



MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL
FILM FESTIVAL
3 AUGUST - 20 AUGUST 2017

MEDIA RELEASE

*****UNDER STRICT EMBARGO UNTIL 8AM WEDNESDAY 14 JUNE*****

MIFF 2017 OPENING NIGHT GALA

Presented by



66TH MIFF TO OPEN WITH THE WORLD PREMIERE OF *JUNGLE* DIRECTED BY GREG MCLEAN AND STARRING DANIEL RADCLIFFE

MELBOURNE, 14 JUNE 2017 – The **Melbourne International Film Festival (MIFF)** is thrilled to announce that its 66th edition will open with the world premiere gala screening of **Greg McLean's** new film ***Jungle*** starring **Daniel Radcliffe**.

"We couldn't be more delighted to have *Jungle* opening this year's MIFF," said Artistic Director Michelle Carey. "Greg McLean's new film is bold, hugely entertaining and a thrilling ride! It's an impressive showcase of Australian and international talent behind and in front of the camera."

"I am absolutely thrilled to have *Jungle* selected as the opening night film at MIFF. Back in 2005 my first film *Wolf Creek* screened at the festival and it was incredibly exciting to have the movie presented in my home town. Now, some years later, having this amazing story about survival and the power of the human spirit launched in Melbourne is just as much of an honour. I truly can't wait to share this film with audiences" said director of *Jungle*, Greg McLean.

The stunningly shot, edge-of-your seat story of survival and self-discovery is supported by the MIFF Premiere Fund. Adapted for the screen by scriptwriter **Justin Monjo** (*INXS: Never Tear Us Apart*) from the bestselling novel of real-life story of adventurer **Yossi Ghinsberg**. The film is produced by McLean, along with Dana Lustig, Gary Hamilton, Mike Gabrawy and Todd Fellman.

In the early 1980s, 22-year-old Israeli backpacker Yossi Ghinsberg (Radcliffe) and two friends – Swiss teacher Marcus Stamm and American photographer Kevin Gale – set off from the Bolivian city of La Paz on what was supposed to be the adventure of a lifetime. Leading the way into the uncharted Amazon was an Austrian expat named Karl Rupprechter, who had met the friends just days before and claimed to be familiar with the region. But their dream trip soon turned into a wilderness nightmare.

Director Greg McLean (*Wolf Creek*, MIFF 05) moves beyond his previous horror fare to take on an altogether different kind of fear in *Jungle* – all the more potent for being true. Radcliffe continues pushing his post-Potter career to the extreme, ably supported by **Alex Russell** (Premiere Fund-supported film *Cut Snake*, MIFF 14), **Joel Jackson** (*Peter Allen: Not the Boy Next Door*) and **Thomas Kretschmann** (*Avengers: Age of Ultron*, *Dracula*).



MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL
FILM FESTIVAL

3 AUGUST - 20 AUGUST 2017

MEDIA RELEASE

Adding to the night's blue carpet glamour, 2017 marks the second year MIFF has partnered with **Grey Goose Vodka** to curate a luxury experience for the Opening Night Gala, this year to be held at the magnificent Regent Theatre and Plaza Ballroom. MIFF guests will be welcomed onto the blue carpet as they sip the iconic Grey Goose Le Fizz – a cocktail served at the top award season parties and enjoyed by celebrities at events such as the Oscars and Toronto International Film Festival.

“Grey Goose celebrates the achievements of the screen industry and is proud to be partnering with the Melbourne International Film Festival for a second year. The festival attracts the best filmmaking talent and we’re delighted to honour those who strive to truly fly beyond. We look forward to welcoming guests to MIFF 2017, to toast the films of the festival on our blue carpet, with a beautifully crafted Grey Goose Le Fizz cocktail in hand. The Grey Goose Le Fizz cocktail is shaken over ice with St-Germain elderflower liqueur, a squeeze of fresh lime and topped with soda.” says **Andy Wren, Grey Goose Ambassador**.

OPENING NIGHT IS PRESENTED BY GREY GOOSE VODKA

Tickets for MIFF Opening Night Gala are now on sale via miff.com.au/openingnight2017

Film & Gala After party: MIFF Members \$130 | Full \$150 | Concession \$140

Film & Pre-show drink: MIFF Members \$39 | Full \$49 | Concession \$44

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

Stay up to date with MIFF:

miff.com.au/subscribe

#MIFF2017

For all media enquiries contact Asha Holmes Publicity:

Asha Holmes | 0403 274 299 | asha@ashaholmespublicity.com.au

Stephanie Payne | 0409 010 441 | stephanie@ashaholmespublicity.com.au

Sarah Finney | 0400 197 558 | sarah@ashaholmespublicity.com.au

Isabella Radevski | 0403 596 084 | isabella@ashaholmespublicity.com.au