

MEDIA RELEASE – For Immediate Release

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APERTURE Festival to promote Asia Pacific cultures through films

Melbourne, VIC – APERTURE Festival is a new upcoming festival that aims to promote and support ethnographic documentaries about the Asia Pacific region and filmmakers originating from this region.

The first APERTURE Festival will be held on 22 - 23 November 2013 in Melbourne, Australia at the Carrillo Gantner Theatre at the University of Melbourne's Sidney Myer Asia Centre. Festival admission will be free and open to the public.

The focus on Asia Pacific cultures makes APERTURE Festival the first of its kind, according to the festival director Dr Erminia Colucci.

"Ethnographic films about and from the Asia Pacific seem to be under represented in ethnographic documentary festivals, thus the decision to start APERTURE. APERTURE is not only the first ethnographic documentary festival in Australia but the first Asia Pacific specific documentary festival," she says.

Currently Taiwan and Vietnam are the two other countries hosting ethnographic documentary festivals.

APERTURE Festival is run by a team of volunteers. The festival organisers are currently developing partnerships and offering sponsorship opportunities. If the first festival is successful it will be made annual, Dr Colucci says.

"We already received interest from documentary film-makers from the region, who are the people we really want to support through this festival. But now we need the support of individuals and sponsors to showcase them and these films."

Nadia Astari, the festival Co-ordinator, says the team efforts has helped kickstart the festival.

"I'm really excited to be working with a very multicultural and dedicated team behind the APERTURE Festival. Everybody has generously contributing their time and expertise for this unique and innovative festival. We want the festival to be a cross cultural celebration through films, talks and drinks and we hope people will come to enjoy and appreciate it."

The festival will also host a networking event on 22 November to provide the featured film-makers an opportunity to interact with industry representatives, sponsors and fellow film-makers.

The Call for Entries currently open until 15 August 2013.

– Ends –

Note: For publication purpose of APERTURE Festival you may use our logo or images directly from the website or request the image files from us.

For further media information contact:

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Background information - APERTURE Festival

APERTURE aims to provide an accessible event within the region, for the region's local filmmakers as well as for all filmmakers worldwide whose work is about the Asia Pacific region. The festival will also welcome proposals from local filmmakers in this region who have made ethnographic films about cultures and society located in other parts of the world (not the Asia Pacific) providing their work features an Asian Pacific ethnographic perspective. APERTURE thus will offer a platform that promotes documentaries on Asia Pacific cultures and society, and provide emerging filmmakers from this region the opportunity to be screened internationally and network with other filmmakers and potential producers and distributors.

The first APERTURE Festival will be held in Melbourne, 22-23 November 2013. While this first edition will invite submission for ethnographic film-documentaries, the aim is to open the following editions also to photo-documentary projects to be displayed during the film festival. As one of the key aims of the project is to educate about and promote the culture of the Asia Pacific region, attendance to the festival will be free and open to the public.

Future festivals could be held in major cities in the Asia Pacific region by rotation or continue in Melbourne, depending on sponsorships and partnerships. The focus on Asia Pacific cultures and filmmakers makes this an innovative and unique festival that has not been previously offered in any other country in the region.

Visit <http://aperturefestival.com> for more information.