
MEDIA RELEASE

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Another two Australian films selected for Cannes

Wednesday 29 April 2009: Two additional Australian films have been selected for screening at this year's Cannes Film Festival. This brings the total Australian selection to four films for the 2009 festival, the strongest Cannes slate since 2006.

The short documentary *Cicada* is screening in Directors' Fortnight – a program organised by the French Directors' Society, which highlights new talent and screens a selection of original world cinema. Directed, produced and written by **Amiel Courtin-Wilson**, and also produced by **Sally Hussey** and written by **Daniel P Jones**, *Cicada* is a stylised monologue and re-telling of the first memory of Daniel P Jones who witnessed a murder at the age of five. *Cicada* was commissioned as the opening night film of the 2008 Bayside Film Festival and has also screened at the 2008 Melbourne International Film Festival. The Cannes screening will mark *Cicada*'s international premiere.

The restored 1971 Australian classic *Wake in Fright* will screen as part of Cannes Classics – the festival's sidebar event that celebrates rediscovered gems. Directed by Canadian **Ted Kotcheff**, produced by **George Willoughby** and written by **Evan Jones**, *Wake in Fright* first screened in Competition at Cannes in 1971 under the alternate international title *Out Back*. A landmark film in the renaissance of Australian cinema in the 70s, *Wake in Fright* was lost for many years and has been recently restored by Australia's National Film and Sound Archive. The film will be distributed via Madman Entertainment in June.

Cicada and *Wake in Fright* join the two other previously announced Australian films invited to screen at Cannes this year. *Bright Star* (w/d: Jane Campion, p: Jan Chapman, Caroline Hewitt) has been selected to screen in Competition, and *Samson & Delilah* (w/d: Warwick Thornton, p: Kath Shelper) will screen in Un Certain Regard.

Feature

Wake in Fright

(109 mins)

Production Company: NLT Productions and Group W

Director: Ted Kotcheff

Writer: Evan Jones, based on the book by Australian author Kenneth Cook

Producer: George Willoughby

Australian Distributor: Madman Entertainment

Cast: Donald Pleasance, Gary Bond, Chips Rafferty, Jack Thompson

Synopsis: *Wake in Fright* details the story of John Grant, a young school teacher, stranded in a brutal and menacing town in outback Australia.

Short

Cicada

(9 mins)

Production Company: Hussey Productions and Flood Projects

Director: Amiel Courtin-Wilson

Writers: Amiel Courtin-Wilson and Daniel P Jones, based on a story by Daniel P Jones

Producers: Sally Hussey and Amiel Courtin-Wilson

Cast: Daniel P Jones

Synopsis: *Cicada* is the immersive story of a five-year-old child who witnessed a murder. Daniel P Jones confronts a traumatic memory in an incendiary, visceral monologue.