



REAL FILM FESTIVAL OUTDOOR CINEMA AT MAITLAND GAOL

The Hunter region is home to a growing cluster of highly regarded screen industry practitioners and content creators and the annual Real Film Festival offers fresh events for filmmakers and audiences alike.

The Real Film Festival provides opportunities for screen practitioners and film lovers to participate at all levels, to build skills and connect over the telling of screen stories. Increasingly socially conscious and globally aware audiences will be thrilled with the short and feature length films to be screened as part of the festival program.

On Friday 29 November, the Real Film Festival comes to Maitland Gaol with a day of screen skills building workshops and film screenings, thanks to the support of Maitland City Council.

“The workshops on offer this year are delivered by the highest level of screen industry professionals and we are thrilled to bring this calibre of industry to support our own growing regional screen sector.” said Real Film Festival Director Annette Hubber.

Maitland workshops *Film like a Pro on a Smartphone* with award winning iphone film maker Jason Van Genderen and *Building Virtual Worlds* with Visual Effects guru Michael Cox are on Friday 29 November 9am - 1.30pm at Maitland Gaol. Tickets are on sale now: <https://realfilmfestival.com.au/maitland/>

Maitland Gaol will also be the atmospheric venue of the Real Film Festival outdoor cinema being held on Friday 29 November from 6.30pm.

Maitland Gaol is a highly coveted film location for productions and is featured in the short film *Execution Island* which will be screened along with feature film *Sanctuary*.

Execution Island, directed by Jamie Humphries, is a short film about two young Australians who were convicted of drug smuggling in Indonesia and sentenced to death by firing squad. During their 9 years in prison, Myuran Sukumaran and Andrew Chan were rehabilitated, began mentoring other prisoners and helping to teach English. Myuran became an accomplished artist, while Andrew became an ordained minister and established a church inside the prison. Rev Christie Buckingham was Myuran’s spiritual adviser. This is her eye witness account of a night that will not be forgotten.

Sanctuary, the Advanced Screening feature film, will be screened after *Execution Island*. The intimate story of Khaled, a young man struggling to hold onto his humanity as he searches across continents

for peace and freedom. Khaled was born Iraqi but raised in the Netherlands by his journalist father. At 18, he travelled to Baghdad to visit his sick mother, and worked as an interpreter for the Coalition Forces. As insurgent violence escalated, he tried to leave but his Dutch papers were not in order. Khaled was suddenly someone to be feared and treated inhumanely; he spends the next ten years as a refugee travelling the world trying to find sanctuary.

Join in the Q&A's with *Sanctuary* Director Kaye Harrison and *Execution Island* Director Jamie Humphries after the film screenings.

Real Film Festival Director Annette Hubber says, "I believe that films can promote an understanding of and openness to diverse culture, values, people and places and that screen content can be a non-confrontational way to raise awareness and enable community connection through storytelling. That's why it's important to make the Real Film Festival happen each year, to regularly connect with stories and storytellers from diverse communities."

Event runs 6.30 - 8.30pm. Drinks and food carts available on the night. Tickets on sale now: <https://realfilmfestival.com.au/maitland/>

For media information and further exclusives via approval please contact:

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