

MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL OPENS ITS CALL FOR APPLICATIONS TO 2016 CRITICS CAMPUS

MELBOURNE, 6 April 2016 — After two successful editions, the **Melbourne International Film Festival (MIFF)** is proud to open the call for applications to its third **Critics Campus**, an intensive five-day lab that enables emerging Australian film critics to develop their skills in a live Festival setting. Critics Campus will take place during the Festival's 65th edition, 28 July-14 August 2016.

Underlying the Campus's ethos is a belief that in a swiftly changing media environment, informed writing and criticism on cinema is vital to a strong film culture and industry. Digital media allows for a diversity of voices yet poses challenges for writers seeking employment in the field. The Campus will address these issues and better prepare participants for a successful career in film writing. It will also offer them a platform to be heard in the competitive Festival environment.

"Critics Campus gives you the chance to learn from some of the most exciting film critics and thinkers working today, as well as connect with an interesting and eclectic group of young writers from around Australia," said 2015 Campus alumnus Conor Bateman (*4:3, The Lifted Brow*).

"One of the most valuable experiences I think I've ever had. I made life-long connections with my peers and established critics, improved my craft immensely, and got to watch a whole bunch of movies and have my opinions about them read by a wide audience," said 2015 Campus alumnus Eloise Grills (*Junkee, 4:3, Kill Your Darlings*).

Since participating in the lab, alumni have gone on to write for publications including *The Age, Senses of Cinema, The Monthly, 4:3, The Saturday Paper, Junkee, IF Magazine* and *The Hollywood Reporter*.

This year eight participants will take part in mentoring sessions and panels with key Australian industry and media players, as well as producing their own daily coverage for a variety of outlets. They will have access to Festival films, publicity materials, guests and networking opportunities. In return, meals and accommodation will be provided, as well as the invaluable experience of producing a range of pieces daily for publication across a variety of outlets.

Three prominent international critics will visit the Festival to participate in the Campus, variously assisting with mentoring, sitting on panels, and as a resource for the participants.

Applications are sought from Australian writers in the beginning stages of their career, with no more than two years experience in film writing. They should prepare to be available in Melbourne 31 July - 7 August inclusive.

Applicants will be asked to provide:

- A one-page resume covering relevant studies and/or professional experience and a list of published writing and criticism with links where relevant.
- Three film writing samples including:
 - i. a 500 word review of a film currently in theatrical release
 - ii. a 800 word feature/essay/interview
 - iii. a piece of the applicant's choice that they feel best demonstrates their capabilities. This may take the form of a video essay, podcast (5-10 min excerpt), feature, experimental writing piece, etc.

University essays are allowed but not encouraged.

MEDIA RELEASE

Previously unsuccessful applicants are welcome to re-apply in 2016.

The online application form is accessible from the Critics Campus page: <http://miff.com.au/criticscampus>
Deadline for applications is 9am Tuesday 26th April 2016. Successful applicants will be notified by Thursday 5th May.

All Critics Campus enquiries should be directed to criticscampus@miff.com.au.

For more information on MIFF visit: www.miff.com.au.

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