



## PAUL COX DRAMA *FORCE OF DESTINY* TO OPEN 2015 MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

**MELBOURNE, 23 JUNE 2015** – The 64th Melbourne International Film Festival (MIFF) is thrilled to announce this year's Festival will open with the Australian premiere of **Paul Cox's** new feature *Force of Destiny*, starring **David Wenham, Shahana Goswami, Jacqueline McKenzie, Hannah Fredericksen** and **Terry Norris**.

These key cast members, along with Paul Cox, will be in attendance as part of the Opening Night red carpet celebrations.

*Force of Destiny* is a powerful film from the director of *Man of Flowers*, *Innocence* and *Human Touch* (MIFF 2004), who received a life-saving liver transplant on Christmas Day in 2009.

"All of us at MIFF are very excited to be opening this year's festival with *Force of Destiny*. One of Paul Cox's most revealing films, it provides a glimpse into the personal life of one of Australia's most respected and prolific filmmakers," said Artistic Director Michelle Carey.

A moving love story with a sumptuous aesthetic, *Force of Destiny* stars David Wenham (working with Cox for the first time since *Molokai: The Story of Father Damien*, MIFF 00) as Robert, a sculptor who meets the love of his life just as he's reeling from a cancer diagnosis. New hope comes when he's placed on the transplant waiting list.

Filmed in Melbourne and India, and produced by Mark Patterson, Maggie Miles, and Baby Mathew Somatheeram, *Force of Destiny* also features a beautiful score by Australian composer Paul Grabowsky.

Now living with cancer again, Cox remains an auteur of international acclaim, with forty-seven features, shorts and documentaries to his name.

"*Force of Destiny* is born from years of personal research, a lifelong love of India and my forty odd years as a filmmaker based in Melbourne. I am truly humbled that the Melbourne International Film Festival is honouring the film and these experiences on Opening Night," said filmmaker Paul Cox.

Opening Night, taking place **Thursday 30 July** at Hamer Hall, marks the first event in MIFF's 18-day program. Featuring well over 300 films across program sections such as **International Panorama, Documentaries, Accent on Asia, Backbeat and Next Gen**, this year's MIFF also includes a **David Gulpiil** retrospective and the new cinematic experience, *Vertical Cinema*.

**Tickets to the MIFF red carpet gala opening night film and party go on sale Thursday 25 June at 9.00am.**

The 2015 Melbourne International Film Festival runs 30 July–16 August.

MIFF's full program will be launched 7 July 2015 with public tickets on sale 10 July 2015.

**CinemaPlus will release *Force of Destiny* in a nationwide series of event cinema screenings.**

[www.forceofdestiny.com.au](http://www.forceofdestiny.com.au)

**EXCLUSIVE 'FIRST LOOK' FORCE OF DESTINY CLIP DOWNLOAD:**

LINK <https://vimeo.com/131272735>

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

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