

# NEW ZEALAND INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL



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# NZIFF

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## WELCOME



In a world fraught with changes you might not want to be reminded about, we bring you the 2017 NZIFF catalogue, cleverly contrived to look like business as usual. Yes, indeed, we have made our choice of the best the world had to offer us and the assortment is as rich and varied as it always has been. But the world's best filmmakers often move as the world moves, and it is impossible to deny the darkness of the new films that dominated Cannes this year – or to ignore the fact that recently so many filmmakers have felt compelled to address the imperilled rights of the young.

It's a subject brought very close to home in one of the three Christchurch-made feature length films, and it is our great pleasure to present NZIFF World Premiere screenings at the Isaac Theatre Royal. Creating a venue fit to celebrate local filmmakers was high on our agenda four years ago when we were raising the funds to equip the Isaac Theatre Royal for cinema. So was creating a venue where audiences might be treated to 'silent-era' classics with live orchestral accompaniment. The live acoustic at the Isaac Theatre Royal means Christchurch now has the best venue in the land for doing just that. We are delighted this year to show that off with the Christchurch Symphony Orchestra and one of the all-time comedy greats, Buster Keaton's *Our Hospitality*.

Of course our programme spills beyond our flagship venue, with an extremely enticing selection of films to be found at Hoyts Northlands, our longstanding Christchurch base, and at Movie Max Digital in Timaru. 2degrees Mobile returns as sponsor of a massive World cinema section for a second year. Resene join us for their fourth year as sponsors of another stunning bunch of New Zealand films. Flicks.co.nz, RadiolIVE and *Metro* magazine remain proactive media partners. We also welcome NZherald.co.nz as our digital news partner. Thanks to our Gala sponsors Buddle Findlay for their generous support of our Opening Night festivities.

Ultimately it's the support of its audience that keeps our non-profit enterprise in action, and, it always bears saying, the perseverance of independent filmmakers who did whatever it took to get these films made. 25% of your ticket money goes their way. Ticket sales contributed 88% of our income in 2016. The major sponsorship we receive from the New Zealand Film Commission is a gratifying institutional contribution to that support system.

Come in out of the rain, says our poster. Though not every great film yielded by the last turbulent year was intended to fold you in a warm embrace, there's fun in store at NZIFF and life to be had together at the movies.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Gosden". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Bill Gosden  
Director

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## 20th Century Women

Opening Night

A loving, funny and insightful memoir of the mother who brought him up – and two younger women she might have enlisted to assist – Mike Mills' *20th Century Women* swirls happily around a richly shaded performance from Annette Bening. Set in sunny, late-70s southern California on the brink of the Reagan era, the film is brimful with the music, artefacts and attitudes of its day, a lively time capsule inviting constant comparison with where we have landed now.

Lucas Jade Zumann plays 15-year-old Jamie and it's through his eyes that we see the bohemian household over which his mother, Dorothea, holds uncertain dominion. There are two boarders, Abbie (Greta Gerwig), a purple-haired punk photographer, and William (Billy Crudup), a hippie handyman – and pushover for any woman who fancies him. Dorothea is unaware of a third house guest, Julia (Elle Fanning), the girl next door whose propensity for chaste sleepovers is driving Jamie insane.

The plot is wafer-thin, but the joy of *20th Century Women* is in how these beautifully realised individuals bounce off each other and bring the joys, frustrations and fashions of 40 years ago wafting into the present.



"A captivating Annette Bening is the beating heart of this gloriously unclassifiable movie... Part comedy of manners, part mother-son love story, it had me laughing and tearing up simultaneously... Although Bening reigns supreme, Mills zigzags through time and his characters' lives with a messy amplitude that is downright Renoiresque. Everyone has his reasons. Everyone has her say." — Molly Haskell, *Sight & Sound*

**"A funny, emotionally piercing story about a teenager and the women who raise him."**

— Manohla Dargis, *NY Times*

**Director/Screenplay: Mike Mills**  
USA 2016 | 119 mins

**Producers:** Megan Ellison, Anne Carey, Youree Henley

**Photography:** Sean Porter

**Editor:** Leslie Jones

**Music:** Roger Neill

**With:** Annette Bening, Elle Fanning, Greta Gerwig, Billy Crudup, Lucas Jade Zumann, Alia Shawkat

**Festivals:** New York 2016; Rotterdam 2017

**Nominated, Best Screenplay, Academy Awards 2017**  
CinemaScope | M offensive language, nudity, drug use & sexual references

PRESENTED IN ASSOCIATION WITH



A	Isaac Theatre	Thu 3 Aug, 7.00 pm
B	Isaac Theatre	Wed 9 Aug, 11.00 am
A	Northlands	Sun 13 Aug, 5.15 pm
B	Northlands	Thu 17 Aug, 11.30 am

A	MM Timaru	Thu 17 Aug, 6.15 pm
B	MM Timaru	Wed 23 Aug, 1.00 pm

## The Square

Closing Night

We close our 41st edition with a blast, Ruben Östlund's Palme d'Or winner, a sprawling, jaw-dropping satire, centred on a Swedish museum curator (Claes Bang), an exhibit, a stolen phone and an American journalist (Elisabeth Moss).

"*The Square* [is] a sardonic, darkly funny picture about a dashing museum curator whose dysfunctional institution is a microcosm of the larger world. Can art, or the tools used to promote it, cross the bounds of moral responsibility? What does it take to jog the upper classes out of their comfortable insularity? *The Square* is both outlandishly funny and biting – and features a fascinating and sometimes disturbing performance by Terry Notary, the gifted actor and [*Hobbit*] movement choreographer." — Stephanie Zacharek, *Time*

"*The Square* is set in the rarefied reaches of Sweden's art world, but from that vantage point takes pot shots at marketing, the media, the Swedish culture of militant political correctness as well as the pretension, self-deception, and pseudospeak of the cultural elite...

While the targets are many and Östlund, admirably, almost always punches up, there is a kind of



organizing principle relating to the chasm between the social faces we wear and the self-interested creatures we really are. Snip by snip, in scenarios dripping with acridly observed discomfort, Östlund clips precisely through the barbed-wire barrier fences of culture, sophistication and socialization that refined middle-class modern humans erect between our public selves and our private, animal natures." — Jessica Kiang, *The Playlist*

**"Östlund's eye for the subtleties of human behavior, especially public behavior, never fails."**

— Emily Yoshida, *Vulture*



**Director/Screenplay: Ruben Östlund**  
Sweden/Germany/France/Denmark  
2017 | 147 mins

**Producers:** Erik Hemmendorff, Philippe Bober

**Photography:** Fredrik Wenzel

**Editors:** Ruben Östlund, Jacob Secher Schulsinger

**With:** Claes Bang, Elisabeth Moss, Dominic West, Terry Notary, Christopher Laessø, Marina Schiptjenko, Eliandro Edouard, Daniel Hallberg, Martin Söder

**Festivals:** Cannes (In Competition) 2017

**Palme d'Or (Best Film), Cannes Film Festival 2017**

In English and Swedish, with English subtitles

Censors rating tbc

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**Metro**

B	Isaac Theatre	Fri 18 Aug, 3.15 pm
A	Isaac Theatre	Sun 20 Aug, 7.15 pm

## Faces Places *Visages villages*

Centrepiece

88-year-old Agnès Varda, working in collaboration with the young photo-muralist JR, reminds us that big themes can live in small places – and that every life yields something to celebrate. As the two travel across France, looking up old friends and creating artworks from photographs of the people they meet, a friendship blossoms – and with it a wonderful free flow of ideas and observations.

“She is nearly 90; he is 34. She worked with Jean-Luc Godard; he looks like Jean-Luc Godard (and, much to Varda’s consternation, will similarly not take off his sunglasses). And yet, the movie is barely five minutes old before it’s clear that these two are a screen duo for the ages... Varda has always possessed a warm and compulsively watchable screen presence, and the pint-sized iconoclast still has more pep in her step than most of us have ever had... JR is an absolute joy (and a mensch, to boot)... Teasing at times, quietly deferential at others, he taps into his co-star’s inherent sense of wonder and creates a canvas big enough for her to fit all of the ideas that she’s still dying to project.” — David Ehrlich, *Indiewire*  
“In her magnificent, groundbreaking,



nearly 60-year career, this is one of her most profoundly personal and exuberantly populist works. A tour de France that is both a romp and a meditation on photography, cinema, and mortality, with brief appearances by Mimi, the scene-stealing cat, it is at once poetry and the naked truth, shape-shifting before one’s eyes, and promising ever more pleasure with each viewing.” — Amy Taubin, *Film Comment*

**“Serendipities fly as cinema’s greatest gleaner goes rambling in the cine-van of magnum muralist JR.”**

— Isabel Stevens, *Sight & Sound*



**Director/Screenplay: Agnès Varda, JR**  
France 2017 | 89 mins

**Photography:** Claire Duguet, Nicolas Guicheteau, Valentin Vignat, Romain Le Bonniec, Raphael Minnesota, Roberto De Angelis, Julia Fabry  
**Editors:** Agnès Varda, Maxime Pozzi Garcia  
**Music:** M (Matthieu Chedid)  
**With:** Agnès Varda, JR  
**Festivals:** Cannes (Out of Competition) 2017  
In French with English subtitles  
Censors rating tbc

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THE PANTOGRAPH PUNCH

**A Isaac Theatre** Sat 12 Aug, 6.30 pm  
**B Isaac Theatre** Tue 15 Aug, 10.30 am

**A MM Timaru** Thu 24 Aug, 6.15 pm  
**B MM Timaru** Fri 25 Aug, 1.00 pm

## Human Traces

World Premiere

After imbuing horror tropes with genuine feeling in his award-winning zombie short *Here Be Monsters*, Kiwi writer-director Nic Gorman brings a grounded human touch to his feature debut. A knotty psychological thriller set on an isolated subantarctic island, *Human Traces* deftly pairs taut suspense with slippery character study, refusing to let any of its players fall into simplistic archetypes.

The drama takes place 750 kms south of New Zealand, where husband-and-wife scientist team Sarah (Sophie Henderson) and Glenn (Mark Mitchinson) have been posted to monitor the ecosystem of a remote island. When a mysterious stranger (Vinnie Bennett) arrives, paranoia and deception begin to disrupt the order. Splitting his film into three chapters, each told from a different character’s perspective, Gorman delights in disorienting his audience. Each new act is designed to reassemble the last: no sooner have you sided with one character than you find your allegiance complicated by the next point of view. The tension builds from a trio of stellar performances, with each allowed equal time to thicken; national treasures Henderson and Mitchinson do impressive work, but it’s newcomer



Bennett who shines most, lending his mysterious *homme fatale* a disarming naturalism.

Beyond expertly deploying spilled secrets, climactic confrontations and washed-up corpses for dramatic effect, it’s Gorman’s understanding of the humanity within beneath the genre beats that grounds the film. This gripping examination of human behaviour reminds us that everyone is only the hero of their own story. — JF

**“Human Traces tells a complex story on a big canvas... [It’s] about humans and how they are shaped by forces they can be entirely oblivious to...”**

— Nic Gorman



**Nic Gorman\***  
**Nadia Maxwell\*\***

**Director/Screenplay: Nic Gorman**  
New Zealand 2017 | 87 mins

**Producer:** Nadia Maxwell  
**Photography:** John Christoffels  
**Editor:** Richard Shaw  
**Music:** Stephen Gallagher  
**With:** Sophie Henderson, Mark Mitchinson, Vinnie Bennett, Sara Wiseman, Peter Daubé, Milo Cawthorne  
CinemaScope | Censors rating tbc

**A Isaac Theatre** Fri 4 Aug, 8.30 pm\*  
**B Northlands** Tue 15 Aug, 4.00 pm\*\*



## Loveless *Nelyubov*

## Special Presentation

Andrey Zvyagintsev (*Leviathan*) won the Cannes Jury Prize for his stark and gripping tale of a divorcing couple caught in a missing-child procedural.

"Andrey Zvyagintsev has produced another masterpiece in this apocalyptic study of a failed marriage and the subsequent disappearance of a child. *Loveless* is a stark, mysterious and terrifying story of spiritual catastrophe: a drama with the ostensible form of a procedural crime thriller. It has a hypnotic intensity and unbearable ambiguity which is maintained until the very end. This is a story of modern Russia whose people are at the mercy of implacable forces, a loveless world like a planet without the full means to support human life, a place where the ordinary need for survival has mutated or upgraded into an unending aspirational demand for status, money, freedom to find an advantageous second marriage which brings a nice apartment, sex, luxury and the social media prerogative of selfies and self-affirmation. But all of it is underpinned, or overseen, by intensely conservative social norms of Christianity, conformism and nationalism." — Peter Bradshaw, *The Guardian*

"After four films, including the brilliant *Leviathan*, we are almost



prepared for the crystalline perfection of Russian genius Andrey Zvyagintsev's style... There is no way to do the film justice while also selling it as an appealing way to spend two devastating hours. But Zvyagintsev's skill as a filmmaker is such that as discomfiting as it is, it's deeply compelling and immersive." — Jessica Kiang, *The Playlist*

**"Loveless is a tragic fairytale we can all believe in."**

— Bilge Ebiri, *Village Voice*



**Director: Andrey Zvyagintsev**  
Russia/France/Belgium/Germany 2017  
128 mins

**Producers:** Alexandre Rodnyansky, Sergey Melkumov  
**Screenplay:** Oleg Negin, Andrey Zvyagintsev  
**Photography:** Mikhail Krichman  
**Editor:** Anna Mass  
**Music:** Evgeni Galperin  
**With:** Maryana Spivak, Alexey Rozin, Matvey Novikov, Marina Vasilyeva, Andris Keishis, Alexey Fateev  
**Festivals:** Cannes (In Competition) 2017  
**Jury Prize, Cannes Film Festival 2017**  
In Russian with English subtitles  
4K DCP | CinemaScope | Censors rating tbc

**B Isaac Theatre** Thu 10 Aug, 1.30 pm

**A Isaac Theatre** Sun 13 Aug, 5.15 pm

**A MM Timaru** Sun 27 Aug, 7.30 pm

## Mountain

## Special Presentation

Australian filmmaker Jennifer Peedom follows her extraordinary *Sherpa* with a giant screen celebration of the allure of the mountains, created in collaboration with the Australian Chamber Orchestra. Spectacular images, shot in 21 countries by legendary mountaineer/cinematographer Renan Ozturk (*Meru*, *Sherpa*) and others, have been cut together thematically to an orchestral score drawing on Chopin, Grieg, Vivaldi, Beethoven and new works by Richard Tognetti. The orchestra will perform live when the film tours Australia in August, but we're delighted to have secured NZIFF big-screen engagements for the soundtracked version.

Drawing from Robert Macfarlane's book *Mountain*, read on the soundtrack by Willem Dafoe, the film considers the changes in humanity's relationship to mountains over recent times. Not so long ago they represented the divine and mysterious; to many indigenous communities living on their flanks they always will. By the time Hillary and Tenzing ascended Everest, mountains had been colonised by the west and filled our imaginations as personal challenges to be overcome.

That spirit of conquest may be hard to separate from the risks taken to



capture the exultant top-of-the-world imagery that makes this film such an exhilarating experience. As Peedom offers us a jaw-dropping montage of people throwing themselves off precipices for the sheer thrill of it, her film revels both in the dramatic grandeur of the mountains and in the glorious irrationality which may be the only sane human response.

**"To those who are enthralled by the mountains, their wonder is beyond all dispute. To those who are not, their allure is a kind of madness."**

— Robert Macfarlane, *Mountain*

**Director: Jennifer Peedom**  
Australia 2017 | 74 mins

**Producers:** Jennifer Peedom, Jo-anne McGowan  
**Screenplay:** Robert Macfarlane, Jennifer Peedom  
**Photography:** Renan Ozturk  
**Editors:** Christian Gazal, Scott Gray  
**Music:** Richard Tognetti, the Australian Chamber Orchestra  
**Narrator:** Willem Dafoe  
**Festivals:** Sydney 2017  
CinemaScope

**A Isaac Theatre** Tue 8 Aug, 6.15 pm

**A Isaac Theatre** Mon 14 Aug, 8.45 pm

**A Northlands** Wed 16 Aug, 8.45 pm

**B Northlands** Fri 18 Aug, 2.30 pm

**A MM Timaru** Fri 25 Aug, 6.30 pm

## My Year with Helen

Special Presentation

Gaylene Preston's *My Year with Helen* delivers a fascinating portrait of Helen Clark on a mission – and a laconic account of the exasperating circumstances wherein she hit the glass ceiling at the United Nations.

Early in the film the former PM spells out her primary professional objective: find herself a job where she can “do a power of good.” Keen to discover what that might look like in 2015, Preston followed Clark to Botswana in her position heading up the UN Development Programme. She didn't know that in the year that followed Clark would also be campaigning for the position of secretary general.

The election of the UN's top official had once been so secretive that not even the candidates knew they were in the official running. For 2016 the UN announced that the contest would be much more transparent. Considering the organisation's remit around gender equality, the time felt ripe for the first female SG in its 80-year history.

The media love a horse race, and politicians, diplomats and feminist organisations were immediately abuzz with speculation and opinion. Shuttling between a forthright Clark and UN briefings which reveal nothing, Preston



singles out a wealth of clued-up commentators and shrewdly observes multiple angles to the story. Nothing anyone has to say is intended to convince you that this was a transparent process, or even, in fact, a race.

Clark is dignified and resilient in the face of loss. She can always congratulate herself on having had Preston on hand to mine her disappointing experience and discover in it the fuel for future fire.

**“We do have a way of women taking charge that a lot of other nationalities don't.”**

— Gaylene Preston

 Gaylene Preston\*

**Director/Producer: Gaylene Preston**  
New Zealand 2017 | 93 mins

**Co-producer:** Catherine Madigan  
**Executive producer:** Alexander Behse  
**Photography:** Sam Russell, Colin Sonner, Gaylene Preston  
**Editor:** Paul Sutorius  
**Music:** Jan Preston  
**With:** Helen Clark  
**Festivals:** Sydney 2017

A Isaac Theatre Sun 6 Aug, 1.15 pm\*

B Isaac Theatre Tue 8 Aug, 1.00 pm\*

A MM Timaru Sun 20 Aug, 2.45 pm

## The Other Side of Hope *Toivon tuolla puolen*

Special Presentation

Aki Kaurismäki, Finland's deadpan laureate of life at the bottom of the heap, responds to Europe's refugee crisis with a seriously funny film about a young Syrian mechanic (soulful Sherwan Haji) who finds his way into Finland by stowing away on a container ship full of coal. “Show me to the police station,” he asks the first person he meets, intending to take the legal path to political asylum. “Are you sure?” comes the reply.

The refugee is slowly drawn, by a newly flush (though hopelessly melancholic) entrepreneur, into life under the radar working and living in what is surely Finland's dodgiest sushi restaurant.

“It's difficult to imagine anyone coming away from Aki Kaurismäki's gorgeous tragicomedy about the refugee crisis in Europe, the challenges of the restaurant business and the rewards of self-reinvention without feeling gentle elation sparked by the story's evidence of human kindness amid cruelty and indifference. This is a world that reeks of cigarette smoke and cheap vodka, yet as always in the work of Finland's maestro of droll melancholy, the perfume that lingers longest is empathy...



MALLA HUKKANEN

Not unlike the salted herring with wasabi that gets served to a busload of unfortunate Japanese diners, this is a movie about foreign elements coming together, whether it's displaced Middle Easterners fleeing atrocity in sleepy Scandinavia or two men from different worlds forging a mutually enriching friendship that speaks of selfless compassion without sentimentality.”

— David Rooney, *Hollywood Reporter*

**“The warmest, most life-enhancing film I've seen this year.”**

— Saskia Baron, *The Arts Desk*



**Director/Producer/Screenplay:**  
**Aki Kaurismäki**  
Finland/Germany 2017 | 98 mins

**Photography:** Timo Salminen

**Editor:** Samu Heikkilä

**With:** Sherwan Haji, Sakari Kuosmanen, Ilkka Koivula, Janne Hyytiäinen, Nappu Koivu, Kaija Pakarinen, Niroz Haji, Simon Hussein Al-Bazoon

**Festivals:** Berlin, Sydney 2017

**Best Director, Berlin International Film Festival 2017**  
In Finnish, English and Arabic, with English subtitles  
M violence

A Isaac Theatre Sat 5 Aug, 6.00 pm

B Isaac Theatre Wed 9 Aug, 1.30 pm

A MM Timaru Fri 18 Aug, 8.00 pm

## Our Hospitality

## Christchurch Symphony Orchestra Live Cinema

NZIFF and the Christchurch Symphony Orchestra are proud to present another classic comedy event, guaranteed to entertain anyone from eight to 88. Don't miss the unique chance to catch the prince of deadpan, Buster Keaton, in *Our Hospitality* as it was supposed to be experienced: on a giant screen, in a new restoration, with Carl Davis' orchestral score performed live.

*Our Hospitality* was only Keaton's second feature-length movie, but it touches perfection in its integration of comedy and dramatic suspense. Its spectacular waterfall sequence is as thrilling and funny as an acrobatic feat as you could hope to see, and it was performed, exactly as you see it, by the star himself.

"*Our Hospitality* is generally considered Buster Keaton's first true feature and one of his major accomplishments. To watch it today with a new score by Carl Davis, is to be reminded of the tremendous sense of freedom that the great silent-era clowns had... This film is Keaton's take on the Hatfield and McCoy feud. He casts himself as a young man raised on his aunt's farm in Manhattan (at Broadway and 42nd Street!) who, after coming of age, heads south to collect his inheritance.

Keaton devotes the first part of his picture to all the mishaps that befall him as a passenger aboard a quaint and exceedingly delicate-looking 1830 train travelling through Appalachia. Once he arrives at his destination, he unwittingly heads right smack into his family's ancient enemies – and falls for their fair maiden in the process. Keaton works the tradition of Southern hospitality for all it's worth: as long as he is a guest in the white-columned mansion of those sworn to kill him, he is safe. How he escapes and how he survives leads to timelessly amusing and progressively dangerous escapades, one involving an attempt to navigate a waterfall.

There's a poignant footnote to this lovely, airy comedy. Keaton cast his pretty wife Natalie Talmadge (sister of the more famous Constance and Norma) as his leading lady and even used their baby son in the film, as a way of holding together their troubled marriage. Like all of Keaton's films, *Our Hospitality* is suffused with wistfulness." — Kevin Thomas, *LA Times*

"Sheer joy... I love the old silent films (admittedly more the likes of Buster Keaton and Harry Langdon), but this was something pretty special and to have the skills of the Christchurch Symphony Orchestra accompanying them really showed them at their best, a genuine source of entertainment rather than a historical curio." — Patrick Shepherd reviews our 2016 Live Cinema performance, *Christchurch Press*

**Carl Davis** is the doyen of contemporary composers for silent film. His score for *Safety Last!* was a hit at our Live Cinema screening last year. His score for *Our Hospitality* reproduces the playful



**"Buster Keaton's first full-length masterpiece, a story about the innocent inheritor of an old feud between Southern families, who carelessly starts dating the girl from the other family." — Tony Rayns, *Time Out***

style and smaller scale of orchestral accompaniment that would have been standard fare at major city cinemas in the 1920s. This authenticity notwithstanding, the originality of Davis' melodic lines and the intricacy of synchronisation refine the art of film accompaniment far beyond the capacities of the old cinema pit bands.

**Marc Taddei** conducts Carl Davis' score. A popular guest conductor throughout Australasia, Marc is currently Music Director of Orchestra Wellington and the Vallejo Symphony in California. Marc conducted our two previous Christchurch Symphony Orchestra Live Cinema engagements, Chaplin's *The Kid* in 2015, and Harold Lloyd's *Safety Last!* in 2016.



**Directors:**  
Buster Keaton, John G. Blystone  
USA 1923 | 74 mins

**Producer:** Joseph M. Schenck

**Screenplay:** Clyde Bruckman, Jean C. Havez, Joseph A. Mitchell

**Photography:** Gordon Jennings, Elgin Lessley

**With:** Buster Keaton (Willie McKay), Natalie Talmadge (Virginia Canfield), Joe Roberts (Joseph Canfield), Joe Keaton (Lem Doolittle), Kitty Bradbury (Aunt Mary), Craig Ward (Lee Canfield), Leonard Clapham (James Canfield), Buster Keaton Jr (baby)  
B&W | G cert

**Music commissioned by**  
Thames Television for Channel 4.

**Music performed by arrangement with**  
Faber Music Ltd, London.

The restoration of *Our Hospitality* is part of the Keaton Project, launched in 2015 by Cineteca di Bologna and The Cohen Film Collection to restore all the films made by Buster Keaton between 1920 and 1928.

**CSO**  
Christchurch Symphony  
Orchestra

**CINETECA**  
**BOLOGNA**

★ Isaac Theatre Sun 20 Aug, 2.00 pm  
SPECIAL PRICES APPLY – see page 50

# AOTEAROA

NEW ZEALAND FILMS AT NZIFF ARE  
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NZIFF is proud to provide big screen premieres for striking work made within our own shores – and in particular in Canterbury. We are honoured in 2017 to host the World Premieres of Nic Gorman's *Human Traces* at the fabulous Isaac Theatre Royal, and two documentaries, *One Island of Good* and *Seven Rivers Walking – Haere Mārire*.

NZIFF also provides the first New Zealand screenings of *Waru*, an extraordinary and powerful collaboration by eight Māori women filmmakers, and Toa Fraser's *6 Days*, fresh from its UK World Premiere. Documentary filmmakers have brought us a record number of films about New Zealanders this year – and our two regular short film programmes shine as bright as ever.

## 100 Men



 Paul Oremland

**Director:** Paul Oremland  
New Zealand 2017  
94 mins

**Producer:** Vincent Burke  
**Photography:** Owen Scurfield, Guy Quartermain, Fred Burns  
**Editor:** Stuart Boone  
**Music:** Karl Steven  
**With:** James, Mr Raglan, Chris the journalist, Richard the sailor  
Censors rating tbc

*100 Men* fast-tracks through 40 years of gay history via a countdown of filmmaker Paul Oremland's most memorable shags. The significance of the 100 men varies, but all have lingered in Paul's mind for some small or, ahem, big reason. Most of the men feature only as a descriptive nickname; some appear on camera. Although the film does ask whether gay men are too fixated on sex, Paul is more interested in these men's lives, emphasising the collective experience of the isolation of growing up gay.

Paul recounts how a religious upbringing in New Zealand fuelled an inner struggle and how his first heartbreak led to a move to the UK. It's there that he met John, the love of his

life. Their on/off-again romance gets major screen time, with Paul unpicking their decision to eschew monogamy for an open relationship. The polyamorous life is a major talking point of the film. In the days before gay marriage seemed even remotely possible, the rejection of monogamy was a defining feature of gay culture, and the film explores the effects it had on men's lives.

This thoughtful film looks forward as much as it does back, leaving us to ponder the intricacies of gay identity today. — Chris Tse

**A Northlands** Wed 16 Aug, 8.30 pm  
**B Northlands** Thu 17 Aug, 2.00 pm

## Bill Direen: A Memory of Others



 Simon Ogston  
Bill Direen

 Foraging

**Director/Producer/Editor:**  
Simon Ogston  
New Zealand 2017  
87 mins

**Photography:** Jeff Smith, Simon Ogston  
**Music:** Bill Direen  
**With:** Bill Direen, The Bilders, Nick Bollinger, Steven Cogle, Marie Direen, David Eggleton, Ferocious, Hamish Kilgour

Simon Ogston, director of invaluable documentaries about Philip Dadson and the Skeptics, has crafted a lively portrait of Bill Direen, one of New Zealand's truly maverick voices. For over 40 years, that voice has encompassed poetry, rock music, theatre and long-form prose. A road movie following his first national tour in more than a decade, *A Memory of Others* follows Direen from Dunedin, to Christchurch, to Wellington, to Auckland. In each city he reunites with old bandmates or works with new collaborators to produce a succession of strikingly different performances.

En route, Direen visits key locations from his past, telling stories and giving spoken-word performances of

his written work. His stops include homages to Janet Frame in Oamaru, James K. Baxter in Jerusalem and Michael Joseph Savage in Auckland. It's a thoroughly engaging and pleurably cinematic trip through our geographical and cultural landscape, threaded with interviews and material from Direen's rich archive. As stimulating as the man it profiles, *A Memory of Others* is an in-depth exploration of his music and writing, providing a glimpse of our social history and current milieu through his eyes.

**A Northlands** Sat 19 Aug, 6.00 pm  
**A Northlands** Sun 20 Aug, 5.30 pm

## 6 Days

Appearing the same year as his sports doco *The Free Man* (see below), this latest thriller from New Zealand's most versatile filmmaker, Toa Fraser, rounds out his status as a serious action director. Compellingly shaped by Glenn Standring's excellent script, *6 Days* tells the true story of what happened when six heavily armed gunmen invaded the Iranian embassy in London in April 1980. With 26 people held hostage, the ordeal lasted for six nail-biting days as police, politicians and military wrestled over the best way to neutralise the threat.

Policeman Max Vernon (a soulful Mark Strong) tries to reason with the terrorists through trust and negotiation, while Rusty Firmin (Jamie Bell) and a crack troop of SAS operatives prepare to handle the situation by more aggressive means. As pressure to resolve the issue mounts, Fraser tautly builds toward the inevitable, the film climaxing with a white-knuckle recreation of one of the most audacious special forces raids in history.

Amidst the action is BBC reporter Kate Adie (Abbie Cornish), the British journalist whose arresting live coverage of the event broke new ground for television news reporting. In balancing



these contrasting perspectives evenly, Fraser etches out a refreshingly ambivalent position for the audience to observe from.

Especially in a year when the methods of our own special forces have been put under scrutiny, Fraser's film comes as a timely examination of the moral fallout that comes with using force. — JF

**"There's a very real moral struggle... I don't really think of the movie in terms of heroes and villains."** — Toa Fraser

 **Kate Adie\***

**Director: Toa Fraser**  
New Zealand/UK 2017 | 95 mins

**Producer:** Matthew Metcalfe  
**Screenplay:** Glenn Standring  
**Photography:** Aaron Morton  
**Editor:** Dan Kircher  
**Music:** Lachlan Anderson  
**With:** Jamie Bell, Abbie Cornish, Mark Strong, Martin Shaw, Emun Elliot, Ben Turner, Aymen Hamdouchi, Tim Pigott-Smith, Robert Portal, Colin Garlick, Andrew Grainger, Martin Hancock  
RP13 violence & offensive language

**A Isaac Theatre** Thu 10 Aug, 8.30 pm\*  
**B Northlands** Wed 16 Aug, 4.15 pm

## The Free Man



**Director: Toa Fraser**  
New Zealand 2017  
84 mins

**Producer/Screenplay:** Matthew Metcalfe  
**Photography:** Andrew Stroud  
**Editors:** Chris Plummer, Cushla Dillon, Bryn Evans  
**Music:** Sean Donnelly  
**With:** Jossi Wells, The Flying Frenchies

After his adrenaline te reo chase thriller *The Dead Lands*, New Zealand director Toa Fraser brings audiences a riveting examination of adrenaline itself with his new sports documentary, *The Free Man*. At once a white-knuckle adventure film and ruminating spiritual inquiry, Fraser's doco follows Kiwi world-champion freestyle skier Jossi Wells as he travels and trains with The Flying Frenchies, a troupe of extreme-sport eccentrics who specialise in an array of breathtaking vertiginous stunts.

With no experience whatsoever, Wells learns to cross a rope suspended between two trees and works his way up to traversing the perilous peaks of the French Alps. Supplying the rest of the thrills is a surfeit of heart-stopping

footage from the Flying Frenchies back-catalogue: human catapulting, base-jumping from moving vehicles, and in one thrilling sequence, a slack-rope walk sans harness. Like a Red Bull sports movie by way of Werner Herzog, Fraser's film laces the action with rich existential contemplation: for his daredevil heroes, toying with the void is not just recreation but a philosophical position. Not since *Man on Wire* has the psyche of the adrenaline-junkie been plumbed so grippingly. — JF

**A Northlands** Sun 6 Aug, 8.00 pm  
**A Northlands** Mon 7 Aug, 8.15 pm  
**B Northlands** Mon 14 Aug, 4.15 pm

## Free Theatre



 **Shirley Horrocks**

**Director/Producer/Screenplay:** Shirley Horrocks  
New Zealand 2017  
76 mins

**Photography:** Craig Wright  
**Editor:** Steven Mountjoy  
**Research:** Roger Horrocks, Shirley Horrocks  
**Music:** Jonathan Besser, Emma Johnston  
**Narrator:** Jennifer Ward-Lealand

Founded by Peter Falkenberg in 1979, Christchurch's Free Theatre has provided a remarkably persistent alternative to the city's more vaunted legacy of traditional theatre. Favouring the event-based over the text-based, Falkenberg has steeped a succession of actors, writers and theatre technicians in the practice of an avant-garde theatre that has strong roots in his native Germany, while being constantly responsive to political and social change.

Free Theatre has often courted controversy and the film is studded with remembered provocations: audiences at a production of *1984* were separated from their friends and even forcibly evicted by costumed security guards.

Filmmaker Shirley Horrocks, who began shooting seven years ago when she first encountered Free Theatre's touring production *Distraction Camp*, is especially attentive to the shift in focus and a less combative – though no less satiric – imaginative engagement with community activation since the earthquakes.

At 37, Free Theatre has proven as definitive and resilient a Christchurch institution as the one Falkenberg set out to oppose, and richly deserving of Horrocks' documentary salute.

**A Northlands** Mon 14 Aug, 6.30 pm  
**B Northlands** Tue 15 Aug, 1.45 pm

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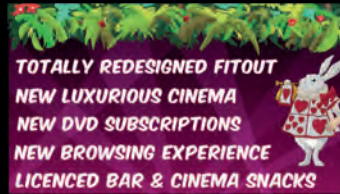
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## Kim Dotcom: Caught in the Web

Kim Dotcom has become such a familiar part of New Zealand's media and cultural furniture that it is easy to forget the jaw-dropping astonishment of the dawn raid on 20 January 2012, when 76 officers swarmed upon the German internet mogul's mansion north of Auckland, bounding from helicopters, armed to the teeth.

In the definitive filmed account of the saga to date, Annie Goldson (*Brother Number One*) delivers a jolting reminder of the legal, political and personal upheavals ignited by the US government's attempt to extradite Dotcom and colleagues for copyright-related offences. It begins with the formative years: convicted hacker turns security consultant turns file-sharing entrepreneur. The flamboyant career trajectory ultimately attracts the attention of Hollywood bosses bent not just upon disabling Megaupload, a website awash with pirated content, but sending a resounding message to those who might seek to emulate his business, wherever in the world they reside.

A freshly compelling chronicle of the Dotcom years, *Caught in the Web* corrals a range of voices, among them Motion Picture Association of America counsel Steve Fabrizio, Wikipedia



NIGEL MARPLE

founder Jimmy Wales, musician Moby and Dotcom himself.

'This whole thing is like a Hollywood movie,' says Dotcom. But in documenting the drama – court tussles, scraps with John Key, the Internet Party, the 'Moment of Truth' – Goldson resists any temptation to extol or excoriate, while underscoring, beyond the political circus and braggadocio, just how pivotal this case is in the internet age. — Toby Manhire

**"Whether you think he's a hero or a heel, you're bound to leave the film with your preconceptions shattered."**

—David Fear, *Rolling Stone*

 Annie Goldson\*

**Director: Annie Goldson**

New Zealand 2017 | 112 mins

**Producer:** Alexander Behse

**Photography:** Dominic Fryer, Adam Ruszkowski, Simon Raby, Marcus Winterbauer, Laela Kilbourn

**Editor:** Simon Coldrick

**Music:** David Donaldson, Steve Roche, Janet Roddick

**With:** Kim Dotcom, Mona Dotcom, Glenn Greenwald, Lawrence Lessig, Gabriella Coleman, Jimmy Wales, Jonathan Taplin, Greg Sandoval, Sean Gallagher, Mike Masnick, Moby

**Festivals:** SXSW, Hot Docs 2017

B	Northlands	Wed 9 Aug, 1.45 pm
A	Northlands	Sun 13 Aug, 12.45 pm*
A	Northlands	Sun 13 Aug, 3.45 pm*

## Kobi

In a modest workshop in a beautiful Central Otago landscape, Swiss goldsmith Kobi Bosshard, approaching 80 and widely regarded as the grandfather of contemporary New Zealand jewellery, continues to produce works of classic simplicity and elegance.

Daughter Andrea Bosshard's lucid and loving film portrait of her father – and of her mother, Patricia, too – is one of the year's loveliest films, a lyrical evocation of rich, unhurried life. Kobi moved to New Zealand in the early 60s, with goldsmithing in his blood. The ethos of the hippie era may have enabled his choice of profession, but there's no mistaking the work ethic or quiet single-mindedness underlying his subsequent life of creativity.

Super 8 home movies brim with flowers and sunny days and evince an idyllic view of a fresh landscape and a young family in the New World. Plentiful archival footage reminds us of the days when TV broadcasters covered the arts, while readings from family letters take us into the heart of the family. This may be a very personal history, but it's perfectly pitched for an audience of strangers: the filmmaker inscribes her own presence in the inspiring story of her parents' lives with unusual grace.



An abundance of jewellery is alluringly displayed for the camera. The beauty of a lifetime's work is proclaimed by a succession of true experts: women and a few men who speak eloquently about the pieces by Kobi they have worn and treasured. It seems unlikely that Bosshard set out to recruit new customers for her father, but be warned, you may leave this gentle tribute to the simple life with a hankering to shop.

**"The work we do comes out of the life we live, so we have to have a life to start with."**

— Kobi Bosshard

 Andrea Bosshard  
Shane Loader

**Directors/Producers/Photography:**

**Andrea Bosshard, Shane Loader**

New Zealand 2017 | 103 mins

**Editor:** Shane Loader

**Music:** Plan 9

**With:** Kobi Bosshard, Patricia Bosshard-Browne, Trixie Woodill, Peter McKay  
In English and German, with English subtitles

A	Northlands	Tue 15 Aug, 6.30 pm
B	Northlands	Wed 16 Aug, 11.30 am

## The Inland Road



**Jackie van Beek**  
**Director/Screenplay:**  
**Jackie van Beek**  
 New Zealand 2017  
 80 mins  
**Producer:** Aaron Watson  
**Photography:** Giovanni C. Lorusso  
**Editors:** Luca Cappelli, Tom Eagles  
**With:** Gloria Popata, David Elliot,  
 Chelsie Preston Crayford,  
 Georgia Spillane, Jodie Hillock  
**Festivals:** Berlin 2017  
 CinemaScope | M drug use  
 & offensive language

New Zealand audiences will probably know writer/director Jackie van Beek as Pauline from *Funny Girls*, rather than as an internationally award-winning short filmmaker. Van Beek's writing has a more poetic and serious bent, and in her first feature she turns her attention to home and family, focussing on mothering, daughters, and the after-effects of romantic and sexual encounters.

The cinematography by Giovanni C. Lorusso boasts the rugged farm landscapes of Central Otago, strikingly captured in natural light. These spacious landscapes contrast with hand-held close-ups of the superb naturalistic performances. Teenage Tia, on the run from a disrupted family

situation, is played with subtle depth by newcomer Gloria Popata, alongside local farmer Will (David Elliot), his pregnant wife Donna (Chelsie Preston Crayford) and their six-year-old niece Lily (Georgia Spillane).

The dramaturgy resists conventional narrative choices to reach gentler yet resonant conclusions. It's particularly enjoyable to see female characters show such sensitivity, complexity and empathy. An anticipated and enjoyable debut feature. — Jo Randerson

**B Northlands** Fri 18 Aug, 2.15 pm  
**A Northlands** Sat 19 Aug, 8.30 pm

## No Ordinary Sheila



**Hugh Macdonald**  
**Christine Dann\***  
**Director:**  
**Hugh Macdonald**  
 New Zealand 2017  
 98 mins  
**Producer/Screenplay:**  
 Christine Dann  
**Photography:** Richard Mekalick,  
 Hugh Macdonald  
**Editor:** Abi King-Jones  
**Narrator:** Phil Darkins  
**With:** Sheila Natusch, Kim Hill,  
 Susan Hamel, Dinah Priestley,  
 Shaun Barnett, Ken Scadden

If you haven't already heard of Sheila Natusch, prepare to be inspired. The life story of this nonagenarian natural historian and writer is a beautiful, truly Antipodean journey, made with love by her cousin and long-time kiwi filmmaker, Hugh Macdonald.

Born in 1926 on Rakiura (Stewart Island) to the Traill family, Sheila's early childhood memories include a near-drowning at the hands of schoolmates, which she shrugs off casually. Growing up in the deep south led to an adventurous resilience which saw her climb multiple mountains, cycle from Picton to Bluff and write dozens of groundbreaking natural history books, including the first comprehensive guide to New Zealand animals.

Featuring beautiful historic footage of the lower south in the 30s and 40s, this film also covers Natusch's friendship with Janet Frame and their unsuccessful foray into teaching. Viewers will love this radiant, defiant and unconventional life story which ranges from the southern wilds to the rugged coast of Owhiro Bay, where Sheila still lived until recently, without car, TV, lipstick or alcohol, planning to "get the last bit of fun out of life that there is." — Jo Randerson

**B Isaac Theatre** Fri 11 Aug, 1.30 pm\*  
**A Isaac Theatre** Sat 12 Aug, 1.00 pm\*

**A MM Timaru** Sat 26 Aug, 6.00 pm

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## One Island of Good

It is widely acknowledged that young people who have rarely been shown generosity are unlikely to grow into adults who can exhibit it. This documentary made by and about the YMCA Christchurch puts that principle to the test as 22 young people (aged 13-16) who have been expelled from mainstream schools for bullying, selling weed and other misdemeanours, are accompanied by YMCA staff and volunteers on a trip to Nepal.

YMCA Christchurch CE, Josie Ogden Schroeder, makes it clear from the get-go that the ultimate denial of generosity to at-risk youth in New Zealand is the government's Alternative Education scheme. This heavily relies on philanthropy, limits the powers of providers and effectively funds the kids at a substantially lower rate than kids in mainstream schools. The YMCA draws on its own resources to supplement what support the scheme provides. Funding the trip to Nepal calls on added support from sympathetic businesses, duly acknowledged in the film.

Director Tim McInnes keeps up with the kids, indulging their in-your-face camera awareness, and etching even sharper portraits when they forget it's there. The staff we meet show



judicious compassion and tolerance around their charges, but they are run ragged in Nepal and own up to the strain. They struggle to temper the wild reflexes of students described as "part five-year old, part MI5," yet find the wherewithal to rouse the better instincts the trip was designed to nurture. There are no feel-good turnarounds in this impressively frank film: hope endures in glimmerings of success. The call to action is clear.

**"These kids would rather throw a chair at a teacher than reveal they cannot read."** — Salatielu Tiatia



**Tim McInnes**  
**Josie Ogden Schroeder**

**Director: Tim McInnes**  
New Zealand 2017 | 85 mins

**Producers:** Tim McInnes, Harley Williams  
**Executive producer:** Josie Ogden Schroeder  
**Photography:** Tim McInnes, Jason Hunt  
**Editor:** Harley Williams  
Censors rating tbc

**A Isaac Theatre** Tue 8 Aug, 8.15 pm  
**B Isaac Theatre** Wed 16 Aug, 1.30 pm

## Swagger of Thieves



 **Julian Boshier**

**Director/Producer/  
Photography:**  
**Julian Boshier**  
New Zealand 2017  
110 mins

**Editor:** Eddie Larsen  
**With:** Nigel 'Booga' Beazley, Nigel Regan, Andrew Durno, Mark Hamill, Tom Watson, Mike Franklin-Browne, Andrew Ashton, Tamzin Beazley  
Colour and B&W | R16 drug use & offensive language

Any band as theatrically confrontational as Head Like a Hole is going to have a story worth telling. *Swagger of Thieves* director Julian Boshier has worked for a decade on this film. He has earned the trust and respect of Nigel 'Booga' Beazley and Nigel Regan, the ever-collapsing binary stars who are the guts of any HLAH line up.

Boshier finds the two men staring down the age with belligerence, vulnerability, shamelessness and honesty. There is no legacy polishing here, and no one's feelings are spared. Alongside the Nigels we meet Tamzin Beazley, holding together a family in the face of Booga's occasional flailing darkness. Band members emerge in various iterations – some wounded and

disgruntled, others with their grundle still intact.

Studded through the film are performances by the band in all their cock-wobbling, floor pounding, propulsive and preposterous glory.

Whether you come as a fan of the music, as a fan of solid filmmaking, or as a bystander wondering what all the noise is about, you'll be seeing one of the most intelligently assembled and truthfully told documentaries New Zealand has produced. — Graeme Tuckett

**A Northlands** Fri 11 Aug, 8.00 pm  
**A Northlands** Sat 12 Aug, 8.30 pm

## Spookers



**Director: Florian Habicht**  
New Zealand/Australia  
2017 | 82 mins

**Producers:** Nick Batzias, Lani-rain Feltham, Suzanne Walker, Virginia Whitwell  
**Screenplay:** Florian Habicht, Peter O'Donoghue, Veronica Gleeson  
**Photography:** Grant Adams  
**Editor:** Peter O'Donoghue  
**Music:** Marc Chesterman  
**Festivals:** Hot Docs, Sydney 2017  
M adult themes  
[spookers.com](http://spookers.com)

Zombie brides, baby-killing banshees and psycho-killer clowns are all family in Florian Habicht's fanciful and funny documentary portrait of *Spookers*, the popular theme park occupying the former Kingseat Psychiatric Hospital. Ex-sheep farmers Beth and Andy Watson along with daughter Julia are the down-to-earth proprietors of the sprawling destination where multifarious fiends lie in wait to scare the bejeezus out of tens of thousands of screaming customers every year.

In Habicht's enchanted view the Watsons run a family business in more senses than one. The actors he interviews have never had as much entertainment in their lives as creating havoc as *Spookers*, nor found such

camaraderie or reinforcement as in letting their demonic fantasies run riot. Bringing in his own art department and some cute lo-fi effects, Habicht casts their horror-show personae in florid dream scenarios. Former patients worry that *Spookers* promotes the unhelpful notion that psychiatric illness is a terrifying thing, but there seems little doubt for Habicht or the current inhabitants: Kingseat under the Watsons' watch is better for the nation's mental health than it ever was before.

**A Isaac Theatre** Mon 7 Aug, 8.30 pm  
**B Isaac Theatre** Fri 11 Aug, 4.15 pm

## Waru

A sisterhood of Māori female directors bravely share their insights into the complexity of child abuse, in a sequence of eight short films that seamlessly become one. At the centre of their stories is Waru, a boy killed at the hands of a caregiver. His tangi, set on a small rural marae, is the centrepiece of the film, but there is an underlying disturbance of heavy themes touching on culture, custom and shame.

We see a single death through the differing lenses of the extended family, community, and in one sharp sequence, national media too. Waru weaves multiple reactions and offers a glimpse into the events that ensue upon the killing of a child and the conflict created among loved ones.

As Waru's grandmothers, Kararaina Rangihau and Merehake Maaka deliver electrifying performances, demonstrating their skill in the art of karanga. As their wailing and laments call on their ancestors to safely take their mokopuna, a challenge for his body unfolds.

Māori humour isn't absent, and neither are the subtexts within the banter, leaving me to wonder if our ability to laugh in times of sorrow is a cloak to mask our pain. Antonio Te Maioha and Miriama McDowell are



powerful in challenging roles, which left me questioning if I would have the same courage to intervene.

The subject could hardly be heavier, but this is a hugely important film. Unless we are willing to be tested, we have no chance of reducing our shameful child abuse rate here in Aotearoa. It's a film everyone in the family should see and talk about.

— Mihingarangi Forbes, Māori Issues Correspondent, *RNZ/The Hui*

**“When a child is killed every five weeks there is no other way to tackle abuse other than confronting it, head on.”**

— Mihingarangi Forbes



Guests

**Directors:** Briar Grace-Smith, Casey Kaa, Ainsley Gardiner, Katie Wolfe, Chelsea Cohen, Renae Maihi, Paula Jones, Awanui Simich-Pene  
New Zealand 2017 | 88 mins

**Producers:** Kerry Warkia, Kiel McNaughton  
**Screenplay:** Briar Grace-Smith, Casey Kaa, Ainsley Gardiner, Katie Wolfe, Chelsea Cohen, Renae Maihi, Paula Jones, Josephine Stewart-Te Whiu  
**Photography:** Drew Sturge  
**With:** Tanea Heke, Roimata Fox, Ngapaki Moetara, Awhina-Rose Ashby, Maria Walker, Kararaina Rangihau, Acacia Hapi, Antonio Te Maioha, Miriama McDowell, Amber Curren, Merehake Maaka  
In English and Māori, with English subtitles  
Censors rating tbc

A Isaac Theatre Sun 20 Aug, 4.15 pm

## Seven Rivers Walking – Haere Mārire



World Premiere

Gaylene Barnes  
Kathleen Gallagher

**Directors:**  
Gaylene Barnes,  
Kathleen Gallagher  
New Zealand 2017  
84 mins

**Photography:** Gaylene Barnes, James Ellis, Whare Mihinui, Dave Perry, Mark Collins  
**Editor:** Gaylene Barnes  
Yates-Smith, Aroha Yates-Smith, Bob Bickerton, Richard Nunns

Who can deny that the city rivers of Christchurch and the braided rivers of the Canterbury Plains have been poisoned and depleted for the sake of agri-business? In one of the many personal anecdotes that drive this film, a fisherman recalls how the mighty Rakaia once pushed its way a mile out to sea. Aerial footage shows us the river today as it slinks into the sea, obliterated by the first breaker that crosses its path.

In the polarised political environment of 2017, this film is a disarmingly peaceable one. It places the hope of change in a shared love of Canterbury's rivers and riparian environments and a profound appreciation of their ecology. Filmmakers Gaylene

Barnes and Kathleen Gallagher have taken their cues from the diverse collectives of Cantabrians who have been walking and rafting the length of the rivers, from the mountains to the sea, to educate themselves and others, about the damage done and the opportunities available for remedial action. Anglers, rafters, trampers, Ngāi Tahu, Fish and Game, Forest and Bird, natural scientists, farming families, old and new, all bear witness, some as designated experts, all as sentient inhabitants of the only planet we've got.

A Isaac Theatre Sat 19 Aug, 5.45 pm

A MM Timaru Sun 27 Aug, 12.30 pm

## TEAM TIBET: Home away from Home



FAIRFAX MEDIA NZ / SUNDAY STAR-TIMES

Robin Greenberg

**Director/Producer:**  
Robin Greenberg  
New Zealand 2017  
160 mins

**Photography:** Waka Attewell, Costa Botes, John Chrisstoffels, Ruth Korver, Chris Li, the Tibetan Audio Visual Section  
**Editor:** Peter Metcalf  
**With:** Thuten Kesang, Tenzin Atisha, the Dalai Lama  
In English and Tibetan, with English subtitles

Filmed over a period of 22 years by Wellington filmmaker Robin Greenberg (*Huloo, The Free China Junk*), *TEAM TIBET* provides a thorough and inspiring account of Tibetan culture in exile through the experience and advocacy of the delightful Thuten Kesang, New Zealand's first Tibetan refugee. Having run away from the monastery as a child, he was sent by his father to school in India in 1954, where he was raised by Scottish Presbyterians. Unable to return to Tibet after his parents were arrested in the wake of the 1959 uprising, he's been a fully committed Kiwi since 1967, without ever losing his defining Tibetan identity.

Charismatic and funny, he's a marvellous storyteller, whether

recounting his own personal history or outlining the environmental and political implications of China's occupation of its 'Western Treasure House'. A vital point of contact for the international exile community, as the Dalai Lama himself is happy to testify, he's been a tireless advocate too for multicultural visibility in Auckland. Greenberg summons up a multitude of admirers, leaving us in no doubt at all that her film is a labour of love, richly deserved.

B Northlands Fri 4 Aug, 1.15 pm  
A Northlands Sat 5 Aug, 11.15 am

## New Zealand's Best 2017



75 mins approx. | Censors rating tbc

Help give the year's best New Zealand short films the homegrown recognition they deserve by voting for your favourite at this screening. For this year's *New Zealand's Best* short film competition, NZIFF programmers Bill Gosden and Michael McDonnell viewed 83 submissions to make a shortlist of 12 from which filmmaker Gaylene Preston selected these six finalists. A jury of three will select the winner of the \$5,000 Madman Entertainment Jury Prize, while a \$3,000 Wallace Friends of the Civic Award will be awarded by donors, the Wallace Foundation and Wallace Media Ltd, to the film or contributor to a film they deem to merit special recognition. The winner of the audience vote takes away the Audience Choice Award, consisting of 25 percent of the box office from the main-centre NZIFF screenings. Gaylene's comments on each film appear in italics.

**A Northlands** Tue 8 Aug, 6.30 pm  
**B Northlands** Thu 10 Aug, 2.45 pm

**A MM Timaru** Tue 22 Aug, 8.15 pm

### Do No Harm

**NZ 2017 | Director/Screenplay:** Roseanne Liang  
**Producer:** Hamish Mortland | **Photography:** Andrew McGeorge | **Editor:** Tom Eagles | **With:** Marsha Yuan, Jacob Tomuri | **Festivals:** Sundance 2017 | **12 mins**

A doctor abides by her Hippocratic oath even when violent gangsters interrupt her surgery. *Female power rendered extreme by a director successfully stretching her muscles in every direction.*

### Laundry

**NZ 2017 | Director/Screenplay:** Becs Arahanga  
**Producers:** Julian Arahanga, Kath Akuhuata-Brown  
**Photography:** Chris Mauger  
**Editor:** Luke Evans  
**With:** Aidee Walker, Jarod Rawiri | **11 mins**

A frustrated mum struggles to find intimacy while raising a young family. *A real woman's sexy adventure elevating domestic life and putting the poems of Hone Tuwhare in a place not usually found!*



DO NO HARM

### Thicket

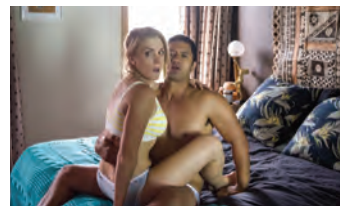
**NZ 2017 | Director/Screenplay:** Julian Vares  
**Producer:** Craig Gainsborough | **Photography:** Eoin O'Liddigh | **Editor:** Richard Lord | **With:** Tim Hamilton, Peter Tait, Albertine Jonas | **16 mins**

A farmboy is inspired to stand-up to his overbearing father. *In the classic NZ rural tradition marked by excellent performances.*

### Untitled Groping Revenge Fairytale

**NZ 2017 | Director/Screenplay:** Catherine Bisley  
**Producer:** William Bisley | **Photography/Editor:** Paul Wedel | **With:** Loren Taylor | **9 mins**

A woman pitches a tent on the edge of a forest and starts to collect men. *A most satisfying piece of wry feminist myth making that makes me want to see a lot more from this director.*



LAUNDRY



### Waiting

**NZ 2016 | Director:** Amberley Jo Aumua  
**Screenplay:** Samuel Kamu | **Photography:** Greer Lindsay | **Editor:** Huhana Ruri-Panapa  
**With:** Desmond Malakai, Casta-Troy Cocker-Lemaillé | **12 mins**

Two boys wait outside a dairy for a phone call. *An outstanding student film set in a harsh world so rarely presented with such charm married with a sharp aesthetic eye for raw truth.*

### The Dregs

**NZ 2017 | Director/Screenplay:** Matt Campbell  
**Producer:** Annabel Carr | **Photography:** Clayton Carpenter | **Editor:** Jeremy Masters | **With:** Eamonn Tee, Shayla Crombie, Florence Noble | **15 mins**

A teenage misfit starts a band only to lose control to the school bully. *I cannot believe this director was not born in 1975! A tribute to high school bands, the Gordons and what elevation from dorkhood a guitar can accomplish.*



UNTITLED GROPING REVENGE FAIRYTALE

## Ngā Whanaunga Māori Pasifika Shorts 2017

91 mins approx. | M violence & sex scenes | In English, Māori, New Zealand Sign Language and Tongan, with English subtitles



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A collection of Māori and Pasifika short films curated by Leo Koziol (Ngāti Kahungunu, Ngāti Rakaipaaka), Director of the Wairoa Māori Film Festival, with guest co-curator Craig Fasi (Niue), Director of the Pollywood Film Festival. Curators' comments on each film appear in italics.

### Mannahatta

**NZ 2017 | Director/Producer/Screenplay:** Renae Maihi  
**15 mins**

An ancient spirit tries to send a message to a recent immigrant in the city that never sleeps. *Stones are the symbol of burden – a burden that needs an open heart to carry and put to rest.* — CF

### Natalie

**NZ 2016 | Director/Screenplay:** Qianna Titore  
**Producer:** Eloise Veber | **9 mins**

A Māori girl receives a precious waiata composed by her deceased grandfather. *In this story from Hokianga, tragedy strikes but there is hope in a new beginning.* — CF

### Tama

**NZ 2017 | Directors:** Jared Flitcroft, Jack O'Donnell  
**Producer:** Ashleigh Flynn | **Screenplay:** Jared Flitcroft, Jack O'Donnell, David Hansen | **9 mins**

A deaf Māori boy feels isolated from his family but draws strength from performing the haka. *Having reminders of what is important is a necessity. Forgetting what's important may cost you your life.* — CF



MANNAHATTA

### Lady Eva

**Tonga/USA 2017 | Directors:** Dean Hamer, Joe Wilson  
**Producer:** Hinaleimoana Wong-Kalu | **11 mins**

A young trans woman becomes her true self. *Being fakaleiti in Tonga is a challenge – but there's a beauty pageant where your star can shine no matter who you are.* — LK

### Sunday Fun Day

**NZ 2016 | Director/Screenplay:** Dianna Fuemana  
**Producer:** Jay Ryan | **15 mins**

A teenager and a solo mum prepare to have their own fun on a Sunday. *Tiger knows exactly how the world looks at her, but still fights to be accepted by her peers. Acceptance in this case is to be left alone without question.* — CF



TAMA

### Tree

**NZ 2017 | Director/Screenplay:** Lauren Jackson  
**Producers:** Andrew Cochrane, Jeremy Macey | **16 mins**

A young woman with a shameful secret hides out from friends and family in a massive tree. *A lonely tree in a crowded city becomes the symbol for a young Tongan woman's personal journey, and a family that loves her no matter what.* — LK

### Possum

**NZ 2016 | Director/Screenplay:** Dave Whitehead  
**Producers:** Sadie Wilson, Paul Murphy | **15 mins**

Two brothers hatch a plan to head into the woods and hunt for a notorious possum named Scar. *Step back to the 70s in this fantastical Ōtaki-filmed story of two Māori boys growing up in the wild world of Wairoa.* — LK



TREE

**A Northlands** Wed 16 Aug, 6.15 pm  
**B Northlands** Thu 17 Aug, 12.00 pm

# WORLD

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Help yourself to our pick of the features we have encountered in a year of intense engagement with international cinema. We do what we can to cover many bases, while always insisting on that certain indefinable quality. We pay attention too, to the films lavished with praise or box office success in their countries of origin.

## Berlin Syndrome

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beats working...



**Director: Cate Shortland**  
Australia 2017 | 117 mins

**Screenplay:** Shaun Grant. Based on the novel by Melanie Joosten  
**Photography:** Germain McMicking  
**Editor:** Jack Hutchings  
**Music:** Bryony Marks  
**With:** Teresa Palmer, Max Riemelt, Matthias Habich, Emma Bading, Elmira Bahrami, Christoph Franken  
**Festivals:** Sundance, Berlin 2017  
In English and German, with English subtitles  
CinemaScope | R16 violence, sexual violence, offensive language & sex scenes

Australian actress Teresa Palmer plays introverted Clare, a tourist seeking the experience of a lifetime having arrived in Berlin with just her backpack and camera. When she meets Andi (Max Riemelt), she's prepared to shake off her loneliness and talk to a friendly stranger.

He guides her around the city, indulging her fascination for photographing GDR architecture, before dropping her back to her accommodation for the night. The mutual attraction is palpable and she seeks him out the next day at the local bookstore. The sexual tension culminates back at Andi's apartment, hidden within an abandoned residential complex. In the harsh light of the morning, it appears that he's mistakenly

locked her in while he heads out to teach.

What follows is a taut thriller traversing themes of confinement, control and submission. Director Cate Shortland (*Lore*) places the story within Berlin although the city itself concedes to the ever-increasingly claustrophobic interiors. Clare quickly discovers the smallest of clues that magnify the seriousness of her situation. With the doors bolted and windows sealed, how will she escape the binds of her captivity? — RM

<b>B Northlands</b>	Thu 17 Aug, 4.00 pm
<b>A Northlands</b>	Thu 17 Aug, 8.30 pm
<b>A Northlands</b>	Sun 20 Aug, 8.15 pm

## Don't Tell



**Director: Tori Garrett**  
Australia 2017 | 108 mins

**Screenplay:** James Greville, Ursula Cleary, Anne Brooksbank. Based on the book by Stephen Roche  
**Photography:** Mark Wareham  
**Editor:** Peter Carrodus  
**Music:** Bryony Marks  
**With:** Jack Thompson, Aden Young, Sara West, Jacqueline McKenzie, Gyton Grantley, Susie Porter, Martin Sacks, Rachel Griffiths, Robert Taylor  
M sex scenes & offensive language

This impressive debut feature honours the courage and tenacity of Lyndal, the young Queensland woman who in 2001 blew the whistle on the Anglican church's decade-old cover-up of sexual assaults at the prestigious Toowoomba Preparatory School. Traumatized by her abuse, Lyndal was further shaken by the school's dogged loyalty to the perpetrator, who had confessed to other abuses. She sought relief in public acknowledgement of her suffering, but during the civil case in which she testified she was subjected to relentless condescension and character assassination. This, however, led to a revolution in child protection in Australia and also brought down a governor-general, Peter Hollingworth,

who had been the Anglican archbishop of Brisbane at the time of the abuse.

The film is a passion piece for its director and for Lyndal's attorney Stephen Roche (played in the film by Aden Young), who wrote a book about the case. The backing of a stellar cast – including Rachel Griffiths, Jack Thompson, Jacqueline McKenzie and Susie Porter – was instrumental in getting the film made. In a raw emotional performance as Lyndal, Sara West stands tall in their company.

<b>A Northlands</b>	Sun 6 Aug, 3.45 pm
<b>B Northlands</b>	Thu 10 Aug, 4.30 pm
<b>A Northlands</b>	Sat 12 Aug, 6.00 pm

## A Fantastic Woman

*Una mujer fantástica*

Chilean director Sebastián Lelio follows his marvellous *Gloria* (2013) with another resoundingly affirmative portrait of a marginalised woman holding her ground. Santiago bar singer Marina Vidal, played by the sensational trans actress Daniela Vega in her screen debut, is headstrong, vivacious and happily in love. When her lover dies, Marina finds herself, a trans woman living with an older man, immediately suspected of foul play.

The labyrinth of transphobia Marina must navigate is galling to behold, because every insidious blow seems so familiar and credible. It's in the way Marina registers the humiliations without allowing them to bring her down that Lelio's film constantly surprises and Vega's performance enthrals.

"While it's politically charged and very much of the moment in terms of its representation of trans-rights issues, what's perhaps most remarkable is that not a word of direct advocacy is spoken. Any trace of the agenda movie is deftly subsumed in pulsing human drama..."

The movie's stunning revelation, however, is Vega.... It's a transfixing performance, restrained and moving, with a gut-wrenching impact in one



hypnotic scene where Marina is forced to pass as a man. Vega even does her own singing, with impressive ability. No less than Paulina García's astonishing work in *Gloria*, this is acting at its most fearless. The movie represents a huge leap in terms of trans narratives onscreen, but by any standard, it's a powerful drama of a woman whose suffering never dims her determination to keep moving forward." — David Rooney, *Hollywood Reporter*

**"It may be a timely film, but it is its timelessness, as well as its depths of compassion, that qualify it as a great one."**

— Ryan Gilbey, *The Guardian*



**Director: Sebastián Lelio**  
Chile/USA/Germany/Spain 2017  
105 mins

**Producers:** Juan de Dios Larraín, Pablo Larraín, Sebastián Lelio, Gonzalo Maza

**Screenplay:** Sebastián Lelio, Gonzalo Maza

**Photography:** Benjamín Echazarreta

**Editor:** Soledad Salfate

**Music:** Matthew Herbert

**With:** Daniela Vega, Francisco Reyes, Luis Gnecco, Aline Küppenheim, Nicolás Saavedra, Amparo Noguera, Néstor Cantillana, Alejandro Goic, Antonia Zegers, Sergio Hernandez

**Festivals:** Berlin 2017

**Best Screenplay, Berlin International Film Festival 2017**

In Spanish with English subtitles

CinemaScope | M violence, offensive language & sex scenes

<b>B Northlands</b>	Wed 9 Aug, 12.00 pm
<b>A Northlands</b>	Thu 10 Aug, 8.15 pm
<b>A Northlands</b>	Sat 12 Aug, 8.15 pm

## Maudie



**Director: Aisling Walsh**  
Canada/Ireland 2016  
115 mins

**Screenplay:** Sherry White

**Photography:** Guy Godfree

**Editor:** Stephen O'Connell

**Music:** Michael Timmins

**With:** Sally Hawkins, Ethan Hawke, Kari Matchett, Gabrielle Rose, Zachary Bennett, Billy MacLellan

**Festivals:** Toronto, Vancouver 2016; Berlin, San Francisco, Sydney 2017

**People's Choice Award, Vancouver International Film Festival 2016**

PG violence & sex scenes

"The life of legendary Canadian folk artist Maud Lewis is painted in exquisite detail in this impeccably acted, incredibly affecting biopic. At the beating heart of Aisling Walsh's film is Sally Hawkins (*Happy-Go-Lucky*) who not only captures the contorted physicality of this self-taught painter, who contended with rheumatoid arthritis, but also exudes the creative spirit raging within her despite her debilitated frame.

The film's backdrop is undeniably cinematic: the rugged beauty and expansive vistas of 1930s Nova Scotia. Likewise, its primary setting is unspeakably intimate: the comically tiny one-room house that Maud shares with misanthropic fish peddler Everett (Ethan Hawke)...

Undaunted by his curmudgeonly nature, she's inspired by the natural splendour surrounding their hovel to take up a paint brush. Operating with no preconceptions of what 'art' should be, her charmingly unsophisticated, uniquely one-dimensional paintings strike a chord with tastemakers... Her exuberance proves infectious."

— Vancouver International Film Festival

<b>B Isaac Theatre</b>	Thu 10 Aug, 11.00 am
<b>B Northlands</b>	Fri 11 Aug, 12.15 pm
<b>B Northlands</b>	Fri 18 Aug, 12.00 pm
<b>A Isaac Theatre</b>	Sat 19 Aug, 3.00 pm

<b>B MM Timaru</b>	Thu 24 Aug, 1.00 pm
<b>A MM Timaru</b>	Sat 26 Aug, 3.30 pm

## Frantz



**Director: François Ozon**  
France/Germany 2016  
114 mins

**Screenplay:** François Ozon, Philippe Piazzo. Loosely based on the film *Broken Lullaby* by Ernst Lubitsch

**With:** Pierre Niney, Paula Beer

**Festivals:** Venice, Toronto, San Sebastián, Vancouver, London, Busan 2016; Sundance 2017

**Best Young Actress (Paula Beer), Venice Film Festival 2016**

B&W and Colour | CinemaScope

PG violence

In a small German town, in the aftermath of WWI, young Anna mourns her fiancé Frantz who died in the trenches. One day a French soldier, Adrien (Pierre Niney, surely the leading French screen actor of his generation), arrives and lays flowers at Frantz's grave. In the war-battered community passions run high at the effrontery of the Frenchman. Among those most affected is Anna, who decides to get to know the sad young stranger. As she draws him out about his pre-war friendship with Frantz in Paris, our picture of their generation struggling to recover after the betrayals of war deepens and takes unexpected turns.

Expanding on the plot of a little remembered Lubitsch film from 1932,

shooting on 35mm and largely in black and white, director François Ozon couches his elegiac tale in the formal poise of an earlier era's 'quality' historical drama. There's one distinctive difference: as always for Ozon, the film's title notwithstanding, it is the complex journey of the female protagonist that most engages him. Tracing Anna's return to the world of the living, actress Paula Beer is a revelation.

<b>B Isaac Theatre</b>	Fri 11 Aug, 11.00 am
<b>A Isaac Theatre</b>	Mon 14 Aug, 6.15 pm

<b>A MM Timaru</b>	Sat 19 Aug, 3.45 pm
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**BPM (Beats Per Minute)** 120 battements par minute

The personal and the political are as vitally connected as the chicken and the egg in Robin Campillo's moving and inspiring Cannes Grand Prix winner. The writer/director draws on his own experience as a member of AIDS activist organisation ACT UP in 90s Paris, embedding an intimately observed love story within a vivid evocation of the dynamics of radical protest.

Hunky Arnaud Valois plays Nathan, a wary, HIV-negative newcomer to the movement who falls for firecracker Sean (incandescent Argentinean actor Nahuel Pérez Biscayart), HIV-positive and irresistibly impatient with the group's more pragmatic leadership.

Campillo wrote Laurent Cantet's *The Class* and this year's *The Workshop* (p33). His skill for catching the currents of a group discussion is as persuasive as ever. The issues that once exercised ACT UP take on clear and present life in 2017 as the young activists brainstorm, strategise dramatic interventions and storm the institutions that would let them die.

"It's both devastating and heartening to watch, these horrifyingly young people bravely confronting vast and seemingly unmovable systems... while attending to their own fears, their own fragile mortality..."



CELINE NIESZAWER

The film's political and moral weight should not overshadow the artistry of its design, nor the quiet profundity of its unreserved and admirable approach to gay intimacy. Campillo has given his movie the breath of true life. It grieves and triumphs and haunts with abounding grace and understanding, its heartbeat thumping with genuine, undeniable resonance." — Richard Lawson, *Vanity Fair*

**"A slice-of-life look at a time in history that feels incredibly urgent in today's torn-up world."**

— Nikola Grozdanovic, *The Playlist*



**Director/Screenplay/Editor:**  
**Robin Campillo**  
France 2017 | 144 mins

**Producers:** Hugues Charbonneau, Marie-Ange Luciani

**Photography:** Jeanne Lapoirie

**Music:** Arnaud Rebotini

**With:** Nahuel Pérez Biscayart, Arnaud Valois, Adèle Haenel, Antoine Reinartz, Félix Maritaud, Ariel Borenstein, Aloïse Sauvage, Simon Bourgade, Médhi Touré, Simon Guélat, Coralie Russier

**Festivals:** Cannes (In Competition) 2017

**Grand Prix, Cannes Film Festival 2017**

In French with English subtitles

CinemaScope | Censors rating tbc

**A** Isaac Theatre Sun 6 Aug, 7.00 pm  
**B** Isaac Theatre Mon 7 Aug, 3.00 pm

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## Happy End

*Happy End* sees Michael Haneke, Austria's micro-surgeon of European decadence, in black comic mode, applying his scalpel to a rich Calais family, the Laurents, who own a construction company and cohabit uneasily in separate apartments housed within a luxurious estate.

"A series of unfortunate events – an overdose (or was it?), a wall collapse on a job site, a suicide attempt – sends the family spinning, and Haneke mines strange comedy out of the Laurents' relatively emotionless, passive reactions. The various narrative threads don't so much come together as they do flutter on the same sinister wind..."

*Happy End* is as amusingly inscrutable and coy about its themes as his masterful 2005 creeper *Caché* was. But *Happy End* is a wryer work, a grim satire that skewers the isolation of modern technology and the moral failings of polite society with a grave face. Haneke has assembled a stellar cast to illustrate all this, including a typically laser-focused Isabelle Huppert as the head of the family company, her *Amour* co-star Jean-Louis Trintignant as the family's senile, fatalist patriarch, and a striking Fantine Harduin as Ève, a young scion of the family who may



be the most dangerous one of all."

— Richard Lawson, *Vanity Fair*

"For a satire on bourgeois values that essentially sees privilege as a terminal disease whose symptoms include boredom, indolence, alienation, lovelessness, pettiness and perhaps even sociopathy, and to which the only honest response is suicide or euthanasia, it's very funny."

— Jessica Kiang, *Sight & Sound*

**"Happy End is a satirical nightmare of haute-bourgeois European prosperity: as stark, brilliant and unforgiving as a halogen light."**

— Peter Bradshaw, *The Guardian*



**Director/Screenplay:** Michael Haneke  
France/Germany/Austria 2017  
110 mins

**Producers:** Margaret Ménégoz, Stefan Arndt, Veit Heiduska, Michael Katz  
**Photography:** Christian Berger  
**Editor:** Monika Willi  
**With:** Isabelle Huppert, Jean-Louis Trintignant, Mathieu Kassovitz, Fantine Harduin, Franz Rogowski, Laura Verlinden, Aurelia Petit, Toby Jones, Hille Perl, Hassam Ghancy, Nabih Akkari, Joud Geistlich  
**Festivals:** Cannes (In Competition) 2017  
In French with English subtitles  
Censors rating tbc

**B Isaac Theatre** Mon 14 Aug, 1.45 pm  
**A Isaac Theatre** Tue 15 Aug, 8.30 pm

## Heal the Living

*Réparer les vivants*

One family's tragedy offers the hope of renewed life for another in this exquisitely modulated drama pivoting on the delicate advocacy of a hospital's organ transplant team. Eschewing melodrama and sentimentality, Katell Quillévéré evokes the momentous forces at play for each of the key participants with emotional clarity and weighs the transference of life in passages of sheer cinematic exaltation.

"What sounds like fodder for a routinely gripping episode of *ER* is complicated with rare depths of personal and sensual detail in French director Katell Quillévéré's sublimely compassionate, heart-crushing third feature *Heal the Living*. More polished but no less authentically humane than her previous works *Suzanne* and *Love Like Poison*, this spidering ensemble piece – adapted from Maylis de Kerangal's internationally acclaimed 2014 novel – boasts beautifully pitched performances from a handpicked cast that includes Tahar Rahim and Emmanuelle Seigner. But it's Quillévéré's soaring visual and sonic acumen (with an assist from composer Alexandre Desplat, here in matchless form) that suffuses a potentially familiar hospital weeper with true grace.



...Quillévéré's filmmaking never presses its emotional buttons too hard, just as it never sweetens the pill with manufactured poignancy... [Tom] Harari's perfectly poised camera, Thomas Marchand's fluid editing and Desplat's aforementioned score are tuned into the film's feelings at every turn, as are Quillévéré's frequently inventive soundtrack choices." — Guy Lodge, *Variety*

**"A quietly staggering, pristinely acted ensemble piece about the negotiation of loss and tempering of hope."**

—Robbie Colin, *The Telegraph*

**Director:** Katell Quillévéré  
France/Belgium 2016 | 103 mins

**Producers:** David Thion, Justin Taurand, Philippe Martin  
**Screenplay:** Katell Quillévéré, Gilles Taurand.  
Based on the novel by Maylis de Kerangal  
**Photography:** Tom Harari  
**Editor:** Thomas Marchand  
**Music:** Alexandre Desplat  
**With:** Tahar Rahim, Emmanuelle Seigner, Anne Dorval, Bouli Lanners, Koolhaas, Monia Chokri, Alice Taglioni, Karim Leklou, Alice de Lencquesaing  
**Festivals:** Venice, Toronto, London 2016; Rotterdam, San Francisco 2017  
In French with English subtitles  
CinemaScope | M graphic medical procedures

**A Northlands** Sun 6 Aug, 1.45 pm  
**A Northlands** Mon 7 Aug, 6.30 pm  
**B Northlands** Tue 8 Aug, 12.15 pm

## Let the Sunshine In

*Un beau soleil interieur*

A mercurial Juliette Binoche absorbs our attention through every moment of this unexpected foray into romantic dramedy by the great French director Claire Denis. This is comedy in a specifically French literary mode, written by Denis in collaboration with the novelist and playwright Christine Angot. A leading light of the 'autofiction' movement, Angot is famous for the frankness with which she has placed her own emotional life on the printed page.

Binoche plays the Angot surrogate, Isabelle, a Parisian artist, recently divorced from the father of her ten-year-old daughter. Alone and unleashed, she is undaunted in her yearning to connect sexually and romantically with a succession of men who, one way or another, come on to her. (Every actor in a Denis film leaves their mark, and each of Isabelle's suitors carries his own peculiar brand of self-importance.)

There's wry comedy in Isabelle's impatience to cut to the unspoken intent in their blandishments, though the delight of consummation – so empathetically evoked by Denis, one of the cinema's great sensualists – is likely to be followed by bemusement or dismay until she rallies for the next encounter.



"Binoche has gone from strength to strength in recent years; still, if she has ever been more radiant or effortlessly expressive on screen than she is here, the example is not immediately coming to mind. And Denis, whose narratives can be daringly free-associative, has structured *Let the Sunshine In* elegantly and intuitively, as a series of richly human encounters that flow, meander and pulse with life." — Justin Chang, *LA Times*

**"An exquisite romantic comedy whose laughs are sad and whose sadness is funny."**

— Sam C. Mac, *Slant*



**Director: Claire Denis**  
France 2017 | 94 mins

**Producer:** Olivier Delbosc  
**Screenplay:** Claire Denis, Christine Angot  
**Photography:** Agnès Godard  
**Editor:** Guy Lecorne  
**Music:** Stuart A. Staples  
**With:** Juliette Binoche, Xavier Beauvois, Philippe Katerine, Josiane Balasko, Sandrine Dumas, Nicolas Duvauchelle, Alex Descas, Laurent Grévill, Bruno Podalydès, Paul Blain, Valeria Bruni-Tedeschi, Gérard Depardieu  
**Festivals:** Cannes (Directors' Fortnight) 2017  
In French with English subtitles  
Censors rating tbc

**B Northlands** Wed 16 Aug, 2.15 pm  
**A Isaac Theatre** Thu 17 Aug, 6.15 pm

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## A Woman's Life

*Une vie*



MICHAAL CROTTO



**Director: Stéphane Brizé**  
France/Belgium 2016  
119 mins

**Screenplay:** Stéphane Brizé, Florence Vignon. Based on the novel by Guy de Maupassant  
**With:** Judith Chemla, Jean-Pierre Darroussin, Yolande Moreau, Swann Arlaud, Nina Meurisse  
**Festivals:** Venice, Toronto 2016  
**Critics' Prize, Venice Film Festival 2016**  
In French with English subtitles  
M violence & sex scenes

Director Stéphane Brizé (*Mademoiselle Chambon, The Measure of a Man*) applies his keen eye for social observation to costume drama with this striking adaptation of Guy de Maupassant's first published novel.

A young aristocrat named Jeanne (Judith Chemla) raised and educated by kind, progressive parents seems poised on the brink of modern womanhood, but finds herself ill-prepared for a feckless husband and a pious, hypocritical society.

"The pathos and wonder of *A Woman's Life* comes from its recognition that Jeanne is at once a captive of cruel circumstances and a wilful, intelligent human being. Her kinship with other 19th-century

fictional heroines – Emma Bovary, Jane Eyre, Anna Karenina – is evident. She suffers, but she also reads, thinks and desires, and strives to find a zone of freedom within boundaries dictated by fate and society...

*A Woman's Life...* moves calmly and deliberately, but it never feels slow. Instead, its images and scenes are suffused by an intensity that seems almost to be a quality of the light and air as they play across Ms Chemla's watchful, sometimes inscrutable features." — A.O. Scott, *NY Times*

**B Northlands** Fri 18 Aug, 12.15 pm  
**A Northlands** Fri 18 Aug, 6.15 pm  
**A Northlands** Sat 19 Aug, 2.30 pm



## The Midwife

*Sage femme*

Two of France's most distinguished stars, Catherine Deneuve and Catherine Frot share the screen in this touching tale of the unlikely connection of opposites. Claire (Frot) is a dedicated and tireless midwife whose sense of pride and responsibility clash with the depersonalised efficiency of modern hospitals. She's raised her son solo and is well pleased that he's made it to medical school. One day she receives a strange phone call, a voice from the past. Béatrice (Deneuve), the extravagant and frivolous mistress of her late father, has pressing news and wants to see her again, over a drink, 30 years after having disappeared without a trace. Claire, habitually conscientious and sober, bristles at the prospect of having this foolish woman back in her life, but prepares to meet her regardless.

Writer/director Martin Provost (*SérAPHINE*) has gifted two expert actresses with marvellously individual roles for an entertaining and emotional *pas de deux*. As old resentments are faced down, they tacitly acknowledge common fears, begin to enjoy each other's shortcomings and build anew on their shared past.

"Martin Provost's *The Midwife* once



MICHAËL CROTTO

again proves that French filmmakers know how to treat actresses of a certain age... As the reigning *grande dame* of French cinema, Deneuve could easily rest on her laurels, only taking roles that befit and reinforce her stature. Which makes her vulnerable turn here all the more special. Playing a heart-on-her-sleeve, still-crazy-after-all-these-years free spirit, Deneuve delivers her best performance in recent memory." — Ben Croll, *Indiewire*

**"A bittersweet delight written to order for two consummate performers who inhabit their diametrically opposed characters with satisfying élan."**

— Lisa Nesselson, *Screendaily*

**Director/Screenplay: Martin Provost**  
France/Belgium 2017 | 117 mins

**Producer:** Olivier Delbosc  
**Photography:** Yves Cape  
**Editor:** Albertine Lastera  
**Music:** Grégoire Hetzel  
**With:** Catherine Frot, Catherine Deneuve, Olivier Gourmet, Quentin Dolmaire, Mylène Demongeot  
**Festivals:** Berlin 2017  
In French with English subtitles  
CinemaScope | PG coarse language

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A	Isaac Theatre	Sat 5 Aug, 3.15 pm
A	Northlands	Sat 12 Aug, 1.45 pm
B	Northlands	Mon 14 Aug, 12.00 pm
B	Isaac Theatre	Thu 17 Aug, 2.00 pm

B	MM Timaru	Fri 18 Aug, 1.00 pm
A	MM Timaru	Sun 20 Aug, 4.45 pm

## The Workshop

*L'atelier*

French writer-director Laurent Cantet, Palme d'Or winner in 2008 for *The Class*, returns with a suspenseful tale, based on a true story, about a writer's relationship with a right-wing student who troubles and intrigues her.

"This story of a successful crime novel author who is invited to a small town to take charge of a writing project is part social survey, part political documentary, with the potential flicker of a love story and the touch of a thriller.

*The Workshop* conveys a stunningly authentic portrait of French youth today; their class, racial and occupational concerns. The seven young people in author Olivia's (Marina Fois) class represent a snapshot of France's colorful young population, no intellectuals with writing experience among them (all are played by non-professional actors). Charged with producing a book to promote the image of La Ciotat, a small seaside town located between Marseille and Toulon, Olivia soon discovers that the one subject which unites her students is murder – though they can't quite agree on what kind of murder they should write about, or how to treat it." — Dan Fainaru, *Screendaily*



"Cantet's film combines the slow-burn suspense of his *Time Out* (2000) with the boisterous class dynamics of... his 2008 Cannes top-prizewinner *The Class*. Ornerly right-winger Antoine (Matthieu Lucci) fascinates his teacher, Olivia, and bugs his classmates, but rather than devolving into a drama about a troubled soul, the story only deepens with the mystery of talent, intentionality, and political fault lines." — Nicolas Rapold, *Film Comment*

**"A film which demonstrates that debate, the exchange of ideas, can be as thrilling as any ramped up action flick."**

— Wendy Ide, *The Guardian*



**Director: Laurent Cantet**  
France 2017 | 114 mins

**Producer:** Denis Freyd  
**Screenplay:** Robin Campillo, Laurent Cantet  
**Photography:** Pierre Milon  
**Editor:** Mathilde Muiyard  
**Music:** Bedis Tir, Edouard Pons  
**With:** Marina Fois, Matthieu Lucci, Warda Rammach, Issam Talbi, Florian Beaujean, Mamadou Doumbia, Julien Souve, Mélissa Guilbert, Olivier Thourret, Lény Sellam  
**Festivals:** Cannes (Un Certain Regard) 2017  
In French with English subtitles  
CinemaScope | Censors rating tbc

A	Northlands	Tue 15 Aug, 6.15 pm
B	Northlands	Wed 16 Aug, 11.45 am
A	Northlands	Sat 19 Aug, 8.15 pm

## The Killing of a Sacred Deer

This new movie by the Greek director Yorgos Lanthimos (*The Lobster*, *Dogtooth*) is a meticulously wrought chiller, visiting the retribution of classical tragedy on a fatally flawed surgeon, played by Colin Farrell.

"The rich vein of unsettling darkness and psychological unease that ripples like a treacherous underground stream beneath the absurdist humour of Yorgos Lanthimos' work becomes a brooding requiem of domestic horror in his masterfully realized fifth feature, *The Killing of a Sacred Deer*. Reaching back to classical Greek tragedy for inspiration, this hypnotic tale of guilt and retribution provides an even more riveting role for Colin Farrell after his collaboration on the director's English-language debut, *The Lobster*. He's flanked by a never-better Nicole Kidman and a performance of chilling effectiveness from emerging Irish talent Barry Keoghan in a thriller that frequently invites comparison to vintage Polanski..."

The new film's grim scenario of a family under dire threat will make it hard for some to watch. But the impressive rigor of its craft, the skilfully subdued intensity of the acting and the startling originality of the story will make the film unmissable for anyone



who cares about bold filmmaking...

This is a movie that closes its grip on our fears by infinitesimal degrees, demonstrating that bone-deep, tightly clamped anxiety can be scarier than screaming terror." — David Rooney, *Hollywood Reporter*

"A film of clean hands, cold heart, and near-Satanic horror, it was garlanded with boos at its Cannes press screening and it is absolutely fucking brilliant." — Jessica Kiang, *The Playlist*

**"When absurdism feels this wrong, you know it's being done right."**

— Robbie Colin, *The Telegraph*



**Director: Yorgos Lanthimos**  
Ireland/UK 2017 | 125 mins

**Producers:** Ed Guiney, Yorgos Lanthimos  
**Screenplay:** Yorgos Lanthimos, Efthimis Filippou  
**Photography:** Thimios Bakatakis  
**Editor:** Yorgos Mavropsaridis  
**With:** Colin Farrell, Nicole Kidman, Barry Keoghan, Raffey Cassidy, Sunny Suljic, Alicia Silverstone, Bill Camp  
**Festivals:** Cannes (In Competition) 2017  
**Best Screenplay, Cannes Film Festival 2017**  
Censors rating tbc

**A Isaac Theatre** Sat 12 Aug, 8.45 pm  
**B Isaac Theatre** Tue 15 Aug, 3.30 pm

## Newton



**Director: Amit V. Masurkar**  
India 2017 | 106 mins

**Producer:** Manish Mundra  
**Screenplay:** Mayank Tewari, Amit V. Masurkar  
**Photography:** Swapnil S. Sonawane  
**Editor:** Shweta Venkat Mathew  
**With:** Rajkummar Rao, Pankaj Tripathi, Anjali Patil, Raghupir Yadav  
**Festivals:** Berlin, Tribeca 2017  
In Hindi and Gondi, with English subtitles  
CinemaScope | M violence

In this droll dark comedy from India, Newton, an earnest young office worker volunteers as a poll supervisor, carrying the banner of democracy into the deepest jungle. Helicoptered into remote central India to collect votes from 76 oppressed indigenous villagers, he's warned by the local military representative that none of them will show, for fear they'll be ambushed by communist guerrillas in the area. The young idealist soon comes to see the pragmatic soldier, tasked with protecting the highly exposed polling station, as democracy's nemesis.

As the hours pass with little more than a rumour of a voter in the vicinity, seasoned poll workers make light of the situation and the local liaison officer

attempts in vain to open Newton's eyes to the realities of local life and the genuine threat of violence.

Director Amit V. Masurkar infuses his film with an uncannily lyrical sense of the landscape and mines both tension and deadpan comedy out of the long stretches of waiting and mutual irritation. As Newton, Rajkummar Rao is a surreptitiously charismatic comic marvel: his insistence on democratic principle may be woefully misplaced but it is also quite irresistibly touching.

**B Northlands** Tue 8 Aug, 2.15 pm  
**A Northlands** Thu 17 Aug, 6.30 pm  
**A Northlands** Sat 19 Aug, 3.45 pm

## A Date for Mad Mary

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**The edge** ALL THE  
HITS



**Director: Darren Thornton**  
Ireland 2016 | 82 mins

**Screenplay:** Darren Thornton, Colin Thornton. Based on the play *10 Dates with Mad Mary* by Yasmine Akram  
**With:** Seána Kerslake, Tara Lee, Charleigh Bailey, Denise McCormack, Siobhán Shanahan  
**Festivals:** Galway, Karlovy Vary, London 2016; San Francisco 2017  
**Best Irish Feature Film, Galway Film Fleadh 2016**  
M offensive language

Seána Kerslake is completely winning as the larrikin Mary out to prove she's not a loser in this funny, soulful Irish romcom. While Mary's been doing time for a spontaneous gesture she'd rather forget, her best girlfriend Charlene has disappeared, heart and soul, into wedding planning land. Mary gets out of jail in time for the big day, bridesmaid's speech at the ready. But oops, Charlene is wavering on having her wild and crazy old mate at the top table and has cut her back to a single invite. All Mary's hurt and indignation are channelled into a single mission: showing up with a plus-one.

As she assesses partner options, Kerslake makes Mary's mix of bluntness, sarcasm and minimal self-awareness

both hilarious and touching. Will it dawn on Mary, as it dawns on us, that hiding in plain sight there's a member of the wedding offering much more than a chance to get back at the bride?

If the origins in a stage play by Yasmine Akram show in the adaptation by writer/director brothers Darren and Colin Thornton, it's simply because the dialogue, quick and salty, is such a driving force. The Drogheda settings hum with life and devilry.

**A Northlands** Sat 5 Aug, 7.00 pm  
**B Northlands** Wed 9 Aug, 2.00 pm  
**B Isaac Theatre** Thu 10 Aug, 4.15 pm  
**A Isaac Theatre** Fri 18 Aug, 6.30 pm  
**A MM Timaru** Fri 25 Aug, 8.15 pm

## Call Me by Your Name

Luca Guadagnino, the Italian writer-director of *I Am Love* and *A Bigger Splash*, winds back the flamboyance to powerful effect in this languorous, sun-filled and wonderfully empathetic tale of first love. Timothée Chalamet is riveting as Elio, a smart, musically gifted 17-year-old hanging out for the summer of 1983 with his parents at their villa in northern Italy. Elio is obliged to move out of his bedroom to make way for his father's American research assistant, 20-something Oliver (Armie Hammer).

Brash and handsome, Oliver immediately sets local hearts aflutter and irritates the hell out of Elio. But the two increasingly find themselves together. A dance of attraction and retreat begins and gradually consumes them both.

Elio's great leap into emotional risk touches everyone in his idyllic world: the depth of understanding granted to him in this film feels like a gift to every one of us.

The film's stock of sensual pleasures extends to its exquisite use of music, including the Psychedelic Furs, Elio's amusingly bad-tempered renditions of Bach and three perfectly attuned songs by Sufjan Stevens.



"Luca Guadagnino likes to show off his homeland as a place of sensual self-discovery... But he's never mounted the total swirl of sultry weather, budding libidos and teenage confusion that marks his new drama, *Call Me by Your Name*, a triumphant, heartbreaking tale of coming out based on André Aciman's acclaimed 2007 novel... Sweet and salty, his movie burns like a suntan." — Joshua Rothkopf, *Time Out NY*

**"A swirling wonder, a film about coming of age, about the secrets of youth, the magic of summer, the beauty of Italy."**

— Richard Lawson, *Vanity Fair*

**Director: Luca Guadagnino**

Italy/France 2017 | 132 mins

**Producers:** Peter Spears, Luca Guadagnino, Emilie Georges, Rodrigo Teixeira, Marco Morabito, James Ivory, Howard Rosenman

**Screenplay:** James Ivory, Luca Guadagnino, Walter Fasano. Based on the novel by André Aciman

**Photography:** Sayombhu Mukdeeprom

**Editor:** Walter Fasano

**Music:** Sufjan Stevens

**With:** Armie Hammer, Timothée Chalamet, Michael Stuhlbarg, Amira Casar, Esther Garrel, Victoire Du Bois

**Festivals:** Sundance, Berlin 2017

In English, Italian and French, with English subtitles  
RP13 sex scenes

<b>A Northlands</b>	Fri 4 Aug, 8.15 pm
<b>B Isaac Theatre</b>	Tue 15 Aug, 12.45 pm
<b>A Isaac Theatre</b>	Sat 19 Aug, 8.30 pm

<b>A MM Timaru</b>	Sat 19 Aug, 8.00 pm
<b>B MM Timaru</b>	Mon 21 Aug, 1.00 pm

## Stalker



**Director: Andrei Tarkovsky**  
USSR 1979 | 161 mins

**Screenplay:** Arkady Strugatsky, Boris Strugatsky. Based on their novel *Roadside Picnic*

**Photography:** Aleksandr Knyazhinsky

**Editor:** Ludmila Feyginova

**With:** Aleksandr Kaidanovsky, Anatoly Solonitsyn, Nikolay Grinko, Alisa Freindlikh, Natasha Abramova

**Festivals:** Venice 2016  
In Russian with English subtitles  
Colour and B&W | G cert

The mysteries and revelations of Andrei Tarkovsky's science fiction masterpiece are returned to the giant screen in Mosfilm's splendid new digital restoration.

"With its emphasis on landscape, texture and atmosphere, this brooding, dystopian science fiction... is as much environment as movie."

— J. Hoberman, *Village Voice*

"Andrei Tarkovsky's 1979 masterpiece, like his earlier *Solaris*, is a free and allegorical adaptation of a sci-fi novel, Arkady and Boris Strugatsky's *Roadside Picnic*. After a meteorite hits the earth, the region where it's fallen is believed to grant the wishes of those who enter and, sealed off by the authorities, can be penetrated only illegally and with

special guides. One of them (Aleksandr Kaidanovsky), the stalker of the title, leads a writer and a professor through the grimmest industrial wasteland you've ever seen. What they find is pretty harsh and has none of the usual satisfactions of sci-fi quests, but Tarkovsky regards their journey as a contemporary spiritual quest. His mise en scène is mesmerizing, and the final scene is breathtaking. Not an easy film, but almost certainly a great one."

— Jonathan Rosenbaum, *Chicago Reader*

<b>A Northlands</b>	Sat 5 Aug, 3.15 pm
<b>A Northlands</b>	Thu 10 Aug, 8.00 pm

## Pop Aye



**Director/Screenplay: Kirsten Tan**  
Singapore/Thailand 2017  
102 mins

**Festivals:** Sundance, Rotterdam 2017

**Screenwriting Award (World Cinema Dramatic), Sundance Film Festival 2017**

In Thai with English subtitles  
CinemaScope | M sex scenes, sexual references & offensive language

An architect, feeling past his use-by-date, and his long-lost elephant take a road trip across Thailand to find their childhood home in this rueful, funny Sundance award winner. Once a cutting edge architect in Bangkok, Thana is facing the imminent demolition of the mall that was once his crowning glory. His wife's flagrant lack of concern is doing nothing to quiet his fear of obsolescence.

Wandering the streets of the city he is amazed to come across a fellow throwback, Pop Aye, the elephant he grew up with in his rural village. On a whim he buys Pop Aye and sets off on a road trip, walking and hitching back to where they came from. On the way they befriend a succession of equally

uprooted characters, from a wild-haired vagabond who seems to foretell the future to a ladyboy with karaoke aspirations.

In her debut feature writer/director Kirsten Tan takes full advantage of the beautiful scenery, characterful actors and a charismatic elephant to tell a story about our drift from fundamental human needs and values. Her tale of man and pachyderm is unsentimental, gently comic and thoughtful.

<b>B Northlands</b>	Mon 7 Aug, 12.15 pm
<b>A Northlands</b>	Wed 9 Aug, 6.15 pm
<b>A Northlands</b>	Sat 12 Aug, 2.15 pm
<b>B Northlands</b>	Mon 14 Aug, 2.30 pm

<b>A MM Timaru</b>	Thu 24 Aug, 8.15 pm
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## The Teacher

Učitelka



**Director:** Jan Hřebejk  
Slovakia/Czech Republic  
2016 | 102 mins

**Screenplay:** Petr Jarchovský  
**Photography:** Martin Zíran  
**With:** Zuzana Mauréry, Csongor Kassai, Peter Bebjak, Martin Havelka, Ondřej Malý, Eva Bandor, Zuzana Konečná, Richard Labuda, Oliver Oswald, Tamara Fischer, Ina Gogálová, Monika Čertezní  
**Festivals:** Karlovy Vary, Busan 2016  
In Slovak with English subtitles  
M offensive language & nudity

A communist-era schoolroom is a microcosm of outrageous political favouritism in this highly enjoyable return to form from Czech director Jan Hřebejk (*Divided We Fall*). The setting is Bratislava in 1983, drolly evoked in an array of wacky wallpapers and goofy sweaters, where a parent-teacher meeting is hearing the case against the eponymous Comrade Drazdčhová. Under her watch some of the brightest pupils have been receiving the poorest grades.

Their aggrieved parents claim that she aids and abets other pupils in direct proportion to the goods and services she receives from their parents: a free haircut here, free electrical repairs there. Even more intimate favours have been

suggested. What can the parents of the successful students say in response to such slanders? Their faked rectitude is astutely caricatured in a nimbly scripted, increasingly tense battle of wits.

While the accusers fret and stew, their hapless children suffer the consequences, and we root against the odds for the bully's comeuppance. In the title role Zuzana Mauréry is a sneaky, deplorable wonder, a richly realised screen villain surpassed in 2017 only by her real-world equivalents.

<b>B Northlands</b>	Tue 8 Aug, 12.00 pm
<b>A Northlands</b>	Wed 9 Aug, 8.15 pm
<b>B Northlands</b>	Mon 14 Aug, 2.15 pm
<b>A Northlands</b>	Sun 20 Aug, 6.15 pm

## Kiki, Love to Love

Kiki, el amor se hace



**Director:** Paco León  
Spain 2016 | 102 mins

**Producers:** Ghislain Barrois, Álvaro Augustin, Andrés Martín  
**Screenplay:** Paco León, Fernando Pérez  
**Photography:** Kiko de la Rica  
**Editor:** Alberto de Toro  
**With:** Paco León, Ana Katz, Belén Cuesta, Alex García, Natalia de Molina, Candela Peña, Luis Callejo, Luis Bermejo  
In Spanish with English subtitles  
CinemaScope | R18 sexual violence, sex scenes & offensive language

Born under the sign of Almodóvar, Paco León's homeland hit finds comedy and a little pathos in the mismatched sexual kinks of a group of interconnected Spaniards. Paco (director León) and Ana, for example, work on reigniting their passion by visiting bondage parties and furry nightclubs – and find themselves igniting unexpected passions in others. Natalia, meanwhile, discovers after getting mugged that she has a case of harpaxophilia, helpfully explained on-screen as “sexual arousal being produced by being robbed with violence,” while José learns he has somnophilia, sexual pleasure caused by watching someone sleep. If you caught a whiff of the non-consensual in any of this, it may or may not encourage

you to learn that in this film's sunny view of gratification, nobody ends up feeling used.

A remake of *The Little Death*, it could hardly differ more in spirit, transposing the action to a sweltering Madrid and celebrating difference, its message never more sweetly displayed than when a hearing-impaired call centre worker (fetish: silk) helps a voiceless customer indulge his fantasies through a phone sex line.

<b>A Northlands</b>	Sun 6 Aug, 6.00 pm
<b>B Northlands</b>	Tue 8 Aug, 2.00 pm
<b>B Northlands</b>	Wed 16 Aug, 4.30 pm
<b>A Northlands</b>	Sat 19 Aug, 6.15 pm

<b>A MM Timaru</b>	Thu 17 Aug, 8.30 pm
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## Summer 1993

*Estiu 1993*

As enthralling a child's-eye view as has graced the screen in many a year, *Summer 1993* draws us into the new world of six-year-old Frida, transplanted from Barcelona to live with her aunt, uncle and three-year-old cousin Anna in the country. It's summer and living around this bohemian couple is certainly easy, but adjustment for the little girl is not easy at all. While Anna fastens like glue onto her brand new older sister, Frida's not so sure she actually needs a sister, let alone a new pair of parents. It's not long before we deduce that the real parents have died and Frida's change of scene will be permanent.

Catalan director Carla Simón's feature debut is autobiographical. Her memory of childish schemes and dreams is acute and bracingly free of sentimentality. The performances she's drawn from the two children are miraculously unaffected, so when Frida leads her trusting little charge up the garden path you may want to leap into the movie and sort things out. What's just as piercing is the filmmaker's appreciation of the kindness, imagination and patience required of her aunt and uncle to convince a defiant little orphan that she was important and loved.



Though programmed in the festival's Young Adult section, *Summer 1993* took the prize for Best First Feature at this year's Berlinale. It's a beautiful film.

"A summer of troubled and troubling experience is reshaped into a delicately crafted, moving filmic memoir by Carla Simón... That the film draws deeply on personal recollection can be sensed in virtually every frame." — Jonathan Holland, *Hollywood Reporter*



**Director/Screenplay:** Carla Simón  
Spain 2017 | 97 mins

**Producer:** Valérie Delpierre  
**Photography:** Santiago Racaj  
**Editors:** Didac Palou, Ana Pfaff  
**Music:** Ernest Pipo, Pau Boigues  
**With:** Laia Artigas, Paula Robles, Bruna Cusi, David Verdaguer, Fermi Reixach  
**Festivals:** Berlin 2017  
**Best First Feature, Berlin International Film Festival 2017**  
In Catalan with English subtitles  
PG adult themes

**Carla Simón's autobiographical jewel is one of the most evocative and affecting depictions of childhood seen in years.**

**B Isaac Theatre** Fri 4 Aug, 11.45 am  
**A Isaac Theatre** Sat 12 Aug, 4.00 pm  
**A Northlands** Sat 19 Aug, 1.45 pm

**A MM Timaru** Wed 23 Aug, 6.15 pm

## Ethel & Ernest



**Director:**  
Roger Mainwood  
UK 2016 | 94 mins

**Screenplay:** Roger Mainwood.  
Based on the graphic novel by Raymond Briggs  
**Editor:** Richard Overall  
**Animation director:** Peter Dodd  
**Music:** Carl Davis, Paul McCartney  
**Voices:** Jim Broadbent, Brenda Blethyn, Luke Treadaway  
**Festivals:** London 2016  
PG violence

This funny and poignant animated feature perfectly captures the tone and visual style of Raymond Briggs' tender graphic novel about his 'very ordinary' parents, from their first trip to the pictures in 1928 (*Hangman's House* with Victor McLagen!) to their deaths, just months apart, in 1971.

There's a canny social and political history of Britain traced through their experiences and amusingly expressed through decades of gentle crossfire between Labour Dad and Tory Mum. A lifelong milkman with few complaints, Ernest keeps a close eye on world events, while Ethel, a former lady's maid, would rather sleep than watch the moon landing on TV and bristles at any suggestion that their little

household in Wimbledon might be considered working class.

The voice work of Jim Broadbent and Brenda Blethyn is a treat, with Luke Treadaway as the grown-up Raymond who came of age in the 60s and headed to art school – much to his mother's dismay. A soundtrack marking out the years in popular music also features original contributions from Carl Davis and Paul McCartney.

**B Northlands** Fri 4 Aug, 12.30 pm  
**A Northlands** Sat 5 Aug, 3.00 pm  
**B Northlands** Fri 11 Aug, 12.30 pm  
**A Northlands** Sun 13 Aug, 1.00 pm

**B MM Timaru** Tue 22 Aug, 1.00 pm

## God's Own Country



**Director/Screenplay:**  
Francis Lee  
UK 2017 | 105 mins

**Producers:** Manon Ardisson, Jack Tarling  
**Photography:** Joshua James Richards  
**Editor:** Chris Wyatt  
**With:** Josh O'Connor, Alec Secareanu, Ian Hart, Gemma Jones  
**Festivals:** Sundance, Berlin, San Francisco, Sydney 2017  
R16 nudity, offensive language, sexual material & content that may disturb

A hired hand offers new life to a failing farm in this affecting romantic drama set on the spectacularly bleak Yorkshire Dales. Johnny (Josh O'Connor) feels condemned to a life on the family farm. His father (Ian Hart) is dying a bitter man. His grandmother (Gemma Jones) sits in constant judgement. Johnny finds scant relief from constant labour in binge drinking and alarming bouts of roughhouse sex with other men.

When his father hires itinerant Romanian migrant worker Gheorghe (Alec Secareanu) to help with lambing, Johnny's disdain is automatic. A dislodged farmer himself, Gheorghe is attuned to the tough rural existence and takes to the work like a man returning to the well of life. His

antagonism compounded by his attraction to the handsome interloper, can the hopelessly alienated Johnny follow him there? Writer/director Francis Lee, raised on a Yorkshire farm himself, delineates their explosive courtship convincingly and poignantly. Reimagining *Brokeback Mountain* for a less homophobic age, *God's Own Country* does double service in a xenophobic age, finding renewal in the tenacity and vigour of immigrant aspiration.

**B Isaac Theatre** Tue 8 Aug, 3.45 pm  
**A Isaac Theatre** Fri 11 Aug, 6.30 pm

## The Party

The dinner-party-from-hell genre is delivered a short sharp shock by veteran British writer-director Sally Potter in this gleaming black comedy. Kristin Scott Thomas is hosting a group of friends to celebrate her promotion as shadow Minister of Health, elegantly juggling dinner preparation, congratulatory calls and surreptitious messaging from a lover. Husband Timothy Spall plays aggressive DJ, otherwise upright but catatonic in the living room as the guests arrive. These include her best friend (Patricia Clarkson, wryly acidic), her life-coach boyfriend (Bruno Ganz, wondrously inane), a coked-up venture capitalist (Cillian Murphy) who arrives sans wife, and an earnest lesbian couple (Emily Mortimer and Cherry Jones) intent on sharing some good news. Silly them.

"It'd poop *The Party*, so to speak, to reveal anything further – though this is less a plot-based exercise than a tipsily conversational one. Potter's eminently quotable screenplay works up just enough narrative momentum to sustain a barrage of killer one-liners: With the *hors d'oeuvres* increasingly unlikely to be served, decorum is swiftly shed and these privileged vultures instead feed ravenously on each other's ideals...



One shouldn't pull a muscle, however, in reaching for the subtext of Potter's witty shaggy-dog story: Its giddy in-the-moment pleasures are enough... Months after the US election campaign turned an intended jibe into a rallying cry, Sally Potter's latest further proves that there's pleasure, pride or both to be taken in being a nasty woman." — Guy Lodge, *Variety*

**"A consummate drawing-room *divertissement*, played with relish by a dream ensemble."**

— Guy Lodge, *Variety*

**Director/Screenplay: Sally Potter**  
UK 2017 | 71 mins

**Producers:** Christopher Sheppard, Kurban Kassam  
**Photography:** Alexey Rodionov  
**Editors:** Anders Refn, Emilie Orsini  
**With:** Kristin Scott Thomas, Timothy Spall, Patricia Clarkson, Bruno Ganz, Cherry Jones, Emily Mortimer, Cillian Murphy  
**Festivals:** Berlin 2017  
B&W | M violence, offensive language & drug use

<b>A</b>	<b>Isaac Theatre</b>	Fri 4 Aug, 6.30 pm
<b>B</b>	<b>Isaac Theatre</b>	Mon 7 Aug, 1.15 pm
<b>B</b>	<b>Northlands</b>	Fri 11 Aug, 4.45 pm

<b>A</b>	<b>MM Timaru</b>	Fri 18 Aug, 6.30 pm
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## A Monster Calls



**Director: J.A. Bayona**  
UK/Spain/USA 2016  
109 mins

**Screenplay:** Patrick Ness.  
Based on his novel  
**Photography:** Oscar Faura  
**With:** Lewis MacDougall, Sigourney Weaver, Felicity Jones, Liam Neeson, Toby Kebbell  
**Festivals:** Toronto, London 2016  
**Best Director, Cinematography & Editing, Goya Awards 2017**  
CinemaScope | PG violence & scary scenes

Twelve-year-old English boy Conor O'Malley (Lewis MacDougall) is a lonely kid. His father lives in California; his loving mother (Felicity Jones) is terminally ill, and his grandmother (Sigourney Weaver) makes a chilly substitute. His sole companion appears nightly in the intimidating form of a gigantic tree creature (voiced by Liam Neeson) who tells him fantastic tales of apothecaries and kings, handsome princes and wicked stepmothers. The monster challenges Conor to discover the truth in the stories that might give him the strength to make the best of his sorry lot.

J.A. Bayona's adaptation of Patrick Ness' young adult novel draws on a spectacular arsenal of CGI, shifting into

ravishing painterly animation for the monster's enthralling tales, to impart tough and fortifying wisdom about life, and about stories too.

"Mixing horror movie imagery with honest, heart-wrenching human truths, Bayona has created a dark, coming-of-age masterpiece... Entertaining, tonally impeccable, and heartbreaking, this is a monster movie with a very human heart." — Marten Carlson, *Consequence of Sound*

<b>A</b>	<b>Northlands</b>	Sat 5 Aug, 6.15 pm
<b>B</b>	<b>Northlands</b>	Mon 7 Aug, 4.15 pm
<b>A</b>	<b>Northlands</b>	Tue 8 Aug, 8.30 pm

## Brigsby Bear



**Director: Dave McCary**  
USA 2017 | 98 mins

**Screenplay:** Kevin Costello, Kyle Mooney  
**With:** Kyle Mooney, Greg Kinnear, Matt Walsh, Michaela Watkins, Mark Hamill, Ryan Simpkins, Jorge Lendeborg Jr, Claire Danes, Jane Adams, Kate Lyn Sheil, Alexa Demie, Andy Samberg  
**Festivals:** Sundance, Cannes (Critics' Week), Sydney 2017  
M sex scenes, offensive language & drug use

In this inventive, Gondry-esque comedy, *Saturday Night Live's* earnest goofball Kyle Mooney is a man obsessed by the only TV show he's ever seen, a little-known series about a magic bear saving the world.

James (Mooney) has lived in a bunker for 25 years. His only contact is with his parents (Mark Hamill and Jane Adams), and his only source of external stimulation is the 80s-style 'Brigsby Bear Adventures', delivered weekly on VHS cassettes. He's probably the world's most intense student of the Brigsby mythos.

When James has to leave his bunker and meet other people, he loses access to new episodes. The slow-dawning solution to this emergency celebrates

sweet fellowship in extreme fan culture, and the liberating power of sheer silliness with the conviction of the true believer.

"*Brigsby Bear's* strongest asset (well, after the gobs of in-universe verbiage that come spilling from James' mouth) is Kyle Mooney's extraordinary performance... To hang around James and soak up some of his positivity (even if it is a little unclear if he knows what's going on half the time) is a joy." — Jordan Hoffman, *Vanity Fair*

<b>B</b>	<b>Northlands</b>	Fri 4 Aug, 4.45 pm
<b>A</b>	<b>Northlands</b>	Sun 6 Aug, 6.15 pm
<b>A</b>	<b>Northlands</b>	Fri 18 Aug, 6.30 pm

## Beatriz at Dinner

This perfectly honed chamber drama from director Miguel Arteta and writer Mike White begins as a squirmy dinner-party-gone-wrong comedy and expands into something much more soulful and timely.

Salma Hayek plays Beatriz, a Mexican-American holistic healer invited to stay on for dinner by her wealthy client and avowed friend Cathy (Connie Britton). She finds herself breaking bread with Cathy's husband's business partners and their wives. The alpha male at the party is billionaire developer Doug Strutt (John Lithgow, playing against the obvious Trump connotations with a chilling assurance). As the cocktails multiply and the one percent rejoice in world domination, the earnest Beatriz enunciates an alternative view.

"Arteta deftly portrays the cocoon of wealth and the shamelessness of those who seek it at all costs: Doug can say whatever he wants, because he's surrounded by sycophants and others who feed on his money and power. Beatriz, we sense, has been let in on a gathering that people like her are not supposed to see. That's a pretty simple set-up, but Arteta and screenwriter Mike White find nuance in the conflict...



This might be the best performance Salma Hayek has ever given, her quiet, observant reserve eventually giving way to bewilderment and resolve. And her inner turmoil is a powerfully relevant one: How does a person committed to healing – to being principled, empathetic, and good – handle first contact with the devils who think nothing of destroying our world?" — Bilge Ebiri, *Village Voice*

**"Dark, hopelessly humane *Beatriz at Dinner* is the perfect film for the Trump era... Salma Hayek is remarkable."**

— Richard Lawson, *Vanity Fair*

**Director: Miguel Arteta**  
USA 2017 | 83 mins

**Producers:** Aaron L. Gilbert, Pamela Koffler, David Hinojosa, Christine Vachon

**Screenplay:** Mike White

**Photography:** Wyatt Garfield

**Editor:** Jay Deuby

**Music:** Mark Mothersbaugh

**With:** Salma Hayek, John Lithgow, Connie Britton, Jay Duplass, Amy Landecker, Chloë Sevigny, David Warshofsky, John Early

**Festivals:** Sundance 2017

CinemaScope | M violence & offensive language

A Isaac Theatre	Thu 10 Aug, 6.15 pm
A Northlands	Sun 13 Aug, 6.45 pm
B Isaac Theatre	Mon 14 Aug, 4.15 pm

## The Beguiled

Sofia Coppola was crowned Best Director at Cannes this year for arguably her best film to date: a crisp, unsettling, absolutely essential remake of Don Siegel's 1971 oddity starring Clint Eastwood. Everything about this new interpretation beguiles, from its exciting cast of fresh and familiar faces, to its unexpected jabs of humour, to its almost shocking sense of brevity – though above all else, it is Coppola's gaze that enthralls, placing female desire and self-preservation at the film's tipping point. — Tim Wong

"In Sofia Coppola's elegantly spare, psychosexual Civil War drama *The Beguiled*, a wounded Union soldier, Colonel John McBurney (Colin Farrell), is discovered in the surrounding woods of a Virginia all-girls seminary school, circa 1864... The girls and women of the property, overseen by headmaster Martha Farnsworth (Nicole Kidman) slowly begin to vie for the attention of this enemy from the other side, conveniently laid up with a bum leg just down the hall from their bedrooms...

The Eastwood version was a kinky joke of a psychodrama: a retrograde curiosity about a gaggle of repressed, sheltered Confederate belles being seduced by the manliest Yankee of



them all... Coppola deepens the material's implicit wellsprings of loneliness and longing, mitigating the sexism by diverting the point of view away from McBurney to the women he's attempting to manipulate...

It's a magnificently shot movie, and often a very funny one, as tense dinners with the stranger from the North transform into duels of innuendo." — A.A. Dowd, *AV Club*

**"Coppola's new take burnishes a vision of hard-won female autonomy... [and] brings a dreaminess... and a minimalism where before nightmares had reigned."**

— Isabel Stevens, *Sight & Sound*



**Director: Sofia Coppola**  
USA 2017 | 94 mins

**Producers:** Youree Henley, Sofia Coppola

**Screenplay:** Sofia Coppola. Based on the novel by Thomas Cullinan and the screenplay by Albert Maltz, Grimes Grice

**Photography:** Philippe Le Sourd

**Editor:** Sarah Flack

**Music:** Phoenix

**With:** Colin Farrell, Nicole Kidman, Kirsten Dunst, Elle Fanning, Oona Laurence, Angourie Rice, Addison Riecke, Emma Howard, Wayne Pére, Matt Story, Joel Albin

**Festivals:** Cannes (In Competition) 2017

**Best Director, Cannes Film Festival 2017**

M violence, sex scenes & content that may disturb

B Isaac Theatre	Fri 4 Aug, 4.15 pm
A Isaac Theatre	Sat 5 Aug, 8.30 pm
B Northlands	Mon 7 Aug, 2.45 pm
A Northlands	Tue 8 Aug, 6.15 pm
A MM Timaru	Sat 19 Aug, 6.00 pm

# Wine and film.

Both start with a vision and then take years of skill and craft to become a reality. A director draws the best performance from actors and crew, and a winemaker extracts the potential from the land and the grape. Dedication and the pursuit for perfection define both crafts. It's no wonder success for each is defined by raising a glass.



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Festival 2010 – 2017





## The Lost City of Z

In the early 20th century British explorer Percy Fawcett made eight expeditions into the Amazonian jungle pursuing evidence of a lost, highly evolved civilisation. James Gray's spectacular film collapses those expeditions into a tidier history, but the enquiring spirit of the movie holds closely to the wanderlust of the incurable adventurer. It's hard to think of another film on such epic scale that contains so careful and nuanced a portrait of the explorer hero or his conflicted relationship with the society that he, in name at least, represents. Charlie Hunnam's Fawcett is a commanding slow burn from class resentment to mystic quest, with Robert Pattinson barely recognisable as his companion in adventure. Sienna Miller makes a powerful impression as the wife chafing to join him but forever left behind. The cinematography, by Darius Khondji (*Seven*, *Delicatessen*), captures the seductive allure of jungle and river in ravishing imagery fit only for the giant screen.

"*The Lost City of Z* is a miraculous movie, at once moving, intimidating, and gorgeous to behold. It's a tale of colonial exploration that's aware of the sins of the past, and a portrait of a driven, obsessive, flawed male



protagonist that avoids the clichés of the genre. It feels like a work of classic Hollywood cinema, but without the arch, mannered quality that can come with a contemporary director trying to harken back to the past. Gray's film is beguiling and poetic, capable of gluing you to the screen for every second of its languorous running time and lingering in the brain for weeks after." — David Sims, *The Atlantic*

**"Pictures with the grand sweep and dreamy energy of *The Lost City of Z* don't come along every year – they barely come along at all."**

— Stephanie Zacharek, *Time*

**Director: James Gray**  
USA 2016 | 141 mins

**Producers:** Dede Gardner, Jeremy Kleiner, Anthony Katagas, James Gray, Dale Armin Johnson  
**Screenplay:** James Gray. Based on the book by David Grann

**Photography:** Darius Khondji  
**Editors:** John Axelrad, Lee Haugen  
**Music:** Christopher YOUNG

**With:** Charlie Hunnam, Robert Pattinson, Sienna Miller, Tom Holland, Edward Ashley, Angus Macfadyen, Ian McDiarmid, Clive Francis, Pedro Coello, Matthew Sunderland, Johann Myers, Franco Nero

**Festivals:** New York 2016; Berlin, San Francisco 2017

In English, Spanish, Portuguese and German, with English subtitles  
4K DCP | CinemaScope | M violence & offensive language

A Northlands	Sun 13 Aug, 7.30 pm
B Northlands	Tue 15 Aug, 1.30 pm
A Isaac Theatre	Wed 16 Aug, 8.00 pm

A MM Timaru	Sun 20 Aug, 7.00 pm
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## Animation NOW! 2017

85 mins approx. | Censors rating tbc

Our longstanding animation programmer Malcolm Turner, also head honcho at the Melbourne International Animation Festival, offers a selection of the brightest and best from this year's *Animation NOW!* Festival – in 2017 supported by Victoria University Wellington, School of Design.

Rising stars, including New Zealand's own, jostle with longstanding masters; the playful with the profound. Here are flights of cinematic magic of an individuality that only animators can bring to the screen – delivering a cornucopia of creative excitement to reward any moviegoer.

If you're looking to sample the international animation ecosystem in all of its multi-coloured, variously shaped glories, there's no better place to begin.

### Double King

Australia 2017 | Director: Felix Colgrave | 9 mins

Ah, the quest for power in all its crazy, twisted, warped and comically gory forms.

### Beer

Italy 2016 | Director: NERDO | 2 mins

Charles Bukowski's roiling, volcanic thoughts writ loud on one of his favourite subjects.

### Satie's "Parade"

Japan 2016 | Director: Yamamura Koji | 14 mins

An animated re-creation of a realist ballet, fuelled by extracts from Satie essays.

### Primal Flux

USA 2016 | Director: Joan C. Gratz | 3 mins

Gratz gently plunges us into a visceral realm of constantly morphing three-dimensional clay.



À PERDRE HALEINE

### À perdre haleine

France 2016 | Director: Lea Krowczyk | 4 mins

Sometimes you just have to let the music take you over.

### I Want Pluto to be a Planet Again

France 2016 | Directors: Marie Amachoukeli, Vladimír Mavouinia-Kouka | 12 mins

On the beautiful complexities of rebuilding and the uncertain joys of admiring from afar.

### Fire in Cardboard City

New Zealand 2017 | Director: Phil Brough | 8 mins

Fighting a fire in Cardboard City is always going to be challenging.

### Scratchy

Canada 2017 | Director: Marv Newland | 3 mins

Everywhere you go, everything you do, everybody you meet – everything's scratchy.



PRIMAL FLUX

### Waiting for the New Year

Latvia 2016 | Director: Vladimír Leschiov | 8 mins

The passage of seasons is the simplest of all things, but is lived differently by different people.

### Before Love

Russia 2016 | Director: Igor Kovalyov | 19 mins

Love leads us down many false paths and this drama knows them all.



I WANT PLUTO TO BE A PLANET AGAIN

A Northlands	Wed 9 Aug, 6.30 pm
A Northlands	Mon 14 Aug, 6.15 pm

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# FOR ALL AGES



Features selected by Nic Marshall of Square Eyes Film Foundation, ardent promoters of international cinema to our youngest audiences and their movie-going companions. The animated short film programmes are lovingly curated by Nic with a little assistance from our *Animation NOW!* maestro Malcolm Turner.

See also: *My Life As a Courgette* (p35).

## Born in China



**Director:** Lu Chuan  
USA/China 2016  
79 mins

**Producers:** Phil Chapman, Roy Conli, Brian Leith  
**Screenplay:** David Fowler, Brian Leith, Phil Chapman, Lu Chuan  
**Photography:** Irmin Kerck, Justin Maguire, Shane Moore, Rolf Steinmann, Paul Stewart  
**Editor:** Matthew Meech  
**Music:** Barnaby Taylor  
**Narrator:** John Krasinski  
**Festivals:** San Francisco 2017

The visual splendour of the natural world and its extraordinary creatures is captured on a grand scale in this true-life adventure from Disney Nature – ideal for young animal lovers.

In an epic tale of four seasons, we follow some of the animal families that populate various corners of China's expansive terrain. Meet Ya Ya, a panda bear mother guiding her growing baby Mei Mei as she begins to explore and seek independence; Tao Tao, a mischievous two-year-old golden snub-nosed monkey nudged toward self-sufficiency after the arrival of his new baby sister; and Dawa, a mother snow leopard – an elusive animal rarely caught on camera – facing the very real drama of raising her two cubs in one

of the harshest and most unforgiving environments on the planet.

The footage captured on this epic journey into the wilds of China is breathtaking for its access and intimacy – presented as an opportunity for young audiences to relate the natural world to their own lives, and to contemplate the mysteries of the circle of life. — Nicola Marshall

Note: Animal survival depicted. Some scenes may be upsetting for very young children.

A Isaac Theatre	Sun 6 Aug, 11.15 am
A Northlands	Sun 13 Aug, 11.00 am

A MM Timaru	Sun 20 Aug, 1.00 pm
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## Swallows and Amazons



**Director:** Philippa Lowthorpe  
UK 2016 | 97 mins

**Producers:** Nicholas Barton, Nick O'Hagan, Joe Oppenheimer  
**Screenplay:** Andrea Gibb. Based on the novel by Arthur Ransome  
**Photography:** Julian Court  
**Editor:** David Thrasher  
**Music:** Ilan Eshkeri  
**With:** Rafe Spall, Andrew Scott, Kelly Macdonald, Dane Hughes, Orla Hill, Teddie-Rose Malleson-Allen, Bobby McCulloch  
**Recommended for ages 9+**  
PG low level violence

"The four Walker children have finally convinced their parents to let them set off on their own for a sailing adventure during summer vacation. Their summer of freedom quickly turns into a fierce turf war when they learn their island camp has been claimed by the boisterous Amazons, and find themselves caught in the midst of some nefarious international intrigue that's landed in their sleepy byways. Based on the beloved English novels by Arthur Ransome, *Swallows and Amazons* is filled with dramas big and small... that come together to create a fluidly captivating story of bravery set against the languorous beauty of the English countryside." — New York International Children's Film Festival

"Arthur Ransome's classic pre-war tale of childhood adventure *Swallows and Amazons* still evokes a golden, prelapsarian age when kids were free range and mucking about in boats was the acme of excitement... Director Philippa Lowthorpe and screenwriter Andrea Gibb have tweaked one or two details of Ransome's original. And they've added an extra dash of derring-do. But at heart their film is as cosily nostalgic as the cherished 1974 version." — Jason Best, *Movie Talk*

A Northlands	Sun 6 Aug, 12.00 pm
A Isaac Theatre	Sat 19 Aug, 10.45 am

A MM Timaru	Sat 26 Aug, 1.30 pm
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## Animation for Kids 4+

61 mins approx. | G cert

We've searched all around the world and back again to shape this eclectic collection of imaginative and engaging animated short films – terrific viewing for both the very youngest of filmgoers and animation admiring grown-ups. There's only space here to list some highlights. For the full programme listing go to nziff.co.nz — NM

### The Cage

France 2016 | Director: Loïc Bruyere | 6 mins

When a bear and his bird pals find the right rhythm, teamwork equals sweet freedom.

### A Hole

Mexico 2016 | Director: Maribel Suárez | 4 mins

A small girl befriends a hole in her garden, discovering that patience and a helping hand can make a big difference when you want something to grow.

A Isaac Theatre Sat 5 Aug, 11.15 am  
A Northlands Sat 19 Aug, 12.00 pm

### Eagle Blue

UK 2016 | Director: Will Rose | 4 mins

Eagle Blue soars high above the mountaintop – but she must swoop down to the town below and provide a proper meal for her hungry kids.

### Spider Web

Russia 2016 | Director: Natalia Chernysheva | 4 mins

Anyone can get caught in a sticky situation, but sometimes working together can make things a whole load easier.

### The Pocket Man

Georgia/Switzerland/France 2016 | Director: Ana Chubinidze | 8 mins

When he makes a new friend, the pocket man realises that acts of kindness come in all shapes and sizes.



AWESOME BEETLE'S COLOURS

### Awesome Beetle's Colours

Latvia 2016 | Director: Indra Spröge | 3 mins

A nearly impossible story, supported by a catchy melody, guides us through the alphabet.

### The Sled

Russia 2016 | Director: Olesya Shchukina | 4 mins

In the middle of deepest, snowiest winter, a squirrel finds something he has never seen before.

### Stone Soup

France 2015 | Director: Clémentine Robach | 7 mins

Times are tough in one little town: first no food, now no electricity. Eventually, the transformative power of community nourishes all in the best ways possible.



A HOLE

### Fruit of Clouds

Czech Republic 2017 | Director: Kateřina Karhánková | 11 mins

A charming tuft makes a great discovery through overcoming its fear of the unknown.

### Tiger

Germany 2015 | Director: Kariem Saleh | 4 mins

A tiny tiger, happy but hungry, sneakily satisfies an endless appetite.

### Big Box Singong: Bears

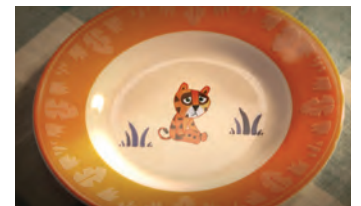
Canada 2016 | Directors: Warren Brown, Adam Goddard | 2 mins

Let's hear it for the Bears!

### Mr Night Has A Day Off

Lithuania 2016 | Director: Ignas Meilunas | 2 mins

What will Mr Night do on his day off? Wander through the daylight and create mischief, of course.



TIGER

## Animation for Kids 8+

71 mins approx. | PG low level violence

Hold tight for a showcase of brilliant animated short films – curated for the curious. Whether you're an inquisitive kid or long-time animation fan, there's most certainly something for you. There's only space here to list some highlights. For the full programme listing go to nziff.co.nz — NM

### Outdoor Cinema

Russia/Australia 2014 | Director: Tatiana Poliektova, Filippo Rivetti | 3 mins

A group of industrious creatures make an outdoor cinema to reflect the world around them.

### Cats & Dogs

Switzerland/Germany 2015 | Director: Gerd Gockell, Jesús Pérez | 6 mins

One cat. One dog. You can probably anticipate how this might go.

A Isaac Theatre Sun 13 Aug, 11.00 am  
A Northlands Sun 20 Aug, 12.00 pm

### Welcome to My Life

USA 2015 | Director: Elizabeth Ito | 9 mins

A glimpse into a day in the life of Douglas, aka T-Kesh – just your average Monster-American teenager.

### 1 Minute Nature: Jellyfish Weather

Netherlands 2016 | Directors: Stefanie Visjager, Katinka Baehr | 1 min

The sea is full of colour and underwater mystery in one boy's true story of a day at the beach.

### Jonas and the Sea

Netherlands 2015 | Director: Marlies van der Wel | 12 mins

Jonas casts aside everything in pursuit of his dream to live in the sea.



JONAS AND THE SEA

### Nino & Felix

Italy 2015 | Directors: Marta Palazzo, Lorenzo Latrofa | 8 mins

Two boys, who are not particularly thrilled at being brought together, clash out their differences to find the ways in which they are more alike than not.

### Little Mouse

Hungary 2016 | Director: Ervin B. Nagy | 7 mins

'Little Mouse' is a hugely talented swimmer who earned a spot at the Bucharest Youth Championship. Will she have what it takes to out-lap the big kids?

### Sweaty Armpits

USA 2016 | Director: Tony Dusko | 1 min

Does anyone have a mop?



LITTLE MOUSE

### Water Path For a Fish

Spain 2016 | Director: Mercedes Marro | 8 mins

Oscar rescues a goldfish from the clutches of hungry cats but, with the drought, has trouble caring for it. When the water returns, the trouble becomes keeping track of his new fishy friend.

### G-AAAH

UK 2016 | Director: Elizabeth Hobbs | 1 min

Typographical flights of fancy tell the true story of typist-turned-aviator Amy Johnson.

### Fire in Cardboard City

New Zealand 2017 | Director: Phil Brough | 8 mins

There's action aplenty for the Cardboard City Fire Department as they try to curb their first real fire.



WELCOME TO MY LIFE

# FRESH

We line up the films that held our attention with their energy and originality – in terms of subject, technique and sensibility. Not every film that feels like a harbinger of the future is the work of a young filmmaker – though an encouraging number on the pages that follow are.

## Gabriel and the Mountain

*Gabriel e a montanha*



**Director:** Fellipe Barbosa  
Brazil/France 2017  
127 mins

**Screenplay:** Fellipe Barbosa, Lucas Paraizo, Kirill Mikhonovsky  
**With:** João Pedro Zappa  
**Festivals:** Cannes (Critics' Week) 2017  
In English, Portuguese, Swahili, Chichewa and French, with English subtitles  
CinemaScope | M sex scenes, offensive language, drug use & content that may disturb

Spectacular and thrumming with life, this richly layered road movie shows us Africa through the eyes of an eager gap-year backpacker. "I travel as I've always dreamed of doing in a nontouristic and sustainable manner," he emails back home to Brazil. "Spending \$2 or \$3 a day and giving 80% of my daily budget to the locals who feed and shelter me."

Brazilian director Fellipe Barbosa's film recreates the journey of his friend Gabriel Buchmann who died on the slopes of Malawi's Mount Mulanje in 2009. The African cast is made up almost entirely of people whom the open-hearted young Brasileiro befriended along the way. They play themselves – and deliver personal tributes in voiceover.

The director is alive to his friend's vanity and the ironies attendant on his "total immersion in the heart of Africa." Required by a waitress at a beachside cafe to order a meal, Gabriel is outraged to be mistaken for a mere tourist. But his appetite for the freedom and friendship of the road gives this film irresistible exuberance and heart. There's mystery too: his impatience to knock off the achievements he's set himself brings his brief and brilliant life to an end and sets this wonderfully enlivening film in motion.

<b>B Northlands</b>	Thu 10 Aug, 2.00 pm
<b>A Northlands</b>	Tue 15 Aug, 8.30 pm
<b>A Northlands</b>	Fri 18 Aug, 8.30 pm

## I Am Not a Witch



**Director/Screenplay:**  
Rungano Nyoni  
UK/France/Zambia/  
Germany 2017 | 95 mins

**Photography:** David Gallego  
**Music:** Matthew James Kelly  
**With:** Margaret Mulubwa, Henry B.J. Phiri, Nancy Murilo  
**Festivals:** Cannes (Directors' Fortnight) 2017  
In English, Bemba, Nyanja and Tonga, with English subtitles  
Censors rating tbc

In Zambian-born, Welsh-raised director Rungano Nyoni's truly surreal tale, a nine-year-old village girl is accused of witchcraft and hauled off to do witches' work. Soon she's identifying the culprit in a police line-up, bringing on the rain, or just posing for tourists. Though accusing someone of witchcraft is illegal in Zambia, Nyoni's tale is based on continuing practices she observed herself living for a month in a witches' camp. The awfulness of her story is leavened by the merciless satirical eye she trains on superstition's perpetrators – the men who put these 'witches' to work.

"When you've been told you're a witch, forced to live as a witch, forced to act as a witch, you might eventually

start believing you're a witch... Rungano Nyoni has made the subject the focus of her debut feature... a biting satire attacking the ignorance which provides oxygen for this hokum...

Underneath the humor there's staunch determination from the director. 'It's so important that we're not precious about [witchcraft], otherwise nothing gets done,' she said." — Thomas Page, *CNN.com*

<b>B Northlands</b>	Mon 7 Aug, 2.15 pm
<b>A Northlands</b>	Sat 12 Aug, 6.15 pm
<b>A Northlands</b>	Mon 14 Aug, 8.45 pm

## A Ghost Story

One of the wonders of this or any year, David Lowery's film takes the homeliest of images for the supernatural – a sheet with two forlorn eyeholes – and places it at the centre of a layered and piercing contemplation of existential mystery.

Working in secret and on a micro-budget, the director of *Pete's Dragon* has evoked a profound eeriness from the most minimal and intimate of means.

As the ghost of a young husband (Casey Affleck) observes the grief of his partner (Rooney Mara) and then lingers through subsequent tenancies of the house they shared, the helpless ghost's attachment to the place he loved becomes increasingly impersonal and unsettled. Lowery's theme is realised in delicate, folkloric images of a distinctly American paradise lost, its hushed mood disrupted by abrupt bursts of activity – Will Oldham on a brilliant jag as a drunken doom theorist – and radical bends in time.

"A *Ghost Story* has the structure and rhythm of a musical suite, with Lowery working variations on the same themes, the same characters, and the same location. The result can be lyrical and poetic, or more naturalistic and minimalist. In both cases, *A Ghost Story* is absolutely mesmerizing, with an



anything-goes quality that's endlessly fascinating. Any movie that can turn a walking joke like *The Ghost* into a figure of genuine pathos is a movie that earns every long pause, and every sudden leap." — Noel Murray, *The Playlist*

"A *Ghost Story* is filmmaking that challenges and exhilarates, a potent reminder of how many new places film can still be taken." — Dominik Suzanne-Mayer, *Consequence of Sound*

**"It's a rare privilege to see a contemporary American film as ambitious, emotionally honest, and just-plain-breathtaking."**

— Dan Schoenbrun, *Filmmaker*

**Director/Screenplay/Editor:**

**David Lowery**

USA 2017 | 93 mins

**Producers:** Toby Halbrooks, James M. Johnston, Adam Donaghey

**Photography:** Andrew Droz Palermo

**Music:** Daniel Hart

**With:** Casey Affleck, Rooney Mara, Will Oldham, McColm Cephas Jr., Kenneisha Thompson, Grover Coulson, Liz Franke, Barlow Jacobs

**Festivals:** Sundance 2017

M offensive language

**B Isaac Theatre** Wed 16 Aug, 4.00 pm

**A Isaac Theatre** Thu 17 Aug, 8.30 pm

## My Life As a Courgette

*Ma vie de courgette*

PRESENTED IN  
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**Director:** Claude Barras  
Switzerland/France 2016  
66 mins

**Screenplay:** Céline Sciamma.

Based on the novel by Gilles Paris

**Animation director:** Kim Keukeleire

**Voices:** Erick Abbate, Ness Krell,

Romy Beckman, Nick Offerman

**Festivals:** Cannes (Directors' Fortnight), Melbourne, Toronto,

London 2016; Sundance 2017

**Nominated, Best Animated**

**Feature, Academy Awards 2017**

PG sexual references

A bunch of kids from nightmare backgrounds find refuge and companionship in this soulful and subversive Oscar-nominated animated feature. Painstakingly crafted over a decade, *Courgette* marks another triumph for animation director Kim Keukeleire, who worked on Wes Anderson's *Fantastic Mr Fox*.

"*My Life As a Courgette* is a stop-motion cartoon, blessed with both a Swiss director (Claude Barras), and an ambition not to do anything the conventional way... The animated characters, most with elongated bodies and pasty ping-pong heads with huge eyes, are beautifully realized, and the delicate touch of Barras works wonders. Skillfully adapted by Céline Sciamma

(*Girlhood*) from the hit 2002 young adult novel by Gilles Paris, the film has a keen eye and ear for the way children process the inconceivable (neglect, abuse, deportation, murder)... The feeling of melancholy is undercut by the resilience of these children, their ability to forge relationships and create life out of chaos...

*My Life As a Courgette* never sacrifices what's true for what's trite and easier to sell. This is animation as an art form, inspiring and indelible." — Peter Travers, *Rolling Stone*

**A Northlands** Fri 4 Aug, 6.45 pm

**A Isaac Theatre** Wed 16 Aug, 6.15 pm

**B Isaac Theatre** Thu 17 Aug, 4.30 pm

## Patti Cake\$



**Director/Screenplay:**

**Jeremy Jasper**

USA 2017 | 108 mins

**Photography:** Federico Cesca

**Editor:** Brad Turner

**Music:** Jeremy Jasper,

Jason Binnick

**With:** Danielle Macdonald, Briget

Everett, Siddharth Dhananjay,

Mamoudou Athie, Cathy

Moriarty, Sahr Ngaujah

**Festivals:** Sundance, SXSW,

New Directors/New Films,

San Francisco, Cannes (Directors' Fortnight) 2017

Censors rating tbc

"Two stars are born in *Patti Cake\$*, one of those rare crowd-pleasers that earn their love honestly. The first is the sensational Danielle Macdonald, who plays the second: the movie's title character, also known as Patricia Dombrowski, a poor white New Jersey rapper who, with her tiny diverse posse yearns to cross the bridge to fame and fortune. Written and directed by Jeremy Jasper, the movie treads familiar aspirational ground: Patricia has dreams, pluck and obstacles (she's routinely taunted because of her weight), but her outsider status isn't fetishized or romanticized, and she's divinely real." — Manohla Dargis, *NY Times*

"It's hard to equate what a star-making turn this is for Macdonald. The

audience at the film's world premiere gave an audible gasp when she answered her first question because no one had a clue she was Australian let alone not American. In a movie like this, filmmakers often have to convince the audience an actor playing a musician is as good as the story says there are. At no point in *Patti Cake\$* is there ever a hint that Macdonald is unable to legitimately rap. She's simply a revelation." — Gregory Ellwood, *The Playlist*

**B Isaac Theatre** Wed 9 Aug, 3.45 pm

**A Isaac Theatre** Fri 11 Aug, 9.00 pm

# Documentary AOTEAROA

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## Lady Macbeth

Victorian patriarchy meets its match in this juicy period drama. The title alerts us to murderous intent, but the source material here is one step removed from Shakespeare: this striking debut is a stylised reinvention of the 1865 Russian novella *Lady Macbeth of the Mtsensk District*. Katherine (Florence Pugh) is a young bride, a virtual captive in the draughty mansion of her dour mine owner husband. Her flinty father-in-law pressures her for an heir, though the sadistic ritual unfolding nightly in the marital bedroom scarcely favours reproduction. The incredulous Katherine plots her liberation. If she's prepared to contemplate murder to escape this disgusting prison, what won't she do to guarantee her pleasure when she finds it in the arms of the taunting hunk (Cosmo Jarvis) who runs the household stable? Her maid (Naomi Ackie) stands by, rendered mute by the trouble she sees. Pugh, in virtually every scene, is mesmerising – her insolence smouldering as she's corseted into tight bodices and hooped skirts, her abandon as sumptuous as her flesh when she casts them off.

Twenty-first century identity politics flicker through this revisionist masterpiece theatre. Colour-blind



casting adds a frisson of racism to the routine abuse of the servant class while Katherine's self-empowerment may feel proto-feminist in intent.

"Oldroyd coolly subverts the fusty conventions of British costume drama... [the film] deliberately incurs as many debts to Chandler and Hammett as it does to Austen or Eliot." — Jonathan Murray, *Cineaste*

**"A barbed feminist fable of class, cruelty and sexual power that feels absolutely true to its period and uncannily attuned to the present moment."**

— A.O. Scott, *NY Times*

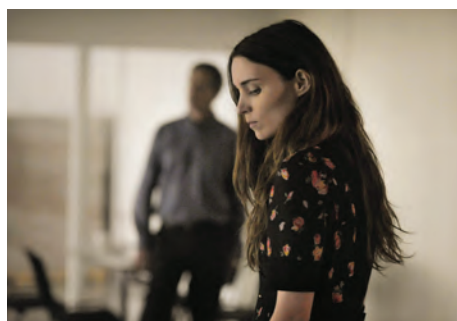


**Director: William Oldroyd**  
UK 2016 | 89 mins

**Producer:** Fodhla Cronin O'Reilly  
**Screenplay:** Alice Birch. Based on the novella *Lady Macbeth of the Mtsensk District* by Nikolai Leskov  
**Photography:** Ari Wegner  
**Editor:** Nick Emerson  
**Music:** Dan Jones  
**With:** Florence Pugh, Cosmo Jarvis, Paul Hilton, Naomi Ackie, Christopher Fairbank  
**Festivals:** Toronto, San Sebastián, London 2016; Sundance, New Directors/New Films, San Francisco 2017  
**Critics' Prize, San Sebastián International Film Festival 2016**  
CinemaScope | R16 violence, offensive language & sex scenes

**A Isaac Theatre** Wed 9 Aug, 8.30 pm  
**B Isaac Theatre** Fri 18 Aug, 1.00 pm

## Una



**Director: Benedict Andrews**  
USA/UK/Canada 2016  
94 mins

**Screenplay:** David Harrower. Based on his play *Blackbird*  
**Photography:** Thimios Bakatakis  
**Editor:** Nick Fenton  
**Music:** Jed Kurzel  
**With:** Rooney Mara, Ben Mendelsohn, Riz Ahmed  
**Festivals:** Toronto, London 2016  
R16 sex scenes, offensive language & content that may disturb

Opened out by David Harrower from his 2005 stage two-hander *Blackbird*, the first feature directed by the Australian stage director-dramatist Benedict Andrews is a crucible for the traumatic legacy of abuse – and the combustible nerviness of actors Rooney Mara and Ben Mendelsohn.

"With deeply unresolved questions about her past, Una (Rooney Mara) travels to another city, turning up unannounced at Ray's (Ben Mendelsohn) work and dredging up a decade-old experience that he thought he'd left behind. Mendelsohn and Mara are exceptional as the troubled and troubling Ray and Una, and Riz Ahmed makes for a perfect foil as the innocent Scott.

The film interrogates the psychology of abuse with precision, intelligence and restraint; taking on a disturbing subject, Harrower and Andrews expertly shift us through an enormous range of intellectual and emotional positions. This is filmmaking artistry of the highest order, from writing and performances to the unsettling, moody score from Jed Kurzel (*Macbeth*, *Snowtown*)." — Tricia Tuttle, London Film Festival

**B Northlands** Mon 14 Aug, 4.30 pm  
**A Northlands** Tue 15 Aug, 9.00 pm  
**A Northlands** Fri 18 Aug, 8.45 pm

## The Untamed

*La región salvaje*



MANUEL CLARO, MARTÍN ESCALANTE



**Director: Amat Escalante**  
Mexico 2016 | 100 mins

**With:** Ruth Ramos, Simone Bucio, Jesús Meza, Eden Villavicencio  
**Festivals:** Venice, Toronto, San Sebastián, London 2016; Rotterdam, San Francisco 2017  
**Best Director, Venice Film Festival 2016**  
In Spanish with English subtitles  
R16 violence, nudity, sex scenes, offensive language & content that may disturb

A mysterious visitor offers gratification to the sexually oppressed in this arresting mix of hard-edged realism and bio-sci-fi from Mexican provocateur Amat Escalante (*Heli*). Alejandra and her husband Angel live with their young sons in Guanajuato, Mexico. While the swaggering Angel lords it over his family, he's also lining up his next furtive hotel room hook-up with Fabián, Alejandra's brother. The gentle humanitarian in the film, Fabián works in the local hospital. He too strains under the yoke of the domineering Angel.

One day a young stranger arrives at the clinic, strung out but strangely exhilarated, with what appears to be a dog bite. Soon she befriends Fabián

and Alejandra and observes that maybe they should be getting some of what she's been getting. She directs them to a chalet in the countryside where a scholarly elderly couple harbour the mysterious guest. Not everyone granted access to the chalet comes out exhilarated. As in the fierce *Heli*, Escalante's indictment of posturing machismo is graphic, incisive and super-realistic. Envisaging its nemesis as nature consumed by sexual ecstasy, he's created one memorably weird mash-up of a movie.

**A Northlands** Sat 5 Aug, 8.30 pm  
**B Northlands** Tue 8 Aug, 4.30 pm  
**A Northlands** Sun 13 Aug, 8.30 pm

## THRILL

## Blade of the Immortal

*Mugen no junin*



**Director: Miike Takashi**  
Japan/UK 2017  
141 mins

**Screenplay:** Oishi Tetsuya. Based on the manga by Samura Hiroaki  
**With:** Kimura Takuya, Sugisaki Hana, Fukushi Sota, Ichihara Hayato, Toda Erika, Kitamura Kazuki, Kuriyama Chiaki  
**Festivals:** Cannes (Midnight Screenings) 2017  
In Japanese with English subtitles  
R16 violence & sexual violence

It beggars belief that this is Miike Takashi's 100th feature, but even more impressive is how the man behind such classics as *Audition* and *Ichi the Killer* is still on fire in the director's chair. So, rejoice fans – the maestro is back on form, katana in hand and ready to party.

Based on a popular manga series about a vengeful swordsman with an uncanny ability to self-heal, *Blade of the Immortal* is a gorgeous fantasy romp. Raw and savage, with just the right amount of levity, it's also a welcome return to the heroic bloodshed of Miike's great samurai epic, *13 Assassins*.

Mega idol Kimura Takuya stars as Manji, whose sister is killed by bounty

hunters. Years later he is hired as a bodyguard for Rin, whose kendo-master father and pupils were slaughtered by the swordsmen of Itto-ryu.

Before the last drop of blood hits the dirt viewers will be immersed in a complex web of political conspiracy and supernatural shenanigans, as the expertly staged battles between ever increasing numbers of adversaries erupt in crimson geysers of body parts. It all builds to a virtuoso display of kinetic action that some are saying even tops *13 Assassins'* climax to end all climaxes. — AT

<b>A Northlands</b>	Fri 4 Aug, 8.30 pm
<b>B Northlands</b>	Wed 9 Aug, 3.45 pm
<b>A Isaac Theatre</b>	Sun 13 Aug, 8.15 pm

## It Comes at Night



**Director/Screenplay:**  
**Trey Edward Shults**  
USA 2017 | 92 mins

**Photography:** Drew Daniels  
**Editors:** Trey Edward Shults, Matthew Hannam  
**Music:** Brian McOmber  
**With:** Joel Edgerton, Christopher Abbott, Carmen Ejogo, Riley Keough, Kelvin Harrison Jr, Griffin Robert Faulkner, David Pendleton, Mikey CinemaScope | R16 violence, offensive language & content that may disturb

In a time that might be now, after a plague has emptied the cities, a family of three have boarded themselves up in an abandoned backwoods lodge and dedicated every waking moment to mastering the art of survival. Joel Edgerton is the family's patriarch, Carmen Ejogo his wife and Kelvin Harrison Jr their precious, watchful 17-year-old son. When a stranger (Christopher Abbott) breaks into the house seeking food and refuge for his own wife and infant son, the survivalist nightmare of scarce resources, invisible disease and creeping paranoia escalates.

"A major statement on the subject of civilization in freefall, writer-director Trey Edward Shults's nerve-shredding

domestic thriller joins the rarified company of Cormac McCarthy's 2006 novel *The Road* and the small handful of intimate post-apocalyptic scenarios that puncture through to our deepest fears...

Don't hold your breath hoping to learn what the plague is. That's part of what makes Shults's spare, fablelike story transcend any number of *Walking Dead* episodes... *It Comes at Night* is a film of tense gradations, a chamber piece set at the twilight of humanity." — Joshua Rothkopf, *Time Out NY*

<b>A Northlands</b>	Sun 6 Aug, 8.15 pm
<b>A Northlands</b>	Wed 9 Aug, 8.30 pm
<b>B Northlands</b>	Thu 10 Aug, 4.15 pm



## Good Time

"This eyes-open-to-the-world NYC crime thriller from filmmaking brothers Benny and Josh Safdie is cocky, grubby and electric. It features Robert Pattinson on top form as Connie, a quick-thinking chancer who we first meet extracting his mentally challenged brother Nick (Benny Safdie) from a therapy session so they can spend the morning robbing a bank. Connie is violent and dangerous, but he's also quick-witted and charismatic, so he's teasingly fun and rewarding company – for us at least; not for those he meets...

Once the Brooklyn bank job goes south the film stays on the move, running, punching, tumbling, stumbling over 24 hours as the fallout drags us through streets, vehicles, homes, jail, a hospital, a theme park and more. Racing through the gutter of the city, it's all shot in a scuzzy, real-world style, although the photography by Sean Price Williams also runs with a theme of neon and scarlet – and bathing some scenes in brothel-red isn't the only thing here that nods to early Martin Scorsese... It also boasts a terrific, throbbing electronic score by Daniel Lopatin, aka Oneohtrix Point Never.

Pattinson is great in this, surely his best post-*Twilight* performance to date:



he's quick and coarse yet he also lends the character a glint in the eye and a spark in the brain – he's always more than just bad. The Safdies are show-off filmmakers, for sure – this is a directing tour de force. But what makes the film more than just a hugely enjoyable thriller is that it so clearly has its eyes on the world around it." — Dave Calhoun, *Time Out*

**"A riveting race-against-time thriller with a pounding heart."**

— David Rooney, *Hollywood Reporter*



**Directors: Josh Safdie, Benny Safdie**  
USA 2017 | 100 mins

**Producers:** Oscar Boyson, Sebastian Bear-McClard  
**Screenplay:** Josh Safdie, Ronald Bronstein  
**Photography:** Sean Price Williams  
**Editors:** Benny Safdie, Ronald Bronstein  
**Music:** Oneohtrix Point Never  
**With:** Robert Pattinson, Benny Safdie, Jennifer Jason Leigh, Buddy Duress, Barkhad Abdi, Taliah Webster  
**Festivals:** Cannes (In Competition) 2017  
CinemaScope | R16 violence, offensive language, drug use & sex scenes

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<b>B Northlands</b>	Thu 17 Aug, 4.30 pm
<b>A Isaac Theatre</b>	Fri 18 Aug, 8.45 pm
<b>A Northlands</b>	Sun 20 Aug, 8.00 pm
<b>A MM Timaru</b>	Sat 26 Aug, 8.00 pm

## Wind River

Following up his energetic scripting for *Sicario* and *Hell or High Water*, actor-turned-screenwriter Taylor Sheridan takes the director's chair for this chilly backwoods thriller set in the remote Wind River Indian reservation, Wyoming. Jeremy Renner stars as Cory Lambert, an expert marksman employed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service to cull dangerous animals. While out on a job he discovers the body of a young Native American woman. The FBI hold jurisdiction and they send rookie agent Jane Banner (Elizabeth Olsen) to investigate. She soon realises she's in over her head, so looks to Lambert to help her hunt down a predator of a different kind. — MM

"*Wind River* is a modern western, and one of very few forays into the genre that's set in snow country... Sheridan and cinematographer Ben Richardson use that landscape beautifully in a story that reaches out in several directions – it's about, among other things, communities of forgotten people, the intricacies of gender dynamics and the ways in which violence against women can be insidiously veiled. The story comes to rest in a way that's both somber and gratifying." — Stephanie Zacharek, *Time*



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"Sheridan's beady, inquisitive script scrutinises all its characters' credentials in turn... But when it comes down to it – and during some blistering, Sam Peckinpah-like set-pieces, in which the bullets strike with the force of thunderbolts, it most emphatically does – they're just people with guns in the middle of nowhere, each ready to fight their corner to the bitterest of ends." — Robbie Collin, *The Telegraph*

**"Delivers shrewd insights into troubling American social issues in a punchy, action-and-violence-filled package."**

— Todd McCarthy, *Hollywood Reporter*



**Director/Screenplay: Taylor Sheridan**  
USA 2017 | 111 mins

**Producers:** Basil Iwanyk, Peter Berg, Matthew George, Wayne Rogers, Elizabeth A. Bell  
**Photography:** Ben Richardson  
**Editor:** Gary Roach  
**Music:** Nick Cave, Warren Ellis  
**With:** Jeremy Renner, Elizabeth Olsen, Gil Birmingham, Jon Bernthal, Julia Jones, Kelsey Asbille, James Jordan, Teo Briones, Apesanahkwat, Graham Greene, Tantoo Cardinal, Eric Lange, Althea Sam  
**Festivals:** Sundance, Cannes (Un Certain Regard), Sydney 2017  
**Best Director (Un Certain Regard), Cannes Film Festival 2017**  
CinemaScope | Censors rating tbc

<b>B Northlands</b>	Fri 4 Aug, 4.15 pm
<b>A Northlands</b>	Sat 5 Aug, 8.45 pm
<b>A Northlands</b>	Tue 8 Aug, 8.15 pm
<b>B Northlands</b>	Fri 11 Aug, 4.15 pm

# FRAMING REALITY

The profusion of excellent documentaries submitted to us is staggering. We try to steer a course that favours formal sophistication and complexity, while allowing ourselves on occasion to fall for the most forthright advocacy and appeals to the heartstrings.

You will find more fine examples filling the Aotearoa section of the programme and in the sections that follow. Also in our Big Nights and For All Ages sections. In other words, documentaries are everywhere at NZIFF.

## Blue



**Director/Screenplay:**  
**Karina Holden**  
Australia 2017 | 76 mins  
**Photography:** Jody Muston  
**Underwater photography:**  
Jon Shaw  
**Editor:** Vanessa Milton  
**With:** Lucas Handley,  
Madison Stewart, Mark Dia,  
Phillip Mango, Jennifer Lavers,  
Tim Silverwood, Valerie Taylor  
**Festivals:** Sydney 2017  
PG cert

With a background in natural history TV, director Karina Holden has made an empowering conservationist documentary showcasing the work and advocacy of six 'ocean guardians'. Madison Stewart, who grew up on the Great Barrier Reef, has become an underwater filmmaker, using her camera and social media to increase public awareness of the plight of sharks. Mark Dia, regional oceans campaigner for Greenpeace South Asia, uncovers illegal fishing practices, corruption and labour abuses in the seafood industry.

Following the surf was what led Tim Silverwood to combat the appalling ubiquity of plastic waste in sea and on shoreline, Dr Jennifer Lavers is a marine eco-toxicologist, seen in the film

patiently extracting some of that waste from the bellies of endangered sea birds. On Cape York Peninsula the Nanum Wunghtim rangers clear the coastal waters of the vast ghost nets abandoned by fishing boats and trapping sea life. Proving that conservation is not the sole preserve of the young, pioneering diver, shark advocate, artist and Australian heroine Valerie Taylor is cautiously upbeat at 82. The ocean will recover, she says, "if we leave it alone."

<b>B Northlands</b>	Fri 4 Aug, 11.30 am
<b>A Northlands</b>	Thu 10 Aug, 6.15 pm
<b>A Isaac Theatre</b>	Sun 13 Aug, 1.00 pm
<b>B Isaac Theatre</b>	Thu 17 Aug, 12.00 pm

<b>A MM Timaru</b>	Mon 21 Aug, 6.15 pm
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## Citizen Jane: Battle for the City



**Director: Matt Tyrnauer**  
USA 2016 | 92 mins  
**Producer:** Robert Hammond,  
Corey Reeser, Jessica Van Garsse,  
Matt Tyrnauer  
**Photography:** Chris Dapkins  
**Editors:** Daniel Morfesis,  
Andrea Lewis  
**Music:** Jane Antonia Cornish  
**With:** Jane Jacobs, Robert Moses  
**Festivals:** Toronto, Amsterdam  
Documentary 2016; Sydney 2017  
Colour and B&W

At his most powerful in the years after World War II, powerbroker and developer Robert Moses was determined to modernise New York and speed up the traffic. He demolished great swathes of housing to build high-rise accommodation and construct superhighways the length of Manhattan. David to his Goliath, Jane Jacobs led a grass-roots campaign to thwart his plan to plough an expressway across town, right through Lower Manhattan. Author of *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*, Jacobs had a vision of urban life that involved people, neighbourhoods, heritage and habitation on a human scale, qualities Lower Manhattan enjoyed in abundance. Director Matt Tyrnauer (*Valentino: The Last Emperor*)

has fashioned a lively documentary about the enduring issues enunciated so clearly in their clash.

"Tyrnauer transforms what could be a staid profile film into an urgent story about the dangers of 'urban renewal,' something Jacobs herself would admire... How do we retain neighborhood diversity amid rapid gentrification? Can a metropolis retain its humanity when everyone's living in high-rises?" — April Wolfe, *Village Voice*

<b>B Northlands</b>	Thu 10 Aug, 12.00 pm
<b>A Northlands</b>	Fri 11 Aug, 6.30 pm
<b>A Isaac Theatre</b>	Tue 15 Aug, 6.15 pm
<b>B Isaac Theatre</b>	Wed 16 Aug, 11.15 am

<b>A MM Timaru</b>	Mon 21 Aug, 8.00 pm
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## The Farthest

More than 12 billion miles away a spaceship the size of a bus has left our Solar System and is entering deep space. Slowly dying within its heart is a nuclear generator that will beat for perhaps another decade before the lights on Voyager finally go out. But this little craft could travel on for millions of years, carrying the "Golden Record" bearing recordings and images of life on Earth.

In this spectacular and immensely enjoyable documentary, some of the women and men who have worked on NASA's Voyager mission look back in wonder and sheer joy at what they achieved and the extraordinary wealth of knowledge that the tiny spaceship has beamed back to earth.

As many of them ruefully acknowledge, it's the most inward-looking, least scientific aspect of the project – that famous Golden Record with its Bach, Beethoven, Balinese gamelans and Chuck Berry – that's dominated the public imagination around Voyager. This film, in which they retrace Voyager's 40-year journey and successive revelations from Jupiter (1979), Saturn (1981), Uranus (1986) and Neptune (1989), provides the best possible hope of changing that. When these enthusiasts talk about the



best science project of all time, their passion for exploring the great beyond is inspiring.

"It's the right film at the right time, a cathartic moment in which audiences will shed tears for a little machine made of silicon and aluminium, wrapped in tin foil and running on less computing power than our smartphones, yet which will outlive us all – perhaps by billions of years." — Fionnuala Halligan, *Screendaily*

**"This 40-year retrospective of the ongoing Voyager missions brings the humor and humanity to the science."**

— Tasha Robinson, *The Verge*

**Director/Screenplay: Emer Reynolds**  
Ireland 2017 | 121 mins

**Producers:** John Murray, Clare Stronge

**Photography:** Kate McCullough

**Editor:** Tony Cranstoun

**Music:** Ray Harman

**With:** Fran Bagenal, Jim Bell, John Casani, Timothy Ferris, Suzanne Dodd, Amahl Drake, Frank Drake, Don Gurnett, Heidi Hammel, Candy Hansen-Koharcheck, Andrew Ingersoll, Charley Kohlhase, Lawrence Krauss

**Festivals:** Tribeca, Sydney 2017

A	Isaac Theatre	Sun 6 Aug, 4.15 pm
B	Isaac Theatre	Mon 14 Aug, 11.00 am
B	Northlands	Wed 16 Aug, 2.00 pm
A	Northlands	Sun 20 Aug, 3.45 pm

A	MM Timaru	Sun 27 Aug, 5.00 pm
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## Dealt

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**Luke Korem**  
Russell Wayne Groves

**Director: Luke Korem**  
USA 2017 | 85 mins

**Producer:** Russell Wayne Groves

**Screenplay:** Bradley Jackson, Luke Korem

**Photography:** Jacob Hamilton

**With:** Richard Turner, Kim Turner, Asa Spades Turner, Simon Carmel, Lori Dragt, Michaela Vail

**Festivals:** SXSW 2017

**Audience Award (Documentary), SXSW Film Festival 2017**



Richard Turner is one of the world's greatest card magicians. With four decades of experience, his amazing sleight of hand and deft card control are astonishing to see, even before you find out he is completely blind. As one audience member exclaims after seeing his show, "Is there a deeper magic that's happening?"

Director Luke Korem's portrait of card artistry and stubborn dedication introduces us to the man behind the magic. Inspired by the theme song to *Maverick*, Turner committed his life to "livin' on jacks and queens" and the gradual loss of his eyesight that began when he was nine did little to deter him. Indeed, if it were up to him, he'd rather no one even knew he was blind.

Turner's proud refusal to be defined by his disability is not without its drawbacks, as the film savvily demonstrates by contrasting his situation with his sister's. She too is blind, but has no compunction about using a seeing eye dog to get around. When not performing, Turner is wholly reliant on his wife, Kim, and his delightfully named son, Asa Spades. But when Asa leaves for college, Turner has to learn a few new tricks and finally come to terms with his visual impairment. — MM

A	Northlands	Fri 11 Aug, 8.30 pm
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## To Stay Alive: A Method



**Director: Erik Lieshout**  
The Netherlands/  
Belgium 2016 | 70 mins

**Producer:** Marc Thelosen

**Photography/Editor:**

Reinier van Brummelen

**Music:** Iggy Pop

**With:** Michel Houellebecq, Iggy Pop, Anne Claire Bourdin, Jerome Tessier

**Festivals:** Amsterdam Documentary 2016; Sydney 2017  
In English and French, with English subtitles

A Michel Houellebecq/Iggy Pop combo may initially seem incongruous.

However, these two *enfants terribles*, veteran disrupters of the worlds of literature and rock music on opposite sides of the Atlantic, share many affinities, not the least of which is the shared belief that the role of the artist is to "put your finger on the wound of society and press down real hard."

Iggy's first encounter with Houellebecq's writing was like delving into his own autobiography, so much did it seem to describe his early experience as a geeky outsider. His inimitable voice, gravel-rough and poised, wonderfully recites excerpts from *To Stay Alive: A Method*, the French writer's manifesto about the

rewards of suffering.

Houellebecq's "advice to young poets" combines reflections on artistic existence and the experiences of people in his own life, whom we also have the privilege of meeting. Far from the *misérabilisme* for which Houellebecq is renowned, this superbly crafted film mines the value in difference and otherness, often with deadpan and impish wit – something else the two men share. — SR

B	Northlands	Mon 7 Aug, 4.45 pm
A	Northlands	Sun 13 Aug, 11.30 am
A	Northlands	Sat 19 Aug, 4.45 pm

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ESSE

## I Am Not Your Negro

"Whatever you think about the past and future of what used to be called 'race relations' – white supremacy and the resistance to it, in plainer English – this movie will make you think again, and may even change your mind. Though its principal figure, the novelist, playwright and essayist James Baldwin, is a man who has been dead for nearly 30 years, you would be hard-pressed to find a movie that speaks to the present moment with greater clarity and force, insisting on uncomfortable truths and drawing stark lessons from the shadows of history..."

To call *I Am Not Your Negro* a movie about James Baldwin would be to understate [director Raoul] Peck's achievement. It's more of a posthumous collaboration, an uncanny and thrilling communion between the filmmaker... and his subject. The voice-over narration (read by Samuel L. Jackson) is entirely drawn from Baldwin's work. Much of it comes from notes and letters written in the mid-1970s, when Baldwin was somewhat reluctantly sketching out a book, never to be completed, about the lives and deaths of Medgar Evers, Malcolm X and Martin Luther King Jr....

His published and unpublished



words – some of the most powerful and penetrating ever assembled on the tortured subject of American identity – accompany images from old talk shows and news reports, from classic movies and from our own decidedly non-post-racial present...

*I Am Not Your Negro* is a thrilling introduction to his work, a remedial course in American history, and an advanced seminar in racial politics." — A.O. Scott, *NY Times*

**"Masterfully addressing the American racial divide, past and present... a galvanizing, ominous film, thrumming with a sense of history repeating itself."**

— Joshua Rothkopf, *Time Out NY*



**Director: Raoul Peck**

USA/France 2016 | 93 mins

**Producers:** Rémi Grellety, Raoul Peck, Hébert Peck

**Screenplay:** Raoul Peck, James Baldwin

**Photography:** Henry Adebajo, Bill Ross, Turner Ross

**Editor:** Alexandra Strauss

**Music:** Alexei Aigui

**Narrator:** Samuel L. Jackson

**With:** James Baldwin, Malcolm X, Martin Luther King Jr, Medgar Evers, Lorraine Hansberry

**Festivals:** Toronto, New York 2016; Berlin 2017

**People's Choice Award, Toronto International Film Festival 2016**

**Nominated, Best Documentary, Academy Awards 2017**

**Panorama Audience Award, Berlin Film Festival 2017**

B&W and Colour

B	Isaac Theatre	Fri 4 Aug, 2.00 pm
A	Isaac Theatre	Mon 7 Aug, 6.15 pm
B	Northlands	Fri 11 Aug, 2.45 pm
A	Northlands	Sat 12 Aug, 4.15 pm

A	MM Timaru	Wed 23 Aug, 8.15 pm
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## Kedi

"It's hard to say whether Ceyda Torun's delightful and visually splendid *Kedi* is a documentary about Istanbul, with cats, or a documentary about cats that happens to be set in Istanbul... If *Kedi* is any sort of anthropological examination of the life of a city, it works because its vision is filtered through the lazy-looking but in fact hyper-aware eyes of our feline compatriots. They always see things we can't. In turning our gaze toward them, we learn deep truths about ourselves. Meanwhile, their lives go on, their brains whirring with thoughts like 'What is that guy doing on my turf?' 'I'd like a nice piece of fish right now,' and 'Where's a good spot to have kittens?'"

We see cats thinking all of those things, and more, in *Kedi* – which means cat, in Turkish. The picture's pleasures are bountiful, particularly for cat lovers... There are cats sleeping obliviously on unnervingly high-up ledges; cats padding across corrugated rusty-red roofs; cats just hanging out in doorways, their ears barely twitching as nearby humans extol their virtues... A baker goes about his daily business, creating homey-looking pastries that you'll wish you could eat immediately,



while explaining how much his store cat enriches his life and the neighborhood. The cat recently needed medical care. 'We all have a running tab at the vet,' he says with a shrug.

In all great cities, the magnificent intersects with the mundane – that's what makes them not only livable but vital. The cats of *Kedi* tell that story, in between naps. They know a good place when they've found it." — Stephanie Zacharek, *Time*

**"Impossible to resist... *Kedi* is almost shamelessly satisfying: a documentary about the thousands of scrappy wild cats that prowl Istanbul with insouciance."**

— Joshua Rothkopf, *Time Out NY*



**Director: Ceyda Torun**

Turkey/USA 2016 | 79 mins

**Producers:** Ceyda Torun, Charlie Wuppermann

**Photography:** Charlie Wuppermann

**Editor:** Mo Stoebe

**Music:** Kira Fontana

**With:** Sari, Bengü, Aslan Parçası, Psikopat, Deniz, Gamsiz, Duman, Bülent Ustun, Mine Sogut, Elif Nursad

**Festivals:** Melbourne, Vancouver 2016

In Turkish with English subtitles

FEATURE PRECEDED BY

**Stay**

Craig Gainsborough, Luke Thornborough | New Zealand 2017 | 7 mins

A	Isaac Theatre	Sat 5 Aug, 1.00 pm
B	Isaac Theatre	Tue 8 Aug, 11.00 am
B	Northlands	Tue 15 Aug, 12.00 pm
A	Northlands	Sun 20 Aug, 1.30 pm

B	MM Timaru	Thu 17 Aug, 1.00 pm
A	MM Timaru	Sat 19 Aug, 2.00 pm

## Risk

Julian Assange loathes *Risk*. Or he loathes, at least, what *Risk* has become. When it premiered at Cannes in 2016, Laura Poitras' film presented a mostly admiring portrait of the WikiLeaks founder. It has since been updated, and updated again. WikiLeaks' controversial role in the US presidential election is part of that evolution, but Poitras' revisions are more profoundly spurred by a deepening suspicion about Assange's character, particularly around his response to sexual assault allegations.

Seven years in the making, *Risk* is a thematic sibling to *Citizenfour*, the Edward Snowden feature that won Poitras the 2015 Oscar for Best Documentary. The access is extraordinary. We see Assange marshalling his cohorts as if they were an intelligence agency. Telephoning the US State Department, demanding to speak to Hillary Clinton. Taking on an elaborate disguise for the dash to the Ecuadorian embassy in pursuit of political asylum.

Spellbinding and at times disquieting, *Risk* explores the moral and ethical debate sparked by WikiLeaks, the impact of which has been felt throughout journalism and politics. But at its core it is a study of an individual whose



PRAXIS FILMS

brilliance risks becoming subsumed by narcissism, with a startling attitude to those who challenge him – and a filmmaker unwilling to remain a bystander. The most conspicuous change in the re-cut *Risk* is a voiceover from the director herself. “The lines have become blurred,” she says, drawing on notes from her production journal. “I thought I could ignore the contradictions... I was wrong. They are becoming the story.” — Toby Manhire

**“A messier, weirder, and more interesting documentary than *Citizenfour*, about a messier, weirder, and more persistently relevant man.”** — Josephine Livingstone, *The New Republic*

**Director:** Laura Poitras  
Germany/USA 2016 | 93 mins

**Producers:** Laura Poitras, Brenda Coughlin

**Photography:** Kirsten Johnson

**Editors:** Melody London, Laura Poitras

**Music:** Jeremy Flower

**With:** Julian Assange, Sarah Harrison, Jacob Appelbaum, Renata Avila, Joseph Farrell, Jennifer Robinson

**Festivals:** Cannes (Directors' Fortnight) 2016; Sydney 2017

In English, Arabic and Spanish, with English subtitles

A	Northlands	Thu 17 Aug, 8.45 pm
B	Northlands	Fri 18 Aug, 4.30 pm
A	Northlands	Sun 20 Aug, 3.30 pm

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## Step

If you come to NZIFF in search of real-life heroines, the 'Lethal Ladies' of Baltimore Leadership School for Young Women are here to steal your hearts – before they dazzle you in a blaze of step dance fury.

Opened in 2009 with a mandate to send every student to university, the school is well attuned to the fractured home lives and poverty facing many of its brightest charges. The film trails three very differently positioned seniors as each is guided through a nerve-racking college application process. Where they find unity, relief and exhilaration is on the step dance team. Under the new step mistress, that's no walk in the park either: she's pushing them to kill at the state dance-off.

Director Amanda Lipitz gets close to her subjects and into their relationships with the women who champion and challenge them: their mothers, a heroically persistent college counsellor, and the no-bullshit step coach. With so much effort concentrated on getting into college, the outcome of the step competition assumes a lesser significance than in the standard 'Best in Show' documentary, which only makes it more loaded when the big moment suddenly arrives.



"Step is so much fun, it could cause some doc purists to gripe at the glossy touches... but that's where the film may ultimately prove most powerful. By offering some of society's most marginalized members – young black women – their time in the spotlight without any inkling of condescension or exploitation, Lipitz does more than just entertain or enlighten. She's breaking down barriers in nonfiction cinema." — Geoff Berkshire, *Variety*

**"Inspirational... Step tells a story that highlights the intertwining values of hope and education."**

— Steve Greene, *Indiewire*



**Director: Amanda Lipitz**  
USA 2017 | 83 mins

**Producers:** Steven Cantor, Amanda Lipitz  
**Photography:** Casey Regan  
**Editor:** Penelope Falk  
**Music:** Laura Karpman, Raphael Saadiq  
**With:** Blessin Giraldo, Cori Grainger, Tayla Solomon, Gari McIntyre, Paula Dofat  
**Festivals:** Sundance, San Francisco 2017  
**Special Jury Prize (Documentary), Sundance Film Festival 2017**

<b>B Northlands</b>	Wed 9 Aug, 11.45 am
<b>A Northlands</b>	Fri 11 Aug, 6.15 pm
<b>A Isaac Theatre</b>	Sat 19 Aug, 1.00 pm

## Unrest



**Director: Jennifer Brea**  
USA 2017 | 97 mins

**Screenplay:** Jennifer Brea, Kim Roberts  
**Photography:** Sam Heesen, Christian Laursen  
**With:** Jennifer Brea, Omar Wasow, Jessica Taylor, Lee Ray Denton, Randy Denton, Casie Jackson  
**Festivals:** Sundance, SXSW 2017  
**Special Jury Prize (Documentary), Sundance Film Festival 2017**  
In English and Danish, with English subtitles

A largely mysterious condition that reportedly afflicts as many as 17 million people worldwide, chronic fatigue syndrome or myalgic encephalomyelitis (ME) still perplexes most doctors and is often dismissed as a psychosomatic illness.

Director Jennifer Brea was a journalist and academic studying for a PhD at Harvard. Months before her wedding she became progressively ill, losing the ability even to sit in a wheelchair. When told by her doctor it was 'all in her head', her response was to start filming from her bed, gradually deploying crews globally to document the world inhabited by millions of patients whom medicine forgot.

*Unrest* tells the story of Jen and her husband, Omar, facing the unexpected, and four of the community of ME patients whom Jen brings together on the internet, in the United States, UK and Denmark. Together they explore how to make a meaningful life when everything changes. The film is a feat of disability filmmaking, made with an international team and using innovative technologies to allow the bedbound director to cover the world and film as if she's in the room.

<b>B Northlands</b>	Mon 7 Aug, 12.45 pm
<b>A Northlands</b>	Sat 12 Aug, 11.45 am
<b>A Northlands</b>	Sun 20 Aug, 1.45 pm

## Winnie



**Director/Screenplay: Pascale Lamche**  
France/South Africa/  
The Netherlands 2017  
98 mins

**Photography:** Olivier Raffet, Felix Meyburgh  
**With:** Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, Zindzi Mandela-Hlongwane  
**Festivals:** Sundance 2017  
**Directing Award (World Cinema Documentary), Sundance Film Festival 2017**

French director Pascale Lamche's Sundance award winner outlines the life and work of legendary activist Winnie Madikizela-Mandela – and allows her to deliver her side of a disputed history. Nelson Mandela was often perceived as a saint, even by the regime he opposed. Winnie, who was married to him for 38 years and furthered his agenda in a violent outside world during his 27 years of incarceration, was almost as readily demonised. Lamche's film makes telling use of archival clips, not least Winnie Mandela's fractious engagement with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and her breathtaking denunciation by Bishop Desmond Tutu. Interviews with diplomat daughter

Zindzi, biographers, journalists and lawyers make it abundantly clear how she became such a formidable fighter, still going strong at 80.

"It might be apparent where the film's sympathies reside, but *Winnie* is by no means a simple or straightforward missive of support. Lamche's efforts to unravel not only the tale at hand but also the reasoning behind the many conflicting views surrounding her subject – and the ripples both leave in the country today – are deftly handled." — Sarah Ward, *Screendaily*

<b>A Northlands</b>	Sat 5 Aug, 11.00 am
<b>A Northlands</b>	Sat 5 Aug, 5.00 pm
<b>B Northlands</b>	Tue 15 Aug, 11.30 am

# PORTRAIT OF AN ARTIST

See also:

*Bill Dieren: A Memory of Others* (p10),  
*Faces Places* (p6), *Kobi* (p12), *Maudie* (p19).

## BANG! The Bert Berns Story



**Directors:** Brett Berns, Bob Sarles

USA 2016 | 96 mins

**Directors:** Brett Berns, Bob Sarles

**Screenplay:** Joel Selvin

**Photography:** Aaron Medick, Gil Gilbert

**Narrator:** Steven Van Zandt

**With:** Paul McCartney, Van Morrison, Solomon Burke, Keith Richards, Ben E. King, Wilson Pickett, Ronald Isley, Cissy Houston, Brenda Reid, Betty Harris, Mike Stoller, Doug Morris, Jeff Barry, Ellie Greenwich

**Festivals:** SXSW, Vancouver 2016

Bert Berns created some of the most gloriously soulful pop records of the 1960s. This Bronx-born son of Russian Jewish immigrants wrote such immortal songs as 'Twist and Shout' and 'Piece of My Heart', brought Cuban rhythms into R&B and produced the hits that kick-started Van Morrison's career. He also "walked with gangsters – and exalted them," according to his biographer Joel Selvin.

Berns, who died in 1967, age 38, lived as though he was on borrowed time. The movie parallels the punchy pace of his brief but dramatic life. Steven Van Zandt (from Springsteen's E Street Band) narrates. Interviewees are mostly straight-shooting New Yorkers, including Berns' widow Ilene (a former

nightclub go-go dancer), and a record industry hustler and standover man known as 'Wassel'.

Berns had friendships and partnerships with colourfully unsavoury characters, and vicious showdowns with colleagues and rivals. And yet the word that keeps recurring in this documentary is 'soul'. Everyone attests that Berns had it, from Morrison to black soul giants like Ben E. King and Cissy Houston. This movie helps us understand that soul, its origins and its torments. — Nick Bollinger

<b>A Northlands</b>	Sat 12 Aug, 4.00 pm
<b>B Northlands</b>	Tue 15 Aug, 4.15 pm
<b>A Northlands</b>	Wed 16 Aug, 6.30 pm

## Beuys: Art As a Weapon



**Director/Screenplay:**

Andres Veiel

Germany 2017

107 mins

**Photography:** Jörg Jeshel

**Editors:** Stephan Krumbiegel, Olaf Voigtländer

**With:** Joseph Beuys, Caroline Tisdall, Rhea Thönges-Stringaris, Franz Joseph van der Grinten, Johannes Stüttgen, Klaus Staack

**Festivals:** Berlin, Sydney 2017

In German and English, with English subtitles

Colour and B&W

"Most Germans, regardless of their level of education or their interest in art have heard of Joseph Beuys [1921– 1986]. Born in Kleve, he walked the earth like a shaman, dressed in a hat and a khaki fishing vest, offered healing thoughts, *aktionen* (happenings) and confusing installation pieces suggesting ways to heal a wounded post-war Germany.

His personal legend includes being a member of Hitler youth, a gunner with the Luftwaffe and getting shot down over the Caucasus. His pilot died but he survived and, according to his story (which is gently questioned in the film), the Tartars rolled him in fat and wool until he could be brought to a hospital. Consequently, fat and wool figure prominently in his work.

*Beuys* shows you the man, his interactions with the press, his inner family life and the dilemmas he faced in his career: from youthful depression to starting a counter-cultural revolution." — Rene J. Meyer-Grimberg, *Berlin Film Journal*

"Veiel's film strives to not only invite viewers to reminisce over the importance of Beuys' work, but also provide us with an insight into the workings of a true anti-conformist's mind." — Josef Proimarkis, *Cineuropa*

<b>B Northlands</b>	Tue 8 Aug, 4.00 pm
<b>A Northlands</b>	Thu 17 Aug, 6.15 pm
<b>A Northlands</b>	Sat 19 Aug, 12.15 pm



## House of Z

“As good looking and stylish as its subject, *House of Z* is a portrait of the artist as a young man. Famously well connected, Zac Posen rode a rocket ship to fame and success at the age of 21. But his is a cautionary tale of what happens to those whose PR machines are steps ahead of reality. As quickly as the handsome Zac made a name for himself, he found himself on the receiving end of damaging gossip, bad reviews and dropping sales. Told with the help of a star-studded cast, including Puff Daddy, Naomi Campbell and Claire Danes, this all-access story charts the rise and fall – and rise again – of a fashion world wunderkind.”  
— Aisha Jamal, *Hot Docs*



“Fashion has a dark side. Not all runways and lipstick and fishtail gowns,” Posen says about his chosen milieu, and while *House of Z* is aesthetically quite straightforward, it receives a jolt of unique energy from Posen’s own front-and-center participation in this portrait... He comes across as a young man humbled by failure and appreciative of the opportunities he still has, not to mention now capable of viewing his past through a more mature, objective lens...

In Posen’s continued dedication to making dresses in his atelier – and by personally draping gowns over female bodies, as the foundation of his process – *House of Z* captures the way in which direct hands-on engagement is vital to an artist’s continued relevance, and vitality.” — Nick Schager, *Variety*

**“An enjoyable doc overflowing with stunning pieces of clothing, both on models and on its star.”**

— John DeFore, *Hollywood Reporter*

**Director: Sandy Chronopoulos**  
USA 2017 | 90 mins

**Producers:** Jana Edelbaum, Rachel Cohen, Sandy Chronopoulos  
**Photography:** Konrad Czystowski, Nadia Hallgren, Mark Klassen  
**Editors:** Hollie Singer, Madeleine Gavin  
**Music:** Eric Stamile  
**With:** Zac Posen, Susan Posen, Alexandra Posen, Stephen Posen, Naomi Campbell, Sean ‘Diddy’ Combs, André Leon Talley, Paz de la Huerta, Claire Danes  
**Festivals:** Tribeca 2017

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**B Northlands** Fri 4 Aug, 2.30 pm  
**A Northlands** Sun 6 Aug, 2.00 pm  
**A Isaac Theatre** Sun 13 Aug, 3.00 pm  
**B Isaac Theatre** Fri 18 Aug, 11.00 am

**A MM Timaru** Sun 27 Aug, 3.00 pm

## BIG Time



**Director/Photography:**  
Kaspar Astrup Schröder  
Denmark 2017 | 93 mins

**Producer:** Sara Stockmann  
**Editors:** Bobbie Esra G. Pertan, Cathrine Ambus, Kaspar Astrup Schröder  
**Music:** Ali Helnwein  
**With:** Bjarke Ingels  
In Danish and English, with English subtitles

As a kid, Danish architect Bjarke Ingels considered the flat roof on his parents’ house to be a waste of space – with potential. In 2016, his plans for a smoke ring-blowing power plant with a ski slope on its roof in Copenhagen attracted attention outside the usual architectural press. *Time* magazine named him, at the age of 42, one of the world’s 100 most influential people of the year.

Filmmaker Kaspar Astrup Schröder filmed Ingels on and off over several years, and the portrait of a driven man stretched increasingly thin is both compelling and alarming. Early in the film there’s wry coverage of the fallout that occurs when the power company asks who’s paying for the ski slope, but

there’s a world of difference between fielding such paltry objections on home ground and opening a New York office to embark on mammoth projects that will join the most famous architectural skyline of them all.

Schröder documents the architect’s struggle to balance ambition, ill health and relationships with remarkable intimacy, but his film never feels closer to the heart of its subject than when it lets him talk about buildings, marker at hand, dashing off lightning illustrations of everything he says.

**A Northlands** Sun 6 Aug, 11.45 am  
**A Northlands** Sat 12 Aug, 12.15 pm  
**B Northlands** Mon 14 Aug, 12.30 pm

## Bill Frisell: A Portrait



**Director/Producer/Screenplay/Photography/Editor: Emma Franz**  
Australia 2017 | 114 mins

**Music:** Bill Frisell  
**With:** Bill Frisell, Paul Motian, Jim Hall, Mike Gibbs, Jason Moran, Jim Woodring, Joey Baron, Tony Scherr, Kenny Wollesen, John Zorn  
**Festivals:** SXSW 2017

I can’t think of another music film that puts as many smiles on screen as this gently revealing portrait of jazz guitarist Bill Frisell. Fellow artists smile as they describe what it’s like to make music with him, and we catch the silent smiles that pass between players during performances.

Frisell, now in his mid-60s, has been a unique source of joy ever since he emerged from the New York downtown jazz scene of the late 70s. His repertoire is unusually democratic and in the generous live performance sequences we see him in a wide range of settings, from duos to symphony orchestras, playing anything from Coltrane tunes to old folk songs.

There is a near-innocence about his

love for the guitar and its expressive possibilities, combined with a genuine self-effacement. Though articulate, he clearly finds words inadequate to describe what he does and why he does it. Likewise, he is reluctant to speculate on why other musicians find such delight in working with him.

But drummer Joey Baron has no trouble explaining what makes Frisell such a musical magnet. “It’s integrity,” he says, with a smile. “And who wouldn’t want to find out more about that?” — Nick Bollinger

**A Northlands** Sun 13 Aug, 3.00 pm  
**A Northlands** Mon 14 Aug, 8.00 pm  
**B Northlands** Fri 18 Aug, 4.00 pm



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## Dries



**Director/Producer/Screenplay:**  
**Reiner Holzemer**  
Germany/Belgium 2017  
90 mins

**Photography:** Reiner Holzemer, Toon Illegems, Erwin Van Der Stappen  
**Editors:** Helmar Jungmann, Stephan Krumbiegel  
**Music:** Colin Greenwood, Matthew Herbert, Sam Petts-Davies  
**With:** Dries Van Noten, Iris Apfel, Pamela Golbin, Geert Brulot  
In English and Dutch, with English subtitles

Belgian designer Dries Van Noten gets the fashion documentary treatment in this intimate and understated portrait. All the requisite fashion film fixtures are on show: gorgeous clothes, stunning models and plenty of sartorial drama.

For 30 years, Van Noten has carved a successful career as an independent designer. His shows are must-see events and he can count Iris Apfel and Kanye West as fans. *Dries* provides a peek at Van Noten's creative process as he and his team prepare four new collections. His clothes revel in clashing prints and the incorporation of low and high culture, exhibiting an unrivalled eye for detail. In a world where we're constantly told what's hot or not, designers like Van Noten provide a

unique counterpoint to an industry driven by trends. Although the new collections are the film's focus, *Dries* is also a chance to revisit Van Noten's past through archival footage of his previous shows. These are some of the film's most insightful scenes, allowing Van Noten to chart the evolution of his abilities and confidence as a designer.

Like its subject, *Dries* is a quietly modest film that allows the opulent fashion to soar. — Chris Tse

**B Isaac Theatre** Mon 7 Aug, 11.00 am  
**A Isaac Theatre** Wed 9 Aug, 6.15 pm  
**B Northlands** Thu 10 Aug, 1.00 pm

**A MM Timaru** Tue 22 Aug, 6.15 pm

## La Chana



**Director:** Lucija Stojecic  
Spain/Iceland 2016  
83 mins

**Producers:** Lucija Stojecic, Deirdre Towers  
**Photography:** Samuel Navarrete  
**Editor:** Domi Parra  
**Music:** Ernesto Briceño  
**With:** La Chana  
**Festivals:** Amsterdam Documentary 2016  
**Audience Award, International Documentary Festival Amsterdam 2016**  
In Spanish with English subtitles

'La Chana', the living legend of Spanish flamenco dancing, surveys the emotional rollercoaster of her tough life and remarkable career in a documentary that mixes highly personable interview footage with a lifetime's worth of flat-out amazing performance clips. Has anybody else anywhere ever moved their feet with such speed, expression and passionate intensity?

"*La Chana* is an admiring, even adoring portrait of a strong-willed female performer rising above the restrictions of the patriarchal society into which she was born. In the case of La Chana – also known as Antonia Santiago Amador – this was the fiercely traditional gypsy society of Franco-era Spain, as personified by

her brutally possessive [first] husband...

The shadowy husband turned down Hollywood offers and effectively forced La Chana into an early retirement, from which she emerged triumphantly via a 1977 TV special... In her late sixties at the time of filming, the dignified, dowager-like La Chana has mobility issues but is still very much a 'force of nature'. She retains just enough 'strength, speed and soul' – the crucial elements of flamenco – to be coaxed into one last show." — Neil Young, *Hollywood Reporter*

**A Northlands** Fri 4 Aug, 6.30 pm  
**B Northlands** Fri 11 Aug, 2.30 pm  
**A Isaac Theatre** Sat 12 Aug, 11.00 am

## RUMBLE: The Indians Who Rocked the World



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**Director:**  
**Catherine Bainbridge**  
Canada 2017 | 102 mins

**Co-director:** Alfonso Maiorana  
**With:** Robbie Robertson, Buffy Sainte-Marie, John Trudell, Pat Vegas, Martin Scorsese, Tony Bennett, Steven Tyler, Iggy Pop, Taj Mahal, Adam Beach  
**Festivals:** Sundance 2017  
**Special Jury Prize (World Cinema Documentary), Sundance Film Festival 2017**

This revealing tribute to Native American musicians celebrates their little credited contributions to popular contemporary music from blues to jazz, from Hendrix to Metallica.

"A Native American singer of the Tuscarora tribe, Pura Fe Crescioni sits beside a turntable as it plays a 1929 recording of the bluesman Charley Patton. 'When I hear this, it's Indian music to me,' she says. 'That rhythm. Do you hear it?' After the field recordings of Mississippi Chocktaws performing their 'Drunk Dance' just moments earlier, I hear it.

Once this idea has been sown, it's hard not to hear Native American elements throughout the music profiled in this film, from the heavy metal

thunder of drummer Randy Castillo to the glides and slides in the singing of early jazz queen Mildred Bailey.

In the end, though, the point is not to untie the tangled blood knot of American music so much as celebrate the greatest Native American music stars, many of whom kept their origins concealed. As Robbie Robertson of The Band was warned when he was young, 'Be proud you're an Indian, but be careful who you tell.'" — Nick Bollinger

**A Northlands** Sun 6 Aug, 4.00 pm  
**A Northlands** Mon 7 Aug, 8.30 pm  
**B Northlands** Wed 9 Aug, 4.00 pm

## Whiteley



**Director:** James Bogle  
Australia 2017 | 94 mins

**Producer:** Sue Clothier  
**Screenplay:** James Bogle, Victor Gentile  
**Photography:** Jim Frater  
**Editor:** Lawrie Silvestrin  
**Music:** Ash Gibson Greig  
**With:** Brett Whiteley, Wendy Whiteley, Frannie Hopkirk, Barry Pearce, Kathie Sutherland, Phillip Adams, Andrew Olle

Blending archival footage, interviews and personal correspondence, *Whiteley* is a bold portrait of Australian artist Brett Whiteley that charts his chaotic life in his own words. Despite early success, Whiteley's public struggles with addiction soon overshadowed his artistic talents, pulling him ever deeper into a state of personal and creative turmoil.

One of the constants of Whiteley's life was his wife and muse Wendy, who features as the film's other prominent voice, recounting decades of passion and drama with him. The film breathes new life into many of Whiteley's works – from his erotically charged landscapes to his political New York output – giving us an impressionistic view of a

genius at work deeply affected by his surroundings and fractured psyche.

"I am trying to become a great man. Believe in me." Whiteley says this with a determination in his voice that acknowledges the forces in his life that both fuelled his talent and sealed his untimely death. Although he may have always questioned himself, there's no denying the legacy he left behind. *Whiteley* ensures that we continue to recognise this iconic artist's achievements. — Chris Tse

**A Northlands** Sat 5 Aug, 1.00 pm  
**A Northlands** Mon 7 Aug, 6.15 pm  
**B Northlands** Thu 17 Aug, 1.45 pm

## CHRISTCHURCH TICKET PRICES

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Sessions starting after 5.00 pm weekdays and all weekend sessions.

» Full Price	\$18.00
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The Five-Trip Pass can be purchased in advance and used to book tickets in advance or on the day at the venue box offices only for any NZIFF session that is not sold out, except Live Cinema. Passes can be shared and used at both venues. They cannot be used online. No refunds will be given for lost passes or passes not fully redeemed during NZIFF.

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### TICKETING AGENCY SERVICE FEES

A \$1.00 per ticket booking fee is already included in the prices shown above for Isaac Theatre Royal sessions.

Prices are GST inclusive and in NZD.

\*\*Price for the Live Cinema adult ticket includes a \$2.50 Restoration Levy.

## BUYING TICKETS

### BOOKINGS OPEN FRIDAY 14 JULY FROM 10.00 AM

Advance bookings are available for all NZIFF sessions. Seats are allocated on the basis of best available at the time of purchase. Book early to secure your favourite seats.

### ONLINE

**Hoyts Northlands: [www.hoyts.co.nz](http://www.hoyts.co.nz) (Hoyts Northlands screenings only)**

Booking fee: \$1.20 per ticket. Tickets must be collected from the venue.

**Isaac Theatre Royal: [www.ticketek.co.nz](http://www.ticketek.co.nz) (Isaac Theatre Royal screenings only)**

A booking fee is already included in the price of the ticket. You may print your ticket or present it on your mobile. A delivery transaction fee applies only when postal or courier delivery options are selected (\$2.00 regular mail; \$5.00 courier; \$6.00 rural delivery courier).

### IN PERSON

Advance tickets are available for all sessions and can be purchased from the venue where the film is screening. As these box offices are operated for NZIFF by the venues themselves, they are not equipped to sell tickets for the other NZIFF venue.

**Hoyts Northlands:** 10.00 am – 8.00 pm daily.

**Isaac Theatre Royal:** 10.00 am – 5.00 pm Monday to Friday. From 3 August the box office will be open from 1 hour prior to the first session of the day until 15 minutes after the last session commences.

**Phone (Isaac Theatre Royal screenings only): 0800 TICKETEK (842 538)**

A booking fee is already included in the price of the ticket. A delivery transaction fee applies only when postal or courier delivery options are selected (\$2.00 regular mail; \$5.00 courier; \$6.00 rural delivery courier).

### METHODS OF PAYMENT

**Cash/EFTPOS:** Accepted for box office and venue bookings.

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Please note that NO REFUNDS will be given for uncollected tickets or tickets collected late. Bookings once made cannot be altered. Please choose carefully as there are no exchanges or refunds except as required by law. Hoyts Rewards, Hoyts Complimentary Passes, Entertainment Book vouchers, Movie Money, Hoyts Super Saver Passes, Gift Cards, Hoyts Cinevouchers, Hoyts Gold Cards, Hoyts Concession Discounts and Offers cannot be used to purchase tickets to NZIFF events. Granton cards not redeemable. No vouchers and no free list. This applies to all NZIFF films.

## VENUE INFORMATION

### VENUES

**Isaac Theatre Royal:** 145 Gloucester Street, Christchurch.

Ph: (03) 366 6326 (not for ticket bookings).

**Hoyts Northlands:** Main North Road, Northlands Shopping Centre, Papanui.

Ph: 0508 4 HOYTS (446 987)

### WHEELCHAIR ACCESS/SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

Please advise the ticket seller when purchasing your tickets if you have difficulty with stairs or have any special requirements. Both venues have lift access. Isaac Theatre Royal wheelchair bookings are available in person at the Ticketek box office located at the Isaac Theatre Royal or by phoning (03) 260 5260.

### PARKING

**Isaac Theatre Royal:** Parking options change frequently in Christchurch city centre at present. For the latest and most up to date information please check the Christchurch City Council and Wilsons Parking websites, both of which have detailed information about where to park in Christchurch.

**Hoyts Northlands:** Free parking available in the Northlands Mall.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### PROGRAMME CHANGES

We reluctantly reserve the right to change the schedule by amending dates or replacing films. Any necessary changes will be advertised at NZIFF venues and on our website.

### PLEASE ARRIVE EARLY

There are no advertising films or trailers at NZIFF. We reserve the right to ask latecomers to wait until the conclusion of any introductions or short films before they are seated, or to seat latecomers in seats other than those originally purchased, to minimise disturbance to other patrons.

### CENSORSHIP CLASSIFICATION

G – Suitable for general audiences

PG – Parental guidance recommended for younger viewers

M – Unrestricted. Recommended as more suitable for mature audiences 16 years and over

RP13 – Restricted to persons 13 years and over, unless they are accompanied by a parent or guardian

RP16 – Restricted to persons 16 years and over, unless they are accompanied by a parent or guardian

R13 – Restricted to persons 13 years and over

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[www.instagram.com/nziff](https://www.instagram.com/nziff)

## CHRISTCHURCH SCHEDULE

### Thursday 3 August

A 7.00 pm 20th Century Women (Isaac Theatre) 119 5

### Friday 4 August

B 11.30 am Blue (Northlands) 76 40  
 B 11.45 am Summer 1993 (Isaac Theatre) 97 27  
 B 12.30 pm Ethel & Ernest (Northlands) 94 27  
 B 1.15 pm TEAM TIBET... (Northlands) 160 16  
 B 2.00 pm I Am Not Your Negro (Isaac Theatre) 93 43  
 B 2.30 pm House of Z (Northlands) 90 47  
 B 4.15 pm The Beguiled (Isaac Theatre) 94 29  
 B 4.15 pm Wind River (Northlands) 111 39  
 B 4.45 pm Brigsby Bear (Northlands) 98 28  
 A 6.30 pm La Chana (Northlands) 83 49  
 A 6.30 pm The Party (Isaac Theatre) 71 28  
 A 6.45 pm My Life As a Courgette (Northlands) 66 35  
 A 8.15 pm Call Me by Your Name (Northlands) 132 25  
 A 8.30 pm Blade of the Immortal (Northlands) 141 38  
 A 8.30 pm Human Traces (Isaac Theatre) 87 6

### Saturday 5 August

A 11.00 am Winnie (Northlands) 98 45  
 A 11.15 am Animation for Kids 4+ (Isaac Theatre) 61 33  
 A 11.15 am TEAM TIBET... (Northlands) 160 16  
 A 1.00 pm Kedi (Isaac Theatre) 79 + 7 43  
 A 1.00 pm Whiteley (Northlands) 94 49  
 A 3.00 pm Ethel & Ernest (Northlands) 94 27  
 A 3.15 pm Stalker (Northlands) 161 25  
 A 3.15 pm The Midwife (Isaac Theatre) 117 23  
 A 5.00 pm Winnie (Northlands) 98 45  
 A 6.00 pm The Other Side of Hope (Isaac Theatre) 98 8  
 A 6.15 pm A Monster Calls (Northlands) 109 28  
 A 7.00 pm A Date for Mad Mary (Northlands) 82 24  
 A 8.30 pm The Beguiled (Isaac Theatre) 94 29  
 A 8.30 pm The Untamed (Northlands) 100 37  
 A 8.45 pm Wind River (Northlands) 111 39

### Sunday 6 August

A 11.15 am Born in China (Isaac Theatre) 79 32  
 A 11.45 am BIG Time (Northlands) 93 47  
 A 12.00 pm Swallows and Amazons (Northlands) 97 32  
 A 1.15 pm My Year with Helen (Isaac Theatre) 93 8  
 A 1.45 pm Heal the Living (Northlands) 103 21  
 A 2.00 pm House of Z (Northlands) 90 47  
 A 3.45 pm Don't Tell (Northlands) 108 18  
 A 4.00 pm RUMBLE... (Northlands) 102 49  
 A 4.15 pm The Farthest (Isaac Theatre) 121 41  
 A 6.00 pm Kiki, Love to Love (Northlands) 102 26  
 A 6.15 pm Brigsby Bear (Northlands) 98 28  
 A 7.00 pm BPM (Beats Per Minute) (Isaac Theatre) 144 20  
 A 8.00 pm The Free Man (Northlands) 84 11  
 A 8.15 pm It Comes at Night (Northlands) 92 38

### Monday 7 August

B 11.00 am Dries (Isaac Theatre) 90 49  
 B 12.15 pm Pop Aye (Northlands) 102 25  
 B 12.45 pm Unrest (Northlands) 97 45

B 1.15 pm The Party (Isaac Theatre) 71 28  
 B 2.15 pm I Am Not a Witch (Northlands) 95 34  
 B 2.45 pm The Beguiled (Northlands) 94 29  
 B 3.00 pm BPM (Beats Per Minute) (Isaac Theatre) 144 20  
 B 4.15 pm A Monster Calls (Northlands) 109 28  
 B 4.45 pm To Stay Alive: A Method (Northlands) 70 41  
 A 6.15 pm I Am Not Your Negro (Isaac Theatre) 93 43  
 A 6.15 pm Whiteley (Northlands) 94 49  
 A 6.30 pm Heal the Living (Northlands) 103 21  
 A 8.15 pm The Free Man (Northlands) 84 11  
 A 8.30 pm RUMBLE... (Northlands) 102 49  
 A 8.30 pm Spookers (Isaac Theatre) 83 15

### Tuesday 8 August

B 11.00 am Kedi (Isaac Theatre) 79 + 7 43  
 B 12.00 pm The Teacher (Northlands) 102 26  
 B 12.15 pm Heal the Living (Northlands) 103 21  
 B 1.00 pm My Year with Helen (Isaac Theatre) 93 8  
 B 2.00 pm Kiki, Love to Love (Northlands) 102 26  
 B 2.15 pm Newton (Northlands) 106 24  
 B 3.45 pm God's Own Country (Isaac Theatre) 105 27  
 B 4.00 pm Beuys: Art As a Weapon (Northlands) 107 46  
 B 4.30 pm The Untamed (Northlands) 100 37  
 A 6.15 pm Mountain (Isaac Theatre) 74 7  
 A 6.15 pm The Beguiled (Northlands) 94 29  
 A 6.30 pm New Zealand's Best 2017 (Northlands) 75 17  
 A 8.15 pm One Island of Good (Isaac Theatre) 85 15  
 A 8.15 pm Wind River (Northlands) 111 39  
 A 8.30 pm A Monster Calls (Northlands) 109 28

### Wednesday 9 August

B 11.00 am 20th Century Women (Isaac Theatre) 119 5  
 B 11.45 am Step (Northlands) 83 45  
 B 12.00 pm A Fantastic Woman (Northlands) 105 19  
 B 1.30 pm The Other Side of Hope (Isaac Theatre) 98 8  
 B 1.45 pm Kim Dotcom: Caught... (Northlands) 112 13  
 B 2.00 pm A Date for Mad Mary (Northlands) 82 24  
 B 3.45 pm Blade of the Immortal (Northlands) 141 38  
 B 3.45 pm Patti Cake\$ (Isaac Theatre) 108 35  
 B 4.00 pm RUMBLE... (Northlands) 102 49  
 A 6.15 pm Dries (Isaac Theatre) 90 49  
 A 6.15 pm Pop Aye (Northlands) 102 25  
 A 6.30 pm Animation NOW! 2017 (Northlands) 85 31  
 A 8.15 pm The Teacher (Northlands) 102 26  
 A 8.30 pm It Comes at Night (Northlands) 92 38  
 A 8.30 pm Lady Macbeth (Isaac Theatre) 89 37

### Thursday 10 August

B 11.00 am Maudie (Isaac Theatre) 115 19  
 B 12.00 pm Citizen Jane: Battle for... (Northlands) 92 40  
 B 1.00 pm Dries (Northlands) 90 49  
 B 1.30 pm Loveless (Isaac Theatre) 128 7  
 B 2.00 pm Gabriel and the Mountain (Northlands) 127 34  
 B 2.45 pm New Zealand's Best 2017 (Northlands) 75 17  
 B 4.15 pm A Date for Mad Mary (Isaac Theatre) 82 24  
 B 4.15 pm It Comes at Night (Northlands) 92 38

B 4.30 pm Don't Tell (Northlands) 108 18  
 A 6.15 pm Beatriz at Dinner (Isaac Theatre) 83 29  
 A 6.15 pm Blue (Northlands) 76 40  
 A 8.00 pm Stalker (Northlands) 161 25  
 A 8.15 pm A Fantastic Woman (Northlands) 105 19  
 A 8.30 pm 6 Days (Isaac Theatre) 95 11

### Friday 11 August

B 11.00 am Frantz (Isaac Theatre) 114 19  
 B 12.15 pm Maudie (Northlands) 115 19  
 B 12.30 pm Ethel & Ernest (Northlands) 94 27  
 B 1.30 pm No Ordinary Sheila (Isaac Theatre) 98 14  
 B 2.30 pm La Chana (Northlands) 83 49  
 B 2.45 pm I Am Not Your Negro (Northlands) 93 43  
 B 4.15 pm Spookers (Isaac Theatre) 83 15  
 B 4.15 pm Wind River (Northlands) 111 39  
 B 4.45 pm The Party (Northlands) 71 28  
 A 6.15 pm Step (Northlands) 83 45  
 A 6.30 pm Citizen Jane: Battle for... (Northlands) 92 40  
 A 6.30 pm God's Own Country (Isaac Theatre) 105 27  
 A 8.00 pm Swagger of Thieves (Northlands) 110 15  
 A 8.30 pm Dealt (Northlands) 85 41  
 A 9.00 pm Patti Cake\$ (Isaac Theatre) 108 35

### Saturday 12 August

A 11.00 am La Chana (Isaac Theatre) 83 49  
 A 11.45 am Unrest (Northlands) 97 45  
 A 12.15 pm BIG Time (Northlands) 93 47  
 A 1.00 pm No Ordinary Sheila (Isaac Theatre) 98 14  
 A 1.45 pm The Midwife (Northlands) 117 23  
 A 2.15 pm Pop Aye (Northlands) 102 25  
 A 4.00 pm BANG! The Bert Berns Story (Northlands) 96 46  
 A 4.00 pm Summer 1993 (Isaac Theatre) 97 27  
 A 4.15 pm I Am Not Your Negro (Northlands) 93 43  
 A 6.00 pm Don't Tell (Northlands) 108 18  
 A 6.15 pm I Am Not a Witch (Northlands) 95 34  
 A 6.30 pm Faces Places (Isaac Theatre) 89 6  
 A 8.15 pm A Fantastic Woman (Northlands) 105 19  
 A 8.30 pm Swagger of Thieves (Northlands) 110 15  
 A 8.45 pm The Killing of a Sacred... (Isaac Theatre) 125 24

### Sunday 13 August

A 11.00 am Animation for Kids 8+ (Isaac Theatre) 71 33  
 A 11.00 am Born in China (Northlands) 79 32  
 A 11.30 am To Stay Alive: A Method (Northlands) 70 41  
 A 12.45 pm Kim Dotcom: Caught... (Northlands) 112 13  
 A 1.00 pm Blue (Isaac Theatre) 76 40  
 A 1.00 pm Ethel & Ernest (Northlands) 94 27  
 A 3.00 pm Bill Frisell: A Portrait (Northlands) 114 47  
 A 3.00 pm House of Z (Isaac Theatre) 90 47  
 A 3.45 pm Kim Dotcom: Caught... (Northlands) 112 13  
 A 5.15 pm 20th Century Women (Northlands) 119 5  
 A 5.15 pm Loveless (Isaac Theatre) 128 7  
 A 6.45 pm Beatriz at Dinner (Northlands) 83 29  
 A 7.30 pm The Lost City of Z (Northlands) 141 31  
 A 8.15 pm Blade of the Immortal (Isaac Theatre) 141 38

**Christchurch schedule continued**

A 8.30 pm The Untamed (Northlands) 100 37

**Monday 14 August**

B 11.00 am The Farthest (Isaac Theatre) 121 41

B 12.00 pm The Midwife (Northlands) 117 23

B 12.30 pm BIG Time (Northlands) 93 47

B 1.45 pm Happy End (Isaac Theatre) 110 21

B 2.15 pm The Teacher (Northlands) 102 26

B 2.30 pm Pop Aye (Northlands) 102 25

B 4.15 pm Beatriz at Dinner (Isaac Theatre) 83 29

B 4.15 pm The Free Man (Northlands) 84 11

B 4.30 pm Una (Northlands) 94 37

A 6.15 pm Animation NOW! 2017 (Northlands) 85 31

A 6.15 pm Frantz (Isaac Theatre) 114 19

A 6.30 pm Free Theatre (Northlands) 76 11

A 8.00 pm Bill Frisell: A Portrait (Northlands) 114 47

A 8.45 pm I Am Not a Witch (Northlands) 95 34

A 8.45 pm Mountain (Isaac Theatre) 74 7

**Tuesday 15 August**

B 10.30 am Faces Places (Isaac Theatre) 89 6

B 11.30 am Winnie (Northlands) 98 45

B 12.00 pm Kedi (Northlands) 79 + 7 43

B 12.45 pm Call Me by Your Name (Isaac Theatre) 132 25

B 1.30 pm The Lost City of Z (Northlands) 141 31

B 1.45 pm Free Theatre (Northlands) 76 11

B 3.30 pm The Killing of a Sacred... (Isaac Theatre) 125 24

B 4.00 pm Human Traces (Northlands) 87 6

B 4.15 pm BANG! The Bert Berns Story (Northlands) 96 46

A 6.15 pm Citizen Jane: Battle for... (Isaac Theatre) 92 40

A 6.15 pm The Workshop (Northlands) 114 23

A 6.30 pm Kobi (Northlands) 103 13

A 8.30 pm Gabriel and the Mountain (Northlands) 127 34

A 8.30 pm Happy End (Isaac Theatre) 110 21

A 9.00 pm Una (Northlands) 94 37

**Wednesday 16 August**

B 11.15 am Citizen Jane: Battle for... (Isaac Theatre) 92 40

B 11.30 am Kobi (Northlands) 103 13

B 11.45 am The Workshop (Northlands) 114 23

B 1.30 pm One Island of Good (Isaac Theatre) 85 15

B 2.00 pm The Farthest (Northlands) 121 41

B 2.15 pm Let the Sunshine In (Northlands) 94 22

B 4.00 pm A Ghost Story (Isaac Theatre) 93 35

B 4.15 pm 6 Days (Northlands) 95 11

B 4.30 pm Kiki, Love to Love (Northlands) 102 26

A 6.15 pm My Life As a Courgette (Isaac Theatre) 66 35

A 6.15 pm NgāWhanaunga... (Northlands) 91 17

A 6.30 pm BANG! The Bert Berns Story (Northlands) 96 46

A 8.00 pm The Lost City of Z (Isaac Theatre) 141 31

A 8.30 pm 100 Men (Northlands) 94 10

A 8.45 pm Mountain (Northlands) 74 7

**Thursday 17 August**

B 11.30 am 20th Century Women (Northlands) 119 5

B 12.00 pm Blue (Isaac Theatre) 76 40

B 12.00 pm NgāWhanaunga... (Northlands) 91 17

B 1.45 pm Whiteley (Northlands) 94 49

B 2.00 pm 100 Men (Northlands) 94 10

B 2.00 pm The Midwife (Isaac Theatre) 117 23

B 4.00 pm Berlin Syndrome (Northlands) 117 18

B 4.30 pm Good Time (Northlands) 100 39

B 4.30 pm My Life As a Courgette (Isaac Theatre) 66 35

A 6.15 pm Beuys: Art As a Weapon (Northlands) 107 46

A 6.15 pm Let the Sunshine In (Isaac Theatre) 94 22

A 6.30 pm Newton (Northlands) 106 24

A 8.30 pm A Ghost Story (Isaac Theatre) 93 35

A 8.30 pm Berlin Syndrome (Northlands) 117 18

A 8.45 pm Risk (Northlands) 93 44

**Friday 18 August**

B 11.00 am House of Z (Isaac Theatre) 90 47

B 12.00 pm Maudie (Northlands) 115 19

B 12.15 pm A Woman's Life (Northlands) 119 22

B 1.00 pm Lady Macbeth (Isaac Theatre) 89 37

B 2.15 pm The Inland Road (Northlands) 80 14

B 2.30 pm Mountain (Northlands) 74 7

B 3.15 pm The Square (Isaac Theatre) 147 5

B 4.00 pm Bill Frisell: A Portrait (Northlands) 114 47

B 4.30 pm Risk (Northlands) 93 44

A 6.15 pm A Woman's Life (Northlands) 119 22

A 6.30 pm A Date for Mad Mary (Isaac Theatre) 82 24

A 6.30 pm Brigsby Bear (Northlands) 98 28

A 8.30 pm Gabriel and the Mountain (Northlands) 127 34

A 8.45 pm Good Time (Isaac Theatre) 100 39

A 8.45 pm Una (Northlands) 94 37

**Saturday 19 August**

A 10.45 am Swallows and Amazons (Isaac Theatre) 97 32

A 12.00 pm Animation for Kids 4+ (Northlands) 61 33

A 12.15 pm Beuys: Art As a Weapon (Northlands) 107 46

A 1.00 pm Step (Isaac Theatre) 83 45

A 1.45 pm Summer 1993 (Northlands) 97 27

A 2.30 pm A Woman's Life (Northlands) 119 22

A 3.00 pm Maudie (Isaac Theatre) 115 19

A 3.45 pm Newton (Northlands) 106 24

A 4.45 pm To Stay Alive: A Method (Northlands) 70 41

A 5.45 pm Seven Rivers Walking (Isaac Theatre) 84 16

A 6.00 pm Bill Dieren: A Memory of... (Northlands) 87 10

A 6.15 pm Kiki, Love to Love (Northlands) 102 26

A 8.15 pm The Workshop (Northlands) 114 23

A 8.30 pm Call Me by Your Name (Isaac Theatre) 132 25

A 8.30 pm The Inland Road (Northlands) 80 14

**Sunday 20 August**

A 12.00 pm Animation for Kids 8+ (Northlands) 71 33

A 1.30 pm Kedi (Northlands) 79 + 7 43

A 1.45 pm Unrest (Northlands) 97 45

☉ 2.00 pm Our Hospitality (Isaac Theatre) 74 9

A 3.30 pm Risk (Northlands) 93 44

A 3.45 pm The Farthest (Northlands) 121 41

A 4.15 pm Waru (Isaac Theatre) 88 16

A 5.30 pm Bill Dieren: A Memory of... (Northlands) 87 10

A 6.15 pm The Teacher (Northlands) 102 26

A 7.15 pm The Square (Isaac Theatre) 147 5

A 8.00 pm Good Time (Northlands) 100 39

A 8.15 pm Berlin Syndrome (Northlands) 117 18

**TIMARU TICKET PRICES****A CODED SESSIONS****Sessions starting after 5.00 pm weekdays and all weekend sessions.**

» Full Price \$16.00

» Film Society/Film Industry Guilds/  
Student/Community Services Card \* \$13.00

» Senior Citizens (60+) \$12.00

» Children (15 and under) \$10.00

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» Senior Citizens (60+) \$12.00

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**Movie Max Digital:** cnr of Sophia & Canon Sts, Timaru  
Ph: (03) 684 6975

**WHEELCHAIR ACCESS/SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS**

Please advise the ticket seller when purchasing your tickets if you have difficulty with stairs or have any special requirements.

## TIMARU SCHEDULE

### Thursday 17 August

B	1.00 pm	Kedi (79 + 7)	43
A	6.15 pm	20th Century Women (119)	5
A	8.30 pm	Kiki, Love to Love (102)	26

### Friday 18 August

B	1.00 pm	The Midwife (117)	23
A	6.30 pm	The Party (71)	28
A	8.00 pm	The Other Side of Hope (98)	8

### Saturday 19 August

A	2.00 pm	Kedi (79 + 7)	43
A	3.45 pm	Frantz (114)	19
A	6.00 pm	The Beguiled (94)	29
A	8.00 pm	Call Me by Your Name (132)	25

### Sunday 20 August

A	1.00 pm	Born in China (79)	32
A	2.45 pm	My Year with Helen (93)	8
A	4.45 pm	The Midwife (117)	23
A	7.00 pm	The Lost City of Z (141)	31

### Monday 21 August

B	1.00 pm	Call Me by Your Name (132)	25
A	6.15 pm	Blue (76)	40
A	8.00 pm	Citizen Jane: Battle for the City (92)	40

### Tuesday 22 August

B	1.00 pm	Ethel & Ernest (94)	27
A	6.15 pm	Dries (90)	49
A	8.15 pm	New Zealand's Best 2017 (75)	17

### Wednesday 23 August

B	1.00 pm	20th Century Women (119)	5
A	6.15 pm	Summer 1993 (97)	27
A	8.15 pm	I Am Not Your Negro (93)	43

### Thursday 24 August

B	1.00 pm	Maudie (115)	19
A	6.15 pm	Faces Places (89)	6
A	8.15 pm	Pop Aye (102)	25

### Friday 25 August

B	1.00 pm	Faces Places (89)	6
A	6.30 pm	Mountain (74)	7
A	8.15 pm	A Date for Mad Mary (82)	24

### Saturday 26 August

A	1.30 pm	Swallows and Amazons (97)	32
A	3.30 pm	Maudie (115)	19
A	6.00 pm	No Ordinary Sheila (93)	14
A	8.00 pm	Good Time (100)	39

### Sunday 27 August

A	12.30 pm	Seven Rivers Walking (84)	16
A	3.00 pm	House of Z (90)	47
A	5.00 pm	The Farthest (121)	41
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## KEY TO ICONS



Guest Appearance



Short Preceding Feature



Cannes Selection 2017



Major Festival Award

Notes in this brochure are written and compiled by the programmers, Bill Gosden, Michael McDonnell, Ant Timpson, Sandra Reid and Malcolm Turner. Tim Wong, Toby Manhire, Nick Bollinger, Judah Finnigan, Jo Randerson, Andrew Langridge, Chris Tse, Rebecca McMillan, Graeme Tuckett and Nic Marshall also contributed notes. The brochure was edited, drawing on a wide array of writers we like, by Bill Gosden, who also wrote the unsigned notes, cribbing the occasional perfect adjective from said writers. It was managed by Tim Wong with the assistance of a squadron of ace proofreaders who labour beyond the call of duty. Views expressed in the brochure do not necessarily represent the views of the staff or trustees of the New Zealand Film Festival Trust.

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