

## Six Australian projects selected to screen at Berlinale

Friday 25, January 2019: Six Australian projects have been selected for the 2019 Berlin International Film Festival (Berlinale). Feature film [Buoyancy](#) directed by Rodd Rathjen and produced by Causeway Films whose credits include [The Babadook](#), [Cargo](#) and [The Nightingale](#) will have its world premiere at the festival, as well as feature documentary [2040](#) written and directed by Damon Gameau ([That Sugar Film](#)).

This news comes after a [historic six Australian feature films](#) were selected to screen at Sundance Film Festival which began yesterday.

Graeme Mason, CEO of Screen Australia said: "Be it thought-provoking documentaries, moving dramas, or short films it's clear that Australian stories and our filmmakers continue to resonate around the world. We congratulate all the Australian teams on their Berlinale selection and we are proud to have such distinctive and diverse projects representing our industry at this esteemed festival."

Producer of feature film *Buoyancy* Sam Jennings said: "It's a fantastic honour to be launching our film in Berlinale's prestigious Panorama program. Rodd has told an important story in a boldly cinematic way, and we hope it will impact on audiences around the world. *Buoyancy* was only made possible by the unwavering passion of our Cambodian and South East Asian collaborators and extraordinary crew, who along with our investors put a lot of faith in this project, and it will be a thrilling start for the whole team to share."

Writer and director of feature documentary *2040* that looks at the current and future state of our planet, Damon Gameau said: "We are delighted to premiere *2040* at such a terrific festival and hope that it can spark some important conversations."

Feature documentary [She Who Must Be Loved](#) from Erica Glynn will have its international premiere as part of the NATIVE program which celebrates Indigenous storytelling. Critically acclaimed 2015 feature film [Tanna](#) directed by Bentley Dean and Martin Butler will also screen in the NATIVE program, as well as short film [Blackbird](#) directed by Amie Batalibasi.

*The Mermaids, Or Aiden in Wonderland* by Karrabing Film Collective, an experimental short film about what might happen at the end of the world will screen as part of the festival's 14<sup>th</sup> Forum Expanded program.

Two Australian producers [Kate Laurie](#) and [Peter Ireland](#) have been selected to participate in the Berlinale Talents program, as well as production designer and art director [Alicia Clements](#).

Actress Tilda Cobham-Hervey, will sit on the International Jury Kplus. Her short film [A Field Guide to Being a 12-Year-Old-Girl](#) screened in the festival's Generation Kplus program last year and won the Crystal Bear for Best Short Film in that program.

Australian producer [Greer Simpkin](#) from [Bunya Productions](#) is part of the international team behind *Flesh & Blood* which will be pitched at the European Film Market's Co-Production market for Co Pro Series.

The Berlin International Film Festival runs 7-17 February 2019.

High resolution images of the selected films [here](#)

## AUSTRALIAN FILMS AT BERLINALE 2019

MEDIA RELEASE

### *2040*

1 x 92mins

GoodThing Productions Pty Ltd

Genre Feature documentary

Director / Writer Damon Gameau

Producers Nick Batzias, Damon Gameau, Anna Kaplan, Virginia Whitwell

Distributor Madman Entertainment

**Synopsis** A high-concept feature documentary that looks to the future, but is vitally important NOW!

**Production Credit:** *2040* is a GoodThing Productions and Regen Pictures production. Major production investment from Screen Australia, in association with Shark Island Institute, Good Pitch Australia and Diamond Docs. Financed with support from Film Victoria and Cumulus Visual Effects.

Berlin Film Festival World Premiere

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### *Blackbird*

1 x 13mins

Victorian College of the Arts - University of Melbourne

Short Period Drama

Director Amie Batalibasi

Associate Producers John Harvey and Lia Pa'apa'a

Australian Distributor Ronin Films

International Sales Ronin Films

**Synopsis** In the late 1800s, Solomon Islander siblings Kiko and Rosa struggle to survive whilst labouring on a Queensland sugar plantation. This narrative short sheds light on the little known history of Australia's 'sugar slaves'.

**Production Credit:** *Blackbird* is a Victorian College of the Arts (VCA) production. Principal production support from the 2015 Regional Arts Development Fund - Queensland Government and Mackay Regional City Council, in association with Mackay Yamadi Lera Yumi Meta Association Inc. Financed with support from Pozible backers; 2015 VCA Margaret Lawrence Social Justice Award, Moving Clickers 'Kickalong' Award and Panavision Script Production Award.

Berlin Film Festival NATIVE program

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### *Buoyancy*

Causeway Films

Genre Drama

Director / Writer Rodd Rathjen

Producers Samantha Jennings, Rita Walsh, Kristina Ceyton

Australian Distributor Umbrella Entertainment

International Sales Charades, Echo Studio

**Synopsis** An innocent Cambodian boy is enslaved on a Thai fishing trawler and soon realises that his only hope of freedom is to become as violent as his captors.

**Production Credit:** *Buoyancy* is a Causeway Films production. Major production investment from Screen Australia, in association with Melbourne International Film Festival's MIFF Premiere Fund. Financed with support from Film Victoria, Ferocious Entertainment, Anupheap Productions and Definition Films.

Berlin Film Festival World Premiere

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Australian Government



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***She Who Must Be Loved***

1 x 96mins

Since1788 Productions

Genre Feature documentary

Director / Writer Erica Glynn

Producers Tanith Glynn-Maloney, Erica Glynn (co-producer)

Broadcaster NITV

**Synopsis** *She Who Must Be Loved* details the life story of Freda Glynn and what it took for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander people to stake a claim amongst Australia's media landscape.

**Production Credit:** *She Who Must Be Loved* is a Since 1788 Productions production for NITV. Principal production investment from Screen Australia, in association with NITV. Financed with support from the Adelaide Film Festival.

**Berlin Film Festival** International Premiere as part of the NATIVE series dedicated to the cinematic storytelling of Indigenous peoples from around the world.

Media and Sales contact Tanith Glynn-Maloney [tanith81@hotmail.com](mailto:tanith81@hotmail.com)

***Tanna***

1 x 104mins

Contact Films Pty Ltd

Genre Drama

Directors Bentley Dean, Martin Butler

Writers John Collee, Bentley Dean, Martin Butler

Producers Martin Butler, Bentley Dean, Carolyn Johnson

Cast Marie Wawa, Mungau Dain, Marceline Rofit, Albi Nangia

Australian Distributor Bonsai Films/Umbrella Entertainment

International Sales Visit Films

**Synopsis** A groundbreaking glimpse into life, love, war and peace in one of the last tribal societies on earth.

**Berlin Film Festival** Screening as part of the NATIVE series dedicated to the cinematic storytelling of Indigenous peoples from around the world.

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