



MIFF LAUNCHES INTO ITS MIDDLE WEEK WELCOMING SEBASTIAN SILVA, LOUIE PSIHOYOS, AND JOSHUA OPPENHEIMER PLUS MANY MORE GUESTS

MELBOURNE, 3 AUGUST 2015 – After a huge opening weekend the **2015 Melbourne International Film Festival (MIFF)** is rolling in to its middle week with an impressive lineup of films, events and many more festival guests.

On **Wednesday**, MIFF welcomes Chilean director and screenwriter **Sebastián Silva** to the festival as part of a retrospective of his work. Winning awards and accolades for his films since his 2007 debut feature *Life Kills Me*, Silva has an eye for the absurd and is adroit at digging into his characters' psychology and bending genre conventions. MIFF will screen his full oeuvre, including *The Maid* (MIFF 2009) and *Magic Magic* (MIFF 2013), as well as his latest drama *Nasty Baby*, starring TV on the Radio's Tunde Adebimpe and Kristen Wiig.

This week MIFF also welcomes the Oscar-winning director of *The Cove*, **Louie Psihoyos**, whose latest film *Racing Extinction* presents an impassioned call to action for the future of the planet; **Margot Nash** (*Vacant Possession*, MIFF 1995), on behalf of her documentary *The Silences*, focusing on the unspoken secrets and tragedies of her childhood; and Melbourne based actor-turned director **Paul Ireland** and actor/screenwriter **Damian Hill**, who will bring lots of cast and friends along to their world premiere screening of *Pawno*, a film set in an inner-suburban Melbourne pawn-broker.

Also this week, **Joshua Oppenheimer** arrives to support his documentary *The Look of Silence*, the follow up to *The Act of Killing* (MIFF 2013); New Zealand director **Christopher Pryor** flies into Melbourne to present his documentary *The Ground We Won*, which takes a funny, against-type tour through grassroots rugby union; and co-directors **Stefan Moore** and **Susan Lambert**, the force behind the animal rights documentary *Tyke Elephant Outlaw*, also attend MIFF.

Two films supported by the **MIFF Premiere Fund** will receive their world premieres at the festival this week: **Grant Scicluna's** *Downriver*, the story of one man's path to redemption, starring **Reef Ireland** (*Puberty Blues*) and **Kerry Fox** (*Intimacy*); and **Nicole Ma's** *Putuparri & The Rainmakers*, a documentary exploring one man's struggle to fulfil his destiny. MIFF welcomes both directors and cast members to the festival for these screenings.

New York City filmmaker **Benny Safdie** touched down in Melbourne over the weekend to join MIFF for a retrospective of the films directed by him and his brother **Josh Safdie**. Benny participated in a spirited Q&A at Friday night's screening of *Go Get Some Rosemary*, and will attend this Tuesday's screening of their latest extraordinary work, *Heaven Knows What*. Also on Tuesday, local filmmaker **Rhys Graham** will join Benny Safdie at The Wheeler Centre to discuss the Safdie brothers' body of work.

As part of MIFF 37oSouth Market & Accelerator, **Adrian Wootton** is in Melbourne this week to present his acclaimed *Illustrated Film Talks*, this year focusing on Hollywood legends Fred Astaire, David Niven, John Huston and Bette Davis; and LA-based developer, writer and lecturer **Wendall Thomas** returns exclusively to the festival for her popular series *Wendall Thomas Talks Scripts*.

No one likes a chatterbox in the cinema but MIFF's **Talking Pictures** program thrives on it and has been designed to encourage discussion, debate and questioning with filmmakers and personalities. This week's Talking Pictures highlights include live broadcasts of **Triple R's** Drive programs inside the MIFF Festival Lounge from **Monday 3 August** until **Thursday 6 August** running 4pm to 7pm each day. These live broadcasts will feature panel discussions with a selection of guests and Triple R presenters on a range of the festival's **Backbeat** titles.

The magnificent Forum Theatre transforms once again into the **Mandala Festival Lounge and Wine Bar** for the duration of MIFF. A one-stop destination for unique film-related events, late-night dancing, DJs and live music, as well as tasty food, wine and beer, the Festival Lounge is a must for every MIFF goer.



Melbourne International Film Festival runs until Sunday 16 August.

Full list of all MIFF guests: www.miff.com.au/guests

Full details of Festival Lounge offerings and events: www.miff.com.au/lounge

Full details of the program: miff.com.au

Image credit: *Nasty Baby*, courtesy of Accent Film Entertainment

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