



MIFF PREMIERE FUND SELECTS FIVE NEW PROJECTS

MELBOURNE, 07 October 2010 – *Falling for Sahara*, *AutoLuminescent*, *Swerve*, *Patrick* and *First Fagin* are the latest productions to receive co-financing offers from the **Melbourne International Film Festival's MIFF Premiere Fund**.

Commencing operations in 2007, the **MIFF Premiere Fund** provides strategic minority financial supports to a range of local documentary and narrative feature films that will have their premieres at MIFF. Details of the new projects are as follows.

- **AutoLuminescent: Rowland S. Howard:** A feature documentary about the turbulent life of influential Australian rock-guitarist and songwriter Rowland S. Howard with directors Richard Lowenstein and Andrew De Groot, who produce along with Lynne-Maree Milburn.
- **Falling for Sahara:** From director (and former Young Australian of the Year) Khoa Do comes a story of new lives – and love – in Australia for African refugees in Melbourne's Flemington flats.
- **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.
- **First Fagin:** A feature documentary from Director Alan Rosenthal, Producer Veronica Fury and Executive Producer Shaun Miller exploring the adventures of one of Australia's most infamous convicts, Ikey Soloman, who inspired Charles Dickens character Fagin from *Oliver Twist*
- **Patrick:** *Machete Maidens Unleashed!* Director Mark Hartley makes his narrative feature debut with a re-imaging of the classic 1970s Australian medical telekinetic thriller. Produced by Tony Ginnane.

This brings to 26 the number of **MIFF Premiere Fund**-supported feature films, including MIFF 2010 and Toronto 2010-selected *Blame*, *Machete Maidens Unleashed!* and *Mother of Rock*. Applications for Round Eleven (11) of the **MIFF Premiere Fund**, which will give priority to projects that can premiere at **MIFF 2012**, opened 06 October and close 28 October with decisions due mid-December. Guidelines and application forms are available at www.miffpremierfund.com.

MIFF Premiere Fund production financing supports include completion/enhancement loans, mini-gap equity investments and matching marketing/distribution advances. The Fund accepts applications from market-ready feature documentary and drama projects whose submissions demonstrate that they: have a strength of connection to Victoria; can premiere at MIFF; have viable co-financing to enable them to go into production in time for a MIFF premiere; will accrue creative, industrial and/or distribution benefits from the Fund's support. In addition to being offered production co-financing, successful **MIFF Premiere Fund** applicants also receive complimentary registration to **MIFF 37°South Market**, MIFF's film co-financing market that occurs in the opening weekend of MIFF. **MIFF Premiere Fund** co-financed titles also receive priority for **37°South: Breakthru Screenings**, showcasing films requiring sales and/or distribution to the market's invited buyers. For more information on **MIFF 37°South Market**, go to www.miff37degreesSouth.com

