

FESTIVAL SELECTION ALERT

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ROTTERDAM'S AUSTRALIAN LINEUP

Tuesday 21 January 2009

Four Australian films are screening as part of the 38th International Film Festival Rotterdam which began today.

The feature ***Not Quite Hollywood*** (d: **Mark Hartley**) will screen in 'Signals', a program that focuses on specific themes and offers insight on topical as well as timeless ideas within cinema. The film had its international premiere at the 2008 Toronto International Film Festival, and was awarded the 2008 AFI Award for Best Documentary.

Also selected for the Signals program is the short ***Bigger than Big*** (d: **Russell Scott**) a seven-minute film combining cutting-edge scientific astronomical data and simulations with stunning animation to take the audience on a journey from the Moon's surface to the far reaches of the visible universe.

Two other shorts – ***Julieland*** (d: **Tintin Wulia**) and ***Jerrycan*** (d: **Julius Avery**) – will screen in 'Spectrum', a program comprising topical, strong and innovative films by accomplished filmmakers and highlights of the film year.

The Rotterdam screening of *Jerrycan* follows on from the film's selection for the 2008 Cannes Film Festival as well as the 2009 Sundance Film Festival and Berlin International Film Festival. *Julieland* presents viewers with the impression of Melbourne's Preston Market through the eyes of an eight-year-old girl and will have its international premiere at Rotterdam.

The International Film Festival Rotterdam has taken on a new format in 2009 with the festival now separated into three main sections: Bright Future, Spectrum and Signals. A special feature of this new format is that all three program sections will incorporate full-length films, shorts, art installations and live performances.

Running alongside the film festival is the co-production market CineMart, with one Australian project participating this year: ***Gin & Tonic***. Written by **Alice Bell**, who also wrote the successful Australian feature film *Suburban Mayhem* (a CineMart 2005 selection), *Gin & Tonic* tells the story of a wealthy dysfunctional family who find an abandoned baby on their doorstep, forcing them to face up to a few home truths. Alice will also direct the film.

Coinciding with CineMart is the Rotterdam Lab, a four-day workshop to help emerging producers build on their international network. Screen Australia partners with the Rotterdam Lab and the six producers selected to participate at the 2009 Lab are **Della Churchill, Paul Sullivan, Stephen Amis, John Harvey, Brian Scarce** and **Jason De Santolo**. Harvey, Scarce and De Santolo are travelling to Rotterdam as part of Screen Australia's Indigenous Producers Initiative, which is aimed at supporting new and emerging Indigenous producers.

The International Film Festival Rotterdam runs 21 January – 1 February 2009 and CineMart takes place 25 – 29 January 2009.

FEATURE**Not Quite Hollywood**

(102 min)

Production Company: City Films World Wide p/l

Executive Producers: Bruno Charlesworth, Jonathan Shteinman, Paul Wiegard, Nick Batzias

Writer/Director: Mark Hartley

Producers: Michael Lynch, Craig Griffin

Distributor: Madman Cinema

International Sales: Magnolia Films

Cast: with Jamie Lee Curtis, Dennis Hopper, Stacy Keach, Quentin Tarantino, Brian Trenchard-Smith, Dr George Miller, Barry Humphries

Synopsis: In the 70s and 80s a uniquely antipodean wave of exploitation cinema swept the world. Shlocky, sexy and very funny, 'Ozploitation' became one of the most prolific and successful periods in Australian filmmaking – and yet it rarely rates a mention in the official histories of cinema. Filled with outrageous anecdotes and lessons in maverick filmmaking, and featuring interviews with celebrity devotee Quentin Tarantino, *Not Quite Hollywood* is a fast-moving journey through a very Australian slice of genre cinema.

SHORTS**Bigger than Big**

(7 mins)

Production Company: Swinburne University of Technology, Centre for Astrophysics and Supercomputing

Director: Russel Scott

Writer: Russel Scott, Sam Moorfield, Lisa Germany

Producer: Elizabeth Stark

Narrator: Nick Stratford

Synopsis: How big is big? This spectacular film takes us on a journey from the Moon's surface to the far reaches of the visible universe. Combining cutting edge scientific astronomical data and simulations with stunning animation, it brings the Universe to life.

Jerrycan

(13.5 mins)

Production Company: Avery & Parkyn

Writer/Director: Julius Avery

Producer: Stuart Parkyn

Co-producer: Matt Downey

Cast: Tristan Burke, Walter Currie, Kyle Taylor, Nick Tomas, Dylan Thomas

Synopsis: Five bored kids with nothing to do decide to blow something up. Paper, scissors, rock seals the fate of Nathan, who risks everything after he is bullied into making a life and death decision.

Julieland

(12 mins 36 sec)

Production Company: TRAX

Producer / Director: Tintin Wulia

Writer: Julie Le, Tintin Wulia

Cast: Julie Le, Janice Deng, Vince Seconnino, Steve Berbery, Nikola Trajkovski, Daniel Noel Matta

Synopsis: Say it – do dead rats have lungs? If they do, did Julie kill Ali Baba? Whatever it is, six times six cannot prove that seagulls do fight with pigeons. Singing Santa, magical girls, the wobbly pole and a car ride on an easy Saturday morning: a glimpse of the amazing landscapes that shape Julie's world.

This short film presents some tales from the Preston Market, the second largest market in Australia, through the eyes of 8-year-old Julie Le, who's parents have been running a take-away food shop there for 10 years.