

WHAT IS MIFF ACCELERATOR?

- A part of the Melbourne International Film Festival's suite of industry programs, **MIFF Accelerator** is an acclaimed emerging director program that provides a talent "hot-housing" environment for promising short film-makers preparing to become feature film makers. It staged its 7th edition in 2010.
- Helping tomorrow's hottest filmmaking talent today, some 15-20 short film directors (selected from all the short film entries to the **MIFF** screening program of the year in question) are selected for the four-day **MIFF Accelerator** program, which exposes participants to a series of talks, workshops, seminars, screenings and discussions on the business and creative aspects of the film industry by leading local and international film practitioners.
- **MIFF Accelerator** presently draws on the international guests (chiefly directors) attending the main **MIFF** screening festival to present their films, as well as **MIFF Premiere Fund** directors and leading experts from Australia's film funding agencies and distribution companies, to help the selected short filmmakers hone their skills, craft and contacts for their transition to feature filmmaking.
- **MIFF Accelerator** participants benefit from having access to leading local and international craftspeople, financiers and creatives in an atmosphere that is both intimate within the actual sessions but also plugged into the wider context of Australia's largest film festival whereby they experience films both with large audiences and in selective screenings, and engage a wider array of activities (such as public panel sessions) and networking events (such as functions for the main **MIFF**) that might otherwise not be available to a stand-alone workshop.
- Also, the films of the **MIFF Accelerator** participants are screened in specially-tagged **Accelerator Screenings** to the general public, as well as DVDs of their films being distributed to the producers and financiers visiting Melbourne for **MIFF 37°South Market**, thereby offering wide and heralded exposure to the work of these emerging filmmakers to audiences and industry decision-makers alike. Also, from 2008 onwards, one producer of a **MIFF Accelerator** short is selected each year to be 'expressed' into the advanced producer environment of **MIFF 37°South Market** to meet with international feature film co-financiers.
- **MIFF Accelerator** has proven a popular and sought-after lab for emerging filmmakers (many of whom have gone onto feature film careers), including:
 - **David Michod**, whose feature debut *Animal Kingdom* won the Grand Jury (Drama) prize at the 2010 Sundance Film Festival and went onto become an Australian box office sensation, sweep the AFI Awards and earn an Oscar Best Supporting Actress Nomination
 - **Justin Kurzel**, whose much-anticipated feature *Snowtown* was selected for Cannes 2011
 - **Amiel Courtin-Wilson**, whose **MIFF Premiere Fund** co-financed *Bastardy* was voted one of the most popular documentaries at MIFF 2008,
 - **Sean Byrne**, whose **MIFF Premiere Fund** co-financed horror film *The Loved Ones* world premiered at MIFF 2009 and went on to be selected for the prestigious Toronto International Film Festival
 - **Ben Hackworth**, whose feature film *Corroboree* was selected for the prestigious Berlin Film Festival
 - **Taika Waititi**, whose NZ romantic comedy *Eagle Vs Shark* achieved significant international sales
 - **Julius Avery**, whose short film *Gerrycan* won a special prize at the 2009 Cannes Film Festival
 - **Jonathan Auf Der Heide**, whose feature debut *Van Diemen's Land* was selected for the prestigious Edinburgh and Montreal Film Festivals
 - **Leon Ford**, whose feature debut *Griff the Invisible* was selected for the prestigious Toronto Film Festival
 - **Nash Edgerton**, whose feature debut *The Square* was selected for the South By SouthWest Film Festival
 - **Glendyn Ivin**, whose feature debut *Last Ride* was selected for the Rome, Pusan and Toronto Film Festivals
 - **Ainsley Gardiner**, who co-produced Taika Waititi's feature film *Boy* which won the Deutsches Kinderhilfswerk Grand Prix at the 2010 Berlin Film Festival
 - **Steph Green**, whose short *New Boy* was nominated for an Oscar in 2009 and received a Special Mention at 2008's Berlin Film Festival
 - **Eddie Martin**, whose feature documentary *Lionel* was nominated for two Australian Film Institute awards including Best Documentary Feature.
 - **Tony Krawitz**, whose feature documentary *The Tall Man* world premiered at 2011's Adelaide Film Festival