



[www.miffaccelerator.com](http://www.miffaccelerator.com)

## CELEBRATING 11 YEARS OF ACCELERATOR

### MIFF TALENT CAMPUS ALUMNI INCLUDES DAVID MICHOD, JUSTIN KURZEL AND MORE

**MIFF Accelerator**, the film director professional development program of the Melbourne International Film Festival (MIFF), celebrates its 11<sup>th</sup> edition with 11 alumni directors featured in the MIFF 2014 program.

Helping tomorrow's hottest filmmaking talent today, **MIFF Accelerator** is an intensive workshop that helps selected short filmmakers hone their skills, craft and contacts in preparation for their transition to feature-length film directing. A part of the **MIFF 37°South Market** suite of industry programs, the four-day program comprises talks, screenings, seminars, networking and discussions on the creative and business aspects of the film industry.

Over its 11 years, MIFF Accelerator has fostered some extraordinary talent including: **David Michod** (Accelerator 2007), who went on to direct the multi-award winning box office hit **Animal Kingdom**; **Matthew Bate** (2008), who directed the acclaimed Sundance 2011-selected feature documentary **Shut Up Little Man, An Audio Misadventure**; and **Julius Avery** (2008), who recently completed his feature debut **Son of a Gun** starring **Ewan McGregor**. Following this year's intake, some 173 directors will have passed through the exclusive Accelerator program – for a full and detailed listing of alumni see [http://miffindustry.com/alumni\\_update](http://miffindustry.com/alumni_update).

This year **MIFF Accelerator** is proud to welcome back 11 Alumni to the MIFF program, including the following features: *Fell* from **Kasimir Burgess** (Accelerator 2007); Venice-selected *Ruin* from **Amiel Courtin-Wilson** (2004); and Sundance-and-Berlin-selected *What We Do In Shadows* from **Taika Waititi** (2004). Also returning with features are **Hugh Sullivan** (2008) with *The Infinite Man*, which after being picked-up by sales agent Shoreline from its 2013 MIFF 37°South Breakthru Screening, was selected for 2014's SxSW; and **Curtis Vowell** (2012) with *Fantail*, which after being picked-up by sales agent Level K on foot of its 2013 MIFF 37°South Breakthru Screening, was selected for 2014's Rotterdam Film Festival.

This year's Australian Shorts program features four Accelerator Alumni: **Hannah Moon** (2013) with *Dario*; **Mirrah Foulkes** (2012) with *Florence Has Left the Building*; **Jonathan auf de Heide** (2008) with *Two Devils*; and *Hurt's Rescue* from 2007's **Grant Scicluna** who later this year will shoot his MIFF Premiere Fund co-financed feature debut *Downriver*. Two Accelerator Alumni feature in MIFF's International Shorts program: **Sofiris Dounoukos** (2004) with *A Single Body*; and **Kevan Funk** (2011) with *Destroyer*.

Occurring during the MIFF Shorts & Centre-Piece Weekend, the mid-point of the Southern Hemisphere's oldest and largest film festival, this year's MIFF's Accelerator has 16 participants who have short films at MIFF 2014 as follows: **Jessica Barclay Lawton** (*Building Bridges*); **Lewis Attey** (*Rhododendron*); **Anna McGrath** (*She Was She*); **Jayden Stevens** (*Between Trees*); **Audrey Lam** (*Magic Miles*); **Sarah-Jane Woulahan** (*Acts of God*); **Mike Green** (*Mother*); **Hamish Bennett** (*Ross & Beth*); **Qiu Yang** (*The World*); **Abigail Greenwood** (*Eleven*); **Eddy Bell** (*Grey Bull*); **Alena Lodkina** (*There is no Such Thing as a Jellyfish*); **Matt Richards** (*Rabbit*); **Alyx Duncan** (*The Tide Keeper*); **Sean Kruck** (*Snowblind*); and **Ben Briand** (*Blood Pulls a Gun*).

Audiences can see these up-and-coming filmmakers in two programs of shorts: **Accelerator 1** on Saturday 09 August at 4pm (repeating Thursday 14 August 4pm) and **Accelerator 2** on Sunday 10 August at 4pm (repeating Friday 15 August 4pm). Bookings at [www.miff.com.au](http://www.miff.com.au).

**MIFF Accelerator** also offers express admission for a limited number of directors in partnership programs. This year, the following six directors are participating via Screen Australia's Hot Shots program: **Alex Murawski**; **Andrew Kavanagh**; **Rebecca Peniston-Bird**; **Billie Pleffer**; **Corrie Chen**; and **Rodd Rathjen**.

For more information on all the 2014 **MIFF Accelerator** participants visit: <http://miffindustry.com/2014-participants>

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MIFF Accelerator Workshop Partners:



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