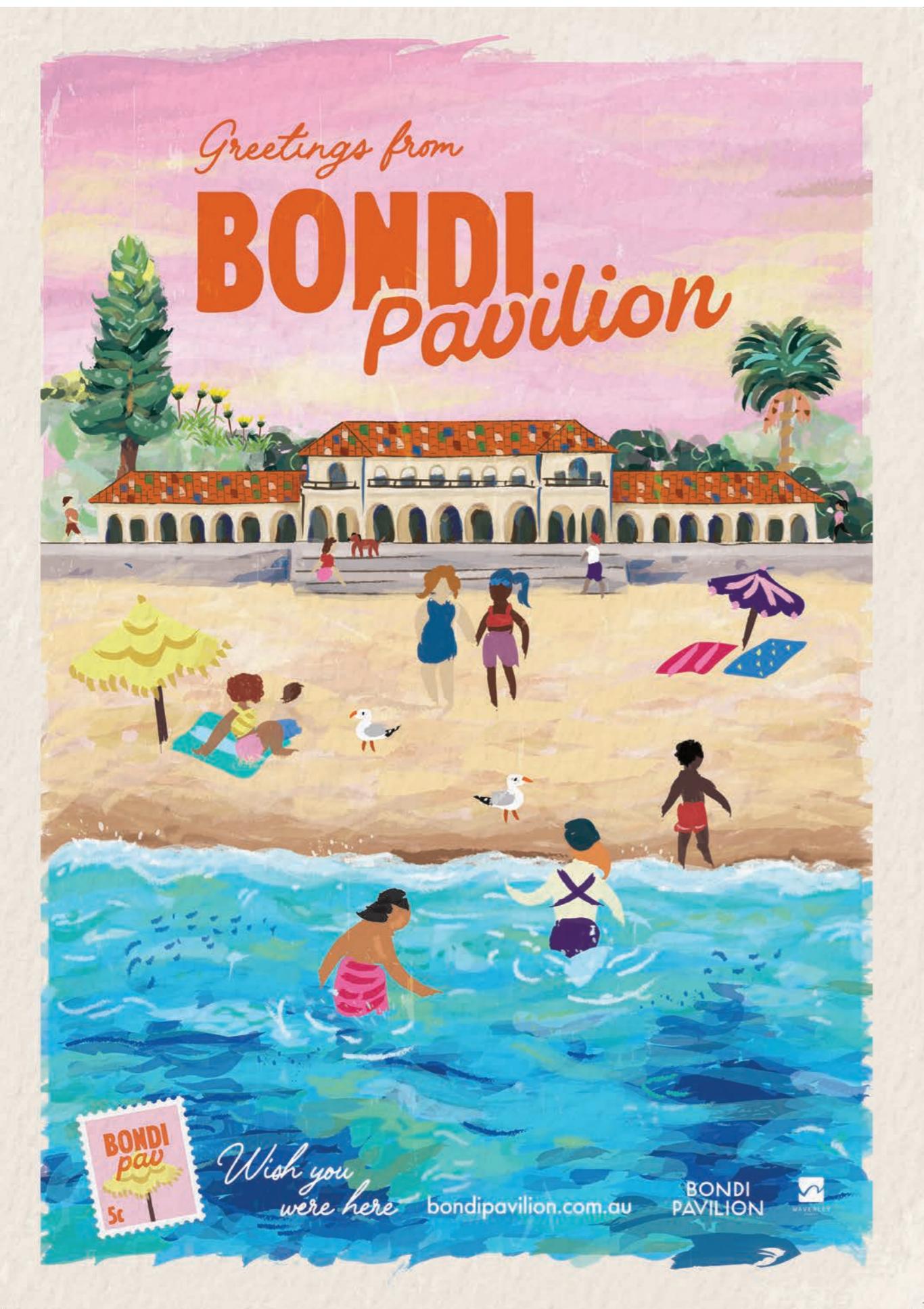


ACADEMY AWARD® AND BAFTA QUALIFYING

THE ADVENTURES OF *Flickerfest* THE CREAM OF SHORT FILMS



23 JAN - 1 FEB 2026 | BONDI PAVILION



PROGRAM AND SESSION TIMES

DAY	10.00AM	1.30PM	4.00PM	6.30PM	9.00PM
	Pavilion Theatre				
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
Flickerfest is an all weather event.

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.



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



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

BEST OF INTERNATIONAL SHORTS 2

SUNDAY 25TH JANUARY, 1:30PM

RUNTIME: 109 MINS

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 ATILA

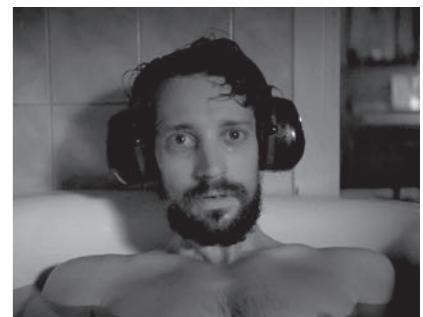
France | 25min | 2025
WRI/DIR: Apolline Andreys
PROD: Raphaëlle Simavonian
Agathe loves tractors, and rock! She works in the family farm machinery garage with her father and older brother. When she finds out about an upcoming Airguitar competition, she decides to enter, but her brother doesn't see it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

BEST OF INTERNATIONAL SHORTS CONTINUED



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



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

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 Epene
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

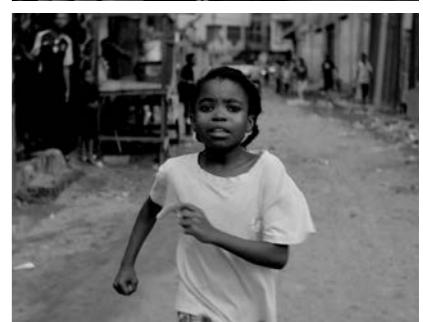
Netherlands | 20min | 2024
WRI: Salome van Grunsven, Jop Leuven
DIR: Ronald Zuidinga
PROD: Robbin van Mechelen
When Herman's granddaughter forces him to rehearse his funeral, the man who's been dodging death has no choice but to confront it — in front of the whole family.

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



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



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

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

PAKEHĀ

New Zealand | 15min | 2025
WRI/DIR: Mana Hira Davis
PROD: Larissa Marie Allen, Sarah Oemcke, Melisssa 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

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.



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 Bashoalophfarc, Devourer of Shadows.

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

DEPENDENT

Australia | 14min | 2025

DIR: Joseph Chebatte

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



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

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 Channels

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:
DEPENDENT, THE SECRET, FAMILY MAN,
THE WAY OF THE WIND

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

BEST OF AUSTRALIAN SHORTS CONTINUED



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

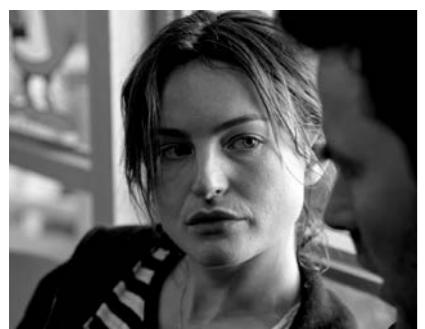
Australia | 13min | 2025
DIR: Nina Buxton
WRI: Hannah Samuel
PROD: Hannah Ngo
A woman wants to escape from her abusive relationship at any cost, except if it means leaving her pet dog behind.

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



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

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

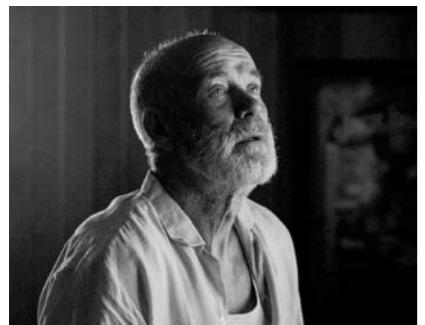
Australia | 6min | 2025
DIR/WRI: Helen Turton
PROD: Jessica Hutchinson
Years after his involvement in a cruel teenage prank, Logan (Eddie Baroo) encounters a lost teen on the roadside..

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



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

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, Solie
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**

BEST OF AUSTRALIAN SHORTS CONTINUED



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



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

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 Grieef
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

LISTS

Australia | 17min | 2025
DIR/WRI/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)

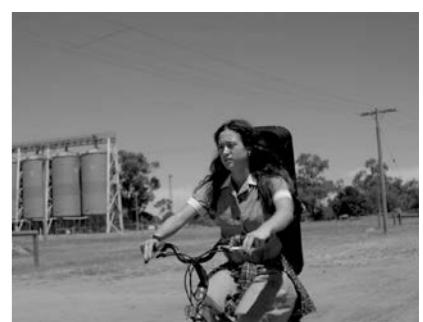
Australia | 14min | 2025
DIR/WRI: Berni Jiang
PROD: Cameron Davis
After an ordinary day at the produce markets, a Chinese working-class father is met with the announcement that his daughter is moving to another city to pursue her dreams. Faced with the approaching separation, they struggle to express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



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

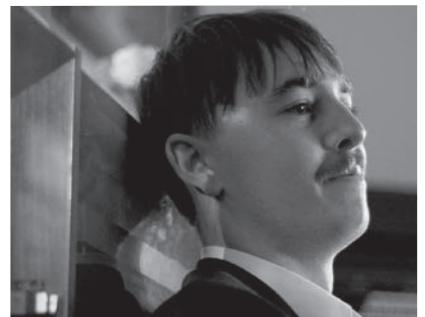


LITTLE ADDY

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 Grieef
 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

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

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 mother's 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

Australia's Premier Screen School



AFTRS is proud to rank among *THR*'s top international film schools.

Follow in the footsteps of Jane Campion, Warwick Thornton and Cate Shortland.

Visit aftrs.edu.au for more information

AFTRS
 Australian Film Television and Radio School

award winning
 family grown
 handmade wine



ROSNAY
 ORGANIC

flickerfest
 wine sponsor
 since 2009



www.rosnay.com.au



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.



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



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

BEST OF DOCUMENTARY 2 SUNDAY 25TH JANUARY, 6:30PM RUNTIME: 104 MINS

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 surreal 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



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.



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



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

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

THE CREAM OF SHORT FILMS!

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 Scherer, Luke Wiltshire
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.



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.

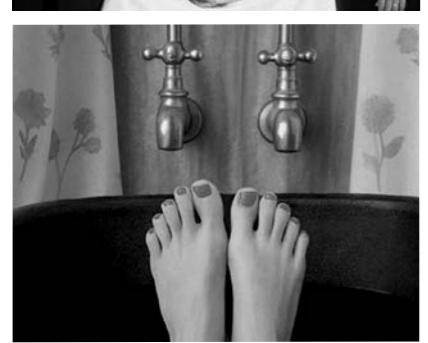
WORLD PREMIERE



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.

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

BOWL CUT

France | 8min | 2025
DIR: Tamara Vitoz | 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: Anrine 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
Julián 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.



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: Indiana 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.

COLOC(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.

SENTO 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

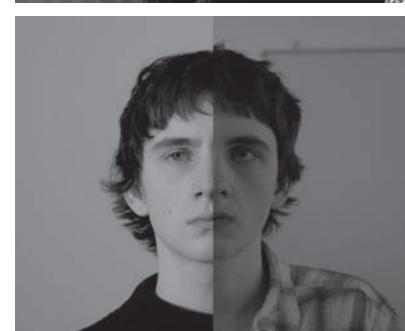
A world that awaits when we disconnect.

AGE

Australia | 7mins | 2025

WRI/DIR/PROD: Ella Carney

A documentary on the wonder of aging.



FROM TOP TO BOTTOM:
FRESCO, EGO, SOMETHING BIGGER,
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.

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.



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

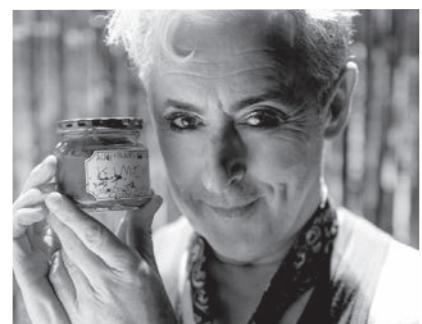
United Kingdom | 9min | 2025
DIR: Baz Sells
WRI: Baz Sells, Dean Atta, Ben Jackson
PROD: Ben Jackson
A movingly tender animation, based on Dean Atta's eponymous poem, sees two boys (Edan, 19 and Dula, 18) on a journey of self-acceptance and love – for each other and themselves. "The whole project is 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.



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

PRESENTED BY
star observer*

THE SHARED SPIRIT

@bondiliquorco
bondiliquor.com.au
drink@bondiliquor.com.au



BUNDI LIQUOR CO.

made for *yewWW!*

18+ Only.
Drink Responsibly.

GAGE ROADS
Side Track 3.5% XPA
DRY-HOPPED & UNFILTERED

GAGE ROADS
Single Fin SUMMER ALE
DRY-HOPPED & UNFILTERED

GAGE ROADS
Hazy As HAZY PALE ALE
DRY-HOPPED & UNFILTERED

GAGE ROADS Brew Co.

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

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 Spaget, 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



FROM TOP TO BOTTOM:
FOREVERGREEN, ONE TRACK MIND,
THEY, PROUT

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.



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.

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

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.

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

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



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

SPECTRUM FILMS

SPECTRUM FILMS AWARD FOR BEST DIRECTION IN AN AUSTRALIAN SHORT FILM

Prize: 1x post-production support
valued at \$5,000

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

YoramGross FILMS

YORAM GROSS AWARD FOR BEST AUSTRALIAN ANIMATED SHORT FILM

Prize: \$1,000 AUD



REBEL8 AWARD

OUTSTANDING EMERGING FEMALE DIRECTOR IN AN AUSTRALIAN SHORT FILM - IN HONOUR OF SAMANTHA RIBELLET

Prize: \$1,000 AUD

AFTRS

Australian Film Television
and Radio School

AFTRS AWARD FOR BEST SCREENPLAY IN AN AUSTRALIAN SHORT FILM

Prize: \$1,000 AUD

Specsavers

SPECSAVERS AWARD FOR BEST AUSTRALIAN COMEDY SHORT FILM

Prize: \$500 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



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

YoramGross 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

FLICKERUP AWARD

AFTRS

Australian Film Television
and Radio School

AFTRS AWARD FOR BEST YOUTH SHORT FILM

Prize: \$500 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

Voram Gross
FILMS

YORAM GROSS AWARD FOR BEST YOUTH ANIMATED SHORT FILM

Prize: \$2



**KARMA AWARD SPECIAL MENTION
YOUTH SHORT FILM**

Prize: \$250 AUD

FLICKERFEST NATIONAL TOUR, FEB - OCT 2026

Flickerfest is thrilled to be hitting the road to 40+ venues nationally. Visit: flickerfest.com.au/tour



Australian Government



Empowering
creators.
Elevating
stories.

screenaustralia.gov.au

THE ADVENTURES OF
Flickerfest
THE CREAM OF SHORT FILMS

