



media release

Australia opens Movie Convention

Monday 14 August, 2006: In one of the strongest showings of Australian film for some years, a showcase of 21 new local works, across very diverse genres, will open the Movie Convention tonight.

The Australian Film Commission (AFC) will co-host the 'Australia on Show' highlight screening for the Opening Night of the 61st Australian International Movie Convention on the Gold Coast – ensuring exhibitors and programmers get a taste of the Australian film industry's latest offerings.

It is the fifth year of the Opening Night screening, and the event will be accompanied by the high profile 'Australian Star of the Year' Award presented by *The Sydney Morning Herald*, *The Sun-Herald* and *The Age*.

Stars and filmmakers will be in attendance for the preview of the 21 Australian titles. Films featured in the screening are:

2:37 – directed by Murali K. Thalluri
48 Shades – directed by Daniel Lapaine
The Book of Revelation – directed by Ana Kokkinos
Boytown – directed by Kevin Carlin
Clubland – directed by Cherie Nowlan
Footy Legends – directed by Khoa Do
The Home Song Stories – directed by Tony Ayres
Hunt Angels – directed by Alec Morgan
Irresistible - directed by Ann Turner
Kenny – directed by Clayton Jacobson
Last Train to Freo – directed by Jeremy Sims
Like Minds - directed by Gregory J Read
Macbeth - directed by Geoffrey Wright
Noise – directed by Matthew Saville
Opal Dream – directed by Peter Cattaneo
Razzle Dazzle, A Journey Into Dance – directed by Darren Ashton
Romulus, My Father – directed by Richard Roxburgh
Storm Warning – directed by Jamie Blanks
Suburban Mayhem – directed by Paul Goldman
Unfolding Florence – directed by Gillian Armstrong
West – directed by Daniel Krige

The AFC's Acting Chief Executive, Chris Fitchett, said the diversity of the films is evident in their funding models (which include private finance, government support and co-productions) and a range of genres covering everything from musicals to thrillers.

"There are both new filmmakers and very experienced directors represented here, showing the broad reach and depth of our film talent," Mr Fitchett said. "The AFC is proud to be part of this evening and to work with distributors and filmmakers alike in promoting our films to that all-important sector: the exhibitors and programmers who are our link to the general public."

www.afc.gov.au

For the third year Zealot Productions has produced the night's screening elements, which include clips from each feature and interviews with key creative players from each film. A booklet featuring the films and filmmakers will be given to all Convention delegates.

The Australian Star of the Year Award has previously been won by Russell Crowe, Jacqueline McKenzie, Geoffrey Rush, Hugo Weaving, Hugh Jackman, Heath Ledger, Eric Bana, Mick Molloy and Abbie Cornish. The Juice New Media Award will also be presented on the night.

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