

# SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL

# 5-16 JUNE 2024

## THE 71<sup>ST</sup> SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL BEGINS

The 71<sup>st</sup> Sydney Film Festival (5-16 June) opened tonight at the State Theatre with the World Premiere of *Midnight Oil: The Hardest Line*.

Festival Director **Nashen Moodley** opened the Festival to a packed auditorium including *Midnight Oil: The Hardest Line* director **Paul Clarke** and *Midnight Oil* frontman **Peter Garrett**.

**Sydney Film Festival Board Chair, Darren Dale** said, "I am delighted to welcome everyone to the 71st edition of the Sydney Film Festival. It's a wonderful opportunity to immerse ourselves in stories and experiences from all over the world and in doing so, perhaps understand each other just a little bit better.

"This year I am especially thrilled with the addition of the world's biggest prize for First Nations filmmaking, cementing our global standing as supporters of First Nations storytelling.

"Beyond that, the selection of films this year is outstanding and there is truly something for everyone. I look forward to seeing you there and revelling in the very best of world cinema."

**Minister for the Arts, John Graham** said, "The Sydney Film Festival is the highlight of the year for film lovers. It brings the film community together to experience the most exciting films in Australia and the world.

"Every year the festival pulls together an invigorating program that allows us to discover stories that are reflective of contemporary Australia, and explore new world views, through the cinema screen.

"I'd like to thank and congratulate all of the filmmakers whose stories will captivate Sydney for the next 11 days."

**Lord Mayor of Sydney, Clover Moore** said, "Welcome to the 71st Sydney Film Festival! Film has an unrivalled ability to take us to other worlds and other lives, and to give us new and unexpected insights.

The City of Sydney has proudly sponsored this Festival for the past three decades, because we know that a thriving arts industry is essential for a global city. I hope you enjoy this rich and diverse program."

*The Hardest Line* tells *Midnight Oil*'s trailblazing story for the first time ever on film. Featuring newly unearthed interviews with every band member, unseen live and studio footage, alongside signature moments like the outback tour with Warumpi Band, their Exxon protest gig in New York and those famous "Sorry" suits at the Sydney Olympics, the film traces the singular journey of Australia's

quintessential rock band across their 45-year career. *Midnight Oil: The Hardest Line* is written and directed by Paul Clarke, produced by Carolina Sorensen, and executive produced by Mikael Borglund, Paul Clarke and Martin Fabinyi.

Guests for the Opening Night Gala included: Cathy Freeman, April Rose Pengilly, Nash Edgerton, Benedict Wall, Matt Day, Claudia Karvan, Damian Walshe-Howling, Tai Hara, Julian Maroun, Kieran Darcy-Smith, Ed Oxenbould and Danielle Cormack.

The full Sydney Film Festival 2024 program can be found online at [sff.org.au](https://sff.org.au).

**Sydney Film Festival runs from 5-16 June 2024. Tickets and Flexipasses to Sydney Film Festival 2024 are on sale now. Please call 1300 733 733 or visit [sff.org.au](https://sff.org.au) for more information or to book.**

Stay up to date with Sydney Film Festival:  
[eNews](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [YouTube](#).

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**\*\*\*Sydney Film Festival Press Pack and Images Available [HERE](#)**

### **EDITOR'S NOTES**

#### **ABOUT SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL**

From Wednesday 5 to Sunday 16 June 2024, the 71<sup>st</sup> Sydney Film Festival offers Sydneysiders another exciting season of cinema amidst a whirlwind of premieres, red-carpet openings, in-depth discussions, film guests and more.

Sydney Film Festival is a major event on the New South Wales cultural calendar and is one of the world's longest-running film festivals. For more information visit [sff.org.au](https://sff.org.au).

The 71<sup>st</sup> Sydney Film Festival is supported by the NSW Government through Screen NSW and Destination NSW, the Federal Government through Screen Australia and the City of Sydney.