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
Painting “Edward Kelly & Max” by Frank Howson
Poster design by Terry Davis www.facebook.com/thefactoryfloor1

MUFT 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 - SEVEREENCE
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 MUFT 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 Golokman

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 Golokman 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: Niel 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 disgusting 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 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 - 1:36:00 - 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 - SEVERENCE - 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 cavilating, 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 Burnsida) 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. Bidsza Khanchevli - 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 Bidsza Khanchevli, 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.

Fornacs - Dir. Aurelia Mengin - 1:23:12 - FRANCE
Thursday Nov 28 - 8pm

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. Fornacs 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 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 - 4:56 - AUS
An elderly woman enjoys the fruit of her orchard, but all is not as it seems.
BAS TOWN BIRTHDAY CAKE - Dir. Matthew Collins - 6:00 - AUS
A young man and his friends get their Just desserts when his aunt shows up to her birthday party.
INFECTED - Dir. Kyle Anset - 10:24 - AUS
John, must help a pregnant woman deliver her baby in the zombie apocalypse before she's infected.
THIS BOY - Dir. Marcus Matthews - 6:11 - AUS
Claire 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 Mennel - 6:15 - AUS (doc)
What happens when you're drawn as a giant head on Coonstango, 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 - 24:30 - AUS
A driver loses his grip on sanity as he travels an endless road paved with past anguish.

Running Time approx. 88 mins

SESSION 2 - Monday Nov 25 - 9pm
BET THE DEMON WINS - Dir. Denise Hurley - 7:55 - AUS
A teenage battles the demons that haunt her following rejection by her gambling addicted father and betrayal by her sister.
STATIC - Dir. Frode Moore - 9:00 USA
A stop motion animation short exploring romantic introspection.
SAUSAGE - Dir. Justin Groves - 6:00 - AUS
An actor's dreams are dashed when he takes a gig on a TV commercial.
FUCKED UP POINT BLANK - Dir. Shanea Connolly - 4:06 - AUS
An experimental film exploring anxiety and the desire for an ending less violent to the narraror.
NIXON - Dir. Malachy Cole - 41:15 - AUS
A lone rider sets out on a rescue mission through the smog filled streets of Hong Kongoria.
HERM TO ETERNITY WITH THE GODS - Dir. Jeffrey Wendrofsky - 9:55 - USA (doc)
Herm to Eternity with the Gods is a psychosomatic documentary about The Gods, one of the first psychedelic rock bands.
MAIN COURSE - Dir. Kristina Baric Gabric - 34:39 - CROATIA
Two stories, one teenagers at a deserted school and the other, around a dinner table when unexpected guest arrives.

Running Time approx. 94 mins

SESSION 3 - Tuesday Nov 26 - 7pm
MATTY - Dir. Lane Fisher - 10:25 - AUS
Will is an angry kid who feels like he never was one and his brother Matty, is the reason.
LITTLE BEAUTY - Dir. McK Lowenstejn - 8:17 - AUS
A cautionary tale about manhood, expectations and the consequences of small-town prejudice.
HAPPY LITTLE BlurRARRN - Dir. Neil Blandenmemo - 14:57 - AUS
An unhappy couple battling sickness decide if they should continue suffering or go out together.
VOOLHS - Dir. Matthew Smith - 15:15 - 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 shelf, a fisherman uncovers a frozen prehistoric man and celebrates their friendship with dance.
HUMDINGER - Dir. Alex Campbell - 7:00 - AUS
A young intelligent girl with an anarchic mind struggles to escape her overbearing parents.
BAMBALE DOLL - Dir. Robbi Bota - 10:00 - AUS
Best friends Tim and Joe 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 Arco, Mirliam Ortega - 84:55 - SPAIN
Nerea, a 12-year-old girl experiences her first kiss, awakening a dark and disturbing nature within her.

Running Time approx. 97 mins

SESSION 4 - Tuesday Nov 26 - 9pm
KILLER LOVE - Dir. Daniel Marley - 16:00 - AUS
Killer Love is a comidy/horror about sour break ups. Its about the masked killer in the woods, ready to take an axe to your head. If you can't sort your shit out.
LARKY TIMES - Dir. David Krieger - 9:25 - AUS
When buying chocolates and flowers for grandma isn't enough.
RACING INDIAN - Dir. Tim Syder - 14:07 - AUS
Joe and Pay catch a burglar robbing their apartment, but they act as hospitable as possible so no one gets hurts.
SAC DH MIRABILIS - Dir. Greg Chwerek - 18:27 - USA
Based on a true story, Maelz spends the night with the man of her dreams only to discover he might just be full of shit, literally.
SHAMBILON INVADE - Dir. Kevin Jegers - 10:15 - AUS
An extra-terrestrial interrupts two suburban mates having drinks.
GRASS EXPECTATIONS - Dir. Andy Burkitt - 6:04 - AUS
A grasswobber discovers a recently deceased young beauty may not be as deceased as he thought.
BURNING MAN - Dir. Jamie Wilson - 50:58 - 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
Eve is having a romantic couple's dinner and has invited her new boyfriend. The trouble is, he doesn't exist.
THE PUNGENT RASH - Dir. Alex McCarthy - 14:56 - AUS
Lootius, an ageing tattoo artist, reluctantly passes the torch as his struggles to accept his slide into mediocrity.
WHEN THE YERBS ARE CLOSED - Dir. Shang Xiaoan - 5:46 - AUS/CHINA
A young girl moves in a new apartment, but every time she closes her eyes, she is not alone.
FROZEN TIMES - Dir. Charles Ciskis - 1:00 - AUS
Darkness sets 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 Bejar
AMBASSADOR - Dir. Paul Lanzal, Emmanuel Satie - 14:58 - ARGENTINA
Anomoropus and the Sorceress of Evil, test humanity's happiness in a bitter struggle.
ASCENDANT - Dir. Josh Sattel - 80:49 - AUS
In a bleak, industrial feature, a man wanders an abandoned greyhound track, only to be confronted by what he finds.

Running Time approx. 97 mins

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