



# ACCELERATOR LAB WELCOMES MOST DIVERSE INTAKE EVER

## LOGIE AWARD-WINNER ROB COLLINS TO CONDUCT ACTING CLASS

Helping tomorrow's hottest filmmaking talent today, the Melbourne International Film Festival's **MIFF Accelerator Lab** this year welcomes its most diverse emerging director intake ever to the workshop, while nine alumni directors have new films screening in the MIFF 2018 program and the Accelerator Lab Master-class series includes sessions on Acting with *Undertow*'s Rob Collins (from TV's *Glitch* and *Cleverman*) and Composing with *Acute Misfortune*'s Evelyn Morris (better known to some as Melbourne music act Pikelet).

Part of the **MIFF 37°South Market** suite of industry programs, **Accelerator Lab** 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 with a four-day program of talks, screenings, seminars, networking and discussions on the creative and business aspects of the film industry. Over its 15 years, **Accelerator Lab** has fostered some extraordinary talent including: **David Michod** (*Animal Kingdom*); **Sophie Hyde** (*52 Tuesdays*); **Justin Kurzel** (*Snowtown*); **Nash Edgerton** (*Gringo*); **Alethea Jones** (*Fun Mom Dinner*); **Jackie van Beek** (*Breaker Upperers*); **Ben Young** (*Hounds of Love*); and **Taika Waititi** (*Hunt for the Wilderpeople* and *Thor: Ragnarok*).

Occurring during the MIFF Shorts & Centre-Piece Weekend, the mid-point of the Southern Hemisphere's oldest and largest film festival, this year's **Accelerator Lab** has selected to attend the workshop some 18 participants who have short films in the MIFF 2018 program: **Amberley Jo Aumua**, **Leticia Ines Caceres**, **Astrid Dominguez**, **Vanessa Gazy**, **John Harvey**, **Jamie Helmer**, **Gabriel Hutchings**, **Kerinne Jenkins**, **Takumi Kawakami**, **Lucy Knox**, **Lara Kose**, **Michael Leonard**, **Nakkiah Lui**, **Nathan Mewett**, **Robyn Paterson**, **Renee Marie Petropoulos**, **Michelle Savill** and **Curtis Taylor**. Audiences can see the films from these up-and-coming filmmakers in two programs of shorts, **Accelerator 1** on Saturday 11 August and **Accelerator 2** on Sunday 12 August, which are now on sale at [www.miff.com.au](http://www.miff.com.au).

Express admission is offered for a further number of directors via **Accelerator Lab** partnership programs with screen agency special talent initiatives. Participating this year via the South Australian Film Corporation's *Pirru Kuu Writers Room & Aboriginal Production Initiative* are **Natasha Wanganeen** and **Dylan Coleman**; while **Hweiling Ow**, **Hash Perambalam** and **Marina Alofagia McCartney** participate via the New Zealand Film Commission's *Vai Pasifika Female Filmmaker and Women's Horror Film Fund* initiatives. Participating thanks to Create NSW's *Generator Emerging Filmmakers Fund Queer Edition* are **Stef Smith** and **Fadia Abboud**, while **Jub Clerc** participates via ScreenWest's *West Coast Visions*. For more details on 2018's participants visit: <http://miffindustry.com/2018-participants>

With some 74% of this year's 27 participants being female and 29% indigenous, plus 25% LGBTIQ+ and 25% from CALD backgrounds, this year's **Accelerator Lab** cohort is the most diverse ever. Following this year's intake, some 296 directors will have passed through **Accelerator Lab** (for full alumni details see [http://miffindustry.com/alumni\\_update](http://miffindustry.com/alumni_update)) and **Accelerator Lab** is proud that nine of its alumni have films in the MIFF 2018 program, including Accelerator 2012 alumna **Miranda Nation** with the **MIFF Premiere Fund**-supported *Undertow*, 2007's **Nash Edgerton** with *Mr Inbetween*, 2015's **Dylan River** with *Finke: There and Back*, and 2007's **Grant Scicluna** with VR experience *30 Minutes of Danger*.

A select number of **Accelerator Lab** sessions, ideal for students and those seeking to "look behind the curtain" of filmmaking, are open to the public with strictly limited seating. Featuring key creative talent from this year's **MIFF Premiere Fund**-supported titles *Acute Misfortune* and *Undertow*, the sessions, which are now on sale at <http://miff.com.au/industry-public-access-events>, are:

- [EDITING: Julie-Anne De Ruvo & Nick Meyers](#)
- [ACTING: Rob Collins](#)
- [COMPOSING: Evelyn Morris](#)
- [CINEMATOGRAPHY: Bonnie Elliott](#)
- [PRODUCTION & COSTUME DESIGN: Penelope Southgate & Stacey O'Connor](#)
- [SCREEN DIVERSITY: Breaking Barriers & Building Bridges](#)

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

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## ACCELERATOR LAB PARTNERS



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