



MIFF 37^oSouth MARKET & ACCELERATOR LAB WRAP LARGEST-EVER INDUSTRY PROGRAM

MIFF 37^oSouth Market & Accelerator Lab has finished its largest-ever industry programs offering at the 68th edition of the Melbourne International Film Festival (MIFF) including the selective producer film financing event **MIFF 37^oSouth Market**, the **Accelerator Lab** for selected emerging directors, and a record 17 ticketed-public-access industry events, as well as debuting the biggest-ever slate of **Premiere Fund**-supported films.

MIFF 37^oSouth MARKET

MIFF 37^oSouth Market, the film co-financing event during the opening weekend of MIFF, in its 13th edition this year hosted some 46 film financiers/buyers, including Bankside, Blue Fox, Charades, CMG, Embankment, Epic, Fulcrum, Great Point Media, Kinology, Koan, Level-K, Madman, MK2, Myriad, Roadshow, Shoreline, Vendetta, VMI, WaZabi, XYZ, and Yellow Veil. Some 32 publishers, including Allen & Unwin, Hachette, Harper Collins, Simon & Schuster, Scribe and Text, registered for **37^oSouth's Books at MIFF**, which included a case study on the adaptation of award-winning novel *My Life as an Alphabet* into the MIFF 2019 world-debuting **Premiere Fund**-supported film *H is for Happiness*.

The market this year registered a record 127 Australia/NZ producers including John Barnett (*Whale Rider*), Jannine Barnes (*Downriver*), Nick Batzias (*Australian Dream*), Trevor Blainey (*Cut Snake*), Tait Brady (*Suzi Q*), Jason Byrne (*Brothers Nest*), Kristina Ceyton (*Babadook*), Rachel Clements (*Songkeepers*), Richard Fletcher (*Daffodils*), Veronica Fury (*Electric Boogaloo*), Tony Ginnane (*Patrick*), Jamie Hilton (*Breath*), Sam Jennings (*Cargo*), Liz Kearney (*The Turning*), Steve Kearney (*Oddball*), Trish Lake (*Eulogy*), Robin Laing (*Perfect Strangers*), Helen Leake (*Wolf Creek 2*), Angela Littlejohn (*The Changeover*), Maggie Miles (*Van Diemen's Lane*), David Ngo (*Rabbit*), Aidan O'Bryan (*Other Life*), David Parker (*Malcom*), David Redman (*Spin Out*), Matt Reeder (*Joe Cinque's Consolation*), Michael Robertson (*The Reef*), Tim Sanders (*Perfect Creature*), Lisa Shaunessy (*Killing Ground*), Rebecca Summerton (*52 Tuesdays*).

All told, scheduled one-to-one meetings across the market's strands (which include **37^oSouth: Bridging the Gap**, **37^oSouth: PostScript&Direct**, and **37^oSouth's Books at MIFF**) increased 6% from last year to 2,990. Across the 13 editions of the market, more than 25,065 meetings have been scheduled. Additionally, the buyers viewed completed new Australian/NZ films seeking distribution and/or sales agents at the **37^oSouth: Breakthru Screenings**, including **MIFF Premiere Fund**-supported films *No Time For Quiet*, and *A Family*, while **MIFF 37^oSouth: State of Play** panel sessions included a special analysis on the box office success of Sony's *Ladies In Black*, the launch of Screen Australia's new indigenous strategy, an in-conversation with Screen Territory's new CEO, panels on diversity and gender issues, and case studies on the financing of key **Premiere Fund**-supported films.

MIFF 37^oSouth 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^oSouth Market**. Selection for the three **37^oSouth** places at PFM is guided by the votes of international financiers/buyers at **MIFF 37^oSouth Market**. Thanks to long-time **MIFF 37^oSouth Market** Gold Sponsor **Film Finances**, one of the three producers selected for the October PFM received a flight voucher of A\$2,000 towards their trip and the other two \$1000 each. The producer winning the PFM place and flight coupon was **Martha Coleman** from Sydney, while the other two producers to win places at the PFM were **Meredith Garlick** from Brisbane and **Julie Ryan** from Adelaide.

MIFF Accelerator Lab

Meantime, helping tomorrow's hottest filmmaking talent today, **MIFF Accelerator Lab** welcomed one its most diverse emerging director intakes ever to the workshop, with 48% of this year's selected 33 participants being female and 42% First Nations, plus 33% LGBTIQ+ and 18% from CALD backgrounds. Part of the **MIFF 37^oSouth Market** suite of industry programs, **Accelerator Lab** is an intensive workshop that helps invited 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.

Occurring during the MIFF Shorts & Centre-Piece Weekend, the mid-point of the Southern Hemisphere's oldest and largest film festival, this year the 16th edition of **Accelerator Lab** selected to attend the workshop some 13 participants who have short films in the MIFF 2019 program: **Paddy Hay; Kimia Hendi; Dannika Horvat; Sam Lara; Anoop Lokkur; Charlotte Mars; Seamus Murphy; Chantelle Murray; Jamieson Pearce; Chelsie Preston-Crayford; Matthew Smolen; Jeremiah Tauamiti; and Claire van Beek**. Express admission was offered for a further number of directors via **Accelerator Lab** partnership programs with screen agency special talent initiatives. For details on 2019's participants see: www.miffindustry.com/2019-participants

Over its 15 years, **Accelerator Lab** has fostered some extraordinary talent including: **David Michod** (*Animal Kingdom*); **Sophie Hyde** (*52 Tuesdays*); **Justin Kurzel** (*Snowtown*); **Jackie van Beek** (*Breaker Upperers*); **Ben Young** (*Hounds of Love*); and **Taika Waititi** (*Hunt for the Wilderpeople* and *Thor: Ragnarok*) and, following this year's intake, some 328 directors will have passed through **Accelerator Lab** (for full alumni details see http://miffindustry.com/alumni_update). This year, 15 alumni directors had new films selected for the MIFF 2019 screening program, including: feature films from **Hamish Bennett** (*Bellbird*), **Sophie Hyde** (*Animals*), **Kasimir Burgess** (*The Leunig Fragments*), and **Mirrah Foulkes** (*Judy & Punch*); and short films from **Qiu Yang** (*She Runs*), **Jessica Barclay-Lawton** (*Living Room*), **John Harvey** (*Out of Range*), **Trevor Anderson** (*Docking*), and **Lewis Attey** (*Three Stories Inside a Rental Van*), while **Amberley Jo Aumua** and **Marina Alofagia McCartney** contributed chapters to Kiwi anthology film *Vai*.

MIFF PREMIERE FUND:

Meantime, a record slate of seven films supported by the **MIFF Premiere Fund** debuted at the festival, including four features from **Accelerator Lab** alumni: **John Sheedy's** *H is for Happiness* (as MIFF 2019 Family Gala); **Maziar Lahooti's** *Below* (in the prestigious first Saturday slot); **Rodd Rathjen's** *Buoyancy* (having won a prize at Berlin); and **Jayden Stevens' A Family**, which won the inaugural **MIFF Premiere Fund Damian Hill Independent Film Award** that honors the memory of the late actor-filmmaker and celebrates independent filmmakers who make films that matter with passion, determination and ingenuity. The Award was presented during the world premiere of fellow **Premiere Fund**-supported film *Measure for Measure*, which Hill co-wrote with director Paul Ireland. **Premiere Fund**-supported feature documentaries *No Time for Quiet* and *Iron Fists & Kung Fu Kicks* also world premiered at MIFF 2019.

37^oSouth & Accelerator Lab Public-Access Events:

Award-winning *Hounds of Love* and **MIFF Premiere Fund**-supported *H is for Happiness* actor **Emma Booth** and famed acting coach to the stars **Miranda Harcourt** joined acclaimed Hollywood-based story consultant **Bobette Buster** and London-based film culture tsar **Adrian Wootton** in headlining the biggest-ever collection of ticketed-and-open-to-the-public talks and seminars from **37^oSouth & Accelerator Lab**. Suitable for film and media students, aspiring and existing screen practitioners, and film culture aficionados, a full overview of these 17 events is at <http://miffindustry.com/2019-ticketed-events>

- **BOBETTE BUSTER: WHAT'S THE STORY?** **Buster**, an author and script/story consultant to the likes of Disney, Pixar, BBC and former creative executive for Hollywood greats Tony Scott (*The Good Wife*), Ray Stark (*Steel Magnolias*) and Larry Gelbart (*Tootsie*), presented five seminars exploring the factors – in scriptwriting, screen craft and people's senses – that help take storytelling to the next level:
 - **Tell Your Story So the World Listens: 10 Proven Concepts**
 - **Deconstructing Master Filmmakers: Jordan Peele's *Get Out***

- **Cinema’s Invisible Partners: How Sound and the Senses Tell Your Story**
- **The Uses of Wonder: Ask the Right Questions of Your Story**
- **Listen-Up: How Really Listening Enhances Story**
- **ADRIAN WOOTTON: ILLUSTRATED FILM TALKS** Wootton, a former British Film Institute and London Film Festival Director, focused on four **Musical Movie Legends** - recounting these unique stars’ enthralling lives and careers, accompanied by swathes of film clips and images from their personal and professional histories:
 - **SAMMY DAVIS JR: Breaking Barriers**
 - **BARBRA STREISAND: Diva & Activist**
 - **DAVID BOWIE: Iconoclastic Genius**
 - **MARILYN MONROE: Enduring Pop-Icon**
- **MIRANDA HARCOURT: ACTING UP** Praised by **Nicole Kidman** as “*intuitive, unique, amazing*” and by **Peter Jackson** as “*at the top of her field*”, acting coach **Harcourt** delivered two workshops focused on achieving great performance:
 - **Directors Working with Actors**
 - **Actors Working with Directors**
- **SCRIPT LIVE!** For the first time, **37°South** presented a live script-reading of a project seeking finance at the market.
- **ACCELERATOR LAB: BEHIND THE SCENES** Peeking behind the curtain to uncover the secrets of film production with key creative talents, including from this year’s **MIFF Premiere Fund**-supported films **H is for Happiness**, **Measure for Measure**, **Below** and **Buoyancy**, with five sessions:
 - **CINEMATOGRAPHY: Bryan Mason**
 - **SCREEN DIVERSITY: Breaking Barriers & Building Bridges**
 - **EDITING: Johanna Scott**
 - **ACTING: Emma Booth & Daisy Axon**
 - **PRODUCTION & COSTUME DESIGN: Bethany Ryan & Zohie Castellano**

www.miffindustry.com

MIFF 37°South Market:

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GOLD SUPPORTERS: Film Finances | Fulcrum Film Finance | New Zealand Film Commission | ScreenWest

MIFF Accelerator Lab:

LEAD PARTNERS



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