

14TH BRISBANE INTERNATIONAL

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

film
festival
presented by VISION

For immediate release
Wednesday 6 July 2005

Cine Sparks - The Australian Film Festival for Young People

Brisbane International Film Festival presented by Vision, takes visual literacy for young people seriously - and has serious fun while they do it!

Cine Sparks - The Australian Film Festival for Young People, is a major element of BIFF's 2005 program, yet it's not just about film. It's a great way for young people to discover new media, enhance their burgeoning visual literacy skills and have a great time.

Coinciding with the festival's relocation to South Bank and increased funding from Queensland Government, the expansion and re-branding of Cine Sparks has been programmed to appeal to young people aged eight to 18 years.

The Australian Children's Film Festival has been a part of BIFF's program since 2002, but in 2005 will expand on the traditional boundaries of what would constitute a film festival for children, to incorporate all aspects of visual communication, including television, gaming, computer and mobile phone based media.

Minister for Education and The Arts, Hon. Anna Bligh, M.P. said the expansion of the programme was an opportunity to educate young people about visual media and its significance in today's society.

"We live in an age where visual media and technologies are becoming increasingly important in our day-to-day lives," she said. "If we are to stay at the forefront of these technologies, it is essential we provide young people with the skills to understand the media, critically analyse it and produce their own."

Cine Sparks will screen quality Australian and international films, programmed with three age groups in mind: 8 years+, 13 years+ and 15 years+, with films sourced from Japan, Iran, Germany, Norway, the Netherlands and Spain. As BIFF Artistic Director, Anne Démy-Geroe states, "If you want to know what young people in the Philippines or Iran or Germany or Japan really think, it's better to hear their voices directly".

Supporting the feature films will be a number of short films, including many produced by children. A special selection of Queensland films will also screen.

With links directly to the existing Education Queensland curriculum, the programme is aimed mostly at school groups, but there will also be activities specifically for families on Family Fun Days in the South Bank precinct.

After screenings (held at Southbank Cinemas or South Bank's Suncorp Piazza), kids can stroll to Cine Sparks Workshop Centre, corner of Tribune and Little Stanley Streets, South Brisbane for interactive and informative workshops. Workshops cover such diverse and fun activities as music and video production, flash animation, comic strip storytelling and making short films using mobile phone technology.

Young adults will be thrilled with ACMI State of Play: Games with an Agenda, a free computer game chill-out zone in Southbank Cinemas' foyer with a range of games that pack political punch! These games have an agenda, and aim to get young adults thinking about the state of the world. The package of computer games has been curated by ACMI and titles include *Escape from Woomera* and *Kabul Kaboom!*

Free activities on Family Fun Days have been programmed for each Sunday during the festival across the South Bank precinct, where Mums, Dads, kids and carers can take part in a Bollywood dance workshop, check out stunt shows and see how animals act!

Cine Sparks includes film sessions during and after school hours on weekdays, as well as on weekends. Entry to films is free during school hours for children and young adults: a small fee applies to workshop entry. School groups will need to book in advance by calling the festival on (07) 3007 3007.

A small fee applies for adults wishing to attend screenings at Southbank Cinemas.

The Cine Spark programme in Suncorp Piazza is completely free.

A dedicated website will extend the cinematic experience far beyond the conventional, providing opportunities for young people to interact, create, learn and play online. Click on www.cinesparks.com.au and check it out!

Tickets for the 14th Brisbane International Film Festival go on sale on Wednesday 6 July and are available from www.biff.com.au or by phone on (07) 3007 3007 between 9am and 4pm daily from 6 July to 26 July, then from one hour before the first screening of the day until late during the festival.

Tickets are also available from the BIFF ticket box at the Hoyts Regent Cinema (Queen St Mall) or Southbank Cinemas (167 Grey St, South Bank) between 9am and 4pm daily from 6 July to 26 July, then from one hour before the first screening of the day until late during the festival.

For information on parking, meal deals and film classification, please refer to www.biff.com.au or the BIFF 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 is organised by Pacific Film and Television Commission.

BIFF 2005
27 July - 8 August
www.biff.com.au

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