



PALACE PRESENTS



SCANDINAVIAN

FILM FESTIVAL 2016

BRISBANE | JULY 13 TO JULY 29

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PALACE BARRACKS



OPENING NIGHT | WELCOME TO NORWAY

Rune Denstad Langlo brings humour to a topical subject in this black comedy about aspiring hotel owner Primus (Anders Baasmo Christiansen, *In Order of Disappearance*) who decides to turn his half-built alpine hotel near the Norwegian-Swedish border into a state-funded refugee asylum center in order to cash in on government funds. Winner - Best Nordic Film (Audience Award), Göteborg Film Festival 2016.



CENTREPIECE | LAND OF MINE

Based on extraordinary true events, writer/director Martin Zandvliet's stunning, multi award-winning new film is a gripping thriller about a group of young German POW soldiers in Denmark in the immediate aftermath of World War II. Echoing Peter Weir's *Gallipoli* and Kathryn Bigelow's *The Hurt Locker* but an impact truly of its own, this demands to be experienced on the big screen.



SPECIAL PRESENTATION | THE FENCER

Named "The best Finnish film in a decade" by Finland Today, this inspirational story is a fictionalized biopic based on the life of legendary fencer Endel Nelis who hid from Stalin's secret police in a remote Estonian village, trying to keep a low profile as the local school's sports instructor. 2016 Golden Globe Nominee - Best Foreign Language Film.



NORDIC NOIR: REFN'S THE PUSHER TRILOGY

Hitting the scene at 26 years-old, Nicolas Winding Refn made his directorial debut with 1996's *Pusher*. Despite the ten year gap between the first and last films, the trilogy showcases a cohesive and kinetic visual style and recurring themes of honour, family, and the cruel twists of fate that haunt the central characters forcing them into dreadful corners. Nordic Noir at its finest, this is a synapse-splitting series not for the faint hearted. Screening exclusively at Palace Barracks.



FESTIVAL GUEST | JAKOB OFTEBRO

Norwegian star Jakob Oftebro is one of Scandinavia's most talented and charismatic actors. He speaks five languages and has appeared in more than twenty films since 2004 including *KON-TIKI* (2012), which was nominated for the Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film at the 85th Academy Awards. Other significant films include *MAX MANUS* (2009), *THE HIDDEN CHILD* (2012), *VICTORIA* (2013), *ON THE EDGE* (2014) and *IN ORDER OF DISAPPEARANCE* (2014).

His television work includes the BAFTA nominated Danish/Swedish TV series, *THE BRIDGE*, as well as a featured role in *1864* by Ole Bornedal. In 2014, Jakob was selected by the Berlin International Film Festival as one of Europe's best young actors for the prestigious Shooting Stars programme. We are delighted to present two of Jakob's films this year, the Danish epic *GOLD COAST* set in 1836 in which he plays a botanist sent to Danish Guinea to establish coffee plantations, and the highly anticipated Swedish sequel *AS IT IS IN HEAVEN 2: HEAVEN ON EARTH*. Jakob will be in town to promote his new films at selected sessions.

DENMARK



COMEBACK

Natasha Arthy (*The Killing*) returns to feature films with this black comedy about Thomas, a former successful stand up comedian, who will do anything to get back on top. Unfortunately, while he is planning his comeback his estranged teenage daughter (Sarah-Sophie Boussnina, *The Bridge*) turns up wanting to get to know him and threatening to derail his plans.



GOLD COAST

Rising star Jakob Oftebro (*Kon-Tiki*) stars as Danish romantic visionary Wulff Joseph Wulff who travels to Africa in 1836 to establish coffee plantations on the Gold Coast (today's southeast Ghana), but he is soon confronted with the harsh reality of colonialism, the slave trade and the corrupt Danes that rule the colony.



THE IDEALIST

In this political thriller based on true events, a whistleblower attempts to reveal the secret behind a nuclear disaster that occurred during the height of the Cold War. A visual mix of fictional and archival footage, this is intelligent and thought-provoking viewing.



PARENTS

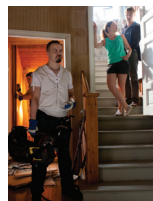
Kjeld and Vibeke, a middle-aged Danish couple, are left at a loss after their son, Esben, moves out. Attempting to recapture the vigor and magic of their youth, they move into the old apartment where they first fell in love. *Parents* interweaves surrealism with deadpan Nordic humor to tell a story about rediscovering love and letting go of the past.

FINLAND



ABSOLUTION

A hit-and-run accident triggers a nightmarish spiral of guilt and revenge in this tense domestic drama from Finnish writer-director Petri Kotwica. Laura Birn (2014 Festival guest for *August Fools*) delivers a phenomenal performance in this chilly edge-of-your-seat festival highlight.



HOMECOMING

Tiina and Tomi decide to leave the hectic city life behind and move back to Tiina's small native coastal hometown. She wants to revive her relationship with her impossible father Urho and, through the familiar landscape of her childhood environment, find her real self again. Tomi, a former Nokia engineer, is also eagerly looking forward to downshifting to a peaceful life with his new step-family and punkish teenage daughter Emilia. The grand plan seems perfect - until life hits the fan.



THE MINE

One of Finland's most recent environmental scandals is dissected in this probing industrial drama about young civil servant Jussi, who is charged with overseeing the environmental permit for a large nickel mine. When he is exposed to a world of closed meetings and backhanded deals, Jussi is forced to decide if he will be an accomplice or whistle-blower.



OTHER GIRLS

Based on the actual video diaries of teenage girls in Finland, this charming and energetic delight introduces four high-school girlfriends coping with romance, independence, trust, and self-acceptance as they near graduation and adulthood.



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SWEDEN



A MAN CALLED OVE

Fans of *The 100 Year-Old Man* and *Here is Harold* will love 59 year-old Ove, the block's grumpy man who has been relieved of his responsibility as president of the residents association, though you wouldn't know it as he continues to monitor the neighborhood with an iron fist! When pregnant Parvaneh and her family move into the house opposite an unexpected friendship is formed.



A HOLY MESS

Swedish actress-writer-director Helena Bergström's hit comedy starring Robert Gustafsson (*The 100 Year-Old Man*) tells the hilarious story of modern couple Simon and Oscar, and their pregnant friend Sissi, who all decide to host Christmas dinner to announce to their families that the three of them are expecting a baby!



LOVE IS THE DRUG

Set in the gorgeous Swedish archipelago, Staffan Lindberg's new romantic comedy stars former Bond girl Izabella Sorupco (*Golden Eye*, 2009) as Veronica, who falls for the man she has hired to renovate her apartment. However their children and their parents conspire to ensure their romantic summer is anything but! Winner of the Audience Award at Sweden's Academy Awards.



THE YARD

This contemporary minimalist gem tells the story of a poet and writer who is fired from his job at a local newspaper after writing a negative review of his own work. He finds a job at the shipyard, a world completely different from the one he is used to. Winner of the Lorens Award at the 2016 Göteborg Film Festival.



AS IT IS IN HEAVEN 2: HEAVEN ON EARTH

The highly anticipated sequel to Academy Award-nominated hit *As It Is In Heaven* (also screening in the Festival) reunites the cast in northern Sweden. World-renowned conductor, Daniel Dareus, has passed away leaving behind both his beloved choir and the love of his life, the beautiful soprano Lena, who is expecting their child. A moving tale about the redemptive power of music.



NICE PEOPLE

This real-life "Cool Runnings" follows the first ever Somali ice-hockey team in their struggle to reach the World Championship in Siberia in 2014. The team lives and trains in Borlänge, Sweden and is coached by legendary former bandy players Per Fosshaug and Cia Embretsen. Winner of the Audience Award at the 2015 Hamburg Film Festival, this is a touching festival highlight.

TICKETS ON SALE TUESDAY 7TH JUNE!

- IN CINEMAS at box offices daily until sold out
- ONLINE at www.scandinavianfilmfestival.com.au, and
- BY PHONE, call the cinema directly during box office hours.

*Program subject to changes. Please check website for the most up to date details.

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ScandinavianFilmFestival.com

NORWAY



THE WAVE

This thrilling, action-packed Norwegian box office hit tells the story of a dedicated geologist (Kristoffer Joner) who foresees that an eroding mountain will collapse into the fjord below prompting a tsunami in the spectacularly scenic tourist hot spot of Geiranger fjord. The human scale of this story based on a real-life disaster makes this well-crafted suspense drama even more chilling.

ICELAND



REYKJAVIK

A contemporary relationship drama in which thirty-something couple, Hringur and Elsa, are about to buy their dream house in downtown Reykjavik. However, when the video store that Hringur owns faces foreclosure, the crisis threatens to split the couple apart. Hringur must resolve things before it's too late.



SPARROWS

A multi award-winning and sophisticated coming-of-age story about 16-year old Ari who has been living with his mother in Reykjavik, when he is suddenly sent back to the remote Westfjords to live with his father Gunnar. Ari has to learn to navigate a difficult relationship with his father and the changed dynamics with his childhood friends he was once close with.



THE TOGETHER PROJECT

The late France-based, Iceland-born writer-director Solveig Anspach pays tribute to her Northern roots in this affably oddball romcom with a unique sensibility. Centering on the story of a man pretending he can't swim in order to get closer to the lifeguard he loves, this oddball indie delight won the SACD Prize in Directors' Fortnight in Cannes 2016.

BRISBANE SESSION TIMES

PALACE CINEMA BARRACKS

Wed 13 July

6:00 Opening Party before 7pm Premiere of WELCOME TO NORWAY

Thu 14 July

1:30 PM The Mine
6:30 PM As it is in Heaven 2: Heaven on Earth + Q&A with Jakob Oftebro

Fri 15 July

1:30 PM Reykjavik
6:30 PM Absolution
8:35 PM The Fencer
10:30 PM Pusher

Sat 16 July

1:30 PM As it is in Heaven
4:15 PM Love is the Drug
6:30 PM Welcome to Norway
8:45 PM A Holy Mess

Sun 17 July

2:00 PM Nice People
4:15 PM Land of Mine
6:30 PM Sparrows
8:45 PM The Together Project

Mon 18 July

1:30 PM Land of Mine
6:30 PM The Yard
8:30 PM Gold Coast

Tue 19 July

1:30 PM Absolution
6:30 PM A Man Called Ove
9:00 PM The Wave

Wed 20 July

1:30 PM A Holy Mess
6:30 PM Homecoming
8:45 PM Parents

Thu 21 July

1:30 PM Nice People
6:30 PM Comeback
8:30 PM The Yard

Fri 22 July

1:30 PM Sparrows
6:30 PM A Holy Mess
9:00 PM A Man Called Ove
10:30 PM Pusher 2

Sat 23 July

2:00 PM Sparrows
4:15 PM Absolution
6:30 PM Land of Mine
8:45 PM Nice People

Sun 24 July

1:30 PM As it is in Heaven 2: Heaven on Earth
4:30 PM Welcome to Norway
6:30 PM The Fencer
8:45 PM Other Girls

Mon 25 July

1:30 PM The Fencer
6:30 PM Love is the Drug
8:45 PM The Mine

Tue 26 July

1:30 PM A Man Called Ove
6:30 PM The Idealist
9:00 PM Comeback

Wed 27 July

1:30 PM Reykjavik
6:30 PM By popular demand sessions. See website for details.

Friday 29 July

10:30 PM Pusher 3