

WANT TO BE A FILM CRITIC? MIFF OPENS CALL FOR APPLICATIONS TO 2015 CRITICS CAMPUS

MELBOURNE, 14 May 2015 — After a successful launch in 2014 the **Melbourne International Film Festival (MIFF)** is proud to open the call for applications to its second edition of **Critics Campus**, an intensive five-day lab that enables emerging Australian film critics to develop their skills in a live Festival setting. Critics Campus will take place during the Festival's 64th edition, 30 July–16 August 2015.

Underlying the Campus's ethos is a belief that in a swiftly changing media environment, informed writing and criticism on cinema is vital to a strong film culture and industry. Digital media allows for a diversity of voices yet poses challenges for writers seeking employment in the field. The Campus will address these issues and better prepare participants for a successful career in film writing. It will also offer them a platform to be heard in the competitive Festival environment.

"As an un-established writer it's easy to feel as though you exist in a vacuum, or that you're slightly delusional, or both. The encouragement I received from people whose work I admire was a jolt to keep going. It's one of the most energising professional experiences I've ever had," said 2014 Campus alumni Harry Windsor.

Since participating in the lab, last year's alumni have gone on to write for publications including *The Age*, *Senses of Cinema*, *The Monthly*, *The Saturday Paper*, *Junkee* and *The Hollywood Reporter*.

This year eight participants will take part in mentoring sessions and panels with key Australian industry and media players, as well as producing their own daily coverage for *The Age* and MIFF. They will have access to Festival films, publicity materials, guests and networking opportunities. In return, meals and accommodation will be provided, as well as the invaluable experience of producing a range of pieces daily for publication across a variety of outlets.

Three prominent international critics will visit the Festival to participate in the Campus, variously assisting with mentoring, sitting on panels, and as a resource for the participants.

Applications are sought from Australian writers in the beginning stages of their career, with no more than two years of experience in film writing. They should prepare to be available in Melbourne 2–9 August inclusive.

Applicants will be asked to provide:

- A one-page resume covering relevant studies and/or professional experience and a list of published writing and criticism with links where relevant.
- Three film writing samples including:
 - i. a 500-word review of a film currently in theatrical release.
 - ii. a 200-word review of a film of their choice.
 - iii. an 800-word or less feature, interview or essay piece of the applicant's choice that they feel best demonstrates their capabilities.

University essays are allowed but not encouraged. Writing samples may include a podcast/video interview (5–10 min excerpt).

The online application form is accessible from the Critics Campus page: www.miff.com.au/criticscampus.

Deadline for applications is 5pm Friday 12 June 2015. Successful applicants will be notified by Friday 3 July 2015.

The 2015 Melbourne International Film Festival runs 30 July–16 August 2015. MIFF's First Glance will be announced on 26 May 2015 and the full program will be launched 8 July 2015 with public tickets on sale 10 July 2015.

For more information about MIFF visit miff.com.au

For all media enquiries contact Asha Holmes Publicity:

Asha Holmes | 0403 274 299 | asha@ashaholmespublicity.com.au