

THE 24th MELBOURNE UNDERGROUND FILM FESTIVAL

RICHARD WOLSTENCROFT PROUDLY PRESENTS

# MUFF 24

## FRANKLY!

Sun 8th-Thur 12th DECEMBER

### OPENING NIGHT DOUBLE

**6pm:** Kiss of Death - Terry McMahon

**8pm:** Vincent - Alan King

plus short The Shaver Mystery by  
Dean Bertram

### CLOSING NIGHT

- What is a Woman?
- Plus shorts and The MUFF Awards

### MUFF FEATURES

### MINI MUFF SHORTS

### FRANK HOWSON TRIBUTE

### CONSPIRACY CORNER

Freedom Movement and  
Conspiracy films programmed by  
Wolstencroft and Thrussell from  
Cafe Locked Out's The No Goat Show  
• Forums and Filmmaker talks and more!

**VENUE:** The Black Sheep Hawthorn  
546 Burwood Rd. Hawthorn VIC 3122

**Website:** [www.muff.com.au](http://www.muff.com.au)

**Check out FB for the latest news:**

<https://www.facebook.com/MelbourneUndergroundFilmFestival>

THIS FESTIVAL IS DEDICATED TO YOU FRANK HOWSON (1951-2024) RIP OLD FRIEND!



OFFICIAL PROGRAMME

# STATEMENTS



**Richard Wolstencroft**  
**MUFF Festival Director**

MUFF 24 is here - and it's dedicated to our festival patron Frank Howson - who we sadly lost this year in February, 2024. He was only 72 years young. He's been a big part of MUFF since he came back from LA in the mid 00's. We have been fast friends ever since his return. He gave me my second feature gig, *The Intruder*, shot on 35mm and starring Tottie Goldsmith, Lachy Hulme and Paul Moder. He believed in a young filmmaker and I believed him when he had his Boulevard Films troubles. We stuck by each other over the years, in thick and thin.

He'd be happy to see MUFF still causing trouble. We have great Opening Night films from MUFF alumni Terry McMahon, Alan King and Dean Bertram. We have the controversial documentary, 'What is a Woman' on Closing Night - NO other film festival in Australia would dare play this film and go against the woke cultural revolution mind virus. But we do, "So fuck em" as they say.

We have over 40 new shorts and new features; a tribute to Frank Howson; and our Conspiracy Corner selections of cult films from David Thrussell from *SNOG* and *The No Goat Show*.

We don't do 'Welcome to Country' at MUFF, as we reject all Marxist drivel and the simpering dribblers who adhere to this divisive nonsense. We are one people and one country, and one MUFF, also. Come join us in 2024 at the only truly indy film festival in Australia. Reject the woke mind virus and embrace a future not driven by the divide and conquer antics of global elites. Frank Howson would be proud, it's all for you mate in 2024! We miss you terribly. Let this festival be testament to this.

*Best Regards*

*Richard Wolstencroft aka "Dick the Muff Man" MUFF Director, Curator, regular on the You Can't be Serious podcast with Sam Newman and CLO*

**Vale Frank Howson**  
**Festival Patron**

This year's 24th Melbourne Underground Film Festival, MUFF Frankly!, celebrates the unapologetic and unfiltered spirit of our late patron, Frank Howson. Frank had a deep passion for independent cinema and a knack for uncovering voices and stories often overlooked by the mainstream. His influence on MUFF has been profound, and this year's programme is dedicated to that same boldness he championed.



**Efisía Fele**  
**Festival co-Programmer and Asst Director**

I'm excited to share a line-up that pushes boundaries and embraces stories that are raw and inventive but also controversial, and courageously countercultural. MUFF has always been a home for filmmakers who refuse to compromise, and this year's selection stays true to that, with films that provoke, entertain and remind us of the power of fearless storytelling.

We invite you to join us in celebrating a festival that embodies Frank's spirit—one that is Frankly! MUFF at its finest.

*Efisía Fele Assistant Director, Co-Curator*

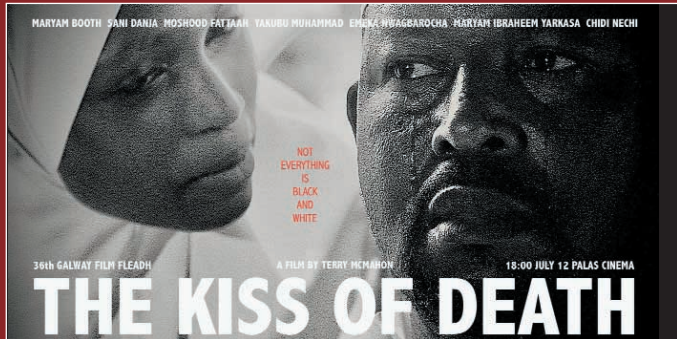




## OPENING NIGHT

8pm - Sunday December 8th

The Black Sheep Hawthorn, 546 Burwood Rd. Hawthorn VIC

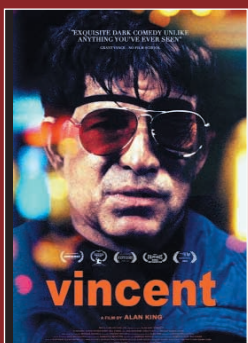


### 6pm - Kiss of Death

Directed by Terry McMahon - Irish/African - 90min

MUFF alumni Terry McMahon is back with his fourth feature, Kiss of Death. We have played and awarded his previous three features and we are honoured to play his new one on Opening Night. This time Terry is off to Africa for a dark morality lesson.

*Naïve, idealistic, and passionate; Tony, a young teacher, is sent to teach in Northern Nigeria, where he believes he can transcend all differences through his commitment to the children and the job. But, when a girl collapses in his class and there are no female teachers to help the girl, Tony has no idea that his life-saving intervention might cost him his own life. McMahon explores his familiar themes of class, religious tension and clash of civilisations in this new work, with themes of darkness and ignorance that lead to tragedy. McMahon's fourth feature is a luminescent meditation on the Heart of Darkness, beautifully and transcendently photographed and with a big heart. A highlight of MUFF 2024.*



### 8pm - Vincent

Directed and starring Alan King - AUS - 90min

*Troubled writer Vincent Tremblay, escapes to an isolated retreat, determined to complete his first novel. However, his solitude is short lived as a powerful force suddenly manifests itself and Vincent finds himself caught firmly in its grasp. Vincent is a challenging black comedy, with fatalistic*

*and fantastic touches that's interpretation is open to the viewer. A daring new Australian film, showcasing the diverse talents of Alan King as star, writer and director. You'll know Alan's work from past MUFF films, for e.g. the cinema of Tim Burns. The somewhat experimental, non-linear narrative that refers quite a bit to the Godard & the Nouvelle Vague, the conceptual ambiguity that he handles, makes this semiotic directorial debut film by Australian Alan King one of its high points of MUFF 24. Without a doubt, it makes its director and star a filmmaker to follow. It's won awards in Germany and Chile and plays MUFF in 2024.*

## Opening Night Shorts



### The Shaver Mystery

Dir Dean Bertram - AUS/USA - 15min

*Was sci-fi writer Richard Shaver really abducted and tormented by a malevolent subterranean race of hideous aliens? Regardless, his "true" stories – known collectively as "The Shaver Mystery" – were the most successful and controversial sci-fi tales of the mid 20th century*



### Crab Girl

Dir Sergiy Pudich - Ukraine/Thai - 19 mins

*A young virgin guy does not manage to have sex with his beloved long-term girlfriend on his 23rd birthday.*

*By putting an ultimatum on their relationship, he acknowledges the incredible truth beyond her rejection of him.*

## CLOSING NIGHT

8pm - Thursday December 12th



### 8pm - What is a Woman?

Dir Matt Walsh - USA - 90 mins - doco

*A powerful documentary by Matt Walsh that challenges transgender ideology by asking a fundamental question: what does it mean to be a woman? Viewed from a Gender Critical perspective, the film argues that redefining "woman" as a subjective identity rather than a biological reality, erases women as a distinct sex class, with far-reaching consequences. Through inter-*

*views with doctors, activists, and others, Walsh exposes how this shift not only threatens the rights, protections, and unique experiences of women and girls but also destabilises foundational societal structures. What is a Woman? calls for a return to biological definitions, contending that only by honouring the truth of two sexes can society preserve the integrity of womanhood and safeguard its social fabric.*

# MUFF SHORTS



## MUFF SHORTS - 5 sessions total

The Black Sheep Hawthorn, 546 Burwood Rd. Hawthorn VIC

### SESSION 1 - 82 min - Sunday Dececember 8th - 4.30pm

**BLOODHUNT** - Dirs: Richard Kubli, Michael Kubli - AUS - 28min

*A man, wrretched with guilt, comes face to face with his demons.*

**I LIKE LONG WALKS ON PARRAMATTA ROAD** - Dir: Kate McGuiness - AUS - 17min

*A depressed woman finds she can no longer endure life. In a desperate attempt to cure her malaise, she embarks on an expedition along Sydney's oldest motorway.*

**THIS WEREWOLF COMPLEX** - Dir: Heather Andrews - UK - 15min

*A moving image and sound portrait of the aura; seizures in focused parts of the brain that result in sensory, physical and emotional disturbances*

**PODCASTERS** - Dir: Grace Wiggles - AUS - 12min

*When two highly-uneducated-yet-enthusiastic sisters set out to start a podcast, their big dreams take a turn...*

**POCKET PRINCESS** - Dir: Olivia Loccisano - CA - 10min

*A young girl must take part in a dangerous task in order to complete her doll collection in this miniature fairytale.*

### SESSION 2 - 81 min - Monday December 9th - 4.30pm

**CAUSTIC** - Dir: Wesley Gondim - BRAZIL - 22min

*On a remote farm, a mother and daughter make a discovery and unravel a disturbing mystery... What must they do to get out?*

**THE GUN** - Dir: Thomas McIntosh - NZ - 17min

*An uneasy vision of a young man's internal world as the escalating intrusions of an embittered older self force him onto a dangerous path.*

**THE ITCH** - Dir: William G. Phillips - USA - 15min

*A young man awakens in an unfamiliar apartment only to find himself under surveillance... and decaying rapidly.*

**THE GENERAL** - Dir: Nicolo Accettura - ITALY - 11min

*In a Southern town in Italy, three middle school friends are called to face the urgent draft notice of the neighborhood...*

**I HEAR IT TOO** - Dir: Dan Egan - USA - 9min

*For the first time in his life, a silent movie protagonist hears a distant, disembodied sound.*

**UNSYNCHRONISED** - Dir: Zooey Gao - AUS - 7min

*One of the few surviving Steenbeck edit suites in the southern hemisphere is dismantled and given to collectors.*

### SESSION 3 - 81 min - Monday December 9th - 6.00pm

**THE WRECK OF HAROLD MURPHY** - Dir: Erin Brandenburg - CA - 21min

*The Wreck of Harold Murphy follows grizzled musician and local legend Harold Murphy.*

**THERE IS NO ANTIMETRICS DIVISION** - Dir: Adria Lang - USA - 17min

*Marion Wheeler is called in to a routine meeting with her boss, a high ranking suit at the shadowy SCP Foundation, only to end up with a gun to her head and her identity in question.*

**NAP** - Dir: Javier Chavanel - SPAIN - 14min

*Four people are about to undergo a dangerous experiment. The rules are simple: you will have to sleep if you want to live.*

**SPEAK! THE BARKING MAD WORLD OF GERMANY'S TALKING DOGS (1910-1945)**

- Dirs: Dennis Mohr, Calvin Campbell - CA - 10min

*Speak! is the madcap tale of Germany's golden age of talking dogs (1910-1945).*

**ROSTRUM** - Dir: Daniel Kunerek - AUS - 8min

*A former Olympic athlete and "recovered" heroin user gives an addiction recovery group more than they bargained for.*

**IGNORE THE NOISE** - Dir: Kyle Jon Shephard - UK - 7min

*Gary, a struggling actor, faces an unexpectedly challenging audition for the seemingly simple role of Sleeping Man #2.*

**HANDSY** - Dir: Ryan Avery - USA - 4min

*Hands-on lessons are usually the best. And often the most fun.*



## SESSION 4 - 77min - Tuesday December 10th - 6.00pm

**CASBAH** - Dir: Andy Birtwistle - UK - 21min

*Casbah is a film about failure - a metafictional essay film about a film that was never made.*

**SEEDING, BLOSSOMING, FRUITING** - Dir: Junsong Ling - PRC - 16min

*If healthy organs, like seeds, can be replanted and heal any failing body, will human life be longer or shorter?*

**INSUFFERABLE** - Dir: Stig Wemyss - AUS - 13min

*When Terry's stoner grandson Brad discovers what the old man is up to, he knows they must keep it a secret or risk the full wrath of the law. Mummy's the word.*

**LAST NIGHT AT THE MAINLINE** - Dir: Michael Phela - AUS - 10min

*After 65 years, Adelaide's last drive-in cinema is shutting down.*

**THIS IS A STORY WITHOUT A PLAN** - Dir: Cassie Shao - USA - 8min

*This Is a Story Without a Plan envisions two characters witnessing a constant explosion in different fragments of their lives.*

**PUBFIGHTER** - Dir: Nicholas Olof Isaksson - AUS - 6min

*The visceral response you feel when a pack of drunken assholes walk past you - just a little too closely...*

**SALVATION** - Dir: Zane - CA - 3min

*A man drives aimlessly, questioning his life only to discover that the answers he is looking for have been with him all along.*

## SESSION 5 - 78min - Wednesday December 11th - 6.00pm

**CONNECTED** - Dir: Kelly Nicholson - AUS - 19min

*A young woman loses her grip on reality when the technology in her home begins to haunt and possess her.*

**TERMINAL EMULATOR** - Dir: Benjamin Capps - USA - 15min

*When a sexually abusive tryst in outer space ends by bloodshed, a distraught corporate executive faces demons after her lover provides a psychedelic, designer drug.*

**THAT'S RIGHT** - Dir: Alan Brian Claridge - AUS - 13min

*A couple at a restaurant have difficulties communicating, due to political correctness.*

**HITCH HIKING IS SAFE** - Dir: Ylia Trotter - AUS - 10min

*One killer hitches a ride from another, unbeknownst to them both.*

**OMISSIONS** - Dir: Simon Taylor - AUS - 7min

*While walking along the beach, Ezra and Max discover an object they've never seen before. The suspect it's from before the fabric of time became damaged.*

**THE TRIPTYCH OF THE KEEPER** - Dir: Annabella Schnabel - HUNGARY - 3min

*A gatekeeper tells the meaning of Life. But it's not a big deal.*

**EMILYCORE** - Dir: Charles Dillon Ward - USA - 5min

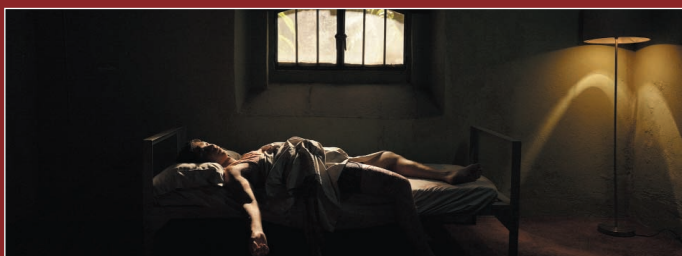
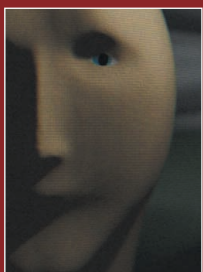
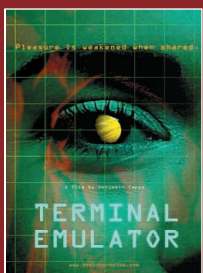
*Meme Man, a voice based on Disney's Belle, and a 3D scan of a Rodin sculpture star in this experimental documentary.*

**BURN-IN** - Dir: Charles Dillon Ward - USA - 2min

*A request to be forgotten, the messy deletion of bodies from photo albums, the faint remains of digital ghosts from the late 2000s...*

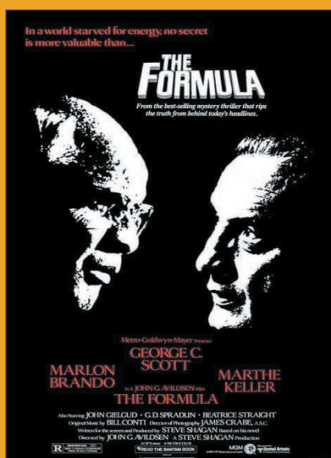
**THE AMBER GATES** - Dir: Laura Iancu - ROMANIA - 4min

*The Troite are protective totems placed at crossroads, water sprouts and in places of remembrance.*





# SPECIAL EVENTS

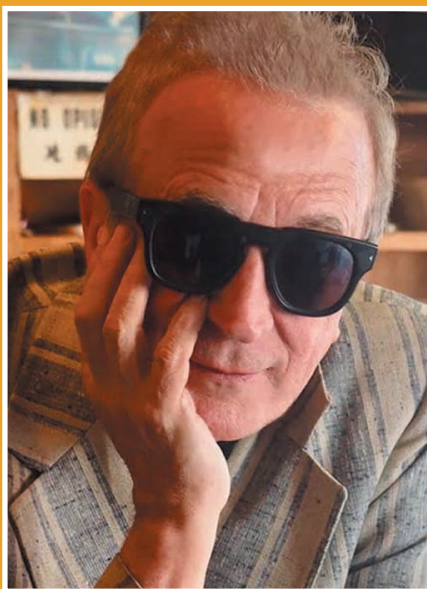


## TRIBUTE TO FRANK HOWSON

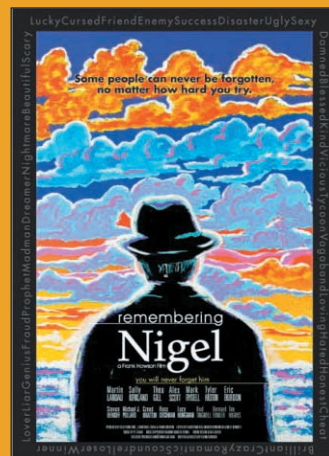
8pm Wednesday December 11th

The Black Sheep Hawthorn, 546 Burwood Rd. Hawthorn VIC

MUFF is proud to present two films by Frank Howson, as a tribute to our old friend and festival Patron. Hunting, starring John Savage from The Deer Hunter and Kerry Armstrong, it is often considered one of Frank's best films, Frank and I agreed with the sentiment. See a young Guy Pearce in an early role, Frank helped launch his career. Hunting will be followed by an Encore screening of Frank's final film, Remembering Nigel. Frank's final film started as a short at MUFF and soon became a feature. Frank meant this film as his epitaph, and with him gone, it is indeed that. Starring a stellar cast including Martin Landau, Steven Berkhoff John Savage, Michael J. Pollard, Bert Newton, John Micael Howson, Tommy Dysart, Molly Meldrum, John Flaus, Kristen Condon and many others including MUFF festival director Richard Wolstencroft, this is the perfect Frank Tribute and send off movie for Our Frank, frankly.



Notes by RW



## CONSPIRACY CORNER

I asked my old mucker David Thrusell from SNOG and No Goat Show fame to pick three essential Conspiracy movie masterpieces for MUFF 24 - here they are - RW

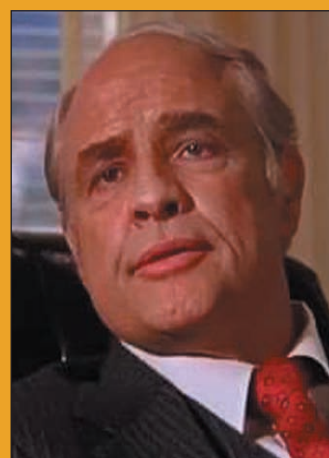
**WINTER KILLS (1979) - US - 90min. 4.30pm Tuesday December 10th**

Essentially unknown, this taught, surreal conspiracy thriller is one of the greatest 'political' films to ever come out of Hollyweird. Jeff Bridges plays the brother of a slain US President (AKA JFK) who falls down the 'rabbit hole' investigating the murder while under the shadow of his oligarch father, played by John Huston, (AKA Kennedy family patriarch Joseph Kennedy). Adapted from the book by Richard Condon ('The Manchurian Candidate', 'Seven Days In May'), with Anthony Perkins as J. Edgar Hoover (!) and a bizarre cameo from Elizabeth Taylor (!!), this dark, unlikely satire has more twists than a maze on Epstein Island.



**FLASHPOINT (1984) - US - 90min. 4.30pm Wednesday December 11th**

An intriguing yet forgotten film that stars Kris Kristofferson as a disgruntled Texas border guard, who stumbles upon the dark secrets of a deep US political conspiracy. Scored by Tangerine Dream and unfairly neglected, this well-crafted yet cynical film (think 'JFK' meets 'The X-Files') deserves serious reappraisal.



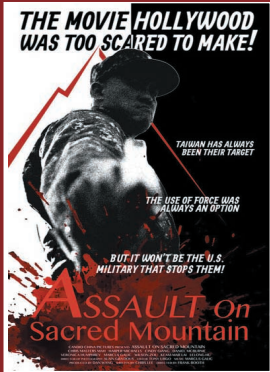
**THE FORMULA (1980) - US - 90min. 6pm Thursday December 12th**

Starring George C. Scott, Marlon Brando and Sir John Gielgud, 'The Formula' revolves around a murderous international conspiracy to keep resources 'scarce' and thus energy (and oil) prices unnaturally high (it could never happen!). Shot mostly on location in a rainy and grim Germany and featuring cunning Nazis and perfidious Big Oil operatives, 'The Formula' has slow burn tension and real world relevance.

Notes by David Thrusell - Snog, Black Lung, et al



# MUFF 24 FEATURES



## OFFICIAL SELECTIONS, BEST OF

**The Black Sheep Hawthorn, 546 Burwood Rd. Hawthorn VIC**

**ASSAULT ON SACRED MOUNTAIN** - Dir: Frank Booth - AUS - 80min  
**8pm Monday December 9th**

Five foreigners, led by local tour guide Joey, set out for an overnight hiking trip in the rugged mountains on Taiwan's east coast. Not long into their journey, they are ordered to turn back by three soldiers in army uniforms, who tell Joey that the trail ahead is closed for military training.

The hikers face a dilemma: do they retreat and let the invaders complete their mission - and risk a war - or take a stand and try to stop them. If the enemy succeeds in their mission, critical infrastructure in Taiwan will be taken down, dealing a devastating blow to the hi-tech economy of the US and its allies. The stakes couldn't be higher.



**VAMPIRE ZOMBIES... FROM SPACE!** - Dir: Michael Stasko - CA - 90min  
**9.30pm Monday December 9th**

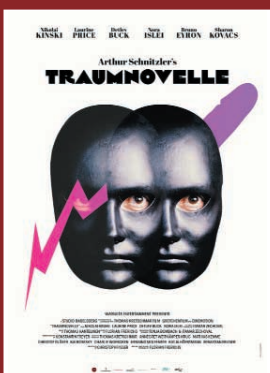
From the depths of space, Dracula has devised his most dastardly plan yet; turning the residents of a small American town into his personal army of vampire zombies! A motley crew consisting of a grizzled detective, a skeptical rookie cop, a chain-smoking greaser, and a determined young woman band together to save the world from — (see title). Packed with gruesome special effects, b-movie miniatures, and gut-busting laughs, "Vampire Zombies...from Space!" is a bloody comedy that has its foundation in horror films of the 1950s.



**L.A. 4ORCE** - Dir: Giovanni Zelko - USA - 120min  
**8pm Tuesday December 10th**

Two veteran Los Angeles homicide detectives track down a gang of arms dealers responsible for a quintuple murder that has captivated the country, amid an historic crime wave in Los Angeles.

*Followed by talk by International Guest, Director Giovanni Zelko*



**TRAUMNOVELLE** - Dir: Florian Frerichs - GERMANY - 110min  
**10pm Tuesday December 10th**

A colourful adaptation of Schnitzler's work, in which a woman tells her husband that she has fantasies with other people, triggering his desire for his own adventures. Set in modern kinky Berlin, the film is much more than a mere reboot of Kubrick's "Eyes Wide Shut".



**CHAINSAWS WERE SINGING** - Dir: Sander Maran - ESTONIA - 120min  
**2.30pm Thursday December 12th**

Adventures await when new lovers get separated by a chainsaw killer. An absolutely bonkers R-rated action-horror-musical-comedy epic.

**HUNTING UNICORNS** - Dir: Jimmy Bernasconi - AUS - 80min  
**4.30pm Thursday December 12th**

A young man, armed with more than naive conviction and a camera, plunges into the jungles of Vietnam to track down the elusive saola, also known as the 'Asian unicorn'. Confronted by harsh realities, his mission becomes a poignant exploration of human audacity; and the temptation of certainty in an ambiguous world.



## OFFICIAL SELECTIONS, NOT SCREENING

**THE MARATHON** - Dir: Luca Franco - ITA - 90min

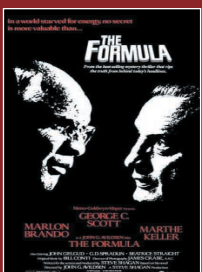
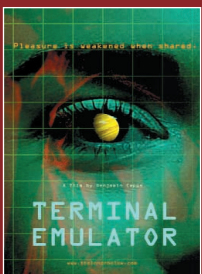
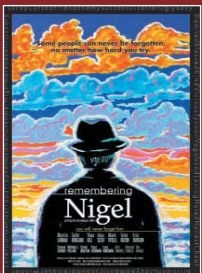
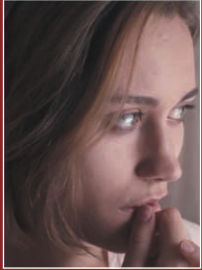
**INSIDE A SPIDER** - Dir: Arseniy Gonchukov - RUSSIA - 70min

**A MAN IMAGINED** - Dirs: Melanie Shatzky, Brian Cassidy - CA - 60min

**JESUS - A DEAF MISSIONS FILM** - Dir: Joseph D. Josselyn - USA - 150min

**BOTTOM FEEDERS** - Dir: Vincent D'Alessandro - USA - 80min

# MUFF SCHEDULE DECEMBER 2024



## OPENING NIGHT

**Sunday December 8th**

The Black Sheep Hawthorn, 546 Burwood Rd. Hawthorn VIC

4.30pm - Shorts Session 1

6pm - Kiss of Death and The Shaver Mystery (short)

8pm - Vincent and Crabgirl (short)  
and After Party

...

## Monday December 9th

430pm - Shorts Session 2

6pm - Shorts Session 3

8pm - Assault on Sacred Mountain

9.30pm - Vampire Zombies

...

## Tuesday December 10th

4.30pm - Conspiracy Session 1 - Winter Kills

6pm - Shorts Session 4

8pm - LA 4orce

followed by talk by International Guest Giovanni Zelko

10pm - Traumnovel

...

## Wednesday December 11th

4.30pm - Conspiracy Session 2 - Flashpoint

6pm - Shorts Session 5

8pm - Frank Howson's Hunting

9.30pm - Frank Howson's Remembering Nigel

...

## Thursday December 12th

2.30pm - Chainsaws Were Singing

430pm - Hunting Unicorns

6pm - Conspiracy Session 3 - The Formula

8pm - What is a Woman  
and Closing Night Party

...

**Festival Director:** RICHARD WOLSTENCROFT

**Assistant Director/CoCurator:** EFISIA FELE

**Webmaster:** MICHAEL TIERNEY

**Cover Illustration:** FRANK HOWSON

**Programme Design:** DOMINIC BARBUTO/VISIBLE INK DESIGN

**WEB SITE:** [www.muff.com.au](http://www.muff.com.au)

## MUFF TICKETING

'MUFF is a Cash Only support Festival - To promote the importance of Cash and Freedom' All tickets are bought on the door. \$20 each in cash. So please come prepared. Pay ID option also available. If worried about seat availability for a MUFF session, just arrive 15 minutes before the screening.

