

NextGen

Cinema for Young People

Now a MIFF institution, the Next Gen program provides stimulating films for our younger generations of cinema viewers.

These intelligent and entertaining films offer developing cinephiles insight into the world around us, and a glimpse of the endless possibilities of international cinema.

For teachers:

Curriculum adaptability includes LOTE (Czech, French, German, Indonesian, Japanese, Mandarin, Turkish), English, Fine Arts, Studies of Society and Environment, Culture, History, Civics and Citizenship, Media, Communication and Thinking Processes.

A teachers study guide, highlighting the Next Gen films' applications to different subjects and containing suggestions for activities and discussion topics, will be available on the MIFF website from 1 June.

Everyone's a critic



**MELBOURNE
INTERNATIONAL
FILM FESTIVAL**

JULY 24 - AUGUST 9, 2009
melbournefilmfestival.com.au

Welcome to Next Gen

One has to wonder just who are these life forms that inhabit dark bedrooms, possess alien sanitary habits and move in packs; at the same time the tendency to over-analyse the behavioural patterns of Australia's youth is almost a blood sport. Well, here at MIFF we like to treat our NEXT GEN as intelligent, imaginative and eloquent – eager to respond to a film program deliberately designed to bring high-quality films from diverse cultures and in different languages to Melbourne's screens.

I would like to thank the Modern Language Teachers' Association of Victoria (MLTAV), who have sponsored this program from its inception two years ago. Since that time the audience for NEXT GEN has nearly tripled. Long may it continue...

Richard Moore
Executive Director



Miao Miao

14+

Hong Kong/Taiwan (83 mins, dir. Cheng Hsiao-tse)

Teenage love just got trickier.

It's never easy being the new girl at school. For quiet and awkward Miao Miao – raised in Japan, but transferring to Taipei for the year – things get a lot easier when she finds an unlikely friend in sassy classmate Ai.

The two girls quickly become inseparable, but when Miao Miao starts to fall for Chen, the twenty-something owner of a local record shop, Ai is consumed with jealousy, finding that her feelings for her friend are much stronger than she herself realised.

A coming of age film with a difference, *Miao Miao* explores the complexities of love and friendship, set against the bustling multicultural metropolis of Taiwan's capital city.

Language: Mandarin, some Japanese, with English subtitles

Key themes: Friendship, coming of age and sexuality

MIFF Recommends: Age 14+. Some adults themes and sexual references

School Screening: Wed 29 July, 12.30pm at ACMI

Thu 6 August, 10.30am at ACMI



Krabat

14+

Germany (120 mins, dir. Marco Kreuzpaintner)

Based on a bestselling German children's book, *Krabat* is a 17th century tale of magic, love and the battle between good and evil.

Lured by dreams of ravens to a mysterious stone mill, 14-year-old orphan Krabat is initiated into a secret brotherhood of apprentice sorcerers. This education in the magical arts comes straight out of the kingdom of mythology – secret spells, black cloaks, shape shifting and leaps between dimensions.

But is becoming a sorcerer all cracked up to be? David Kross (*The Reader*) and Daniel Brühl (*The Educators*), who star in this phantastical fable, take a reality check as they uncover the secrets of their dark master.

Language: German with English subtitles

Key themes: Adventure, magic, romance and self-discovery

MIFF Recommends: Age 14+. Some frightening scenes

School Screening: Fri 24 July, 2pm at ACMI

Additional weekend screening to be announced with the launch of the full MIFF program on 10 July.



Cheeky Girls

14+

Germany (93 mins, dir. Ute Wieland)

Based on a bestselling German book series, this raucous rock 'n' roll adventure is about friends, crushes, and surviving high school.

Three best friends, Hannah, Mila and Kati, navigate the explosive minefield of high school, coping with everything from oddball parents to school stress to the first pangs of new love. The trio are inseparable; at least until romance and jealousy – and a charismatic rock musician named Brian – test the bonds of their friendship.

Sassy and irreverent, *Cheeky Girls* is a comedic romp through the daily challenges of teen life – a light-hearted look at the trials of friendship and the importance of finding your own way.

Language: German with English subtitles

Key themes: Coming of age and rock 'n' roll

MIFF Recommends: Age 14+. Some adults themes and coarse language

School Screening: Thu 30 July, 12.30pm at ACMI

Wed 5 August, 12.30pm at ACMI



Skirt Day

15+

France/Belgium (87 mins, dir. Jean-Paul Lilienfeld)

Actress Isabelle Adjani (*Queen Margot*) spearheads this edge-of-the-seat tale of a teacher spontaneously taking her classroom hostage.

Sonia is in over her head, struggling to teach theatre to unruly students in an underprivileged Parisian suburb. When she discovers a gun in a student's bag – and accidentally fires it – she realises that for once she has her students' full attention. Sonia decides to teach the stunned class her ultimate lesson, while outside chaos reigns as SWAT teams, hysterical parents and the media gather.

Black comedy mixed deftly with social commentary, *Skirt Day* tackles head-on the challenges of multiculturalism, asking some pointed questions about how we should handle the collision of cultural and religious values in today's societies.

"I hope [this] reminds us that, whatever our political or religious choices, indisputable values do exist that cannot be transgressed."

– filmmaker Jean-Paul Lilienfeld

Language: French with English subtitles

Key themes: Social and religious issues, political awareness and the relationship between students and teachers

MIFF Recommends: Age 15+. Strong themes, coarse language and mild violence

School Screening: Fri 31 July, 12.30pm at ACMI



It's Not Me, I Swear!

12+

Canada (110 mins, dir. Philippe Falardeau)

Léon has a novel approach to conflict resolution: when his parents fight, he sets the house on fire.

In the technicolour summer of 1968, ten-year-old Léon is raising hell in his own small corner of Quebec. Theft, vandalism, random acts of arson and a series of self-inflicted, not-quite-deadly accidents all number among his petty crimes. Léon isn't malicious – just bored, and trying desperately to come to terms with his dysfunctional and fragmenting family.

Based on the popular novels of Bruno Hébert, *It's Not Me, I Swear!* is a quirky story – both funny and real – about grappling with the changes and complexities that come with growing up.

"It's about getting outside the family circle, about lying for the first time and getting away with it, about falling in love."

– filmmaker Philippe Falardeau

Language: French with English subtitles

Key themes: Growing up, troubled childhood, family issues and humour

MIFF Recommends: Age 12+. Mild violence and coarse language

School Screening: Fri 7 August, 12.30pm at ACMI

Additional weekend screening to be announced with the launch of the full MIFF program on 10 July.



Jermal

12+

Indonesia (88 mins, dir. Ravi Bharwani)

A young boy learns self-reliance in this extraordinary story filmed in a unique location – at sea, amid the platform-fishermen of Indonesia.

Following his mother's death, 12-year-old Jaya is sent to live with his father – a stranger who is surprised to discover he has a son. But with nowhere else to go, Jaya stays with his father at his unconventional place of work and residence: a fishing platform (*or jermal*) in the middle of the ocean.

Bullied by the *jermal's* young workers, Jaya must learn to rely on himself, even as he and his father take the first steps towards reconciliation.

Shot on an actual *jermal* and featuring the breathtaking vistas of the Malacca Straits, this film is a rare and fascinating window into a unique world.

Language: Indonesian with English subtitles

Key themes: Family bonds, coming of age and Indonesian culture

MIFF Recommends: Age 12+. Some adults themes and coarse language

School Screening: Tue 28 July, 12.30pm at ACMI

Thu 30 July, 10am at ACMI

Tue 4 August, 10.30am at ACMI



Brendan and the Secret of Kells

8+

Ireland/France/Belgium (78 mins, dir. Tomm Moore, Nora Twomey)

"Visually ravishing and doused in Celtic magic." – *Screen International*

Brought to life through vivid hand-drawn animation, *Brendan and the Secret of Kells* takes its inspiration from one of the world's most beautiful illuminated manuscripts, *The Book of Kells*.

Twelve-year-old Brendan is the hero of this spirited action adventure. Charged with undertaking a secret quest, Brendan's task takes him beyond his familiar cloister walls and into the depths of an enchanted forest.

Seeking high and low for the mystical crystal needed to complete the fabled *Book of Kells*, Brendan faces many fearsome obstacles (including a Serpent God and rampaging Viking hordes) and – as with all good quests – discovers the true extent of his own hidden talents.

Language: English

Key themes: The arts, creativity, fantasy and legends

MIFF Recommends: Age 8+. Mild frightening scenes

School Screening: Thu 6 August, 12.30pm at ACMI

Additional weekend screening to be announced with the launch of the full MIFF program on 10 July.



The King and the Bird (1980)

7+

France (83 mins, dir. Paul Grimault)

A classic touchstone of animation in Europe, this award-winning gem has rarely been seen by English-speaking audiences.

The kingdom of Tachycardia is ruled over by the mean-tempered King Charles – he hates everyone, and everyone hates him right back. So much so that when the king becomes infatuated with a painting of a beautiful shepherdess, the girl flees the canvas with her chimney sweep lover to escape his attentions.

Pursued by the king's bumbling secret police through the labyrinthine architecture of Tachycardia (comprised of Venetian canals, Bavarian castles and New York tower blocks) the lovers find an ally in a playful mockingbird.

Witty and visually inventive, this classic Hans Christian Anderson tale – reinterpreted by writer Jacques Prévert (*Les Enfants du paradis*) – artfully tackles themes of oppression and the liberation from tyranny.

“Stylish graphics and an elegant visual and verbal humour.” – *Time Out*

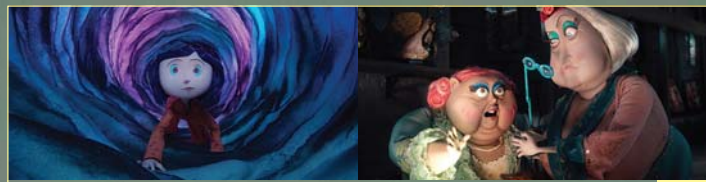
Language: French with English subtitles

Key themes: Fairy tale, love, poetry and standing up to tyranny

MIFF Recommends: Age 7+. Some adult themes

School Screening: Tue 4 August, 12.30pm at ACMI

Additional weekend screening to be announced with the launch of the full MIFF program on 10 July.



Coraline



10+

USA (100 mins, dir. Henry Selick)

Put on your 3D specs for a fun-filled, animated journey into a parallel world.

Just when you thought you'd seen everything possible at the movies, filmmaker Henry Selick (*The Nightmare Before Christmas*) has created a groundbreaking stop-motion feature in stereoscopic 3D. Based on a children's story by Neil Gaiman, *Coraline* is a surreal fairytale about a young girl who travels through a secret door in her home to other worlds. The grass is always greener on the other side of the fence, thinks Coraline – but is it?

Don't miss the amazing Mr Bobinsky (voiced by Ian McShane of *Deadwood*) with his trained circus of mice, or the English comic duo Dawn French and Jennifer Saunders as a pair of ex-dance hall luvies with a fetish for Scottie dogs!

“The first contemporary film in which the 3D experience feels intrinsic to the story instead of a Godforsaken gimmick... a remarkable feat of imagination.” – *Los Angeles Times*

Language: English

Key themes: Fantasy, adventure, humour and family bonds

MIFF Recommends: Age 10+. Some frightening scenes

Weekend screenings only: Session times will be announced with the launch of the full MIFF program on 10 July.



Who's Afraid of the Wolf?

8+

Czech Republic (90 mins, dir. Maria Procházková)

“Tightly scripted... wondrously inventive and irresistibly played.” – *Variety*

Once upon a time there was a little girl called Terezka, who loved the story of Little Red Riding Hood and the Big Bad Wolf. And so all was well in Terezka's world until she noticed some strange things happening in her home. Why does daddy say that mummy is from another planet? Why does mummy spend so much time playing music with her friend Patrick?

Terezka begins to put together her own theories about the mysterious behaviour of her parents, using fairytale logic to understand her shifting world.

Writer-director Maria Procházková has cleverly crafted a family movie and a mature romance – all taking place through the perceptive and imaginative eyes of a child.

Language: Czech with English subtitles

Key themes: Growing up, romance, imagination and family bonds

MIFF Recommends: Age 8+. Some adult themes

Weekend screenings only: Session times will be announced with the launch of the full MIFF program on 10 July.



Mammo

10+

Turkey (94 mins, dir. Atalay Taşdiken)

A touching true story about the bonds between a brother and sister, set amid the picturesque beauty of a remote Turkish village.

Even when things get tough, Ahmet and Ayşe are always there for each other. After the death of their mother, Ahmet takes on the job of looking after his little sister. He is her protector, entertainer and idol – but that's a lot of responsibility when you're only ten years old.

Based on a true story, *Mammo* is an affecting tale about the bond between siblings, and their struggle to hold on to each other in the face of forces that threaten to tear them apart.

Shot against the striking surrounds of an isolated Anatolian community, the film also offers an engaging look at rural Turkish life.

Language: Turkish with English subtitles

Key themes: Sibling bonds, cultural awareness, loss and courage

MIFF Recommends: Age 10+. Some adult themes

Weekend screenings only: Session times will be announced with the launch of the full MIFF program on 10 July.

Join the MLTAV

The Modern Language Teachers' Association of Victoria (MLTAV Inc.) is a professional association for language teachers, and is the umbrella organisation for approximately 20 Single Language Associations in Victoria.

Members of the MLTAV enjoy a range of services and privileges, including

- Languages Victoria, the MLTAV journal published twice a year
- LOTE Express, the MLTAV newsletter
- Babel, the AFMLTA journal
- Discounts on Professional Learning activities
- Discounts through sponsors (for individual members only)
- Discounts for students attending Melbourne International Film Festival screenings sponsored by the MLTAV (for school members only)
- Discounted advertising rates for commercial members



Next Gen is proudly supported by the Modern Language Teachers' Association of Victoria. For info and membership details visit www.mltav.asn.au

Classification of Films

All films featured as part of the Next Gen program are approved for screening by the Attorney General's Department, Classification Operations Branch.

In order to assist parents/guardians and teachers in making informed decisions about children's viewing, when films have not yet been classified MIFF has provided suitability recommendations according to age group. Under 'MIFF recommends' you will find the age range we believe to be best suited to the film, as well as an indication of any sensitive content (e.g. violence, nudity, adult themes, coarse language) according to the official guidelines of the Attorney General's Department, Classification Operations Branch – www.classification.gov.au

This content advice is designed as a guide only. If parents/guardians and teachers would like more information about individual films, please don't hesitate to contact the Festival office on 03 8660 4888.



Intelligent Intelligent
Imaginative Imaginative
Moving Moving
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Provocative Provocative
Fun Fun Fun
Eye-opening Eye-opening
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