



MEDIA RELEASE

8 OCTOBER 2013

EVENT INFORMATION

- What:** APERTURE Festival - a three day film festival showcasing Asia Pacific cultures through ethnographic documentaries
- Where:** Carrillo Gantner Theatre in the Sidney Myer Asia Centre at the University of Melbourne
- When:** 21 - 23 November 2013
- What time:** 21 November from 4.00pm until 7.30pm - OPENING FILM NIGHT
22 November from 9.00am until 6.00pm - ALL DAY FESTIVAL
23 November from 9.00am until 7.00pm - ALL DAY FESTIVAL & AWARD CEREMONY
- Who:** All ages. Documentary enthusiasts.
- Price:** FREE to attend and is open to the public. Gold coin donations are appreciated.

APERTURE FESTIVAL OPENING FILM BY LEADING ETHNOGRAPHIC FILMMAKER DAVID MACDOUGALL

APERTURE Festival has announced its film selections for its inaugural festival and renowned ethnographic filmmaker David MacDougall's "Gandhi's Children" is the opening film.

Running from 21 - 23 November at the University of Melbourne, APERTURE Festival is the first ethnographic documentary in Australia with an Asia Pacific focus. The event encourages multicultural engagement by showcasing films from and about the Asia Pacific region. In order to maximise exposure and connecting the community festival organisers have made the event free and open to the public, but gold coin donations are appreciated.

After receiving over 100 submissions from a diversity of filmmakers around the world, the unique festival has finalised its film selection. Kicking off the event at 4pm on the 21st of November will be David MacDougall's "Gandhi's Children", a documentary concerning the hardships of living in a children's shelter on the outskirts of Delhi.

"The APERTURE team is very honoured to be able to screen one of David MacDougall's films. He's somewhat of an ethnographic guru. We're excited to open the film with this great documentary," says Dr Erminia Colucci, the festival director.

Over 30 films will be on show at the inaugural APERTURE Festival from over 15 countries in the Asia Pacific. In the Carrillo Gantner Theatre, the main festival theatre, 20 films will be screened. The sideshow in the Yasuko Hiraoka Myer (YHM) room will have 13 films under their "Experiential Ethnographic Films Programme", a photo exhibition and Maree Clarke's Aboriginal multimedia installation on display.

The three-day documentary film festival aims to create an environment that stimulates cultural understanding about a region that is continuously under represented in most film festivals, says Dr Colucci.

“We were very enthusiastic about the variety and richness of the films submitted. It was a hard process to select 30 of them but we managed to create a programme that will guarantee an amazing festival.”

APERTURE Festival 2013 includes special events such as international speakers from Japan and the Solomon Islands, a photo exhibition partnered with the Australian Network of Student Anthropologists (ANSA), Q&A's with the filmmakers, Maree Clarke's Aboriginal multimedia installation, and an award ceremony on the last festival day.

The Awesome Foundation Melbourne have generously donated a \$1000 prize that will go to one lucky filmmaker of their choice.

APERTURE Festival hopes to engage Australia with its closest neighbours through the narrative of ethnographic documentary film. With so many exciting events on the programme this festival is not to be missed.

- ENDS -

For more information, please visit the APERTURE website: www.aperturefestival.com.

INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITIES: Erminia Colucci, the festival director, and selected filmmakers (subject to availability)

For further information, please contact:

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