

**2016 MIFF AUDIENCE AWARDS  
PRESENTED BY WANDER VICTORIA  
MY LIFE AS A COURGETTE AWARDED BEST FEATURE FILM  
ZACH'S CEREMONY AWARDED BEST DOCUMENTARY**

**MELBOURNE, 18 August 2016** – Celebrating its 65<sup>th</sup> edition, the **Melbourne International Film Festival (MIFF)** ended on 14 August after 18 days featuring over 348 films over 516 sessions, including 24 world premieres and 157 Australian premieres, 9 Virtual Reality (VR) experiences across 186 sessions, 23 panels, and 198 festival guests.

Artistic Director Michelle Carey said, “What an overwhelming success the 2016 MIFF has been! A huge thank you to everyone who supported the festival. We’re absolutely thrilled that our audiences embraced the program so warmly, with our MIFF Premiere Fund screenings and VR experiences proving to be some of the hottest tickets in town. We’re looking forward to bringing you the next instalment of MIFF in 2017!”

Highlights of MIFF 2016 include:

Three gala screenings featuring the world premiere of *The Death and Life of Otto Bloom* (Opening Night), the Australian premiere of *Hell or High Water* (Closing Night), and the Victorian premiere of *Down Under* (Centrepiece Gala).

The third 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 critics including the USA’s Jonathan Rosenbaum (film critic and author), the UK’s David Jenkins (*Little White Lies*), Stephanie Bunbury (*Fairfax Media*) and Chris Fujiwara (film critic and programmer).

MIFF’s acclaimed short film competition, the 55<sup>th</sup> Shorts Awards, awarded across seven categories with the Best Australian Short going to *Trespass*, directed by Mirrah Foulkes; and Luci Schroder named Best Emerging Filmmaker for her short *Slapper*.

A Virtual Reality (VR) program featured 9 VR experiences over 186 sessions, including four Talking Pictures events.

An extensive Talking Pictures program featuring contributions by 91 panelists across 23 events.

More than 95 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 Australian premiere Kids’ Gala screening of *Kubo and the Two Strings*.

The MIFF Audience Awards, presented by Wander Victoria, were tallied online with the results for Top 10 Feature Films and Documentaries as follows:

**Features**

1. *My Life as a Courgette*
2. *The Handmaiden*
3. *Emo the Musical*
4. *Mahana*
5. *The Salesman*

**Documentaries**

1. *Zach’s Ceremony*
2. *The Eagle Huntress*
3. *The Baulkham Hills African Ladies Troupe*
4. *Servant or Slave*
5. *The Music of Strangers*

6. *A War*
7. *Toni Erdmann*
8. *Train to Busan*
9. *Happy Hour*
10. *Captain Fantastic*

6. *Tickled*
7. *Sonita*
8. *Reset*
9. *Life, Animated*
10. *Destination Arnold*

Preparations are underway for the 2017 MIFF with festival dates to be announced soon.

**Metro Trains Melbourne is the Principal Partner of the 2016 Melbourne International Film Festival.**

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