



FEATURE Oh Lucy!







Directed by Atsuko Hirayanagi Japan Australian Premiere

GUEST: Australian-Japanese actress Shioli Kutsuna (actress).

Screening locations: Mel, Syd

- Starring Australian-Japanese actress <u>Shioli Kutsuna</u> (*Deadpool 2, The Outsider*, currently filming <u>Murder Mystery</u> with Jennifer Aniston/ Adam Sandler);
- Also stars <u>Josh Hartnett</u> (The Faculty, Pearl Harbour) and <u>Megan Mullally</u> (Will & Grace) & Japanese film icons <u>Kôji Yakusho</u>
 (Tampopo, The Blood of Wolves both JFF 2018) and <u>Shinobu Terajima</u> (Vibrator);
- Feature debut for female director Atsuko Hirayanagi's;
- Indie Japanese-American co-production;
- Full-length adaptation of Hirayanagi's **Sundance Short Film Jury Prize-**winning short film;
- Awakened by an English class Lonely middle-aged woman Setsuko discovers her alter ego. However, when her instructor disappears Setsuko must come to terms with who she really is;
- Languages: Japanese (English subtitles), English;
- Reviews: Variety, New York Times, The Washington Post;
- TRAILER
- Screener available.



River's Edge







Directed by Isao Yukisada Japan Australian Premiere

GUEST: renowned Japanese auteur director **Isao Yukisada** (Japanese speaking only).

Screening locations: Mel, Syd

- Stars award-winning model / actress <u>Fumi Nikaido</u> (Himizu), <u>Ryo Yoshizawa</u> (Kamen Rider Fourze), and singer / actress <u>Sumire</u> (The Shack, Hawaii Five-0);
- Based on a manga of the same title by <u>Kyoko Okazaki</u> (Helter Skelter);
- Directed by auteur <u>Isao Yukisada</u> (*Crying Out Live in the Center of the World; Pink and Gray* JFF 2016);
- A brutal and turbulent coming-of-age drama laced with violence, sex, and death;
- Languages: Japanese (English subtitle)
- Reviews: The Hollywood Reporter
- TRAILER
- Screener available.

UNDER STRICT EMBARGO: WED 12 SEPTEMBER, 2018





DOCUMENTARY

SUKITA / The Shoot Must Go On







Directed by Hiromi Aihara Japan Australian Premiere

Screening locations: Mel, Syd

- The life of world-renowned Japanese photographer,
 Masayoshi Sukita embodied the image of rock and roll in his work;
- Music icon **David Bowie** described him **a master** photographed him for over 40 years also Iggy Pop!
- Features interviews with David Bowie, Sir Paul Smith (Fashion designer) and Jim Jarmusch (director);
- Languages: Japanese (English subtitle), English;
- Screener available.
- Reviews: The Japan Times;
- TRAILER;



One Cut of the Dead







Directed by Shinichirou Ueda Japan

Screening locations: Bris, Per, Mel, Syd

- A brilliantly-disguised low-budget, **high-concept take on the zombie comedy genre**;
- Rated 100% on Rotten Tomatoes!
- Film opens with a virtuosic 37-minute single-take opening;
- Three films in one. Goes from monster mayhem, to funny satire then a family comedy-drama;
- "The best zombie comedy since Shaun of the Dead." Fantasia Film Festival, 2018;
- Feature debut from Shinichiro Ueda;
- Follows a film crew shooting a zombie horror flick in an abandoned WWII facility are attacked by real zombies;
- Languages: Japanese (English subtitles);
- Reviews: Variety, The Hollywood Reporter;
- TRAILER
- Screener available.





The Chrysanthemum and the Guillotine







Directed by Takahisa Zeze Japan Australian Premiere

Screening locations: Mel, Syd

- Directed by renowned filmmaker <u>Takahisa Zeze</u> (*The 8-Year Engagement, My Friend 'A'* JFF2018) the **master of** Japanese pink films a softcore porn subgenre that emerged in response to censorship in the 70s and 80s;
- Based on real events;
- The film paints a portrait of a restless, divided society, told through the stories of a female sumo troupe and anarchist group called The Guillotine Society;
- A rare snapshot of Japan following the Great Kanto Earthquake of 1923, and the social upheaval that followed;
- Languages: Japanese (English subtitle)
- Official Website
- TRAILER
- Screener available.





FEATURE Killing







Directed by Shinya Tsukamoto Japan Australian Premiere

Screening locations: Mel, Syd

- Screened in Official Competition of Venice Film Festival 2018;
- Starring actress <u>Yu Aoi</u> (Birds Without Names –
 JFF2017, Mixed Doubles JFF2018) and <u>Sosuke</u>
 <u>Ikematsu</u> (The Last Samurai, Shoplifters);
- Directed by renowned genre master <u>Shinya</u>
 <u>Tsukamoto</u> (*Tetsuo: the Iron Man, Tokyo Fist*);
- Set in the mid-19th century after 250 years of peace, samurai have been reduced to masterless, wandering vagrants. Tsukamoto's first period drama is a raw and visceral portrait of one such samurai, a young samurai skilled in swordsmanship but has never wielded his sword in battle;
- Languages: Japanese (English subtitle);
- Facebook;
- Screener available.



The Scythian Lamb







Directed by Daihachi Yoshida Japan Australian Premiere

Screening locations: Mel, Syd

- An offbeat drama wrapped in a slow burn thriller;
- Based on Tatsuhiko Yamagami and Mikio Igarashi's manga Hitsuji no Ki (The Sheep Tree);
- Starring: Japanese pop idol Ryo Nishikido (Attention Please);
- Six convicted murders relocate to a coastal town as part of a clandestine rehabilitation program. But the town is small and word gets around...
- Set in the coastal town of Uobuka;
- Won the Kim Ji Seok award at the 2017 Busan International Film Festival;
- Languages: Japanese (English subtitle)
- Reviews: Screen Daily
- Screener available.
- TRAILER

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Mixed Doubles







Directed by Junichi Ishikawa Japan Australian Premiere

Screening locations: Ade, Can, Bris, Per, Mel, Syd

- Long-awaited romantic sports comedy opened at #1 Japan Box Office (October 2017);
- Stars: Oscar winning actress Ryoko Hirosue (Departures) & Japanese sweethearts Yui Aragaki and Yu Aoi;
- Second co-project of director Junichi Ishikawa and acclaimed screenwriter Ryota Kosawa after *April Fools (2015)*;
- After being cheated on former table tennis prodigy returns home and picks up paddle again to beat the man who betrayed her;
- Languages: Japanese (English subtitles);
- Review: <u>The Japan Times</u>;
- TRAILER



DESTINY: The Tale of Kamakura







Directed by Takashi Yamazaki Japan Australian Premiere

Screening locations: Ade, Can, Bris, Per, Mel, Syd

- A live action tale of a quirky couple who live in a Japanese town full of supernatural creatures and spirits;
- Described as the live action version of Spirited Away;
- The fifth-highest-grossing Japanese film of 2018;
- Directed by Takashi Yamazaki (The Eternal Zero) teamed up with Anime maestro Ryohei Saigan;
- From the makers of "Eternal Zero" "Parasyte";
- From a town that borders the supernatural a mystery writer ventures to the netherworld to save his wife;
- A modern fairy tale of love and self-exploration;
- Languages: Japanese (English subtitle);
- **TRAILER**
- Screener available.

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Detective Conan: Crimson Love Letter







Directed by Kobun Shizuno Japan Australian Premiere

Screening locations: Ade, Can, Bris, Per, Mel, Syd

- The 21st film based on much-loved anime series
 Detective Conan, based on Gosho Aoyama's iconic manga Case Closed the fourth-best-selling manga of all time (over 200 million copies sold worldwide);
- Directed by <u>Kôbun Shizuno</u> (Netflix's *Godzilla* trilogy);
- Opened at #1 at the Japanese Box Office in April 2017 and the highest-grossing Japanese film of 2017;
- Nominated for the Japan Academy Film Prize for Excellent Animation of the Year;
- Languages: Japanese (English subtitles);
- TRAILER

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Yakiniku Dragon







Directed by Wishing Chong (aka Wui-Sin Chong) Japan Australian Premiere

Screening locations: Ade, Can, Bris, Per, Mel, Syd

- Features an ensemble cast including:, Jeong-eun Lee (Okja), Yôko Maki (The Grudge), Yô Ôizumi (Spirited Away, Howl's Moving Castle), Toshie Negishi (When Marnie Was There), and Sang-ho Kim (The Happy Life);
- Directed by Korean-Japanese filmmaker Wishing Chong aka Wui-Sin Chong (Blood and Bones),
- Based off Chong's award-winning 2008 play of the same name – from his own experiences as an immigrant;
- A heart-warming story of resilience told through the immigrant experience of a Korean-Japanese family;
- Languages: Japanese (English subtitle);
- **TRAILER**
- Screener available.

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Dynamite Graffiti







Directed by Masanori Tominaga Japan Australian Premiere

Screening locations: Mel, Syd

www.cardinalspin.com.au

- Features <u>Atsuko Maeda</u>, a former leading member of legendary pop group <u>AKB48</u>; <u>Yutaka Matsushige</u> (*Ring*); <u>Machiko Ono</u> (*Kiki's Delivery Service* live action); <u>Ryuya Wakaba</u> (*Gantz*); and saxophonist <u>Naruyoshi Kikuchi</u>, known for his performances on iconic anime soundtracks including *Cowboy Bebop* and *Ghost in the Shell*;
- Based on the autobiographical writings of self-made publishing impresario **Akira Suei**;
- Despite featuring cutting-edge photography, Suei's iconic 80s magazine Photo Age became a popular source of pornography in Japan's era of censorial prudishness;
- A chaotic portrait of Suei's life, from his mother's suicide by exploding dynamite to porn publishing;
- Languages: Japanese (English subtitle);
- Reviews: The Japan Times, The Reel Bits
- TRAILER
- Facebook;
- Screener available.



Color Me True







Directed by Hideki Takeuchi Japan Australian Premiere

Screening locations: Ade, Can, Bris, Per, Mel, Syd

- Opened at #1 Japan Box Office (February 2018);
- Stars Japanese screen royalty <u>Haruka Ayase</u> (Our Little Sister) and rising star <u>Kentaro Sakaguchi</u> (The 100th Love With You);
- An aspiring director experiences a world full of colour as his favourite black and white movie heroine magically steps out of the screen and into reality;
- A charming love story set in the magical world of 60s filmmaking;
- Languages: Japanese (English subtitle);
- Reviews: The Hollywood Reporter;
- TRAILER



Chihayafuru Musubi







Directed by Norihiro Koizumi Japan Australian Premiere

Screening locations: Ade, Can, Bris, Per, Mel, Syd

- Final film in the Chihayafuru live action trilogy, based on the award-winning manga series Chihayafuru;
- Starring actress <u>Suzu Hirose</u> (Our Little Sister),
 Japanese-American actor <u>Mackenyu</u> (Pacific Rim: Uprising, JoJo's Bizarre Adventure) and actress/singer Mone Kamishiraishi (Your Name);
- Directed by award winning filmmaker <u>Norihiro</u> <u>Koizumi</u> (*Midnight Sun*);
- The third instalment of Chihaya's quest to become the national Karuta (card game) champion;
- Languages: Japanese (English subtitle);
- Official Website;
- TRAILER
- Screener available.



Rainbow Days







Directed by Ken Iizuka Japan Australian Premiere

Screening locations: Bris, Per, Mel, Syd

- Discover the charms of Japanese high school life in this slice of life, coming of age drama. Perfect mix of daydreams and reality.
- Stars <u>Mahiro Takasugi</u> (Kamen Rider Gaim), <u>Reo Sano</u> of pop group Generations from Exile Tribe, model /actor <u>Taishi Nakagawa</u> (Great Teacher Onizuka - live action), and model / actress Nozomi Bando;
- Features an original theme song by popular rap/rock group Dragon Ash;
- A coming-of-age story about four carefree teenage boys enjoying their youth;
- Languages: Japanese (English subtitle)
- TRAILER
- Screener available.



Goodbye, Grandpa!







Directed by Yukihiro Morigaki Japan Australian Premiere

Screening locations: Mel, Syd

- Feature debut of Yukihiro Morigaki;
- A dysfunctional family reunites for a last goodbye in this introspective feel-good drama;
- Screening in the Japanese Cinema Splash Section at 2017 Tokyo International Film Festival;
- Languages: Japanese (English subtitles);
- Reviews: Screen Daily
- **TRAILER**
- Screener available.

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Ramen Shop







Directed by Eric Khoo Japan

Screening locations: Bris, Per, Mel, Syd

- From Singapore's best-known director <u>Eric Khoo</u> (My Magic, Tatsumi);
- Veteran Japanese and Singaporean cast starring <u>Takumi</u>
 <u>Saito</u> (who's participating in HBO Asia directors line-up);
- A **celebration** of 50 years of diplomatic relations between **Singapore and Japan**;
- In a search to uncover his deceased parents' past a young man takes a food journey to Singapore where he uncovers more than just delicious meals;
- A story about **cultural and culinary fusion**;
- The unique insight to express the film's motif of forgiveness and reconciliation in home-cooked meals;
- Also screening at Darwin International Film Festival;
- Languages: Japanese, English, Mandarin and Cantonese;
- Reviews: The Hollywood Reporter;
- TRAILER
- Screener available.

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We Make Antiques!







Directed by Masaharu Take Japan Australian Premiere

- Antiques Roadshow meets Ocean's 11!
- Stars <u>Kiichi Nakai</u> (47 Ronin) and TV drama star <u>Kuranosuke</u> <u>Sasaki</u> (Samurai Hustle);
- Directed by award-winning filmmaker <u>Masaharu Take</u> (100 Yen Love);
- A clever comedy about the shenanigans of a pair of scammers in the local antiques game;
- Offers interesting insight into the popular world of Japanese ceramics;

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- Languages: Japanese (English subtitles);
- Review: <u>The Japan Times</u>;
- TRAILER
- Screener available.



The Third Murder







Directed by Hirokazu Kore-eda Japan

Screening locations: Mel, Syd

- Screened in competition at Venice;
- Winner of Best Film at this year's Japanese Academy Awards;
- Directed by renowned Japanese filmmaker Hirokazu Kore-eda (Shoplifters, Nobody Knows);
- Stars acclaimed actor Koji Yakusho (Tampopo JFF2018, Memoirs of a Geisha), musician / actor Masaharu Fukuyama (Rurouni Kenshin – JFF2015), and Suzu Hirose (Chihayafuru: Musubi – JFF2018);
- A patient, probing courtroom drama that dissects the very nature of truth;
- Review: The New York Times
- **TRAILER**

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The Blood of Wolves







Directed by Kazuya Shiraishi Japan

Screening locations: Bris, Can, Per, Mel, Syd

- A stylish cop thriller set in 1980s Hiroshima at the brink of a bloody yakuza turf war;
- Directed by Kazuya Shiraishi (The Devil's Path);
- Starring Kôji Yakusho (Tampopo JFF2018, Memoirs of a Geisha), Shidô Nakamura (Fearless), and actor Pierre Taki (Like Father, Like Son);
- Based on the novel of the same name by Yuko Yuzuki;
- An undercover cop is assigned to investigate Ogami, a veteran detective rumored to be in cahoots with Yakuza where he discovers Ogami's unbelievable past;
- TRAILER
- Screener available.

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My Friend 'A'







Directed by Takahisa Zeze Japan Australian Premiere

Screening locations: Bris, Mel, Syd

- Directed by Japanese best-known director Takahisa Zeze (Kindan no sono: Za seifuku rezu, Upcoming Scenery and Owaranai sekkusu);
- Based on the novel by <u>Gaku Yakumaru</u> (Angel Knives);
- A story of a juvenile offender who has caused a sensation in the world;
- A portrait of how a society and how individuals are affected by and respond to juvenile delinquency (bullying, accidental homicide, actual homicide);
- Languages: Japanese (English subtitle)
- TRAILER
- Screener available.

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Wilderness (1+2)







Directed by Yoshiyuki Kishi Japan

- A two-part movie collectively constructing a five hour epic;
- Based on the famous novel "Aa, Koya" by Shuji Terayama (published 1966 by Kadokawa Shoten);
- Both lead actors won awards for their roles <u>Masaki Suda</u> (Gintama) won a Japanese Academy award for best actor while <u>IK-Joon Yang</u> (Breathless) won an Asian Film Award for best supporting actor;
- A boxing drama set in the dystopian year 2021. Two youths become friends while they pursue boxing as the dystopian Tokyo breaks down around them;
- Languages: Japanese (English subtitles)
- Screener available.
- Reviews: The Reel Bits
- TRAILER



The Crimes That Bind







Directed by Katsuo Fukuzawa Japan Australian Premiere

- The adaptation of the final installment of Japanese novelist <u>Keigo Higashino</u> very popular Detective Kaga series;
- Also starring Japanese soap opera royalty Nanako Matsuhima (Ring, Shield of Straw);
- The country's second biggest locally-produced liveaction release in 2018;
- Hiroshi Abe & Nanako Matsushima star;
- A case that starts with a murder and ends with a murder;
- Languages: Japanese (English subtitle)
- Reviews: The Hollywood Reporter
- TRAILER
- Screener available.

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Love At Least







Directed by Kosai Sekine Japan Australian Premiere

Screening locations: Mel, Syd

- Directorial debut of popular commercial director <u>Kosai</u>
 <u>Sekine</u> clients include **Nike**, **Shiseido** and **Uniqlo**;
- Sekine's branded content has won him Young Director Grand Prix Award and Silver Award in the Film Craft category at Cannes;
- Stars <u>Masaki Suda</u> (*Wilderness, A Double Life, Gintama*) and Riisa Naka (*Hachi One Diver*);
- Follows a hypersomniac recluse and her boyfriend, whose lives are turned upside down with the sudden arrival of a scheming ex-girlfriend;
- Nominated for Best International Feature 2018 Raindance Film Festival;
- Languages: Japanese (English subtitles);
- TRAILER
- Screener available.

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Summer Blooms







Directed by Ryutaro Nakagawa Japan Australian Premiere

Screening locations: Mel, Syd

- Feature from young filmmaker (28) Ryutaro Nakagawa;
- Winner of the FIPRESCI Award at the Moscow International Film Festival;
- A former teacher receives a letter from her boyfriend three years after he committed suicide;
- Stars <u>Takahiro Miura</u> (Attack on Titan: Part 1) and <u>Aki</u> <u>Asakura</u> (The Tale of the Princess Kaguya);
- Languages: Japanese (English subtitles);
- Review: The Japan Times;
- TRAILER
- Screener available.

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The Travelling Cat Chronicles







Directed by Koichiro Miki Japan Australian Premiere

Screening locations: Bris, Mel, Syd

- Based on the international bestselling pet-lit book by Hiro Arikawa, who also wrote the screenplay;
- A charming story that will tug at heartstrings;
- Follows a young man finding a new home for a wounded cat, meeting with childhood friends and his first love along the way;
- The cat, Nana, who appears in the film is real cat (with curly hair). Has his own Instagram account @nana tabineko

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- Languages: Japanese (English subtitles);
- **TRAILER**
- Screener available.





The 8-Year Engagement







Directed by Takahisa Zeze Japan Australian Premiere

Screening locations: Ade, Bris, Can, Per, Mel, Syd

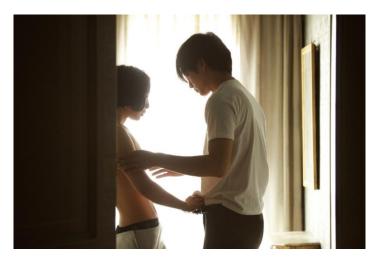
- A tear-jerking Japanese romance based on the true story of a young man standing by his fiancée, who wakes from a coma with her memory completely erased;
- A real-life story that became a YouTube sensation, and a best-selling 2015 autobiographical novel coauthored by the subject couple;
- Stars <u>Takeru Satoh</u> and <u>Tao Tsuchiya</u> (*Rurouni Kenshin* trillogy JFF2014/15), and actress / pop star Hiroko Yakushimaru;
- An unexpectedly tender film from renowned softcore porn / pink film director <u>Takahisa Zeze</u> (The Chrysanthemum and the Guillotine and My Friend 'A' – JIFF2018);
- Languages: Japanese (English subtitle)
- TRAILER
- Screener available.



Call Boy







Directed by Dasuke Miura Japan Australian Premiere

Screening locations: Mel, Syd

- A story of an exclusive and secretive "boys club" based on a novel by <u>Ira Ishida;</u>
- Depicting different expressions of female sexuality as navigated by its protagonist, a male prostitute searching for purpose;
- Directed by Daisuke Miura (Love's Whirlpool);
- The reflection of deepest desires and fantasies;
- Star Tori Matsuzaka in a really daring role;
- Languages: Japanese (English subtitle);
- Reviews: Asian Film Vault;
- Screener available.
- TRAILER

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Thicker Than Water







Directed by Keisuke Yoshida Japan Australian Premiere

Screening locations: Mel, Syd

- A pair of bickering brothers meet two squabbling sisters, and the tensions of their life-long rivalries both come to a head in a bittersweet comedy-drama;
- Yoshida's first film in four years to be based on his own original script;
- Similar to director's 2016 comedy-thriller Himeanole, the tone shifts from light comedy to dark drama as the quarrels of its central foursome turn angry;
- Languages: Japanese (English subtitles);
- Screener available.
- Review: The Japan Times;
- **TRAILER**

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Tampopo (4k Remastered) – 1985







Directed by Juzo Itami Japan

Screening locations: Ade, Bris, Can, Per, Mel, Syd
**Can not screening in 4K Remastered

- One of the most popular foodie films. Dubbed as a "ramen western";
- Oscar nominated Ken Watanabe's breakthrough role;
- Written and Directed by multiple award winner Juzo Itami;
- A truck driver stops at a run-down family noodle shop and decides to help save its fledgling business;
- Comedy about the relationship of love and food;
- Languages: Japanese (English subtitle);
- Reviews: The Guardian
- TRAILER

Sake Shop tie up in JFF Sydney and Melbourne.