

THE 23RD MELBOURNE UNDERGROUND FILM FESTIVAL

Richard Wolstencroft proudly presents

MUFF 23

DECEMBER 8TH-14TH

MUFF HIGHLIGHTS

INTERNATIONAL GUEST
LARRY WESSEL WITH HIS
NEW FILM AND MASTER CLASS

OPENING NIGHT
HIGH STRANGENESS

CLOSING NIGHT
FREEDOM DOUBLE BILL

POLICE STATE AND
THE GREAT AWAKENING

MUFF SHORTS AND MUFF FEATURES



..IMPORTANT FESTIVAL UPDATE..

Please Note: All MUFF Screenings now exclusively at
The Q Room, 371 Settlement Rd, Thomastown VIC

WEBSITE: WWW.MUFF.COM.AU

CHECK OUT FB FOR LATEST NEWS:

WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/MELBOURNEUNDERGROUNDFILMFESTIVAL

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME

STATEMENTS



Richard Wolstencroft

MUFF Festival Director

The Melbourne Underground Film Festival is back, folks! After 23 years Australia's most controversial Indy film festival returns. We could say at this stage we keep the festival going out of pure spite for the people who have tried to stop us! But really we do it out of pure love of indy Local and OS cinema, especially genre, and questioning the absurd status quo woke gravy train that is the Australian Screen Culture and the film funding scene. MUFF has discovered the greatest indy film talent the last 23 years from James Wan to Patrick Hughes to Greg McLean to Zak Hilditch to Stuart Simpson to Scott Ryan and Mike Retter...and we are gonna just keep going ahead and doing that. We are honoured to have International guest Larry Wessel at the festival whose ground breaking screen work and practice is something to investigate and be part of for MUFF 23. Join us for great films, great friends, great networking and rebelling against dull screen culture in Oz! Thanks to the whole MUFF Team, entries and supporters, as usual, esp Frank, Dom and Efisia this year.

Cheers Richard Wolstencroft, MUFF Festival Director

Frank Howson

Festival Patron and EP

MUFF celebrates its 23rd year in this Millennium's 23rd year. It's fitting that they're in sync. For MUFF has always signalled a new dawn for filmmakers. An open door to possibilities that weren't there before. I've recently stated that academics have killed the Australian Film Industry. People who've read many books on how to, but have done nothing. Why? Because it takes guts to enter the arena and put your neck on line, to be judged by academics. But all those serious tomes on film criticism are based on what went before. Hence, anything out of the box is hard for them to categorise. The strength of MUFF is that it's totally independent. It doesn't take money from any government bodies. Hence, there are no political restrictions. Try getting your independent film into other Australian festivals if you haven't got a government funding logo on it. It's near impossible. That's why MUFF is so important. It's existence is a beacon of light for young, and not so young, independent mavericks to get their films out there, and not judged by academics in a vacuum, but by the public. MUFF has been the springboard for an impressive number of local filmmakers who've gone on to huge international successes. Kudos must go to festival founder and director Richard Wolstencroft for keeping this festival going through thick and thin. It has been a Herculean effort at times, but both Richard and MUFF are still here, and going strong.

Be bold, be brave, and, most importantly, be you.

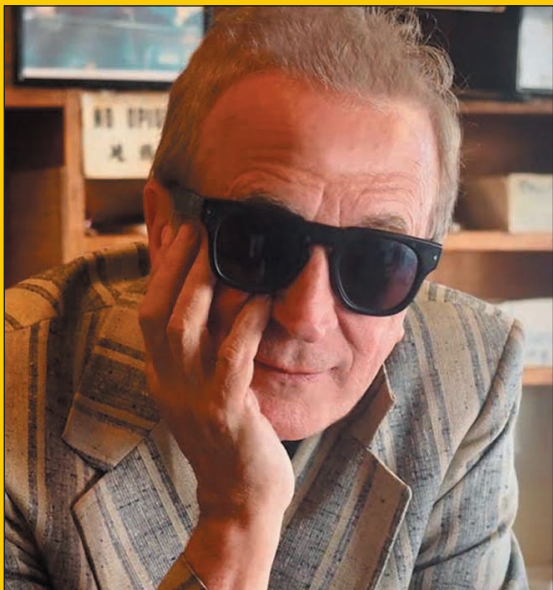
Frank Howson, Executive Producer.

Efisia Fele

Festival co-Programmer and Asst Director

The Melbourne Underground Film Festival stands apart, independent, raging, warts and all for the sake of imperfect human-ness in a time when art is only celebrated for toeing the line and parroting the status quo. Imagination and independent thought are increasingly radical, rare and underground; and it is exactly these qualities that MUFF has championed for 23 years. MUFF doesn't seek to fulfill quotas, it never has and it never will, MUFF seeks the bizarre, the batshit crazy, the bold, the brave, MUFF celebrates outsider art and, of course, MUFF never shies from controversy.

Our selection of films this year reflect a genuine, unforced diversity from around Australia and the world. Some key highlights include our international guest, Larry Wessel with his new film and masterclass; our bonkers alien abduction Opening Night feature film, HIGH STRANGENESS which is having its debut and is presented by Ozploitation legend Brian Trenchard-Smith; our Freedom films of course THE GREAT AWAKENING and POLICE STATE; and a kooky feature by Russian director Diana Galimzyanova, PLAN 9 FROM ALIEXPRESS which is celebrating its International Debut with us. Short films of note include ZOMBIES vs THE MEN'S SHED by Aussie director Travis Bain; ROTTEN BLOOD by Nepali director Durga Bahadur Karki; JIBRIL from Aussie director Kesari Bhattacharya; the bleakly beautiful THEY HUNGER from German director Florian Dreischer; the amusing surprise of GHOST SONG from American directors Joseph Keckler and M. Sharkey, plus two great new shorts by daring Adelaide MUFF alumni Mike Retter.



OPENING NIGHT

Thursday December 8th - 7pm

The Q Room, 371 Settlement Rd, Thomastown VIC



High Strangeness

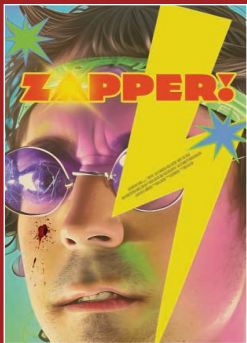
dir Casper Jean Rimbaud - AU - 90 mins
alien abduction/ psychosis-horror/art house

(with special video intro by Brian Trenchard-Smith, EP)

Abigail has persistent visions of a mass alien invasion and humanity's doomsday, all fuelled by men lurking in the shadows of the Pentagon... Can she and her little sister Cathy survive the High Strangeness?

...Join MUFF for our exciting Aussie feature debut

Features in Session

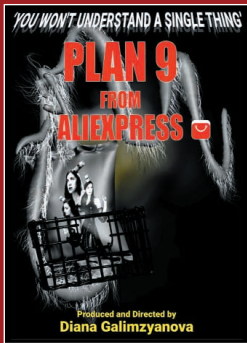


Zapper

dir Nick Gatsby - USA - 90 mins
surreal

Monday Dec 11, 7pm,
The Q Room, 371 Settlement Rd,
Thomastown VIC

In a surreal universe where bananas fire laser beams and soup cans are used as grenades, several wacky criminals put their lives on the line to score a mystical longboard.



Plan 9 from AliExpress

dir Diana Galimzyanova - Ru - 90 mins
fantasy/ adventure

Monday Dec 11, 9pm
The Q Room, 371 Settlement Rd,
Thomastown VIC

An emotionally unstable Gothic Princess who wants to kill herself. Prince Charming steals her rope, she must find him to get her rope back and commit suicide. She

faces a mysterious monster as well as vampires, witches, aliens and even a zombie unicorn on her way.



Ridgewood River

dirs Cameron Davies, Zachary Williams - AU - 59 mins
horror/ thriller

Tuesday Dec 12, 7pm,
The Q Room, 371 Settlement Rd,
Thomastown VIC

A reckless game of chance turns a peaceful camping trip into a nightmare of suspicion and terror for a group of friends in remote Australia. As they grapple with paranoia and psychosis, they must confront the haunting repercussions of their long kept secrets.

CLOSING NIGHT

Thursday December 14

The Q Room, 371 Settlement Rd, Thomastown VIC

Freedom Movement Films - Double Feature



7pm - Police State

dir Dinesh D'Souza - USA - 90 mns
doco

Dinesh D'Souza exposed the fraud of the 2020 Election in his film 2000 Mules. Well now Dinesh is back and exposing the Witch Hunt that the Deep State has against ME! And the Police State is coming after you too. Dinesh understands this, and is blowing the whistle on all of it!

"We can't let this continue. I hope everyone will watch the film, POLICE STATE!" ...Donald Trump



8.30pm - The Great Awakening

dir Mikki Willis - USA, 100 mins
doco

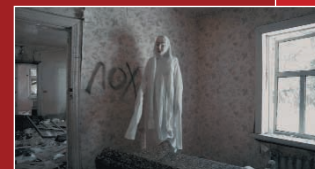
The Great Awakening pieces together a forbidden puzzle, revealing what's really happening in America and beyond. A lighthouse to guide us out of the storm and into a brighter future.



High Strangeness



Zapper



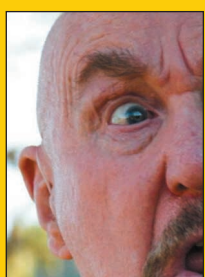
Plan 9 from AliExpress



Ridgewood River



MUFF SHORTS



MUFF SHORTS - 5 sessions total

Session 1 - 70 min - Saturday Dec 9 - 5.30pm The Q Room, 371 Settlement Rd, Thomastown VIC

ZOMBIES V THE MEN'S SHED - dir Travis Bain - AU - 9min

(also playing as Opening Night short)

A quiet morning at the Cairns Men's Shed is rudely interrupted by a horde of zombies, spawned by a chemical factory accident, and this prompts the members of the Men's Shed to take up arms and fight for their community, their organisation, and Australia!

THEY HUNGER - dir Florian Dreischer - Ger - 34min

Six strangers are willing to give their lives for the ultimate story.

THE SCOUT - dir Adam James Lawes - AU - 10min

A plumber working late has an unexpected guest.

IT'S GONNA RAIN - dirs Orly Beringer, Owen Lawie - AU - 26min

A series of interwoven impressions in a kaleidoscopic tour through a suburban dream.

Session 2 - 72 min - Sunday Dec 10 - 7pm The Q Room, 371 Settlement Rd, Thomastown VIC

BLOOD SUGAR SEX YOWIE - dir Henry Stone - AU - 22min

A desperate cryptozoologist is tricked by OnlyFans pornographers into giving them a tour of spooky bush locations to film in.

GHOST SONG - dirs Joseph Keckler, M. Sharkey - USA - 6min

A narrator reveals the details of a mysterious, transformative encounter that took place in a remote locale.

TALOC (LINES DRAWN IN WATER) - dir Abinadi Meza - USA - 9min

Tlaloc (Lines Drawn in Water) is a handmade, cameraless, 16mm film. Tlaloc is the deity of waters, rain, lightning, and growth in the Aztec pantheon.

STAR - dirs Jason Chave, Peter Wolf Lowe - AU - 8min

When her car breaks down, a lone woman has to race against time through the dark, dangerous, and weird backways of an apocalyptic-ish Melbourne.

#BOSSBABE - dir Kassy Gaucho - Ca - 13min

Desperate to climb the ranks of Bevon, a #girlboss pyramid scheme, Sofi throws a recruitment party for a few girlfriends. When one of her guests suddenly drops dead, chaos ensues.

CONCRETE - dirs Ari Kwasner-Catsi, Renee Kypriotis - AU - 16min

A third generation Greek-Australian, Aggelos, fronts questions of his identity.

ZS - dir Zach Hearn Sengstock - AU - 5min

Clive tries to enjoy his favourite show while being psychologically tortured by his son.

Session 3 - 72 min - Sunday December 10 - 8.30pm The Q Room, 371 Settlement Rd, Thomastown VIC

JIBRIL - dir Kesari Bhattacharya - AU - 20min

Diversity Quotas in heaven have humorous consequences on earth.

IT'S ONLY A FILM - dir Samvu Willing - AU - 6min

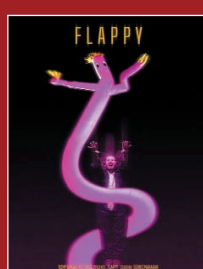
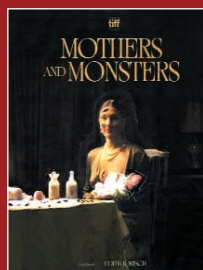
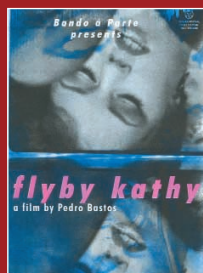
In an effort to find meaning and change the script of his life, Bobby Breadcrumb journeys beyond the fourth wall to fight against the powers that be.

DREAM OF A SHADOW - dir Peter Galison - USA - 21min

An experimental back and forth between the innermost-personal and the astronomical.

RIDE - dir Jeno Kim - AU - 7min

Whilst sharing the liminal space of a car ride, two strangers discover they may be more connected to each other than they realise.



Session 3 - 72min - Sunday December 10 - 8.80pm (Continued) The Q Room, 371 Settlement Rd, Thomastown VIC

BIN DAY - dir Ryan Neil Butler - AU - 8min

The sun is shining, the birds are singing and the zombie apocalypse has settled in nicely. There's just one problem...one of the undead is in the yard. What's a pacifist to do?

FLYBY KATHY - dir Pedro Bastos - Portugal - 10min

In 1981, an adult film actress mysteriously disappeared. 40 years later, this story unfolds...

Session 4 - 67min - Tuesday December 12 - 8.30pm The Q Room, 371 Settlement Rd, Thomastown VIC

DON'T COME IN... YET - dir Isaac Dean Elliott - AU - 10min

As an 18 year old wheelchair user, Jake's life is micromanaged by his dad, even when Jake and his best friend June plan to have sex for the first time.

DON'T BOTHER ME - dir Jack L. Pardy - AU 10min

A broke, scrawny young man, facing the stresses of looking for work and paying bills is confronted with his own mortality when a man claiming to be a house-fly tries to take his life.

ROTTEN BLOOD - dir Durga Bahadur Karki (SAYAD) - Nepal - 18min

A depiction of the consequence of greed, ostentation and bondage seen in today's human civilisation and the journey of giving up all bonds and trying to be reborn to Samadhi.

BROKEN CHRYSALIS - dir Maxine Gatt - AU - 13min

Elle is trying to move on from her past, only to be confronted by her ex-boyfriend, Tommy, who has recently been released from prison.

Session 5 - 76min - Wednesday December 13 - 7pm The Q Room, 371 Settlement Rd, Thomastown VIC

MOTHERS & MONSTERS - dir Edith Jorisch - Ca - 16min

For a very special celebration, a host-mother has gathered mothers and their perfect children for a great banquet when the banquet is suddenly disrupted...

LOST SOULS ARCHIVE - dir Connor McRae - AU - 15min

Inventor Nicholas Zara has created an AI-controlled hub that can store the souls of depressed people and rehabilitate them. When glitches start to appear, Nicholas has to solve the problems.

SEPTICHEXEN - dir Anders Elsrud Hultgreen - Nor - 14min

In the sewers beneath the city of Bergen, a microbiologist tries to uncover secrets.

NOCTURNAL CELLULOID - dir Billy Rowlands - AU - 15min

In the midst of a move-out, a teenage boy discovers his deceased uncle's film prints that depict his time in The Vietnam War.

FLAPPY - dir Darcy Conlan - AU - 7min

A thief is stalked by an inflatable car yard mascot after he steals one of its closely guarded vehicles.

CLOSING NIGHT

Two shorts by Mike Retter (World Premiere)

NIGHT RITES - DEN - dir Mike Retter - AU - 6mins

Film-clip featuring Adelaide alternative rock band Night Rites and their spacey shoegaze track titled "DEN".. Utilising some experimental techniques in water and smoke to complement the atmosphere of the music. Directed by MUFF alumni Mike Retter (Youth On The March)

KOLESNIKOV'S WORLD - PRELUDE TO "CLAIR DE LUNE" - dir Mike Retter - AU - 6 mins

An intercepted TV broadcast from another dimension, Kolesnikov's World anticipates the follow-up to Mike Retter's previous feature film Youth On The March with a textured, distorted TV program featuring martial arts champion Eugene Kolesnikov and actress Hebe Sayce.

SPECIAL EVENTS



Saturday December 9
The Q Room, 371 Settlement Rd, Thomastown VIC

7pm • Larry Wessel Master Class

Filmmaker, Artist, Photographer and Writer Larry Wessel has been making films for the last 55 years. In his MUFF Master Class he will share clips from his Top 10 Favourite Films, read an excerpt from his upcoming memoir, "KING OF THE UNDERGROUND and Other Moments of Clarity" and he will discuss documentaries and his unique method of making them.

Followed by:

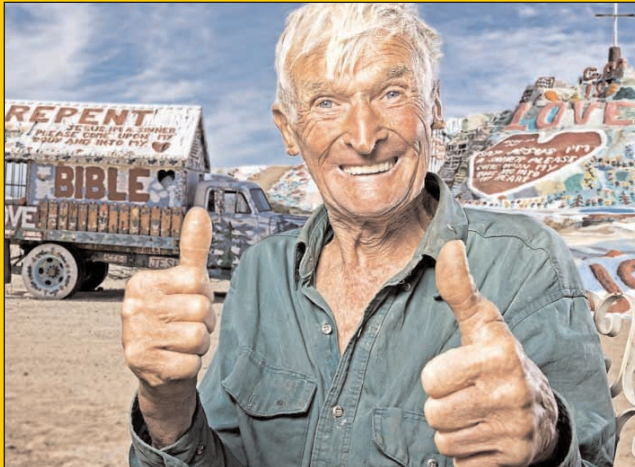
8.30pm • LARRY WESSEL'S 'PALACE OF WONDERS'

Dir Larry Wessel

A Feature-Length Documentary over 20 Years in The Making inspired by Anton Szandor LaVey's evocative reading of the poem "Vagabond's House" by Don Blanding. Featuring a Star-Studded Cast of Indy Luminaries including TV Pioneer, Musician Korla Pandit, Artist COOP, Mad Magazine's Dick DeBartolo, The Musee Mechanique, John Wickett and his Museum of Exotica, Sparks and DEVO Drummer David Kendrick, Mosaic Artist Jason

Mecier, Rockstar Gidget Gein, Adventurer Mitch Miller, Rosemary's Billygoat, Human Blockhead David Apocalypse, Magic Historian Diego Domingo, Folk Artist Leonard Knight and his Salvation Mountain, "The Marilyn Monroe of Burlesque" Dixie Evans, Andy Warhol Superstar Louis Waldon, Charles Bukowski Photographer Michael Montfort, Plein Air Artist Alex Schaefer, Mark McCloud and his Museum of Illegal Images, The Vagabond and many more Surprise Guests!

Q & A to follow screening with Larry Wessel and Richard Wolstencroft.



Special Announcement:

Larry Wessel's 'PALACE OF WONDERS' will have a second encore screening with Q & A to follow screening with Larry Wessel
 Wednesday December 13 at 8.30pm
 The Q Room
 371 Settlement Road, Thomastown

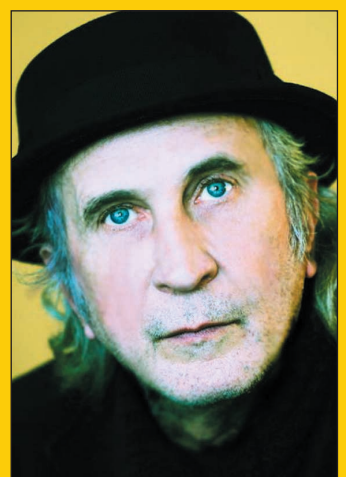


Friday December 8
The Q Room, 371 Settlement Rd, Thomastown VIC

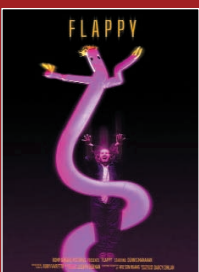
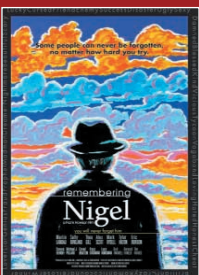
Frank Howson Special Event 8.30pm • 'Remembering Nigel'

Redux Version

"Remembering Nigel" is considered to be Frank Howson's lost masterpiece. It's creation was based upon Richard Wolstencroft asking Howson to come up with a short film to premiere at MUFF. He did and the audience reaction was so enthusiastic it won the Best Short Film Award. It was then suggested to Howson that he should extend it into a feature. 10 years in the making, a rough cut of it won the Best Film at the Paso Robles Film Festival, whose patron was Clint Eastwood, in 2009. But Howson's obsessiveness resulted in another few years of reshooting and re-editing. Finally, it was snapped up by an American distributor, but red tape has halted its international release. So, MUFF can announce a very special exclusive screening of the final American edit of this film. It stars the who's who of the acting and music worlds, Oscar winners Martin Landau & Mark Rydell, Golden Globe winner Sally Kirkland, Steven Berkoff, John Savage, Bud Tingwell, Thea Gill (star of "Queer As Folk"), Eric Burdon, Michael J. Pollard, Alex Scott, Tommy Dysart, P. F. Sloan, etc., and a host of local actors. A rare one night only treat to view the Redux version in all its wonder.



MUFF 23 SCHEDULE



OPENING NIGHT Friday December 8

The Q Room, 371 Settlement Rd, Thomastown VIC

7pm - High Strangeness + Zombies VS The Men's Shed
8.30pm - Remembering Nigel - Redux version

Saturday December 9

The Q Room, 371 Settlement Rd, Thomastown VIC

5:30pm - Shorts Session 1
Larry Wessel Double
7pm - Larry Wessel Masterclass
8.30pm - Larry Wessel's PALACE OF WONDERS
Followed by Q & A with Larry Wessel and Richard Wolstencroft

Sunday December 10

The Q Room, 371 Settlement Rd, Thomastown VIC

7pm - Shorts Session 2
8.30pm - Short Session 3

Monday December 11

The Q Room, 371 Settlement Rd, Thomastown VIC

7pm - Zapper
9pm - Plan 9 From AliExpress

Tuesday December 12

The Q Room, 371 Settlement Rd, Thomastown VIC

7pm - Ridgewood River
8.30pm - Shorts Session 4

Wednesday December 13

The Q Room, 371 Settlement Rd, Thomastown VIC

7pm - Short Session 5
8.30pm - Larry Wessel's PALACE OF WONDERS
Followed by Q & A with Larry Wessel and Richard Wolstencroft

Thursday December 14

The Q Room, 371 Settlement Rd, Thomastown VIC

Freedom Movement Double Feature
7pm - Police State
8.30pm - The Great Awakening + 2 Mike Retter shorts

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Festival Director: RICHARD WOLSTENCROFT

Exec Producer/Festival Ambassador/Poster Illustration: FRANK HOWSON

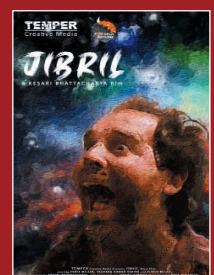
Programme Design: DOMINIC BARBUTO/VISIBLE INK DESIGN

MUFF TICKETING

TIX: \$20, Concession: \$15

ALL MUFF Tickets are available on the door in cash. MUFF is a cash supporting festival. So please come prepared. MUFF supports The Cash Only Movement. If worried about seat availability for a MUFF session, just arrive 15 minutes before the screening.

Thank You, Team MUFF...long live cash!





ZOMBIES V THE MEN'S SHED

