



**The 18th edition of the Marrakech International Film Festival
will be held from November 29 to December 7, 2019**

MARRAKECH IS SHOWCASING THE BREADTH AND DIVERSITY OF AUSTRALIAN CINEMA WITH 25 FILMS AND AS MANY TALENTS TO REPRESENT THEM

Rabat, November 25, 2019 - The Marrakech International Film Festival pays tribute to Australian cinema. The Festival pursues its tradition of celebrating world cinema, bringing the history, myths, culture and soul of a nation to the screen.

Honouring Australia is an evident choice for the Festival. Considered to be one of the oldest in the world, Australia has produced some of the most important masterpieces of world cinema.

A number of these will be screened during the 18th edition of the Marrakech International Film Festival. Starting in 1971 with Ted Kotcheff's "Wake In Fright" and Nicolas Roeg's "Walkabout", this retrospective chronicles almost five decades of Australian filmmaking, giving the public an opportunity to rediscover such classics as George Miller's "Mad Max" or Peter Weir's rarely seen cult film "Picnic at Hanging Rock".

Recent Australian cinema is also represented with films such as actor Simon Baker's directorial debut "Breath", Garth Davis' "Lion" - a major international box office success that won no less than 6 Oscar nominations in 2017, and Justin Kurzel's exceptionally casted "True History Of the Kelly Gang"- one of the most highly anticipated films of 2019.

The Festival is screening 25 Australian feature films showcasing the diversity and distinctiveness of this great filmmaking nation.

For several decades now Australian cinema has achieved world-wide recognition, with many of its actors and directors working in Hollywood.

Many of them will be in Marrakech as part of a 25-strong delegation of talented actors, directors and producers.

Among them will be actors Naomi Watts (Mulholland Drive, King Kong), Geoffrey Rush (Shine, The King's Speech), Simon Baker (The Mentalist), Ben Mendelsohn (Animal Kingdom, Darkest



Hour), Jason Clarke (Zero Dark Thirty, The Great Gatsby), Abbie Cornish (Bright star, Limitless), David Wenham (Top of the lake, Lion), Anthony La Paglia (Lantana), Radha Mitchell (Melinda and Melinda, Silent Hill), Greta Scacchi (White Mischief, The Player), Jack Thompson (Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil, Australia), Aden Young (Killer Elite, Rectify), Richard Roxburgh (Mission Impossible II, Moulin Rouge!), Sarah Snook (Steve Jobs).

The Australian delegation also includes directors Gillian Armstrong (My brilliant Career), Bruce Beresford (Driving Miss Daisy - Oscar for Best Picture 1989), Rolf De Heer (Charlie's Country), John Duigan (The Year My Voice Broke), Mirrah Foulkes (Judy & Punch), Samantha Lang (The Well), David Michôd (Animal Kingdom), Rachel Perkins (Bran Nue Dae), Molly Reynolds (Another Country), Fred Schepisi (Evil Angels) and producer Jan Chapman (The Piano).

After honouring Morocco, Spain, Italy, Egypt, the United Kingdom, South Korea, France, Mexico, India, Scandinavia, Japan, Canada and Russia, the Marrakech International Film Festival is offering festival-goers and film professionals an opportunity to discover the extraordinary breadth and diversity of Australian cinema.

For further information:

www.festivalmarrakech.info

BIOGRAPHIES

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GILLIAN ARMSTRONG DIRECTOR

Gillian Armstrong was born in Melbourne, and directed her acclaimed debut fiction feature, *My Brilliant Career* in 1979. Her subsequent films have been screened at major film festivals in Berlin, Cannes, Sundance, and Toronto, and have won prizes from the Australian Film Institute, the Film Critics Circle of Australia, the New York Film Critics Circle, and the British Academy Film Awards. Armstrong was the first president of the Australian Directors' Guild (ADG) and was named a Member of the Order of Australia for her services to the Australian film industry. She received an ADG Award for Outstanding Achievement in 2007



SIMON BAKER ACTOR, DIRECTOR

Born in Launceston, Australia, Simon Baker is known for performances in L.A. *Confidential* (1997), *The Devil Wears Prada* (2006), and *Margin Call* (2011). He won international acclaim for his work on the television series *The Mentalist* (2008-15), for which he was nominated for Screen Actors Guild, Emmy, and Golden Globe Awards. He made his directorial debut with *Breath* (2017), an adaptation of the best-selling novel by Tim Winton, in which he also appears, and for which he won the Best Director Award from the Directors Guild of Australia and the Best Supporting Actor Award from the Film Critics Circle of Australia.

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BRUCE BERESFORD
DIRECTOR

Bruce Beresford was born in Sydney and studied at Sydney University. He was Head of Production for the British Film Institute Production Board in London from 1966 to 1971, and a film advisor to the Arts Council of Great Britain. Over the course of a lengthy career, he has directed more than thirty feature-length films. Of these, probably the best known is *Driving Miss Daisy* (1989) which won the Academy Award for Best Picture. He was nominated for the Oscar for Best Screenplay for *'Breaker' Morant* (1979), and his *Black Robe* (1992) won seven Canadian Genie Awards, including Best Achievement in Direction.



**JAN CHAPMAN
PRODUCER**

Jan Chapman was born in Newcastle, Australia. She has produced some of Australia's most popular and critically acclaimed films, among them the Academy Award- and Palme d'Or-winning *The Piano* (1993), as well as *Lantana* (2001), which won the Australian Film Institute (AFI) Award for Best Film, and the multiple-AFI Award winner *Bright Star* (2009). As an executive producer, her credits include *The Babadook* (2014), which won the AACTA Award for Best Film, and *Babyteeth* (2019), which was selected for the Venice International Film Festival. Chapman is a recipient of an Order of Australia (AO) for services to the Australian film industry.



**JASON CLARKE
ACTOR**

Born in Winton, Australia, Jason Clarke is one of the most respected talents working in Hollywood today. Well known for starring roles in films including the Academy Award-nominated *Zero Dark Thirty* (2012), as well as *Everest* (2015), *Terminator: Genisys* (2015), and *Dawn of the Planet of the Apes* (2014), he came to attention in North America in the acclaimed television series *Brotherhood* (2006-08). His other film credits include *The Great Gatsby* (2013), *Chappaquiddick* (2017), *First Man* (2018), and *Pet Sematary* (2019). Clarke can most recently be seen in television's *Catherine the Great* (2019), and recently wrapped production on Antonio Campos's *The Devil All the Time*.



ABBIE CORNISH
ACTOR

Abbie Cornish was born in Lochinvar, Australia. An acclaimed actor, producer, and the author of the recent cookbook *Pescan*, Cornish is perhaps best known internationally for her acclaimed performances in *Somersault* (2004), *Candy* (2006), and *Bright Star* (2009). More recently, she has appeared in films including the Academy Award-nominated *Three Billboards Outside Ebbing Missouri* (2017), as well as *Lavender* (2016), *The Girl* (2012), *Seven Psychopaths* (2012), and *Sucker Punch* (2011), and on television in the series *Jack Ryan* (2018) and *Klondike* (2014). She recently wrapped shooting *The Virtuoso*, and, as a producer, she is currently developing television's *Arcana* and the feature film *Vale Tudo*.

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ROLF DE HEER
DIRECTOR

Rolf De Heer was born in Heemskerk, the Netherlands, moved with his family to Sydney at the age of eight, and graduated from the Australian Film and Television School in

1980. He has directed fourteen films, ten of which he wrote, co-writing a further three; they run the gamut from science-fiction thrillers to black comedies, from black-and-white silent comedies to dark dramas, from films of love to films of family disintegration, and some films that defy classification. In recent decades, De Heer has become known for his work with Indigenous Australian actor David Gulpilil, with whom he has made three films that form something of an accidental trilogy.



JOHN DUIGAN
DIRECTOR

John Duigan was born in England, and emigrated to Australia in 1961. After obtaining an MA in philosophy from the University of Melbourne, he began working as a director, screenwriter, and novelist.

In Australia, he made award-winning films including *Mouth to Mouth* (1978), *Winter of Our Dreams* (1981), *The Year My Voice Broke*, (1987), *Flirting* (1991), and *Sirens* (1994).

In 1991 he received the Byron Kennedy Award, and in 1994 began working in of the United Kingdom and the United States, where he made a number of prize-winning films. In 2005, Duigan returned to Australia, where he made *Careless Love* (2011). He is currently working on his fourth novel.



MIRRAH FOULKES
ACTOR, DIRECTOR

Mirrah Foulkes is an Australian actor, writer and director. She wrote and directed the award-winning short films *Dumpy Goes to the Big Smoke* (2012), *Florence Has Left the Building* (2015), and *Trespass* (2016) before making her feature-film directorial debut with *Judy & Punch* (2019), which had its premiere at the Sundance Film Festival. As an actor, she has appeared in films including *Animal Kingdom* (2010), *Sleeping Beauty* (2011), and *The Turning* (2013), for which she was nominated for a Best Supporting Actor Award at the AACTA Awards, and she has television credits on *Top of the Lake* (2013) and *The Crown* (2017), among others.



SAMANTHA LANG
DIRECTOR

Samantha Lang was born in London. A director, writer, producer, visual artist, and current president of the Australian Directors' Guild, her films have been selected for major film festivals including the Locarno Festival, the Sundance Film Festival, and the Toronto International Film Festival, and her 1997 feature *The Well* was screened in the Official Competition of the Festival de Cannes. Currently, Lang is involved in the virtual-reality work *Prehistoric VR*, a screen adaptation of Nakkiah Lui's *Kill the Messenger*, Alice Pung's *Laurinda*, and the television series *Night Games*. Her feature-length documentary *It All Started with a Stale Sandwich* (2019) had its premiere at the Sydney Film Festival.



ANTHONY LAPAGLIA
ACTOR

Anthony LaPaglia was born in Adelaide. A multi-award-winning Australian American actor, he has extensive credits in film, television, and theatre. He is best known for his award-winning appearances in the films *Lantana* (2001) and *Balibo* (2009), and on television's *Without a Trace* (2002-09) and *Frasier* (2000-2004). In 1997, he won a Best Actor Tony Award in the Broadway production of Arthur Miller's *A View from the Bridge*. In 2014, he received the Virgin Australia Orry Kelly International Award for his contribution to the Australian entertainment industry. His recent credits include the feature films *Annabelle: Creation* (2017) and *Below* (2019), and the television series *Sunshine*, *Riviera*, *Bad Blood* (all 2017), and *Rake* (2018).



BEN MENDELSON
ACTOR

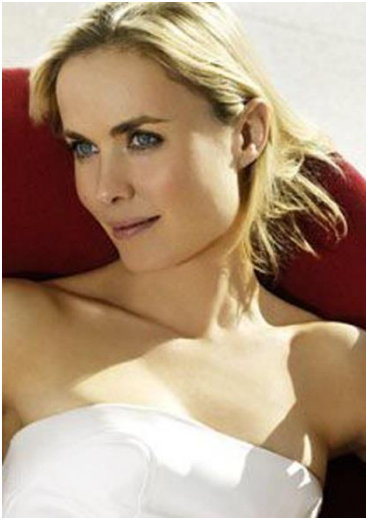
Ben Mendelsohn was born in Melbourne. Since his performance in *The Year My Voice Broke* in 1987, he has established a career as a critically acclaimed actor in films including *Australia* (2009), *Beautiful Kate* (2009), *Animal Kingdom* (2010), *The Place Beyond the Pines* (2012), *Starred Up* (2013), *Exodus: Gods and Kings* (2014), and *Lost River* (2014), among many others. Recently, he has been seen in *Babyteeth* (2019), and *The King* (2019), and on television in *Bloodline* (2015- 17), for which he won an Emmy Award for Best Supporting Actor in 2016. He appears in the upcoming HBO series *The Outsider*, on which he is also an executive producer.



DAVID MICHOD
DIRECTOR

An internationally acclaimed, award-winning screenwriter, director, and producer, David Michod was born in Australia. He wrote and directed his debut feature-length film *Animal Kingdom*, which won the World Cinema Grand Jury Prize at the Sundance Film

Festival and was named Best First Film by the New York Film Critics Circle, as well as *The Rover* (2014), which had its premiere at the Festival de Cannes, and *War Machine* (2017). His latest feature, *The King* (2019), had its world premiere at the Venice International Film Festival. For television, Michôd has directed episodes of *Enlightened* (2013) and *Flesh and Bone* (2015), and he was an executive producer and writer on the acclaimed mini-series *Catch-22* (2019).



RADHA MITCHELL
ACTOR

Radha Mitchell was born in Melbourne. She began her career on Australian television, then went on to success in the US film industry, starting with appearances in *High Art* (1998), *Pitch Black* (2000), and *Phone Booth* (2002). After playing a role in the Academy Award-winning *Finding Neverland* (2004), she took parts in *Mozart and the Whale* (2004), *Silent Hill* (2006), *Rogue* (2007), and *The Children of Huang Shi* (2008). She has since been seen in *The Waiting City* (2009), *Looking for Grace* (2015), for which she won the Best Actress Award from the Film Critics Circle of Australia, and *Celeste* (2018).



RACHEL PERKINS
DIRECTOR, PRODUCER

Rachel Perkins was born in Canberra, and lives between Sydney and Alice Springs, in the ancestral land of her people, the Arrernte Nation. A director, screenwriter, and producer, much of her work explores the Aboriginal experience in Australia. In 1992, Perkins founded Blackfella Films, one of Australia's leading independent production houses. Her feature-length films are *Radiance* (1998), *One Night the Moon* (2001), *Bran Nue Dae* (2010), *Mabo* (2012), and *Jasper Jones* (2017), and she has directed television series including *First Australians* (2008), *Mystery Road* (2018), and, most recently, *Total Control* (2019), which is nominated for several AACTA Awards.



MOLLY REYNOLDS
DIRECTOR, PRODUCER

Molly Reynolds is an Australian screen-based storyteller, educator, and producer who specialises in new media and documentaries. Her work has been presented at

numerous leading film and arts festivals, and includes the short film *The Waiting Room* (2018), as well as *Another Country* (2015), *Still Our Country* (2014), *Twelve Canoes* (2009), *Artists at Work: Peter Churcher* (2006), and *The Balanda and the Bark Canoes* (2006). Her feature-length documentary *My Name Is Gulpilil* is currently in post-production.



RICHARD ROXBURGH
ACTOR, DIRECTOR

Multiple-award-winning actor Richard Roxburgh was born in Albury, Australia, and has worked on stage and screen around the world. His television credits include *Rake* (2010 to 2018), for which he won a Best Actor AACTA Award in 2012, as well as *Catherine the Great* (2019) and *The Hunting* (2019). His extensive film credits include appearances in *Breath* (2017), *H Is for Happiness* (2019), *Looking for Grace* (2015), *Moulin Rouge* (2001), *Doing Time for Patsy Cline* (1997), and *Oscar & Lucinda* (1997), among many others. He made his directorial debut with the critically acclaimed *Romulus, My Father* in 2007.



GEOFFREY RUSH
ACTOR

Born in Toowoomba, Australia, Geoffrey Rush is one of few performers who have claimed the Triple Crown of Acting – an Oscar (for *Shine*, 1997), an Emmy (for *The Life and Death of Peter Sellers*, 2005) and a Tony for his Broadway debut (for *Exit the King*, 2009). Among his many other performances, he was nominated for Oscars for *Shakespeare in Love* (1999), *Quills* (2001), and *The King's Speech* (2011), and also appears in the acclaimed Australian films *Bran Nue Dae* (2009) and *Lantana* (2001). In 2014, Rush was named Australian of the Year for his contribution to the arts, and he was made a Companion of the Order of Australia the same year. He has won three BAFTAs, two Golden Globe Awards, four Screen Actors Guild Awards, three AACTA Awards, and two Helpmann Awards for his work in Australian theatre.



GRETA SCACCHI
ACTOR

Born in Milan, Italian Australian actor Greta Scacchi studied at the Bristol Old Vic Theatre School before beginning a robust career on stage and screen with early performances in films including *Heat & Dust* (1983). She went on to international and multi-lingual success in *The Coca-Cola Kid* (1985), *Burke & Wills* (1985), *White Mischief* (1987), *Three Sisters* (1988), *Presumed Innocent* (1990), *Fires Within* (1991), *The Player* (1992), *The Browning Version* (1994), *Tenerezza* (2017), and *Looking for Alibrandi* (2000), for which she won a Best Supporting Actor Award from the Australian Film Institute. Most recently, Scacchi appears in Rachel Ward's *Palm Beach* (2019).



FRED SCHEPISI
DIRECTOR

Fred Schepisi was born in Melbourne, and began his career in advertising in 1954. He joined Cinesound Films in 1964, and two years later established Cinesound as The Film House, Australia's foremost industrial documentary company. In 1973, he made his fiction filmmaking debut with *The Priest*, part of the feature-length *Libido*. He went on to make numerous films, among them *The Devil's Playground* (1976), *The Chant of Jimmie Blacksmith* (1977), *Barbarosa* (1981), *A Cry in the Dark* (1988), *The Russia House* (1990), *Six Degrees of Separation* (1993), *Last Orders* (2001), *Empire Falls* (2005), and *Words & Pictures* (2013). In 2004, Schepisi received the Order of Australia for his service to the Australian Film Industry.



SARAH SNOOK
ACTOR

Born in Adelaide, Sarah Snook first came to prominence in 2010 with her AACTA Award-winning performance in the television film *Sisters of War*, which was followed by a Film Critics of Australia Award for her appearance in *Not Suitable for Children* (2012). She has since been seen in a series of successful films and television projects, among them *Predestination* (2014), *The Dressmaker* (2015), *Oddball* (2015), *The Beautiful Lie* (2015), *Holding the Man* (2015), *Steve Jobs* (2015), *Winchester* (2018). Since 2018, she has been part of the main cast of *Succession* (ongoing).



JACK THOMPSON
ACTOR

Born in Sydney, Jack Thompson is one of Australia's best-loved actors. He has appeared in numerous films, among them *Sunday Too Far Away* (1975), *The Chant of Jimmie Blacksmith* (1978), *'Breaker' Morant* (1980), for which he won a Best Actor Award from the Australian Film Institute. Other credits include *The Man from Snowy River* (1982), *Merry Christmas Mr. Lawrence* (1983), *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil* (1997), *Australia* (2008), and, most recently, *Don't Tell* (2018), for which he was nominated as best actor at the AACTA Awards. He was made a Member of the Order of Australia in 1986.



NAOMI WATTS
ACTOR

Naomi Watts was born in Shoreham, England, and moved to Australia at the age of fourteen. A multiple Screen Actors Guild, Golden Globe, and Academy Awards nominee, she has twice been directed by David Lynch, in the critically acclaimed *Mulholland Dr.* (2001) and the recent television series *Twin Peaks: The Return* (2017). Her extensive film credits include *The Impossible* (2003), *21 Grams* (2003), *I Heart Huckabees* (2004), *King Kong* (2005), *Eastern Promises* (2007), *The International* (2009), *J. Edgar* (2011), *Birdman or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance)* (2014), and *St. Vincent* (2014). Most recently, she is seen in *Ophelia* (2019), and on television's *The Loudest Voice*.



DAVID WENHAM
ACTOR, DIRECTOR

Born in Sydney, David Wenham has received critical acclaim for his diverse performances on stage and screen, and is one of Australia's most respected actors. He has been named Best Actor by the Australian Film Institute, the Film Critics Circle of Australia, and the Screen Actors Guild. His many film credits include *The Bank* (2001), *Moulin Rouge* (2001), *Gettin' Square* (2003), *Australia* (2008), *Lion* (2016), and, most recently, *Dirt Music* (2019). On television, he has been seen in *Top of the Lake* (2013), *Wake in Fright* (2017), and *Romper Stomper* (2018), among many other series. Wenham wrote and directed his debut feature film, *Ellipsis*, in 2007.



ADEN YOUNG
ACTOR, DIRECTOR, EDITOR

Born in Toronto, Aden Young has acquired an impressive list of film, theatre, and television credits since his debut in *Black Robe* (1991), and is best known for his starring role in the critically acclaimed television series *Rectify* (2013-16), for which he received two US Critics Choice TV Awards nominations. Young is noted for his appearances in *Frontera* (2014), *Mao's Last Dancer* (2009), and *Killer Elite* (2011), among others, and is soon to be seen in *Elsewhere*. Young wrote and directed the short films *The Rose of Ba Ziz* (2007) and *The Order* (1999), and has also worked as an editor with acclaimed director Paul Cox.