



Premiere Fund-supported Putuparri wins \$100,000 prize

Just weeks after garnering critical acclaim during its world premiere season at the Melbourne International Film Festival (MIFF), **MIFF Premiere Fund**-supported *Putuparri and the Rainmakers* has won the \$100,000 Film Prize during its MIFF Premiere Fund presentation at Western Australia's Cinefest Oz on 29 August 2015.

Following its Melbourne season at MIFF, the film kicked-off its **MIFF Travelling Showcase** tour at Bendigo and during September it heads to Benalla, Wangaratta, Geelong, Ballarat and Mildura.

“*Putuparri and the Rainmakers* had a story and characters that were so compelling and emotionally engaging,” said actor, and Cinefest Jury Chair, **David Wenham**. “This story was told in such a way that it reinforced the power of cinema to entertain, touch us deeply and stay with us forever.”

Directed and produced by **Nicole Ma** with producer **John Moore**, *Putuparri and the Rainmakers* is a feature documentary exploring **Tom Lawford**'s struggle to fulfil his destiny as a leader of his people and to pass on his indigenous culture to the next generation (**Sylvestor Rangie**). More details at <http://putuparriandtherainmakers.com/>.

This is the second year running that a **MIFF Premiere Fund**-supported film has won the Prize, following the inaugural Cinefest \$100,000 Film Prize last year going to **Robert Connolly**'s **MIFF Premiere Fund**-supported *Paper Planes* which went on to become a hit with Australian takings of nearly \$10 million.

“The **MIFF Premiere Fund** came in early and championed the film and we wouldn't have been able to get the film up without it,” said director Nicole Ma.

“Launching *Putuparri* at MIFF was a wonderful experience for us and I am grateful to **MIFF Premiere Fund** for all it has have done in getting the film to audiences.”

After its MIFF premiere, *Putuparri and the Rainmakers* was hailed by *The Conversation* as a “nuanced, respectful and powerful film” and by *The Age* as “a remarkable piece of filmmaking that makes us feel we've been granted the rare privilege of witnessing something utterly unique.”