



MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL  
**FILM FESTIVAL**  
3 AUGUST - 20 AUGUST 2017

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **MIFF CLOSING NIGHT GALA TO CELEBRATE DR G YUNUPINGU'S LIFE**

**MELBOURNE, Thursday 10 August** - The Melbourne International Film Festival (MIFF) will proceed with its previously announced Closing Night Gala screening, the documentary of Dr G Yunupingu's life, on Saturday 19 August.

Following the recent passing of Dr G Yunupingu, the filmmakers sought advice on the matter from senior Gumatj elder David Djunga Djunga Yunupingu, and are abiding by his wishes and direction.

Closing Night Gala tickets have been returned to sale, and 10% from each ticket sold will be donated to Dr G. Yunupingu's Foundation, a fund supporting Indigenous young people in remote areas to realise their full potential and contribute to culturally vibrant and sustainable communities.

Gumatj elder David Djunga Djunga Yunupingu will introduce the MIFF Closing Night Gala screenings with music producers and close friends Michael Hohnen and Mark Grose, film director Paul Williams and producer Shannon Swan.

Blind from birth, Dr G Yunupingu found his identity through song and the haunting voice that became legend. His debut album introduced Australia to the Songlines and culture of his Elcho Island community. The film details how Dr G Yunupingu found himself increasingly torn between city and country, his global journey and the community to which he owed so much.

A profound exploration of the life and music of this most revered of Australian artists, the documentary was co-produced by Dr G Yunupingu himself. The film uses the tools of his music – chord, melody, song – and the sounds of the land to craft an audio-first cinematic experience of beauty and power, offering a rare insight into the reclusive master who spoke in his own inimitable language.

**For information on the MIFF Closing Night Gala visit [miff.com.au](http://miff.com.au)**

The film is distributed by Madman Entertainment.

**The 2017 Melbourne International Film Festival runs until 20 August.**

**For all media enquiries contact Asha Holmes Publicity:**

Asha Holmes | 0403 274 299 | [asha@ashaholmespublicity.com.au](mailto:asha@ashaholmespublicity.com.au)

Sarah Finney | 0400 197 558 | [sarah@ashaholmespublicity.com.au](mailto:sarah@ashaholmespublicity.com.au)

Stephanie Payne | 0409 010 441 | [stephanie@ashaholmespublicity.com.au](mailto:stephanie@ashaholmespublicity.com.au)

Ghita Loebenstein | 0411 436 620 | [ghita@ashaholmespublicity.com.au](mailto:ghita@ashaholmespublicity.com.au)

Isabella Radevski | 0403 596 084 | [isabella@ashaholmespublicity.com.au](mailto:isabella@ashaholmespublicity.com.au)