasingly out of control.

### SPIDER

Australia | 10min | 2007  
WRI: Nash Edgerton & David Michôd  
DIR: Nash Edgerton  
PROD: Nicole O’Donohue  
It’s all fun and games until someone loses an eye.

### THE MEEK

Australia | 7min | 2105  
WRI/DIR: Joseph Brumm  
PROD: Laura DiMaio  
The Meek follows the story of a very small person trying to quit a very big bad habit.

### CROSSBOW

Australia | 14min | 2007  
WRI/DIR: David Michôd  
PROD: Angie Fielder, Polly Staniford  
A kid. His mum and dad. The sex and drugs. And the boy next door who watched the whole thing unravel.

### FLORENCE HAS LEFT THE BUILDING

Australia | 14min | 2014  
WRI/DIR: Mirrah Foulkes  
PROD: Alex White  
It’s the annual Christmas Eve concert at the Marigold House Assisted Living Facility. All her friends are dying and Florence wants out. When the facility double books two rival Elvis impersonators, Florence takes the opportunity for one last hurrah.

### THE GIRL WHO SWALLOWED BEES

Australia | 9min | 2006  
WRI/DIR: Paul McDermott  
PROD: Justine Kerrigan  
A young girl consumed by bitterness decides to take drastic and irredeemable measures to put an end to her continual suffering. After running through a number of darkly humorous options for her demise she settles on the terribly romantic ‘death by swallowing bees’. Intent on her mission, she sets off for the woods where ‘bees are said to hide’. She disturbs a hive only to discover, to her amazement, the bees have other plans for her and her bitter heart.

### TULIP

Australia | 15min | 1998  
WRI/DIR: Rachel Griffiths  
PROD: Louise Smith  
William has just lost his wife after forty five years of marriage. In the days after her death he tries to adjust to life alone, but first he must solve the dilemma of how to milk her cow Tulip.

### JULIAN

Australia | 13min | 2012  
WRI/DIR: Matthew Moore  
PROD: Matthew Moore, Robert Jago  
Set in a year 4 classroom in 1981, Julian explores a day in the life of a 9 year old boy. Julian’s need to speak his truth and his strong urge to do what he thinks is right begins to unravel his world. Throughout the day Julian is forced to deal with a bully, an impatient teacher turning a blind eye and a principal with a secret. As Julian faces these challenges we begin to see the qualities that will inform the man he is to become.

# PRIZES

## AUSTRALIAN AWARDS

### LUMIX

LUMIX AWARD FOR BEST AUSTRALIAN SHORT FILM (ACADEMY® QUALIFYING)  
Prize: LUMIX S5IIX Full-Frame Mirrorless Camera DC-S5M2XK valued at \$3,999+ RRP

### SPECTRUM FILMS

SPECTRUM FILMS AWARD FOR BEST DIRECTION IN AN AUSTRALIAN SHORT FILM  
Prize: 1x post-production support valued at \$5,000

### Yoram Gross FILMS

YORAM GROSS AWARD FOR BEST AUSTRALIAN ANIMATED SHORT FILM  
Prize: \$1,000 AUD

### AFTRS

AFTRS AWARD FOR BEST SCREENPLAY IN AN AUSTRALIAN SHORT FILM  
Prize: \$1,000 AUD



AVID AWARD FOR BEST EDITING IN AN AUSTRALIAN SHORT FILM  
Prize: 2-year subscription of avid media composer software valued at over \$1,300



AVID AWARD FOR BEST ORIGINAL MUSIC IN AN AUSTRALIAN SHORT FILM  
Prize: 1-year subscription of avid pro tools ultimate software plus 1-year subscription of avid sibelius software valued at over \$1,200

### John barry sales

JOHN BARRY AUSTRALIA AWARD FOR BEST CINEMATOGRAPHY IN AN AUSTRALIAN SHORT FILM  
Prize: tripod or shape product valued at over \$1,000



REBEL8 AWARD  
OUTSTANDING EMERGING FEMALE DIRECTOR IN AN AUSTRALIAN SHORT FILM - IN HONOUR OF SAMANTHA REBILLET  
Prize: \$1,000 AUD

### Specsavers

SPECSAVERS AWARD FOR BEST AUSTRALIAN COMEDY SHORT FILM  
Prize: \$500 AUD

### WAVERLEY COUNCIL

WAVERLEY COUNCIL AWARD FOR BEST LOCAL SHORT FILM  
Prize: \$500 AUD

## INTERNATIONAL AWARDS



FLICKERFEST AWARD FOR BEST INTERNATIONAL SHORT FILM (ACADEMY® QUALIFYING)  
Prize: \$2,500 AUD

### Yoram Gross FILMS

YORAM GROSS AWARD FOR BEST INTERNATIONAL ANIMATED SHORT FILM (ACADEMY® QUALIFYING)  
Prize: \$1,000 AUD

## DOCUMENTARY AWARD



FLICKERFEST AWARD FOR BEST DOCUMENTARY SHORT FILM (ACADEMY® QUALIFYING)  
Prize: \$500 AUD

## RAINBOW AWARDS



AZURE PRODUCTIONS AWARD FOR BEST RAINBOW SHORT FILM  
Prize: \$500 AUD



PRIZES CONTINUED

FLICKERUP AWARD



AFTRS AWARD FOR BEST YOUTH SHORT FILM  
Prize: \$500 AUD



YORAM GROSS AWARD FOR BEST YOUTH ANIMATED SHORT FILM  
Prize: \$250 AUD



AVID AWARD FOR BEST EDITING IN A YOUTH SHORT FILM  
Prize: 2-year subscription of avid media composer software valued at over \$1,300



KARMA AWARD SPECIAL MENTION YOUTH SHORT FILM  
Prize: \$250 AUD

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THE CREAM OF SHORT FILMS

