



PACIFIC FILM  
AND TELEVISION  
COMMISSION

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## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **The Party of the Year! Brisbane International Film Festival's Opening Night Celebrations**

Brisbane will be alive with mayhem and chaos when Geoffrey Rush and his alter-ego Hrundi V. Bakshi attend the opening night of the 13<sup>th</sup> Brisbane International Film Festival on 27 July 2004, Minister for the Arts Anna Bligh announced tonight.

Born in Toowoomba, Academy Award® winning actor Geoffrey Rush stars in *The Life and Death of Peter Sellers* that will screen as part of the gala Opening Night celebrations. Hrundi V. Bakshi is the character made famous by Peter Sellers in *The Party*.

Ms Bligh said the launch of the Brisbane International Film Festival (BIFF) would celebrate both home-grown talent and stunning international cinema in one screening.

“Opening Night will be the only opportunity for BIFF audiences to see *The Life and Death of Peter Sellers*, which received a 20-minute standing ovation at the Cannes Film Festival. It sets the standard for this year's BIFF, which promises audiences the highest calibre of cinema across all genres from feature films to short animation, documentary and horror,” said Ms Bligh.

Geoffrey Rush has also starred in *Shine*, *Quills*, *Pirates of the Caribbean*, *Swimming Upstream* and was also the narrator for the Academy Award® winning short film *Harvie Krumpet*. By purchasing a ticket for Opening Night, the public can join him, international guests and local filmmaking talent on the red carpet for the screening at Greater Union Hoyts Regent, followed by a party afterwards.

*The Life and Death of Peter Sellers* traces the British comic's turbulent rise from a popular BBC radio performer to one of the world's most gifted actors. Propelled by an overly possessive mother, Sellers struggled to reconcile his relationship with women, celebrity and his many personalities. *The Life and Death of Peter Sellers* also stars Academy Award® winner Charlize Theron as Britt Eckland, John Lithgow as the filmmaker Blake Edwards and Emily Watson as Sellers' first wife, Anne Howe.

BIFF tickets will be available from **Thursday 8 July 2004**, when Minister Bligh will officially launch the full BIFF programme. Opening Night tickets can be booked by calling the BIFF hotline on 07 3007 3007, or visiting [www.biff.com.au](http://www.biff.com.au).

**Date:** Tuesday 27 July 2004  
**Time:** 8:00pm  
**Venue:** Greater Union Hoyts Regent  
**Tickets:** \$65 / Special Offer \$60 if purchased in addition to a 'take-5 pass'

Film lovers are encouraged to subscribe to the BIFF newsletter via [www.biff.com.au](http://www.biff.com.au) for up-to-the-minute information on guests and programming.

**Ends**

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