

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**13.09.2012**

**TOOMELA OPENS 2ND DOWN UNDER BERLIN – AUSTRALIAN FILM FESTIVAL BEFORE A SOLD-OUT AUDIENCE**

The 2nd Down Under Berlin – Australian Film Festival kicked-off today with the German Premiere of *Toomelah* from the acclaimed Cannes director Ivan Sen, which opened to a sold-out Kino Moviemento and was met with rapturous applause.

Print quality images of the festival opening night can be found under the following links:

[moviemento.de/presse/dub\\_bilder/downunder008.jpg](http://moviemento.de/presse/dub_bilder/downunder008.jpg)

[moviemento.de/presse/dub\\_bilder/downunder003.jpg](http://moviemento.de/presse/dub_bilder/downunder003.jpg)

Down Under Berlin will take place from 13.-16.09.2012 in Kino Moviemento, Berlin-Kreuzberg. Down Under Berlin is the only film festival in Germany to focus exclusively on films from Australia and New Zealand.

Of the 63 films being shown at the festival, 56 will be celebrating their premiere in Berlin. During the festival the filmmakers Julian Argus, David Hawkins und Kate Talbot, Siouxzi Mernagh, Alex Macbeth und Miriam Hisom as well as Luigi Cutore will all be present for Q&A sessions.

The goal of Down Under Berlin – Australian Film Festival. Our supporting program, which consists of six guest lectures and a film discussion with the festival audience, further enforces this goal by allowing the films to be contextualised, within a wider understanding of the history, culture and society of Australia.

The goal of the festival is to present Australasian culture and film culture to German audiences in a way which encompasses a broad range of perspectives and formats. This year the New Talents Showcase will form an especially important part of the program. With this new section we will present the latest final film projects from students at Australia's film schools and will award the film which is most well-received by the festival audience the New Talents Audience Award.

The festival program will be rounded off with a series of guest lectures as well as a film discussion. We will be joined by guest speakers from the Free University Berlin, the University of Potsdam and NGOs such as Amnesty International, who will seek to provide insights into the society, culture and history of the Australasian continent and thus taking a more in-depth look at some of the festival films.

The festival will take place under the patronage of the current Governing Mayor of Berlin Klaus Wowereit and the Borough Mayor of Friedrichshain-Kreuzberg Franz Schulz.

All further information about Down Under Berlin – Australian Film Festival, as well as the full festival program and print-quality film stills can be found on our website [www.downunderberlin.de](http://www.downunderberlin.de). Tickets for all screenings are now available to purchase or reserve at [www.moviemento.de](http://www.moviemento.de) or by calling 030 692 4785.

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