

13<sup>TH</sup> BRISBANE INTERNATIONAL  
**FILM FESTIVAL**

27 JULY - 8 AUGUST 2004 [WWW.BIFF.COM.AU](http://WWW.BIFF.COM.AU)

## BIFF's World Cinema Program

**"it is the same feelings that drive us, destroy us and delight us all"** Anne D my-Geroe

BIFF's World Cinema Program is renowned for offering audiences a kaleidoscopic mix of cinema from across the globe. This year's World Cinema Program delivers all the drama, comedy, romance, wonder and quirkiness that audiences have come to expect from BIFF.

Like a well traveled suitcase *No Rest for the Brave* from French director Guiraudie has attracted an assortment of labels including 'neo-noir surrealist roadmovie'. This adventure follows Basile as he refuses to sleep for fear of dying as his dream premonition foretold. After a massacre in his home village Basile disappears causing a nosy journalist to track the enigmatic character across the South of France.

A more human and linear but equally captive roadmovie, *25 Degrees of Winter*, from Belgium director Stephane Vuillet, follows empathic Miguel as he takes upon the plight of illegal Ukranian immigrant, Sonia in the search for her husband. Miguel, his overbearing mother, his curious daughter and the yearning Sonia take to the road in search of their fate, Sonia's husband and an adventure worthy of the many accolades it has already received.

Runner up for the Cannes 2003 Grand Jury Prize, Turkish feature *Distant*, provides a universally recognizable story of urban loneliness and emotional decay. Successful advertising photographer Mahmut leads an ordered and lonely post-marital life where his kicks come from porn and order. Despite his loneliness Mahmut is unable to relate to his cousin Yusuf who comes to Istanbul seeking work. This minimalist film takes moments of lightness in its elegant stride enhancing its strong emotional impact.

It is as it was. Or at least that is the tag line from Canadian feature *Phil the Alien*. Whilst not exactly screaming nudity, thank goodness, *Phil the Alien* is an obscure drug induced ET which follows Phil as he crash lands to earth in the middle of the Canadian wilderness. Phil's attempts to return home are hindered by his discovery of earthly vices that see him become a drunk, a Christian rock singer, a mass murderer and the friend of a talking beaver. *Phil the Alien* is the overdue love child of Twin Peaks, Caddy Shack and somehow ET.

Whilst diverse and culturally specific the films featured in the BIFF World Cinema Program remind audiences, as BIFF Artistic Director Anne D my-Geroe stated "that at this very crucial time, whilst culturally different it is the same feelings that drive us, destroy us and delight us all".

BIFF's World Cinema Program provides viewers with an insight into an array of worlds many of us will never know personally but can learn from directly.

For the full BIFF 2004 World Cinema Program, ticketing details and screening times, visit the BIFF website [www.biff.com.au](http://www.biff.com.au) or pick up a copy of the program at Hoyts Regent.

For further information about BIFF 2004 the general public can contact:  
email. [biff@biff.com.au](mailto:biff@biff.com.au) or ph. **07 3007 3003**

Film lovers are encouraged to subscribe to the Festival newsletter via the website for up-to-the-minute information on guests and programming.

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