

DOWN AUSTRALIAN UNDER FILM BERLIN FESTIVAL

PRESS RELEASE

July 10th, 2012

2nd DOWN UNDER BERLIN - AUSTRALIAN FILM FESTIVAL, SEPTEMBER 14th-16th 2012, AT MOVIMENTO, BERLIN-KREUZBERG

Down Under Berlin - Australian Film Festival will this year take place at Kreuzberg's Kino Movimento, the oldest cinema in Germany, from September 14th to 16th. Now in its second year, Down Under Berlin is the only festival in Germany dedicated to presenting Australian film and cinema culture.

September 14th-16th 2012

2nd Down Under Berlin – Australian Film Festival

Kino Movimento
Kottbusser Damm 22
10967 Berlin

Following the success of last year's festival, the team at Down Under Berlin, headed up by festival director Frances Hill, is preparing another exciting and diverse **program of shorts, fiction films and documentaries** as well as events surrounding the films and presenting Australia's rich film culture. The audience will be called upon during the festival to vote for their favourite film from the program, with the winners being awarded the **Down Under Berlin Short Film Award** as well as the **Down Under Berlin Film Award**, for feature films.

This year's call for entries yielded films spanning every genre, and a wide range of topics. This year has also seen the introduction of the **Joint Call for Entries** - an initiative set up by Down Under Berlin. The Joint Call for Entries is intended to give film makers the opportunity to submit their film simultaneously to Down Under Berlin as well as to its partner film festivals, which together attract over 25,000 people each year. Not only does this mean that films submitted through the call for entries have the chance to be screened at a number of different festivals but it also allows Down Under Berlin to bring Australian films to an ever-widening audience.

The history, culture and contemporary experience of Australia's indigenous population is becoming an increasingly vital part of Australia's film landscape. As part of the **Indigenous Australia** section of the festival, Down Under Berlin will present a number of films which deal with the issues and lives of Australia's indigenous groups. This carefully curated program of shorts, documentaries and feature films aims to convey the diversity of perspectives, both thematic and aesthetic, emerging among indigenous filmmakers, and with this to engage in the ongoing dialogue about the role of indigenous people in Australian society and cinema.

This year, the Sydney Film School, the Victorian College of the Arts as well as the Western Australian Screen College of Edith Cowan University have put together a special program for Down Under Berlin, presenting the final film projects of their students. These films will be shown as part of the **New Talents Showcase**, which offers audiences a glimpse of the filmmakers of tomorrow and an insight into some of the trends emerging in Australian cinema. This section not only acts as a cultural exchange between Down Under Berlin and these Australian Film Schools

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but also aims to serve as a platform for up-and-coming Australian filmmakers to have their work seen in Europe - sowing the seeds for potential co-productions. The film which is most well-received by audiences will be given the New Talents Audience Award.

Down Under Berlin - Australian Film Festival e.V. is registered as a non-profit association. The team of Australian and European film lovers and Australian fans all work as volunteers together with director Frances Hill and are passionate about bringing Australian culture to Berlin. Down Under Berlin receives no government funding and is solely financed through donations and the support of members of the Berlin Business Community. More information about the festival can be found on our website www.downunderberlin.de.

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