

Colour connects everything

COLOURISE BIFF

Celebrating the gathering spirit

Inviting you to catch Indigenous films and seminar at
18th St. George Bank Brisbane International FILM FESTIVAL,
JUL 30 - AUG 9 2009.

Sat 1 AUG 3 - 5PM

GoMA B, Southbank.

Welcome and Introduction to Country Ceremony with ColouriseBIFF Opening. SEMINAR: SCREEN GLOBAL SHOOT LOCAL.

This year a significant program of films by Indigenous filmmakers and about Indigenous people provides the food for thought and ideas for debate at the ColouriseBIFF 2009 seminar. Vast social, economic and climatic change is broadening the scope of thought around issues that were once specifically associated with the idea of underdevelopment in both first and third world countries. What is sustainable development? How does global support local and vice versa? How do we place ourselves locally and globally? Gather in dialogue with a panel of filmmakers, philosophers and thinkers to wonder, ponder, and pontificate the screen boundaries and interfaces of local and global, multi-cultural and political development, revealing intersections to enhance rather than fear change.

Sat 1 AUG 9.20PM

Regent 3,
Queen St Mall.

Birdwatchers 2008 (108mins) Brazil

Before moving to Milan, writer/director Marco Bechis, of Swiss-French and Italian origins, grew up in Sao Paulo and Buenos Aires; and Birdwatchers is based loosely on Marcos Veron a leader of the Guarani Kaiowà community of Takuára in Brazil. Before colonisation, Guarani homelands of forest and plains totaled some 350 square kilometers, but today there are around 46,000 Guarani living in seven states, crowded onto small allotments of land amidst cattle ranches and plantations of soya and sugar cane, where their labour is exploited. Some have no land at all, and live camped by roadsides. Birdwatchers, in its portrayal of this complex, illicit state of injustice and conflict that remains at the interface of many contemporary Indigenous and colonial societies, seems influenced by the socio-political approach of 1970s and 80s Cuban filmmakers, making it refreshingly unwonted and evocative.

Sun 2 AUG 11.00AM

GoMA B, Southbank.

LOS HEREDOS – The Inheritors 2008 (90mins) Mexico

Eugenio Polgovsky, at 17, won UNESCO's 1994 world photography contest "Living Together". His skill as a cinematographer is clearly demonstrated in "Los Heredos" which he also wrote, directed and edited. Polgovsky documents reality in rural Mexico, in a way that captures the people's dignity and humanity, as they organise their lives around the exploitation of their labour in the harvesting of tomato, chili and maize. They have inherited a strong social structure and networks, relationships to each other and the land, giving them an ability to endure and maintain subsistence, at which they are adept, despite immense adversity. Los Heredos, in taking the stance of the objective observer, induces its audience to question historic and current political conditions and systems that set and maintain many generations of peasant people, indigenous to the land, in a state of poverty.

Thurs 6 AUG

12.00PM

GoMA A, Southbank.

Sun 2 AUG 4.10PM

Regent 1,
Queen St Mall.

Mon 3 AUG 2.40PM

GoMA B, Southbank.

YARWNG - Roots 2008 (95mins) India

Described as a “cultural document” by filmmaker Father Joseph Pulinthanath of Kerala, in India, Yarwng tells of people displaced by the construction of the Dumbur Dam, which in 1979 submerged huge areas of arable land in the fertile Raima valley. Shot in the area impacted by the dam, and spoken in the local Kokborok language, the film was self-financed, made with minimum facilities and in adverse conditions. These elements, and its simple love story, indicate the authenticity of the film, intended to both engage local audiences - many acted in the film and had not seen a camera before - and inform the world of the gross injustice inflicted upon them. An award winner, Yarwng is another attractive example of filmmaking as a communication medium adapted to suit the cultural, social and political needs of many societies.

Bourke Boy 2009 (11mins) Australia

A story from Indigenous Director, Adrian Wills, captures much more than a generation gap when a father and his adopted teenage son take a trip together to visit his birthplace in Bourke NSW.

Mon 3 AUG 7.00PM

Regent 1,
Queen St Mall.

Sun 9 AUG 5.20PM

Regent 3,
Queen St Mall.

Strength of Water 2009 (86mins) New Zealand

Acclaimed award-winning Nga Puhi and Ngati Wai iwi writer Briar Grace-Smith's first feature The Strength of Water, is a care-full collaboration with award winning New Zealand director Armagan Ballantyne. Their work brings to cinema Briar Grace-Smith's capacity to convey spirit and reality, in a powerfully tender way. Deep concern for the welfare of youth in Indigenous societies produces more and more work which, in an act of support and promotion of change, draws upon audience capacity to examine and empathise. The Strength of Water takes us through the living landscapes of the Hokianga in the far north of New Zealand, like a rite of passage, to reflect upon the unfolding relationships of a young family - parents, brothers, sisters, cousins, friends - and the complexity of human frailty, revealed by the accidental death of a young girl.

Chief 2008 (21mins) United States

Director Brett Wagner creates a charming character in Samoan Semu Fatutoa who drives a taxi in Honolulu, Hawaii, to forget his old life. But his old life comes looking for him.

Visit www.colourise.com.au for program details. Enquiries: 0407 379 822.

General Admission to films \$15.00 / \$13.50 conc.

5 Tickets \$67.50/ \$50 off peak / \$61 conc.

Full BIFF program, ticket costs, travel and venue information
available at www.stgeorgebiff.com.au.



Dedicated to a better Brisbane