



BIRRARANGGA FILM FESTIVAL

INDIGENOUS FILMS FROM ACROSS THE GLOBE

APRIL 26 – 29, 2019

AUSTRALIAN CENTRE FOR THE MOVING IMAGE
FEDERATION SQUARE



WOMINJEKA

WELCOME

Message from the Minister for Creative Industries

Four days, 40 films, a world of stories – welcome to the first BIRRARANGGA Film Festival.

The Victorian Government, through Creative Victoria and Film Victoria, is a proud partner of this event which is a chance to experience the culture, stories and perspectives of Indigenous filmmakers from across the globe.

As well as the exciting program of films, the festival takes us behind the screen with talks and Q&As with the people who made them.

The program also includes masterclasses and other opportunities for aspiring emerging filmmakers to build their skills and learn from some of our most respected industry leaders.

Congratulations to the festival team on this extraordinary inaugural program. It's set to inspire, entertain and foster the next generation of First Nations filmmakers, while offering a new event for all film lovers.

Martin Foley
Minister for Creative Industries

Birrarangga Film Festival staff

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Artistic Director – Tony Briggs | Marketing Co-ordinator – Sarah Werkmeister |
| Executive Producer – Damien Pradier | Marketing Consultant – Kylie Pascoe |
| Program Producer – Veronica Bolzon | Publicity – Nicole Hurren |
| Associate Producer – Naomi Summers | Design – Ortolan |



Elders Statement

When I was young my grandmother, Theresa Clements (Yamak) would sometimes perform cleansing ceremonies on family members. Songs and stories were part of cultural practice, and these ancient ways have been handed down through the generations to this very day. Aboriginal Australians are from the oldest living culture on earth. The Aboriginal way of thinking and our beliefs tell us that country has its own spirit. The old people would sing to these spirits; The stars, river, water, land and fire. Everything was connected to the journey of our people.

The BIRRARANGGA Film Festival will show a strong similarity between Aboriginal cultures from around the world, and that our journeys have been and will continue to be connected with the same strong spirit journey. I hope that the BIRRARANGGA Festival will be the start of a long lasting connection between all of the Aboriginal cultures to share their stories on our country.

Aunty Zeta Thomson
Elder, Wurundjeri (Yarra Yarra Clan) /
Yorta Yorta (Dhulanyagan Clan)
Spiritual & Cultural Advisor



Artistic Director's Statement

It has long been a dream of mine to create a festival for Melbourne that celebrates the humanity and connections between Aboriginal cultures across the world, while at the same time bringing into focus the many faces of the global Indigenous community.

To bring together some of the most inspiring storytellers belonging to the rising global movement of Indigenous representation for the screen is an honour.

It is my hope that BIRRARANGGA Film Festival will play a continuous role in the promotion of traditions and language, and support the existing momentum that is pushing forward the pride in Aboriginality on a global scale

So I welcome you to enjoy the inaugural BIRRARANGGA Film Festival: a four day program of inspirational Indigenous stories from across Australia, Canada, Mexico, Peru, Russia, Greenland and New Zealand. A celebratory offer to one of the most culturally diverse and inclusive cities in the world.

Tony Briggs
Artistic Director
BIRRARANGGA Film Festival

OPENING NIGHT

Sgaawaay K'uuna (Edge of the Knife)

Friday 26 April 7pm | ACMI Cinema 2

Unclassified restricted to persons 15+ unless accompanied by an adult

\$40 includes entry to afterparty with a drink and hors d'oeuvres

OPENING CEREMONY & WELCOME
6.15pm | Birrarung Marr

SPEECHES & FORMALITIES
7pm ACMI | Cinema 2



We're very proud to present the Australian Premiere of *Sgaawaay K'uuna* (*Edge of the Knife*) as the opening night film of the inaugural BIRRARANGGA Film Festival.

Sgaawaay K'uuna is unlike any you have ever seen or heard. It makes history as the first Haida-language feature film and marks the first narrative feature film for both directors. On the islands of Haida Gwaii, two extended families reunite at their annual summer fishing camp. Soon conflict between a charismatic young man, Adiits'ii, and his best friend Kwa, begins to tear their interwoven families apart. When Adiits'ii's recklessness and arrogance result in a tragic incident, he flees into the rainforest abandoning his family and way of life. Wracked with grief and shame, Adiits'ii descends into madness and transforms into a Gaagiixid, a ravenous "wildman" caught between worlds and consumed by insatiable hunger. When the families return the following summer, they realize Adiits'ii has survived the winter. Now while the community hopes to restore Adiits'ii's humanity, Kwa wrestles with his deepest desire...revenge.

Directors: Gwaii Edenshaw (Haida) & Helen Haig Brown (Tsilhqot'in)
Canada | 2018 | 100 mins
Unclassified – Restricted to persons 15+ unless accompanied by an adult



Tia and Puijuq

Sat 27 April 10am | Cinema 1
F \$19 | C \$16 | Family \$60
3 Pass \$45 | 5 Pass \$75

Tia, a young Syrian girl new to Montreal, longs for friends when she accidentally discovers a magic portal. Through this portal she meets Puijuq, an equally bored and lonely Inuk girl who introduces Tia to her world. Tia and Puijuq spend their time together connecting through games and Inuit stories when their blossoming friendship is threatened by a mysterious figure.

This charming debut feature film will warm hearts and is an ideal cinematic treat for families and young people.

Director: Lucy Tulugarjuk (Inuk)
Canada | 2017 | 80 mins | English/Arabic/
French/Inuktitut with English Subtitles
Unclassified – No age restriction



Teach a Man to Fish

Sat 27 April 12.15pm | Cinema 1
F \$19 | C \$16 | Family \$60
3 Pass \$45 | 5 Pass \$75

Grant Leigh Saunders is an Aboriginal filmmaker, writer and musician who has secretly always wanted to be a fisherman, just like his father and grandfather before him. This fishing yarn is set against the backdrop of the beautiful Manning River in central New South Wales.

A dramatic family history, fishing, politics, singing, laughter and tears, this fishing yarn has it all, told by some very colourful characters.

Director, Writer: Grant Leigh Saunders
(Biripi, Australia)
Australia | 2018 | 81 mins | English
Unclassified – No age restriction



Toyon Kyył (The Lord Eagle)

Sat 27 April 2.45pm | Cinema 1
F \$19 | C \$16 | Family \$60
3 Pass \$45 | 5 Pass \$75

Set in Yakutia in 1930, in a time in rural Siberia when the Soviet presence is just starting to cast its shadow, this exquisite film follows the story of an elderly couple, Mikipper and Oppuos. Filled with drama, humour, and beautiful storytelling, *Toyon Kyył* is the latest dramatic film from the Sakha Republic which has emerged as a hotbed of independent (and Indigenous) film-making in Russia. With a 100% Indigenous cast and crew, *Toyon Kyył* is a remarkable achievement.

Director: Eduard Novikov (Sakha)
Russia | 2018 | 80 min | Yakut with
English Subtitles
Unclassified – No age restriction



Birth of a Family

Sat 27 April 5pm | Cinema 1
F \$19 | C \$16 | Family \$60
3 Pass \$45 | 5 Pass \$75

Three sisters and a brother, adopted as infants into separate families across North America, meet for the first time in this deeply moving documentary.

Removed from their young mother's care as part of Canada's infamous Sixties Scoop, these siblings were four of the 20,000 Indigenous children taken from their families between 1955 and 1985. Now all in middle age, each has grown up in different circumstances, with different family cultures, different values and no shared memories. Meeting for the first time, they spend a week in Banff, Alberta, sharing what they know about their mother, stories about their lives and the struggles they went through as foster kids and adoptees.

Director: Tasha Hubbard (Métis)
Canada | 2017 | 79 mins | English
Unclassified – No age restriction



Angelique's Isle

Sat 27 April 7.30pm | Cinema 1
F \$19 | C \$16 | Family \$60
3 Pass \$45 | 5 Pass \$75

During the copper rush of 1845, Angelique, a young Anishinaabe woman (Julia Jones), and her voyageur husband Charlie are abandoned on Lake Superior's Isle Royale by a corrupt copper hunter. The newlywed couple have been left with few provisions and as the winter sets in they begin to starve. With Charlie beginning to demonstrate strange behaviour, Angelique, a devout Christian, struggles with her faith and must rely on the teachings she received from her grandmother in order to survive the harsh winter. *Angelique's Isle* is a harrowing tale of perseverance and a testament to the resilience and strength of Indigenous women. Based on the true story of Angelique Mott.

Directors: Michelle Derosier (Anishinaabe), Marie-Hélène Cousineau
Canada | 2017 | 90 mins | English
Unclassified – Restricted to persons
15+ unless accompanied by an adult



Mankiller

Sat 27 April 9.45pm | Cinema 1
F \$19 | C \$16 | Family \$60
3 Pass \$45 | 5 Pass \$75

Mankiller follows the life of Wilma Mankiller, the first woman to be elected Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation, from her childhood in Oklahoma, through her family's relocation to San Francisco, as well as her return to Oklahoma and her rise to power within the Cherokee Nation. Through rare archival footage and interviews with activists and Mankiller herself, the film presents a portrait of a composed and assured leader who persevered through devastating personal setbacks to become one of the greatest activist leaders in American history.

Director: Valerie Red-Horse (Cherokee)
USA | 2017 | 74 mins | English
Unclassified – No age restriction

BIRRARANGGA FILM

FESTIVAL CALENDAR

- Feature
- Shorts
- Virtual Reality
- In Conversation

AM 10 11 PM 12 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

FRI 26

OPENING NIGHT
Sgaawaay K'uuna (Edge of the Knife) Cinema 2

SAT 27

Thalu ACMI Foyer
Fan Girl ACMI Foyer

Tia and Puijuq
Cinema 1

Teach a Man
to Fish
Cinema 1

Toyon Kyyl
(The Lord Eagle)
Cinema 1

Birth of a Family
Cinema 1

Angelique's Isle
Cinema 1

Mankiller
Cinema 1

Kyindoo
Wilam 1
ACMI Studio

Global
Indigenous
Female Screen
Creatives
ACMI Studio

Our Family,
Our Culture
ACMI Studio

The Reality
of Humanity
ACMI Studio

SUN 28

Thalu ACMI Foyer
Fan Girl ACMI Foyer

Kayak to
Klemtu
Cinema 1

Wiñaypacha
(Eternity)
Cinema 1

Out of State
ACMI Studio

Akornatsinniit –
Tarratta Nunaanni
Cinema 1

Tiempo de
Lluvia (In Times
of Rain)
Cinema 1

Kyindoo
Wilam 2
ACMI Studio

Mother Tongue
ACMI Studio

From Black Theatre
to Black Screen: In
Conversation with
Gary Foley
Cinema 1

Beautiful Sunshine
— In Conversation
with Allara
Briggs Pattison
ACMI Studio

Celebrating
Victorian
Indigenous
Screen Creatives
ACMI Studio

MON 29

Falls Around Her
Cinema 2



Kayak to Klemtu

Sun 28 April 10am | Cinema 1
F \$19 | C \$16 | Family \$60
3 Pass \$45 | 5 Pass \$75

14-year-old Ella is determined to travel the length of the Inside Passage, along the shores of the Great Bear Rainforest by kayak in order to testify against a proposed pipeline that would see oil tanker traffic through her beloved homeland waters. The most challenging of all is that she has to bring her dysfunctional family with her. Her neurotic aunt, her cranky uncle, her wayward cousin, and the memory of her late uncle all come along for the ride to make it a fun and amazing adventure. This family navigates their blend of cultures and desires, while their spirits honour the coast as a place for each of us to call home and protect.

Director: Zoe Leigh Hopkins
(Heiltsuk/Mohawk)
Canada | 2017 | 90 mins | English
Unclassified – No age restriction



Wiñaypacha (Eternity)

Sun 28 April 12.30pm | Cinema 1
F \$19 | C \$16 | Family \$60
3 Pass \$45 | 5 Pass \$75

Nestled over 5,000 metres above sea level, the modest farmhouse near the peaks of the Andes is the only place Willka and Phaxsi have called home. Elderly but still mobile, the couple tends to their beloved herd of sheep as they live a near-solitary existence of subsistence. As the passage of time and circumstance leave their lives hanging in a fragile balance, the couple yearns for their long-absent son to return home from the city. The first feature filmed entirely in the Aymara language, *Wiñaypacha* is a deeply emotional experience and features stunning cinematography that must be seen on the big screen.

Director: Oscar Catacora (Aymara)
Peru | 2017 | 87 mins | Aymara with English Subtitles
Unclassified – No age restriction



Out of State

Sun 28 April 2.45pm | Studio
F \$19 | C \$16 | Family \$60
3 Pass \$45 | 5 Pass \$75

Shipped thousands of miles away from the tropical islands of Hawaii to a private prison in the Arizona desert, two native Hawaiians discover their indigenous traditions from a fellow inmate serving a life sentence. It's from this unlikely setting that David and Hale finish their terms and return to Hawaii, hoping for a fresh start. Eager to prove to themselves and to their families that this experience has changed them forever, David and Hale struggle with the hurdles of life as formerly incarcerated men, asking the question: can you really go home again?

Director: Ciara Lacy
(Kanaka Maoli / Native Hawaiian)
USA | 2017 | 79 mins | English with some native Hawaiian
Unclassified – Restricted to persons 15+ unless accompanied by an adult



Akornatsinniitut – Tarratta Nunaanni

Sun 28 April 5pm | Cinema 1
F \$19 | C \$16 | Family \$60
3 Pass \$45 | 5 Pass \$75

Akornatsinniitut – Tarratta Nunaanni (Among Us – In the Land of Our Shadows) is a suspense-filled sci-fi adventure for all ages, drawing on Greenlandic culture, myth, folklore and legends, with a healthy dose of humour. When Nukappi (Casper Bach Zeeb) begins to have strange dreams he does not understand, he and his childhood friend Mio find themselves swept up in a world of Angakkoq (shaman), sorcerers, and evil spirits. When Nukappi is told he is one of the last remaining Angakkoq in Greenland, the stage is set for a future he never envisioned and a power he must learn to yield. After discovering the Tarratta Nunaanni, a dark parallel world that threatens their own, the guys become key players in an epic battle between good and evil with our reality hanging in the balance.

Director/Writer: Marc Fussing Rosbach
(Inuk - Greenlandic)
Greenland | 2017 | 90 min
Greenlandic with English Subtitles
Unclassified – No age restriction



Tiempo de Lluvia (In Times of Rain)

Sun 28 April 7.30pm | Cinema 1
F \$19 | C \$16 | Family \$60
3 Pass \$45 | 5 Pass \$75

Soledad is a matriarch and traditional healer whose daughter Adele left their village to work in Mexico City leaving behind her infant son. Years later, Soledad and her grandson Jose share a strong bond rooted in their love of culture and land. As she continues to pass on her knowledge and teachings to him, she receives an unexpected call that her daughter is getting married and intends for Jose to join them in the city. Fearing an uncertain future for them both, Soledad struggles to cope with her impending heartbreak as she awaits her daughter's return. Tiempo de Lluvia (In Times of Rain) tells the powerful story of economic migration between rural and urban Mexico.

Director: Itandehui Jansen (Mixtec)
Mexico | 2018 | 88 min | Spanish / Mixtec with English subtitles
Unclassified – Restricted to persons 15+ unless accompanied by an adult



Falls Around Her

Mon 29 April 6.30pm | Cinema 2
F \$19 | C \$16 | Family \$60
3 Pass \$45 | 5 Pass \$75

BIRRARANGGA is pleased to present Falls Around Her as this year's Closing Night selection. Filled with drama and humour, this film follows the story of legendary singer, Mary Birchbark (Tantoo Cardinal), who abandons a life of fame and fortune to follow the instinctual pull that calls her home to her First Nation. Desiring to reconnect with land and her community, she returns to the beautiful woods of her reserve to seek solitude in an isolated cabin. But as the slow change of seasons marks her thirst for transformation, she begins to have the unsettling feeling that she is being watched and quickly finds that doors to the past are not so easily shut.

Director / Writer / Producer:
Darlene Naponse (Ojibway)
Canada | 2018 | 90 mins | English
Unclassified – Restricted to persons 15+ unless accompanied by an adult

BIRRARANGGA SHORTS



Kyindoo Wilam (Learning Place) 1

Sat 27 April 12.30 - 1.45pm | ACMI Studio | Unclassified 15+
F \$19 | C \$16 | Family \$60 | 3 Pass \$45 | 5 Pass \$75

Kyindoo Wilam: A selection of animations and short films from Canada. This is a place where older children, teenagers and adults can come to watch and learn. Stories that are beautifully expressed with honesty and warmth, yet highlighting the negative impact of colonisation and the profound strength through the connection to culture by Indigenous people.



Our Family, Our Culture

Sat 27 April 5.30 - 6.45pm | ACMI Studio | Unclassified – No age restriction | F \$19 | C \$16 | Family \$60 | 3 Pass \$45 | 5 Pass \$75

Our Family, Our Culture: watch a selection of heartwarming stories from across continents, highlighting the similarities of cultural values.



The Reality of Humanity

Sat 27 April 7.30 - 9pm | ACMI Studio | Unclassified 15+
F \$19 | C \$16 | Family \$60 | 3 Pass \$45 | 5 Pass \$75

The Reality of Humanity: A shorts program exploring darker themes that address some of the hard truths faced by our communities.



Kyindoo Wilam (Learning Place) 2

Sun 28 April 10.15 - 11.30am | ACMI Studio | Unclassified – No age restriction | F \$19 | C \$16 | Family \$60 | 3 Pass \$45 | 5 Pass \$75

Kyindoo Wilam (Learning Place): A selection of short films from across the world that explore family and culture. This is a place where kids can come and sit, listen and learn together.



Mother Tongue (Winda Film Festival)

Sun 28 April 12.30 - 2pm | ACMI Studio | Unclassified 18+
F \$19 | C \$16 | Family \$60 | 3 Pass \$45 | 5 Pass \$75

Mother Tongue: A selection of shorts celebrating the UN year for Indigenous Languages curated by Artistic Director of Winda Film Festival (NSW), Pauline Clague

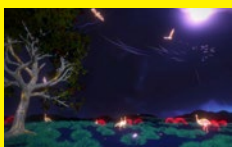


Celebrating Victorian Indigenous Screen Creatives

Sun 28 April 7.15 - 8.30pm | ACMI Studio | Unclassified 15+
F \$19 | C \$16 | Family \$60 | 3 Pass \$45 | 5 Pass \$75

This short film program is a retrospective and celebration of Victorian Indigenous stories on screen.

VIRTUAL REALITY



Thalu

Sat 27 & Sun 28 April 10am - 4pm | ACMI Foyer | Free
Unclassified No Age Restriction

An Indigenous mine site worker is transported to the spirit world, where he meets the spirits and custodians of the land and learns about how they are connected to humankind, even as their sacred sites are under threat by the modern human world.



Fan Girl

Sat 27 & Sun 28 April 10am - 4pm | ACMI Foyer | Free
Unclassified 15+

A Pasifika Fa'afafine Dance film with a flick of a fan. When young fa'afafine is rejected by society she finds strength in the spirit of her ancestors.

BIRRARANGGA IN CONVERSATION



Global Indigenous Female Screen Creatives

Sat 27 April 2.45 - 4.30pm | ACMI Studio
F \$12 | C \$10 | Member \$10

A conversation with leading Indigenous female Screen Creatives from across the globe who are in front of and behind the camera.



From Black Theatre to Black Screen: In Conversation with Gary Foley

Sun 28 April 2.45 - 4.30pm | Cinema 1
F \$12 | C \$10 | Member \$10

Looking at the 70s from theatre to screen, the actors of this era helped to shape the political voice utilising comedy and laughter to give a strength to our communities. An insightful look in the history of our TV and film industry from one of our activist, actors, performers, historians and academics.



Beautiful Sunshine — In Conversation with Allara Briggs Pattison

Sun 28 April 5 - 6.30pm | ACMI Studio
F \$12 | C \$10 | Member \$10

Beautiful Sunshine is a documentary following Allara Briggs Pattison, a Yorta Yorta musician, composer and climate justice activist on her journey of identity and connection with her family, Country and culture.

WWW.BIRRARANGGA.WORLD

