

2009 BigPond® Adelaide Film Festival Special Guests

A host of international film talent will descend on Adelaide in February for the 2009 BigPond® Adelaide Film Festival with over 180 guests from more than 14 countries including Iran, USA, China, the UK, Japan, France, Mexico, Turkey, Hungary, Ireland, The Czech Republic, New Zealand and all across Australia.

The red carpet will glow with mega wattage acting talent emanating from **HUGO WEAVING, NATALIE IMBRUGLIA, MATT DAY, MIRANDA OTTO, ADEN YOUNG, PETA WILSON, PETER O'BRIEN, BRYAN BROWN, and TAHYNA TOZZI.**

Australian directors premiering new feature films include **SARAH WATT** (*Look Both Ways*); **STEPHAN ELLIOTT** (*The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert*), **SAFINA UBEROI** (*My Mother India*), **JAMES BOGLE** (*CLOSED FOR WINTER*) and **KRIV STENDERS** (*Boxing Day*) while **GLENDYN IVIN** (*LAST RIDE*), **GRANAZ MOUSSAVI** (*MY TEHRAN FOR SALE*), **JONATHAN AUF DER HEIDE** (*VAN DIEMEN'S LAND*), **DEAN O'FLAHERTY** (*BEAUTIFUL*) and **WARWICK THORNTON** (*SAMSON & DELILAH*), are all first time feature film directors whom have won multiple international awards for their short films and presenting their world premiere debuts.

Australian war artist and Archibald Prize winner, **GEORGE GITTOES** will present *THE MISCREANTS*, an impassioned and truly urgent film about the struggle against the Taliban;

International guests will include, critically acclaimed Hungarian **ATTILA GIGOR** (*THE INVESTIGATOR*); Iranian **MAZIAR BAHARI** (presenting *MY CITY PIZZA* and *COUNTDOWN*); **ZHAO YE** (*JALAINUR*) from China; **SYLVIE VERHEYDE** (*STELLA*) and her son, William Verheyde, who stars in the film from France; **NEASA NÍ CHIANÁIN** (*FAIRYTALE OF KATHMANDU*) from Ireland; **PETER GILBERT** (*AT THE DEATH HOUSE DOOR*) and **PAMELA YATES** (*THE RECKONING*) both from the USA; one of India's most beloved and controversial figures **KIRAN BEDI** who is the focus on Megan Doneman's *YES MADAM, SIR* and **MI-SUN PARK** (*DAUGHTER OF CHOROIQUE*) from South Korea.

The festival is delighted to have **LAURENCE KARDISH**, Senior Curator, Department of Film Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) New York as a special guest, heading the NATUZZI INTERNATIONAL AWARD jury and speaking at the two day ART & THE MOVING IMAGE SYMPOSIUM. Joining him on the Natuzzi jury are Nobel Prize winning author, **J M COETZEE**; New Zealand International Film Festival Director, **BILL GOSDEN**; Artistic Director of the Edinburgh International Film Festival, acclaimed writer, critic, broadcaster and one of Variety's Women's Impact Report 50 female 'movers and shakers', **HANNAH McGILL**; Japanese film director, **NAOMI KAWASE** (the youngest filmmaker ever to win the Camera d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival); film producer **JO DYER**; and co-host of 'At The Movies' and former Sydney Film Festival Director, **DAVID STRATTON**.

Mexican-Canadian electronic artist, **RAFAEL LOZANO-HEMMER** (www.lozano-hemmer.com) will be one of the special guests at the ART & THE MOVING IMAGE SYMPOSIUM. Lozano-Hemmer has works in the art collections of MoMA, New York, and The Tate, London, has won two BAFTA British Academy Awards for Interactive Art in London, and "Artist/performer of the year" at Wired Magazine's Rave Awards.

New York curator, **MICHAEL CONNOR**, will also be speaking at the ART & THE MOVING IMAGE SYMPOSIUM. Connor is currently developing a permanent exhibition about the history of the moving image in all its forms to open at the Australian Centre for the Moving Image (ACMI), Melbourne, Australia in 2009. In 2008, his exhibition 'The New Normal: Art, Privacy, Technology' opened at Artists Space, New York and then toured internationally. Formerly he worked as head of exhibitions at the British Film Institute in London where he developed an interactive moving image archive and a new gallery dedicated to artist's film, video, and new media.

FRANK BOYD, former Director of Creative Development with the BBC's Innovation and Learning Team, currently working with Creative London, will lead CROSSOVER AUSTRALIA 2009, a five day interactive, residential workshop designed to brainstorm cross-platform models and projects. Joining him will be mentors, **MATT ADAMS**, co-founder of the ground breaking UK company Blast Theory (presenter of RIDER SPOKE), **HEATHER CROALL**, Director of the Sheffield DocFest, **SANDI DUBOWSKI**, a New York filmmaker and Barack Obama presidential campaigner, and **MARGARET ROBERTSON**, one of the world's leading videogame consultants. **GIDEON ORBAZNEK** (Artistic Director Chunky Move), writer **ANDREW BOVELL** and producer **SUE MASLIN** will also be Crossover guests.

The festival is also pleased to welcome Mr. Justin Milne, Group Managing Director of Telstra Media.

Winner of the 2007 IF Award for Best Film Festival, the biennial Adelaide Film Festival is a two-week celebration of the moving image in all its manifestations. The BAFF will screen more than 130 films from over 50 countries and present a range of special events, exhibitions and forums in addition to its In Cinema screening program. In 2009 the BAFF will showcase world premieres of its latest slate of investment films, rounding out a fabulous international screening program comprising a diverse collection of feature films, documentaries, shorts and animated works.

The 2009 BigPond® Adelaide Film Festival runs from 19 February to 1 March.

For more information please contact Miranda Brown Publicity on +61 3 9419 0931 or miranda@mbpublicity.com.au

For bookings and more info visit www.adelaidefilmfestival.org or phone the BAFF Ticket Hotline on 1300 727 432

To download 2009 BigPond® Adelaide Film Festival media accreditation application forms go to www.adelaidefilmfestival.org

