

Media Release June 2010



2010 Message Sticks Indigenous Film Festival will showcase a unique selection of exciting and new Indigenous films (free) in ten venues around Australia

Presented by **BLACKFELLA FILMS** in association with **SCREEN AUSTRALIA, NFSA, SCREEN NSW, SBS** and the **SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE**

www.messagesticksfilmfestival.com.au

Celebrating 11 years, the **2010 Message Sticks Indigenous Film Festival** commences another decade with remarkable Indigenous storytelling. The Festival will tour the country with screenings in **Canberra, Adelaide, Townsville, Broome, Perth, Brisbane, Cairns, Darwin, Melbourne and Mt Isa.**

The annual **Message Sticks Indigenous Film Festival** has always showcased the great diversity of Indigenous culture and artists. In 2009, the Festival won the **IF Award for Best Australian Film Festival** and premiered Warwick Thornton's Cannes winner ***Samson and Delilah***.

This year the Festival, curated by **Rachel Perkins and Darren Dale** from **Blackfella Films**, focuses on a new crop of exciting and challenging Indigenous filmmakers from Australia and abroad.

"Film powerfully reveals the world of the storyteller, and our festival is unique in its exclusive focus on Indigenous storytellers," says **curator, Rachel Perkins**. *"Over the past ten years, Message Sticks has gathered a loyal collection of people who come together to share this world as a family of sorts; both on screen, behind the camera and in the audience".*

The festival program, may vary slightly at each venue, but details can be found on a particular venue's website or at www.messagesticksfilmfestival.com.au. Adrian Wills' one hour documentary ***Boxing for Palm Island*** promises to be a highlight, which tells of the remarkable revival of boxing on Palm Island, a place with a dark history and a notorious reputation. Adrian Wills' short film, ***Daniel's 21st***, will also be screened. This film stars Deborah Mailman and is a drama centred around Daniel's 21st birthday where something has gone horribly wrong.

Director **Michael Longbottom** returns to Message Sticks with another documentary, ***Big Fella***, from his community at La Perouse; the story of his mate Rodney, who is struggling with the crippling affects of diabetes and obesity. A common experience in Indigenous communities, this is one man's love for life, his battle to stay alive, and his fight against the demons of preventable disease.

Genevieve Grieves' powerful, debut documentary, ***Lani's Story***, follows a woman's experience of two relationships – one she has to escape to survive, the other she

cannot survive without. It is a moving and intimate portrait of a young woman's journey from victim to victor, from a broken and violent relationship to discovering the redemptive power of love. The film shows how the courage of one person can transform the lives of others.

In an Australian premiere, ***Reel Injun***, by Canadian director **Neil Diamond**, takes an entertaining and insightful look at the creation of the Hollywood Indian we have all become familiar with. Travelling through the heartland of America, Cree filmmaker Neil Diamond looks at how the myth of "the Injun" has influenced the world's understanding – and misunderstanding – of 'Natives'.

First time filmmaker Mary Munro premieres a very personal documentary, ***Nin's Brother***, following her family as they journey from NSW to South Australia to unravel the fate of their brother and uncle and to bring him home to a proper resting place alongside the graves of his family.

Shorts from the nations that lead Indigenous filmmaking globally will be shown; Australia, Canada and the USA ***Shimasani*** (USA), ***Nundhirribala's Dream*** (AUS), and ***Barnngnrrn Marrangu Story*** (AUS) are definite highlights.

Canberra June 12, 13 & 17
Arc cinema at the National Film and Sound Archive
nfsa.gov.au/arc (02) 6248 2000

Adelaide June 15 – 16
Mercury Cinema
mercurycinema.org.au (08) 8410 0979

Townsville June 19
Dancenorth (Earth and Sea Festival)
dancenorth.com.au (07) 4772 2549

Broome August 2 – 3
Sun Pictures Broome
broomemovies.com.au (08) 9192 1077

Perth 4 – 5
Cinema Paradiso
lunapalace.com.au (08) 9227 1771

Brisbane August 14 – 15
Powerhouse
brisbanepowerhouse.org (07) 3358 8600

Cairns August 21 – 22
Indigenous Art Fair
ciaf.com.au

Darwin August 24 – 25
Deckchair Cinema
deckchaircinema.com (08) 8941 4377

Melbourne Sept 4 – 5
Bunjilaka Aboriginal Cultural Centre
museumvictoria.com.au/bunjilaka (0)3 8341 7777

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