



MEDIA RELEASE

MIFF CENTREPIECE GALA ANNOUNCEMENT WORLD PREMIERE OF BEN ELTON'S *THREE SUMMERS*

MELBOURNE, Thursday 6 July 2017 – The **Melbourne International Film Festival** (MIFF) is thrilled to announce that the world premiere of **Ben Elton's *Three Summers*** (Australia) will screen as this year's Centrepiece Gala, marking the halfway point of the festival.

"We are delighted that MIFF is presenting the world premiere of *Three Summers*. With a big heart and soul that is sure to bring some sunshine to our winter festival, *Three Summers* is the perfect Centrepiece Gala film. The film radiates wit and social observation and has a terrific cast. We congratulate Ben Elton and the entire team and look forward to welcoming them to The Comedy Theatre this August," said MIFF Artistic Director, **Michelle Carey**.

Ben Elton said, "It's a great thrill and also a great honour to have *Three Summers* selected as this year's MIFF Centrepiece Gala Presentation. I cannot think of a better start for our movie than to be centre stage at this famous festival, which is such a true champion of Australian filmmaking. It's also very exciting the film will be screened in such a beautiful and aptly named theatre before an audience of 1000 people. What could be better for a comedy!"

With his first Australian film as a director, internationally renowned writer and comedian Ben Elton delivers a big hearted, of-the-moment, multi-story comedy with a sterling ensemble cast featuring **Michael Caton**, **Magda Szubanski**, **Deborah Mailman**, **Jacqueline McKenzie** and **John Waters**. Set over three summers at a fictional folk music festival in WA, it stars **Robert Sheehan** (perhaps best known as from UK series *Misfits*) and **Rebecca Breeds** (*Home and Away*, *Molly*), as young musicians falling in love.

Elton brings his trademark satirical wit, ensuring that *Three Summers* is able to stir the pot around some of Australia's social and political issues whilst remaining generous, tender and always entertaining. Elton last attended MIFF in 1993 for the premiere screening of *Stark*.

One of MIFF's most popular special events, the Centrepiece Gala is a cinematic celebration both of local filmmaking and of the festival's halfway point. Following the world premiere screening of *Three Summers*, ticket holders are invited to enjoy the exclusive afterparty at The Atrium, Federation Square, for music, dancing and complimentary drinks and nibbles.

Ben Elton and *Three Summers* cast will also speak with director **Natalie Bailey** (Princess Pictures, *The Thick of It*) at *Three Summers: In Conversation* on Sunday 13 August, 1:30pm at the Wheeler Centre.

MIFF is proud to be screening several world premieres this year, including the Premiere Fund supported films: Opening Night Gala *Jungle* directed by Greg McLean (*Wolf Creek*) and starring Daniel Radcliffe, *The Butterfly Tree* starring Melissa George, *Rabbit* starring Adelaide Clemens (*The Great Gatsby*) and Alex Russell (*Unbroken*), and documentaries *Have You Seen the Listers?*, *The Song Keepers* and *Westwind: Djalu's Legacy*, with more world premieres to be announced shortly.

Ticket prices for MIFF Centrepiece Gala are now on sale.



MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL
FILM FESTIVAL
3 AUGUST - 20 AUGUST 2017

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Saturday 12 August, 7:00pm Comedy Theatre; Afterparty: The Atrium, Federation Square
Film & Gala Afterparty: Full \$75 | MIFF Members \$65 | Concession \$70

The 2017 Melbourne International Film Festival runs 3 – 20 August

The full program will be launched 11 July 2017

General public individual session tickets on sale 14 July 2017

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