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A double shot of shorts mixed with a triple shot of Australian features selected for Tribeca Film Festival

Wednesday 18 March 2009: An Australian feature, two feature documentaries and two short films have been selected for the Tribeca Film Festival in New York.

Accidents Happen (d: **Andrew Lancaster**) has been selected for Tribeca's World Narrative Feature Competition and will have its World Premiere at the festival. ***The Burning Season*** (d: **Cathy Henkel**) will screen in the World Documentary Feature Competition and ***Love The Beast*** (d: **Eric Bana**) will have its International Premiere at the festival when it screens as part of the Encounters program.

Screening alongside these films are Australian short documentary ***Skin*** (d: **Rhys Graham**) which will feature as part of the Shorts in Competition Documentary Program and the short narrative ***Small Change*** (d: **Anna McGrath**) which will have its New York premiere when it screens as part of the Shorts in Competition Student Program.

Accidents Happen Sales agent Bankside considers the Tribeca screening the perfect launch pad for Andrew Lancaster's debut feature and are "sure that buyers across the world will respond positively to this darkly comic and intensely moving story which features a first-class performance from Geena Davis."

The Burning Season screens at Tribeca following its outing at the 2008 Brisbane International Film Festival and its win of the 2008 Inside Film Award for Best Documentary. The film follows a young carbon trading entrepreneur in search of a solution to the problems caused by the Indonesian burning season.

Love The Beast – a quintessentially Australian tale about one man's ongoing relationship with his first car – marks the directorial debut of internationally acclaimed Australian actor Eric Bana and has just been released domestically to rave reviews.

The 2009 Tribeca Film Festival will run 22 April – 3 May.

www.tribecafilm.com/festival/

Features

Accidents Happen

(93 mins)

www.accidentshappenthemovie.com/

Production Company: A.H. Films Pty Ltd

Director: Andrew Lancaster

Writer: Brian Carbee

Producer: Anthony Anderson

Australian Distributor: Hopscotch Films & Galvanized Film Group

Sales Agent: Bankside Films

Finance: Screen Australia, Abacus Film Fund, New South Wales Film and Television Office

Cast: Geena Davis, Harrison Gilbertson, Joel Tobeck, Erik Thomson, Sebastian Gregory, Harry Cook

Synopsis: Fifteen-year-old Billy Conway has been an accident magnet since he was a kid. When he and his best friend cause an almighty crash with a bowling ball and a moving car, Billy must face up to his family's history and learn that sometimes someone is to blame and that sometimes...well...accidents just happen.

The Burning Season

(90 mins)

www.theburningseasonmovie.com/

Production Company: Hatchling Productions in association with Virgo Productions and Freshwater Pictures

Writer/Director: Cathy Henkel

Producers: Jeff Canin, Cathy Henkel, Trish Lake

Australian Distributor: Gil Scrine Films, Virgo Productions and Freshwater Pictures

Finance: Screen Australia, Australian Broadcasting Corporation, BBC, CBC, National Geographic, New South Wales Film and Television Office, Pacific Film and Television Commission

Featuring: Dorjee Sun, Lone Droscher-Nielsen, Achmadi

Synopsis: A young entrepreneur travels the globe in pursuit of a carbon trading deal that could protect millions of hectares of pristine rainforest, save the orangutan from extinction – and make his fortune.

Love The Beast

(92 mins)

<http://lovethebeast.com.au/>

Production Company: Whyte House Productions and Pick Up Truck Pictures

Director: Eric Bana

Producers: Eric Bana, Peter Hill, Matt Hill

Co-producer: Brett Hardy

Australian Distributor: Madman Entertainment

International Sales: Brett Hardy

Featuring: Eric Bana, Jay Leno, Jeremy Clarkson, Dr Phil

Synopsis: Eric Bana casts himself in his perfect role; exploring the meaning of a 25-year long relationship with his first car, 'The Beast', and ultimately the importance of the bonds that form through a common passion. Filmed over two years, we follow Eric on an unexpectedly emotional journey from inside the race car to the surreal world of the red carpet as Eric considers the importance of family, friends and what it means to keep your dreams alive. *Love The Beast* is as full of heart and the defining moments in life as it is about driving fast...really fast.

Shorts

Skin

(26 mins)

www.daybreakfilms.com.au/skin/

Production Company: Big and Little Films

Writer/Director: Rhys Graham

Producers: Tony Ayres, Michael McMahon

Finance: Film Victoria, Australian Film Commission and the Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Synopsis: An unsettling meditation on death and creativity, *Skin* examines the 15-year collaboration between tattooist and artist Ex de Medici and her subject Geoff Ostling, as they negotiate the possibility of bequeathing Geoff's completely tattooed skin as an artwork when he dies.

Small Change

(7 mins)

Production Company: Victorian College of the Arts

Writer/Director: Anna McGrath

Cast: Minnie Liszukiewicz, Ziggy Liszukiewicz, Ditch Davey, Vada Wardlaw, Kirrily Frigo

Synopsis: A man struggles without his wife, a little girl loses her tooth and a boy reacts the only way he knows how. Small change can make all the difference.