

14TH BRISBANE INTERNATIONAL

27 JUL - 8 AUG 2005 WWW.BIFF.COM.AU

film
festival
presented by VISION

**For immediate release
Wednesday 3 August 2005**

Half way through BIFF - highlights of the week ahead

The 14th Brisbane International Film Festival presented by Vision is gaining steam and with a huge variety of films for all to enjoy and plenty of acclaimed international guests attending, audiences are encouraged to take advantage of the remaining bold and eclectic programme of screenings and events.

One of the most anticipated guests of this Festival is Zainap Gashaeva, whose film *Coca: The Dove From Chechnya* is remarkable just for its existence. Chronicling the daily abuse she witnessed at her village in the Russian-controlled province of Chechnya, *Coca...* is a brave and challenging film produced despite the threat to her personal safety.

Zainap will be landing in Brisbane on Thursday 4 August after flying out of Moscow mere hours after her visa was granted. The Festival is absolutely thrilled that after 3 months of negotiation, Zainap will be able to introduce the two screenings of her film in person. Don't miss *Coca: The Dove From Chechnya*, introduced by this remarkable Nobel Prize nominee on Thursday, 4pm and Saturday, 7:15pm. Both screenings will be held at South Bank Cinemas.

His programme *Blacktop Dreams* assembled some of the greatest road movies of all time, but curator Jack Sargeant is a festival highlight in himself. The eccentric Brit introduce all *Blacktop Dreams* screenings this week. Highlights include Friday's free double bill of *The Motorcycle Diaries* and *Y Tu Mama Tambien* on Friday night and the *Mad Max* triple bill on Saturday night. Bring a cushion and secure your seat early!

Music lovers are well catered for with the 'Murmurs From The Flipside' programme. Anyone who loved the Seattle music explosion in the early 90s shouldn't miss director Scot Barbour present his film *Malfunkshun*, about the life and death of Andrew Wood of Mother Love Bone. For those whose tastes veer towards hip hop and RnB, *The Freshest Kids: A History of the B-boy*, is unmissable.

Our young people have not been left out with the incredibly diverse Cine Sparks programme. Over the next five days, young people and their families can take part in a host of free screenings and workshops, with the Family Fun Day on Sunday drawing the programme to a spectacular close with a Bollywood Dreams Dance Extravaganza. MIZ continue to present 'Our Mob In The Movies', a collection of Indigenous films, while workshops in VJing, Mobile Soapies, cinematic writing, video production and much more will also be held.

Owen Land was one of the most original and celebrated American filmmakers of the 1960s and 1970s. His two most complex films: *Wide Angle Saxon* in which a man has a spiritual revelation during an avante-garde screening and *On the Marriage Broker*, whose disparate cast of characters include two pandas discussing the marketing of salted plums form the centrepiece of this retrospective. If you're into experimental film, meet curator and Pulp-guitarist Mark Webber as he presents *Reverence: The films of Owen Land*.

The Asia Pacific region is producing a great number of films, which has led to the creation of a programme to bring the region to the film-viewing public's attention. This week's highlights include *The Taste of Tea*, *Vital*, *Woman Is The Future of Man* and *Holiday Dreaming*. Of course Australian cinema has not been neglected either - *Blacktown*, *Girl in a Mirror*, *I Told You I Was Ill: Spike Milligan*, *Look Both Ways* and *Jabe Babe: A Heightened Life* are still to come.

To show that there's more to Indian cinema than Bollywood, the Festival presents '50 Years of Malayalam Cinema', a retrospective of the region's rich cultural history, which unfortunately is fairly unknown in the West. Korean Independent Cinema and Chinese Underground Cinema are also featured heavily in this year's program, with some amazing films still to show.

Starring Oscar-winner Adrien Brody, Kris Kristofferson and Keira Knightley, closing night film *The Jacket* is the story of a US soldier who miraculously survives being shot in the head on a Gulf War battlefield. This timely film is about the cost war has on the men and women who risk their life, and their sanity, for their country. It will close a Festival that featured many provocative films examining the toll of war and politics on populations all around the world.

Of course, quality films from around the world have been selected for the Festival program. *Up and Down* (Czech Republic), *Notre Musique* (France/Switzerland), *Dead Man's Shoes* (UK) and *Boats out of Watermelon Rinds* (Turkey) are just some of the pics still to show.

For ticketing information and screening times please visit www.biff.com.au, www.cinesparks.com.au or phone 07 3007 3007.

For information on parking, meal deals and film classification, please refer to www.biff.com.au or the Festival booking guide.

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

The 14th Brisbane International Film Festival presented by Vision is an initiative of the Pacific Film and Television Commission.

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27 July - 8 August
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