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CELEBRATING 12 YEARS OF ACCELERATOR

MIFF TALENT CAMPUS PARTNERS WITH LEXUS & WEINSTEIN COMPANY IN TALENT SEARCH

MIFF Accelerator, the film director professional development program of the Melbourne International Film Festival (MIFF), celebrates its 12th edition with 13 alumni directors featured in the MIFF 2015 program as well as joining with **Lexus Short Films & The Weinstein Company** in the search for the talent of tomorrow.

Lexus Short Films is currently accepting submissions from filmmakers worldwide until 25 October via film festival website Withoutabox. **Lexus Short Films** will select four filmmakers to each write and direct a short film produced by **The Weinstein Company** and participate in a tour of top film festivals around the world to promote their films. The theme for the new short films will be "Anticipation" and the four selected filmmakers will be invited to interpret the meaning for their own narrative and to tell a story based around their vision.

Helping tomorrow's hottest filmmaking talent today, **MIFF Accelerator** 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. A part of the **MIFF 37th South Market** suite of industry programs, **MIFF Accelerator's** four-day program commences with the **MIFF Accelerator-Screen Australia Talent of Tomorrow Function**, in association with **Lexus Short Films & The Weinstein Company**, which introduces the MIFF Accelerator "class of 2015" to the film industry, and comprises talks, screenings, seminars, networking and discussions on the creative and business aspects of the film industry.

Over its 12 years, MIFF Accelerator has fostered some extraordinary talent including: **David Michod** (Accelerator 2007), who went on to direct the multi-award winning box office hit **Animal Kingdom**; **Matthew Bate** (2008), who directed the acclaimed Sundance 2011-selected feature documentary **Shut Up Little Man, An Audio Misadventure**; and **Justin Kurzel** (2005), who directed the celebrated Cannes 2011-selected **Snowtown**. Following this year's intake, some 210 directors will have passed through the exclusive Accelerator program – for a detailed listing of alumni see http://miffindustry.com/alumni_update

This year **MIFF Accelerator** is proud to welcome back 13 Alumni to the MIFF program, including the following features: the world premiere of MIFF Premiere Fund-supported *Downriver* from **Grant Scicluna** (Accelerator 2007); *Sucker* from **Ben Chessell** (2004); *Graceful Girls* from **Olivia Peniston-Bird** (2010); and *Stories I Want to Tell You in Person* from Erin White (2005).

This year's Australian Shorts program features seven Accelerator Alumni: **Rodd Rathjen** (2011) with *Sweat*; **Corrie Chen** (2009) with *Reg Makes Contact*; **Darlene Johnson** (2007) with *Bluey*; **Rebecca Peniston-Bird** (2013) with *Goodnight Sweetheart*; **David Eastaer** (2011) with *Monaco*; **Rudolf Fitzgerald-Leonard** (2012) with *Coral*; and **Qiu Yang** (2014) with *Under The Sun*. Two Accelerator alumni have shorts elsewhere in the MIFF program: **Matt Richards** (2014) with *The Disappearance Of Willie Bingham* and **Raphael Elisha** (2012) with *Albert*.

Occurring during the MIFF Shorts & Centre-Piece Weekend, the mid-point of the Southern Hemisphere's oldest and largest film festival, this year's **MIFF's Accelerator** has 18 participants who have short films at MIFF 2015 as follows: **Dylan River** (*Nulla Nulla*); **Nora Niasari** (*The Phoenix*); **Ruby Railey** (*The Best Way To Kill Your Mother*); **David White** (*Killer?*); **Sanjay de Silva** (*Maalu*); **Larissa Behrendt** (*Under Skin, In Blood*), **David Hansen** (*Slingshot*); **Tess Hutson** (*Euxine*); **Ted Wilson** (*Family Holiday*); **Isaac Wall** (*Looking To Buy*); **Tracey Rigney** (*Man Real*); **Jem Rankin** (*Cherokee*); **Meelisha Bardolia** (*Match*); **Florence Noble** (*Things Are Going Really Well*); **Michael Portway** (*Wawi*); **Tim Marshall** (*Followers*); **Keiran Watson-Bonnice** (*Caravan*) and **Christian Rivers** (*Feeder*).

Audiences can see these up-and-coming filmmakers in two programs of shorts: **Accelerator 1** on Saturday 08 August at 4pm (repeating Sunday 16 August at 11am) and **Accelerator 2** on Sunday 09 August at 4pm (repeating Sunday 16 August at 1.30pm). Bookings are at: www.miff.com.au.

MIFF Accelerator also offers express admission for a limited number of directors in partnership programs. This year, the following four directors are participating via Screen Australia's Hot Shots program: **Matthew Richards, Lucy Gaffy, Sarah-Jane Woulahan,** and **Corrie Jones**, while director **Chris Richards-Scully** is participating as part of the ScreenWest West Coast Visions program.

For more information on **MIFF Accelerator** participants visit: <http://miffindustry.com/2015-participants>

www.miffaccelerator.com

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MIFF Accelerator Workshop Partners:



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