



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Monday 23 September**

### **NZ ICON TO OPEN FILM FESTIVAL IN NAPIER**

After a three year hiatus the New Zealand International Film Festival (NZIFF) returns to Napier with a special opening event confirmed for the MTG Century Theatre.

*Utu Redux* will open NZIFF at the MTG Century Theatre on Wednesday 16 October. Director, and recently anointed Arts Icon, Geoff Murphy will attend the special opening night event. Graeme Cowley, Director of Photography and *Utu Redux* Producer, will also attend.

The classic New Zealand film had its original premiere in Napier in 1983 with cast and crew in attendance. In 1984 *Utu* went on to become the first New Zealand film to screen at Cannes. Film Hawke's Bay hope to recreate the celebration and atmosphere of the event for NZIFF 2013 opening night and local premiere of the restored film. The screening is open to the public with tickets on sale now from MTG and via Ticketek.

"It's a really historic occasion to have Geoff and Graeme here thirty years on from the original premiere. Film Hawke's Bay has been established to do exactly what *Utu* did – make the most of what Hawke's Bay has to offer – and that's worth celebrating. We've already started hearing some of the stories about the making of *Utu* from the locals involved and we hope over the next few weeks to hear a lot more," says Tessa Tylee, Film Hawke's Bay Trust Manager.

Cinema Gold Havelock North hosted NZIFF in Hawke's Bay during redevelopment of MTG Hawke's Bay. NZIFF screenings will continue at Cinema Gold this year. Programme details for both venues will be available in the Hawke's Bay NZIFF programme and on the Festival website.

"We are thrilled to be back in Napier, and into the iconic MTG Hawke's Bay. MTG Century Theatre's technical capabilities have had a significant upgrade which means that the latest film projection technology will be used for NZIFF screenings. This world class presentation will provide Napier audiences with the best possible viewing experience of the latest New Zealand and international films," says NZIFF Director Bill Gosden.

The programme will feature titles straight from Cannes, including Italian feature *The Great Beauty* (centre-piece screening) and Jim Jarmusch's vampire film *Only Lovers Left Alive* (closing night film).

NZIFF will screen from 16 October to 3 November at the MTG Century Theatre in Napier and at Cinema Gold Havelock North from Thursday 17 October. The full NZIFF programme is now available online. Copies of the brochures are available from the cinemas, and cafes around Hawke's Bay. Tickets are on sale from both venues now.

For Festival updates visit [www.nziff.co.nz](http://www.nziff.co.nz) and register to receive e-newsletters.

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<http://www.nziff.co.nz/hawke-s-bay>

<http://www.nzonscreen.com/collection/the-geoff-murphy-collection>

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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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