



EMBARGOED UNTIL THURSDAY 26 SEPTEMBER 2019

BUOYANCY IS AUSTRALIA'S SUBMISSION FOR BEST INTERNATIONAL FEATURE FILM AT THE 92ND ACADEMY AWARDS®

Opening nationally across Australia today, Screen Australia supported feature *Buoyancy* is Australia's official submission for the Best International Feature Film at the 2020 Academy Awards®. The Khmer and Thai language film will compete with the other entrants from around the world to be shortlisted for nomination.

Already a major award winner from the 2019 Berlinale and now causing ripples around the world, *Buoyancy* is the stunning debut feature from Australian writer/director Rodd Rathjen, produced by Causeway Films' Sam Jennings (*Cargo*) and Kristina Ceyton (*The Nightingale*, *The Babadook*), with Rita Walsh (*I Used to be Normal: A Boyband Fangirl Story*).

Inspired by real events, the film is an intense, stylish thriller shot almost entirely at sea, and is the story of 14yo Cambodian Chakra who leaves home in search of a better life, but finds himself enslaved on a fishing trawler.

Director/writer **Rodd Rathjen** said "The experience of making a film in Cambodia was life-changing and it was an honour to work with cast and crew from Cambodia, Thailand, Vietnam and Myanmar. This is a subject incredibly close to my heart."

Producers **Sam Jennings** and **Kristina Ceyton** said "The whole team of *Buoyancy* is profoundly honoured to be Australia's submission for this always-exceptional category of the Academy Awards®. This film has been made possible by the extraordinary commitment of all those involved, and the courage of survivors who shared their stories. They entrusted us to bring their experiences to the world because, as one person put it "No one can hear us, nobody knows we are here."

Graeme Mason, CEO of Screen Australia said: "*Buoyancy* is a thought-provoking and moving story about human trafficking, but also a universal story of how poverty dehumanises people. The creative team from Causeway Films have a great track record of creating powerful debut feature films that resonate with audiences locally and internationally. This demonstrates how Australians are capable of telling world stories for global audiences. It's a great privilege to submit this distinctive film to the Academy on behalf of Australia, following its festival success at Berlin International Film Festival and Melbourne International Film Festival."

Australia has submitted films into the Best International Feature Film (formerly Best Foreign Language Film) category at the Academy Awards® since 1996. The film was chosen by a committee of Australian industry professionals convened by Screen Australia. As of 2019, thirteen Australian films have been submitted including the Yolngu Matha and Gunwinggu language film *Ten Canoes* (2006); Warlpiri language film *Samson and Delilah* (2009), Lao language film *The Rocket* (2013) and Nauvhal language film *Tanna* (2016), which was awarded an official nomination.

Buoyancy received major production investment from Screen Australia in association with Ferocious Entertainment, MIFF Premiere Fund, Film Victoria and post-production company Definition Films. Umbrella Entertainment is distributing the film in Australia and New Zealand, with international sales handled by Charades and Echo Studio.

Watch the trailer & find out more here: www.buoyancyfilm.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/buoyancythefilm/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/BuoyancyTheFilm>

In cinemas nationally from September 26

NSW: Dendy Newtown

ACT: Dendy Canberra

VIC: Cinema Nova, Sun Yarraville and Classic Elsternwick

QLD: Dendy Coorparoo

SA: Nova East End

WA: Luna Leederville

FESTIVALS & AWARDS

World Premiere: Berlin International Film Festival

Winner, Prize of the Ecumenical Jury Panorama 2019 * Audience Award Panorama Third Place 2019

GWFF Best First Feature Award Nomination 2019 * Amnesty International Award Nomination 2019

Australian Premiere: Melbourne International Film Festival

Top 5 MIFF Audience Award winner * Special Mention - Age Critics Jury Prize for Best Australian Film"

In Competition: Asia Pacific Screen Awards

Official Selection: Cinefest Oz

Nominated: ATOM Awards Best Fiction Feature Film

Official Selection: Chicago International Film Festival (26 October 2019)

Cambodian theatrical release date: 17 October 2019

French theatrical release date: 27 November 2019

MATERIALS FOR MEDIA

Including press kit, stills, BTS stills, branded stills for social use, trailer and clips for online

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/0aa2xokclufb04g/AAD4PqBJJYUSML4qull8Yfata?dl=0>

BROADCAST QUALITY CLIPS incl BTS

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/13xz13314csyq0w/AAC4TtKGugPI3hAPeDK5i9mHa?dl=0>

ABOUT CAUSEWAY FILMS

CAUSEWAY FILMS is an Australian production company, founded by producers Kristina Ceyton and Sam Jennings, focused on creating entertaining, socially relevant screen stories that allow original voices to achieve international success. Causeway's first feature film, psychological thriller *The Babadook* by writer/director Jennifer Kent, premiered at the 2014 Sundance Film Festival to great critical and commercial success. The film went on to win many Best Film and Screenplay Awards, including three Australian Academy Awards (AACTAs), the 2014 New York Film Critics Circle Award for Best First Film, and receiving a British Independent Film Awards Nomination.

In 2018, Causeway launched two features, Jennifer Kent's highly anticipated second feature, *The Nightingale*, co-produced with Made Up Stories' Bruna Papandrea and Steve Hutensky. *The Nightingale* had its World Premiere at the prestigious Venice Film Festival, where it won two awards. Feature film *Cargo*, starring Martin Freeman, was released as Australia's first Netflix Original feature film in May 2018, after premiering at Tribeca, and received five AACTA award nominations including Best Film.

With a passion for fostering exceptional new talent, Causeway's latest film, the Cambodian-shot feature debut by Rodd Rathjen, *Buoyancy*, had its World Premiere at the 2019 Berlin Film Festival where it won the Ecumenical Jury Prize, and its Australian Premiere at the Melbourne International Film Festival. It is in competition for the Asia Pacific Awards and one of four finalists in the 2019 ATOM Awards for Best Fiction Feature.