

MEDIA RELEASE



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BRISBANE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL 2019 PROGRAM NOW ON SALE

Tickets are on sale now for the 2019 Brisbane International Film Festival (BIFF 2019), presented by the Queensland Art Gallery | Gallery of Modern Art (QAGOMA) and city-wide cinema partners from 3 to 13 October.

BIFF Artistic Director Amanda Slack-Smith said BIFF 2019 would be jam-packed with more than 110 features, documentaries and short films by emerging and established talent from around the world, as well as events celebrating film with live music, food, workshops, discussions and much more.

'The Queensland premiere of the darkly funny *Judy & Punch* 2019, by Australian actor and first-time director Mirrah Foulkes, will set the mood for a classy red-carpet opening night event at GOMA on Thursday 3 October,' Ms Slack-Smith said.

Highlights of the 11-day Festival include the Queensland premieres of Céline Sciamma's sizzling *Portrait of a Lady on Fire* and Pedro Almodóvar's deeply personal *Pain and Glory*, for which Antonio Banderas was awarded Best Actor at this year's Cannes Film Festival.

Two new Australian films starring Hugo Weaving will screen — Ben Lawrence's *Hearts and Bones*, and Paul Ireland's *Measure for Measure*, which reimagines the Shakespearean classic as a gritty Melbourne crime drama.

BIFF 2019 also features the captivating new documentaries such as *Memory: The Origins of Alien*, an investigative ode to Ridley Scott's sci-fi classic; Nanfu Wang and Jialing Zhang's fearless *One Child Nation*, winner of the Grand Jury Prize at the 2019 Sundance Film Festival; and the world premiere of *Quilty: Painting the Shadows*, Catherine Hunter's look at the work and life of Australian artist Ben Quilty.

Ms Slack-Smith said BIFF's thrilling world premiere film and live music events would include champion Brisbane beatboxer Tom Thum and special guests performing a new score to early Russian science-fiction classic *Aelita: Queen of Mars* 1924, and Australian band HTRK playing their highly layered guitar and electronic soundtrack to Jeffrey Peixoto's documentary *Over the Rainbow* 2019.

'In a sublime combination of food and film, the stunning eco-documentary *Honeyland* will be followed by a sumptuous, one-time-only honey-themed degustation from QAGOMA Executive Chef Doug Innes-Will. Tickets to this special event on 10 October are limited,' she said.

QAGOMA Director Chris Saines said BIFF 2019 was delighted to welcome as its Patrons Academy Award-nominated writer, director, and producer Baz Luhrmann and Academy Award-winning costume and production designer Catherine Martin, and to screen their much-loved films *Strictly Ballroom* 1992, *Romeo + Juliet* 1996, *Moulin Rouge!* 2001, *Australia* 2008, and *The Great Gatsby* 2013.

'Luhrmann has curated a series of film influential to his career, among them the definitive version of Francis Ford Coppola's Vietnam War opus, *Apocalypse Now: Final Cut*, a must-see on the big screen,' Mr Saines said.

'We are also thrilled to announce Damien Anthony Rossi, from *The Sunday Mail* and Channel 7's *Great Day Out*, as Festival Ambassador for BIFF 2019. Damien is a long-time BIFF buff who will bring his dynamic energy to Opening Night and events throughout the Festival,' he said.

BIFF 2019 will be presented at QAGOMA's purpose built Cinémathèque, the only facility of its kind in an Australian art museum, and at valued partner venues Dendy Cinemas Coorparoo, The Elizabeth Picture Theatre, New Farm Six Cinemas, Reading Cinemas Newmarket and the State Library of Queensland — all part of a city-wide celebration of film.

For the complete Festival program and to purchase tickets visit: www.biff.com.au

Follow BIFF 2019 on social media @bneintfilmfest and via the hashtag #BIFFest2019.

BIFF 2019 is supported by the Queensland Government through Screen Queensland and the Australian Federal Government through Screen Australia.