



Australian Government



MEDIA RELEASE

## ***Three Thousand Years of Longing* joins *Elvis* at Cannes Film Festival 2022**

**Thursday 14 April 2022:** Screen Australia congratulates Dr George Miller's *Three Thousand Years of Longing* and Baz Luhrmann's *Elvis* which have been selected for the 75<sup>th</sup> Festival de Cannes, running from 17 - 28 May 2022.

Screen Australia's CEO **Graeme Mason** said, "Cannes is one of the most important and prestigious celebrations of cinema each year and it's tremendous to see continued appetite for Australian filmmaking talent. It's special that 2022 marks 30 years since Baz Luhrmann's first feature *Strictly Ballroom* screened there, and it's great to see Dr George Miller returning to the festival after 2015's outstanding *Mad Max Fury Road*. I couldn't think of a better way to launch these two feature films that audiences around the world are already excited for. A huge congratulations to both teams on this achievement."

Writer/director **Dr George Miller** said, "A superb cast and crew brought the best of themselves to the crafting of this movie. It's a lovely thing that its first showing will be at that magnificent theatre on the Croisette at Cannes."

*Three Thousand Years of Longing* follows Dr Alithea Binnie (Tilda Swinton) who is content with life and comes at the world with a healthy scepticism. Despite this she encounters a Djinn (Idris Elba) who offers her three wishes in exchange for his freedom. This is a problem because she is a scholar of narrative and knows all the cautionary tales about wishes gone wrong. He pleads his case by telling her fantastical stories of his past. Eventually she is beguiled and makes a wish that surprises them both. The film is being distributed by Roadshow.

Shot in Queensland, Baz Luhrmann's *Elvis* explores the life and music of Elvis Presley (played by Austin Butler), seen through the prism of his complicated relationship with his enigmatic manager, Colonel Tom Parker (Tom Hanks). The story delves into the complex dynamic between Presley and Parker spanning over 20 years, from Presley's rise to fame to his unprecedented stardom, against the backdrop of the evolving cultural landscape and loss of innocence in America. Central to that journey is one of the most significant and influential people in Elvis's life, Priscilla Presley (Olivia DeJonge). It will release in Australia on 23 June 2022 and is being distributed by Universal.

This year continues a long history of the filmmakers at Cannes, with Baz Luhrmann in 2013 being the only director to have two feature films open the festival with *Moulin Rouge!* in 2001 and then *The Great Gatsby*. In 1992, Luhrmann's first film *Strictly Ballroom* screened in the Un Certain Regard section. Dr George Miller's *Mad Max Fury Road* premiered at Cannes in 2015 and Miller headed the jury at the 69th festival in 2016.

A full history of Australian titles at Cannes is available [here](#).

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