



Stories that need telling ...

Premiere Fund Round 62: Open for Submissions

Seeking MIFF 2023 and 2024 premieres, Round 62 of the [MIFF Premiere Fund](#) is open for submissions - with applications closing Tuesday 11 October 2022.

Click [here](#) to see the highlights reel of the **Premiere Fund**, which provides minority co-financing to support production of new Australian feature films that will then premiere at MIFF. Funded by the Victorian State Government since 2007, and focusing on "Stories that need telling," the Premiere Fund has supported [more than 90 projects](#) to date.

Premiere Fund-supported films are frequently amongst the most popular at MIFF - and the recent 70th edition was no exception with five **Premiere Fund** titles making it into the top 10 most popular films as voted by the MIFF 2022 audience from the festival's more than 370-strong program (including 257 features). Coming-in at number ten was [OF AN AGE](#), at number nine was [FRANKLIN](#) (from **Accelerator Lab** alumnus [Kasimir Burgess](#) and currently in cinemas), whilst [SWEET AS](#) was the eighth most popular film and in third place was [VOLCANO MAN](#).

Special congratulations to **GoodThing Productions**, whose [GREENHOUSE BY JOOST](#) was crowned by MIFF audiences as the most popular film at the 2022 festival. The film releases next month with a [line-up of exciting Q&A events](#).

The **Premiere Fund** had a record [11-titles](#) on its [slate](#) for MIFF 2022, with key themes including environmentalism and sustainability, the housing crisis, diversity, inclusion, coming-of-age, and the desire for human connection; 63% of the slate's titles had regional themes/shoots, 54% youth themes, a third had LGBTQ+ themes/major characters, 45% Culturally And Linguistically Diverse (CALD) themes/major characters, 27% First Nations' themes/major characters, and a third of the films significantly featured languages other than English. **Accelerator Lab** alumni directed one-third of this year's **Premiere Fund** slate, 63% of which had female directors and 54% had female producers, whilst 45% had creative principals from CALD backgrounds, 27% had LGBTQ+ creative principals, and 9% First Nations.

[Apply Now for Round 62](#)

OF AN AGE Wins \$100,000 Film Prize



Congratulations to MIFF [Accelerator Lab](#) alumnus director [Goran Stolevski](#), whose [Premiere Fund](#)-supported [OF AN AGE](#) won the \$100,000 Film Prize at WA's Cinefest Oz, following its world premiere at MIFF's landmark 70th edition where it played as the Opening Night Gala film and was hailed by [Guardian Australia](#) as a "modern queer classic".

Produced by **Causeway Films'** [Kristina Ceyton](#) and [Samantha Jennings](#), the [critically-lauded](#) [OF AN AGE](#) is the fifth **Premiere Fund**-supported film (after [NITRAM](#) from **Accelerator Lab** alumnus [Justin Kurzel](#), [HIS FOR HAPPINESS](#) from **Accelerator Lab** alumnus [John Sheedy](#), [PAPER PLANES](#) from [Robert Connolly](#) and [Nicole Ma's](#) [PUTUPARRI & THE RAINMAKERS](#)) to win Cinefest's annual Film Prize, which has run for eight years.

Accolades and Deals for SWEET AS



Congratulations to MIFF [Accelerator Lab](#) alumna [Jub Clerc](#) whose [Premiere Fund](#)-supported and [ArenaMedia](#)-produced [SWEET AS](#) has charmed juries and dealmakers at home and abroad during its world premiere season.

Following its world premiere at the 70th MIFF in the prestigious [Headliners](#) section, the film won MIFF's inaugural \$70,000 Blackmagic Design Australian Innovation Award that recognises an outstanding Australian creative from a film in the MIFF program.

At the same time as the film's public screenings in Melbourne and regional Victoria during its [MIFF premiere season](#), [SWEET AS](#) featured in the line-up of [37 South Market's Breakthru Screenings](#), after which it was acquired by major distributor Roadshow Films for Australia/NZ release while international rights were picked-up by highly-respected sales agent Sphere Films (previously WaZabi).

[SWEET AS](#) then had its international premiere in the [Discovery](#) section at the Toronto International Film Festival where it became the first Australian film to win the Network for the Promotion of Asian Cinema (NETPAC) Award for best Asian Feature Film with the jury praising the film as "a model road film with great locations and a strong cast ... dealing with family, friendship, inspiration and self-identity".



Congratulations to [ABLAZE](#) which has been nominated as one of the six films in the running for the Australian Academy of Cinema & TV Arts (AACTA) 2022 Best Feature Documentary Award, the winner of which will be announced at the AACTA awards ceremony in December. [ABLAZE](#) is presently showing on ABC-TV's [View](#).

Congratulations also to **Accelerator Lab** alumnus [Adrian Francis](#) who won Best Emerging Australian Director and Best Melbourne Documentary awards at the recent 7th Melbourne Documentary Film Festival for his film [PAPER CITY](#), which world premiered at MIFF 2021 and its international premiere followed earlier this year at the Santa Barbara International Film Festival.



AccLab Alumni in the Spotlight at MIFF's 70th

Congratulations to the record 19 **Accelerator Lab alumni**, who had 15 titles play at the recent 70th edition of MIFF, including [Alena Lodkina](#) (whose film [PETROL](#) was the first **Premiere Fund**-supported title to compete for the \$140,000 Bright Horizons Prize in the newly-introduced [MIFF Awards](#) and also was the first Australian film in 26 years to play in competition at the Locarno Film Festival, where sales agent [Aliief](#) acquired international rights), [Stef Smith](#) (with the 12-part short-form series [IT'S FINE, I'M FINE](#), which was also the only Australian work selected for 2022's CannesSeries), [Michelle Savill](#) ([MILLIE LIES LOW](#)), [Amiel Courtin-Wilson](#) ([MAN ON EARTH](#)), [Kasimir Burgess](#) (whose **Premiere Fund**-supported [FRANKLIN](#) featured as the First Night Film across MIFF's nine-town regional program), [Jub Clerc](#) ([SWEET AS](#)) and [Rudolf Fitzgerald-Leonard](#) with short film [TREMOR](#).

Special mentions to alumni with double-entries in the festival: [David Easteal](#) with [THE PLAINS](#) and short film [MONACO](#); [Eddie Martin](#) with [WE WERE ONCE KIDS](#) and [FIRE FRONT](#); [Goran Stolevski](#) (who hails AccLab's role in his career [here](#)) with [OF AN AGE](#) and [YOU WON'T BE ALONE](#); and [Tracey Rigney](#) with short film [ENDANGERED](#) and [WE ARE STILL HERE](#), an Australia-New Zealand First Nations anthology film also directed by AccLab alumni [Chantelle Burgoyne](#), [Danielle MacLean](#), [Dena Curtis](#), [Mario Gaoa](#), [Miki Magasiva](#), [Renae Maihi](#), [Richard Curtis](#), and [Tim Worrall](#).

AccLab is made possible by multi-year funding from Principal Government Partners [Screen Australia](#) and [VicScreen](#) and Major Government Partner the [City of Melbourne](#), as well as support from Official Government Partner the [New Zealand Film Commission \(NZFC\)](#), and key partners [FACB](#) (the First Australian Completion Bond Company) and [AFTRS](#) (the Australian Film, TV & Radio School). [ScreenNSW](#) and the [South Australian Film Corporation](#) this year joined [VicScreen](#) and [NZFC](#) as partners for [AccLab Express](#).

AccLab Alumni at TIFF

Congratulations to AccLab alumnus director [Dylan River](#), whose six-part [MYSTERY ROAD: ORIGIN](#) had its international premiere in the [Prime Time](#) section of the recent Toronto International Film Festival, where [Jub Clerc's](#) [SWEET AS](#) also had its international premiere (details above).

AccLab Alumni Make Impact

Congratulations to **Accelerator Lab alumni** [Jordan Prosser](#) and [Dannika Horvat](#), both from Victoria, who are amongst just nine creatives selected from across Australia for the [Impact Australia](#) eight-week intensive project development program whose supporters include [Screen Australia](#), [VicScreen](#) and the [University of Melbourne](#).

