



Beamafilm Pty Ltd
670 Bourke Street
Redfern
NSW 2016

May 17 2018

To Whom It May Concern,

Re: Real Film Festival 2018

Beamafilm is an Australian film distributor with a collection of 450 premium films that are streamed into educational; institutional and consumer environments. It was our pleasure to sponsor the Real Film Festival 2017 and we are happy to endorse the Real Film Festival for 2018.

There is great need for a grass-roots film festival such as Real Film Festival, both for audiences as well as filmmakers. In the current film industry climate it is still difficult to tell Australian stories and have them heard by an appreciative Australian audience. Attending RFF 2017 provided evidence that they are addressing this demand.

As a sponsor, we offered distribution to competition winners and, as a result, films such as *The Veiled* are now available in public and tertiary libraries nation-wide and also to consumers internationally. As part of our sponsorship we presented a filmmaker workshop that was well-attended and provided guidance and best-practice advice for online film distribution.

Real Film Festival has, and has the continuing potential to have, an enormous positive impact on the Australian film industry, both locally and more broadly across NSW. It provides an audience for local voices and stories on both a national and international stage.

The film screenings are instrumental in bringing regional community members together to celebrate and discuss real stories and issues of community relevance. Issues represented are broad and in 2017 these ranged from the importance of regional firefighters to the challenges associated with overcoming alcoholism in regional Aboriginal communities. Several screenings were accompanied by informative Q&A sessions allowing audience members to interact with both filmmakers and subjects.

Emerging filmmakers also benefit greatly from Real Film Festival - the inspiration; workshops and opportunities to network with both peers and mentors are greatly beneficial to their study and career prospects. They also have the rare opportunity to interact personally with their audiences and engage with them on an even deeper level.

The Hunter-sponsored competition for students was a highlight of the festival, with films on topics such as green energy and regional tourism. The student initiatives provided a fantastic channel for students and aspiring filmmakers to gain public exposure for their work and to encourage the next generation to tell their own stories about how they see and interact with the world.

It is important to stage festivals such as the Real Film Festival in regional areas to foster and support an industry that can thrive in regional areas - providing employment and representing the voices of communities that can otherwise become marginalized from mainstream media and stories.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you require any further information or to discuss in detail any further.

Best regards,

Louise van Rooyen
Managing Director, Beamafilm