

MIFF ANNOUNCES FIRST EVER SCI-FI RETROSPECTIVE

ALL-NIGHT CULT FILM MARATHON SPECIAL SCREENING OF 'FANTASTIC PLANET' WITH LIVE SCORE TICKETS NOW ON SALE

Melbourne, Wednesday 24 May – The **Melbourne International Film Festival** (MIFF) is thrilled to announce that its 66th edition will boldly go where it's never gone before – presenting its first-ever **Sci-Fi Retrospective**, including an all-night cult **Sci-Fi Marathon** and a special screening of René Laloux's *Fantastic Planet*, in collaboration with Hear My Eyes, an audio-visual collective that pushes the conventions of cinema and sound, combining film screenings with live scores.

MIFF's Sci-Fi Retrospective pays tribute to a genre with a long cinematic history – rich with works of high art as well as low, with films both profound and populist, and with filmmakers and storytellers at the cutting edge of both the reel and the real.

The first films to be revealed as part of the Sci-Fi Retrospective are:

- Karel Zeman's uniquely poetic steampunk delight *Invention for Destruction*, a 1958 screen adaptation of Jules Verne unlike anything seen before, or since;
- Jindřich Polák's little-known but far-reaching masterpiece *Ikarie XB-1*, to which Gene Roddenberry and Stanley Kubrick, among many others, owe a huge debt;
- Elio Petri's wild slice of kitschy 60s sci-spy eye-candy *The 10th Victim*, starring Marcello Mastroianni and Ursula Andress;
- and Joseph Losey's 1963 Hammer production *These are the Damned*, now regarded as one of the greatest UK sci-fi films of all time.

An all-night cult **Sci-Fi Marathon** will be held on **Saturday 12 August** at **The Astor** in St Kilda. Screening six of the genre's most venerated, controversial and enduring or under-appreciated fan favourites, the program will be revealed on Tuesday 11 July.

As part of a **special screening**, local prog-rock/jazz fusion act **Krakatau** will reimagine the soundscape of the fascinating sci-fi fable *Fantastic Planet*, performing live at the screening on **Thursday 10 August** at the **Comedy Theatre**. The event is presented by Hear My Eyes, an audio-visual collective that pushes the conventions of film and sound beyond their familiar forms, working with local musicians to reinterpret a film's soundtrack and perform it live at the screening.

A surreal and symbolic work of extraordinary beauty, *Fantastic Planet* is replete with socio-political concerns as relevant in 2017 as they were when the film was released in 1973. Forty-four years after it won the Special Prize at Cannes, this animated allegory is still one of the strangest, most alien experiences anyone can have in a cinema!

For more information visit <http://miff.com.au/sci-fi-retrospective>

Listing and ticketing details on the following page.



MEDIA RELEASE

Sci-Fi Marathon

9.30pm to 8am (all-night) Saturday 12 August
Astor Theatre, St Kilda
\$40 full | \$38 concession | \$35 MIFF members
Tickets on sale now

Hear My Eyes: *Fantastic Planet*

With live score by Krakatau
6.30pm Thursday 10 August
The Comedy Theatre
\$35 full | \$33 concession | \$30 MIFF members
Tickets on sale now

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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