



# STRONGER THAN FICTION

DOCUMENTARY FILM FESTIVAL

THURSDAY **31 JULY** — SUNDAY **3 AUG**

PALACE ELECTRIC CINEMA NEWACTON

# THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS



## FESTIVAL HUB

Before and after each screening, join us at the Festival Hub at **Hotel Hotel** to meet visiting filmmakers and tell us what you think about the films you've seen. It's just upstairs from Palace Electric.

# WELCOME

Welcome to the second edition of Stronger than Fiction Documentary Film Festival, the first festival in the ACT dedicated to the art of the documentary. We are delighted to be back with an even stronger line up than last year.

We are living in a golden age of the documentary genre, fuelled by low-cost, high quality digital cameras and editing systems that mean filmmaking is accessible to almost anyone with a story to tell and the passion to tell it. And in the hands of the gifted, these stories - from France to Bangladesh, about inspiring people and events past and present - help shed new light on our world and those we share it with.

We are thrilled to present some of the latest award-winning documentary films from around the globe and some closer to home. Our Australian selection this year features two outstanding films by indigenous filmmakers, *Buckskin* and *Big Name, No Blanket*. The Canberra contribution is the premiere of Andrew Pike's *Message from Mungo*. As a national capital with an international community and outlook, Canberra is a perfect place to experience these richly layered stories that tell of powerful emotional journeys. We hope that they will delight, inspire and shock you, and we look forward to talking with you about them at the festival. See you in the foyer!



**SIMON WEAVING & DEBORAH KINGSLAND**  
CO-DIRECTORS, STRONGER THAN FICTION

# GALA OPENING NIGHT



## SCHOOL OF BABEL LA COUR DE BABEL

**An inspiring and vibrant story of how a group of children newly arrived in Paris deal with "integration" into their new culture.**

An inspiring and vibrant glimpse of contemporary France at its best, the documentary follows a class of 24 newly arrived migrant teenagers – all from different countries. We witness their grit and grace as they work to fit in, and the inspiration they draw from their extraordinary teacher.

After the screening join us for the Opening Night after party upstairs at Hotel Hotel.

**BRING A HANKIE...THE PEOPLE ARE SO LIKEABLE AND SOME OF THE MOMENTS CAPTURED SO FRAUGHT WITH FEELING THAT IT'S OFTEN HARD TO RESIST**

— FRANCE 24

**DIRECTOR:**  
Julie Bertuccelli

**COUNTRY:**  
France

**LANGUAGE:**  
French with  
English subtitles

**YEAR:**  
2014

**RUN TIME:**  
89 mins

# CLOSING NIGHT PARTY



## THE MANOR

**A frank and warm portrait of a peculiar family struggling to manage their health, stay together, and run a strip-club in a small country town.**

When he was six, Shawney Cohen's father bought a strip club. Thirty years later the Cohen's lifestyle has got the better of them. Shawney's mother barely eats, his 400-pound father prepares for stomach-reduction surgery, and Shawney's brother starts dating one of the strippers. Shawney, now outcast son turned filmmaker, provides a funny and intimate glimpse of the daily battles of a family struggling to stay together.

Join us for the Closing Night party upstairs at Hotel Hotel where we will announce the Audience Award for Best Film.

**A SHOCKINGLY HONEST AND OFTEN HEARTBREAKING FILM.**

— THE TORONTO STAR

**DIRECTOR:**  
Shawney Cohen

**COUNTRY:**  
Canada

**LANGUAGE:**  
English

**YEAR:**  
2013

**RUN TIME:**  
78 mins



## THE FLAT

**This astonishing film reveals the inconvenient WWII truth of a Jewish woman who escaped Nazi Germany but kept her secret past completely hidden from her family.**

As Israeli filmmaker Arnon Goldfinger is clearing out the Tel Aviv apartment of his 98-year-old grandmother, a Jewish immigrant from 1930s Berlin, he uncovers unsettling Nazi propaganda. Following the sometimes painful mystery, Goldfinger raises universal questions about the stories that get hidden between generations.

**DIRECTOR:**  
Arnon Goldfinger

**COUNTRY:**  
Israel

**LANGUAGE:**  
Hebrew, German and English with subtitles

**YEAR:**  
2012

**RUN TIME:**  
97 mins

**Q&A SPEAKER:**  
Dr Ben Mercer

**A SPELL-BINDING DOCUMENTARY ABOUT FAMILY SECRETS**

— ROGER EBERT, CHICAGO SUNDAY TIMES

## THE KILL TEAM

**A devastating examination of the hazy morality of war, as one soldier tries to alert the military to the murderous activities of his colleagues.**

This award-winning documentary follows a young soldier in Afghanistan who attempts to alert the military to horrific atrocities being committed by U.S. soldiers. In an astonishing turn of events, and accompanied by death threats, he becomes a target of one of the largest war crimes investigations in U.S. history.

**DIRECTOR:**  
Dan Krauss

**COUNTRY:**  
USA

**LANGUAGE:**  
English

**YEAR:**  
2014

**RUN TIME:**  
79 mins

**Q&A SPEAKERS:**  
Professor David Letts & Dr Dirk Van Rooy

**HITS ALL THE RIGHT BUTTONS: POLITICAL INJUSTICE, MORAL OUTRAGE, AND EMOTIONAL CATHARSIS**

— INDIEWIRE





## DOCO PITCH SLAM

Join the fun – and pitch your idea to an industry panel and get instant feedback. Pitch several ideas. Pitch everything you have! In just **sixty seconds** you could win: The Most Entertaining Pitch or the Stronger than Fiction Development Award, sponsored by ScreenACT or The Best Student Pitch - sponsored by Videocraft with a prize of \$500 worth of film equipment hire.

No filmmaking experience needed. Thunderous applause guaranteed for all pitchers! Bring a cheer squad!

**FREE** but places are limited so we recommend registering by sending an email to [strongerdocs@gmail.com](mailto:strongerdocs@gmail.com)

And to help you prepare, we'll send you some free pitching tips.

**videocraft**  
broadcast & professional video equipment

**SCREENACT**

## ARE YOU LISTENING! (SHUNTE KI PAOI)

**An intimate and humanistic story of a Bangladeshi family fighting for their future after a tidal surge destroys their village.**

With their coastal village left underwater after a cyclone, hundreds of Bangladeshi families are forced to live on a dyke, desperately trying to reclaim their land. This beautifully shot film follows one family's turbulent home life revealing the alarming effects of climate change and the fighting spirit of a community.

**DIRECTOR:**  
Kamar Ahmad Simon

**COUNTRY:**  
Germany

**LANGUAGE:**  
Bengali with English subtitles

**YEAR:**  
2013

**RUN TIME:**  
90 mins

**Q&A SPEAKER:**  
Dr Kuntala Lahiri-Dutt

**"A CLASSIC HUMANISTIC, CINEMATICALLY BRILLIANT WORK... BRINGS BACK MEMORIES OF THE APU-TRILOGY OF SATYAJIT RAY"**

— TUE STEEN MÜLLER, FIRST DIRECTOR OF EUROPEAN DOCUMENTARY NETWORK (EDN). FILM CRITIC



## THE UNKNOWN KNOWN

**A mesmerizing portrait of Donald Rumsfeld, the larger-than-life figure who, as George W. Bush's Secretary of Defense, was the principal architect of the Iraq War.**

Academy Award-winning filmmaker Errol Morris takes us where few have been — into the unfamiliar and notoriously evasive mind of Donald Rumsfeld. Drawing on information from thousands of memos, Morris shows how the ideas, fears, and certainties of one man transformed America, changed the course of history, and led to war.

**DIRECTOR:**  
Errol Morris

**COUNTRY:**  
USA

**LANGUAGE:**  
English

**YEAR:**  
2014

**RUN TIME:**  
109 mins

**THE GREAT ERROL MORRIS RETURNS WITH A SLIPPERY PROFILE OF THE SLIPPERIEST OF THE SLIPPERY POLITICIANS**

— LITTLE WHITE LIES

## DOUBLE BILL



## BIG NAME NO BLANKET

In the 1980s, George Rurrumbu and the Warumpi Band fused rock n' roll, reggae and traditional culture to wow both black and white audiences. With intimate access to all those closest to George, this impressive warts-and-all story is as thought-provoking and charged as one of George's electric performances.

**DIRECTORS:** Steven McGregor

**COUNTRY:** Australia

**LANGUAGE:** English

**YEAR:** 2013

**RUN TIME:** 57 mins



**Screening followed by a Q&A with the film's director Steven McGregor, hosted by [Alex Sloan](#) from your ABC Local Radio station, 666 ABC Canberra.**

## BUCKSKIN

*Winner of the Foxtel Australian Documentary Award 2013.*

This warm and intimate film documents the work of footy crazy Adelaide resident Jack BUCKSKIN who is on a mission to renew Kaurna, a once-extinct language, and to inspire a new generation to connect with the land and culture of their ancestors.

**DIRECTORS:** Dylan McDonald

**COUNTRY:** Australia

**LANGUAGE:** English, Kaurna with English subtitles

**YEAR:** 2013

**RUN TIME:** 57 mins



## THE CRASH REEL

**This adrenalin-pumped comeback story with a difference follows world champion snowboarder Kevin Pearce and the devastating fall that changed his life.**

Kevin Pearce was one of the world's top snowboarders when he suffered a devastating accident just months before the Winter Olympics. Oscar nominated Lucy Walker combines the adrenalin pump of a top-of-the-line sports special with the intimate story of a family confronting big questions about extreme sports.

**DIRECTOR:**  
Lucy Walker

**COUNTRY:**  
USA

**LANGUAGE:**  
English

**YEAR:**  
2013

**RUN TIME:**  
108 mins

**DON'T BE PUT OFF BY THE 'EXTREME SPORTS' SUBJECT MATTER. THIS IS AN INSIGHTFUL, DEEPLY AFFECTING JOURNEY OF EMOTIONAL DISCOVERY**

— TIME OUT LONDON



## WATERMARK

**A stunning cinematic look at how people around the world use and abuse our most precious natural resource.**

This award-winning feature documentary illuminates our relationship with water: how we are drawn to it, what we learn from it, and how we use it. Combining cinematic beauty with scientific reflections this is an extraordinary meditation on the state of our most precious natural resource.

**DIRECTORS:**  
Jennifer Baichwal,  
Edward Burtynsky

**COUNTRY:**  
Canada

**LANGUAGE:**  
English

**YEAR:**  
2013

**RUN TIME:**  
92 mins

**Q&A SPEAKER:**  
Dr Jamie Pittock

**SIMPLY STUNNING**

— LOS ANGELES TIMES

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE



## MESSAGE FROM MUNGO

This immaculately researched film charts the conflict that erupts between scientists and indigenous people after the discovery of 40,000 year-old human remains at Lake Mungo.

Filmmakers Andrew Pike and Ann McGrath follow a moving 40-year story that documents the progressive empowerment of the traditional custodians of the land after the bones of an aboriginal woman are unearthed on one of the world's richest archeological sites.

**DIRECTORS:**  
Andrew Pike &  
Ann McGrath

**COUNTRY:**  
Australia

**LANGUAGE:**  
English

**YEAR:**  
2014

**RUN TIME:**  
70 mins

**Q & A SPEAKERS:**  
Andrew Pike &  
Ann McGrath

**A LOVELY FILM... SUBTLE AND ENGAGING. NEITHER PATRONISING NOR JUDGMENTAL, AND AVOIDING CLICHÉ AND SENTIMENTALITY**

— PROF. JILL MATTHEWS, HUMANITIES RESEARCH CENTRE,  
AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY



*Celebrating the hard work  
behind creativity.*

Jimmy Watson Memorial Trophy 2009

Best New Winery - Penguin Good Wine Guide 2010

Shiraz Trophy - National Wine Show 2012

James Halliday Red 5 Star Winery

Gourmet Traveller Wine Magazine - Best Small Cellar Door, Canberra District

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[www.edenroadwines.com.au](http://www.edenroadwines.com.au)



# Served Fresh Daily

Breakfast with  
Philip Clark

Weekdays  
5.30am – 9am  
**#talkwithphil**



PALACE ELECTRIC CINEMA 



HOME OF THE

## STRONGER THAN FICTION DOCUMENTARY FILM FESTIVAL

**31 JULY - 3 AUGUST 2014**

(Yes, you can take your drink in too!)

[www.palacecinemas.com.au](http://www.palacecinemas.com.au)

NewActon Nishi 2 Phillip Law St Canberra ACT 2601 1300 620 809

 Palace Electric  @palaceelectric

Talk 1300 681 666  
SMS 0467 922 666

 @666canberra

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**666 ABC**  
Canberra

# PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

DATE	TIME	FILM	RUN TIME	COUNTRY	EVENT DETAILS
<b>THURS</b> 31 July 14	6.30pm	School of Babel	89 mins	France	Join us for the Opening Night after party upstairs at Hotel Hotel
<b>FRI</b> 1 Aug 14	6pm	The Flat	97 mins	Israel	Screening is followed by a Q&A with Dr Ben Mercer
	8.30pm	The Kill Team	79 mins	USA	Screening is followed by a Q&A with Professor David Lettis and Dr Dirk Van Rooy
<b>SAT</b> 2 Aug 14	12 midday	Doco Pitch Slam Contest	Approx 1 hour		Upstairs at Hotel Hotel Festival Hub
	1.30pm	Are You Listening!	90 mins	Germany	Screening is followed by a Q&A with Dr Kuntala Lahiri-Dutt
	4pm	The Unknown Known	109 mins	USA	Check our website for breaking news on the Q&A
	6pm	<b>DOUBLE BILL</b> Buckskin Big Name No Blanket	57 mins 57 mins	Australia	Screening is followed by a Q&A with <i>Big Name No Blanket</i> director Steven McGregor. Hosted by Alex Sloan from ABC666
	8.30pm	The Crash Reel	108 mins	USA	Check our website for breaking news on the Q&A
<b>SUN</b> 3 Aug 14	2pm	Watermark	92 mins	Canada	Screening is followed by a Q&A with Dr Jamie Pittock
	4.15pm	Message from Mungo	70 mins	Australia	Screening is followed by a Q&A with co-directors Andrew Pike and Ann McGrath
	6pm	The Manor	78 mins	Canada	Join us for the Closing Night after party at Hotel Hotel and announcement of the Audience Award for Best Film

## TICKETS

All tickets can be purchased at the Palace Electric box-office or on-line at [www.palacecinemas.com.au](http://www.palacecinemas.com.au)

MULTI-FILM PASSES*	ADULT	MCLUB ADULT
<b>3 films</b>	\$42 (\$14 each)	\$36 (\$12 each)
<b>5 films</b>	\$70 (\$14 each)	\$60 (\$12 each)

\* Cannot be used for opening/closing night film events. Only available at the box-office.

OPENING & CLOSING NIGHT EVENTS	ALL TICKETS	MCLUB
<b>Film screening plus after-party at Hotel Hotel (with food and wine)</b>	\$28	\$23

SINGLE TICKETS	STANDARD	MCLUB
<b>Adult</b>	\$15.50	\$13.00
<b>Concession/Healthcare/Pensioner</b>	\$13.00	
<b>Senior</b>	\$13.00	\$8.50
<b>Student</b>	\$10.50	
<b>Children</b>	\$10.50	

For more information about the films, and to watch trailers and get profiles of the filmmakers, visit [strongerthanfictiondocs.com](http://strongerthanfictiondocs.com)

And follow the festival on Facebook for updates and breaking news: [www.facebook.com/strongerthanfictiondocs](http://www.facebook.com/strongerthanfictiondocs)



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DOCUMENTARY FILM FESTIVAL

MORE INFORMATION:  
[STRONGERTHANFICTIONDOCS.COM](http://STRONGERTHANFICTIONDOCS.COM)

TICKETS:  
[PALACECINEMAS.COM.AU](http://PALACECINEMAS.COM.AU)