



INAUGURAL AUSTRALIAN INTERNATIONAL SCREEN FORUM TO SHOWCASE AUSTRALIAN FILM, TV & DIGITAL CONTENT WITH SCREENINGS, INDUSTRY EVENTS & SPEAKERS

TAKES PLACE IN NEW YORK CITY MARCH 19 – 22, 2018

Hosted by the Film Society of Lincoln Center
In Partnership with Screen Australia, Ausfilm, the Chris and Francesca Beale Foundation
the Independent Filmmaker Project (IFP), The Australian Consulate-General, Qantas
and Arthur. J. Gallagher & Co.

New York Premiere of Simon Baker's **BREATH**, North American Premiere of Jennifer Peedom's
MOUNTAIN and New York Premiere of Warwick Thornton's **SWEET COUNTRY**

Sheila Nevins, John Seale and Mark Johnson Announced as Keynote Speakers

NEW YORK, NY (February 8, 2018) – Showcasing groundbreaking new Australian content, workshops with leading film industry mentors, and heralding exciting homegrown filmmakers, the inaugural Australian International Screen Forum was announced today to take place in New York City across March 19-22, 2018. Hosted by the Film Society of Lincoln Center, the Forum will include screenings and previews, industry-focused events, seminars, roundtables, keynote conversations, and master classes, to highlight the creative cinema, television and digital content emerging from Australia's burgeoning entertainment industry, and foster new relationships and international growth between the film industries of Australia and the United States.

The non-profit industry event, presented in partnership with Screen Australia, Ausfilm, the Chris and Francesca Beale Foundation, IFP, The Australian Consulate-General, Qantas and Arthur. J. Gallagher & Co., will feature screenings including the New York Premiere of Simon Baker's directorial debut film **BREATH**, an adaptation of author Tim Winton's novel of the same name. Baker will participate in a post-screening Q & A. Additional films screening at the forum will include the North American Premiere of Jennifer Peedom's **MOUNTAIN**, narrated by Willem Dafoe, with Peedom participating in a post screening Q & A, and New York Premiere of Warwick Thornton's **SWEET COUNTRY**, starring Bryan Brown, Sam Neill, Hamilton Morris and Matt Day. The retrospective program includes a special 30th anniversary screening of Steve Jodrell's **SHAME**, starring Deborra-lee Furness, who will also be in attendance for a post screening conversation, as well as the newly restored version of Gillian Armstrong's 1982 comedy musical **STARSTRUCK**.

The forum will include keynote conversations from 32 time Emmy® Award-winning and 26 time Academy® Award-winning former President of HBO Documentary Films **Sheila Nevins**, Academy® Award-winning cinematographer **John Seale** (**MAD MAX: FURY ROAD**, **THE ENGLISH PATIENT**, **THE TALENTED MR. RIPLEY**), Academy Award®-winning producer **Mark Johnson** (**RAIN MAN**, **GOOD MORNING VIETNAM**, **DOWNSIZING**), and **Simon Baker** (**THE MENTALIST**, **MARGIN CALL**), with more to be announced in the coming weeks.

The forum will also incorporate a variety of industry events open to industry members, filmmakers and the public, including panels and workshops such as a Masterclass in Directing, hosted by director and producer

Gillian Armstrong (LITTLE WOMEN, MY BRILLIANT CAREER). Additional topics will include career and project development in the U.S., particularly in the independent space. The program also includes a panel and information session by Australia's screen services industry body, Ausfilm on screen production tax incentives, targeted at small to mid-budget films.

Through the support of Screen Australia, 13 of Australia's most exciting screen creatives will travel to New York City for the forum and will participate in an intensive and bespoke professional development program. With direct access to NY-based industry leaders and workshops produced by the IFP, the filmmakers will learn how to take the next step in their careers—including pitching in the US market, working with talent agents, sourcing finance, latest trends in developing and packaging projects, finding production and distribution partners, pathways to audience, and new opportunities for story in new platforms.

The filmmakers are: Kacie Anning; Dave Carter and Nikos Andronicos; Natalie Erika James; Alice Englert; Julie Kalceff; Stephen McCallum; Catherine S. McMullen; Alexei Mizin and Ryan van Dijk; Billie Pleffer; Dylan River and Miley Tunnecliffe. More information on the filmmakers [here](#).

"The Australian international Screen Forum offers a unique platform for the Australian industry to connect with the New York-based studios, distributors, agencies, producers and creatives. While smaller than Los Angeles, the New York film industry is diverse, from independent features to documentary, TV, digital and advertising and it remains heavily focused on uncovering new talent. This is our opportunity to shine a light on what the Australian screen sector has to offer," said Chris Beale, Chairman of the Australian International Screen Forum.

"We are thrilled to launch the inaugural Australian International Screen Forum. Many cutting edge indie studios and creatives call New York City home - such as A24, IFC, Neon Rated and Scott Rudin Productions - and we thought what better place to set up shop, provide a setting where the local industry can easily turn up, see new Australian film and television, have a wine or two and potentially meet the next Kate Dennis, Shane Brennan or James Wan. We are thankful to the Film Society of Lincoln Center and all of our partners for their support," said Michael Kelleher, Executive Director of the Australian International Screen Forum.

"On behalf of Screen Australia, I want to express our sincere thanks to the Australian International Screen Forum and Film Society of Lincoln Center for creating and hosting the Forum," said Graeme Mason, CEO of Screen Australia. "It's remarkable to consider that two countries so geographically distant could become such close creative and commercial partners, in an industry as competitive as entertainment. It speaks to the shared affection for each other's stories, and a genuine desire for our very talented people to be able to work together. We are honoured to have been able assist the Australian International Screen Forum curate the inaugural Forum and look forward to inviting New Yorkers to enjoy some Australian tales."

Ausfilm CEO, Debra Richards is delighted to be supporting the Forum and said, "The Australian International Screen Forum in New York complements the work by Ausfilm in connecting international filmmakers to Australia's innovative and talented film and television industry. The Forum is an excellent and timely platform to encourage creative collaboration and partnerships between New York and Australia's screen industries and Ausfilm is delighted to support the program with a panel focusing on Australia's screen production incentives."

The Australian International Screen Forum is co-founded by Chris Beale and Michael Kelleher, with partners including Screen Australia, Ausfilm, the Chris and Francesca Beale Foundation, IFP, the Australian Consulate-General, Qantas and Arthur. J. Gallagher & Co.

Additional programming and events will be announced in the coming weeks.

Tickets and passes will be available for purchase beginning Thursday, February 15th. For information, tickets, passes and a complete schedule please visit: <https://www.australianscreenforum.org/>.

2018 AUSTRALIAN INTERNATIONAL SCREEN FORUM PROGRAMMING INCLUDES:

SCREENINGS

BREATH

New York Premiere

Director: Simon Baker

Synopsis: Based on Tim Winton's award-winning novel of the same name, Simon Baker's feature film directorial debut BREATH follows two teenage boys, Pikelet (Samson Coulter) and Loonie (Ben Spence), growing up in a remote corner of the Western Australian coast. Hungry for discovery, the pair form an unlikely friendship with Sando (Simon Baker), a mysterious older surfer and adventurer, who pushes the boys to take risks that will have a lasting and profound impact on their lives.

MOUNTAIN

North American Premiere

Director: Jennifer Peedom

Synopsis: A unique cinematic and musical collaboration between the Australian Chamber Orchestra and BAFTA-nominated director Jennifer Peedom, MOUNTAIN is a dazzling exploration of our obsession with mountains. Only three centuries ago, climbing a mountain would have been considered close to lunacy. The idea scarcely existed that wild landscapes might hold any sort of attraction. Peaks were places of peril, not beauty. Why, then, are we now drawn to mountains in our millions? MOUNTAIN shows us the spellbinding force of high places – and their ongoing power to shape our lives and our dreams.

SHAME: 30TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION

RESTORED BY THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL FILM AND SOUND ARCHIVE

Director: Steve Jodrell

Synopsis: Men in a small W.A. town think a gang-rape is no more than 'boys being boys' until a Perth lawyer (Deborra-lee Furness) needs to stay over after a car accident. Chaos and death force the town's people to see the crimes as they really are.

STARSTRUCK

RESTORED BY THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL FILM AND SOUND ARCHIVE

Director: Gillian Armstrong

Synopsis: A musical comedy about the adventures of Jackie Mullens and her punk-rock group, the Wombats.

SWEET COUNTRY

New York Premiere

Director: Warwick Thornton

Synopsis: Australian western set on the Northern Territory frontier in the 1920s, where justice itself is put on trial when an aged Aboriginal farmhand shoots a white man in self-defense and goes on the run as posse gathers to hunt him down.

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ABOUT AUSTRALIAN INTERNATIONAL SCREEN FORUM

The inaugural Australian International Screen Forum New York City is hosted by the Film Society of Lincoln Center. The forum will include screenings, industry-focused events, seminars, roundtables, keynote conversations, master classes and educational activities to showcase Australian film, television and digital content in the U.S. Event partners include Screen Australia, Ausfilm, the Chris and Francesca Beale Foundation, IFP, The Australian Consulate-General, Qantas and Arthur. J. Gallagher & Co. The four-day event will take place from March 19 – 22, 2018 at Film Society of Lincoln Center. For more information visit <https://www.australianscreenforum.org/>.

ABOUT SCREEN AUSTRALIA

Screen Australia is the Australian Federal Government agency charged with supporting Australian screen content through development, production and promotion across television, film, documentary and digital originals. The agency administers Australia's official co-production program, in addition to the Producer Offset tax rebate which assists eligible television, film and online works to be made. Screen Australia provides a range of resources and opportunities to the industry including access to research, market intelligence plus special initiatives such as its highly successful Gender Matters program. For more information visit screenaustralia.gov.au.

ABOUT AUSFILM

Ausfilm connects international filmmakers with Australia's talent, screen agencies, locations, studio complexes and production facilities. On behalf of the Australian Government, Ausfilm markets Australia's Screen Production Incentive Scheme which comprises the Location, PDV (post, digital and visual effects) and Producer Offsets. Ausfilm is an Australian industry – government partnership. It comprises Australia's Federal and State Governments; the major studios; leading post, sound and visual effects facilities; and production service providers. Ausfilm has offices in Los Angeles and Sydney. For more information visit www.ausfilm.com.

ABOUT ARTHUR J. GALLAGHER & CO.

Arthur J. Gallagher & Co., an international insurance brokerage and risk management services firm, is headquartered in Rolling Meadows, Illinois, has operations in 33 countries and offers client service capabilities in more than 150 countries around the world through a network of correspondent brokers and consultants. Gallagher Entertainment Practice is dedicated to supporting the diverse challenges of countless global organizations that are part of the entertainment field or support the industry.

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