

WARM UP FOR MIFF 2017 WITH SBS ON DEMAND SCREENING THE BEST MUSIC DOCS

MELBOURNE, 2 May 2017 – The **Melbourne International Film Festival** (MIFF) is excited to announce that SBS On Demand today launches its **Backstage Docs** season, a special collection of films that includes a number of music documentary highlights from MIFF's previous programs.

From the sticky carpets of our dankly inviting rock-pubs, to the sun-burnt sounds of our summer music festival season, it's undeniable that Melbourne is a music town. Not only that, but with MIFF being 350 films large and 65 years old, it's also an undeniable movie town. The combination of these two creative endeavours together results in one of MIFF's most popular programs: **Music on Film** (previously Backbeat).

This distinctive showcase is a film haven for rap fans, funk aficionados, gutter punk snipes and all those singer-songwriters with a sensitive soul. The suite of films on offer each year take audiences behind the fame, the 'creative differences', the trashed hotel rooms and those songs you just can't get out of your head.

MIFF is pleased to co-present this unique season with SBS On Demand – a curated selection of more than 6,000 hours of premium and multilingual drama, documentaries and movies from around the world. The streaming service is accessible across several devices, available to watch anytime, anywhere and for free at sbs.com.au/ondemand

The season will make available 14 of the best music documentaries screened at MIFF from 2005 to 2015 and shows that often it's the filmmakers themselves who manage to take centre-stage. Matt Berninger's brother set out to document The National's tour in ***The National: Mistaken for Strangers*** (MIFF 2013), which offers both a behind-the-curtain glimpse into the band's popularity and an offbeat portrait of two brothers trying to navigate the mechanics of family; ***Artifact*** sees Jared Leto (directing under a Seussian-sounding alias) and his band *30 Seconds to Mars* take on EMI for a \$30 million dollar breach of contract lawsuit and serves as a cautionary tale about the realities of the record industry.

There are the big films about the biggest acts with Tom DiCillo's ***When You're Strange: A Film About The Doors*** (MIFF 2010); Michael Rappaport's ***Beats, Rhymes & Life: The Travels Of A Tribe Called Quest*** (MIFF 2011); and ***Finding Fela!*** (MIFF 2014) Alex Gibney's completest take on the original Afrobeat icon. Alternatively, there is a big film about the smallest stars, ***Breaking a Monster*** (MIFF 2015), which follows adolescent metal trio Unlocking The Truth.

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MEDIA RELEASE

Ben Lee: *Catch My Disease* (MIFF 2011) from celebrated local filmmaker Amiel Courtin-Wilson and supported through MIFF's Premiere Fund is another title not to be missed, along with ***The Devil And Daniel Johnston*** (MIFF 2005), ***LoudQUIETloud – A Film About The Pixies*** (MIFF 2006), ***A Band Called Death*** (MIFF 2013), ***Blank City*** (MIFF 2010), ***Charles Bradley: Soul of America*** (MIFF 2012), ***Presspauseplay*** (MIFF 2011) and ***Awesome: I Fuckin' Shot That*** (2012).

Once you've made it to the end of the Backstage Docs season, remember that the movie amps will be turned up to 11 once more this year with the release of MIFF's Music on Film program for 2017, looking to be the biggest yet.

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The 2017 Melbourne International Film Festival runs 3 – 20 August.

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