



MIFF 37°South MARKET SENDS PRODUCERS TO LONDON AND KICKS-OFF WENDALL THOMAS & ADRIAN WOOTTON SEMINAR SERIES

MELBOURNE: MIFF 37°South Market, the film co-financing event during the opening days of the Melbourne International Film Festival (MIFF), closed its eighth edition on Sunday with the announcement of the producers who were awarded the **MIFF 37°South Market Alliance** places at the UK's **Production Finance Market (PFM)**.

MIFF 37°South Market is the exclusive Australia/NZ partner of the prestigious London **Production Finance Market (PFM)**. Under this alliance, the only three guaranteed Australia/NZ PFM places are reserved for producers attending **MIFF 37°South Market**. Selection for the three **37°South** places at PFM is guided by the votes of international financiers/buyers at **MIFF 37°South Market**.

Thanks to long-time **MIFF 37°South Market** Gold Sponsor **Film Finances**, for the third year running one of the three producers selected for the October PFM received a flight voucher of A\$2,000 towards their trip. The producer winning the PFM place and flight coupon was Emma Slade from New Zealand. The other two producers to win places at the PFM were Steve Kearney and Bridget Callow-Wright from Victoria.

MIFF 37°South Market, Australia's only film co-financing market to be held at a film festival, this year hosted some 46 film financiers/buyers including Arri, EFIC, eOne Australia, Electric, Fulcrum, Global Screen, Goldcrest, Ingenious, Level K, Metrodome, Mongrel, Protagonist, Roadshow, Seville/eOne, Shoreline, Transmission, Wild Bunch, XYZ and Yellow. Meantime, a record 22 publishers attended **37°South's Books at MIFF**, including Fremantle, Hachette, Hardie Grant, Penguin, Random House, Scribe and Text.

The companies met with 97 Australia/NZ producers including John Barnett (*Whale Rider*), Michele Bennett (*Chopper*), Trevor Blainey (*Cut Snake*), Pip Campey (*Galore*), Robert Connolly (*The Turning*), Catherine Fitzgerald (*The Orator*), Veronica Fury (*Electric Boogaloo*), Tony Ginnane (*Patrick*), Bridget Ikin (*My Year Without Sex*), Liz Kearney (*These Final Hours*), Helen Leake (*Wolf Creek 2*), Marian Macgowan (*Death Defying Acts*), Kristian Moliere (*The Babadook*), David Parker (*Matching Jack*), Julie Ryan (*Red Dog*), and Leanne Tonkes (*My Mistress*).

All told, scheduled one-to-one meetings across the market's strands (which include **37°South: Bridging the Gap**, **37°South: PostScript&Direct**, and **37°South's Books at MIFF**) increased 2% to 2,203 from last year's total of 2,156 and were more than seven times 2007's tally. Across the eight editions of the market, more than 11,500 meetings have been scheduled. Additionally, the financiers/buyers viewed completed new Australian/NZ films seeking distribution and/or sales agents at the **37°South: Breakthru Screenings**, including *I Survived a Zombie Holocaust*, *Orphans & Kingdoms*, *Tailgate*, *The Last Saint* and *The PA Boys*, while the **MIFF 37°South: State of Play** panel sessions included In Conversation events with Screen Australia CEO Graeme Mason and Head of Production Sally Caplan.

While **MIFF 37°South Market** itself has concluded, **MIFF 37°South Market** is co-hosting a range of ticketed events open to the general public during the remaining days of MIFF 2014.

Celebrated LA-based developer, writer and lecturer **Wendall Thomas**, who has written and developed projects for the likes of Disney, Warners, Paramount and Universal, returns exclusively to Melbourne for more of her popular series unlocking the secrets of films' script structure with a series of four standalone all-day seminars. For more details, see

<http://miffindustry.com/wendall-thomas-2014>

Presented by **MIFF 37°South Market & Accelerator**, the **Wendall Thomas Talks Scripts** series comprises:



GENRE: THE ROAD TO BROMANCE - Writing the Buddy Film (Mon 04 August, 9.30am-4.30pm).

Beginning with classic duos like Laurel and Hardy, recent box office successes like *21 Jump Street* and *The Heat* prove that the “Buddy” film is as viable as ever, with the likes of *Some Like it Hot*, *Diamonds Are A Girl’s Best Friend*, *Thelma & Louise*, *Men in Black*, *The Wedding Crashers*, and Australian classics *Gallipoli*, *Muriel’s Wedding* and *Proof* continuing and expanding the tradition. This session outlines how to create memorable, polarized characters, how to face the challenges of dual protagonist structure, and how to deliver (or consciously subvert) the classic conventions audiences expect from this enduring genre.

CHARACTER: MENTORS, TRICKSTERS & PAUL GIAMATTI- Writing Unforgettable Secondary Characters (Tue 05 Aug, 9.30am-4.30pm).

This year’s supporting actor Oscar nominees demonstrate the vital part supporting characters play in the best screenplays. It’s hard to imagine *Dallas Buyers Club* without Jared Leto’s Rayon, who joins a pantheon including Marilyn Monroe in *Some Like It Hot*, Jackie Weaver in *Animal Kingdom*, Armin Mueller-Stahl in *Shine* and countless other films. This session explores how to create and use secondary characters to incite and complicate plots, illuminate aspects of the script’s protagonist, and echo and modernize classical archetypes like the mentor, the shape-shifter, and the trickster.

SCENE BY SCENE: MULTI-PROTAGONIST STRUCTURE – Crazy Stupid Love (Wed 06 August, 9.30am-4.30pm).

Multi-protagonist structure is always challenging and *Crazy Stupid Love* offers a perfect case study. This seminar breaks-down Dan Fogelman’s complex romantic comedy scene-by-scene, examining the structure of all 11 storylines and the ways they intersect, discussing economical ways to create memorable characters and character arcs, and finding the overall three-act structure and theme which hold the entire script together.

STORY & STRUCTURE: THE VITAL FIRST ACT: "Grab ‘em by the throat and never let them go." (Thurs 07 August, 9.30am-4.30pm)

Billy Wilder said if there's a problem in the third act, there's a problem in the first act. This session focuses exclusively on the all-important set-up of story, character, genre and tone, drawing on numerous film examples; and examines the importance of the inciting incident and how it relates to the climax of the script, creating empathy with the protagonist; the economical set-up of the script’s world and central conflicts; as well as the pivotal first act break decision which starts the story in earnest; and resisting the impulse to force too much exposition, subplots, and characters into the first 30 pages.

Former British Film Institute and London Film Festival Director **Adrian Wootton** returns exclusively to Melbourne for another series of his acclaimed **Illustrated Film Talks**, this year celebrating major screen culture mavericks, spies and tough guys. For more details, see <http://miff.com.au/program/streams/miff-industry-events>

Presented by **MIFF 37th South Market & Accelerator**, the **Wootton Talks Mavericks** series comprises:

HUMPHREY BOGART: Tough Guy & Romantic Hero (Thurs 7 August: 5pm to 6.30pm)

A late developing actor, Humphrey Bogart (1899-1957) went from second-rank, tough guy gangster roles to become one of Hollywood’s greatest romantic movie hero icons. With a plethora of clips, Wootton explores Bogart’s life and career and the behind-the-scenes stories of classic movies such as *Casablanca*, *The Big Sleep* & *The African Queen*.

PATRICIA HIGHSMITH: From Strangers to Ripley (Fri 8 August: 5pm to 6.30pm)

One of the 20th century’s most influential crime and suspense novelists, the 20 novels of the publicity-shy Patricia Highsmith (1921-1995) inspired numerous screen adaptations including Alfred Hitchcock famously filming her first novel *Strangers on a Train* and her series of *Ripley* stories, plus recent release *The Two Faces of January*. Examining the significance of Highsmith’s work, Wootton plays clips from various adaptations and footage of a rarely-seen documentary about her and recounts his own encounter with the legendary writer.



JOHN LE CARRE: Spy to Page to Celluloid (Saturday 9 August: 10.30am to 12 noon)

John Le Carre (aka David Cornwall) is one of the world's greatest living spy thriller/espionage novelists. His acclaimed and popular body of work has spawned celebrated screen adaptations, ranging from 1965's *The Spy Who Came in From The Cold* to *Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy* and, most recently, *A Most Wanted Man*. Wootton looks at Le Carre's fascinating life (including a stint as a spy), his glittering career and the many classic filmed versions of his books, and describes his own experiences meeting and interviewing Le Carre.

KATHARINE HEPBURN: A Maverick's Diamond Career (Sunday 10 August: 10.30am to 12 noon)

With a career lasting more than 60 years, Katharine Hepburn (1907-2003) was one of Hollywood's greatest stars and the long-time on-and-off-screen romantic companion of Spencer Tracey. Wootton traces the life and sparkling career of this independent and strong-willed intelligent actress, who defied studio bosses and social convention, and plays clips from some of Hepburn's greatest roles like *Bringing Up Baby*, *The African Queen* and *On Golden Pond*.

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