12TH ACCELERATOR WRAPS

MIFF TALENT CAMPUS PARTNERS WITH LEXUS & WEINSTEIN COMPANY IN TALENT SEARCH

MIFF Accelerator, the film director professional development program of the Melbourne International Film Festival (MIFF), completed its 12th edition with 18 new directors welcomed into its glittering alumni, while joining with **Lexus Short Film** & **The Weinstein Company** in the search for the talent of tomorrow.

Lexus Short Films is currently accepting submissions from filmmakers worldwide until 25 October via film festival website Withoutabox. **Lexus Short Films** will select four filmmakers to each write and direct a short film produced by **The Weinstein Company** and participate in a tour of top film festivals around the world to promote their films. The theme for the new short films will be "Anticipation" and the four selected filmmakers will be invited to interpret the meaning for their own narrative and to tell a story based around their vision.

Helping tomorrow's hottest filmmaking talent today, **MIFF Accelerator** is an intensive workshop that helps selected short filmmakers advance their skills, craft and contacts for their transition to feature-length film directing. A part of the **MIFF 37°South Market** suite of industry programs, **MIFF Accelerator** commenced last Thursday the *MIFF Accelerator-Screen Australia Talent of Tomorrow Function*, in association with **Lexus Short Films & The Weinstein Company**, which introduced the MIFF Accelerator "class of 2015" to the film industry, and then continued with four days of talks, screenings, seminars, networking and discussions on the creative and business aspects of the film industry.

Over its 12 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 **Justin Kurzel** (2005), who directed the celebrated Cannes 2011-selected *Snowtown*. Following this year's intake, some 210 directors will have passed through the exclusive Accelerator program – for a detailed listing of alumni see **http://miffindustry.com/alumni_update**

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** had 18 participants who had short films at MIFF 2015 as follows: **Dylan River** (*Nulla Nulla*); **Nora Niasari** (*The Phoenix*); **Ruby Railey** (*The Best Way To Kill Your Mother*); **David White** (*Killer?*); **Sanjay de Silva** (*Maalu*); **Larissa Behrendt** (*Under Skin, In Blood*), **David Hansen** (*Slingshot*); **Tess Hutson** (*Euxine*); **Ted Wilson** (*Family Holiday*); **Isaac Wall** (*Looking To Buy*); **Tracey Rigney** (*Man Real*); **Jem Rankin** (*Cherokee*); **Meelisha Bardolia** (*Match*); **Florence Noble** (*Things Are Going Really Well*); **Michael Portway** (*Wawi*); **Tim Marshall** (*Followers*); **Keiran Watson-Bonnice** (*Caravan*) and **Christian Rivers** (*Feeder*).

MIFF Accelerator also offered express admission for a limited number of directors in partnership programs. This year, four directors participated via Screen Australia's Hot Shots program, **Matthew Richards, Lucy Gaffy, Sarah-Jane Woulahan,** and **Corrie Jones**, while director **Chris Richards-Scully** participated as part of the ScreenWest West Coast Visions program**.**

For more information on **MIFF Accelerator** participants visit**: http://miffindustry.com/2015-participants**

www.miffaccelerator.com

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CUTTING EDGE

The MIFF Accelerator workshop acknowledges the support of **The William Angliss Charitable Fund**

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