

MUFF 20

20Th Melbourne
Underground Film Festival

**SUN NOV 24
TO FRI NOV 29**

**Trigger Warning
Never Apologize**

The Return of the Most Controversial Film Festival in Australia!

Celebrating 20 years of Indy Film discovery and social issue mayhem.

Opening Night - The Faceless Man by James Di Martino

Closing Night - new Stu Stanton feature - There's No Such thing as Monsters

Venue-

The Moser Room. 386 Chapel Street South Yarra

Fest Director/Curator: Richard Wolstencroft.

Fest Patron: Frank Howson

Asst Director/co curator: Paul Moder



MORE INFO AT www.muff.com.au

NOV 24 TO NOV 29 2019

Painting "Edward Kelly & Max" by Frank Howson

Poster design by Terry Davis www.facebook.com/thefactoryfloor1

MUFF 20 Schedule

Sunday Nov 24

8pm - The Faceless Man

Monday Nov 25

7pm - Shorts session one

9pm - Shorts session two

Tuesday Nov 26

7pm - Shorts session three

9pm - Shorts session four

Wednesday Nov 27 -

7pm - Shorts session five

9pm - In Full Bloom

Thursday Nov 28

5pm - Fornacis

7pm - LIFE ON EARTH - SEVERENCE

9pm - Locusts

Friday Nov 29

6 pm - 1000 Kings

7.30 pm - You're Not Thinking Straight

9pm - Closing Night

There's No Such thing as Monsters

plus The Prizefighter

plus The MUFF awards.



Opening and Closing Night

Opening Night - Sunday Nov 24 - 8pm

THE FACELESS MAN Dir James Di Martino 1 hour 40 mins AUS - Sophie Thurling, Roger Ward, Andy McPhee, Tom Vogel, Peter D Flaherty and Albert Goikhman

A wild Opening Night for MUFF 20. James Di Martino has made the almost PERFECT MUFF movie, a wild genre comedy explosion that will set your eye balls reeling. What's it about? Three years after Emily has recovered from cancer, she struggles to adjust back to everyday life. Living in fear of redeveloping her disease, a manifestation haunts her from the depths of her subconscious in the form of a faceless creature; it's her fear incarnate. Or is it? Emily's best friend Nina organises a weekend endeavour with some friends to a holiday house secluded in an outback town. The Holiday house rests in the town of "Orange Lodge" known far and wide as a good town with good people. However they have a strong no drug policy and will go to extreme lengths to prevent any drugs from entering this town. The group experience first hand the unsettling and hostile nature the people of this rural town like to treat city folk.

Suffice to say all hell breaks loose! - and the film features industry luminaries like Roger Ward, Andy McPhee and Albert Goikhman in great supporting roles. It's must see at MUFF 20 and get's our festival off to a flying start. QandA after film with Director and available cast. Plus Short! **THE BACKROAD** - Dir. Jamie Wilson Starring Nield Schneider, Jamie Wilson and Martin De Bono.

13:48 - AUS All bets are off when a crooked cop and a junkie meet their fate on the backroad.

Closing Night - Double Feature - Friday Nov 29 - 9pm

NO SUCH THING AS MONSTERS - Dir. Stu Stanton - 1:25:00 - AUS

A young couple on a camping trip in the Australian bush are taken hostage by a group of siblings with a twisted set of family values. Stu Stanton's indie horror feature delves into uncomfortable territory in the tradition of *The Hills Have Eyes*, *The Texas Chainsaw Massacre* and *Wrong Turn*. Stu's influences here are evident, growing up, as many of us have on a dark and disturbing diet of gritty psychological horror and no holds barred depictions of the human monsters that walk amongst us. This latest offering casts an innovative twist on the victimology of this genre of film and takes more than one surprising turn. It is enjoyable at it's twisted heart and one can forgive the rough edges of independent film endeavour and immerse themselves in this disquieting and sinister journey. Our closing night feature at MUFF. QandA after film with Director and available cast.

plus

THE PRIZEFIGHTER (DOCUMENTARY) - Dir. Terry McMahon - 45 min. - IRELAND

MUFF is delighted this year to present the latest cinematic punch from Irish born, agent provocateur, Terry McMahon. MUFF has previously screened Terry's other works over the years, proudly supporting his prolific film career. Terry's latest documentary goes behind the bright lights of the boxing ring to explore the seedy and hard-fought lives of hopeful prize fighters in Ireland, their dreams of fame, fortune and success, too often short lived and paid for with blood, poverty and sacrifice. *The Prizefighter* charts the true story of 'Spike' O'Sullivan, a former sheet metal worker and rising middleweight star from the famed Celtic Warriors boxing club. Chosen by a world-renowned fight promoter, Spike is given the chance of a lifetime, to fight for the Middleweight championship of the world title, far from home in America. Spike is just three bouts from international stardom or mediocrity. This searing story of a fight against all odds is not to be missed.

PLUS the MUFF 20 awards! Straight after the last film.



MUFF SHORTS

MUFF NEU - Features

IN FULL BLOOM - Dir. Adam Villasenor, Reza Ghassemi - 1:25:00 - USA
Wednesday Nov 27 - 9pm

Set after WW2, *In Full Bloom* follows two fighters, a down and out boxer from the US and the reigning Japanese champion. The film explores the inner journey of both characters as they train for a world championship that will push both fighters to the limits of their will and spirit. There is a rare beauty in this film, not just the breathtaking cinematography, immaculate score and attention to detail in every shot. On the surface, the film is a boxing match between two diametrically opposed warriors, but at its core, *In Full Bloom* is a sorrowful exploration of the search for self through sacrifice and painful endeavour.

LOCUSTS - Dir. Heath Davis - 1:26:00 - AUS
Thursday Nov 28 - 9pm

An independent, outback thriller. When estranged tech entrepreneur Ryan Black returns to his past mining boom hometown for his father's funeral, he's reluctantly reunited with his ex-con brother. But when the pair become entangled in an extortion scam at the hands of desperate small-town criminals, Ryan is forced to resort to extreme measures, exposing the dark underbelly of the sleepy mining town. Heath Davis has created an accomplished outback noir thriller that encapsulates the desolation of remote regional Australia and the vicious nature of its cast-off, desert denizens. There is a brooding menace and ever present threat of violence simmering beneath the impoverished shanty town and small town mentality of the trapped populace. This dark and dusty Aussie gem will no doubt punch its way into the iconography of our larrikan outback thriller fare with classics like *Wake In Fright* and *Wolf Creek*.

LIFE ON EARTH - SEVERANCE - Dir. Angelo Salamanca - 1:28:11 - AUS
Thursday Nov 28 - 7pm

An alien pandemic threatens to wipe out the world's population. Two scientists steal the virus from their laboratory and flee cavillation, escaping into the bush in a frantic last-ditch effort to find a cure. *Life On Earth - Severance* is an artfully realised sci fi, thriller that makes use of a restrained script and the complex relationship of the two main protagonists, played to subtle and emotive excellence by Billie (Emme Burnside) and Adam (Kieran King). There is a gentleness to the film, a growing sense of desperation and need by the characters to find a cure for the disease threatening mankind, whilst escaping into the bush where their own mortality plays out in isolation and fading tranquillity.

1000 KINGS - Dir. Bidzina Kanchaveli - 1:32:00 - GERMANY
Friday Nov 29 - 6pm

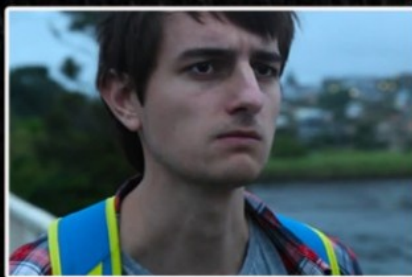
Set in a surreal, nightmare world of garish color and abstract shapes, a dystopian society struggles for ascension from darkness to the light. This unique and evocative offering from Germany's Bidzina Kanchaveli, breaks shocking new cinematic convention. The film's eerie landscapes, hooded denizens and disturbing use of minimalist imagery are combined with a subliminal soundscape, to paint a metaphorical depiction of our very human struggle.

YOUR NOT THINKING STRAIGHT - Dir Luke Sullivan - AUS
Friday Nov 29 - 7.30pm

Strewn on the blood, urine and liquor soaked tiles of a seedy public bathroom, a young man reflects on the prostitute who stole his heart in a series of surreal and nightmarish flashbacks. 'You're Not Thinking Straight' is a fiercely unique coming-of-age tale about what it means to be naive, lonely and clamouring for love in a broken world.

FORNACIS - Dir. Aurelia Mengin - 1:23:12 - FRANCE
Thursday Nov 28 - 5pm

Anya, a woman in deep mourning, drives through the anguished night, a mysterious urn by her side. Consumed by sadness and loss, she arrives at a crossroads, a sleazy dive bar, where she discovers an atmosphere charged with taboo sexuality and latent threat. *Fornacis* is that unique blend of experimental filmmaking and dark, David Lynchian psychodrama, that takes the audience on a disturbing road journey in search of an end to the soul's lament.



Tickets: Opening and Closing - \$22.50 and \$28.50. Normal session: \$17 and \$22.50.

Tickets on Door - or book online here: <https://www.trybooking.com/book/event?eid=572638&>

Thanks to: Enzo Condello, Sarah Yeung, Matthew Richard Walsh, Terry Davis, Rebecca Sutherland.

Special Thanks to The MUFF Team and All MUFF filmmakers past and present.

We hope to see you all there for a session or two in 2019!

MUFF SHORTS

SESSION 1 - Monday Nov 25 - 7pm -

FUTURE HARVEST - Dir. Carolyn Corkindale - 4:38 - AUS

An elderly woman enjoys the fruit of her orchard, but all is not as it seems.

EAT YOUR BIRTHDAY CAKE - Dir. Matthew Collins - 6:00 - AUS

A quirky blonde gets her just deserts when no one shows up to her birthday party.

INFECTED - Dir. Kyle Anset - 10:54 - AUS

John, must help a pregnant woman deliver her baby in the zombie apocalypse before she's infected.

THE BODY - Dir. Marcus Matthews - 4:51 - AUS

Clara has killed a man and must dispose of the body, easier said than done.

THE BACKROAD - Dir. Jamie Wilson - 13:48 - AUS

All bets are off when a crooked cop and a junkie meet their fate on the backroad.

BEYOND THE POINTY HAT - Dir. Shannon Meilak - 6:13 - AUS (doc)

Witches are often portrayed as wart faced hags on broomsticks, but have you ever met a real one?

WHITE WALLS - Dir. Alessandro Sedda - 14:55 - ITALY

The dissonant chant of a man forced to live within himself.

ALL THROUGH THE NIGHT - Dir. Russell Wyatt Roberts - 24:50 - AUS

A driver loses his grip on sanity as he travels an endless road paved with past anguish.

Running Time approx. 83 mins

SESSION 2 - Monday Nov 25 - 9pm

BET THE DEMON WINS - Dir. Denise Hurley - 7:55 - AUS

A teenager battles the demons that haunt her following rejection by her gambling addicted father and betrayal by her sister.

STATIC - Dir. Phoebe Moore - 9:00 USA

A stop motion animation short exploring romantic introspection.

SAUSAGE - Dir. Justin Groves - 6:30 - AUS

An actor's dreams are dashed when he takes a gig on a TV commercial.

FUCKED UP POINT BLANK - Dir. Shayna Connelly - 4:36 - USA

An experimental film exploring anxiety and the desire for an ending less violent to the narrator.

NEON - Dir. Malachy Cole - 21:15 - AUS

A lone rider sets out on a rescue mission through the smog filled streets of Hongkonoria

HERE TO ETERNITY WITH THE GODZ - Dir. Jeffrey Wengrofsky - 9:55 - USA (doc)

Here to Eternity with The Godz is a psychoactive documentary about The Godz, one of the first psychedelic rock bands.

MAIN COURSE - Dir. Kristina Barisic - 34:39 - CROATIA

Two stories, one teenagers at a deserted school and the other, around a dinner table when unexpected guests arrive.

Running Time approx. 94 mins

SESSION 3 - Tuesday Nov 26 - 7pm

MATTY - Dir. Lane Pitcher - 10:23 - AUS

Will is an angsty kid who feels like he never was one and his brother Matty, is the reason.

LITTLE BEAUTY - Dir. Mick Lowenstein - 8:17 - AUS

A cautionary tale about manhood, expectations and the consequences of small-town prejudice.

HAPPY LITTLE BLUEBIRDS - Dir. Nello Di Giandomenico - 14:37 - AUS

An elderly couple battling sickness decide if they should continue suffering or go out together.

VOICES - Dir. Matthew Smith - 13:16 - AUS

A man struggles with alcohol abuse, fighting the voices inside his head. Will he sink or swim?

COLD STORAGE - Dir. Thomas Freundlich - 8:45 - FINLAND

On a desolate arctic shore, a fisherman unthaws a frozen prehistoric man and celebrates their friendship with dance.

HUMDINGERS - Dir. Alex Campbell - 7:00 - AUS

A young intelligent girl with an archaic mind struggles to escape her overbearing parents.

BANANA SPLIT - Dir. Robbie Ryde - 10:00 - AUS

Best friends Tim and Joel decide once and for all who is Batman and Robin in their dynamic duo.

DO YOU WANT ME TO KISS YOU THIS TIME? - Dir. Iker Arce, Miriam Ortega - 24:55 - SPAIN

Nerea, a 12-year-old girl experiences her first kiss, awakening a dark and disturbing nature within her.

Running Time app. 97 mins

SESSION 4 - Tuesday Nov 26 - 9pm

KILLER LOVE - Dir. Adam Lemmey - 15:09 - AUS

Killer Love is a comedy/horror about sour break ups. It's about the masked killer in the woods, ready to take an axe to your head if you can't sort your shit out.

LARRY TIME - Dir. David Krige - 9:53 - AUS

When buying chocolates and flowers for grandma isn't enough.

BEING ROBBED - Dir. Tim Bydder - 14:57 - AUS

Joe and Fay catch a burglar robbing their apartment, but they act as hospitable as possible so no one gets hurts.

SAC DE MERDE - Dir. Greg Chwerchak - 13:27 - USA

Based on a true story, Mazel spends the night with the man of her dreams only to discover he might just be full of shit, literally.

SHAREHOUSE INVADERS - Dir. Kevin Jayawardena - 9:12 - AUS

An extra-terrestrial interrupts two suburban mates having drinks.

GRAVE EXPECTATIONS - Dir. Andy Burkitt - 6:04 - AUS

A graverobber discovers a recently deceased young beauty may not be as deceased as he thought.

BURGERMEN - Dir. Jamie Wilson - 30:02 - AUS (doc)

A look inside an eclectic hamburger shop in Melbourne, Australia

Running Time approx. 99 mins

SESSION 5 - Wednesday Nov 27 - 7pm

VALENTINE'S DAY - Dir. Marni Little - Tim Goodwin - 6:42 - AUS

Evie is having a romantic couple's dinner and has invited her new boyfriend. The trouble is, he doesn't exist.

THE TAME PAINTER - Dir. Dominic Dimech - 14:59 - AUS

Lucious, an ageing taboo artist, reluctantly passes the torch as he struggles to accept his slide into mediocrity.

WHEN THE EYES ARE CLOSED - Dir. Zhang Xiaocan - 5:46 - AUS/CHINA

A young girl moves I not a new apartment, but every time she closes her eyes, she is not alone...

PORTRAIT - Dir. Charles Le Patourel - 15:00 - AUS

Darkness festers in a man's mind, but preparations must be made for the arrival of a guest.

SWEET LOVE - Dir. Stephen Crompton - 19:00 - USA (doc)

"I was thinking of writing something totally absurd; to take the genre of soft porn and marry it with the theatre of the absurd" - Alvin Bojar

ANACRONTE - Dir. Raul Koler, Emilliano Sette - 14:58 - ARGENTINA

Anacronte and the Sorcerers of Evil, test humanity's happiness in a bitter struggle

ASCENDANT - Dir. Josh Zammit - 20:49 - AUS

In a bleak, industrial feature, a man wanders an abandoned greyhound track, only to be confronted by what he finds.

Running Time app. 97 mins

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THE MOSER ROOM

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