



2023
OFFICIAL
PROGRAM

HEART & GOLD

INTERNATIONAL SHORT FILM FESTIVAL

**HEARTWARMING
SHORT FILMS**
TALKS • FAMILY DAY
LIVE MUSIC • MARKETS • FOOD & BEER

6-8 OCTOBER 2023 - THE GYMPIE PAVILION

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2023 OFFICIAL PROGRAM

Join us in Gympie for the 14th edition of Australia's largest regional short film festival. Three days of films, talks, food, beer, markets, networking and gala events, all in the one location.

6-8 OCTOBER
THE GYMPIE PAVILION

Heart of Gold acknowledges Australia's First Nations People as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the land on which we work, create and live.

We pay our respects to the Gubbi Gubbi, Jagera and Turrbal people on whose land our festival operates, and seek to honour the storytelling culture of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples. Sovereignty was never ceded.

SAY HELLO

info@heartofgold.com.au

 [heartofgoldfilmfest](https://www.facebook.com/heartofgoldfilmfest)

 [heartofgoldshortfilmfestival](https://www.instagram.com/heartofgoldshortfilmfestival)

WELCOME



FROM THE FESTIVAL DIRECTOR

It is my absolute honour and privilege to present to you Heart of Gold International Short Film Festival in its 14th edition. Heart of Gold is so unique in that it promises to deliver short films that are heart-warming, uplifting and life-affirming, from all around the world to right here in regional Queensland.

To think that this humble little festival from Gympie, that's of international standard, has been around for 17 years absolutely inspires me. It truly excites me to present to you, the calibre of films, music, and performances, this year's Festival has on offer.

Our dedicated Screeners Groups have shown such commitment by gathering together to watch submissions each week, over the last 6 months, to ensure the 'best of the bunch' is brought to the festival for your viewing pleasure. To every single member of our team, our staff and volunteers, to everyone who submitted films, who sponsored us in-kind or financially, to everyone who attends, our artists, our community – I thank you from the bottom of my heart for helping this treasured event come together once again!

So please, grab your loved ones, a picnic blanket, make a day of it or better yet - camp across in the Showgrounds and make a weekend of it. There's something really special about this festival and the Gympie Region. I found it. I hope you will too.

Mandy Irvine

FROM THE MAYOR

Welcome to the 2023, Heart of Gold Short Film Festival. First, I wish to express my thanks to the organising team, who, under quite trying circumstances, have pressed on to deliver what is a great program. The promotion, funding and assistance with large regional events has been a focus of this Council to assist in the economic and social recovery of the region post floods in 2022 and COVID the year before. What you will experience at this event is unlike anywhere else. It is truly unique, as is the Gympie region.

If you are from outside our region, I wish to extend a warm welcome.
If you are a local, thank you for supporting your community,
your patronage at this event will guarantee it's longevity.

Please enjoy this year's Heart of Gold Short Film Festival, I know I will.

Mayor Glen Hartwig



JURY PROFILES



RAE CHOI | FILMMAKER

Rae Choi is an AWGIE and SPA nominated filmmaker and lawyer. She has produced short and long form work filmed in Australia, Japan, Italy and France, which have screened in various international film festivals and broadcast in Australia and the UK. Recently, she worked at the Australian Children's Television Foundation and is now the development producer at Good Apples Pictures.

HOLLY PITTMAN | FOUNDING JUROR

Holly was the President of the Noosa Film Society - the largest such society in Australia - from 2004 to 2022 and has been deeply immersed in the world of local and international cinema. This year marks Holly's 11th time as juror for Heart of Gold and she's been involved in the festival since its very first edition in 2006.



BEN HACKWORTH | FILMMAKER

Director/writer Ben Hackworth is an award-winning Australian filmmaker. His short film MARTIN FOUR was in official selection at the Cannes Film Festival, and his first feature CORROBOREE had its international premiere in Toronto and was selected to screen at Berlin International Film Festival. His second feature CELESTE screened at MIFF followed by an international premiere at BFI London. Ben is currently working on a documentary about his father Colonel David Hackworth, SMELL OF NAPALM, and lecturing in film at the University of Southern Queensland.



TICKETS



FILM SESSIONS

All tickets include access to Front Yard, Markets, Art Exhibition & Activities!

GENERAL ADMISSION\$20

CONCESSION.....\$15
(Student or Pension Card)

NIGHT OWL SESSION.....\$10
(9pm sessions only)

OPENING NIGHT

Includes welcome drink, street food, headline music acts, special film session and resident DJs!

"BOOTS & BALLGOWNS" TICKET....\$40

FRONT YARD (ONLY)

If films aren't your thing - this one is for you!

GENERAL ADMISSION\$15

FUN STUFF

HIGH SCHOOL EXCURSION\$15
Includes \$5 voucher to be used at Little Haven Cafe.
(Accompanying teachers FREE!)

YOUNG FILMMAKER SESSION\$10

FAMILY DAY (SUNDAY)

Includes Family Films, Family Comedy, Theatre Workshop, Popcorn, Live Music & Kids Activities!

KID'S TICKET\$10

PARENT'S TICKET.....\$10

Easiest way to grab a ticket is to jump online via the below QR code. A ticket will be sent to your phone which you can scan upon entry to the session. Happy days!

If you're not down for that, we understand! Tickets can also be purchased from our wonderful volunteers at the Box Office from 8:45am - 9pm for your late night sessions.

Make sure you book yourself into your desired session so you don't miss out! East Room sessions have limited seats.

TICKETS ON SALE NOW AT HEARTOFGOLD.COM.AU/TICKETS

Find answers to other FAQ on our website or
email info@heartofgold.com.au





OPENING NIGHT SOIREE

"BOOTS & BALLGOWNS"

You're invited to Heart of Gold's very special Opening Night Soiree!

DRESS

A little bit country, but a whole lot glam!

REFRESHMENTS

First drink and grazing board on us.
Gold Bar and local food trucks available for more.

TICKETS \$40

Pre-purchase here so you don't miss out!

heartofgold.com.au/tickets

[Under 18s are admitted but will not be served alcohol]

6:00PM - CELLIST, LOUISE KING

6:30PM - WELCOME CEREMONY

7:00PM - OPENING NIGHT FILMS

8:00PM - ASPY JONES BAND

9:00PM - RESIDENT DJ MANU (THE LOFT)

THE FILMS

BANGAY LORE

JAHVIS LOVEDAY & KIAHMA
O'DONOVAN | 15 | AUSTRALIA

MUMLIFE

RUBY CHALLENGER | 15 |
AUSTRALIA

TEACUPS

ALEC GREEN | 7 |
AUSTRALIA

THE YOUNG OLD CROW

LIAM LOPINTO | 11 |
JAPAN

XIAOHIU AND HIS COWS

XINYING LAO | 14 |
CHINA

VOICE ACTIVATED

STEVE ANTHOPOULOS
| 12 | AUSTRALIA

2023

IN PREVIEW



FRONT YARD

Performing Arts, Talks and Q&As during the day, incredible live and local music acts. Not a film fanatic? That's cool!

You can grab a ticket to the Front Yard only and still get access to food, drinks and our Maker's Market! You'll be glad that you did!



THE GRAND HALL

To ensure no one misses out on their favorite session this year (or the rain doesn't get us!) we've created The Grand Hall for your screening pleasure.

With maximum capacity but cosy surroundings, this one's great to enjoy with a group of friends! Enjoy the magic!

FAMILY DAY

Sunday has always been Family Day at Heart of Gold, and in 2023 we're going whole HOG.

From Theatre Sports for the kids, to markets and comedy for the parents, and Family Films sessions. From 9am to 1pm there will be something for everyone!





'OUR STORIES' LIVING ROOM

Step into the Living Room and experience Our Stories, a free video exhibition of short films from all around Australia.

A special feature on Saturday and Sunday only, this is a treasure trove of local stories made by emerging Australian filmmakers. Sit back in the couch, kick your feet up on the coffee table, and meet some of the extraordinary but unknown voices that make up this country.

HEART OF GOLD MAKER'S MARKET

As you mosey between film sessions and the Front Yard entertainment, why not stop and check out the skills and talents our region has to offer?

Connect with micro and small business owners, hear their start-up stories and their artistic processes and even better, take one of their pieces home and you'll know you are supporting a local family! Find them in the Market Court, across from the Cinema Stairs and on your way into the Front Yard.



THEATRE SPORTS WORKSHOP

**Have you ever dreamt of being a movie star?
Or simply wanted to explore your creativity and build confidence?**

Join "Art is Everywhere" in the Market Court on Sunday at 11am for their 'theatre sports' workshop. This workshop is suitable for pre-teens and children, but everyone and anyone is welcome!

NAVIGATING THE FESTIVAL

Here are a few tips that might help you find a session that's just your cup of tea.

THE GOLDEN THREAD

Throughout the program we've marked out a thread of sessions that most strongly display the Heart of Gold spirit. Spot the gold balloon illustration and you'll find a film, talk or event that inspires, uplifts, intrigues and engrosses. Celebrating community, kindness and good humour, these classic sessions enrich the heart.



THE CINEPHILE CIRCUIT

For the intrepid filmgoer, look out for the glasses illustration to guide you toward our more adventurous sessions. Expect artfully-crafted films that might be harder to penetrate, or darker in theme, but we believe have a beautiful and complex beating heart at their centre.



WARNINGS

Look for the pink at the bottom of the page to get info about the suitability of films. If you have any questions about film content and themes, send your enquiries to program@heartofgold.com.au



PARKING

General admission Parking is through the main Pavilion entrance at **77 Exhibition Road** (Adrian McClintock Park entrance).

Our Ushers will offer grassed carparks off to the left if available, bitumen carparks to the right, or if it's full, there's plenty of parking along the street. But come in and check in with us first - we will look after you!

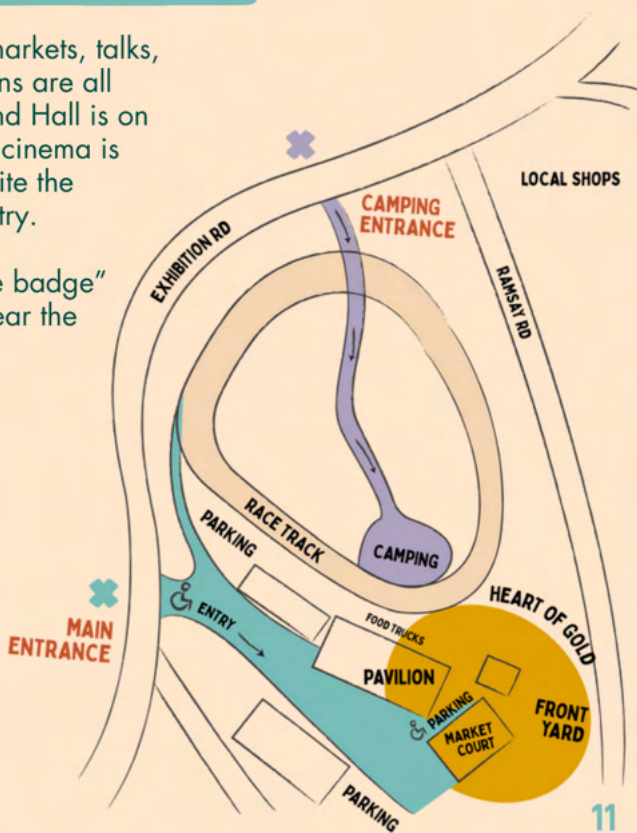
If you are camping at the Showgrounds and are one of our dedicated film-and-festival folk, a filmmaker or other VIP guest, you can enter the gate near the Ramsay Rd intersection and park next to your campsite.

Please note that you can only cross the racetrack after 9am once the horses are stabled, so make sure you have your coffee and brekky with you!

ACCESSIBILITY & INCLUSION

The festival venue, Front Yard, markets, talks, performances and all film sessions are all wheelchair accessible. The Grand Hall is on ground level and the East Room cinema is accessible by lift which is opposite the Box Office at the Main Stairs entry.

There will also be addition "blue badge" carparking spots for you right near the main entry.



THE AROUND FESTIVAL

THE AUDIENCE CHOICE AWARD HILLS HOIST

Our esteemed jury selects the winners of most of our filmmaker prizes, but we've kept a big one for you to pick! The Heart of Gold Audience Choice Award will go to the film that is most loved by our audiences.

How do you vote? As you leave each film session, volunteers will hand you a wooden peg. Take the peg down to the Hills Hoist in the Front Yard, find the number of your favourite film from that session, write it on the peg, and put the peg on the clothesline. At the end of the festival we'll count up all the votes and announce the winner at our Closing Ceremony.



THE LETTERBOX

Ever just wanted to tell someone how much you loved their film, or ask a question about a particular shot? The Letterbox gives you that chance.

Use our stationary to write a letter to any filmmaker in the festival and we'll make sure it gets to them. Provide a return address and you might even get a response. The Letterbox is also the spot to give feedback on the festival, or send in your ideas for the future.

ART WITH HEART RAFFLE

We are pleased to present works of art from twelve extremely talented artists who have donated their time and effort for the 2023 'Art with Heart' fundraising raffle.

This year's artists include Jennie Hawkes-Wright, Noni Metzler, Ann White, Lizzie Connor, Dee Hewitt, Sam Keane, Peter Herrington, Kym Barrett, Joolie Gibbs, Christine Williams, Evangeline Goodfellow, and Dennis Granshaw.

You can view the artwork at heartofgold.com.au/art-with-heart and purchase tickets for \$10 AUD per 1 choice.

To purchase your tickets before the festival, please email info@heartofgold.com.au or contact Jo Buchanan on 0408 881 256.

Raffle tickets will be on sale in the Fish Bowl during the festival and the winner will be drawn at 10:30am Sunday.

FOOD & DRINKS

Stop at the **Little Haven Festival Cafe** for a deli-style meal, a homemade cake, or a cup of tea. We're glad to have local palliative care heroes Little Haven return to run our cafe with all proceeds going to the essential work they do in our community.

Our bustling **Gold Bar** will be serving up affordable tipples 'til late every night! Huge thanks to the legends from the Rotary Club of Gympie for volunteering to run this fundraiser for the festival.

The food court will feature a selection of **Food Trucks**, as well as an all important **all-day Coffee Van**.



THE FRONT YARD

SATURDAY 7TH OCTOBER

FILMMAKER Q&A 9AM-9.30PM

'RIPPLE' BY ART IS EVERYWHERE 10.30AM-11.00AM

We interact with beings everyday. Whether they're our closest friends and family, or an unsuspecting stranger. A scenario imagined in our heads or a face-to-face conversation. Fleeting moments turn into everlasting thoughts, creating memories to reminisce on in our solace.

So, have you ever wondered how every interaction has an effect on our past, present and future selves? That's the beautiful curse of human interconnection.

'REVERIE' BY PERSERVERANCE STREET THEATRE CO 12PM-12.30PM

Perseverance Street Theatre Company brings you eight of Gympie's best young vocalists. Join us for a sneak preview for our upcoming youth production featuring artists from 17 - 25 singing famous tunes in new and interesting ways.

This 20 minute concert will feature sublime harmonies and showcase the emerging talent in Gympie.

FESTIVAL HEADLINERS

*With homegrown spirit, yet international standard.
We are so proud to present to you our Festival
Headliners for 2023...*

DARREN HANLON (SAT)

ASPY JONES BAND (FRI)

LOUISE KING (FRI)

**SEE MORE
EXCITING
STUFF ON THIS
BELOW!**



SATURDAY 7TH OCTOBER

THE HARVEY JAZZ DUO 1PM-1.30PM

International jazz artists Sarah and Alex Harvey, who now call Gympie home, will bring you some seriously smooth jazz to your afternoon. Sarah is a key creative and vocal teacher at Perseverance Street Theatre Company and Alex is a professional composer and saxophonist. We know you're gonna love these two!

FILMMAKER Q&A 2PM-2.30PM

SOUL TREE UNION 3PM-3.45PM

Simply put, Soul Tree Union write and perform beautiful songs. Australian indie musicians Kate Marian Rose and Paddy Rivers are passionate about connecting with audiences through their original music - an eclectic mix of contemporary folk peppered with alt-country rock, a splash of dreamy pop and a dash of salty sea shanty!

SONGWRITERS IN THE ROUND 4PM-4.45PM

Hosted by Kate Marian Rose, Songwriters in the Round is a unique and heart-warming session where emerging local singer-songwriters present their original works and the anecdotes and thoughts behind the scenes and songs. This one will make you smile.

DARREN HANLON 5PM-5.45PM

Fresh off helping our young folk with the AICM Song Muster, Darren graces our presence once more. From gifting us a song for our beautiful festival trailer to coming back this year on our stage, this man has a Heart of Gold! The original story-teller. A show that will warm your heart and show you what HOG is all about!

THE FRONT YARD

SUNDAY 8TH OCTOBER

FILMMAKER Q&A 9AM-9.30PM

'RIPPLE' BY ART IS EVERYWHERE 10.30AM-11.00AM

We interact with beings everyday. Whether they're our closest friends and family, or an unsuspecting stranger. A scenario imagined in our heads or a face-to-face conversation. Fleeting moments turn into everlasting thoughts, creating memories to reminisce on in our solace.

So, have you ever wondered how every interaction has an effect on our past, present and future selves? That's the beautiful curse of human interconnection.

PERSERVERANCE STREET THEATRE CO 12PM-12.30PM

Perseverance Street Theatre Company brings you eight of Gympie's best young vocalists. Join us for a sneak preview for our upcoming youth production featuring artists from 17 - 25 singing famous tunes in new and interesting ways.

This 20 minute concert will feature sublime harmonies and showcase the emerging talent in Gympie.

**SEE MORE
EXCITING
STUFF ON THIS
BELOW!**

AWARDS CEREMONY SAT 6PM-6.30PM

After feeling all the good vibes of Darren Hanlon on the Front Yard stage, come on in to The Grand Hall for our Awards Ceremony.

Each year at Heart of Gold, we celebrate our filmmakers with prizes made possible by our generous sponsors. Our esteemed industry jury will reveal the winners of our top categories.

Introduced by local music artist, Liam Garrett.





WE SUPPORT QUEENSLAND SCREEN STORIES

Screen Queensland is a proud sponsor of
Heart of Gold International Short Film Festival

screenqueensland.com.au



Image: On set of the short film *Katele (Mudskipper)*, supported by Screen Queensland.

HOG HEADLINERS

DARREN HANLON | 5PM SATURDAY

Darren's career has spanned decades, continents and a continuum of success most recently including appearing in and singing the credits of the new Slim Dusty bio-pic *Slim & I*, garnering high rotation on Australian radio with his pandemic themed song 'We All Cope in Different Ways,' and a cameo in the hit kids TV show *Bluey*. He has just released his 6th studio album *Life Tax*, his most pared down and gentle work to date and is currently on the road touring it with Emily Lubitz.

One of Australia's greatest songwriters, Hanlon is an exceptional artist, known for his charming storytelling particularly around the politics of love and relationships and his rare ability to present the commonplace as special.

Heart Of Gold International Short Film Festival is beyond proud to present our beloved hometown son of song and storytelling, international touring success Darren Hanlon as our special guest headline act on Saturday 7th October.



HOG HEADLINERS



LOUISE KING | 6PM OPENING NIGHT

Louise King is an award-winning, internationally-trained, Australian-made cellist and a homegrown festival Artistic Director and music education program designer. She has lived and created on Gubbi Gubbi country, Sunshine Coast for twenty years. As a graduate of the 'Global Teaching Artist Lab' at Lincoln Centre, New York, Louise is a trained facilitator in music for social change and community engagement. She designs music programs for youth, adults, community practitioners, professional development for teachers, and mentors emerging musicians.

Louise is the Artistic Director of Long Listen, a new boutique annual music festival on the Sunshine Coast, the founding inaugural Artistic Director of Sunshine Coast Chamber Music Festival, the Cello Dreaming Intensive Summer Retreat, and Rising Stars, an intensive chamber music program for emerging musicians. She is a guest tutor for the Australian and Queensland Youth Orchestras. Louise "exudes a vigorous artistry that surely appeals to a younger generation of music lovers" (The Australian) and has worked with leading Australian artists such as Kate Miller-Heidke, Katie Noonan, Jack Carty, Karl Williams, Ziggy Alberts, Eric Avery, Joe Geia, and Fred Leone.



ASPY JONES BAND | 8PM FRIDAY

Aspy Jones is a prolific songwriter from regional Queensland who performs his original music with his younger sister, Jaimie and brother, Saul. Aspy's raw lyrics are usually written about the difficulties of living with neurodiversity and the importance of finding good mental health. The powerful lyrics are merged with sibling harmonies and a surprising upbeat eclectic mix of indie-folk, roots and pop genres that send positive messages and feel-good vibes.

This family band all started their musical journeys as teenagers at the Australian Institute of Country Music in Gympie, QLD. They played separately in three different bands before finding common ground in their love of music from a wide range of different genres and eras. They have recently played at many festivals including the Woodford Folk Festival, Caloundra Music Festival, Gympie Music Muster, Mitchell Creek Rock n Blues Fest, Undercover Artist Festival and the Queensland Music Festival. They have also supported The X Factor's, Dean Ray and Taylor Henderson and The Fabulous Caprettos (Daryl Braithwaite, Russell Morris, Rai Thistlethwaite and Jack Jones) at the Sunshine Coast's Nightquarter.

FRIDAY

9AM | EAST ROOM

FIRST NATIONS FIRST

At Heart of Gold, our first session is devoted to our first peoples. These powerful works are sure to resonate and inspire.

SKATE OR CRY

LOUISE HAYSE | 9 | AUSTRALIA

The story of Tia Pitman, an Indigenous roller-skater, navigating the male-dominated skatepark, and finding creative freedom and self-expression in a gorgeous way.

MARKUNGKA TJALATJUNU (DIPPED IN BLACK)

MATTHEW THORNE | 24 | AUSTRALIA

Yankunytjatjara man Derik Lynch's road trip back to Country for spiritual healing, as memories from his childhood return.

KATELE (MUDSKIPPER)

JOHN HARVEY | 13 | AUSTRALIA

Martha works tirelessly in a laundromat loading machines and folding washing, ready for the collection of her boss. When a mysterious visitor arrives, Martha is reminded of the life she has left behind.

BANGAY LORE

JAHVIS LOVEDAY & KIAHMA O'DONOVAN | 15 | AUSTRALIA

Follow the journey of a young aboriginal dancer as he struggles with acceptance of his culture outside of the theatre.





AUSTRALIAN FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS

A selection of powerful works from emerging Australian filmmakers, a next generation of cinematic talent.

TADPOLES

JAMES MENELAUS RUSH | 12 | AUSTRALIA

At odds with his older sister and facing troubling new concepts an 8 year old boy tries to hide from the unknown by burrowing into his curiosity for the natural world around him.

KATELE (MUDSKIPPER)

JOHN HARVEY | 13 | AUSTRALIA

Martha works tirelessly in a laundromat loading machines and folding washing, ready for the collection of her boss. When a mysterious visitor arrives, she's reminded of the life she left behind.

LINDA 4 EVA

SOPHIE SOMERVILLE | 13 | AUSTRALIA

An angst-riddled teenager is forced to endure a day at the beach with her friends.

THE RAINBOW IS ALSO IN THE RIGHT PLACE

MELVIN FRANCIS KWONG | 7 | AUSTRALIA

A son recreates a photograph his mother has taken in hopes of uncovering the events that led up to that moment.

MUMLIFE

RUBY CHALLENGER | 15 | AUSTRALIA

Sarah, a first-time mother struggles to connect with her newborn baby and is pushed to her limits when she discovers a surprise birthday party.

TEACUPS

ALEC GREEN | 7 | AUSTRALIA

Teacups explores Don's surreal interactions with years of suicidal individuals and his journey to reconcile the suicide of his best friend.

MARKUNGKA TJALATJUNU (DIPPED IN BLACK)

MATTHEW THORNE | 24 | AUSTRALIA

Yankunytjatjara man Derik Lynch's road trip back to Country for spiritual healing, as memories from his childhood return.

VOICE ACTIVATED

STEVE ANTHOPOULOS | 12 | AUSTRALIA

Passionate florist and deliveryman Trent, who has a stutter, finds his voice when he is forced to cooperate with a voice activated car.

SOME ADULT THEMES, AND DISCUSSIONS OF SUICIDE IN ONE FILM

SESSION SPONSOR



HEY! LISTEN! THIS SESSION PLAYS AGAIN ON SATURDAY

FRIDAY

11:30AM | THE GRAND HALL

CHUCKLERS



Grab a cuppa and settle in for a session of heartwarming films that will have you grinning from ear to ear! With local shorts and international hits, there's a feel-good film for everyone here.

WHITE LIES

GREG MORGAN | 12 | AUSTRALIA

When his well intentioned lies spiral out of control Dave has to choose between having money and power, and being a good role model for his daughter.

AAAAH!

OSMAN CERFON | 4 | FRANCE

Aaaah! is the expression with which children, these primary and innocent beings, experience life in a community, framed by the whistles of adults.

BUTTER: A LOVE STORY

ANITA LEE | 19 | AUSTRALIA

Butter is a film about love, obsession, and finding purpose no matter the cost. At its heart, it is a twisted, yet tender love story, between a lonely woman and the greatest food of all: butter.

THE WAVY HANDED GOD

ZAC GILLAM | 4 | AUSTRALIA

The Man awakes, lost and alone, in a vast green wasteland. Then he sees his God...

HUMAN BEAN

CLAYTON SMITH | 16 | AUSTRALIA

Flynn needs to win the Brunswick Best Beans coffee competition to save his reputation, using his new-found secret "warm drip" coffee recipe.

THE END

ALEXANDRIA SIAH | 2 | UNITED STATES

A determined princess, must go back in time to stop her gallant but not very bright knight Maximilian from dying before their wedding day.

VOICE ACTIVATED

STEVE ANTHOPOULOS | 12 | AUSTRALIA

Passionate florist and deliveryman Trent, who has a stutter, finds his voice when he is forced to cooperate with a voice activated car.

CULICIDAE

GREG MORGAN | 6 | AUSTRALIA

A late night intrusion leads to a life and death struggle.

NON-NEGOTIABLE

MIKE DOXFORD | 8 | UNITED KINGDOM

A couple in a cafe await with trepidation their harshest critic and most important confidant... their 9 year old daughter.

MISS PATTI

KATE HAMILTON | 11 | UNITED STATES

Patti cheerfully endures the passive-aggressive condescension of her hipster employers, until Patti is left alone in the house and her secret profession is revealed.

LIGHT COURSE LANGUAGE IN ONE FILM

SESSION SPONSOR



PSST! THIS SESSION PLAYS AGAIN ON SUNDAY



EXPLORING ASIA



A stunning mix of outstanding Asian cinema. See a standout autobiographic pic from Cannes to a tender drama straight out of Busan. This session will reveal exciting new filmmakers from across the region.

XIAOHUI AND HIS COWS

XINYING LAO | 14 | CHINA

Far away from his parents, Xiaohui lives with his grandfather in the mountains. When a calf is to be sold, the witty nine-year-old does everything in his power to prevent the separation of mother and child.

BIRDSONG

OMI ZOLA GUPTA & SPARSH AHUJA | 17 | LAOS

Birdsong is an intimate portrait of the dying whistled language of the Hmong people in northern Laos

WILL YOU LOOK AT ME

SHULI HUANG | 20 | CHINA

As a young Chinese filmmaker returns to his hometown in search for himself, a long due conversation with his mother dives the two of them into a quest for acceptance and love.

LAKE AND I

PARK SOHYUN | 13 | KOREA

After Jeonghyun helps clean the bathhouse run by her friends family, they take a bath together. Trivial conversations, vague concerns, and daunting future.

THE OLD YOUNG CROW

LIAM LOPINTO | 11 | JAPAN

An Iranian boy befriends an old Japanese woman at a graveyard in Tokyo.

WHITE ANT

SHALINI ADNANI | 15 | UK

White Ant follows a man as he returns to his ancestral home and the discomfort that follows. Written in a dreamlike state, in between sleepless nights, the film is as much a dream as it is a reality.

YOUR NOTES:

SOME ADULT THEMES THROUGHOUT:
LIGHT SWEARING IN ONE

FRIDAY

2PM | THE GRAND HALL



REAL STORIES WITH HEART

For lovers of documentary, this session encapsulates what Heart of Gold is all about - shining a light on the human condition in moments of determination and hope.



FOR THE BIRDS

CIARAN O'CONNOR | 9 | IRELAND

After witnessing Esther feed some 100 pigeons outside her small house, the conversation soon turned to parenthood, sin and past secrets.

THEN COMES THE BODY

JACOB KRUPNICK | 14 | UNITED STATES, NIGERIA

With no ballet schools in Nigeria, Daniel opens Leap of Dance Academy in his front yard: humble, rigorous, and free to anyone with dedication.

NOTHING TO DECLARE

SIGARRET DALY | 30 | IRELAND

The charming story of two Irish boys aged 10 and 13 on a stowaway adventure of a lifetime from Dublin to New York in the summer of 1985.

FILMING DOGS

PETA HITCHENS | 9 | AUSTRALIA

A room full of potential stars. But these ones have fur. A small scruffy terrier called Ra attends an animal actor audition with three other dog actors.

ESPI

IVAN GRGUR | 5 | CROATIA

Gender transition is no different than any other human change. It has its ups and downs, scary, funny, strange, surprising, and frustrating little moments.

MYRTEZA BLUE

EREN BESIROGLU | 5 | AUSTRALIA

An intimate portrait of Australian landscape artist Graeme Myrteza — a once multi-generational farmer in rural Victoria, now recognised landscape artist.

LOVING GRASSLANDS: DIGGERS RESTORATION

BRENDAN GUERIN | 10 | AUSTRALIA

Landholders and ecologists are working in Hume City Council's Green Wedge to restore and manage land in harmony with nature, hopefully saving critically endangered grasslands from extinction.

IN MIKKO'S WORLD

PATRICK BOIVIN | 8 | CANADA

Mikko, a 10-year-old with an autism spectrum disorder (ASD), allows us to better understand this condition and to share the challenges and positive aspects of the everyday life of a child with ASD.

YOUR NOTES:



FRIDAY

2.30PM | EAST ROOM



EXPLORING EUROPE



If you've ever enjoyed a late night in front of SBS, this session is for you. European films with a European sensibility, spanning hand-drawn animation, dark comedy and wartime drama.

NOTHING HOLIER THAN A DOLPHIN

ISABELLA MARGARA | 17 |
GREECE

In this small Mediterranean village, an ancient myth unexpectedly comes to life.

LAS VISITANTES

ENRIQUE BULEO | 15 |
FRANCE

Three retired women travel by bus on their way to discover Europe. They've heard people talk about the wonders of tourism all their lives and are dying to experience them firsthand.

LOVE, DAD

DIANA CAM VAN NGUYEN
| 12 | CZECHIA

A short film about ties and gaps between a child and a parent. The author rediscovers letters her dad used to write her from prison.

NEIGHBOUR ABDI

DOUWE DIJKSTRA | 28 |
NETHERLANDS

Somali-born Abdi reenacts his life, marked by war and criminality, with the help of his neighbour and filmmaker Douwe.

COURAGE

STAR BAZANCIR AND JASMINA
PUSÖK | 15 | SWEDEN

We were created out of love, but something has been taken away from us.

IVALU

ANDERS WALTER & PIPALUK K.
JORGENSEN | 16 | DENMARK

Ivalu is gone. Her little sister is desperate to find her. Her father does not care. The vast Greenlandic nature holds secrets. The search for Ivalu is on.

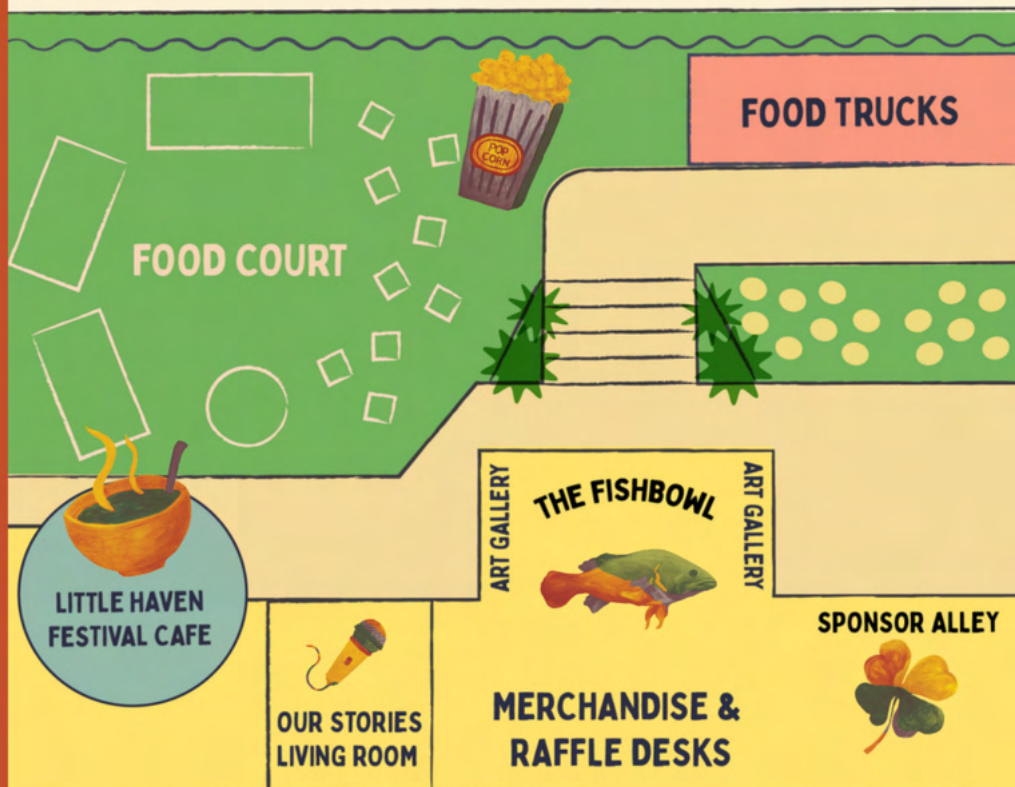
YOUR NOTES:

SOME ADULT THEMES AND
TALES OF GRIEF

SESSION SPONSOR



RACE TRACK



GRAND HALL



SHOWGROUNDS

RACECOURSE
CROSSING

← CAMPERS ENTRY

THE GOLD BAR

BATHROOMS

STAIRS TO THE
CINEMAS!

BOX OFFICE

STAFF
ROOM

STAFF ONLY
BEYOND THIS POINT

THE LOFT

UPSTAIRS

EAST
ROOM

STAFF ONLY
BEYOND THIS POINT

TOILET
BLOCK

FRONT
YARD

MARKET
COURT

ENTRY
BLUE BADGE PARKING

LIFT

PARKING THIS WAY

GRAND HALL	EAST ROOM	FRONT YARD	MARKET COURT	THE LOFT
	FIRST NATIONS FIRST			
AUS FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS	9:00 - 10:30AM			
9.30AM-11AM				
CHUCKLERS			MARKET STALLS	
11.30AM-1PM	EXPLORING ASIA		9AM-3PM	
	12PM - 1:30PM			GREEN ROOM
FILMMAKER Q&A				STAFF & VIPS
1:15PM - 1:45PM				WELCOME
REAL STORIES WITH HEART				
2PM - 3.30PM	EXPLORING EUROPE			
	2:30 - 4PM			
SUNSHINE STATE				
4PM-5.30PM				
OPENING NIGHT				
LOUISE KING (CELLIST)				
6PM-6.30PM				
WELCOME & SPEECHES				
6.30PM-7PM				
OPENING NIGHT FILMS				
7PM-8PM				
ASPY JONES				
& 4 PIECE BAND				
8PM-9PM				
				OPENING NIGHT VIPS
				RESIDENT DJ
				9PM - TIL LATE
				DJ MANU

GRAND HALL	EAST ROOM	FRONT YARD	MARKET COURT	THE LOFT	ELSEWHERE
ANIMATION 9AM-10.30AM		FILMMAKER Q&A 9AM - 9.30AM	MARKET STALLS 9AM-4PM	GREEN ROOM STAFF & VIPS WELCOME	THE LIVING ROOM 9AM - 4PM PERSERVERANCE STREET
	FAMILY DYNAMICS				
	9:30AM - 11AM	'RIPPLE' PHYSICAL THEATRE 10.30AM-11AM ART IS EVERYWHERE			
AUS FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS (REPEAT)					
11AM-12.30PM	EXPLORING THE MIDDLE EAST 12PM - 1:30PM	PERSERVERANCE STREET PERFORMANCES			
FILMMAKER Q&A 12.30PM-1PM		'REVERIE' CABARET SHOW 12PM - 12:30PM			
		HARVEY JAZZ DUO 1PM-1.30PM			
INTL FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS		FILMMAKER Q&A 2PM-2.30PM			
2PM-3PM	SOLID GOLD				
	2.30PM-3.30PM	LIVE MUSIC			
		SOUL TREE UNION 3PM - 3:45PM			
FEATURE FILM					
SHAYDA 4PM - 5:30PM	REAL STORIES WITH HEART (REPEAT) 4:30PM-6PM	SONGWRITERS IN THE ROUND 4PM - 4:45PM			
LIVE MUSIC: LIAM GARRETT		DARREN HANLON 5PM-5.45PM			
AWARDS CEREMONY 6PM-6.30PM					
BRITISH ISLES SHORTS	WAYS OF SEEING 7:30PM-9:00PM				
7PM - 8:30PM					
LATE NIGHT LAUGHS					GOLD BAR RESIDENT DJ 9PM - TIL LATE DJ XPERIMENTAL
9PM - 10:30PM					

SATURDAY

[illegible]

SUNSHINE STATE

Keeping it local, Sunshine State is devoted to Queensland's new filmmakers.

THE BANK MANAGER

MADELINE CHAPMAN | 18 | AUSTRALIA

Amidst drought and recession a farmer named Chip devises an elaborate plan to rob his local banks. Yes, plural.

SUNFLOWERS AND STRANGERS

GEORGIA EMERY | 10 | AUSTRALIA

A nuclear winter has decimated Australia. Violet dreams of the garden she used to grow until she's interrupted by a stranger at her door.

NINO

KIARA MEZZINA | 14 | AUSTRALIA

When Cosi moves the family to Australia in hopes of a better life, his son Nino must deal with culture shock in a country whose language he cannot speak.

FEATHER

ANDREY GOULTER | 6 | AUSTRALIA

A loving relationship between a caring Grandpa and his innocent and adventurous Granddaughter is at stake when she is lost finding a feather for Grandpa's hat.

DEAR FUTURE CHILD

CLAIRE COE & ALASTAIR CRAIG | 14 | AUSTRALIA

Soon-to-be parents Ethan and Indie record a video diary for their future child — only to capture the moment their hopes unravel.

HELL YEAH

MARTHA GODDARD | 10 | AUSTRALIA

A hopeful young delivery driver finds herself living out her dreams when she makes a chance delivery to a studio lot.

THOUGHTS?

AGELESS

HEATHER BARTHOLOMEW | 14 | AUSTRALIA

Celebrating the women who can enlighten us with their stories and guide us through our personal journeys. Can we change the way our culture frames ageing, seeing it for the gift that it is?

SESSION SPONSOR



SATURDAY

9AM | THE GRAND HALL



ANIMATION

Short films offer filmmakers the chance to experiment with their medium and nowhere is this more evident than in animation. A wondrous array of animations sure to inspire.

O HOMEM DO LIXO (THE GARBAGE MAN)

LAURA GONCALVES | 11 |
PORTUGAL

On a hot August afternoon, the family gathered at the table remembers uncle Botão.

CUDI OF THE WISHES

SEMIHA YILDIZ | 6 | TURKEY
Cudi of the Wishes depicts the natural flow of the four seasons on Mount Cudi, and the fallouts of conflicts that interrupt this flow by pivoting on a feeling from a childhood memory and images.

CART WRANGLER

GABRIEL SGANDURRA, ROSE MARCELLO & MAX SMITH | 3 |
UNITED STATES

A cowboy movie-obsessed grocery clerk named Wayne is assigned to round up the shopping carts in the store parking lot.

PERIOD DRAMA

ANUSHKA NAIR & LAUREN ANTHONY | 2 | UNITED STATES
In Victorian-era England, highly precocious and imaginative eleven-year-old Georgiana Crimsworth is up late enjoying a good book.

GIRL IN THE WATER

SHI-ROU HUANG | 7 | TAIWAN
Contemplation of torn walls and scars reminds the heroine of the ups and downs of love.

LOVE, DAD

DIANA CAM VAN NGUYEN | 12 | CZECHIA
A short film about ties and gaps between a child and a parent. The author rediscovers letters her dad used to write her from prison.

NAISSANCE DES OASIS

MARION JAMAUULT | 9 |
FRANCE, GEORGIA
A cold-blooded snake and a hot-blooded camel become close friends.

RESSOURCES HUMAINES

TRINIDAD PLASS, TITOUAN TILLER & ISAAC WENZKE | 3 |
FRANCE
A cold-blooded snake and a hot-blooded camel become close friends.

BACKFLIP

NIKITA DIAKUR | 12 | FRANCE
Attempting a backflip is not safe. You can break your neck, or land on your head, or land badly on your wrists. None of that is nice.

SESSION SPONSOR



Good food, Good life

AAAAH!

OSMAN CERFON | 4 | FRANCE
Aaaah! is the expression with which children, these primary and innocent beings, experience life in a community, framed by the whistles of adults.

GARRANO

DAVID DOUTEL & VASCO SA | 14 |
PORTUGAL, LITHUANIA
A horse is forced to pull a heavy load under a blazing sun. Young boy Joel discovers a man who is about to set a forest on fire.

FAMILY DYNAMICS

Family - in all its loving complexity - is explored through this series of shorts, grappling (as we all do) with the idea of what family means to us.



MYTH

ALIES SLUITER | 11 | AUSTRALIA

When a strange being appears outside her window and lures her mother away, seven-year-old Sophie follows.

MUMLIFE

RUBY CHALLENGER | 15 | AUSTRALIA

Sarah, a first-time mother struggles to connect with her newborn baby and is pushed to her limits when she discovers her insta famous bestie has thrown her a surprise birthday party.

SNAPSHOT

BECKI BOUCHIER | 14 | AUSTRALIA

When an explicit video of Sophie is posted online without her consent, her younger sister Alex is the only one who jumps to her aid.

VICTIM

ROBIN SUMMONS | 14 | AUSTRALIA

A mother's love for her son is tested by his increasingly alarming behaviour.

NON-NEGOTIABLE

MIKE DOXFORD | 8 | UNITED KINGDOM

A couple in a cafe await with trepidation their harshest critic and most important confidant... their 9 year old daughter.

SPLIT

CLARE HOLMAN | 17 | UNITED KINGDOM

Paul and Angela are about to meet in an empty bungalow. Why are there? And who is telling the truth?

THE FOOD THAT SAVES YOU

JOE VALLA | 3 | UNITED STATES

A man overcomes depression and his wife's death with a passion they used to share.

YOUR NOTES:

AUSTRALIAN FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS

A selection of powerful works from emerging Australian filmmakers, the next generation of homegrown cinematic talent!

TADPOLES

JAMES MENELAUS RUSH | 12 | AUSTRALIA

At odds with his older sister and facing troubling new concepts an 8 year old boy tries to hide from the unknown by burrowing into his curiosity for the natural world around him.

KATELE (MUDSKIPPER)

JOHN HARVEY | 13 | AUSTRALIA

Martha works tirelessly in a laundromat loading machines and folding washing, ready for the collection of her boss. When a mysterious visitor arrives, she's reminded of a life she left behind.

LINDA 4 EVA

SOPHIE SOMERVILLE | 13 | AUSTRALIA

An angst-riddled teenager is forced to endure a day at the beach with her friends.

THE RAINBOW IS ALSO IN THE RIGHT PLACE

MELVIN FRANCIS KWONG | 7 | AUSTRALIA

A son recreates a photograph his mother has taken in hopes of uncovering the events that led up to that moment.

MUMLIFE

RUBY CHALLENGER | 15 | AUSTRALIA

Sarah, a first-time mother struggles to connect with her newborn baby and is pushed to her limits when she discovers a surprise birthday party.

TEACUPS

ALEC GREEN | 7 | AUSTRALIA

Teacups explores Don's surreal interactions with years of suicidal individuals and his journey to reconcile the suicide of his best friend.

MARKUNGKA TJALATJUNU (DIPPED IN BLACK)

MATTHEW THORNE | 24 | AUSTRALIA

Yankunytjatjara man Derik Lynch's road trip back to Country for spiritual healing, as memories from his childhood return.

VOICE ACTIVATED

STEVE ANTHOPOULOS | 12 | AUSTRALIA

Passionate florist and deliveryman Trent, who has a stutter, finds his voice when he is forced to cooperate with a voice activated car.

LEAVE A REVIEW!

SOME ADULT THEMES, AND DISCUSSIONS OF SUICIDE IN ONE FILM

EXPLORING THE MIDDLE EAST

See exciting new perspectives from across West Asia. A fascinating exploration of the Beirut port explosion, to a collection of poetic and unique animations, this session will showcase some of the brightest storytelling in the region.

THE DISASTER CANNOT BE CONTAINED

DIANA AL-HALABI | 26 | LEBANON

A passion for ports and ships turns into a generational trauma due to the aftermath of the port Blast in 2020.

CUDI OF THE WISHES

SEMIHA YILDIZ | 6 | TURKEY

Cudi of the Wishes depicts the natural flow of the four seasons on Mount Cudi, and the fallouts of conflicts that interrupt this flow by pivoting on a feeling from a childhood memory and images.

MARCH 8, 2022: A MEMOIR

FIRAT YUCEL | 15 | NETHERLANDS, TURKEY

A desktop documentary/video essay about the Feminist Night March protest in Istanbul and state surveillance.

48 HOURS

AZADEH MOUSSAVI | 20 | IRAN

After three years in prison, Nader is given a furlough to go home. He has 48 hours to become a father to his four years old daughter.

NAISSANCE DES OASIS

MARION JAMAULT | 9 | FRANCE, GEORGIA

A cold-blooded snake and a hot-blooded camel become close friends.

YELLOW

ELHAM EHSAS | 12 | UNITED KINGDOM

In Taliban-controlled Afghanistan, a woman walks into a chadari store in Kabul to buy her first full-body veil and face an uncertain future.

YOUR NOTES:

ADULT THEMES IN A FEW FILMS, AND SOME TOUGH BUT BEAUTIFUL TALES

INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS

From Sundance to Venice, this session showcases works handpicked from the world's best film festivals.



NOTHING HOLIER THAN A DOLPHIN

ISABELLA MARGARA | 17 | GREECE

In this small Mediterranean village, an ancient myth unexpectedly comes to life.

THE FRUIT TREE

ISABELLA TOLLENAERE | 15 | BELGIUM

Sharleece views a property to rent in the sleepy desert town where she lives, California City. Looking out of the window evokes unexpected memories.

BIRDSONG

OMI ZOLA GUPTA & SPARSH AHUJA | 17 | LAOS

Birdsong is an intimate portrait of the dying whistled language of the Hmong people in northern Laos

CAMARERA DE PISO

LUCRECIA MARTEL | 12 | ARGENTINA

Class, gender politics and domestic violence collide with dance in this experimental short.

KNIGHT OF FORTUNE

LASSE LYSKJÆR NOER | 24 | DENMARK

The loss of a loved one, the grief, the risk of yellow skin, and a coffin; this is too much for Karl to face.

WHITE ANT

SHALINI ADNANI | 15 | INDIA

A man is summoned from Mumbai to his village to deal with a termite infestation threatening to destroy his childhood home.

THE OLD YOUNG CROW

LIAM LOPINTO | 11 | JAPAN

An Iranian boy befriends an old Japanese woman at a graveyard in Tokyo.

**DRAW A DOLPHIN
(BADLY):**

LIGHT THEMES OF GRIEVING AND
LOSS IN A COUPLE OF FILMS

SESSION SPONSOR





SOLID GOLD

The clue is in the title! A surefire set of short films that hit the Heart of Gold mark - uplifting, thought-provoking and heartwarming.

THEN COMES THE BODY

JACOB KRUPNICK | 14 | UNITED STATES, NIGERIA

With no ballet schools in Nigeria, Daniel opens Leap of Dance Academy in his front yard: humble, rigorous, and free to anyone with dedication.

NON-NEGOTIABLE

MIKE DOXFORD | 8 | UNITED KINGDOM

A couple in a cafe await with trepidation their harshest critic and most important confidant... their 9 year old daughter.

BUTTER: A LOVE STORY

ANITA LEE | 19 | AUSTRALIA

Butter is a film about love, obsession, and finding purpose no matter the cost. At its heart, it is a twisted, yet tender love story, between a lonely woman and the greatest food of all: butter.

MISE EN PLACE

JULIAN NEUHAUS | 5 | AUSTRALIA

When her vindictive colleague is struck by karma, Charlie finally has a chance to express herself and showcase her talent for artful plating.

SPLIT

CLARE HOLMAN | 17 | UNITED KINGDOM

Paul and Angela are about to meet in an empty bungalow. Why are there? And who is telling the truth?

THE FOOD THAT SAVES YOU

JOE VALLA | 3 | UNITED STATES

A man overcomes depression and his wife's death with a passion they used to share.

BEAT

NICK CROWHURST | 8 | AUSTRALIA

A bereft husband unwittingly invites a stranger to collect unwanted junk from his house, little does he know how close they truly are.

A NOVEL CHRISTMAS

NATHAN DAVEY | 6 | AUSTRALIA

With Christmas just around the corner and no trees left on the shelves, Olive sets off on a mission to create the Picture Perfect Christmas Tree!

VOICE ACTIVATED

STEVE ANTHOPOULOS | 12 | AUSTRALIA

Passionate florist and deliveryman Trent, who has a stutter, finds his voice when he is forced to cooperate with a voice activated car.



IN THE
GRAND
HALL

FEATURE FILM

پیشانی

SHAYDA

A POWERFUL NEW VOICE

SATURDAY 4PM



The acclaimed debut feature from writer-director Noora Niasari, **Shayda** is making waves and taking Australian cinema to international recognition, including being chosen as our entry into the 2024 Academy Awards.

A young Iranian mother and her six-year-old daughter find refuge in an Australian women's shelter during the two weeks of the Iranian New Year (Nowruz).

Supplement all of the Heart of Gold short film fun with a deeply personal, moving feature film to celebrate our 2023 edition!



REAL STORIES WITH HEART



For lovers of documentary, this session encapsulates what Heart of Gold is all about - shining a light on the human condition in moments of determination and hope.

FOR THE BIRDS

CIARAN O'CONNOR | 9 | IRELAND

After witnessing Esther feed some 100 pigeons outside her small house, the conversation soon turned to parenthood, sin and past secrets.

THEN COMES THE BODY

JACOB KRUPNICK | 14 | UNITED STATES, NIGERIA

With no ballet schools in Nigeria, Daniel opens Leap of Dance Academy in his front yard: humble, rigorous, and free to anyone with dedication.

NOTHING TO DECLARE

SIGARRET DALY | 30 | IRELAND

The charming story of two Irish boys aged 10 and 13 on a stowaway adventure of a lifetime from Dublin to New York in the summer of 1985.

FILMING DOGS

PETA HITCHENS | 9 | AUSTRALIA

A room full of potential stars. But these ones have fur. A small scruffy terrier called Ra attends an animal actor audition with three other dog actors.

ESPI

IVAN GRGUR | 5 | CROATIA

Gender transition is no different than any other human change. It has its ups and downs, scary, funny, strange, surprising, and frustrating little moments.

MYRTEZA BLUE

EREN BESIROGLU | 5 | AUSTRALIA

An intimate portrait of Australian landscape artist Graeme Myrteza — a once multi-generational farmer in rural Victoria, now recognised landscape artist.

LOVING GRASSLANDS: DIGGERS RESTORATION

BRENDAN GUERIN | 10 | AUSTRALIA

Landholders and ecologists are working in Hume City Council's Green Wedge to restore and manage land in harmony with nature, hopefully saving critically endangered grasslands from extinction.

IN MIKKO'S WORLD

PATRICK BOIVIN | 8 | CANADA

Mikko, a 10-year-old with an autism spectrum disorder (ASD), allows us to better understand this condition and to share the challenges and positive aspects of the everyday life of a child with ASD.

NOTES:

AWARDS CEREMONY

SATURDAY 5.45PM
THE GRAND HALL

Saturday is the night filmmakers strike gold in the Grand Hall, as we announce the 2023 prize winners including the prestigious Heart of Gold Best Short Film!

Our carefully selected industry jury has the hard task of choosing these winners, but in spirit the Awards Ceremony is about celebrating the achievements of all the wonderful filmmakers. It's a recognition of the effort, dedication and energy of thousands of creative artists.

THE PRIZES

BEST SHORT FILM \$1000

Sponsored by Noosa Film Society

BEST AUSTRALIAN FILM \$1000

Sponsored by Noosa Film Society

LOCAL YOUNG FILMMAKER \$1000

Sponsored by Maxwell Walker

NATIONAL YOUNG FILMMAKER \$500 course credit

Sponsored by AFTRS

AUDIENCE CHOICE AWARD \$500

Sponsored by Heart of Gold





BRITISH ISLE SHORTS

A perennial audience favourite at Heart of Gold, enjoy a pint of Guinness and some Irish stew whilst being regaled with new works from the British Isle.

AN IRISH GOODBYE

TIM BERKELEY & ROSS WHITE
| 23 | UNITED KINGDOM

In rural Northern Ireland, a pair of estranged brothers reunite following their mother's untimely death.

A MOUTHFUL OF PETROL

JESS KOHL | 35 | UNITED KINGDOM

For years now, Wayne, father of 12-year-old JayDee, has been into banger racing, a rough style of racing in self-built cars. Now that JayDee is nearly 13, his debut race is finally in view.

FOR THE BIRDS

CIARAN O'CONNOR | 9 | IRELAND

After witnessing Esther feed some 100 pigeons outside her small house, the conversation soon turned to parenthood, sin and past secrets.

I HAVE HEARD YOU CALLING IN THE NIGHT

PAUL BERTELLOTTI | 13 | UNITED KINGDOM

A wrong number from a suicidal Irishman on a remote train platform leads to a trainee vicar saving his life... by mistake.

SHIP OF SOULS

JEAN PASLEY | 14 | IRELAND

Unable to accept his son's sudden death in a car crash in Japan, an Irish father must come to terms with his loss and try to find peace in a most unexpected way.

YOUR NOTES:

MENTION OF SUICIDE IN ONE FILM, AND SOME SCENES OF GRIEF



WAYS OF SEEING

An eclectic mix of films pushing the bounds of short cinema. Comedies, dramas and unclassifiable gems these are the festival's bristling fringe!



BASRI AND SALMA IN A NEVER-ENDING COMEDY

KHOZY RIZAL | 15 | INDONESIA
A husband and wife married for 5 years spend their days entertaining and taking care of other people's children without any of their own, much to their relatives dismay.

NOTHING HOLIER THAN A DOLPHIN

ISABELLA MARGARA | 17 | GREECE
In this small Mediterranean village, an ancient myth unexpectedly comes to life.

MARCH 8, 2020: A MEMOIR

FIRAT YUCEL | 15 | NETHERLANDS, TURKEY
A desktop documentary/video essay about the Feminist Night March protest in Istanbul and state surveillance

LAS VISITANTES

ENRIQUE BULEO | 15 | FRANCE
Three retired women travel by bus on their way to discover Europe. They've heard people talk about the wonders of tourism all their lives and are dying to experience them firsthand.

TIME AFTER TIME

PETER LIND | 4 | DENMARK
This is a road movie shoot through the windscreen of a car, over a period of eight years from 2014 to 2022. The film isn't going anywhere, the only thing moving is the time.

BACKFLIP

NIKITA DIAKUR | 12 | FRANCE
Attempting a backflip is not safe. You can break your neck, or land on your head, or land badly on your wrists. None of that is nice.

THOUGHTS?



LATE NIGHT LAUGHS



For those of us who like their comedies to be a little more *risqué*, this session brings together an eclectic mix of funny films from around the globe.

FIESTA BLOOD

ELENA FAZIO | 2 | UNITED STATES

Due to the cruelty of children birthday parties, it seems as though there is no hope for this endless cycle of piñata violence.

BALD FUTURE

REILLY ARCHER-WHELAN & MICHAEL WHYNTIE | 12 | AUSTRALIA

Paranoid that his job is on the line because of his balding hairline, a lowly office drone resorts to desperate measures in order to fit in at the office.

CALL ME MOMMY

HALEY ALEA ERICKSON & TAYLOR WASHINGTON | 13 | UNITED STATES

A pedantic mother-to-be hires a stranger to role-play as her unborn daughter.

LAS VISITANTES

ENRIQUE BULEO | 15 | FRANCE

Three retired women travel by bus on their way to discover Europe. They've heard people talk about the wonders of tourism all their lives and are dying to experience them firsthand.

ROUND ROBIN

JESSICA MORRIS | 11 | UNITED KINGDOM

On a sweltering summer's day, a family struggles to capture the perfect photograph for their annual Christmas Card. It will be their last.

FAVOUR ON THE FOURTH FLOOR

HARRY QUINLAN | 8 | AUSTRALIA

Late at night, a hotel guest solicits a cleaner for a gruesome favour.

BASRI AND SALMA IN A NEVER-ENDING COMEDY

KHOZY RIZAL | 15 | INDONESIA

A husband and wife married for 5 years spend their days entertaining and taking care of other people's children without any of their own, much to their relatives dismay.

BIN DAY

RYAN BUTLER | 8 | AUSTRALIA

The sun is shining, the birds are singing and the zombie apocalypse has settled in nicely. There's just one problem... one of the undead is in the yard.

THEY GROW UP SO FAST

JOHN F. BEACH | 9 | UNITED STATES

When Brian meets Amy after a night out on the town, things move a little faster than he anticipated.

A SERIOUSLY SWEARY SESSION! SEX TALK IN A COUPLE OF MOVIES. THIS ONE LIVES UP TO ITS NAME AS LATE NIGHT PROGRAMMING.



SUNDAY

9AM | THE GRAND HALL

FAMILY FILMS

One for the kids! Families of all ages will enjoy a morning of short films from all over the world that spark curiosity and wonder in our younger audience.

CART WRANGLER

GABRIEL SGANDURRA | 3 | UNITED STATES

A cowboy movie-obsessed grocery clerk named Wayne is assigned to round up the shopping carts in the store parking lot. To stave off the boredom, he instead imagines himself as a hero.

DAMMIT

STANLEY MC NEICE | 1 | UNITED STATES

Benji, the beaver boy scout, is at Camp Cedar for the Wilderness Scout Badge-a-Thon. He is competing against Ralph the Raccoon, and whoever earns three badges first wins.

THE OLD YOUNG CROW

LIAM LOPINTO | 11 | JAPAN

An Iranian boy befriends an old Japanese woman at a graveyard in Tokyo.

FRANZY'S SOUP KITCHEN

ANA CHUBINIDZE | 8 | GEORGIA

A lonely space creature named Franzy serves soup to aliens using spice from their planet.

STICKING SEAFARER

JEREMY ROSS | 2 | UNITED STATES

A barnacle relaxing on the seashore, near a shipwreck, gets increasingly angry when a loud clicking crab arrives and disturbs his peace.

AAAAH!

OSMAN CERFON | 4 | FRANCE

Aaaah! is a cry of pain, surprise, fear, joy, songs, grumbling, laughter, anger... Aaaah! is the expression of children!

NAISSANCE DES OASIS

MARION JAMAULT | 9 | FRANCE, GEORGIA

A cold-blooded snake and a hot-blooded camel become close friends.

FILMING DOGS

PETA HITCHENS | 9 | AUSTRALIA

A room full of potential stars. But these ones have fur. A small scruffy terrier called Ra attends an animal actor audition with three other dog actors.



YOUNG FILMMAKERS COMPETITION

Our annual Young Filmmakers Competition invites high school filmmakers to submit their work, and enjoy the opportunity of seeing their stories up on the big screen.

With smartphones at the ready, a new generation of storytellers emerge from classrooms across Australia each year. Whether making films as part of Film & Television, English, Visual Art or of their own volition, there is no denying the medium of short form content is being constantly created and enjoyed by our high schoolers.

Come and see what they've been up to!



THE NEXT GENERATION
HEART OF GOLD
OF FILMMAKERS





SUNDAY

11AM | THE GRAND HALL

OUR 2023 WINNERS

Miss any of the films that won big in our Saturday night Awards Ceremony? Or perhaps you're just keen to see them again and relive the greatness. This is the session for you. We've bundled together all our winners to make a bumper session of Heart of Gold award-winning shorts.

The best of the best for your Sunday.
The only catch - we don't know what the films are yet!

Film warnings available Sunday morning.

SUNDAY

11:30AM | EAST ROOM



CHUCKLERS



Grab a cuppa and settle in for a session of heartwarming films that will have you grinning from ear to ear! With local shorts and international hits, there's a feel-good film for everyone here.

WHITE LIES

GREG MORGAN | 12 | AUSTRALIA

When his well intentioned lies spiral out of control Dave has to choose between having money and power, and being a good role model for his daughter.

AAAAH!

OSMAN CERFON | 4 | FRANCE

Aaaah! is the expression with which children, these primary and innocent beings, experience life in a community, framed by the whistles of adults.

BUTTER: A LOVE STORY

ANITA LEE | 19 | AUSTRALIA

Butter is a film about love, obsession, and finding purpose no matter the cost. At its heart, it is a twisted, yet tender love story, between a lonely woman and the greatest food of all: butter.

THE WAVY HANDED GOD

ZAC GILLAM | 4 | AUSTRALIA

The Man awakes, lost and alone, in a vast green wasteland. Then he sees his God...

HUMAN BEAN

CLAYTON SMITH | 16 | AUSTRALIA

Flynn needs to win the Brunswick Best Beans coffee competition to save his reputation, using his new-found secret "warm drip" coffee recipe.

THE END

ALEXANDRIA SIAH | 2 | UNITED STATES

A determined princess, must go back in time to stop her gallant but not very bright knight Maximilian from dying before their wedding day.

VOICE ACTIVATED

STEVE ANTHOPOULOS | 12 | AUSTRALIA

Passionate florist and deliveryman Trent, who has a stutter, finds his voice when he is forced to cooperate with a voice activated car.

CULICIDAE

GREG MORGAN | 6 | AUSTRALIA

A late night intrusion leads to a life and death struggle.

NON-NEGOTIABLE

MIKE DOXFORD | 8 | UNITED KINGDOM

A couple in a cafe await with trepidation their harshest critic and most important confidant... their 9 year old daughter.

MISS PATTI

KATE HAMILTON | 11 | UNITED STATES

Patti cheerfully endures the passive-aggressive condescension of her hipster employers, until Patti is left alone in the house and her secret profession is revealed.

SESSION SPONSOR



LIGHT COURSE LANGUAGE IN ONE FILM

GET INVOLVED

VOLUNTEER

It takes an army to make a film, and a community to make a film festival. Volunteers are the beating heart of Heart of Gold. Over our 17-year history, our vollies have been the smiling faces ensuring that audiences and filmmakers have a truly special experience, and there's plenty of behind-the-scenes bits and bobs to do too if that's more your style.

SCREENER GROUPS

Did you know that films submitted to Heart of Gold are watched by community screeners before they make it into the festival?

For 6 months of the year, screener groups of 8-12 people meet in loungerooms across the region to watch the films longlisted for the festival. These groups are the backbone of what makes Heart of Gold special on the film festival scene - with the ratings and reviews of all screeners affecting each film's chance of being accepted into the festival.

Let us know if you'd like to join a Screener group or host your own with friends!

SHARE

Shout it to the rooftops! The simple act of sharing helps us enormously. Share your love for the festival, whether through social media, or over a coffee to a friend. The power of people is the most important of all.

SPONSOR

From the very start our festival has run off the huge generosity of our sponsors. Every year we are humbled by their support, and willingness to back community arts. We're always dreaming up new ways to feature these star businesses that come on as cash or in-kind sponsors, and help make Heart of Gold as good as it can be for the region. These contributions are the life rafts that keep the festival alive year in and year out.

If you're interested in joining our Sponsor family, get in touch! We've lots to offer.

FILM CLUB

For those film lovers who want a little more, we've launched a monthly film club to run all year long playing a hand-picked selection of recent international feature films that we think you'll love. Film Club is held at 1pm on the first Sunday of the month, at the Gympie Cinemas, and each film comes with a special introduction by a member of the Heart of Gold team. We'd love to see you there! Membership details are on our website.

**HEAD TO OUR
WEBSITE TO GET
INVOLVED!**

heartofgold.com.au

CREDITS & THANKS



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Jackson Lapsley Scott, Arika Rosenthal Crotty, Riley Ranfile, Robyn Lake, Sean Connelly, Tony Goodman, Martin Muller, Leaf Bennet, Ellen Hardy, Robyn Bowman, Thea van den Berg, Helen Crowley, Moneth Montmayor, Dianne MacLean, Imogen Wilson, Kikki Watt & Mick Nicolls, Sharon Hogan, Luke Harriman, Stacey Phelps, Anita Freed, Shane Kemp, Fraser Teleford, Justin O'Mara, Gympie Poultry Club

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Box Office.....Fiona Herrington
Festival Greeter.....Kim Springhall
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Décor.....Dominique Bode
Hospitality.....Kerrie Callagan & Lyndal Kenman
Bar.....Dennis & Claudia Granshaw
Ushers.....Paulene Rogers & Julie Allen
Merchandise.....Michael Rank
Art with Heart Raffle.....Jo Buchanan
Accessibility & Inclusion.....Emma Buhse

EVERYONE WHO LOOKED AFTER...

Cleaning, maintenance, happiness, good vibes, our patrons, our filmmakers, local artists.

AND LAST BUT NOT LEAST, THANK YOU TO ALL OUR AMAZING VOLUNTEERS WHO HAVE DONATED THEIR TIME AND EFFORTS TO MAKE THIS FESTIVAL GREAT!

FESTIVAL FRIENDS



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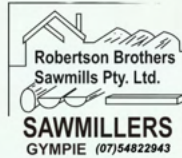
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THAT'S A WRAP!

THANK YOU FOR HAVING A
HEART OF GOLD
SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!



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