

PACIFIC FILM
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COMMISSION

MEDIA RELEASE

Monday, June 21, 2004

Geoffrey Rush **to receive BIFF's 2004 Chauvel Award**

Brisbane International Film Festival (BIFF) is proud to announce that the recipient of this year's Chauvel Award is international star of the screen **Geoffrey Rush**.

The Chauvel Award, presented in honour of great Australian filmmaker Charles Chauvel and his wife Elsa, is just one example of BIFF and the Brisbane City Council's ongoing support for Australia's ever-expanding film industry.

Mayor Campbell Newman, who will present the award this year, said "*Geoffrey Rush deserves praise not only for his incredible list of roles and awards, but most importantly for his ability to maintain both an international and local industry presence*".

Born in Toowoomba, Geoffrey Rush started his acting career with the Queensland Theatre Company and has continued to perform on the stage throughout his career but it is his film work that has brought him international success.

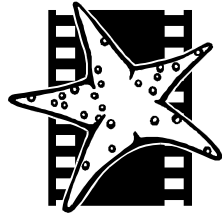
Career-wise, 1995 took Rush to a new level. He appeared as the near-mute Dave in *On Our Selection* and with Judy Davis in *Children Of The Revolution*. But his big break came with *Shine*, based on the tale of disturbed pianist/composer David Helfgott who made a successful stage comeback after years spent in psychiatric homes.

Rush took the 1997 Best Actor Oscar and Best Actor Golden Globe for the role. He won a BAFTA for *Shine* too and the awards and nominations have continued ever since for his roles in *Elizabeth*, *Shakespeare In Love* and *Quills* to name a few.

Rush has also continued to support Australian productions with roles in films such as the acclaimed *Lantana* and *Swimming Upstream*.

2003 was his busiest and most successful year yet. He enjoyed a \$300 million hit by lending his voice to *Finding Nemo*. Then came more box-office glory with *Pirates Of The Caribbean: The Curse Of The Black Pearl*. He followed this up with *Ned Kelly* and the Coen brother's *Intolerable Cruelty*.

BIFF Artistic Director Ann Démy-Geroe said "*Geoffrey Rush has had the kind of career that actors strive for. His international success is testimony to his dedication to his craft and to the industry he works in.*"



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Past recipients of the Chauvel Award have included producer Anthony Buckley, actor Bryan Brown, cinematographer John Seale, and documentarists Bob Connolly and Robin Anderson.

Lord Mayor Campbell Newman will present the Chauvel Award to Geoffrey Rush at a ceremony on July 28.

Media contacts:

Scrabble PR

Gabe Cramb or Lisa Wickbold

07 3216 0733 / 07 3216 0722

gabe@scrabble.net.au

lisa@scrabble.net.au
