



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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THE REAL FILM FESTIVAL RETURNS 7TH-9TH NOVEMBER BIGGER AND BETTER IN 2014!

Now in its third year, the **Real Film Festival (RFF)** is once again offering a showcase of documentaries, independent short and feature films based on true stories as part of the three day community, arts and Industry event set to return to Newcastle from 7-9 November 2014.

The Festival attracts some of the Industry's most elite at the Film screenings, industry workshops, Q & A's, Industry panel discussions, networking events and film competitions for filmmakers of all ages and experience. The Festival continues to grow every year attracting local & interstate audience & Industry with a strong attendance.

The program includes the Opening Night Gala at Newcastle Tower Cinemas followed by an exclusive party at one of Newcastle's unique cultural venues, The Lockup, an Open Air Cinema at Civic Park, film Screenings, networking events and industry workshops with presenters that have worked on some of the most powerful films to hit the screen. The winning films in the Short Film Competition will be announced & screened at the Closing Night event at Tower Cinemas & winners will receive prizes including film equipment, post production sessions & mentorships. Some of the other venues that will host the festival include Limelight Studios, The Hub & Newcastle Museum.

The Festival was created to foster & develop the art of story telling real events through film and to create an engaging film festival for the community and its unique opportunity for up and coming filmmakers.

"It is an incredible thrill to work with young people in documenting the world through their eyes, focussing on issues in their worlds – and it is amazing and surprising to see the results. The Festival's vision is to become an event of national & international significance that will position the region as a strong film & arts community", said Annette Hubber, Festival Director.

A sneak peek at four of this year's Festival's Feature Films reveal a real cross-section of the range and quality of features and documentaries, including two Australian Premieres; *Kill the Messenger* and *Desert Runners*. You can also expect to see *1971* & *Particle Fever*.

Synopsis for the above four feature films

Kill the Messenger - Australian Premier

Director: Michael Cuesta | USA

This is a dramatic thriller based on the remarkable true story of Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Gary Webb. Webb stumbles onto a story which leads to the shady origins of the men who started the crack epidemic on the nation's streets...and further alleges that the CIA was aware of major dealers who were smuggling cocaine into the U.S., and using the profits to arm rebels fighting in Nicaragua. His journey takes him from the prisons of California to the villages of Nicaragua to the highest corridors of power in Washington, D.C. - and draws the kind of attention that threatens not just his career, but his family and his life.

Desert Runners – Australian Premier

Director: Jennifer Steinman | USA

The film looks at a year in the 4 Deserts Ultramarathon series, considered one of the most difficult endurance challenges as athletes race four of the most gruelling deserts on Earth – the Atacama Desert in Chile; the Gobi Desert in China, the Sahara Desert in Egypt and Antarctica. A film of both physical and mental endurance.

1971

Director: Johanna Hamilton | USA

Before WikiLeaks and Edward Snowden there was Media, Pennsylvania in 1971. The year an anti-war movement fragmented into one of the greatest heists in US history. It unearths the amazing story of a few extraordinary citizens who took on the untouchable powers of the FBI. This never-before-told heist story has alarmingly similar parallels with current day whistle-blowers.

Particle Fever

Director: Mark Levinson | USA

Particle Fever follows six brilliant scientists during the launch of the Large Hadron Collider, marking the start-up of the biggest and most expensive experiment in the history of the planet. As they seek to unravel the mysteries of the universe, 10,000 scientists from over 100 countries joined forces in pursuit of a single goal: to recreate conditions that existed just moments after the Big Bang and find the Higgs boson, potentially explaining the origin of all matter. But our heroes confront an even bigger challenge: have we reached our limit in understanding why we exist?

Media contact:

For further information contact Annette Hubber on annette@realfilmfestival.com.au or 0423020191. Interviews and photos with industry professionals can also be arranged by contacting Annette.

Real Film Festival Website: www.realfilmfestival.com.au

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