

DARWIN INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL 2023



14–24 September
diff.net.au

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WELCOME



HON PAUL KIRBY

Minister for Major Events

Welcome to the 2023 Darwin International Film Festival.

Over 11 days from 14–24 September, DIFF will bring an eclectic mix of 25 award-winning films that will inspire and entertain Territorians.

Major award winning films from Cannes 2023, Sundance 2023, Sydney Film Festival Competition and the Singapore International Film Festival will be screened. They include *Anatomy of a Fall*, *Tiger Stripes*, *Smoke Sauna Sisterhood* and *The Mother of All Lies*.

The Northern Territory Government is proud to continue its support of DIFF. As well as bringing films Territorians might otherwise not see to the Deckchair Cinema, it also provides industry development through the NT Screen Summit and the *Spark* Short Film Initiative.

We will see emerging local industry talent on the big screen for their world premieres at the *Spark* Film Showcase.

The festival will also include a swim-in cinema at the Darwin Waterfront Wave Lagoon, featuring a range of accessible family-friendly movies.

The 2023 Darwin International Film Festival is an opportunity to immerse in a cinematic experience under the glorious Territory skies.

I wish the festival team, staff, volunteers and audiences a memorable festival, and I look forward to seeing you at a movie soon.



JOHN SCHIER

DIFF Chair

The Darwin International Film Festival provides the Darwin audience an incredibly strong program of films from across the globe for our 14th edition. Special guests and satellite events are set to bring the festival flair to town, and a packed industry program is set to connect local filmmakers with interstate experts.

I am particularly excited about the opening night gala, which launches the festival with the Sundance Audience Award winning *Shayda* paired with the Berlin Silver Bear winning short film *Dipped in Black* (*Marungka Tjalatjunu*). Guests will be in attendance to talk about their remarkable films.

Throughout the festival we have an abundance of major award-winning films, including two Sydney Film Festival Sustainable Future Awards, the Cannes Best Actor and Best Screenplay winners, the Annecy Best Film, a Venice Fipresci Award Winner, Sundance Special Jury Award, Cannes

Critics Week Grand Prize and the Palme d'Or winner... to name a few.

The major industry events are packed into the final weekend. The world premiere of the *Spark* short films, all filmed bespoke for the festival, screening on the final Friday. With a record investment from Screen Territory and four amazing teams of local filmmakers, this is one not to miss! The Northern Territory Screen Summit brings together local filmmakers and interstate experts under one roof for two days of intensive upskilling and networking.

To close out the festival we have the Closing Night Gala film with an incredible line up of guests. All of the details will become available when the full program is released on the 21st of August!

4	TICKETING & VENUES
5	DINING
7	SHORT FILMS
21	THE GIRRAWEE LAGOON STORY

CONTENTS



DIP INTO DIFF 6

The swim-in cinema is popping up at the Darwin Waterfront Wave Lagoon. 22 – 24 September



NT SCREEN SUMMIT 22

The Northern Territory's major film and screen industry event. 23 – 24 September

Thursday 14 Sept		Monday 18 Sept		Friday 22 Sept	
Shayda	8	Delikado	13	Spark	17
Opening Night Gala Shayda with Dipped in Black / Marungka Tjalatjunu With special guests		With special guests		Short Film Showcase	
		Tiger Stripes	13	Cobweb	18
Friday 15 Sept		Tuesday 19 Sept		Saturday 23 Sept	
Scarygirl	9	The Mother of All Lies	14	Past Lives	19
Perfect Days	9	Smoke Sauna Sisterhood	14	Goodbye Julia	19
Saturday 16 Sept		Wednesday 20 Sept		Sunday 24 Sept	
Autobiography	10	Anatomy of a Fall	14	To be announced soon!	20
Against the Tide	10	Only the River Flows	15	Closing Night	
Robot Dreams	11	Thursday 21 Sept		With special guests	
Sunday 17 Sept		The Survival of Kindness	16		
Best of Annecy Kids	11	With special guests			
Our Voice, Our Heart	12	Monster	16		
With special guests					
Joyland	12				

DIFF takes place on Larrakia Land. We acknowledge the Larrakia people as the Traditional Owners of the Darwin region and pay our respects to Larrakia elders past and present. We strive to share diverse stories on the big screen and we are inspired by, and pledge to honour the continuing culture of the Larrakia.



THE DIFF TEAM

John Schier, Liz Keith, Neil Ludvigsen
Festival Management Committee

Neil Ludvigsen, Caro Macdonald,
Liz Keith, Mahi Garbas, Markus Tumuls
Festival Programming Committee

James Parker
Festival Manager

Erin Lucas, Lisa You
Festival Operations

Mike Frier
Festival Brand & Program Design

Cathy Gallagher
Festival Publicity

Special thanks to Jennie Hughes,
Sebastian Angborn, Kerry Digby,
Callam Yost from Screen Territory
for delivering the Industry Program



Grab your Festival Pass!

There are **5-FILM** and **10-FILM** passes available, or why not treat yourself to one of our strictly limited **FULL ACCESS PASSES** allowing entry to all the film screenings across the Festival – fantastic value!

Available now at diff.net.au



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TICKETING

SINGLE	Deckchair Cinema Early Sessions	Deckchair Cinema Late Sessions	Opening and Closing Night Galas*	BCC Casuarina Family Films
Adult	\$20	\$15	\$25	\$15
Concession	\$15	\$11	\$20	\$10
DFS Member	\$13	\$10	\$15	\$10
Children (5-15)	\$10	\$7		Free / \$5**
Family	\$45	\$34		
PASSES	5-Film Pass	10-Film Pass	Full Access	
Adult	\$75	\$150	\$220	
Concession	\$55	\$110	\$175	
DFS Member	\$50	\$100	\$150	
WATERFRONT				
Adult	\$10			
Children	\$8			

* Includes a welcome drink.

** BCC Family Films, one free child per paying adult, additional children \$5.

BOX OFFICE

ONLINE

diff.net.au

For screenings at Deckchair Cinema, the Swim-in at Darwin Waterfront and Festival Passes.

screenterritory.nt.gov.au/summit
NT Screen Summit registrations.

IN PERSON

Deckchair Cinema

10.00am – 7.00pm daily and
20 minutes prior to late sessions.

Other venues

From one hour prior to
the screening.



VENUES

DECKCHAIR CINEMA

Jervois Road
Darwin Waterfront

Opens nightly at 5.45pm

DARWIN WATERFRONT

Opens from 7.00pm
See page 6

CDU DARWIN WATERFRONT

21 Kitchener Drive
Darwin Waterfront

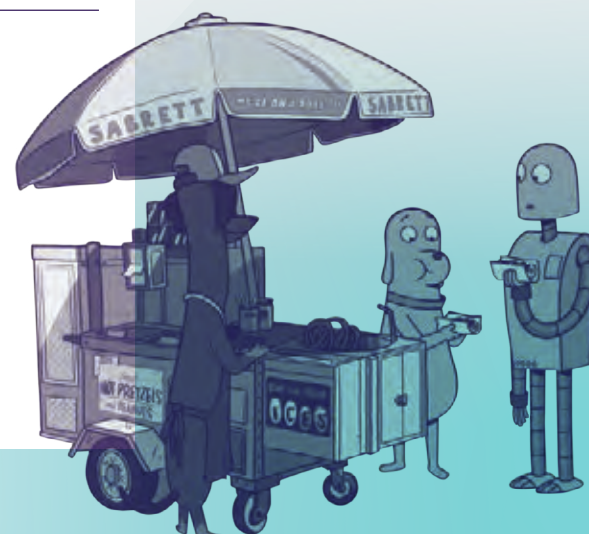
Host of the NT Screen Summit
See page 22

BCC CINEMAS

Casuarina Shopping Centre
Casuarina

MAGNT DARWIN

19 Conacher Street
The Gardens



DINING

Each night at Deckchair Cinema, some of the best local chefs bring you flavours from around the world. Enjoy the stunning sunset views from the dining deck, or dine picnic-style on the grassed area.

Thursday 14 Sept

AZADI PERSIAN

A special treat to celebrate our opening night film *Shayda*. Mouth-watering Persian treats straight off the hot coals.

Friday 15 & 22 Sept

SALVATORES

Salvatores are bringing you their authentic Italian classics each Friday night, a family favourite.

Saturday 16 & 23 Sept

SUMATRA CAFÉ

Mouth-watering Indonesian cooking from Frankie and the team at Sumatra Café highlight your Saturday night.

Sunday 17 & 24, Monday 18 Sept

YOGI'S WAY

Fast becoming an iconic restaurant in Darwin, Yogi's is a modern Australian restaurant with a Nepalese twist!

Tuesday 19 Sept

THREE MUMS KITCHEN

The team from Three Mums bring Phos, Bánh Mì and all the classic Vietnamese dishes for Tuesday night.

Wednesday 20 Sept

DEEBEE CATERING

DeeBee brings delicious fusion food on Wednesday night with healthy and decadent options to suit every palate.

Thursday 21 Sept

DARWIN DE SILVA'S

A fusion of West African and Sri-Lankan cuisine brings rich flavours and spice to your Thursday nights.

LATE NIGHT DELIGHTS!

Throughout DIFF we are catering the late night sessions with hot chips and desserts to satisfy all of your naughty cravings. Best paired with a cocktail from the gin bar on the deck.

Festival Gin Bar

Fancy something... fancier? Head over to the pop-up gin bar on the dining deck for a local gin cocktail or a One Mile gin beer on tap.



Experience a movie in true Territory style! Escape the heat and dive right in to the Darwin Waterfront wave lagoon for a series of awesome movie nights. BYO pool noodle or floatie, or purchase one from the Wave Lagoon kiosk – then sit back and relax. Don't forget, Waterfront restaurants are open for your pre-movie eats.

Friday 22 Sept

7.30pm

Jurassic World

2015, Colin Trevorrow
124m | USA | Adventure

M

Located off the coast of Costa Rica, the Jurassic World luxury resort provides a habitat for an array of genetically engineered dinosaurs. When a massive creature escapes, it sets off a chain reaction that causes the other dinos to run amok. Now, it's up to a former military man and animal expert to save the tourists from an all-out, prehistoric assault.

Saturday 23 Sept

7.30pm

Ice Age

2002, Chris Wedge, Carlos Saldanha
81m | USA | Family

PG

Twenty-thousand years ago, Earth is a wondrous, prehistoric world filled with great danger, not the least of which is the beginning of the Ice Age. The story revolves around sub-zero heroes: a woolly mammoth, a saber-toothed tiger, a sloth and a prehistoric combination of a squirrel and rat, known as Scrat.

Sunday 24 Sept

7.30pm

Finding Dory

2016, Andrew Stanton
97m | USA | Family

G

The beloved family classic makes for a final family swim-in session! Dory is reunited with her friends Nemo and Marlin on a search for answers about her past. What can she remember? Who are her parents? And where did she learn to speak Whale? An epic and perilous adventure to find her parents at the Marine Life Institute.

 All swim-in films are Open Caption



DARWINWATERFRONT

DIFF SHORTS

What's better than an evening under the stars to enjoy a film at DIFF? One that has the added bonus of a short film before the feature! This year, DIFF brings a program of nine short films to the big screen – because film isn't just about features!

Thursday 14 Sept 7.00pm



Dipped in Black / Marungka Tjالاتjunu

Derik Lynch, Matthew Thorne
23m | Australia UC 15

Artist Derik Lynch journeys back home to Aputula to perform on sacred ground in this Berlinale winning film.

Saturday 16 Sept 7.00pm



Helicopter Tjungarrayi

Ankit Mishra
13m | Australia CTC

When helicopter pilot Jim Ferguson landed his chopper in the isolated area of Natawalu, he changed the life of a sick boy forever.

Sunday 17 Sept 7.00pm



Marrma Wanga

Simon Upton
23m | Australia UC 15

Photographer Simon Upton's love letter to the people of Milingimbi and what can happen when people, cultures and ideas come together.

Monday 18 Sept 7.00pm



Mamirnikuwi

Rebecca Parker
14m | Australia UC G

On discovering that her home on the Tiwi Islands is at risk from a gas project, Antonia Burke creates the first ever Tiwi Women's Ranger group.

Monday 18 Sept 9.40pm



Don't Come in... Yet!

Isaac Elliot
10m | Australia CTC

When Jake and his best friend June plan to have sex, they encounter a few minor complications to dampen the romance.

Tuesday 19 Sept 7.00pm



Hopeful Romantic

Kate Vinen
11m | Australia CTC

Daisy is looking for love but it's all going terribly wrong. Daisy decides the only way to find love is to be herself.

Friday 22 Sept 9.00pm



Ice Merchants

João Gonzalez
14m | Portugal UC PG

In this Oscar-nominated multi-award winning parable about love a father and son parachute daily off a cliff to sell ice in the local village.

Saturday 23 Sept 7.00pm



Maitbi wi gin jinggabat naja wei

Jonathon Saunders
3m | Australia CTC

When Tim, a lonely old man, befriends a camp dog, Najing, he discovers the dog has some wisdom to share.

Sunday 24 Sept 7.00pm



Teacups

Alec Green, Finbar Watson
8m | Australia UC 15

Teacups explores Don Ritchie's surreal interactions with hundreds of suicidal individuals and his journey to reconcile the suicide of his best friend. Voiced by Hugo Weaving.

Thursday 14 Sept **Opening Night**

DECKCHAIR CINEMA

UC 15

7.00pm



Shayda

2023 | 117m | Australia

Drama

Directed by **Noora Niasari**
Produced by **Noora Niasari, Vincent Sheehan**
Written by **Noora Niasari**

SPECIAL GUESTS

Derik Lynch
Duncan Graham

Set in 1995 Australia, *Shayda* tells a story of family violence and a mother's determination to escape and survive. At the heart of the story is Shayda, an Iranian woman trying to create a sense of normalcy for her daughter while trying to escape the relentless manipulations of an abusive husband. It is a complicated existence for Shayda, living away from her birth country but still confined by the strict moral codes of Iranian cultural, and wanting to remain rooted in the food, music and traditions she still holds dear.

English and Farsi with English subtitles.

With special guests **Derik Lynch, Duncan Graham** (*Dipped in Black*)

Powerful... The greatest asset of *Shayda* is its unmistakably feminine spirit of perseverance, one that runs wild and free in this promising debut.

Variety



Preceded by **Dipped in Black / Marungka Tjalatjunu** See page 7

**DIFF
SHORTS**

Audience Award – World
SUNDANCE
FILM FESTIVAL

Friday 15 Sept

DECKCHAIR CINEMA

PG

7.00pm



Scarygirl

2023 | 90m | Australia

Family

Directed by **Ricard Cussó, Tania Vincent**
Produced by **Sophie Byrne, Nadine Bates, Kristen Souvlis, Ryan Greaves**
Written by **Polly Watkins, Matt Everitt, Les Turner, Craig Behenna**

The thoughtful character designs, and heartfelt storyline make this Australian animated film truly shine. We meet our young hero, Arkie, as her world is shrouded in darkness. She must overcome her fears and travel to a mysterious city of light, to save her father from a dangerous scientist and prevent the destruction of her planet. Arkie must thwart the evil plans of Bunninguru and his companion Egg to achieve this heroic goal.



There's an unabashed earnestness to these characters and a kinetic energy that propels this feature.
thereelbits.com

Friday 15 Sept

DECKCHAIR CINEMA

UC 15

9.30pm



Perfect Days

2023 | 123m | Japan

Drama

Directed by **Wim Wenders**
Produced by **Wim Wenders, Koji Yanai**
Written by **Takuma Takasaki, Wim Wenders**

Routine is Hirayama's best friend in this inspirational ode to simple but profound pleasures. Each day he wakes, grooms himself, waters his plants and, with a smile, casts his eyes toward the sky as he leaves home. Heading to Shibuya, Tokyo where Hirayama works as a toilet cleaner, he listens to classic rock tunes on cassette tapes – the soundtrack to his day consists of The Velvet Underground, The Kinks, Prince and Van Morrison. Hirayama is perfectly content with his life, but when a young woman appears at his doorstep, hidden elements of his past are revealed.

Japanese with English subtitles.



There isn't a song I'd swap, or a scene I'd cut, it's perfectly uplifting and rejuvenating from start to finish.
firstshowing.net



Saturday 16 Sept

DECKCHAIR CINEMA

UC 18

7.00pm



Autobiography

2022 | 115m | Indonesia

Drama/Thriller

Directed by **Makbul Mubarak**
Produced by **Yulia Evina Bhara**
Written by **Makbul Mubarak**

Housekeeper Rakib works in an empty mansion in a rural Indonesian town. With his father in prison and his brother working overseas, he feels truly alone. The return of the mansion's owner, Purna, to start his mayoral election campaign, creates an opportunity to fill this void. Rakib and Purna quickly develop a deep bond, with Purna becoming the father figure and close mentor the young man has been yearning for. When Purna's election poster is found vandalised, it sets off an escalating chain of events as Rakib loyally tracks down the culprit with violent consequences.

Indonesian with English subtitles.

Preceded by **Helicopter Tjungarrayi**
See page 7

**DIFF
SHORTS**



Saturday 16 Sept

DECKCHAIR CINEMA

UC G

9.30pm



Against the Tide

2023 | 97m | India, France

Documentary

Directed by **Sarvnik Kaur**
Produced by **Koval Bhatia, Sarvnik Kaur**
Written by **Sarvnik Kaur**

In this intimate documentary, proud new dad Rakesh uses traditional fishing methods passed down from his own father, physically hauling in his catch from the shallows of the bay. Modern technologies spur his close friend Ganesh to deeper waters with the use of a power boat. Regardless of their different approaches, both fishermen encounter the same decline in their catch, and struggle to make ends meet for their families. This story is a touching portrayal of true friendship that has endured the triumphs and failures of life, while drawing comparisons to the relationship between humans and the environment.

Koli, Marathi and Hindi with English subtitles.



Kaur has said that, during production, one of her editors wanted to know who was the villain of the film. The strength of *Against the Tide*, though, lies in its even-handedness.

The Guardian

A beautifully paced drama about power dynamics within an

Saturday 16 Sept

BCC CASUARINA

UC PG

3.00pm



Robot Dreams

2023 | 102m | USA

Family

Directed by **Pablo Berger**
Produced by **Ibón Cormenzana, Ignasi Estapé, Sandra Tapia, Jérôme Vidal**
Written by **Pablo Berger**

Based on the popular graphic novel by the North American writer Sara Varon, dialogue-free *Robot Dreams* is a story about true friendship. Tired of being alone, Dog, who lives in Manhattan, decides to build himself a companion in the form of a robot. And thus the story of their friendship begins, blossoming until they become inseparable. Set to the rhythm of 80's NYC, this remarkable friendship takes an unexpected turn one summer night. With great sadness, Dog is left with no option but to abandon Robot at the beach. With an ache in his heart and a question on his mind: will they ever meet again?

With careful animation, and a captivating story, *Robot Dreams* transports viewers to an enchanting world where animals and robots coexist, and friendship transcends barriers.

Cocalecas



Sunday 17 Sept

BCC CASUARINA

UC G

3.00pm



Best of Annecy Kids

2022 | 90m | Various

Animation

The *Best of Annecy Kids* assembles funny, touching and poetic short films that children will adore! Films from the Official Selection as well as a tailor-made Annecy opening sequence by the students of Gobelins, l'école de l'image, make up a program designed to enchant children from the age of six and upwards.

Short films in the program:

Renouveau

by renowned visual arts school Gobelins, l'école de l'image

Luce and the Rock

by Britt Raes

La Soupe de Franzy

by Ana Chubinidze

Histoire pour 2 Trompettes (A Story for 2 Trumpets)

by Amandine Meyer

Cat and Moth

by India Barnardo

Bellysaurus

by Philip Watts

La Reine des Renards (The Queen of the Foxes)

by Marina Rosset

Sunday 17 Sept

DECKCHAIR CINEMA

UC G

7.00pm



Our Voice, Our Heart

SPECIAL GUESTS

2023 | 60m | Australia

Documentary

Directed by **Laurens Goud, Justin Grant**

Produced by **Laurens Goud, Justin Grant, Jaxon De Santis**

Jaxon and Justin are two First Nations men living in Darwin who realise that they don't know what to say about the upcoming referendum. In an effort to find their own voices and help Australians vote with meaning and purpose, the men embark on a journey across the country to engage with communities, activists, and politicians. Through their journey, Jaxon and Justin hope to inspire a national conversation about the importance of voting with knowledge and conviction, and to help all Australians find their own voices on this crucial issue.

With special guests **Laurens Goud, Justin Grant, Jaxon De Santis**

Preceded by **Marrma Wanga**
See page 7

**DIFF
SHORTS**

Sunday 17 Sept

DECKCHAIR CINEMA

MA 15+

9.25pm



Joyland

2022 | 127m | Pakistan, USA

Drama

Directed by **Saim Sadiq**

Produced by **Apoorva Guru Charan, Sarmad Khoosat,
Katharina Otto-Bernstein, Oliver Ridge, April Shih,
Sabiha Sumar**

Written by **Saim Sadiq, Maggie Briggs**

Joyland is the age-old story of a patriarchal family yearning for the birth of the next generation male heir who will continue the family line. However, cupid's arrow has other plans when their youngest son secretly joins an erotic dance theatre and falls in love with an ambitious trans starlet. This vibrant, daring and multi-award winning film explores the stories that emerge and intersect with one another, challenging the ideas of cultural, patriarchal, and heterosexual norms while also recognising the painful complexities of reality.

Punjabi and Urdu with English subtitles.



Its richly textured, effortlessly
compassionate portrait of LGBTQ
identity and desire.

Los Angeles Times

Monday 18 Sept

DECKCHAIR CINEMA

UC 15

7.00pm



Delikado

SPECIAL GUESTS

2022 | 94m | Philippines, Australia

Documentary

Directed by **Karl Malakunas**
Produced by **Michael Collins, Kara Magsanoc-Alikpala, Karl Malakunas, Marty Syjuco**
Written by **Michael Collins, Laura Nix**

Tourists are amazed by the powder-white beaches and lush forests of the idyllic tropical island of Palwan. However it feels more like a battlefield for the network of passionate environmental crusaders trying to protect its spectacular natural resources. Three of the network's leaders take us with them as they come up against politicians and businessmen who seem intent on destroying the Philippines' 'last ecological frontier'. Greed and corruption are not uncommon issues when it comes to the environment. But *Delikado* leaves viewers with a message of courage and resilience.

With special guests **Tom Bannigan** (*Delikado*)
and **Rebecca Parker** (*Mamirnikuwi*)

Preceded by **Mamirnikuwi**
See page 7

DIFF
SHORTS

Sustainable Future Award



Monday 18 Sept

DECKCHAIR CINEMA

UC 18

9.40pm



Tiger Stripes

2023 | 95m | Malaysia, Taiwan, Singapore

Horror

Directed by **Amanda Nell Eu**
Produced by **Foo Fei Ling, Patrick Mao Huang, Fran Borgia, Juliette Lepoutre, Pierre Menahem, Jonas Weydemann, Ellen Havenith, Yulia Evina Bhara**
Written by **Amanda Nell Eu**

In this coming-of-age horror, 12-year-old Zaffan struggles with puberty, discovering a terrifying secret about her physical self. The dreaded inevitable occurs when her friends find out who she really is, despite her attempts to conceal the truth. Compounded by attacks from these once friends, Zaffan is further provoked by her own community. The answer to finding freedom is soon found with Zaffan learning to embrace her true self. This journey is made complete with the modern day rite of passage: TikTok dances.

Malay with English subtitles

Preceded by **Don't Come In... Yet!**
See page 7

DIFF
SHORTS

Critics Week Grand Prize



The performances the director gets from her young cast are tremendous and it is terrifically shot.

The Guardian

Tuesday 19 Sept

DECKCHAIR CINEMA

UC 15

7.00pm



The Mother of All Lies

2023 | 96m | Morocco, Egypt, Saudi Arabia Documentary

Directed by **Asmae El Moudir**
Produced by **Asmae El Moudir**
Written by **Asmae El Moudir**

Focusing on Morocco's 1981 Bread Riots, Asmae El Moudir recreates the events surrounding a government atrocity using doll-like figures. With the help of Asmae's father to construct the scene, and Asmae's mother supporting with textiles, the finely detailed miniatures, and juxtapositions of scale, create a place where memories can roam and long-held secrets can be revealed. As all those around her confront the trauma of the past, Asmae's fearsome grandmother is dismissive of the process and stubbornly determined to leave history undisturbed.

Arabic with English subtitles.



Fresh, distinctive
and very much
its own entity.
Screen Daily

Tuesday 19 Sept

DECKCHAIR CINEMA

UC 15

9.10pm



Smoke Sauna Sisterhood

2023 | 89m | Estonia, France, Iceland Documentary

Directed by **Anna Hints**
Produced by **Marianne Ostrat**
Written by **Anna Hints**

In this collaborative documentary out of Estonia, France, and Iceland we dive into the darkness of a smoke sauna, where women share their innermost secrets and intimate experiences. With hints of symbolic spiritual refuge, the age-old tradition of gathering together creates a safe space with a sense of communion among the group. Through this practice, a restorative catharsis ensues where the shame once trapped within is washed away and replaced with a renewed strength and hope.

Estonian, Seto and Võro with English subtitles



Hints takes the viewer on a
journey through the collective
female psyche to a place
beyond pain and powerlessness.
POV Magazine

Wednesday 20 Sept

DECKCHAIR CINEMA

UC 18

7.00pm



Anatomy of a Fall

2023 | 150m | France

Crime Drama

Directed by **Justine Triet**
Produced by **Marie-Ange Luciani, David Thion**
Written by **Justine Triet, Arthur Harari**

Anatomy of a Fall tells a story of family tragedy and suspicion. Set in a remote mountain chalet in the French Alps, we meet Sandra, a German writer, who lives with her husband Samuel and their visually impaired son Daniel. When Samuel mysteriously falls to his death, suspicion surrounds Sandra as authorities investigate whether his death was by suicide or foul play. Ultimately, murder is the charge and Sandra is arrested. The ensuing trial puts her tumultuous relationship with Samuel, and her personality, under the microscope. Putting pressure on her relationship with her son, doubt starts creeping in between them when it is Daniel's turn to take the stand.

French, English and German with English subtitles.



Full of gradually unpeeled complexities, *Anatomy of a Fall* is a family drama that wears the clothes of a crime procedural – a whodunit where marriage itself feels like a prime suspect.

Time Out

Wednesday 20 Sept

DECKCHAIR CINEMA

UC 15

9.45pm



Only the River Flows

2023 | 101m | China

Crime Drama

Directed by **Wei Shujun**
Produced by **Xufeng Huang**
Written by **Chunlei Kang, Shujun Wei, Hua Yu**

Only the River Flows is a masterfully crafted story that draws the audience in and keeps them engaged throughout. Set in 1990s rural China, a woman's body is found by the river. Chief of Police, Ma Zhe, heads up the murder investigation that leads to a swift and obvious arrest. Despite the apparent resolution, and with congratulations still ringing in his ears from his superiors, Ma Zhe is pushed to investigate further. He must deep dive into the hidden behaviour of his fellow citizens in order to solve the elusive clues that remain.

Mandarin with English subtitles.



Like the investigation itself, the meaning of *Only the River Flows* gradually finds its focus as the story progresses, leaving the viewer staring into the same abyss the detective does.

Hollywood Reporter

Thursday 21 Sept

DECKCHAIR CINEMA

M

7.00pm



The Survival of Kindness

SPECIAL GUESTS

2022 | 96m | Australia

Drama

Directed by **Rolf de Heer**
Produced by **Julie Byrne, Rolf de Heer**
Written by **Rolf de Heer**

The Survival of Kindness is written, directed and produced by award-winning auteur filmmaker Rolf de Heer (*Dingo, Bad Boy Bubby, The Tracker*). This exploration and analysis of race and privilege through allegory, follows protagonist BlackWoman (Mwajemi Hussein), abandoned in a cage in the middle of the desert. Her journey from escape to freedom is marred by challenges, as she walks through pestilence and persecution, from desert to mountain to city, only to find more captivity.

With special guests **Rolf de Heer, Mwajemi Hussein**



It is an elegant reverie about the violence and the stoicism beneath the surface of ordinary life.

The Guardian

Thursday 21 Sept

DECKCHAIR CINEMA

UC 15

9.40pm



Monster

2023 | 126m | Japan

Drama

Directed by **Hirokazu Kore-eda**
Produced by **Genki Kawamura, Minami Ichikawa, Ryo Ota, Kiyoshi Taguchi, Hajime Ushioda, Kenji Yamada, Tatsumi Yoda**
Written by **Yûji Sakamoto**

When Saori's son starts behaving strangely, she forms suspicions about one of his teachers. This haunting film by acclaimed director Hirokazu Kore-eda (*Shoplifters, Broker*), explores a mystery from three perspectives and is scored by the late master, Ryuichi Sakamoto.

Japanese with English subtitles.



As the perspectives converge, a tale of queasy tenderness begins to emerge, about the way friendship, love, shame, and rejection so often live on the same continuum.

Vulture

Friday 22 Sept

DECKCHAIR CINEMA

SPARK FILM SHOWCASE

The *Spark* film initiative returns with four incredible short films, created bespoke for the festival. Four teams of emerging local filmmakers received funding and support from Screen Territory to produce fiction short films.



SCREEN
TERRITORY



NORTHERN
TERRITORY
GOVERNMENT



Special thanks goes out to the *Spark* Sponsors:

Panavision, Global Headquarters, Panafreight, The Post Lounge, Trackdown, Subsonic and Brindle Films.



Rust

Directed & written by **Philip Tarl Denson**
Produced by **Will Tinapple, Philip Tarl Denson**
DOP **Jacob Hazeldine**

After another argument with her long-suffering dad, 15-year-old Xanthe storms out of the house and stumbles upon a rusted-out old robot in the bush. Balancing humour, drama and heartbreak, *Rust* proves that making new friends isn't always easy – even when you have an instruction manual.



Fiasco

Directed & written by **Thomas Midena**
Produced by **Lexie Gregory**
DOP **Leigh Bramall**

It's the end of the world and everyone knows it. Determined to uphold a sense of order, Zara drags her parents to the high school's last concert. But emotions run high, and when nothing goes as planned, Zara is forced to embrace the chaos.

Friday 22 Sept

CTC

7.00pm

DECKCHAIR CINEMA

UC 15

9.00pm



First Drop

Directed & written by **Damon Van Der Schuit**
Produced by **Emma Smith, Bridget May**
DOP **Shane Mulcahy**

Set in Alice Springs, Ted, a reclusive and bitter retiree is tasked with caring for his Pakistani neighbour's 10-year-old daughter, Saleha. After attempts to limit his engagement with Saleha, Ted's defences are broken down as he realises the two share a mutual love of cricket. Thus begins the blossoming of an unlikely friendship.



Hephaestion

Directed by **Samantha Alexis Laughton**
Produced & written by **Sean Guy**
DOP **Jacob Hazeldine**

Two actors meet in a tent to discuss a film they are working on; a younger man playing Hephaestion, and a more mature one playing Alexander the Great. As the thespians dissect their roles Hephaestion argues against the use of 'friendship' as a label to hide genuine romance.



Cobweb

2023 | 134m | South Korea

Comedy

Directed by **Kim Jee-woon**
Produced by **Choi Jae-won, An Eun-mi, Shin Yeon-shick**
Written by **Shin Yeon-shick**

From the production company behind the Academy Award winning *Parasite* and Director Kim Jee-Woon, *Cobweb* is a film within a film. A director is obsessed by the desire to reshoot the ending of his completed film 'Cobweb', but chaos and turmoil grip the set with interference from the censorship authorities, and the complaints of actors and producers who can't understand the re-written ending. Will he be able to find a way through this chaos to fulfil his artistic ambitions and complete his masterpiece?

Korean with English subtitles.

Preceded by **Ice Merchants**
See page 7

**DIFF
SHORTS**



What is film? What does it mean to make films? What is creativity, and what exactly is originality?

Director, Kim Jee-woon

Saturday 23 Sept

DECKCHAIR CINEMA

M

7.00pm



Past Lives

2023 | 106m | South Korea

Drama Romance

Directed by **Celine Song**
Produced by **David Hinojosa, Pamela Koffler, Christine Vachon**
Written by **Celine Song**

Two deeply connected childhood friends, Nora (Greta Lee) and Hae Sung (Teo Yoo), are separated when Nora's family emigrates from South Korea to Canada. Two decades later, when they are both living their adult lives, they are reunited in New York in a beautiful but complicated twist of fate. Over the week that follows, Nora and Hae Sung must confront notions of destiny, love, and the choices that make a life. This heartrending modern romance, which premiered at Sundance and screened at the Berlin International Film Festival, will captivate audiences with the authentic and tender dynamic between the lead characters.

Preceded by **Maitbi wi gin jinggabat naja wei**
See page 7

**DIFF
SHORTS**



Song's remarkable debut is a rare mature adult drama of inexpressible connections and one of the most effective films of the year.

The Guardian

Saturday 23 Sept

DECKCHAIR CINEMA

UC 15

9.30pm



Goodbye Julia

2023 | 120m | Sudan

Drama

Directed by **Mohamed Kordofani**
Produced by **Amjad Abu Alala**
Written by **Mohamed Kordofani**

Set in Sudan before South Sudanese independence, *Goodbye Julia* represents the complicated relationship and the differences between northern and southern Sudanese communities, and the lengths a person will go to assuage their guilt. The story centres on Mona, an upper-middle-class former popular singer from the North, who lives with her husband Akram. Hoping to minimise her feelings of guilt and atone for causing the death of a Southern man, Mona employs a new maid in the form of Julia, the dead man's unsuspecting widow. This remarkable achievement by a first time director was Sudan's first film to screen as a Cannes Official Selection.

Sudanese Arabic with English subtitles.



Kordofani's intelligent, compassionate scripting... illuminates just how well the fault lines that divide a nation can map onto the rifts within a human heart divided against itself.

Variety

Sunday 24 Sept **Closing Night**

We're keeping it under our hat!

We are set to see out the
Festival in style with a star-
studded Closing Night Gala.

All will be revealed when the
programs hit the streets on
the 21st of August!

dif
Darwin
International
Film Festival
2023

Saturday 23 & Sunday 24 Sept

FREE non-ticketed

MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

10.00am – 4.00pm

The Girraween Lagoon Story

An excerpt from

The Earth Above: A Deep Time
View of Australia's Epic History

MUSEUM
AND ART
GALLERY
NORTHERN
TERRITORY

Girraween Lagoon, 35 kilometres southeast of Darwin, is known as the 'place of flowers'. It's a unique site: a waterbody where the seven seasons observed by the Larrakia people manifest clearly on the surface of the lagoon and surrounds, and where evidence of past environments is preserved deep below the water's surface.

In this immersive media experience, presented in a portable planetarium-style dome, Larrakia Elder Lorraine Williams leads viewers through the Gulumoerrgin seasonal calendar year and 140,000 years of regional environmental history uncovered through recent scientific research.

Duration: 7 minutes

Produced by the Deakin Motion Lab for the Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for Australian Biodiversity and Heritage (CABAH). The Girraween Lagoon story is created in collaboration with the Larrakia and Wulna communities.



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Saturday 23 & Sunday 24 Sept

CDU DARWIN WATERFRONT

NORTHERN TERRITORY SCREEN SUMMIT

Discover the vibrant world of the Australian film and television industry at the 2023 NT Screen Summit. Proudly presented by Screen Territory.

This two-day event is designed for NT screen professionals, game developers, and those who are interested or considering a career in the Northern Territory screen sector.

This year's summit includes panels with representatives from Screen Australia, StudioCanal, Paramount, Fremantle and NITV, discussing the key elements which make a screen project compelling and successful in funding and commissioning rounds.

Learn about the development of the ground-breaking docuseries *The First Inventors* and explore content distribution with industry experts from

Madman Entertainment, the Melbourne International Film Festival's Premiere Fund and Documentary Australia.

There will also be a focus on training and upskilling opportunities within the Australian film industry, as well as insights from the *Spark* short films' key creatives, and discussions about the impact a director's vision can have on a screen production as well as an exciting animation discussion involving local game designers and the studio behind the Australian smash hit *Bluey*.

Places are strictly limited

Don't miss registering your FREE place to participate and immerse yourself in the craft of screen based story-telling with this incredible two-day event. For more information and to register visit screenterritory.nt.gov.au/summit

Venue

Charles Darwin University,
21 Kitchener Drive, Darwin City 0800



THIS YEARS SPECIAL GUESTS INCLUDE:

Director & producer Rolf de Heer
The Survival of Kindness, Bad Boy Bubby

Grainne Brunson
Screen Australia

Marcus Gillezeau
StudioCanal ANZ

Marissa McDowell
NITV

Yeesum Lo
Paramount ANZ

Executive producer Al Clark
Chopper, Red Hill, Thunderstruck

Paul Wiegard
Madman Entertainment

Mark Woods
MIFF

Dr Mitzi Goldman
Documentary Australia Foundation

Liz Hughes
National Institute of Dramatic Arts

Dr Amanda Morris
CDU

Ken Crouch
Screen Australia

Angela Bates
Screen Australia

Emmy winning Ludo Studio
Bluey, Robbie Hood, Doodles

Lexi Landsman
Freemantle

Saturday 23 Sept

CDU DARWIN WATERFRONT

Day 1

9.00am – 9.30am

Opening remarks by Screen Territory and the Strategic Plan

Join the director of Screen Territory, Jennie Hughes, as she updates the industry on recent activity and reveals the agency's new Strategic Plan.

Session 1 9.30am – 10.45am

Whisking up a Blockbuster: What are the ingredients of a compelling screen project?

Hear senior representatives from Screen Australia, StudioCanal, Paramount and NITV discuss what makes a compelling story for them.

Session 2 10.45am – 11.30am

'The First Inventors' case study

In a historic co-commission by NITV and Channel 10 *The First Inventors* breaks new ground for Indigenous storytelling.

Session 3 11.45am – 12.45pm

From Sketch to Screen: The journey of animation in visual storytelling

Join acclaimed animation studio Flying Bark Productions, Ludo the creators of smash hit *Bluey*, and the NT's home-grown Salty Games and Larrakin Interactive as they unravel the intricacies of bringing animated stories to life.

Lunch break 12.45pm – 1.45pm

Session 4 1.45pm – 3.00pm

Training and up-skilling with Screen Australia, NIDA & CDU

Screen Australia, Charles Darwin University and the National Institute of Dramatic Arts provide valuable information about training, upskilling, attachment opportunities and the organisations dedicated efforts to strengthen the below-the-line workforce in the Australian film industry.

Session 5 3.15pm – 4.15pm

Igniting Inspiration: A debrief of Spark short films

Meet the key creatives behind this year's *Spark* short films as this debrief session focuses on sharing valuable learnings, embracing failures, and uncovering the ignited passion within the industry.

End of day 1 4.15pm – 5.00pm

Networking drinks

Sunday 24 Sept

Day 2

CDU DARWIN WATERFRONT

Session 6 10.15am – 11.15am

The Craft of Perspective: How the director's vision impacts on a production

This panel discussion delves into the profound impact of a director's vision on the overall production. Two esteemed filmmakers come together to highlight the transformative role a director plays in shaping the storytelling process.

Session 7 11.15am – 12.30pm

Face the Facts: Documentary and factual content

The panel delves into the art of factual storytelling, shedding light on the power of authentic narratives, investigative filmmaking through privileged access, and thought-provoking documentaries that captivate and educate audiences.

Lunch Break 12.30pm – 1.00pm

Session 8 1.05pm – 2.30pm

Distribution and getting your work to an audience

This panel delves into the ever-evolving landscape of content distribution. Industry experts Mark Woods from the MIFF Premiere Fund, Paul Wiegard of Madman Entertainment, Marcus Gillezeau of StudioCanal, gather to explore the challenges and opportunities faced by creators, producers, and distributors.

*Screen Territory reserves the right to amend the sessions
and/or session participants at any time.*

Proudly presented by



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Let yourself **OFF THE LEASH** *in the Northern Territory*



Congratulations to the Darwin International
Film Festival team on the 2023 DIFF.

Grab your **free copy** of the September edition
to get the lowdown on this year's festival!

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PERFORMING ARTS | **MUSIC** | **CALENDAR**



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