



9 October 2018

THE REAL FILM FESTIVAL – NEWCASTLE IN THE SPOTLIGHT

The Real Film Festival is bringing the world of film to the Hunter but also showcasing the Hunter to the world!

In its seventh year, the Festival is one of our region's favourite community events. Showcasing home grown and international talent, this three-day celebration of film reaches from Lake Macquarie through Newcastle to Port Stephens.

Screen Hunter, a division of the Hunter Joint Organisation of Councils, brings this film feast to life every year. As the first point of connection between filmmakers from all over the globe and the region, Screen Hunter provides information, support, advice and local know-how for anyone who might be considering filming here.

"We have the most diverse locations in the Hunter, from sand dunes to harbours, vineyards to glorious mountain ranges. This is the ultimate location for filmmakers and we are honoured to showcase our home to cinematographers from around the world," said Annette Hubber, Manager at Screen Hunter and Festival Director.

"The film industry brings \$3 million in to our region every year. It's an industry that is growing all the time, and bringing more and more investment with it. The Real Film Festival is a way of showcasing some of the wonderful true story films made in and around the Hunter, as well as internationally.

"Newcastle is such a wonderful place, with many stories to tell... it's our job to help people tell them, to attract new business to the region and share our beautiful home through the camera lens," she said.

"The Festival is a way of celebrating not only talented filmmakers, but also helping aspiring, young artists to get involved, learn from experts, build on their own strengths, and one day possibly become another amazing Newcastle export."

"This year, we welcome Academy Award nominated cinematographer, Don McAlpine, to the Festival. With more than 50 feature films, including Moulin Rouge, Wolverine and The Dressmaker to his credit, we are extremely honoured to have him on board. It shows the respect the Festival has in the industry to have Don join us this year," Annette said.

"We encourage the business community to support the Festival... come to our event launch, sit in on a screening, join a workshop or masterclass, and be part of a wonderful local event."

The Festival launches in Newcastle on Friday Oct 26 with a series of workshops and master classes, along with three days of screening in Port Stephens, Newcastle and Speers Point.

The official program launch will be held Friday night at the Culture Club on King Street. Sally Regan, from Create NSW, will be opening the program for 2018 before inviting guests to Tower Cinemas for the first film of the Festival. Guests will be treated to an advanced screening of *Momentum Generation*, a story about mateship, passion and legacy in the pro surfing world and the complexity of their relationships with each other and their sport.

“Opening night will then continue with our Gala Party at Custom House Hotel, where everyone is welcome to enjoy some of the best local wines and produce as we celebrate the start of another home-grown festival,” Annette added.

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