

14TH BRISBANE INTERNATIONAL

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

film festival
presented by VISION

For immediate release
Wednesday 6 July 2005

Opening Night Celebration and Special Events

The 14th Brisbane International Film Festival (BIFF), presented by Vision, will make full use of its new home in the South Bank entertainment precinct with a range of special events, spectacular meal deals and brilliant after-parties!

With a reputation for celebrating cinema into the wee hours, BIFF is thrilled to announce that Opening Night in 2005 will encompass both a major celebration of world cinema and cinema that is created locally by emerging filmmakers.

For the first time, BIFF's Opening Celebration will happen on a Wednesday evening—27 July—with the screening of the powerful and brilliant interpretation of Bizet's *Carmen: U-Carmen eKhayelitsha*, from South Africa. Awarded the Golden Bear at the 2005 Berlin Film Festival, *U-Carmen eKhayelitsha* is a glorious fusion of African culture and the most stylised of European art forms, opera. This film, set in a Cape Town township and sung in the Xhosa tongue, will make your heart sing.

For those who prefer their films with a dash of speed, The Courier-Mail Brisbane International Film Festival Fast Film competition will screen the best entries in South Bank's Suncorp Piazza on Opening Night. This free event for the whole family is a showcase of the top short films entered in Fast Film. All entries were made in 50 days and feature the key ingredient: DIVE.

This year, the festival will close on Monday 8 August, allowing cinephiles to book into additional film screenings or attend other BIFF-related activities such as the free Cine Sparks Family Fun Days. Closing Night film is *The Jacket* - the remarkable feature by director John Maybury, starring Oscar winner Adrien Brody, Kris Kristofferson and Keira Knightley. Prepare to be thrilled in this gothic-horror, and enjoy the ride!

Showcase screenings at South Bank Cinemas will be *P.S.* —a Woody Allen-esque take on modern life and relationships starring Laura Linney, Topher Grace and Gabriel Byrne and *36 Quai des Orfèvres*, starring Gérard Depardieu and Daniel Auteuil. This top-notch French thriller is set in the shady world of a Parisian police section fighting organised crime.

Stick around after the showcase screenings and your ticket to *P.S.* or *36 Quai des Orfèvres* will grant you exclusive access and complimentary beverage on arrival to one of BIFF's legendary after-parties at a yet-to-be-announced venue at South Bank!

The festival prides itself on supporting worthy charities through a scheduled ticketed film screening, and in 2005 BIFF will throw its substantial fundraising weight behind one of the globe's most important groups - Medecins Sans Frontiers (Doctors Without Borders). All proceeds from ticket sales to the wonderful silent film *Piccadilly* (1929) will go directly to MSF.

Piccadilly is one of the pinnacles of British silent cinema. It is a stylish evocation of jazz age London, and will feature a specially commissioned original score performed live by Brisbane jazz pianist Clare Han'sson.

Opening Night film screening, Closing Night film screening, showcase film screenings and charity screening are restricted to audiences 18 years and over.

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 South Bank 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

For more information about BIFF 2005 please contact:

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