

Bold new partnership hallmarks 2019 MIFF Virtual Reality Program.

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MIFF 2019 Media Centre



The Waiting Room

In 2019, MIFF's VR program will be extended through a new partnership with Arts House — Melbourne's home of contemporary performance. Focused on experimentation, new technologies and untold stories, the partnership will see MIFF and Arts

House collaboratively presenting a selection of innovative and immersive new VR works during the festival. Screening **16** titles from **11** countries, MIFF VR features a program of narrative, documentary and animated experiential works, showcasing the extraordinary potential of total immersive cinema.

Headlining the 2019 program is *The Waiting Room* — the ground-breaking new 3D VR experience from revered Australian filmmakers **Molly Reynolds**, **Rolf de Heer** and **Mark Eland**. A rumination on humanity, its creativity and its destructiveness, *The Waiting Room* will leave audiences in contemplative awe.

Elsewhere in the Arts House program, director Darren Emerson's *Common Ground* takes the medium of VR to extraordinary new levels as it explores South London's notorious Aylesbury Housing Estate. Home to over 7000 residents (and currently subject to a ground-breaking but controversial regeneration project), Emerson's work intelligently and creatively combines 360° video, 3D modelling, archival footage and interactive real-time environments, in this dynamic study not just of the physical space of the estate but also its inhabitants.

Future Dreaming is an experience that draws inspiration from Dreamtime stories and practices, with four young Aboriginal Australians guiding audiences on an immersive journey through their visionary futures. With mentorship from art director Sutu (*Mind at War*, MIFF 2018), Roebourne teens Alison Lockyer, Maverick Eaton, and Nelson and Max Coppin used Google Tilt Brush and motion capture technologies to bring their future dreams to life — from driving big-rigs through the Pilbara to becoming the first Indigenous Australian astronaut.

As part of their new partnership, MIFF will offer an **Arts House VR Pass**. For just \$30, punters get three tickets that are redeemable for all VR sessions at Arts House: *Common Ground*, *Future Dreaming* and *The Waiting Room*. Experience three sessions yourself or bring a couple of friends to one session and make an event of it — the choice is yours.

Across the rest of the VR program, the festival will unveil a suite of works that continue to rewrite the frontiers of storytelling, including: *Gymnasia* — a dark, twisted fantasy from Emmy-winning studio Felix & Paul. Working in collaboration with the National Film Board of Canada and the Oscar-nominated Clyde Henry Productions, Felix & Paul have crafted a weird and spooky, Tim Burton-esque puppet show set in an abandoned school where ghostly ephemera haunt the grounds.

In 1975 Rickey Jackson was falsely accused of murder and sentenced to die. After 39 years on death row, new evidence secured his freedom — *Send me Home* follows Rickey as he readjusts to life outside. Directed by Cassandra Evanisko, this intimate 360° portrait of Jackson's life post-prison is a searing indictment of the US criminal justice system, but also an insightful and emotional rumination on privilege and opportunity.

When the US dropped the bomb on Hiroshima, almost every living thing was destroyed — except for a 400-year-old Japanese White Pine bonsai. An adaption of David Haskell's book *The Song of Trees*, *The Atomic Tree* is a beautifully crafted VR experience that explores memory and history. Framed through the rings of

Argentinian disability activist and wheelchair user Rosario Perazolo Masjoan wrote the script for **4 Feet: Blind Date** based on her own experiences. Following the story of eighteen-year-old Juana, who wants to lose her virginity and refuses to let her wheelchair get in the way, *4 Feet: Blind Date* shadows Juana as she prepares to meet a cute boy cute that she hopes to hook up with. Using the immersive 360° experience to realistically show viewers Juana's world from her own POV, director María Belén Poncio paints an intimate portrait, as she prepares, talks with her mum and texts with friends, before heading out for her big night.

In 2019, MIFF continues its partnership with **Real World VR**, hosting a series of panel talks with some of the most talented virtual reality filmmakers in Australia – including Isobel Knowles, SITU, Molly Reynolds and Van Sowerine – on **August 13**.

NOTES TO EDITORS

MIFF presents its 2019 VR program at Arts House and SpACE@Collins Gallery

Arts House: 521 Queensberry St, North Melbourne
SpACE@Collins Gallery: Level 1, 278 Collins St, Melbourne

MIFF x Real World VR 'Meet the VR Filmmaker' Event Details

13 August 2019
6:30pm – 10:30pm

Loop Project Space & Bar
23 Meyers Place
Melbourne, VIC 3000

[Tickets here](#)

The full VR program includes:

4 Feet: Blind Date
11.11.18
Accused #2: Walter Max Sisulu
Afterimage For Tomorrow
Ashe '68
Ayahuasca
Bonfire
Children Do Not Play War
Common Ground
Future Dreaming
Gymnasia
Passenger
Send Me Home
The Atomic Tree
The Waiting Room
Traveling While Black
VR Package 1
VR Package 2
VR Package 3
VR Package 4