

13TH BRISBANE INTERNATIONAL
FILM FESTIVAL

27 JULY - 8 AUGUST 2004 WWW.BIFF.COM.AU

Brisbane International Film Festival (BIFF) 2004 present in Association
with Brisbane City Council

Australian Children's Film Festival

Pack up your parents and head to BIFF!

Expect the crackle of chip packets, slurping of slushies, plenty of chattering and more than a bit of spilled popcorn when the Australian Children's Film Festival hits Greater Union Hoyts Regent Cinema at BIFF this year.

Presented in association with Brisbane City Council, the inclusion of a dedicated (and free for the kiddies!) children's program is an important element of the whole BIFF program in 2004.

Mayor Campbell Newman said "*Brisbane City Council is proud to present such a diverse and innovative program, particularly when the amount of quality films available for our children to watch are in such scarce supply*".

The films have been selected for ages 9 – 12yrs (or years 4 – 7) and with the majority of screenings programmed at 10am weekdays, it's perfectly timed for school groups. All foreign language films included in the childrens program feature voice over narration to assist our smallest cinema buffs keep up with the subtitles. BIFF 2004 also caters for Young Adults 15+ with a number of titles including the the Cocteau film *Beauty and the Beast*, the only retro title open for viewing to under 18s.

It's not just for the littlies. BIFF's 2004 Children's Program will provide parents or carers with a lighter look at life that is richer and more rewarding than your normal kid's film fodder.

Following BIFF's successful Family Matinee of *Emil and the Detectives* two years ago, the festival is very pleased to screen another film based on the classic story by celebrated German children's author Erich Kästner, *The Flying Classroom*. Twelve year old Jonathan has one last chance when he arrives at the St. Thomas boarding school in Leipzig. As he settles in and makes friends with his roommates, they take him to their secret meeting place: an abandoned train car. It is there that they one day discover a mysterious stranger named Bob and the script for a play, *The Flying Classroom*.

Though there is an international focus to the festival, Australian films are always well represented; *Animal Tales*, from highly acclaimed Australian animator Lucinda Clutterbuck is for all ages. Accompanying it will be *The Echidna and the Turtle*, a film made by children from a school in the Northern Territory, which will be screened with a making of the film.

For those small humans who have a petite attention span, there is a range of entertaining short films and animations from Canada and the UK, as well as Aussie productions, including *Swashbuckler*, a home-grown short about two friends dreaming of finding happiness in a world that all seems wrong.

The Blue Butterfly, is a gorgeous film from Canada, inspired by a true story – a tale of strenght through adversity and aspiring to achieve your goals despite the challenges life places in the way. This amazing adventure will give hope and a renewed belief in miracles to viewers of all ages.

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BIFF also recognises that many teens have a passion for film, and have selected three incredible films appropriate for those 15 years and over: *The Wooden Camera* (South Africa. Screening July 28 10am), *The Story of the Weeping Camel* (Mongolia. Screening July 31 5pm) and *Bright Leaves* (America. August 4 10am).

Admission for the children's films is free for under 18s, and \$12.50 for adults.

Admission for adolescents 15 – 18 years is \$8.00.

School groups can book direct by emailing schools@biff.com.au

Programme information is correct at time of distribution and may be subject to change.

For the full BIFF 2004 Australian Children's Film Festival, ticketing details and screening times, visit the BIFF website 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 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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