

TINSELTOWN TRAILBLAZERS & MOVIE MAKING MAGIC

BAZ, BOWIE, CHER, ELVIS, MARK COLES-SMITH & TASMA WALTON HEADLINE MIFF INDUSTRY TICKETED TALKS

Inspired by all the films at the 70th Melbourne International Film Festival (MIFF) and now want to peek behind the curtain to marvel at the magic of moviemaking mechanics? Then look no further than the ticketed sessions (available to the general public) at [Behind the Scenes](#) and [Illustrated Film Talks](#) presented by [MIFF Industry's 37°South & Accelerator Lab](#).

In a year of milestones, MIFF staging its 70th edition is just one reason for cheer! Another is the return of former London Film Festival & British Film Institute director **Adrian Wootton OBE**, celebrating the 10th Melbourne instalment of his illustrious [Illustrated Film Talks](#). In this year's lectures, already acclaimed from outings at **London's Barbican** and **New York's Lincoln Centre**, film historian Wootton celebrates the extraordinary lives and careers of four amazingly talented Hollywood legends, whose enduring iconic status – and endless capacity for reinvention – transcend their various milestones: **Cher** (whose career clocks 60 years); **Elvis** (who left the building 45 years ago) and **David Bowie** (some 60 years after his professional debut); and Australia's own **Baz Luhrmann** (and his 30 years in film).

Meantime, creative talents from the MIFF [Premiere Fund](#)-supported [Sweet As](#), which world premieres in MIFF-70's prestigious **Headliners** strand, share secrets of their craft in [Behind the Scenes](#) with sessions on **Editing (Katie Milwright)**, **Cinematography (Katie Flaxman)** and **Acting with Mark Coles-Smith** (*Last Cab to Darwin*) and **Tasma Walton** (*Mystery Road*).

Available to book [here](#), the *Wootton Talks Tinseltown Trailblazers* series comprises:

- [Luhmann: 30 Years of Strictly Baz!](#)

(NGVA Theatre, Monday 08 August- 5.15pm to 7.15pm)

A long-time Luhrmann admirer, Wootton celebrates the recent release of Baz's *Elvis* biopic as just the latest in a string of contemporary classics, that includes *Strictly Ballroom*, *Romeo + Juliet*, *Moulin Rouge*, and *Great Gatsby*, and goes behind the scenes revealing stories of their making and reflects on the talented Australian filmmaker's life and work.

- [Cher: Strong Enough for 60 Years](#)

(NGVA Theatre, Tuesday 09 August- 5.15pm to 7.15pm)

Pop diva, stage & screen star, gay icon, cultural giant and comeback queen – Wootton explores the dramatic life and career of Cher, who, in the 60 years since her 1962 debut as a backup singer for the likes of the Crystals, Ronettes and Righteous Brothers, has become one of the best-selling recording artists ever (with 100 million records sold and a Billboard #1 single in every decade) as well as having an accomplished acting career with three Golden Globes and an Oscar (for *Moonstruck*) to her name.

- [Elvis: Enduring Icon 45 Years Later](#)

(Village Roadshow Theatre at State Library Victoria, Wednesday 10 August- 5pm to 7pm).

Some 45 years after he left the building, the King of Rock n Roll continues to inspire admirers, imitators and lookalikes. Baz Luhrmann's new *Elvis* biopic is a reminder of his enduring cultural impact and relevance as musician, performer and American icon. Wootton, a renowned Elvis aficionado and past president of the UK Elvis Fan Club who was intimately involved in curating film & TV celebrations of Elvis' Hollywood career for the BFI and Turner Classic Movies, looks back on Elvis' lucrative silver-screen career that saw him become Hollywood's highest-paid actor, save screen musicals and reinvent his own live-performance career.

- [Bowie: 60 Years of Genius](#)

(Village Roadshow Theatre at State Library Victoria, Thursday 11 August- 5pm to 7pm).

Celebrating MIFF's special IMAX presentation of Brett Morgen's highly anticipated David Bowie documentary, [Moonage Daydream](#), Wootton explores the dazzling career and complex life of the iconoclastic, multi-awarded English songwriter, rock star, performer, fashion icon, and stage & screen actor who was hailed as the Picasso of Pop and Master of Reinvention.

Available to book [here](#), this year's ***Behind the Scenes*** series comprises:

- **[Editing: Katie Flaxman](#)**
(Friday 12 August, 9:15 – 10:30; ACMI Gandal Lab)

The art and secrets of film editing are explored in this session with Katie Flaxman, who edited [Accelerator Lab](#) alumna director Jub Clerc's [Premiere Fund](#)–supported ***Sweet As***, which world-premiered at MIFF-70 in the prestigious **Headliners** strand. Flaxman's previous credits include the Sundance-selected *Killing Ground* (MIFF 2016), the documentary *Freeman* and the ABC-TV comedy series *Fisk*.

- **[Acting: Mark Coles Smith & Tasma Walton](#)**
(Sat 13 Aug 9am – 10:15am; ACMI Cinema 2)

Fresh from their roles in the MIFF [Premiere Fund](#)–supported ***Sweet As***, which world-premiered at MIFF-70 in the prestigious **Headliners** strand, **Mark Coles Smith** and **Tasma Walton** explore the unique relationship and dynamic between actors, directors and cameras. Coles Smith has worked across film, TV and theatre, with credits including the films *Pawno* (MIFF 2015), *Beneath Hill 60* and the Toronto-selected *Last Cab to Darwin*; TV series *Mystery Road: Origin* and *The Circuit*; and a Helpmann Award–winning turn in the stage-play of *The Drover's Wife*, whilst Walton's key roles include the films *How to Please a Woman* and *Blessed* (MIFF Premiere Fund, 2009) and TV series *Rake*, *Mystery Road* and *Cleverman*.

- **[Cinematography: Katie Milwright](#)**
(Sat 13 August, 2pm–3pm; ACMI Gandal Lab)

The craft of cinematography is explored by director of photography Katie Milwright, whose diverse credits include Ben Elton's *Three Summers* (MIFF 2017), Venice-selected *Looking for Grace*, feature documentary *Gurrumul*, Sky/Foxtel series *Upright* and [Accelerator Lab](#) alumna director Jub Clerc's [Premiere Fund](#)–supported ***Sweet As***, which world-premiered in the prestigious **Headliners** strand at MIFF-70.

Staged by **MIFF Industry**, open to the general public, and suitable for all film culture aficionados, media students, aspiring filmmakers, existing screen practitioners, and more, [Behind the Scenes](#) and [Illustrated Film Talks](#) tickets are now on sale [here](#).

Media Release: For Immediate Release

Limited Interview opportunities available with Adrian Wootton OBE.

Contact:

Andrew Goode (MIFF Industry)

industryadmin@miff.com.au

M: 0466993254

MIFFINDUSTRY.COM

PRINCIPAL GOVERNMENT PARTNER

MAJOR GOVERNMENT PARTNER



VICSCREEN

