



The **MIFF Premiere Fund** (www.miffpremierefund.com) provides minority co-financing to new Australian quality theatrical films (narrative-drama and documentaries) that then premiere at MIFF. **MIFF Premiere Fund** deepens MIFF's relationship with filmmaking talent and builds a pipeline of quality Australian content for MIFF. Launched at **MIFF 2007**, the **Premiere Fund** has committed to 61 projects. Under the charge of MIFF Chair Claire Dobbin, the **Premiere Fund** Executive Producer is Mark Woods, former CEO of the Irish Film Board and Ausfilm and Showtime Australia Head of Content Investment & International Acquisitions. Woods has co-invested in and Executive Produced many quality films, including *Rabbit Proof Fence*, *Japanese Story*, *Somersault*, *Breakfast on Pluto*, Cannes Palme d'Or winner *Wind that Shakes the Barley*, and Oscar-winning *Six Shooter*.

- The **Premiere Fund** slate for **MIFF 2018** so far includes the following:
 - **ACUTE MISFORTUNE**: Adaptation of the award-winning book about legendary Archibald-winning artist **Adam Cullen** and his biographer **Erik Jensen** from director **Thomas Wright** and producers **Virginia Kay** (*Sugar Mountain*) and **Jamie Houge** (*The Lookalike*) and executive producers **Robert Connolly** (*Paper Planes*) and **Liz Kearney** (*These Final Hours*). (Distributor: **Cinema Plus**; Sales Agent: **Maze**).
 - **THE COMING BACK OUT BALL MOVIE**: Through the prism of a 'coming back out ball' featuring Robyn Archer, Deborah Cheetham, Gerry Connolly and Carlotta, this feature documentary celebrates the lives and resilience of LGBTQ+ elders. From director/producer **Sue Thomson** (*Tempest at the Drop In*), producers **Adam Farrington-Williams** (*Winter at Westbeth*), **Roger Monk** (*Walking on Water*) and **Tristan Meecham**, and EPs **Michael McMahon** (*The Slap*). (Distributor: **Backlot**)
 - **THE EULOGY**: Tragic story of child prodigy pianist-composer Geoffrey Tozer, inspired by former Prime Minister Paul Keating's searing eulogy for the artist, from director/producer **Janine Hosking** (*My Khmer Heart*) and producers **Trish Lake** (*Early Winter*) & **Katey Grusovin**. (Distributor: **Madman**)
 - **UNDERMINED: TALES FROM THE KIMBERLEY**: Mega mining and pastoral developments threaten the pristine nature of the vast Kimberley region and jeopardise the future of more than 200 remote Aboriginal communities and their sacred link to the land. From director **Nicholas Wrathall** (*Gore Vidal: United States of Amnesia*) & producer **Stephanie King**.
 - **UNDERTOW**: A psychological thriller, in which a photo-journalist struggling to cope with the loss of her baby develops an obsession with a pregnant young woman, from director/writer **Miranda Nation**, producer **Lyn Norfor** and Executive Producer **Liz Watts** (*Animal Kingdom*). (Sales Agent: **Mongrel**)
- The **Premiere Fund** slate for **MIFF 2019** so far includes the following:
 - **BELOW**: From Accelerator Lab alumnus director **Maziar Lahooft** and producers **Nick Batzias** (*That Sugar Film*), **Veronica Gleeson** and **Kate Neylon**, comes *Fight Club* in a remote migrant detention centre. (Distributor: **Madman**; Sales Agent: **Seville**)
 - **BUOYANCY**: Tale of young Cambodian captured into enslavement on Thai fishing trawler from Accelerator Lab alumnus director **Rodd Rathjen** and producers **Kristina Ceyton** (*Babadook*), **Sam Jennings** (*Cargo*) and **Rita Walsh** (*I Used to be Normal*). (Distributor: **Umbrella**; Sales Agent: **Charades**)
 - **CRIMINAL SKIN**: A gripping multi-ethnic crime thriller from Accelerator alumnus **Paul Oliver** (*Old School*) and producers **Pip Campey** (*Galore*), **Tait Brady** (*Healing*). (Distributor: **Label**)
 - **H IS FOR HAPPINESS**: A disarmingly charming family film, adapted from the award-winning novel *My Life As An Alphabet*, from Accelerator Lab alumnus **John Sheedy** and producers **Julie Ryan** (*Red Dog*), **Tenille Kennedy** (*Bad Girl*) and writer/producer **Lisa Hoppe**.
 - **IRON FISTS & KUNG FU KICKS**: From producer **Veronica Fury** (*Electric Boogaloo*) and director **Serge Ou** comes the untold story of the iconic Shaw Brothers who were pioneers of the Kung Fu film movement. (Distributor: **Umbrella**; Sales Agent: **XYZ**)
 - **M4M**: A multi-ethnic ensemble drama inspired by Shakespeare's *Measure for Measure* from director/producer **Paul Ireland** (*Pawno*), and writer/producer **Damian Hill** (*Pawno*). (Distributor: **Mind Blowing**; Sales Agent: **Bankside**)

MIFF PREMIERE FUND TITLES AT PREVIOUS EDITIONS OF MIFF:

- The **Premiere Fund** slate for **MIFF 2017** will include the following:
 - **HAVE YOU SEEN THE LISTERS**: Portrait of the artistic and commercial rise of renowned street artist **Anthony Lister**, and the price of fame, from director/producer **Eddie Martin** (*Lionel*, *All This Mayhem*) and producer **Sarah Shaw** (*Snowtown*). (Distributor: **Transmission**; Sales Agent: **Dogwoof**)
 - **JUNGLE**: A gloriously tense survival thriller based on the bestselling real-life story of adventurer **Yossi Ghinsberg**, starring **Daniel Radcliffe** from director **Greg McLean** (*Wolf Creek*) and producers **Dana Lustig**, **Gary Hamilton**, **Mike Gabrawy**, **Todd Fellman**. (Distributor: **Umbrella**; Sales Agent: **Arclight**)
 - **RABBIT**: A dark fairytale from writer/director **Luke Shanahan** and producer **David Ngo** (*One Eyed Girl*), in which a woman, haunted by visions, hunts for her missing twin sister. Stars **Adelaide Clemens** (*The Great Gatsby*) and **Alex Russell** (*Cut Snake*, *Jungle*). (Distributor: **Vendetta**; Sales Agent: **Level K**)
 - **SONGKEEPS**: Central Australia's answer to *The Buena Vista Social Club* tells the story of an Aboriginal Women's Choir bringing back to Germany forgotten Germanic hymns sung in their own indigenous ancient language. Director **Naina Sen**; Producers **Rachel Clements** & **Trisha Morton-Thomas**. (Distributor: **Potential**; Sales Agent: **Level K**)
 - **THE BUTTERFLY TREE**: A visually sumptuous coming-of-age tale of love and loss, tinged with magical realism, from writer/director **Priscilla Cameron** and producer **Bridget Callow-Wright** with **Melissa George** (*Good Wife*), **Sophie Lowe** (*The Slap*), **Ewen Leslie** (*The Daughter*), **Ed Oxenbould** (*Paper Planes*). (Dist: **Vendetta**; Sales Agent: **Level K**)
 - **WESTWIND**: Internationally-renowned Yolngu didgeridoo maker-producer **Djalu Gurruwiwi** enlists the help of Grammy-winning **Gotye** to pass his people's ancient song-lines to the next generation. Director/producer: **Ben Strunin**; Producers: **Kate Pappas**, **Nick Batzias** (*That Sugar Film*), **Ben Pederick**, **Virginia Whitwell**. (Distributor: **Madman**)
- The **Premiere Fund** slate for **MIFF 2016** comprised the following world premieres:
 - **BAD GIRL**: A thriller, from director/writer **Fin Edquist** and producers **Steve Kearney** (*Oddball*), **Tenille Kennedy** (*The Turning*) and **Bruno Charlesworth** (*Good Vibrations*), in which a teenager fights for her adoptive parents when her new friend tries to supplant her. Stars **Sara West** (*The Daughter*), **Samara Weaving** (*Mystery Road*), **Felicity Price** (*Wish You Were Here*) and **Benjamin Winspear** (*The Babadook*). Distributor: **Curious**; Sales: **Arclight**
 - **ELLA'S JOURNEY**: A feature documentary, from director/writer **Douglas Watkin**, producers **Veronica Fury** (*Electric Boogaloo*) and **Dena Curtis** and co-producer/consulting director **Lawrence Johnston** (*Neon*), about the Australian Ballet's first indigenous dancer. (Distributor: **Ronin**).
 - **EMO (the musical)**: What's an Emo boy to when he secretly falls in love with a happy Christian? From writer/director **Nigel Triffett** with producer **Lee Matthews**, cast includes **Bride Carter** (*800 Words*), **Adam Zwar** (*Wilfred*) & **Dylan Lewis**. Based on an award-winning short. (Distributor: **Bonsai**).
 - **THE DEATH & LIFE OF OTTO BLOOM**: A love story in which the end is only the beginning for Otto Bloom who experiences time in reverse and remembers the future. From writer/director **Cris Jones** and producers **Mish Armstrong**, **Alicia Brown** and Oscar-winning **Melanie Coombs** (*Harvie Krumpet*) with **Xavier Samuel** (*Twilight*). (Distributor: **Bonsai**; Sales Agent: **Global Screen**)
 - **THE FAMILY**: A feature documentary, from director/writer **Rosie Jones** (*The Triangle Wars*) and producer **Anna Grieve** (*The Prime Minister is Missing*), about the charismatic and delusional **Anne Hamilton-Byrne**'s elusive apocalyptic sect. (Distributor: **Label**)
 - **MONSIEUR MAYONNAISE**: Feature documentary from **Trevor Graham** (*Make Hummus Not War*) and producers **Lisa Wang** & **Ned Lander** about Melbourne settlers, art pioneers, Nazis, comics, history, and France's love affair with baguettes and garlic mayonnaise. (Dist: **Antidote**; Sales: **Flame**)
- The **Premiere Fund** slate for **MIFF 2015** comprised the following world premieres.
 - **DOWNRIVER**: A mystery drama, from director/writer **Grant Scicluna** and producer **Jannine Barnes**, in which a teenage killer returns to uncover dark truths in his quest to find a missing body. Stars **Kerry Fox** (*Intimacy*), **Reef Ireland** (*Blessed*). (Distributor: **Rialto**; Sales Agent: **Level K**).
 - **ECCO HOMO**: A feature documentary, from **Ghost Pictures** (*AutoLuminescent*, *In Bob We Trust*), about growing-up in a world of incest, prostitution, gender transformation, HIV, art, secrets and lies. Features **Peter Troy Davies**, **Michael Hutchence** and **Bono**. (Distributor: **Apparition**).
 - **NEON**: A feature documentary from director/writer **Lawrence Johnston** (*Night, Eternity*) and producer **Veronica Fury** (*Curse of the Gothic Symphony*), celebrating the invention, design and heritage of neon signage. (Distributor: **Ronin**; Sales: **Mongrel**).
 - **PUTUPARRI & THE RAINMAKERS**: A feature documentary from director/writer **Nicole Ma** and producer **John Moore** exploring an Aboriginal man's quest to reconcile his life in the modern world with his destiny as a cultural leader of his Great Sandy Desert people. (Distributor: **Ronin/NITV**)
 - **EARLY WINTER**: An evocative meditation on relationships after romance gives way to duty and routine; where the search for respect and care is the currency of commitment. Helmed by Cannes Camera d'Or-winning writer/director **Michael Rowe** (*Leap Year*), starring **Suzanne Clement** (*Mommy*) and **Roy Dupuis** (*La Femme Nikita*) & produced by **Trish Lake** and **Serge Noel**. (Distributors: **Rialto**, **Mongrel**, **FilmOption**; Sales Agent: **Pyramide**).
- The **Premiere Fund** slate for **MIFF 2014** comprised the following world premieres.
 - **CUT SNAKE**: A crime thriller, from director **Tony Ayres** (*Home Song Stories*) and producers **Michael McMahon** (*Home Song Stories*) and **Trevor Blainey** (*Noise*), in which a young man's engagement to a beautiful woman is threatened when a menacing ex-con from his past reappears. Stars **Sullivan Stapleton** (*Animal Kingdom*, *300*), **Alex Russell** (*Bait*) and **Jessica De Gouw** (*Dracula*, *These Final Hours*). (Distributor & sales: **eOne**).
 - **ELECTRIC BOOGALOO**: From director/producer **Mark Hartley** (*Not Quite Hollywood*) and producer **Veronica Fury** (*Machete Maidens Unleashed!*) comes the wild untold story of 1980s Hollywood company Canon Films (Distributor: **Umbrella**; Sales Agent: **Mongrel/RatPac**).
 - **MY MISTRESS**: A strangely innocent affair between a teenage romantic and a French S&M mistress becomes something more. The film, from debut feature director **Stephen Lance**, writer **Gerard Lee** (*Sweetie*), producer **Leanne Tonkes** & EP **Robyn Kershaw** (*Bran Nue Dae*), stars **Emmanuelle Beart** (*A Heart in Winter*), **Harrison Gilbertson** (*Blessed*), **Rachel Blake** (*Sleeping Beauty*). (Distributor: **Transmission**; Sales: **Level K**).

- **PAPER PLANES:** A children's film about an Australian boy's passion for flight and competing in paper plane championships from writer/director/producer **Robert Connolly** (*Balibo*) and co-producers **Maggie Miles** and **Liz Kearney**. Stars **Sam Worthington** (*Avatar*), **David Wenham** (*300*), **Terry Norris** (*Innocence*) & **Deborah Mailman** (*Sapphires*). (Distributor: **Footprint**; Sales **Maze/ArcLight**).
- **THE LEGEND MAKER:** A dramatic thriller in which an aging forger needs all his guile and cunning to survive from director/producer **Ian Pringle** and producer **Glenda Hambly** and starring **Tony Nikolakopoulos**, **Jeremy Kewley**, **Steve Mouzakis** and **Sachin Joab**.
 - The 2014 **Premiere Fund** slate also comprised the following Australian premiere at the **MIFF Premiere Regional Showcase**:
- **KILL ME THREE TIMES:** A thriller, from director **Kriv Stenders** (*Red Dog*) and producers **Tania Chambers** & **Death at a Funeral's Laurence Malkin** & **Share Stallings**, in which one woman links murder, blackmail and revenge. Stars **Simon Pegg** (*Shaun of the Dead*), **Sullivan Stapleton** (*Animal Kingdom*), **Alice Braga** (*On the Road*), **Teresa Palmer** (*Warm Bodies*), **Bryan Brown** (*Beautiful Kate*) and **Luke Hemsworth**. (Distributor: **Hopscotch**; Sales Agent: **Cargo**).
 - The **Premiere Fund** slate for **MIFF 2013** comprised the following world premieres.
- **AIM HIGH IN CREATION!** From director/producer **Anna Broinowski** (*Forbidden Lie\$*) and producer **Lizette Atkins** (*X, Lionel*); a revolutionary comedic documentary about greed, gas and the cinematic genius of late North Korean leader Kim Jong Il. (Distributor: **Antidote**; Sales Agent: **HighPoint**)
- **IN BOB WE TRUST:** From *AutoLuminescent's* team (writer/director/producer **Lynn-Maree Milburn** and producers **Richard Lowenstein**, **Andrew de Groot** and **Maya Gnyp**) comes a feature documentary story of the controversial forced-retirement of Melbourne identity **Father Bob Maguire** and his struggles to live without the Church. (Distributor: **Apparition**; Sales Agent: **Odin's Eye**).
- **PATRICK:** A re-imagining of classic 1970s telekinetic thriller is the narrative feature debut of *Not Quite Hollywood* and *Machete Maidens Unleashed!* director **Mark Hartley**. From producer **Tony Ginnane**, the film stars **Rachel Griffiths** (*Muriel's Wedding*), **Charles Dence** (*Gosford Park*), **Sharni Vinson** (*Bait 3D*) and **Damon Gameau** (*Balibo*). (Distributor: **Umbrella**; Sales Agent: **BankSide**)
- **THE TURNING:** A range of directors (including established talent **Justin Kurzel** (*Snowtown*), **Jonathan auf der Heide** (*Van Diemen's Land*), **Tony Ayres** (*Home Song Stories*) **Claire McCarthy** (*The Waiting City*), **Warwick Thornton** (*Samson & Delilah*) and **Robert Connolly** (*Balibo*); emerging film directors **Rhys Graham** (*Galore*) and **Ashelee Page**; visual artist **Shaun Gladwell**; theatre director **Yaron Lifschitz** and **Stephen Page**; plus the film directing debuts of actors **David Wenham**, **Ian Meadows** and **Mia Wasikowska**) respond to Tim Winton's haunting short stories. From producer **Robert Connolly** (*Balibo*), co-producer **Maggie Miles**, the film also stars **Cate Blanchett**, **Rose Byrne**, **Harrison Gilbertson**, **Richard Roxburgh**, **Robyn Nevin**, **Hugo Weaving**, **Miranda Otto**, **Wayne Blair**, **Dan Wylie** and **Susie Porter**. (Distributor: **Footprint/Madman**; Sales Agent: **Maze/LevelK**).
- **GALORE:** From director/writer **Rhys Graham** (*Murundak: Songs of Freedom*) and producer **Philippa Campey** (*Bastardy*) is the story of two reckless teenage best friends who share everything except for Bille's big secret that she loves Laura's boyfriend. Stars **Ashelee Cummings** (*Tomorrow When the War Began*), **Toby Wallace** (*Nim's Island 2*), **Lily Sullivan** (*Mental*), **Maya Stange** (*Garage Days*). (Distributor: **HopScotch**; Sales: **eOne**).
- **THESE FINAL HOURS:** A young man's redemption during the Earth's very last hours from director **Zac Hilditch**, producer **Liz Kearney** and Executive Producer **Robert Connolly** (*Balibo*). The film stars **Nathan Phillips** (*Wolf Creek*), **Dan Hanshall** (*Snowtown*) and **Lynette Curran** (*The Boys*). (Distributor: **Footprint**; Sales Agent: **XYZ/Celluloid**).
 - The **Premiere Fund** slate for **MIFF 2012** comprised the following world premieres:
- **100 BLOODY ACRES:** A comedy horror showing the lengths small business operators go to from debut feature directors **Colin & Cameron Cairns** and producers **Julie Ryan** (*Red Dog*) and **Kate Crosser** (*My Tehran For Sale*), with Executive Producers **Bryce Menzies** and **Jonathan Page** and starring **Damon Herriman** (*J. Edgar*), **Angus Sampson** (*Where the Wild Things Are*) and **John Jarratt** (*Wolf Creek*). (Distributor **HopScotch**; Sales: **Works**)
- **FIRST FAGIN:** A feature documentary from Director **Alan Rosenthal** and Producer **Veronica Fury** (*Curse of the Gothic Symphony*) portraying infamous convict Ikey Solomon, who inspired Charles Dickens character Fagin from *Oliver Twist*. (Sales Agent: **Naked Flame**).
- **MAKE HUMMUS NOT WAR:** A new war rages in the Middle East between the usual suspects – but chick peas, not bullets, are in the front line. From director/producer **Trevor Graham**, with producer **Ned Lander**. (Sales Agent: **Off the Fence**).
- **SAVE YOUR LEGS:** Australian-Indian cricket comedy inspired by true events from debut feature director **Boyd Hicklin** and producers **Robyn Kershaw** (*Bran Nue Dae*) and **Nick Batzias** with **David Lyons** (*Eat, Pray, Love*), **Brendan Cowell** (*The Slap*), **Stephen Curry** (*The Cup*) and **Damon Gameau** (*Balibo*). (Dist: **Madman**; Sales: **Protagonist**)
- **THE LAST DANCE:** past and present collide when a holocaust survivor is held hostage by young suicide bomber. Starring **Julia Blake** (*Innocence*) and **Firass Dirani** (TV's *Underbelly*), from director **David Pulbrook** and producer **Tony Ginnane**. (Distributor: **Becker**; Sales Agent: **HighPoint**)
 - The **Premiere Fund** slate for **MIFF 2011** comprised the following world premieres.
- **AUTOLUMINESCENT: ROWLAND S HOWARD:** Portrait of the turbulent life of influential Australian rock-guitarist and songwriter Rowland S. Howard with directors **Richard Lowenstein** & **Lynn-Maree Milburn**, who produce with **Andrew de Groot**. (Sales agent: **RIGHTS AVAILABLE**).
- **BEN LEE: CATCH MY DISEASE:** From Director **Amiel Courlin-Wilson** (*Bastardy*) and Producer **Richard Lowenstein** (*Dogs in Space*), this feature documentary about pop music, spirituality, fame, family and celebrity, profiles the Australian star, who recorded his first album at age 14. Features **Ben Lee**, **Winona Ryder**, **Claire Danes**, **Jason Schwartzman**, **Michelle Williams** and others. (Distributor: **Madman**; Sales Agent: **Visit Films**).
- **THE CURSE OF THE GOTHIC SYMPHONY:** feature documentary charting struggles to overcome an 80-year curse and stage Havergeral Brian's never-fully-performed "Gothic Symphony", from Director **Randall Wood** & Producer **Veronica Fury** (*Machete Maidens Unleashed!*). (Sales: **Film Transit**).
- **FALLING FOR SAHARA:** Former Young Australian of the Year **Khoa Do** directs a story of new lives – and love – in Australia for African refugees in Melbourne's Flemington flats. (Sales Agent: **RIGHTS AVAILABLE**). Voted in MIFF 2011's top 20 most popular films.
- **SWERVE:** A rural neo-noir thriller starring from Director **Craig Lahiff**, Producer **Helen Leake** and Executive Producer **Bryce Menzies**. Starring **Jason Clarke**, **Emma Booth**, **David Lyons**, **Travis McMahon**, **Vince Colosimo** and **Roy Billing**. (Distributor: **Jump Street**; Sales Agent: **MovieHouse**).
- **THE TRIANGLE WARS:** a feature documentary exploring the battle over a massive redevelopment in one of Melbourne's most iconic inner-suburbs between powerful big business and an outraged local community – with local government caught in the middle. (Sales Agent: **MelMedia**)
 - The **Premiere Fund** slate for **MIFF 2010** comprised the following world premieres.
- **BLAME:** Psychological thriller from director **Michael Henry** and producers **Michael Robinson**, **Ryan Hodgson** and **Melissa Kelly**, with Executive Producer **David Lightfoot** (*Wolf Creek*). Starring **Kestie Morassi** (*Wolf Creek, Kin*), **Sophie Lowe** (*Beautiful Kate, Blessed*), **Damian de Montemas** (*Somersault*), **Simon Stone** (*Balibo*) and **Mark Leonard Winter** (*Balibo*). (Distributor: **Pack**; Sales Agent: **Highpoint**). Selected for Toronto 2010.
- **MACHETE MAIDENS UNLEASHED:** From director **Mark Hartley** (*Not Quite Hollywood*) and producer **Veronica Fury**, a documentary on Filipino genre filmmaking – complete with miniature James Bonds, karate kicking soul sisters, anorexic Rambos and gun-toting nuns (Sales Agent: **ABC**). Toronto 2010.
- **MATCHING JACK:** Family drama from Director **Nadia Tass** and Producer **David Parker**, starring **James Nesbitt**, **Jacinda Barrett**, **Richard Roxburgh** and **Kodi Smit-McPhee** (Australian/NZ distributor: 20th Century Fox; World Sales Agent: **Content**). Selected for Toronto 2010.
- **MOTHER OF ROCK:** From director **Paul Clarke** and producer **Robert deYoung**, this feature documentary, narrated by **Judy Davis** with voice acting by **Sasha Harler**, is a lively profile into 1960s New York-based Australian rock journalist **Lillian Roxon**, who authored the *Rock Encyclopedia*, featuring **Germaine Greer**, **Helen Reddy**, **Alice Cooper**, **Iggy Pop**, **Derryn Hinch**, **Molly Meldrum** and **David Malouf**. (Sales: **SBS**). Selected for Toronto 2010.
- **THE WEDDING PARTY:** Romantic comedy from Director **Amanda Jane** and Producer **Nicole Minchin**. Starring **Isabel Lucas** (*Transformers*), **Kestie Morassi** (*Wolf Creek*), **Essie Davis** (*Australia*), **Steve Bisley**, **Adam Zwar**, **Geoff Paine** and **Rhonda Burchmore**. (Sales: **ArcLight**). MIFF 2010 Opening.
 - The **Premiere Fund** slate for **MIFF 2009** comprised the following world premieres:
- **BALIBO:** Political thriller from Director **Robert Connolly** (*The Bank*) and Producer **John Maynard** (*The Boys*), starring **Anthony La Paglia** and **Oscar Isaac**, investigating the 1975 murders of Australian journalists during the Indonesian invasion of East Timor. (Distributor: **Footprint**; Sales: **Content**).
- **BLESSED:** from Director: **Ana Kokkinos** (*Head On*) and Producer **Al Clark** (*Priscilla, Queen of the Desert*), *Blessed*, which stars **Frances O'Connor**, **Miranda Otto**, **Deborra-Lee Furness** and **William McInnes**, is an evocative feature film about mothers and children, love and beauty, being lost and finding your way home. (Australian Distributor: **Icon**; Sales Agent: **Bankside**). Winner of best screenplay at 2009 San Sebastian Film Festival.
- **BRAN NUE DAE:** From Director **Rachel Perkins** (*First Australians, Radiance*) & Producer **Robyn Kershaw** (*Kath & Kim, Looking for Alibrandi*) and starring **Geoffrey Rush**, **Ernie Dingo**, **Magda Szubanski**, **Missy Higgins**, **Deb Mailman**, **Nigall Lawford**, **Tom Budge**, **Dan Sultana** and **Jessica Mauboy**; an adaptation of a popular Aboriginal musical, the film is an upbeat coming-of-age, romantic musical and 1960s road movie featuring the choreography of **Stephen Page**. (World Sales Agent: **Bankside**). MIFF 2009 Closing Night; Selected Toronto 2009 & 2010's Sundance & Berlin.
- **INDONESIA CALLING – JORIS IVENS IN AUSTRALIA:** A signature documentary, from Producer, Director, Writer **John Hughes** (*What I Have Written, After Mabo*), charting a little-told angle on the birth of the Indonesian Republic and the impact of Australian unions and a rogue Film Commissioner and an emerging film industry at a moment of crisis at the end of the age of Empire. (World Sales Agent: **RIGHTS AVAILABLE**).
- **THE LOVED ONES:** from Producer **Mark Lazarus** (*Australian Rules*) and Director/Writer **Sean Byrne** and starring **Xavier Samuel** and **Victoria Thaine**, tells the story of a young man digging himself out his own grave. You don't have to die to go to hell! (Distributor: **Madman**; Sales Agent: **ArcLight**).
 - The **Premiere Fund** slate for **MIFF 2008** included the following world premieres.
- **ANGEL OF THE WIND:** (Producers: **Matt Crosby**, **Tahir Cambis**; Director, **Tahir Cambis**). An exploration of the world of acting, spirituality, national identity and ghosts of the past through the prism of a surrealist vaudevillian theatrical production about the spirits of dead Kamikaze pilots.
- **BASTARDY:** Producer **Philippa Campey**; Director/Writer: **Amiel Courlin-Wilson**. An adventurous portrait of **Jack Charles**, a well-known personality on the streets of Melbourne, colourful fringe-dweller and sometime actor, that journeys into a little-seen side of Melbourne.
- **CELEBRITY: DOMINIC DUNNE:** Executive Producers: **Sue Maslin** (*Japanese Story*) & **Daryl Dellora**; producers/directors/writers: **Tim Jolley** & **Kirsty De Garis**. Set against the backdrop of the Phil Spector trial, *Celebrity* traverses a world of intrigue, showbiz, the US justice system and the cult of celebrity to give the inside scoop on Vanity Fair's celebrated chronicler **Dominick Dunne**. (Sales: **Mercury Media**).
- **NOT QUITE HOLLYWOOD:** Director/Writer: **Mark Hartley**, Producers: **Michael Lynch** & **Craig Griffin**. A seriously entertaining celebration of 1970s Oz-ploitation cinema featuring **Quentin Tarantino**, **Barry Humphries** and **Jamie Lee Curtis**. (Distributor: **Madman**, Sales: **Magnolia**).
- **ROCK & ROLL NERD:** Producer/Director/Writer: **Rhian Skirving**. A rags to riches observational documentary following the meteoric rise to international fame of Melbourne musician and performance artist **Tim Minchin**. (Australian Distributor: **Madman**).
- **WHATEVER HAPPENED TO BRENDA HEAN:** Explores the story of **Brenda Hean**, one of one of the world's first leaders of an environmental party, and her fight to save Tasmania's Lake Pedder, which ends abruptly with her mysterious 1972 disappearance.