



The [MIFF Premiere Fund](#) provides minority co-financing to new Australian quality narrative-drama and documentary feature films that then premiere at the Melbourne International Film Festival (MIFF). Seeking out [Stories That Need Telling](#), the [Premiere Fund](#) deepens MIFF's relationship with filmmaking talent and builds a pipeline of quality Australian content for MIFF. Launched at [MIFF 2007](#), the [Premiere Fund](#) has committed to more than 100 projects.

➤ The [Premiere Fund](#) slate for [MIFF 2024](#) comprises the following:

- **AUDREY:** When her daughter selfishly falls into a coma, Ronnie has no choice but to keep their stardom dreams alive by assuming her identity. From director [Natalie Bailey](#), and producers [Dan Lake](#) ([Early Winter](#)) and [Michael Wrenn](#) ([6 Festivals](#)). (Distributor: Rialto; Sales: Bankside)
- **ELLIS PARK:** Feature documentary concerning famed musician [Warren Ellis](#), taking stock of his life during the Covid years and setting-up an animal sanctuary in Sumatra. Directed and written by [Justin Kurzel](#) ([Nitram](#)), produced by [Nick Batzias](#) ([The Australian Dream](#)) and [Charlotte Wheaton](#) ([Off Country](#)), with EP [Virginia Whitwell](#) ([Greenhouse by Joost](#)).
- **INSIDE:** When a soon-to-be-paroled inmate manipulates a juvenile into murdering Australia's infamous never-to-be released prisoner, a transformative paternal love triangle forms, with shocking consequences for all. From director [Charles Williams](#) ([All These Creatures](#)) and producer [Marian Macgowan](#) ([The Great](#)). (Distributor: Bonsai; Sales: Goodfellas).
- **LEFT WRITE HOOK:** For eight survivors of childhood sexual abuse, a ground-breaking program turns into a journey of recovery, transformation and friendship in this documentary from director [Shannon Owen](#) and producers [Alice Burgin](#) and [Gal Greenspan](#) ([Moja Vesna](#)). (Distributor: Bonsai)
- **MAGIC BEACH:** A hybrid live action-animation anthology adaptation of Alison Lester's iconic children's book. From producer [Liz Kearney](#) ([Sweet As](#)) and producer/director [Robert Connolly](#) ([Paper Planes](#)). (Distributor: CinemaPlus; Sales: Maze)
- **MEMOIR OF A SNAIL:** The bittersweet memoir of a melancholic woman who loves to hoard snails, romance novels and guinea pigs, from Oscar-winning animation director [Adam Elliot](#) ([Mary & Max](#)), producer [Liz Kearney](#) ([These Final Hours](#)) and Executive Producer [Robert Connolly](#) ([Acute Misfortune](#)). (Distributor: Madman; Sales: Charades)
- **QUEENS OF CONCRETE:** Feature documentary following three young female skateboarders in their quest to qualify for 2020's Tokyo Olympics. From director [Eliza Cox](#), and producers [CJ Welsh](#) and [Gena Lida Riess](#).

➤ The [Premiere Fund](#) slate for [MIFF 2025](#) currently comprises the following:

- **THE BONE SPARROW:** Narrative drama in which a young Tamil-Sinhalese boy born into a detention centre imagines a world outside his captivity. From director [Kim Mourdant](#) ([The Rocket](#)) and producers [Sarah Shaw](#) ([Relic](#)) and [Anna McLeish](#) ([Snowtown](#)).
- **FIRST LIGHT:** Narrative drama about an elderly nun that begins to question her commitment to the Church after witnessing a brutal death in the remote, misty mountains of the Philippines. From writer/director [James J Robinson](#) and producer [Gabrielle Pearson](#), with EPs [Virginia Whitwell](#) ([Greenhouse by Joost](#)) and [Nick Batzias](#) ([Nitram](#)).
- **THE IRON WINTER:** Feature documentary about three young herders reviving Mongolia's most dangerous winter ritual in a last-ditch attempt to save their community's ancient way of life. From writer/director [Kasimir Burgess](#) ([Franklin](#)) and producers [Chris Kamen](#) ([Franklin](#)), [Morgan Wright](#) and [Ben Golotta](#).
- **ONE MORE SHOT:** Time-travelling tequila comedy from director [Nicholas Clifford](#) and producers [Nick Batzias](#) ([Nitram](#)), [Virginia Whitwell](#) ([The Australian Dream](#)) and [Jim Wright](#) ([This is Going to be Big](#)), and written by [Alice Foulcher](#) ([That's Not Me](#)) and [Gregory Erdstein](#) ([That's Not Me](#)).
- **PASA FAHO:** A struggling shoe salesman and his 10 year old son must rekindle their estranged identities or risk losing everything. From director/writer [Kalu Oji](#) and producers [Mimo Mukii](#) and [Ivy Mutuku](#), with EPs [Rob Connolly](#) and [Liz Kearney](#).
- **SPREADSHEET CHAMPIONS:** Feature documentary which unpacks the high-stakes world of competitive Spreadsheets by following competitors in the Microsoft Excel Spreadsheet World Championships. From director [Kristina Graskov](#), producers [Anna Charalambous](#), [Nick Batzias](#) ([The Australian Dream](#)) and [Charlotte Wheaton](#) ([Off Country](#)), and EP [Virginia Whitwell](#) ([Greenhouse by Joost](#)).
- **WHEN THE FRONT FELL OFF:** Feature documentary tribute to the life and work of one of the world's greatest satirists, John Clarke, told through the eyes of his daughter, writer/director [Lorin Clarke](#), with producers [Richard Keddie](#) ([Ride Like a Girl](#)) and [Cass Avery](#). (Distributor: Rialto)

#### MIFF PREMIERE FUND TITLES AT PREVIOUS EDITIONS OF MIFF:

➤ The [Premiere Fund](#) slate for [MIFF 2023](#) comprised the following titles:

- **AUSTRALIA'S OPEN:** Feature documentary that sets out to tell the story of how the Australian Open grew into one of the 'big-four' tennis Grand Slam events globally and did so against the backdrop of Melbourne's own development from backwater to global city. From director [Illi Baré](#) ([The Leadership](#)) and producers [Nick Batzias](#) ([Australian Dream](#)) and [Charlotte Wheaton](#) ([Off Country](#)). (Distributor: Madman/ABC)
- **MEMORY FILM: A FILMMAKER'S DIARY:** An immersive poetic documentary composed from feminist filmmaker [Jeni Thornley](#)'s Super 8 archive, this project charts a journey of liberation, exploring gender fluidity, motherhood and masculinity. From director [Jeni Thornley](#) and producer [Tom Zubrycki](#) ([Senses of Cinema](#)) with EP [Sue Maslin](#) ([Anonymous Club](#)). (Distributor: Antidote)
- **THE ROOSTER:** A policeman suffering from depression and alcoholism forms a friendship with a hermit living in the woods behind his house who becomes key to his recovery and reconciliation. From actor turned writer/director [Mark Leonard Winter](#) ([Balibo](#)) and producers [Mahveen Shahraki](#) ([Ellie & Abbie \(& Ellie's Dead Aunt\)](#)) and [Geraldine Hakewill](#), and featuring [Hugo Weaving](#). (Distributor: Bonsai; Sales: The Yellow Affair)
- **THIS IS GOING TO BE BIG:** Follows five students at Sunbury & Macedon Ranges Specialist School as they audition, rehearse and perform in their first high-school musical – an original story based on the life of John Farnham. Directed by [Thomas Charles Hyland](#), produced by [Catherine Bradbury](#) and [Jim Wright](#), with EP [Josie Mason Campbell](#). (Distributor: ABC/Netflix; Sales: Fremantle)
- **SHAYDA:** An Iranian woman in Australia tries to end her marriage to her abusive Iranian husband whilst holding onto custody of her daughter. From Accelerator Lab alumna writer/director/producer [Noora Niasari](#) and producer [Vincent Sheehan](#) ([Jasper Jones](#)). (Distributor: Madman/Sony Pictures Classics; Sales: HanWay)

➤ The [Premiere Fund](#) slate for [MIFF 2022](#) comprised the following titles:

- **BECAUSE WE HAVE EACH OTHER:** A neuro-diverse family living on a working-class suburban fringe dreams of futures in a world closing-in on them and their options, from the [CENSORED] team of director [Sari Braithwaite](#) & producer [Chloe Brugale](#), with EP [Robert Connolly](#) ([Paper Planes](#)). (Dist: CinemaPlus; Sales: Maze)
- **FRANKLIN:** A meditation on activism, environmentalism, memory and change that re-tells the 1980s battle to save Tasmania's Franklin River via a young Tasmanian taking the same rafting pilgrimage on the river as their recently-deceased activist father, from producer [Chris Kamen](#) and [Accelerator Lab](#) Alumna director [Kasimir Burgess](#) ([Leunig Fragments](#)) and featuring [Bob Brown](#). (Distributor: Bonsai)
- **GREENHOUSE BY JOOST:** Follows Melbourne's iteration (at FedSq) of sustainability and nutrition campaigner [Joost Bakker](#)'s Greenhouse project, of building of a recyclable home where most of the food occupants eat is grown there, from director [Bruce Permezel](#) ([The Games](#)) and producers [Nick Batzias](#) ([Australian Dream](#)) and [Charlotte Wheaton](#) ([Off Country](#)). (Dist: Madman; Sales: Off the Fence)
- **MOJA VESNA:** A ten-year-old girl strives to keep her outer-Melbourne grief-stricken immigrant family together in this Slovenian co-production, from director [Sara Kern](#) and producers [Gal Greenspan](#) ([Youth](#)) & [Rok Bicek](#), featuring [Claudia Karvan](#) ([Bump](#)). (Distributor: Bonsai; Sales: Wide)
- **OF AN AGE:** Explores the tentative 24-hour romance between a 17-year-old Serbian ballroom dancer and his friend's brother in Melbourne's working-class north-eastern suburbs from Accelerator Lab alumna director [Goran Stolevski](#) ([You Won't Be Alone](#)), and producers [Kristina Ceyton](#) ([Babadook](#)) and [Samantha Jennings](#) ([Buoyancy](#)). (Distributor: Bonsai/Roadshow; Sales: Bankside)
- **PETROL:** An idealistic film student is drawn into a shadowy intoxicating world when she befriends an enigmatic performance artist, from the [Strange Colours](#) team of producer [Kate Laurie](#) Accelerator Lab alumna director [Alena Lodka](#) with Executive Producers [Robert Connolly](#) ([Balibo](#)) & [Liz Kearney](#) ([These Final Hours](#)). (Distributor: CinemaPlus; Sales Agent: Alief)

- **SENSES OF CINEMA:** Feature documentary chronicling the rise and role of Sydney and Melbourne filmmaking cooperatives in the 1960s and 1970s, from co-directors/co-producers John Hughes ([Indonesia Calling](#)) and Tom Zubrycki ([Ablaze](#)). (Distributor: Antidote)
- **SWEET AS:** Think *Breakfast Club* in the outback with this Indigenous female coming-of-age drama from Accelerator Lab alumna director **Jub Clerc** and producer **Liz Kearney** ([Paper Planes](#)) and EP **Robert Connolly** ([The Turning](#)). (Distributor: CinemaPlus/Roadshow; Sales Agent: Sphere)
- **THE ENDANGERED GENERATION?:** Contemporary science combines with First Nations knowledge to reveal new pathways for tackling the crises we now face in the modern world. From director **Celeste Geer** and producers **Gal Greenspan** and **Dan Joyce**. (Distributor: Bonsai; Sales: Off the Fence)
- **UNDER COVER:** Examines the growing rate of homelessness amongst middle-aged Australian from [The Coming Back Out Ball Movie](#) team of director Sue Thomson & producer Adam Farrington-Williams. (Distributor: Backlot/ABC; Sales: ABC Commercial)
- **VOLCANO MAN:** Director **James Crawley** sets out to discover the true identity of his father – a larger than life, sometime celebrity music photographer, documentarian, and aspiring rock-star. From producers **Tim Russell** and **Rhian Skirving** ([Off Country](#)), and EPs **Nick Batzias** ([Nitram](#)) and **Virginia Whitwell** ([Greenhouse by Joost](#)). (Distributor: Madman/ABC; Sales: Shoreline)
  - The **Premiere Fund** slate for **MIFF 2021** comprised the following premieres:
    - **ABLAZE:** A meditation on family, culture and memory, indigenous Melbourne opera singer **Tiriki Onus** investigates whether a 70- year old silent film was in fact made by his grandfather – civil rights leader **Bill Onus**. From co-directors **Alex Morgan** ([Hunt Angels](#)) & **Tiriki Onus** and producer **Tom Zubrycki** ([Exile in Sarajevo](#)). (Distributor: **Umbrella**)
    - **ANONYMOUS CLUB:** An intimate – often first-person – exploration of the successful, yet shy and introverted, 33-year-old queer Australian musician Courtney Barnett. From producers Pip Campey ([Bastardy](#)), Samantha Dinning ([No Time For Quiet](#)) & director Danny Cohen. (Dist: **Film Art Media**)
    - **CHEF ANTONIO'S RECIPES FOR REVOLUTION:** Continuing their series of food-related social-issue feature documentaries, director **Trevor Graham** ([Make Hummus Not War](#)) and producer **Lisa Wang** ([Monsieur Mayonnaise](#)) find a very inclusive Italian restaurant/hotel run predominantly by young disabled people. (Distributor: **Antidote**; Sales: **Flame**)
    - **HATING PETER TATCHELL:** Portrait of Melbourne-born London-based veteran queer activist **Peter Tatchell** from director Chris Amos & producers **Veronica Fury** ([Electric Boogaloo](#)), **Lee Matthews** ([Emo the Musical](#)) and Executive Producers **David Furnish** ([Rocketman](#)) & **Elton John**, featuring **Stephen Fry** & **Ian McKellen** (Distributor: **Umbrella**)
    - **LITTLE TORNADES:** Family drama about a man, during a rapidly-changing 1970s Australia, coping with the sudden responsibilities of becoming a single parent to his two children after his wife leaves, from producers Susan Schmidt, Christian Pazzaglia, Ian Anderson and Accelerator Lab alumnus director **Aaron Wilson** ([Canopy](#)). Stars **Mark Leonard Winter** ([Measure for Measure](#)) and **Robert Menzies** ([Glitch](#))
    - **LONE WOLF:** A contemporary adaptation of Joseph Conrad's 1907 novel *The Secret Agent* produced by Accelerator Lab alumnus Mat Govoni along with Adam White and directed by **Jonathan Ogilvie** ([The Tender Hook](#)) and starring **Hugo Weaving** ([Matrix](#)), **Tilda Cobham-Hervey** (*I Am Woman*), **Stephen Curry** ([Hounds of Love](#)), Chris Bunton ([Little Monsters](#)). (Distributor: **Label**; Sales Agent: **Level-K**)
    - **LOVE IN BRIGHT LANDSCAPES:** Profiles the rise and untimely demise of talented singer, songwriter and poet David McComb, best-known as front-man of Australian band The Triffids. From director Jonathan Alley & producers Tait Brady ([Lone Wolf](#)) & Danielle Karalus. (Dist: **Label**; Sales: **White Noise**)
    - **NITRAM:** A narrative portrait of the troubled man behind modern Australia's worst massacre from Accelerator Lab alumnus director **Justin Kurzel** ([Snowtown](#)) and producers **Nick Batzias** ([Australian Dream](#)) & **Virginia Whitwell** ([Below](#)). Stars **Caleb Landry-Jones** ([Get Out, Three Billboards](#)), **Anthony La Paglia** ([Balibo](#)), **Judy Davis** ([Dressmaker](#)), **Essie Davis** ([Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries](#)). (Distributor: **Madman/Stan**; Sales: **Wild Bunch**)
    - **OFF COUNTRY:** An examination of connection to country and the price of change through following a year in the life of six indigenous students from across Australia who leave their remote communities to attend the prestigious Geelong Grammar boarding school on Yalari Scholarships, from producers **Nick Batzias** ([Below](#)) & Charlotte Wheaton and co-directed by **Rhian Skirving** ([Rock n Roll Nerd: The Tim Minchin Story](#)) & Accelerator Lab alumnus **John Harvey** ([The Turning](#)). (Distributor: **Madman/NITV**)
    - **PAPER CITY:** Feature documentary following the struggle of three very elderly survivors of WW2 Tokyo bombings to have their experience recognized and memorialised before they die and their story is forgotten by history from executive producers **Rebecca Summerton** ([Animals](#)) & Accelerator Lab alumna **Sophie Hyde** ([52 Tuesdays](#)), producer Melanie Brunt, and directed by Accelerator alumnus **Adrian Francis**.
    - **ULURU & THE MAGICIAN:** From producers **Rachel Clements** ([Song Keepers](#)) and **Trisha Morton-Thomas** ([Finke: There and Back](#)) and Accelerator Lab alumna director **Anna Bronowski** ([Aim High in Creation](#)) comes an almost unbelievable journey of a small-time magician attempting to make Uluru disappear. (Distributor: **Vendetta**)
      - The **Premiere Fund** slate for **MIFF 2019** comprised the following premieres:
        - **A FAMILY:** Engrossingly bizarre Ukraine-set drama deconstructing the meaning of family from Accelerator Lab alumnus director **Jayden Stevens** & producer **Clea Frost**.
        - **BELOW:** From Accelerator Lab alumnus director **Maziar Lahooti** and producers **Nick Batzias** ([That Sugar Film](#)), **Veronica Gleeson** and **Kate Neylon**, comes *Fight Club* in a remote migrant detention centre. Stars **Anthony LaPaglia** ([Lantana](#)) and **Ryan Corr** ([Holding the Man](#)). (Distributor: **Madman**; Sales Agent: **Seville**)
        - **BUOYANCY:** Tale of young Cambodian captured into enslavement on Thai fishing trawler from Accelerator Lab alumnus director **Rodd Rathjen** and producers **Kristina Ceyton** ([Babadook](#)), **Sam Jennings** ([Cargo](#)) and **Rita Walsh** ([I Used to be Normal](#)). (Distributor: **Umbrella**; Sales Agent: **Charades**)
        - **H IS FOR HAPPINESS:** A disarmingly charming family film, adapted from award-winning novel *My Life As An Alphabet*, from Accelerator Lab alumnus director **John Sheedy** and producers **Julie Ryan** ([Red Dog](#)), **Tenille Kennedy** ([Bad Girl](#)) and writer/producer **Lisa Hoppe**. Stars **Richard Roxburgh** ([Rake](#)), **Emma Booth** ([Hounds of Love](#)), **Miriam Margolyes** ([Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries](#)), **Joel Jackson** ([Jungle](#)) and **Deborah Mailman** ([Sapphires](#)). (Distributor: **Universal**; Sales Agent: **Level K**)
        - **IRON FISTS & KUNG FU KICKS:** From producer **Veronica Fury** ([Electric Boogaloo](#)) and director **Serge Ou** comes the story of the iconic Shaw Brothers who were pioneers of the Kung Fu film movement. (Distributor: **Umbrella**; Sales Agent: **XYZ**)
        - **MEASURE FOR MEASURE:** A multi-ethnic ensemble drama inspired by Shakespeare's *Measure for Measure*, from the Pawno team of director/producer **Paul Ireland** and writer/producer **Damian Hill**, starring **Hugo Weaving** ([Lord of the Rings](#)), **Mark Leonard Winter** ([Balibo](#)), **John Brumpton** ([Romper Stomper](#)), **Fayssal Bazi** ([The Merger](#)) **Daniel Henshall** ([Acute Misfortune](#)) and **Harrison Gilbertson** ([Upgrade](#)). (Distributor: **Umbrella**; Sales Agent: **Bankside**)
        - **NO TIME FOR QUIET:** Documentary about teenage girls and gender diverse youth finding themselves through creative expression at a rock n roll camp. From director **Samantha Dinning** and producer **Pip Campey** ([Bastardy](#))
          - The **Premiere Fund** slate for **MIFF 2018** comprised the following world premieres:
            - **ACUTE MISFORTUNE:** Adaption of the award-winning book about legendary Archibald-winning artist **Adam Cullen** and his biographer **Erik Jensen** from director **Thomas M. Wright** and producers **Virginia Kay** ([Sugar Mountain](#)) and **Jamie Hough** ([The Lookalike](#)) and executive producers **Robert Connolly** ([Paper Planes](#)) and **Liz Kearney** ([These Final Hours](#)). (Distributor: **Cinema Plus**; Sales Agent: **Maze**).
            - **THE COMING BACK OUT BALL MOVIE:** Through the prism of a 'coming back out ball' featuring Robyn Archer, Deborah Cheetham, Gerry Connolly and Carlotta, this feature documentary celebrates the lives and resilience of LGBTIQ+ elders. From director/producer **Sue Thomson** ([Tempest at the Drop In](#)), producers **Adam Farrington-Williams** ([Winter at Westbeth](#)), **Roger Monk** ([Walking on Water](#)) and **Tristan Meecham**, and EPs **Michael McMahon** ([The Slap](#)). (Distributor: **Backlot**; Sales Agent: **Film Republic**)
            - **THE EULOGY:** Tragic story of child prodigy pianist-composer Geoffrey Tozer, inspired by former Prime Minister Paul Keating's searing eulogy for the artist, from director/producer **Janine Hosking** ([My Khmer Heart](#)) and producers **Trish Lake** ([Early Winter](#)) & **Katey Grusovin**. (Distributor: **Madman**; Sales Agent: **Cinestaan**)
            - **UNDERMINED: TALES FROM THE KIMBERLEY:** Mega mining and pastoral developments threaten the pristine nature of the vast Kimberley region and jeopardise the future of more than 200 remote Aboriginal communities and their sacred link to the land. From dir. **Nicholas Wrathall** ([Gore Vidal: United States of Amnesia](#)) & producer **Steph King**.
            - **UNDERTOW:** A psychological thriller, in which a photo-journalist struggling to cope with the loss of her baby develops an obsession with a pregnant young woman, from Accelerator Lab alumna director/writer **Miranda Nation**, producer **Lyn Norfor** and Executive Producer **Liz Watts** ([Animal Kingdom](#)). (Distributor: **Mind Blowing**; Sales: **Level-K**)
              - The **Premiere Fund** slate for **MIFF 2017** comprised the following world premieres:
                - **HAVE YOU SEEN THE LISTERS:** Portrait of the artistic and commercial rise of renowned street artist **Anthony Lister**, and the price of fame, from Accelerator Lab alumnus director/producer **Eddie Martin** ([Lionel, All This Mayhem](#)) and producer **Sarah Shaw** ([Snowtown](#)). (Distributor: **Transmission**; Sales Agent: **Dogwoolf**)
                - **JUNGLE:** A gloriously tense survival thriller based on the bestselling real-life story of adventurer **Yossi Ghinsberg**, starring **Daniel Radcliffe** from director **Greg McLean** ([Wolf Creek](#)) and producers Dana Lustig, Gary Hamilton, Mike Gabrawy, Todd Fellman. (Distributor: **Umbrella**; Sales Agent: **Arclight**)
                - **RABBIT:** A dark fairytale from writer/director **Luke Shanahan** and producer **David Ngo** ([One Eyed Girl](#)), in which a woman, haunted by visions, hunts for her missing twin sister. Stars **Adelaide Clemens** ([The Great Gatsby](#)) and **Alex Russell** ([Cut Snake, Jungle](#)). (Distributor: **Vendetta**; Sales Agent: **Instrum**)
                - **SONGKEEPS:** Central Australia's answer to *The Buena Vista Social Club* tells the story of an Aboriginal Women's Choir bringing back to Germany forgotten Germanic hymns sung in their own indigenous ancient language. Director **Naina Sen**; Producers **Rachel Clements** & **Trisha Morton-Thomas**. (Distributor: **Potential**; Sales Agent: **Level K**)
                - **THE BUTTERFLY TREE:** A visually sumptuous coming-of-age tale of love and loss, tinged with magical realism, from writer/director **Priscilla Cameron** and producer **Bridget Callow-Wright** with **Melissa George** ([Good Wife](#)), **Sophie Lowe** ([The Slap](#)), **Ewen Leslie** ([The Daughter](#)), **Ed Oxenbould** ([Paper Planes](#)). (Dist: **Vendetta**; Sales Agent: **Level K**)
                - **WESTWIND:** Internationally-renowned Yolngu didgeridoo maker-player **Djalu Gurruwiwi** enlists the help of Grammy-winning **Gotye** to pass his people's ancient song-lines to the next generation. Director/producer: **Ben Strunin**; Producers: **Kate Pappas**, **Nick Batzias** ([That Sugar Film](#)), **Ben Pederick**, **Virginia Whitwell**. (Distributor: **Madman**)
                  - The **Premiere Fund** slate for **MIFF 2016** comprised the following world premieres:
                    - **BAD GIRL:** A thriller, from director/writer **Fin Edquist** and producers **Steve Kearney** ([Oddball](#)), **Tenille Kennedy** ([The Turning](#)) and **Bruno Charlesworth** ([Good Vibrations](#)), in which a teenager fights for her adoptive parents when her new friend tries to supplant her. Stars **Sara West** ([The Daughter](#)), **Samara Weaving** ([Mystery Road](#)), **Felicity Price** ([Wish You Were Here](#)) and **Benjamin Winspear** ([The Babadook](#)). Distributor: **Curious**; Sales: **Arclight**
                    - **ELLA:** A feature documentary, from director/writer **Douglas Watkin**, producers **Veronica Fury** ([Electric Boogaloo](#)) and **Dena Curtis** and co-producer/consulting director **Lawrence Johnston** ([Neon](#)), about the Australian Ballet's first indigenous dancer. (Distributor: **Ronin**; Sales Agent: **Film Mode**).



- **EMO (the musical):** What's an Emo boy when he secretly falls in love with a happy Christian? From writer/director **Nigel Triffett** with producer **Lee Matthews**, cast includes **Bride Carter (800 Words)**, **Adam Zwar (Wilfred)** & **Dylan Lewis**. Based on an award-winning short. (Distributor: **Bonsai**).
- **THE DEATH & LIFE OF OTTO BLOOM:** A love story where the end is only the beginning from Accelerator alumnus writer/director **Cris Jones** & producers **Mish Armstrong, Alicia Brown** & Oscar-winning **Melanie Coombs (Harvie Krumpet)** with **Xavier Samuel (Twilight)**. (Dist: **Bonsai**; Sales: **Global**)
- **THE FAMILY:** A feature documentary, from director/writer **Rosie Jones (The Triangle Wars)** and producer **Anna Grieve (The Prime Minister is Missing)**, about the charismatic and delusional **Anne Hamilton-Byrne's** elusive apocalyptic sect. (Distributor: **Label**; Sales Agent: **Dogwoof**)
- **MONSIEUR MAYONNAISE:** Feature documentary from **Trevor Graham (Make Hummus Not War)** and producers **Lisa Wang** & **Ned Lander** about Melbourne settlers, art pioneers, Nazis, comics, history, and France's love affair with baguettes and garlic mayonnaise. (Dist: **Antidote**; Sales: **Flame**)
  - The **Premiere Fund** slate for **MIFF 2015** comprised the following world premieres.
- **DOWNRIVER:** A mystery drama, from Accelerator Lab alumnus director/writer **Grant Scicluna** and producer **Jannine Barnes**, in which a teenage killer returns to uncover dark truths in his quest to find a missing body. Stars **Kerry Fox (Intimacy)**, Reef Ireland (*Blessed*). (Distributor: **Rialto**; Sales Agent: **Level K**).
- **ECCO HOMO:** A feature documentary, from **Ghost Pictures (AutoLuminescent, In Bob We Trust)**, about growing-up in a world of incest, prostitution, gender transformation, HIV, art, secrets and lies. Features **Peter Troy Davies, Michael Hutchence** and **Bono**. (Distributor: **Apparition**).
- **NEON:** A feature documentary from director/writer **Lawrence Johnston (Night, Eternity)** and producer **Veronica Fury (Curse of the Gothic Symphony)**, celebrating the invention, design and heritage of neon signage. (Distributor: **Ronin**; Sales: **Mongrel**).
- **PUTUPARRI & THE RAINMAKERS:** A feature documentary from director/writer **Nicole Ma** and producer **John Moore** exploring an Aboriginal man's quest to reconcile his life in the modern world with his destiny as a cultural leader of his Great Sandy Desert people. (Distributor: **Ronin/NITV**)
- **EARLY WINTER:** An evocative meditation on relationships after romance gives way to duty and routine; where the search for respect and care is the currency of commitment. Helmed by Cannes Camera d'Or-winning writer/director **Michael Rowe (Leap Year)**, starring **Suzanne Clement (Mommy)** and **Roy Dupuis (La Femme Nikita)** & produced by **Trish Lake** and **Serge Noel**. (Distributors: **Rialto, Mongrel, FilmOption**; Sales Agent: **Pyramide**).
  - The **Premiere Fund** slate for **MIFF 2014** comprised the following premieres.
- **CUT SNAKE:** A crime thriller, from director **Tony Ayres (Home Song Stories)** and producers **Michael McMahon (Home Song Stories)** and **Trevor Blainey (Noise)**, in which a man's engagement to a woman is threatened when a menacing ex-con from his past reappears. Stars **Sullivan Stapleton (Animal Kingdom)**, **Alex Russell (Bait)** and **Jessica De Gouw (Dracula, These Final Hours)**. (Distr/Sales: **eOne**).
- **ELECTRIC BOOGALOO:** From director/producer **Mark Hartley (Not Quite Hollywood)** and producer **Veronica Fury (Machete Maidens Unleashed!)** comes the wild untold story of 1980s Hollywood company Canon Films (Distributor: **Umbrella**; Sales Agent: **Mongrel/RatPac**).
- **MY MISTRESS:** A strangely innocent affair between a teenage romantic and a French S&M mistress becomes something more from debut director **Stephen Lance**, writer **Gerard Lee (Sweetie)**, producer **Leanne Tonkes** & EP **Robyn Kershaw (Bran Nue Dae)**, stars **Emmanuelle Beart (A Heart in Winter)**, **Harrison Gilbertson (Blessed)**, **Rachel Blake (Sleeping Beauty)**. (Distributor: **Transmission**; Sales: **Level K**).
- **PAPER PLANES:** A children's film about an Australian boy's passion for flight and competing in paper plane championships from writer/director/producer **Robert Connolly (Balibo)** and co-producers **Maggie Miles** and **Liz Kearney**. Stars **Sam Worthington (Avatar)**, **David Wenham (300)**, **Terry Norris (Innocence)** & **Deborah Mailman (Sapphires)**. (Distributor **Footprint**; Sales **Maze/ArcLight**).
- **THE LEGEND MAKER:** A dramatic thriller in which an aging forger needs all his guile and cunning to survive from director/producer **Ian Pringle** and producer **Glenda Hambly** and starring **Tony Nikolakopoulos, Jeremy Kewley, Steve Mouzakis** and **Sachin Joab**.
- **KILL ME THREE TIMES:** A thriller, from director **Kriv Stenders (Red Dog)** and producers **Tania Chambers & Death at a Funeral's Laurence Malkin & Share Stallings**, in which one woman links murder, blackmail and revenge. Stars **Simon Pegg (Shaun of the Dead)**, **Sullivan Stapleton (Animal Kingdom)**, **Alice Braga (On the Road)**, **Teresa Palmer (Warm Bodies)**, **Bryan Brown (Beautiful Kate)** and **Luke Hemsworth**. (Distributor: **Hopscotch**; Sales Agent: **Cargo**).
  - The **Premiere Fund** slate for **MIFF 2013** comprised the following world premieres.
- **AIM HIGH IN CREATION!** From Accelerator Lab alumna director/producer **Anna Broinowski (Forbidden Lie\$)** and producer **Lizette Atkins (X, Lionel)**; a revolutionary comedic documentary about greed, gas and the cinematic genius of late North Korean leader Kim Jong Il. (Distributor: **Antidote**; Sales Agent: **HighPoint**)
- **IN BOB WE TRUST:** From *AutoLuminescent's* team (writer/director/producer **Lynn-Maree Milburn** and producers **Richard Lowenstein, Andrew de Groot** and **Maya Gnyp**) comes a feature documentary story of the controversial forced-retirement of Melbourne identity **Father Bob Maguire** and his struggles to live without the Church. (Dist: **Apparition**; Sales: **Odin's Eye**).
- **PATRICK:** A re-imagining of classic 1970s telekinetic thriller is the narrative feature debut of *Not Quite Hollywood* and *Machete Maidens Unleashed!* director **Mark Hartley**. From producer **Tony Ginnane**, stars **Rachel Griffiths (Muriel's Wedding)**, **Charles Dance (Gosford Park)**, **Sharni Vinson (Bait 3D)** and **Damon Gameau (Balibo)**. (Distributor: **Umbrella**; Sales: **BankSide**)
- **THE TURNING:** A range of directors (including established talent **Justin Kurzel (Snowtown)**, **Jonathan Au der Heide (Van Diemen's Land)**, **Tony Ayres (Home Song Stories)**, **Claire McCarthy (The Waiting City)**, **Warwick Thornton (Samson & Delilah)** and **Robert Connolly (Balibo)**; emerging film directors **Rhys Graham (Galore)** and **Ashlee Page**; visual artist **Shaun Gladwell**; theatre directors **Yaron Lifschitz** and **Stephen Page**; plus the film directing debuts of actors **David Wenham, Ian Meadows** and **Mia Wasikowska**) respond to Tim Winton's haunting short stories. From producer **Robert Connolly (Balibo)**, co-producer **Maggie Miles**, the film also stars **Cate Blanchett, Rose Byrne, Harrison Gilbertson, Richard Roxburgh, Robyn Nevin, Hugo Weaving, Miranda Otto, Wayne Blair, Dan Wyllie** and **Susie Porter**. (Distributor: **Footprint/Madman**; Sales Agent: **Maze/LevelK**).
- **GALORE:** From Accelerator Lab alumnus director/writer **Rhys Graham (Murundak: Songs of Freedom)** and producer **Philippa Campey (Bastardy)** is the story of two reckless teenage best friends. Stars **Ashleigh Cummings (Tomorrow When the War Began)**, **Toby Wallace (Nim's Island 2)**, **Lily Sullivan (Mental)**, **Maya Stange (Garage Days)**. (Dist/Sales: **eOne**).
- **THESE FINAL HOURS:** A young man's redemption during the Earth's very last hours from Accelerator Lab alumnus director **Zac Hilditch**, producer **Liz Kearney** and Executive Producer **Robert Connolly (Balibo)**. The film stars **Nathan Phillips (Wolf Creek)**, **Dan Hanshall (Snowtown)** and **Lynette Curran (The Boys)**. (Distributor: **Footprint**; Sales Agent: **XYZ/Celluloid**).
  - The **Premiere Fund** slate for **MIFF 2012** comprised the following world premieres:
- **100 BLOODY ACRES:** A comedy horror showing the lengths small business operators go to from debut feature directors **Colin & Cameron Cairns** and producers **Julie Ryan (Red Dog)** and **Kate Crosser (My Tehran For Sale)**, and starring **Damon Herriman (J. Edgar)**, **Angus Sampson (Where the Wild Things Are)** and **John Jarratt (Wolf Creek)**. (Dist: **HopScotch**; Sales: **Works**)
- **FIRST FAGIN:** A feature documentary from Director **Alan Rosenthal** and Producer **Veronica Fury (Curse of the Gothic Symphony)** portraying infamous convict **Ikey Solomon**, who inspired Charles Dickens character **Fagin** from *Oliver Twist*. (Sales Agent: **Naked Flame**).
- **MAKE HUMMUS NOT WAR:** A new Middle East war rages with the usual suspects – but this time with chick peas! Director **Trevor Graham** & producer **Ned Lander**. (Sales: **Off the Fence**).
- **SAVE YOUR LEGS:** Australian-Indian cricket comedy inspired by true events from debut feature director **Boyd Hicklin** and producers **Robyn Kershaw (Bran Nue Dae)** and **Nick Batzijs** with **David Lyons (Eat, Pray, Love)**, **Brendan Cowell (The Slap)**, **Stephen Curry (The Cup)** and **Damon Gameau (Balibo)**. (Dist: **Madman**; Sales: **Protagonist**)
- **THE LAST DANCE:** Past and present collide when a holocaust survivor is held hostage by young suicide bomber. Starring **Julia Blake (Innocence)** and **Firass Dirani (TV's Underbelly)**, from director **David Pulbrook** and producer **Tony Ginnane (Patrick)**. (Distributor: **Becker**; Sales Agent: **HighPoint**)
  - The **Premiere Fund** slate for **MIFF 2011** comprised the following world premieres.
- **AUTOLUMINESCENT: ROWLAND S HOWARD:** Portrait of the turbulent life of the influential Australian rock-guitarist **Howard** with from directors **Richard Lowenstein** & **Lynn-Maree Milburn**
- **BEN LEE: CATCH MY DISEASE:** Documentary about pop music, spirituality, fame, family and celebrity, profiles the Australian musician, featuring **Ben Lee, Winona Ryder, Claire Danes, Jason Schwartzman**, from Accelerator Lab alumnus director **Amiel Courtin-Wilson (Bastardy)** & producer **Richard Lowenstein (Dogs in Space)**. (Dist: **Madman**; Sales Agent: **Visit Films**).
- **THE CURSE OF THE GOTHIC SYMPHONY:** feature documentary charting struggles to overcome an 80-year curse and stage **Havergal Brian's** never-fully-performed "Gothic Symphony", from Director **Randall Wood** & Producer **Veronica Fury (Machete Maidens Unleashed!)**. (Sales: **Film Transit**).
- **FALLING FOR SAHARA:** Former Young Australian of the Year **Khoa Do** directs a story of new lives – and love – in Australia for African refugees in Melbourne's Flemington flats.
- **SWERVE:** A rural neo-noir thriller starring from Director **Craig Lahiff** and producer **Helen Leake (Wolf Creek 2)** starring **Jason Clarke, Emma Booth, David Lyons, Travis McMahon, Vince Colosimo** and **Roy Billing**. (Distributor: **Jump Street**; Sales Agent: **MovieHouse**).
- **THE TRIANGLE WARS:** a feature documentary from director **Rosie Jones (The Family)** exploring the battle over a massive redevelopment in one of Melbourne's most iconic inner-suburbs between the powerful big business and an outraged local community – with local government caught in the middle. (Sales Agent: **MeliMedia**)
  - The **Premiere Fund** slate for **MIFF 2010** comprised the following world premieres.
- **BLAME:** Psychological thriller from director **Michael Henry** and producers **Michael Robinson, Ryan Hodgson** and **Melissa Kelly**, with Executive Producer **David Lightfoot (Wolf Creek)**. Starring **Kestie Morassi (Wolf Creek, Kin)**, **Sophie Lowe (Beautiful Kate, Blessed)**, **Damian de Montemas (Somersault)**, **Simon Stone (Balibo)** and **Mark Leonard Winter (Balibo)**. (Distributor: **Pack**; Sales Agent: **Highpoint**).
- **MACHETE MAIDENS UNLEASHED:** From director **Mark Hartley (Not Quite Hollywood)** and producer **Veronica Fury**, a documentary on Filipino genre filmmaking – complete with miniature **James Bonds**, karate kicking soul sisters, anorexic Rambos and gun-toting nuns (Sales Agent: **ABC**).
- **MATCHING JACK:** Family drama from Director **Nadia Tass** and Producer **David Parker**, starring **James Nesbitt, Jacinda Barrett, Richard Roxburgh** and **Kodi Smit-McPhee** (Dist: **Fox**; Sales Agent: **Content**). **MOTHER OF ROCK:** From director **Paul Clarke** & producer **Robert deYoung**, this documentary, narrated by **Judy Davis** with voice acting by **Sasha Horler**, is a lively profile into 1960s NYC-based Australian rock journalist **Lillian Roxon**, who authored the *Rock Encyclopedia*, featuring **Germaine Greer, Helen Reddy, Alice Cooper, Iggy Pop, Derryn Hinch, Molly Meldrum** and **David Malouf**. (Sales: **SBS**).
- **THE WEDDING PARTY:** Romantic comedy from Director **Amanda Jane** and Producer **Nicole Minchin**. Starring **Isabel Lucas (Transformers)**, **Kestie Morassi (Wolf Creek)**, **Essie Davis (Australia)**, **Steve Bisley, Adam Zwar, Geoff Paine** and **Rhonda Burchmore**. (Sales: **ArcLight**). **MIFF 2010** Opening.
  - The **Premiere Fund** slate for **MIFF 2009** comprised the following world premieres:
- **BALIBO:** Political thriller from Director **Robert Connolly (The Bank)** and Producer **John Maynard (The Boys)**, starring **Anthony La Paglia** and **Oscar Isaac** that investigates the 1975 murders of Australian journalists during the Indonesian invasion of East Timor. (Distributor: **Footprint**; Sales: **Content**).

- **BLESSED**: An evocative feature film about mothers and children, love and beauty, being lost and finding your way home from Director: **Ana Kokkinos** (*Head On*) and Producer **Al Clark** (*Priscilla, Queen of the Desert*). Stars **Frances O'Connor, Miranda Otto, Deborra-Lee Furness** and **William McInnes**, is Winner of best screenplay at 2009 San Sebastian Film Festival. (Distributor: **Icon**; Sales: **Bankside**).
- **BRAN NUE DAE**: from Director **Rachel Perkins** (*First Australians, Radiance*) & Producer **Robyn Kershaw** (*Kath & Kim, Looking for Alibrandi*) and starring **Geoffrey Rush, Ernie Dingo, Magda Szubanski, Missy Higgins, Deb Mailman, Nigali Lawford, Tom Budge, Dan Sultan** and **Jessica Mauboy**; an adaptation of a popular Aboriginal musical, the film is an upbeat coming-of-age, romantic musical and 1960s road movie featuring the choreography of Stephen Page. (World Sales Agent: **Bankside**). MIFF 2009 Closing Night; Selected Toronto 2009 & 2010's Sundance & Berlin.
- **INDONESIA CALLING – JORIS IVENS IN AUSTRALIA**: Feature documentary, from Producer, Director, Writer **John Hughes** (*What I Have Written, After Mabo*), charting a little-told angle on the birth of the Indonesian Republic and the impact of Australian unions and a rogue Film Commissioner and an emerging film industry at a moment of crisis at the end of the age of Empire.
- **THE LOVED ONES**: from Producer **Mark Lazarus** (*Australian Rules*) and Director/Writer **Sean Byrne** and starring **Xavier Samuel** and **Victoria Thaine**, tells the story of a young man digging himself out his own grave. You don't have to die to go to hell! (Distributor: **Madman**; Sales Agent: **ArLight**).  
 > The **Premiere Fund** slate for **MIFF 2008** included the following world premieres.
- **ANGEL OF THE WIND**: (Producers: **Matt Crosby, Tahir Cambis**; Director, **Tahir Cambis**). An exploration of the world of acting, spirituality, national identity and ghosts of the past through the prism of a surrealist vaudevillian theatrical production about the spirits of dead Kamikaze pilots.
- **BASTARDY**: An adventurous portrait of **Jack Charles**, a well-known personality on the streets of Melbourne, colourful fringe-dweller and sometime actor, that journeys into a little-seen side of Melbourne, from producer **Philippa Campey** and Accelerator Lab alumnus director/Writer: **Amiel Courtin-Wilson**.
- **CELEBRITY: DOMINIC DUNNE**: Executive Producers: **Sue Maslin** (*Dressmaker*) & **Daryl Dellora**; producers/directors/writers: **Tim Jolley & Kirsty De Garis**. Against the backdrop of Phil Spector's trial, *Celebrity* traverses intrigue, showbiz, the US justice system and the cult of celebrity for the inside scoop on Vanity Fair's celebrated chronicler **Dominick Dunne**. (Sales: **Mercury**).
- **NOT QUITE HOLLYWOOD**: Director/Writer: **Mark Hartley**, Producers: **Michael Lynch & Craig Griffin**. A seriously entertaining celebration of 1970s Oz-ploitation cinema featuring **Quentin Tarantino, Barry Humphries** and **Jamie Lee Curtis**. (Distributor: **Madman**, Sales: **Magnolia**).
- **ROCK & ROLL NERD**: Producer/Director/Writer: **Rhian Skirving**. A rags to riches observational documentary following the meteoric rise to international fame of Melbourne musician and performance artist **Tim Minchin**. (Australian Distributor: **Madman**).
- **WHATEVER HAPPENED TO BRENDA HEAN**: Explores the story of **Brenda Hean**, one of one of the world's first leaders of an environmental party, and her fight to save Tasmania's Lake Pedder, which ends abruptly with her mysterious 1972 disappearance.