

Australian Films Screening at
Berlin International Film Festival 08



The Black Balloon – Opening night Generation 14plus

97 mins

PRODUCTION COMPANY: Black Balloon Productions Pty Ltd

EXEC. PRODUCERS: Anita Belgiorno-Nettis, Sally Chesher, Toni Collette, Mark Gooder

PRODUCER: Tristram Miall

DIRECTOR: Elissa Down

WRITERS: Elissa Down, Jimmy The Exploder

CAST: Rhys Wakefield, Gemma Ward, Luke Ford, Erik Thomson, and Toni Collette

SALES CONTACT

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When Thomas (Rhys Wakefield) and his family move to a new home and he has to start at a new school, all he wants is to fit in. When his pregnant mother (Toni Collette) has to take things easy, his father Simon (Erik Thomson) puts him in charge of his autistic older brother Charlie (Luke Ford). Thomas, with the help of his new girlfriend Jackie (Gemma Ward), faces his biggest challenge yet. Charlie's unusual antics take Thomas on an emotional journey that causes his pent-up frustrations about his brother to pour out – in a story that is funny, confronting, and ultimately heart-warming.

The Black Balloon is a story about fitting in, discovering love and accepting your family.

SCREENING

Generation 14plus Section

Friday 8 Feb, 19:30 – Babylon (Opening night)

Saturday 9 Feb, 17:30 – Colosseum 1

Monday 11 Feb, 14:30 – Babylon



Corroboree

96 mins

PRODUCTION COMPANY: I Won't Grow Up Pty Ltd

PRODUCER: Matteo Bruno

DIRECTOR: Ben Hackworth

WRITERS: Ben Hackworth, Peter Savier

CAST: Conor O'Hanlon, Rebecca Frith, Susan Lyons, Natasha Herbert, Jane McArthur, Ian Scott, Jethro Cave, Margaret Mills

A director has organized for a young actor, Conor, to visit him in a meditation retreat to perform scenes from the story of his life. Being given a tape of instructions, he must visit different rooms over the weekend, encountering five actresses who portray the key women in the director's life.

Over the following days, Conor becomes familiar with both the women and the history of the director, but as the final scenes unfold, he must make a decision about whether the performance has gone too far.

SALES CONTACT

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SCREENING

International Forum of New Cinema Section

Friday 8 Feb, 14:15 - CinemaxX Studio 17 (market screening)

Tuesday 12 Feb, 11:45 - CinemaxX5 (market screening)

Wednesday 13 Feb, 21:30 - Arsenal

Friday 15 Feb, 17:15 - CineStar 8

Saturday 16 Feb, 12:30 - Cubix 7

Sunday 17 Feb, 19:00 - Delphi-Filmpalast



Hey Hey It's Esther Blueburger

103 mins

PRODUCTION COMPANY: Tama Films Pty Ltd

PRODUCER: Miriam Stein

DIRECTOR: Cathy Randall

WRITER: Cathy Randall

CAST: Keisha Castle-Hughes, Danielle Catanzariti, Essie Davis, Russell Dykstra, Christian Byers and Toni Collette

Hey Hey It's Esther Blueburger – a smart, rueful and dead-on portrait of life's unending quest to fit in... and the girl who solves it by completely breaking out – introduces a feisty outsider hero unlike any other seen on screen. Esther Blueburger's (Danielle Cantanzariti) quest begins when she escapes from her Bat Mitzvah party and is befriended by Sunni (Keisha Castle-Hughes), the effortlessly cool girl who is everything Esther thinks she wants to be. With the help of Sunni, Esther goes AWOL from her ordinary life and leaves behind her malfunctioning Jewish family (Essie Davis, Russell Dykstra and Christian Byers) to hang out with Sunni's far breezier and super-hip single mum Mary (Toni Collette), and attend Sunni's forbidden public school as a Swedish exchange student.

SALES CONTACT

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SCREENING

Generation Kplus Section

Friday 8 Feb, 11:00 – CinemaxX 2 (market screening)

Saturday 9 Feb, 9:30 – CinemaxX 2 (market screening)

Sunday 10 Feb, 13:00 – Zoo Palast 1

Thursday 14 Feb, 15:30 – Zoo Palast 1

Friday 15 Feb, 9:30 – Zoo Palast 1

Sunday 17 Feb, 10:30 – Zoo Palast 1



September

85 mins

PRODUCTION COMPANY: Tropfest Feature Program

EXEC. PRODUCERS: Tony Forrest, Mark Bamford, Gary Hamilton

PRODUCER: John Polson

CO-PRODUCERS: Serena Paull, Lynda House

DIRECTOR: Peter Carstairs

WRITERS: Peter Carstairs, Ant Horn

CAST: Xavier Samuel, Clarence John Ryan, Kieran Darcy-Smith, Kelton Pell, Alice McConnell, Lisa Flanagan, Mia Wasikowska

The inaugural project in the newly established Tropfest Feature Program, *September* is set in the Western Australian wheat-belt in 1968, and is a tender story about two boys on the cusp of adulthood, 16-year-old Paddy and Ed – one black, one white – whose friendship begins to fall apart under the pressures of the turbulent social changes happening around them.

SALES CONTACT

Arclight Films

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Sydney Contact

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SCREENING

Generation 14plus Section

Sunday 10 Feb, 14:30 – Babylon

Tuesday 12 Feb, 11:30 – Babylon

Sunday 17 Feb, 12:00 – Babylon



Son of a Lion

92 mins

PRODUCTION COMPANY: Carolyn Johnson Films

EXEC. PRODUCER: Hayat Khan Shinwari

CO-PRODUCERS: Benjamin Gilmour and Jeff McDonald

PRODUCER: Carolyn Johnson

DIRECTOR: Benjamin Gilmour

WRITERS: Benjamin Gilmour in collaboration with the people of Kohat and Darra Adam Khel, Pakistan

CAST: Niaz Khan Shinwari, Sher Alam Miskeen Ustad

In the North West Frontier Province of Pakistan, a widowed father expects his only son to follow in his footsteps.

SALES CONTACT

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SCREENING

International Forum of New Cinema Section

Saturday 9 Feb, 17:45 - CinemaxX 5 (market screening)

Sunday 10 Feb, 20:00 - CineStar 8

Monday 11 Feb, 14:00 - Delphi-Filmpalast

Tuesday 12 Feb, 15:00 - CinemaxX 2 (market screening)

Wednesday 13 Feb, 12:30 - Arsenal

Thursday 14 Feb, 22:45 - Cubix 9

Friday 15 Feb, 17:30 - Colosseum 1 Cross-Section Generation



Darling! The Pieter-Dirk Uys Story

53 mins

PRODUCTION COMPANY: Green Light Productions Pty Limited

PRODUCER: Jonathon Green

DIRECTOR: Julian Shaw

WRITER: Julian Shaw

CAST: Pieter-Dirk Uys, Nelson Mandela, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Evita Bezuidenhout

Controversial South African political satirist Pieter-Dirk Uys allows writer/director Julian Shaw into his previously off-limits inner world. The result is a startling document of Pieter's work educating school children about their country's greatest threat, HIV/AIDS, and an unforgettable portrait of the power of individual will.

SALES CONTACT

Jonathon Green

Green Light Productions

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SCREENING

Panorama Section

Wednesday 13 Feb, 22:30 – CineStar 7

Thursday 14 Feb, 17:00 – CineStar 7 PREMIERE

Friday 15 Feb, 13:00 – CineStar 7

Saturday 16 Feb, 17:30 – Cubix 7



Meditations on a Name

9 mins

PRODUCTION COMPANY: AFTRS

PRODUCERS: Genevieve Derwent, Suzy Spoon

DIRECTOR: Bonnie Elliott

WRITER: Bonnie Elliott

CAST: Alice Ansara, George Shevtsov

Wattle hates her name - she's suffered through it her whole life. A long, hot day on the road sees Wattle and her hippy father Rajen have it out, once and for all.

SALES CONTACT

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SCREENING

Generation section

Monday 11 Feb, 11:30 - Babylon

Friday 15 Feb, 9:00 - Babylon

Saturday 16 Feb, 11:00 - Babylon

Talent night special screening

Monday 11 Feb, 22:00 - CinemaxX 6



Nana

6 mins

PRODUCER: Kath Shelper

DIRECTOR: Warwick Thornton

WRITER: Warwick Thornton

CAST: Mitjili Napanangka Gibson, Kiara Napurrula Gibson

Nana's granddaughter thinks Nana's pretty special. She loves her Nana because she helps the old people, she's a good painter and other people love her too. Nana's got everyone under control.

SALES CONTACT

Flickerfest Short Film Bureau

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www.flickerfest.com.au

SCREENING

Generation Kplus Section

Monday 11 Feb, 12:00 - Zoo Palast 1

Tuesday 12 Feb, 16:00 - CinemaxX 3

Wednesday 13 Feb, 9:00 - CinemaxX 3

Friday 15 Feb, 10:00 - Cubix 8

Talent Night Special screening

Monday 11 Feb, 22:00 - CinemaxX 3

Generation Now Special screening

Thursday 14 Feb, 14:00 - CinemaxX 6



Yolk

15 mins

PRODUCTION COMPANY: Head Pictures

EXEC. PRODUCER: Trish Lake

PRODUCERS: Damon Escott, Sally Madgwick

DIRECTOR: Stephen Lance

WRITERS: Stephen Lance, Cory Taylor

CAST: Audrey O'Connor, Hamish Irvine, Skye Wansey

When Lena, a fifteen year-old girl with Downs Syndrome, steals a sex book from a mobile library, her mother forces her to take it back in an embarrassing family spectacle that only strengthens her daughter's rebellious and irrepressible desire.

SALES CONTACT

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SCREENING

Generation Kplus Section

Wednesday 13 Feb, 14:30 – Babylon

Friday 15 Feb, 11:30 – Babylon

Saturday 16 Feb, 14:30 – Babylon

Seeking creative partnerships with Australia?

New incentives offer exciting opportunities.

Find out more at:

www.ffc.gov.au

Producer Offset 40% refund to Australian production company on qualifying Australian expenditure for feature films and 20% refund for other formats; applies to Australian projects and co-productions - must have 'significant Australian content'.

www.afc.gov.au/coproductions

Australia's Co-production Program

www.ausfilm.com.au

Location Offset 15% refund on a production's qualifying Australian expenditure for large-budget film or television projects shooting in Australia

PDV (post, digital, visual effects) Offset 15% refund on qualifying PDV expenditure in Australia, regardless of where the film or TV program is shot.



Acolytes

90 mins

PRODUCTION COMPANY: Stewart & Wall Entertainment Pty Ltd

EXEC. PRODUCER: Grant Bradley

PRODUCER: Penny Wall, Richard Stewart

DIRECTOR: Jon Hewitt

WRITER: Shayne Armstrong, Shane Krause, Jon Hewitt

CAST: Joel Edgerton, Michael Dorman, Hanna Mangan-Lawrence, Seb Gregory, Josh Payne

When a group of teenagers discover the body of a woman they uncover a twisted plot of murder and intrigue.

SALES CONTACT

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SCREENING

EFM

Sunday 10 Feb, 9:30 – CinemaxX 18

Tuesday 12 Feb, 17:45 – CinemaxX 13



The Children of Huang Shi

120 mins

CO-PRODUCTION: Australia/China/Germany

PRODUCTION COMPANY: Ming Productions, Zero Fiction, Bluewater Pictures (CHS) Pty Ltd

PRODUCERS: Arthur Cohn, Wieland Schulz-Kiel, Peter Loehr, Jonathan Shteinman, Martin Hagemann

DIRECTOR: Roger Spottiswoode

WRITER: Jane Hawksley, James MacManus

CAST: Jonathan Rhys Meyers, Radha Mitchell, Chow Yun-Fat, Michelle Yeoh, Guang Li, David Wenham

Inspired by true events, *The Children of Huang Shi* tells how a young Englishman, George Hogg (Jonathan Rhys Meyers) came to lead sixty orphaned boys on an extraordinary journey of almost a thousand perilous miles across the snow-bound Liu Pan Shan mountains to safety on the edge of the Mongolian desert. And of how, in doing so, he came to understand the true meaning of courage.

SALES CONTACT

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SCREENING

EFM

Tuesday 12 Feb, 19:45 - CinemaxX 10



Death Defying Acts

100 mins

CO-PRODUCTION: UK/Australia

PRODUCTION COMPANY: Zephyr Films Houdini Ltd,
Macgowan Lupovitz Nasatir Films Pty Ltd

EXEC PRODUCERS: Dan Lupovitz, Marcia Nasatir, David M Thompson,
Lucas Foster and Kirk D'Amico

PRODUCERS: Marian Macgowan, Chris Curling

DIRECTOR: Gillian Armstrong

WRITERS: Tony Grisoni, Brian Ward

CAST: Guy Pearce, Catherine Zeta-Jones, Timothy Spall, Saoirse Ronan

When famous escape artist Harry Houdini arrives in Edinburgh and offers a \$10,000 reward to anyone who can contact his mother from beyond the grave, a beautiful but deceptive psychic and her young "sidekick" daughter take the challenge. As Houdini spends time with this mysterious woman, he is beguiled by her charms, and what begins as a con evolves into a far more complicated and dangerous affair.

SALES CONTACT

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SCREENING

EFM

Sunday 10 Feb, 10:45 – CinemaxX 8



Newcastle

108 mins

PRODUCTION COMPANY: Newcastle Pictures Pty Ltd

EXEC. PRODUCERS: Charles Hannah, Megumi Fukasawa, Satoru Iseki, Akira Ishii, Nick Carpenter

PRODUCER: Naomi Wenck

DIRECTOR: Dan Castle

WRITER: Dan Castle

CAST: Lachlan Buchanan, Xavier Samuel, Reshad Strik, Kirk Jenkins, with Anthony Hayes, Shane Jacobson and Barry Otto

Seventeen-year-old Jesse lives in the shadow of his older brother Victor's failure to become surfing's Next Big Thing. A momentous weekend away with his mates that includes first love and tragedy leads him to discover what's really important.

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SCREENING

EFM

Friday 8 Feb, 20:30 - CineStar 4



Unfinished Sky

90 mins

PRODUCTION COMPANY: New Holland Productions Pty Ltd

EXEC PRODUCERS: Mark Overett, Hanneke Niens, San Fu Maltha

PRODUCERS: Cathy Overett, Anton Smit

DIRECTOR: Peter Duncan

WRITER: Peter Duncan

CAST: William McInnes, Monic Hendrickx

John Woldring wakes one morning to find a young woman stumbling semiconsciously towards his farmhouse. She is dark (Middle Eastern perhaps) and has no English. There is great beauty hidden beneath the blood and bruises.

She has obviously run from something truly terrible. But John Woldring doesn't call the police. He will handle this his own way. Has she landed in a sanctuary or another nightmare?

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SCREENING

EFM

Tuesday 12 Feb, 13:00 - CinemaxX Studio 13

Wednesday 13 Feb, 9:00 - CinemaxX Studio 13

The Australian Film Commission,
Film Australia and the Film
Finance Corporation Australia -
supporting the Australian screen
industry as **Screen Australia**
from July 2008



This screening booklet was put together by the Marketing Branch of the Australian Film Commission.

The AFC Marketing Branch offers filmmakers access to market intelligence and opportunities in the national and international marketplace with:

- a travel grant funding program to attend key international festivals, markets or pitching competitions
- Australian representation and facilities for practitioners at key international markets including EFM, Cannes and Hong Kong Filmart
- international Festival Profiles online, giving the low-down on over 50 key international film festivals
- hosting of international film festival directors/selectors in Australia and international partnership initiatives, including Rotterdam Lab and Producers Network at Cannes
- management of financing and marketing initiatives held in Australia including SPAAmart and the International Marketing Workshop.

FOR FURTHER DETAILS GO TO

www.afc.gov.au

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Australian Government



Disclaimer: Please note screening details may be subject to change.

