



23 October 2019

SCREEN INDUSTRY EXPERTS DISCUSS LOCAL TALENT AT SHORT FILM FESTIVAL

The Real Film Festival is delighted to welcome leading screen industry panellists to Newcastle as part of the specialised industry offerings of the region's very own documentary film festival.

Screen industry practitioners currently working in the field, will join in a discussion about the short films screened as part of the Real Film Festival in partnership with Festival X at the Newcastle Conservatorium of Music on Saturday 16 November, 2-4pm.

Actress Rachael Blake, Director David Caesar, Producer Scott Hartley and Cinematographer Don McAlpine are looking forward to discussing some of the region's newest film making talent, bringing together their diverse and extensive screen industry expertise.

Rachael Blake, well known for her role in the 2001 Australian film *Lantana*, says the Real Film Festival "...offers the unique opportunity for the priceless exposure of emerging filmmakers. It provides a window for people's work to be seen, and sometimes having the work on a big screen can be the tipping point to a project moving forward or being picked up by industry." Blake will next be seen in Partho Sen-Guptha's feature film *Slam*.

David Caesar, writer and director of classic Australian Gothic feature films *Mullet* and *Idiot Box*, and most recently director of episodes of the ABC TV mini-series *Les Norton*, will bring his industry expertise to the panel to discuss the films screened during the Real Film Festival Shorts session.

Scott Hartley, who has worked in the industry for 25 years and has worked as a Line Producer for some of Australia's most acclaimed dramas and documentaries, will be asking the hard questions about money to help film makers navigate getting the best out of their budgets.

Academy Award nominated cinematographer Don McAlpine is thrilled by the enthusiasm of the Hunter region film community after his involvement in the 2018 Real Film Festival; "The involvement, the interest and the participation of the people of the Newcastle district was quite inspiring. It was fantastic to see a regional area able to produce such an involving show." McAlpine, a self-confessed "storyteller who happens to be able to control a camera" brings an extraordinary career of over shooting over 50 feature films to the panel discussion.

Tickets on sale now: realfilmfestival.com.au for tickets and full program.

For media information and for further exclusives via approval please contact:

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