

PRESS RELEASE
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Cultural border crossings in everyday life **A first look at the Down Under Berlin film and side program 2013**

From 12th to 15th September 2013, the third edition of Down Under Berlin will take place in the Movimento Kino in Berlin-Kreuzberg. The film program includes over 60 poetic, abstract, horror-esque, surreal, animated, gritty and also funny films from Australia and New Zealand.

In keeping with tradition, **Indigenous film** will be a major focus of Down Under Berlin with Catriona McKenzie's debut feature film *Satellite Boy* to open the festival in 2013. This film sets the tone for the festival with the theme of crossing cultural borders, which will be addressed in many films in the following days. Pete (Cameron Wallaby), the young protagonist in McKenzies' film, lives with his grandfather on a property where a drive-in cinema used to be. He is faced with questions of identity, nostalgia, belonging and the search for male role models in the complex world of the present.

The film program will give the audience further insight into the everyday lives and cultures of Australian Aboriginal peoples. The documentaries *Queen of the Desert* (Alex Kelly) and *The Hidden Gem* (Namratha Thomas), for example, follow two queer and unique protagonists, but also explore the everyday relationships between Anglo-Saxon and Indigenous cultures. The first feature film by director Brendan Fletcher, *Mad Bastards*, is a very intimate film, incorporating real-life experiences of its actors, most of whom are non-professionals.

The short works presented in the **New Talents Showcase** also add diversity to the festival program as they take the audience through a range of cinematic approaches, with a variety of genres and themes. In 2013, Down Under Berlin presents graduate films from the Victorian College of the Arts in Melbourne, the Sydney Film School and the University of South Australia in Adelaide. At the closing of the festival the winner of the New Talents Showcase Award, as chosen by the audience, will be announced.

A small selection demonstrates the variety of the New Talents Showcase program: *Authentic* (Manuel R. Mota) tells the story of a young sex-addict, struggling with his feelings of frustration. *Gorilla* (Tim Marshall) captures a magical and defining moment at the beginning of a new relationship.

DOWN AUSTRALIAN UNDER FILM BERLIN FESTIVAL



Strange Tourist (Joshua Ayelett) sees a young mother break out of the regularity of her life, if only temporarily. Another highlight is *Sweet* (Dominique Haslam), which addresses once again the search for identity but which is also a meditation on the experiences of loss.

In 2013, Down Under Berlin will present for the first time a cultural program as part of the film festival. This includes the live sound and video installation *Outback and Beyond*, by and with media artist Grayson Cooke and musician Mike Cooper, a concert by Australian multi-instrumentalist *Anna Morley*, a range of *discussions* and a *Make-Your-Own-Comic Workshop*.

Please check the Down Under Berlin website for information on [accreditation](#) and festival [logos](#). **From the beginning of August, the complete program will be available to download.** Please contact us if you require access to film stills from the 2013 program.

Berit Becker

Head of Communications

Down Under Berlin – Australian Film Festival

berit.becker@downunderberlin.de

Mobile +49 (0)151 20647628