

MIFF 37°South Market: BREAKTHRU SCREENINGS and ACCELERATOR EXPRESS PRODUCERS ANNOUNCED

MELBOURNE: 12 July 2011 – Celebrating its fifth edition this year during the opening weekend of the 60th Melbourne International Film Festival (MIFF), **MIFF 37°South Market** has registered 100 producers for **37°South: Bridging the Gap**, selected seven films for the **37°South: Breakthru Screenings** and secured new partnerships with Screen Australia's Springboard program and the South Australian Film Corporation's FilmLab initiative.

MIFF 37°South: Breakthru Screenings showcase selected new Australian/NZ films seeking world sales agents and/or local distribution to invited buyers attending **MIFF 37°South Market**. The producer of each film is registered for **MIFF 37°South: Bridging the Gap** – the market's program of one-to-one meetings with financiers/buyers, plus roundtables and networking events which has a record 100 producers registered this year. The **MIFF 37°South: Breakthru Screenings** 2011 producers are: Genevieve Bailey for *I Am Eleven*, Robert Carter for *Thirst*, Liz DiFiore for *Russian Snark*, Khoa Do for **MIFF Premiere Fund** co-financed *Falling for Sahara*, Winston Furlong for *Taj*, Richard Lowenstein for *Ben Lee: Catch My Disease* and *AutoLuminescent: Rowland S. Howard* and Michael Rymer for *Face to Face*. Previous **MIFF 37°South: Breakthru Screenings** titles to have secured distribution and/or sales agent representation include *The Wedding Party*, *Lake Mungo*, *Blind Company* and *Surviving Georgia*.

Meantime, **MIFF 37°South: Accelerator Express**, which forms a bridge between **MIFF 37°South Market**'s emphasis on market-ready projects and the **MIFF Accelerator** emerging director workshop's emphasis on emerging talent, has been expanded and revamped. Under new **MIFF 37°South Market** partnerships with Screen Australia's Springboard program and the South Australian Film Corporation's FilmLab program, some 12 producers have been selected to attend the market under the **MIFF 37°South: Accelerator Express** program, including Springboard producers Drew Bailey, Pip Campey, Ross Hutchens, Tenille Kennedy, Liz Kearney, Leanne Tonkes and Steve Kearney and FilmLab producers Sue Brown, Kate Croser, David Ngo, Vicki Sugars and Rebecca Summerton.

More than 80 other producers have been selected for **MIFF 37°South: Bridging the Gap** to pitch script-stage project slates, including Yael Bergman (*I Love You Too*), Rosemary Blight (*The Tree*), Robert Connolly (*Balibo*), Trish Lake (*Gettin' Square*), Helen Leake (*Swerve*), Angela Littlejohn (*Apron Strings*), Marian Macgowan (*South Solitary*), Aidan O'Bryan (*Wasted on the Young*), Nicole O'Donohue (*Griff the Invisible*), Cathy Overett (*Unfinished Sky*), Michael Robertson (*The Reef*), Vincent Sheehan (*The Hunter*) and Jonathan Shteinman (*Children of Silk Road*). The number of scheduled one-to-one meetings between producers and financiers at **MIFF 37°South: Bridging the Gap** is increasing 23% to 1,194 from last year's 915 (up 39% on 2009's 723, 50% on 2008's 592 and quadruple 2007's total), while overall meetings across the various strands of **MIFF 37°South Market** (which include **37°South's Books at MIFF** and **37°South: PostScript&Direct**) have increased 23% to 1,542, from last year's 1,182 (up 33% on 2009's 1,041 and up 47% on 2008's 814 and nearly five times 2007's tally).

MIFF 37°South Market, which runs 21-24 July 2011 during the opening weekend of **MIFF's** 60th, is the exclusive Australia/NZ institutional partner of London's **Production Finance Market (PFM)** and Canada's **Strategic Partners**. See www.miff37degreesSouth.com for market details and other **MIFF 37°South Market** co-presented events on every day of **MIFF**, including the **State of Play** film financing panels, the **Adrian Wootton Illustrated Talks**, **Wendall Thomas Talks** **Scripts** workshops, **Mastering Comedy: Francis Veber** masterclasses & lectures, and **Steve Kaplan's Comedy Intensive**. For more information on **MIFF**, including **MIFF 2011** ticket purchases, go to www.miff.com.au

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For all media enquiries and interview opportunities contact Limelight PR
Louise Heseltine | 03 8660 4816 | 0402 054 143 | louise@limelightpr.com.au
Asha Holmes | 03 8660 4815 | 0403 274 299 | asha@limelightpr.com.au
LIMELIGHT PR | PO Box 21199 Little Lonsdale Street, Melbourne, Australia 8011