



2015 MIFF PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARDS ANNOUNCED, PRESENTED BY FOXTEL MOVIES SONG OF THE SEA AWARDED BEST FEATURE FILM GRACEFUL GIRLS AWARDED BEST DOCUMENTARY

MELBOURNE, 21 August 2015 – The 64th Melbourne International Film Festival (MIFF) ended on 16 August after 17 days screening 372 films over 524 sessions from 69 countries, including 28 world premieres and 165 Australian premieres.

“MIFF 2015 was nothing short of remarkable and a testament to the exceptionally vibrant film culture that exists in our city. With enthusiastically received retrospectives on David Gulpili, Sebastián Silva and the Safdie brothers, an abundance of sold-out screenings including Centrepiece Gala and Closing Night, and the Australian premiere of *Vertical Cinema*, MIFF 2015 was wholeheartedly embraced by Melbourne audiences,” said Artistic Director Michelle Carey.

Highlights of MIFF 2015 included:

- Three gala screenings featuring Australian premieres of *Force of Destiny* (Opening Night) and *Mistress America* (Closing Night), and the Victorian premiere of *Holding the Man* (Centrepiece Gala).
- Surprise screenings and Australian premieres of Joel Edgerton's *The Gift* and Justin Kurzel's *Macbeth*.
- The second MIFF Critics Campus, where eight of Australia's emerging film critics participated in an intensive five-day lab honing their skills in a live festival setting, with mentoring by esteemed film critics including the Netherlands' Dana Linszen (*de Filmkrant*) and the USA's Jay Weissberg (*Variety*) and Kevin B Lee (*Fandor*).
- MIFF's acclaimed short film competition, the 54th Shorts Awards, awarded across seven categories with the Best Australian Short going to *Oscar Wilde's The Nightingale and the Rose*, directed by Brendan Fletcher and Del Kathryn Barton; and David Eastal named Best Emerging Filmmaker for his short *Monaco*.
- An extensive Talking Pictures program featuring contributions by 79 panelists across 23 events.
- More than 100 sessions presented with an intro and/or Q&A by festival guests.
- The festival's all ages program, Next Gen, delighting students and families alike, and featuring the Oscar nominated and MIFF audience favourite *Song of the Sea*, along with a sold-out screening of Maya Newell's *Gayby Baby*.

The MIFF People's Choice Awards, presented by Foxtel Movies, were tallied online with the results for Top 10 Feature Films and Documentaries as follows:

Features

1. Song of the Sea
2. Holding the Man
3. In the Crosswind
4. An
5. Me and Earl and the Dying Girl
6. A Perfect Day
7. Mustang
8. Victoria
9. Pawno
10. Tehran Taxi

Documentaries

1. Graceful Girls
2. The Look of Silence
3. Putuparri and the Rainmakers
4. Palio
5. Sherpa
6. My Love, Don't Cross that River
7. The Ground we Won
8. Racing Extinction
9. She's Beautiful When She's Angry
10. Toto and His Sisters



Highlights of many Talking Pictures sessions are now online including full-length presentations of David Gulpilil in Conversation with Margaret Pomeranz and the live-streamed panel, Clickbait Criticism!: <http://miff.com.au/about/talking-pictures-2015-videos>.

Preparations are underway for the 2016 MIFF with festival dates to be announced soon.

Metro Trains Melbourne is the Principal Partner of the 2015 Melbourne International Film Festival.

Image credit: *Song of the Sea*, courtesy of WestEnd Films.

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