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13TH ACCELERATOR WRAPS

29 NEW DIRECTORS – more than 50% of them female - JOIN WORKSHOP ALUMNI

MIFF Accelerator, the film director professional development program held during the Melbourne International Film Festival (MIFF), has concluded its 13th edition by welcoming into its glittering alumni some 29 new directors – with more than 50% of them female.

Helping tomorrow's hottest filmmaking talent today, **MIFF Accelerator** is an intensive workshop that helps selected short filmmakers advance their skills, craft and contacts for their transition to feature-length film directing. A part of the **MIFF 37th South Market** suite of industry programs, **MIFF Accelerator** included the **MIFF Accelerator-Screen Australia Talent of Tomorrow Function**, in association with **FACB**, which introduced the MIFF Accelerator "class of 2016" to the film industry, and then continued with four days of talks, screenings, seminars, networking and discussions on the creative and business aspects of the film industry. Key MIFF Accelerator workshop guests this year included Sundance Programmers John Nein and Hussain Currimbhoy, Untitled Entertainment's Jennifer Levine, Shanahan's Sarah Nathan and Sally McLennan, Bankside's Hilary Davis, Roadshow's Joel Pearlman, Soundfirm's Ross Mitchell, actor David Field, editor Simon Njoo, composer Cezary Skubiszewski, producer Andrew Mason and more!

Anchored around the MIFF Shorts & Centre-Piece Weekend, the mid-point of the Southern Hemisphere's oldest and largest film festival, this year's **Accelerator** had 18 participants who had short films at MIFF 2016 as follows: **Alice Englert** (*The Boyfriend Game*); **Eddie Diamandi** (*Emily*); **Elizabeth Fermanis** (*Hospitality*); **Goran Stolevski** (*You Deserve Everything*); **Ivan Barge** (*Madam Black*); **Jordan Bond** and **Lachlan Ryan** (*Big City*), **Eli Kent** and **Leon Wadham** (*Moving*); **Luci Schroder** (*Slapper*); **Natalie Erika James** (*Creswick*); **Patrick McBain** (*Slug*); **Shannon Murphy** (*Eaglehawk*); **Tim Egan** (*Curve*); **Yamin Tun** (*Wait*); **Emily Dynes** (*St. Elmo*); **Brendon McDonall** (*The Dam*); and **Jennifer Perrott** (*The Ravens*).

MIFF Accelerator also offered express admission for a number of directors in partnership programs. **Beth Armstrong**, **Brooke Goldfinch** and **Julietta Boscolo** participated via the *Australian Directors' Guild Gender Careers* initiative supported by Screen Australia's Gender Matters, while **Nathalie Boltt**, **Kirsty Hamilton** and **Renae Maihi** participated via the *NZ Film Commission's Talent Express*. **Briony Kidd** and **Rebecca Thomson** participated via *Screen Tasmania's Pitch Plot Produce* initiative, **Brendon Skinner** and **Simon Williams** South Australian Film Commission's *iView* initiative, while **Stephen McCallum** participated as part of the *ScreenWest West Coast Visions* program.

Over its 13 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***; **Sophie Hyde** (2007), who directed the acclaimed Sundance 2014 prize-winning ***52 Tuesdays***; and **Justin Kurzel** (2005), who directed the celebrated Cannes 2011-selected ***Snowtown***. Following this year's intake, some 239 directors will have passed through the exclusive Accelerator program – for a detailed listing of alumni see http://miffindustry.com/alumni_update

Accelerator Workshop Partners & Supporters:

Screen Australia | Film Victoria | New Zealand Film Commission | First Australian Completion Bond company (FACB) | Australian Film Radio TV School (AFTRS) | Soundfirm

2016 Accelerator Express Partners:

Australian Directors' Guild | NZ Film Commission | Screen Tasmania | ScreenWest | South Australian Film Corporation
Accelerator acknowledges the support of the William Angliss Charitable Fund.

For more information on **MIFF Accelerator** participants visit: <http://miffindustry.com/2016-participants>

www.miffaccelerator.com

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