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FILM FESTIVAL RETURNS TO NELSON

The annual NZ International Film Festival returns to the Suter Cinema from Wednesday with *Beasts of the Southern Wild* confirmed as the opening night film.

"Opening with Sundance hit, *Beasts of the Southern Wild*, NZIFF gives Nelson movie lovers the chance to sample the best of international cinema hot on the heels of the world's most prestigious Film Festival – and in many cases months ahead of Festival audiences in London, New York, and Rome," says Festival Director Bill Gosden

Beasts of the Southern Wild won the Grand Jury prize (Dramatic) at Sundance and the Camera d'Or (Best First Film) at Cannes earlier this year. Organisers of the Festival are hoping for strong local support for the international programme which will make use of the State Cinema's digital projection technology which is being installed at the Suter.

"We've embraced a revolution. The digitisation of film has been immense and rapid in the last 12 months. Digital Cinema Package (DCP) equipment at State Cinema has made a full Festival in Nelson possible this year. Over 50% of the films will screen from DCP in the 2012 programme." says Gosden.

The NZIFF will screen from August 29 and run to September 16 at Suter Cinema. Tickets are on sale now from State Cinemas. The full NZIFF programme is available online and copies of the brochures are available from the cinema, and at libraries and cafes around town.

For Festival updates visit www.nzff.co.nz and register to receive e-newsletters.

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For further information about the NZ International Film Festival or to arrange an interview with Director Bill Gosden:

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