

## CENTREPIECE AND SHOWCASE EVENTS AT THE BRISBANE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

The Brisbane International Film Festival gets underway this week and a key element of the 18 day event is the *Centrepiece* Gala and *Showcases*. The *Centrepiece* of the festival is the masterful Russian film *Loveless*, winner of the Jury Prize at this year's 70th Cannes Film Festival, directed by acclaimed Golden Globe Winner and Academy Award® nominated Andrey Zvyagintsev. *Loveless* screens on Saturday 26 August at Palace Barracks and cinemagoers can enjoy vodka and blinis on arrival. The work of Zvyagintsev is also celebrated in this year's *Retrospective*, where four of the filmmakers classics works (*Return*, *The Banishment*, *Elena* and *Leviathan*) will screen. The Zvyagintsev Retrospective is a first for Australian audiences and a wonderful opportunity to watch the works of one of the great director's working in cinema today.

Richard Sowada, co-director of BIFF comments: "The *Centrepiece* and *Showcase* events are among our favourites in the program. They're an incredibly important way of pointing to some of the great moments in contemporary international cinema and celebrating those triumphs with local audiences".

This year BIFF also has four *Showcases*. The first *Showcase* takes place on Friday 18 August at Palace Centro with *On Body and Soul*, a film that Margaret Pomeranz describes as "graceful, measured and profoundly compassionate". The Hungarian film is directed by Ildiko Enyedi and it won the Golden Bear at the 2017 Berlinale and the Sydney Film Prize at the recent Sydney Film Festival. Audiences at this screening will be treated to drinks and canapés after the film.

The second *Showcase* takes place on Sunday 20 August with a screening of *Faces Places*, the loveable and moving documentary that won the Golden Eye Documentary Prize at the 70<sup>th</sup> Cannes Film Festival. Directed by Agnès Varda, the film follows 89 year old Varda, who was central to the French New Wave film movement, as she joins creative and intellectual forces with renowned street artist JR (33-years old). Together they explore the nooks and crannies of rural France in JR's van travelling through the backroads of France's beautiful countryside, plotting like two naughty school children how to create lasting artworks of their impressions. *Faces Places* is co-presented by The Alliance Francaise de Brisbane and the audience will enjoy complimentary wine and cheese tastings.

On Wednesday 23 August at Palace Barracks, the third *Showcase* is *24 Frames*, directed by the master Iranian filmmaker Abbas Kiarostami. The final work of this incredible auteur was made over three years, with a crew of Iranian technicians. *24 Frames* is more than a movie – it's a haunting art installation and a moving meditation on nature, life and death. Following the screening, the audience can join Iranian film specialist Anne Démy-Geroe and BIFF co-director Maxine Williamson for an In Conversation about Kiarostami's work and Iranian cinema.

The final *Showcase* takes place on Wednesday 30 August with the Australian Premiere of *The Way Station*, the winner of the Best Film, Best Actor and Best Cinematography at the ASEAN awards. Director Pham Thi Hong Anh will be in Brisbane for the screening and will take part in a Q&A event after the film, and the audience will enjoy Vietnamese treats and a glass of wine on arrival. Pham Thi Hong Anh is one of Vietnam's most loved actresses and her sumptuous debut centres around a crumbling, isolated restaurant and the different lives of those who live and work there, all from disparate origins and gathered in this little village by the sea.

The Brisbane International Film Festival opens on 17 August with the Queensland Premiere of the highly anticipated *The Square*. Over the course of the 18 days of the festival, there will be over 100 screenings, including 6 Australian Premieres, an International Premiere and 2 World Premieres.

**Full Program and ticketing information at: [www.biff.net.au](http://www.biff.net.au)**

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**About the Festival**

The Brisbane International Film Festival runs from 17 August – 3 September 2017. The festival is co-directed by experienced film curator Richard Sowada and Brisbane's Maxine Williamson, previously Film Director of the Asia Pacific Screen Awards and the Brisbane Asia Pacific Film Festival. The festival is made possible through the support of Screen Queensland via the Queensland Government and major partner, Palace Cinemas.

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