

Indian Film Festival of **MELBOURNE** 2026

Principal Partner



VICSCREEN

13 - 23
AUGUST

#SharedStories #SharedHumanity

Palais Theatre
HOYTS District Docklands
HOYTS Chadstone
HOYTS Highpoint
Federation Square
Village Crown Cinemas
Village Knox
Village Sunshine
Village Geelong, Bendigo, Shepparton

iffm.com.au

Image Courtesy: Not A Hero

VICSCREEN

Proudly supporting Australia's biggest celebration of Indian cinema





Professor the Honourable Margaret Gardner AC

Creative expression is one of the best tools we have to gain and share an understanding of one another, and cinema remains one of its most accessible forms.

For seventeen years, the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne has provided a space for diverse voices to share their stories with audiences on our shores.

The longstanding success of this event is a reflection of the vibrancy and size of the Victorian-Indian community.

And it is also a reward for the investment in this cultural strength, and the result of welcoming the wider community to join in its celebration.

The 2026 theme of *Shared Stories, Shared Humanity* is a fitting nod to the approach that has made the Festival what it is today.

Congratulations to everyone involved in these films, thank you to those who bring them to our screens here in Melbourne, and best wishes to the audiences who will no doubt enjoy them throughout this Festival.

Governor of Victoria



CHOOSE THE #1 VICTORIAN UNI FOR COURSE SATISFACTION



DEAKIN
UNIVERSITY

Source: Graduate Outcomes Survey 2025, Quality Indicators for Learning and Teaching (QILT), Deakin University CRICOS Provider Code 00113B



Hon Jacinta Allan MP

Victoria and India have a strong and special relationship. We are proudly home to the largest Indian-born community in Australia.

Indian Victorians contribute to every part of our economic, cultural and social life. That's why my Labor Government is proud to support the 2026 Indian Film Festival of Melbourne.

As the cultural capital of Australia, we have a rich and unique calendar of events, which offers something for everyone.

The 17th IFFM is another opportunity for Victorians to come together, connect and celebrate. Congratulations to the organisers and everyone involved - we look forward to another successful and entertaining festival.



Member for Bendigo East
Premier

WHERE AI INNOVATION MEETS REAL IMPACT

La Trobe University CRICOS Provider Code Number 00115M
TEQSA PRV12032 - Australian University - 06/2019 - 06/26

La Trobe is shaping the future of AI across research, education and industry partnerships.

We're working with leading organisations like OpenAI, NVIDIA and Microsoft to harness AI to address some of the world's most pressing challenges.

We're also making AI part of students' skillsets by embedding it into our courses, so our graduates get the skills and mindset to work with AI, not around it.





The Hon Vicki Ward MP

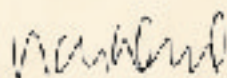
Victoria is proudly home to the largest and most vibrant Indian communities in Australia, and as our nation's creative state, it's apt we present the largest annual celebration of Indian cinema in the southern hemisphere.

Now in its 17th year, the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM) brings a rich and diverse program showcasing the very best and latest in Indian cinema to local audiences.

Alongside lighting up our cinema screens, IFFM events energise Melbourne and the glittering IFFM Awards Night attracts stars from the Indian and Australian film industries.

The Victorian Government is proud to support IFFM, strengthening Victoria's reputation as a global screen destination, adding another drawcard to our vibrant winter cultural calendar and highlighting our proudly multicultural state.

Thank you to the IFFM team for delivering another spectacular program. Enjoy the films, the festivities, and the celebration of cinema that brings us all together.



Minister for Creative Industries

MELBOURNE AT ITS MOST MELBOURNE

WINTER ONLY IN THE CITY



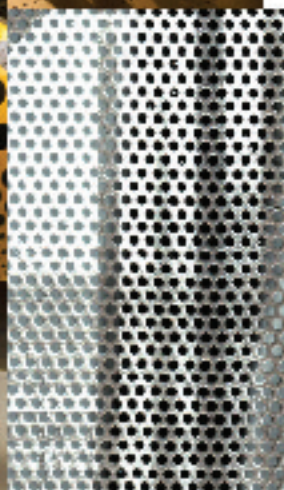
LEVEL 18 STREET STATION



NOV INTERNATIONAL



SCAN TO VIEW
THE GOLD LIST



CITY OF MELBOURNE

The Lord Mayor Of Melbourne



Nicholas Reece

Welcome to the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne – the biggest, boldest annual celebration of Indian cinema anywhere outside India, staged right here in the nation's capital of arts and culture.

You couldn't find a better home for this fantastic festival that showcases a diverse range of stories, shares the richness and diversity of Indian culture, and brings some of Indian cinema's brightest stars to town.

We love our Indian community in Melbourne – a vibrant and vital thread in the multicultural tapestry of our city. Since 2001, Melbourne's Indian-born population has more than tripled, making it our third largest international ancestry group. Punjabi is now the fastest growing language in Melbourne, and more international students come to Australia from India than from any other country.

It's no wonder Indian films are taking the Australian box office by storm. They're now our third-largest market after American and British cinema with box office figures almost doubling over the past 4 years.

Congratulations to the filmmakers, actors, producers, directors, organisers and of course the inimitable Mitu Bhowmick Lange AM, Director of the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne.

Jai Hind, Jai Melbourne!

Nicholas Reece
Lord Mayor



Every Story Has a Home

Every story deserves to be seen. Across Australia, the Indian diaspora is shaping industries, strengthening communities, and bringing their stories, creativity and culture to the national stage. Indian Australians are driving lasting impact, on screen and in everyday life.

As one of Australia's largest profit-for-member superannuation funds, Aware Super believes meaningful impact begins with community. That's why we're committed to supporting the financial wellbeing and long-term aspirations of people building their lives in Australia and showing up for the moments that matter most to them, their families and their communities.



aware
super



Find Out More

The Festival Director



A heartfelt welcome to the T7th Indian Film Festival of Melbourne 2026!

It is a pleasure to welcome you to the T7th edition of the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne - a festival that continues to celebrate the diversity, creativity, and excellence of Indian and South Asian cinema while bringing people together through the universal language of storytelling.

This year, our theme, "Shared Humanity, Shared Stories," reflects our belief that stories have the power to connect us across borders, languages, and cultures. In a world that can often feel divided, cinema invites us to experience another person's journey, recognise our shared hopes and struggles, and celebrate the humanity that unites us. Every film in this year's programme is an invitation to listen with empathy, embrace different perspectives, and discover the stories that bring us closer together.

Our 2026 programme features over 79 feature films and 56 short films across 35 languages, including a specially curated package of Indian indigenous films, that will showcase the richness and vibrancy of Indian and South Asian storytelling. From powerful dramas and insightful documentaries to innovative independent cinema and captivating short films, each selection has been carefully curated to inspire, entertain, and spark meaningful conversations.

We are especially honoured to open this year's festival by celebrating the 25th anniversary of one of Indian cinema's most iconic films, Lagaan, as we celebrate this landmark film alongside its star and producer, Aamir Khan.

The celebrations continue with our prestigious IFFM Awards Night at the historic Palais Theatre on 13th August, honouring excellence in Indian cinema, followed by our much-loved Remitly IFFM Dance Competition on 15th August - a joyful celebration of the colour, diversity, and spirit of Indian culture.

Beyond the screen, IFFM is a place for conversations, connections, and new ideas. Audiences will have the opportunity to engage with acclaimed filmmakers, actors, writers, and industry leaders, while initiatives such as our Emerging Talent Support Fund continue our commitment to nurturing the next generation of storytellers and championing authentic voices.

This festival would not be possible without the unwavering support of our partners, sponsors, collaborators, volunteers, filmmakers, and audiences. Thank you for believing in our vision and helping make IFFM the vibrant celebration it is today.

As we come together once again, I hope you discover stories that move you, inspire you, and remind you of the extraordinary power of cinema to build understanding and celebrate our shared humanity.



Mitu Bhowmick Lange AM
IFFM Festival Director



REKHA



Actor • Cultural Icon

An actor, a former nominated member of the Rajya Sabha (2012–2018), and a timeless icon of Indian cinema, Rekha is one of India's most celebrated artists. For more than five decades, she has captivated audiences across the world, redefining the possibilities of screen performance. elegance, mystery, resilience, and artistic excellence. Few actors have shaped the imagination of generations as profoundly as Rekha. She has come to define not merely stardom but the very idea of cinematic grace. Across a remarkable career spanning over five decades, Rekha has continually reinvented herself with the kind of effortless brilliance that only the truly exceptional possess. Rekha's journey from a young performer to one of Indian cinema's most revered superstars and enduring cultural icons is a testament to her extraordinary talent, relentless dedication, and constant reinvention. Across every phase of her remarkable career, she embraced change with conviction, continually challenging herself and redefining the possibilities of screen performance. She earned her place in the pantheon of Indian cinema not through spectacle or self-promotion, but through an unwavering commitment to her craft, discipline, and a resilience that has become inseparable from her legacy. Rekha's every performance is marked by emotional honesty and precision, leaving an imprint on generations of moviegoers. Her work continues to resonate, standing as a timeless reminder of cinema's ability to move, inspire, and endure.





Her body of work stands as one of the richest and most diverse in Indian cinema. From the sweeping emotional grandeur of *Muqaddar Ka Sikandar* and *Khoon Bhari Maang* to the remarkable subtlety and emotional precision of *Ijaazat*, *Khoobsurat*, *Ghar*, *Do Anjaane*, *Utsav*, and the immortal *Umrao Jaan*, Rekha has consistently pushed the boundaries of performance. Each role bears the unmistakable stamp of an artist who approached every character with intelligence, empathy, and extraordinary emotional depth. Long before nuanced female protagonists became commonplace, Rekha was portraying women of complexity, vulnerability, strength, and agency, reshaping the way women were represented on the Indian screen.



Even in the later chapters of her career, films such as *Lajja* and *Zubeidaa* reaffirmed her extraordinary ability to command the screen with dignity, restraint, and emotional power. She possesses that rare ability to communicate volumes through silence, allowing the smallest gesture, glance, or pause to reveal entire emotional landscapes. Whether portraying desire, heartbreak, or redemption, Rekha transformed every role into something profoundly human and unforgettable.



Beyond her extraordinary performances, Rekha remains a master of every facet of cinematic expression. Her command over dialogue, her unmistakable voice and diction, her expressive dance, and her incredible screen presence have made her one of Indian cinema's most loved actors. Yet perhaps one of Rekha's greatest legacies lies beyond the films. She transformed herself into an enduring symbol of independence, self-belief, and artistic integrity. Her life and career continue to inspire generations of women and men to pursue excellence, embrace individuality, and define success on their own terms.



From *Umrao Jaan* to *Khoobsurat*, from *Ijaazat* to *Utsav* - a legacy that continues to define Indian Cinema.



Rani Mukerji

Rani Mukerji is one of Indian cinema's most celebrated actors, with a remarkable career spanning over 30 years. From *Black and Hum Tum* to the *Mardaani* films and *Mrs. Chatterjee vs Norway*, her powerful performances have redefined women-led storytelling and inspired generations of audiences.

Dulquer Salmaan

One of contemporary Indian cinema's most celebrated actors and producers, Dulquer Salmaan joins IFFM 2026 as a leading creative force. Known for his acclaimed performances across multiple languages, he champions bold storytelling through Wayfarer Films.



Rishab Shetty

National Award-winning filmmaker, actor, and screenwriter Rishab Shetty, widely regarded as one of the most influential contemporary figures in Indian cinema, joins IFFM 2026. A visionary storyteller, he is celebrated for the global impact of *Kantara* and *Kantara: Chapter 1*.



Pankaj Tripathi

India's most admired and versatile performer, Pankaj Tripathi joins IFFM 2026. Highly respected for his warmth, authenticity, and emotional depth, his acclaimed work spans across both film and streaming platforms.

Malaika Arora

Malaika Arora is an iconic performer, entrepreneur, and cultural ambassador who redefined cinematic dance and style. She continues to inspire audiences through entertainment, wellness, fashion, and creative ventures.



Muzaffar Ali

Muzaffar Ali is an acclaimed filmmaker, artist, and cultural visionary whose work celebrates India's artistic heritage. Best known for the timeless classic *Umrao Jaan*, alongside *Gaman* and *Anjuman*, his films blend poetic storytelling with striking visuals. Through cinema, art, fashion, and the House of Kotwara, he continues to preserve and champion India's rich cultural traditions.



Dolly Singh

Recognized for her character-driven comedy and authentic storytelling, Dolly Singh is a prominent digital creator and actor. She has delivered standout performances in *Bhaag Beanie Bhaag*, *Modern Love Mumbai*, and *Thank You for Coming*.

Manushi Chhillar

As an actor, entrepreneur, and the winner of Miss World 2017, Manushi Chhillar has made a significant mark. Best known for starring in movies such as *Samrat Prithviraj*, *The Great Indian Family*, and *Bade Miyan Chote Miyan*, she is also a dedicated advocate for wellness, public health, and women's empowerment.



Kirti Kulhari

Recognized for her bold and compelling choices in storytelling, Kirti Kulhari stands out as one of Indian cinema's most critically acclaimed actors. Following powerful and impactful performances in films like *Pink*, *Mission Mangal*, and the hit series *Four More Shots Please!*, she returns to the screen at IFFM 2026, starring in *Full Plate*.

Nikhita Gandhi

Nikhita Gandhi is a celebrated Indian singer, songwriter, and performer known for her versatility and distinctive voice. Since her breakthrough with A.R. Rahman, she has delivered chart-topping songs across multiple languages and continues to redefine contemporary Indian music with her dynamic artistry and global performances.





Rajeev Masand

Rajeev Masand is a respected film journalist and industry leader known for his insightful interviews. Now COO of Dharma Cornerstone Agency, he continues to shape India's entertainment landscape.

Srijit Mukherji

National Award-winning filmmaker, screenwriter, and actor Srijit Mukherji stands as a leading voice in Indian cinema, recognized for his distinctive storytelling. His acclaimed films include *Jaatishwar*, *Chotushkone*, *Gumnaami*, and *Ek Je Chhilo Raja*. His latest project, *Winkle Twinkle*, is set to premiere at IFFM 2026.



Tannishtha Chatterjee

Renowned as a classical singer, filmmaker, and actor, Tannishtha Chatterjee has earned widespread acclaim for her roles in *Brick Lane*, *Lion*, *Parched*, and *Angry Indian Goddesses*. Following the Busan premiere of her directorial debut, *Roam Rome Mein*, she continues her artistic journey with her most recent film, *Full Plate*.

Onir

Director, Producer & Screenwriter

Onir is an influential independent filmmaker known for championing diversity, inclusion, and LGBTQIA+ representation through acclaimed films.





Rima Das

Award-winning independent filmmaker Rima Das brings her profound, authentic storytelling back to Melbourne.

We are absolutely thrilled to have her inspiring presence with us at IFFM 2026

Saiyami Kher

Recognized as one of the most dynamic talents in Indian cinema, Saiyami Kher has delivered acclaimed performances in films such as *Ghoomer*, *Choked*, and *8 A.M. Metro*. Beyond her achievements as an actor, sports commentator, and accomplished athlete, she holds the distinction of being the first Indian actor to complete the Ironman 70.3 triathlon twice.



Abhay Punjabi

Abhay Punjabi is a Delhi-based filmmaker and editor whose debut feature *Pukam Pukai* screens at IFFM 2026.

Ambica Setia

Ambica Setia is a storyteller with 15+ years of experience in production, script development, and direction, known for acclaimed films like *The Lunchbox*, *Chakde India*, and *Bombay Rose*.





Anmol Sidhu

Anmol Sidhu is an acclaimed Punjabi filmmaker whose award-winning debut *Jaggi* earned international recognition. His latest feature, *Kikkran De Phull (Flowers of Acacia)*, screens at IFFM 2026.

Ashna Habib Bhabna

Ashna Habib Bhabna is a Bangladeshi actor known for her acclaimed work across film and television. Her latest feature, *King in the Land of the Princess*, premiered at the 48th Moscow International Film Festival.



Ben Rekhi

Ben Rekhi is an award-winning Punjabi-American filmmaker known for *Waterborne*, *The Ashram*, and socially driven storytelling. His sixth feature, *Breaking the Code*, a documentary on Silicon Valley pioneer Karwal Rekhi, screens at IFFM 2026.



Dr. Zakir Hossain Raju

Dr. Zakir Hossain Raju is a distinguished Bangladeshi-Australian film scholar and filmmaker, recognized for his acclaimed works and deep expertise in Asian cinema.



Glorious Luna

Suruj Rajkhowa, known as drag artist Glorious Luna, champions transgender visibility through performance, storytelling, and inclusive representation in cinema.

Kaizad Gustad

Kaizad Gustad is an Indian film director known for his debut feature *Bombay Boys*, which became a landmark in independent Indian cinema.



Kanwal Rekhi

Kanwal Rekhi is a pioneering Silicon Valley entrepreneur and investor, known for shaping India's startup ecosystem. The first Indian-American CEO to take a company public on NASDAQ, he mentors entrepreneurs globally and is featured in *Breaking the Code*, screening at IFFM 2026.

Manas Shashidharan Jacob

Manas Shashidharan Jacob is a Mumbai-based filmmaker whose acclaimed works explore identity, ambition, and human complexities through realistic storytelling.





Meghna Pandey

Meghna Pandey is a Mumbai-based filmmaker exploring memory, gender, grief, and belonging through intimate storytelling.

Nikita Grover

Nikita Grover is an independent casting director and actor, known for *Paatal Lok*, *Kohrra*, and Cannes-selected *Shadows of the Moonless Night*.



Leslie Dsouza

Leslie Dsouza is an award-winning Indian cinematographer with extensive experience in feature films, documentaries, and branded content. He returns to IFFM 2026.

Aashna Singh

Aashna Singh is a Mumbai-based filmmaker and photographer. Her debut short film, *Dhan Ki Devi*, explores memory, identity, and tradition through a feminist lens.





R Gowtham

Tamil poet, translator and filmmaker made his feature debut with *Members of the Problematic Family*, which premiered at Berlin and opens IFFM 2026.

Rohan Bakshi

Delhi-born filmmaker debuts *Diwali Ke Shor Mein* at IFFM 2026 after acclaimed short *Broken Reflections*.



Abdul Aziz

Abdul Aziz, a Chennai-based filmmaker and Whistling Woods alumnus known for poetic realism, non-professional actors, and *PANKHUDIYAAN*, premiering at IFFM 2026.

Sakib Iftikhar

Sakib is a Melbourne-based producer, distributor, film critic, and founder of Screenxscope Australia, championing independent South and Southeast Asian cinema for nearly two decades





Samipya Raj Timalsena

Samipya Raj Timalsena is a Nepali film professional, journalist, and FISCON President championing cinema and film criticism.

Sanjib Sabhapandit

Sanjib Sabhapandit is an award-winning writer-director and former actor. His acclaimed film *Aakash Heno Nadir Naam (Ballad to the Winds)* screens at IFFM 2026



Sanket Gupta

Sanket Gupta is an independent filmmaker, Abhay Punjabi explores human complexities through intimate, psychologically nuanced stories centred on marginalized voices.

Sarika Jadhav

Sarika Jadhav is a writer-producer whose socially conscious films, including *Notice Me Now*, spotlight contemporary issues and emerging voices.



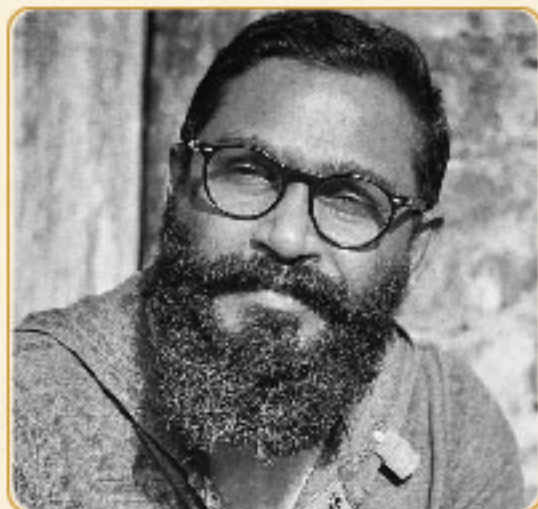


Sharib Hashmi

Sharib Hashmi is an acclaimed Indian actor, writer, and producer celebrated for bringing warmth and authenticity to his roles. Best known as J.K. Talpade in *'The Family Man'*, his notable work spans films like *'Filmistaan'*, *'Asur'*, and *'Vikram Vedha'*. He also produces and writes for diverse cinema and streaming projects.

Shimul Chandra Biswas

Shimul Chandra Biswas is a Bangladeshi producer known for acclaimed films *Devi*, *HAWA*, and original storytelling.



Sulagna Chatterjee

Sulagna Chatterjee is an award-winning screenwriter-director and Forbes 30 Under 30 Asia honouree. Her latest film, *Olakh (Identity)*, explores themes of identity and ambition, continuing her work championing diverse storytelling.



Tanveer Hossain

Tanveer Hossain is a producer from Bangladesh and writer. Tanveer Hossain champions South and Southeast Asian cinema through acclaimed international productions.

Veer Singh

Veer Singh is a rising actor known for authentic queer representation, delivering a layered performance as *Poppy* in an acclaimed independent feature.



Vikram Phadnis

As a filmmaker and fashion designer, Vikram Phadnis creates poignant Marathi dramas that delve into human struggles, resilience, and relationships.

more
than
money



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EVENTS

NAB IFFM Awards Night



📅 Thursday, 13 August

🕒 6:00PM for 6:30PM start

📍 Palais Theatre

🌸 Celebrity Guests 🌸



Pankaj Tripathi



Rekha



Rani Mukerji



Rishab Shetty



Dulquer Salman



Manushi Chillar



Malaika Arora

Presented by  **nab**

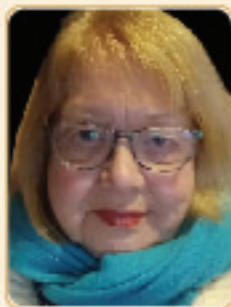
Where the brightest voices in Indian cinema take centre stage, IFFM Awards Night is an evening of recognition, celebration and unforgettable moments!

Bringing together acclaimed artists, visionary filmmakers and emerging talents from across the industry, the night honours the performances and stories that leave behind a lasting mark.

More than a celebration of achievement, Awards Night reflects IFFM's commitment to championing bold voices, fostering cultural connection, and celebrating the stories that bring communities together through cinema.



FEATURE JURY

**Adrienne McKibbins**

Web Series (Available in Australia) Jury

Adrienne McKibbins is a highly respected Australian film critic and academic with a deep, long-standing focus on Indian and Asian cinema. She has served on prestigious festival juries across India, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Australia. An experienced programmer, researcher, and festival director, she champions global appreciation for Asian and Indian cinema.

Andrew Anastasios

Andrew Anastasios is a screenwriter, script producer and producer with an abiding interest in historical narratives and crime drama. He's best known for the award-winning film, *The Water Diviner*, starring Russell Crowe, co-creating the *Jack Irish* series, and more recently script producing the highly successful ABC series, *The Family Next Door*. Andrew's most recent writing projects include *The Great White*, *NCIS: Sydney*, *Tropo* and the newly announced Australian-Indian feature film, *Silkyara 41*.

**Nadia Tass**

Nadia Tass is one of Australia's most acclaimed directors of stage and screen, recognised for her distinctive storytelling and outstanding contribution to the industry. Known for films including *Malcolm*, *The Big Steal*, *Amy*, and *Matching Jack*, her work has earned over 70 international awards. Her celebrated career continues to inspire audiences worldwide.

DOCUMENTARY JUDGE

Dr. Anjali Monteiro

Dr. Anjali Monteiro is an award-winning documentary filmmaker, researcher, and educator. Alongside Dr. K.P. Jayasankar, she has won 33 accolades, including a 2019 Royal Anthropological Institute Festival Jury commendation for *A Delicate Weave*. She co-authored *A Fly in the Curry* and is the former Professor and Dean of the School of Media and Cultural Studies at TISS, Mumbai. Honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award from NID Ahmedabad, her work can be explored at <http://www.monteiro-jayasankar.com/>.





WEB SERIES (AVAILABLE IN AUSTRALIA) JURY

**Anna M.M. Vetticad**

Anna M.M. Vetticad is an award-winning Indian journalist and author of *The Adventures of an Intrepid Film Critic*, known for her no-holds-barred socio-political cinema critiques and fearless commentary on current affairs. Beginning her career in 1994, she worked with *India Today* magazine, *The Indian Express* newspaper, and *Headlines Today* (now India Today TV) before becoming independent in 2011. Her influential reporting on India's film industries earned her the 2015 Ramnath Goenka Award for Excellence in Journalism and the 2025 Chameli Devi Jain Award for Outstanding Woman Media Person of the Year.

Naman Ramachandran

Naman Ramachandran is an international correspondent with *Variety* with South Asia, Southeast Asia, U.K. and Ireland as territory specialties. Naman's work as an author includes *Rajinikanth: The Definitive Biography* (Penguin) and *Lights, Camera, Masala: Making Movies In Mumbai* (IBH). He is the writer and a producer of the Netflix original film *Brahman Naman*.

**Shubhra Gupta**

Shubhra Gupta is an award-winning Indian journalist, author, and highly regarded film critic who writes for *The Indian Express*. With a career spanning over thirty years, she authored *50 Films That Changed Bollywood*, tracking the evolution of the Indian film industry. She served on the Central Board of Film Certification (2012–2015) and won the 2012 Ramnath Goenka Award for Best Writing on Cinema. We are privileged to welcome her to the IFFM web series jury for the 2026 Indian Film Festival of Melbourne!

FILMS FROM SUBCONTINENT JUDGE

Deepti DCunha

Deepti DCunha is a Mumbai-based film programmer specializing in Contemporary Indian and South Asian cinema. Currently, she is a programmer for the Red Sea Int'l Film Festival and a consultant for Fondazione Prada. Previously, she served as Artistic Director of the MAMI Mumbai Film Festival and spent a decade at NFDC Film Bazaar. Having consulted for festivals like Venice and Cannes, she remains dedicated to supporting independent South Asian filmmakers.





BEST FEATURE FILM



Haq
Hindi



Jaraan
Marathi



Kantara: A Legend Chapter 1
Kannada



Lokah Chapter 1
Chandramalayalam



Saiyaara
Hindi



Sharthopor
Bengali



Sitaare Zameen Par
Hindi



The Great Shamsuddin Family
Hindi

BEST INDIE FILM



Ammann Haelbeda (Don't Tell Mother)
Kannada



Full Plate
Hindi



Not a Hero
Assamese, Hindi, English



Kikkran De Phull (Flowers of Acacia)
Punjabi



Lala and Poppy
Hindi



Mayilaa
Tamil



Members of the Problematic Family
Tamil



Pankhudiyaan (Petals in the Wind)
Hindi



BEST DIRECTOR



Ashwiny Iyer Tiwari
System



Chandrashish Ray
Porshi



Mohit Suri
Saiyaara



R. Gowtham
Members of the
Problematic Family



R.S. Prasanna
Sitaare Zameen Par



Rima Das
Not a Hero



Rishab Shetty
Kantara: A Legend Chapter 1



Shazia Iqbal
Dhadak 2

BEST FILM FROM THE SUBCONTINENT



Delupi
Bangladesh



Ek Mutthi Badal
(My Share of Sky)
Nepal, Germany



Goodbye Sisters
Nepal, France



In the Room
Afghanistan, Canada



No Good Men
Afghanistan, Germany
France, Norway, Denmark



Roid
Bangladesh



Balur Nogorite (Sand City)
Bangladesh



Spying Stars
Sri Lanka, France, India

Awards Nominees



BEST PERFORMANCE (MALE)



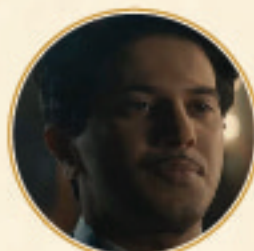
Aamir Khan
Sitaare Zameen Par



Ahaan Pandey
Saiyaara



Bhuman Bhargav Das
Not a Hero



Dulquer Salmaan
Kaantha



Mammooty
Kalamkaval:
The Venom Beneath



Ranveer Singh
Dhurandhar



Rishab Shetty
Kantara: Chapter 2



Sanjay Mishra
Vadh 2

BEST PERFORMANCE (FEMALE)



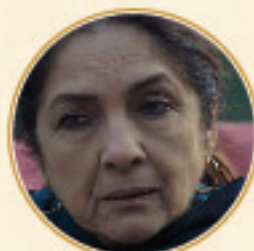
Aneet Padda
Saiyaara



Kalyani Priyadarshan
Lokah Chapter 1: Chandra



Kirti Kulhari
Full Plate



Neena Gupta
Vadh 2



Rajshri Deshpande
Baapya



Rani Mukerji
Mardaani 3



Rituparna Sengupta
Bela



Yami Gautam Dhar
Haq

Awards Nominees



BEST DOCUMENTARY FILM



Breaking the Code
English



Bride of Aravan
Tamil



Flying Tigers
Bengali, Miya, English
Mandarin, German, Polish



Loving Karma
English, Monpa, Hindi



**Music in a Village
Named 1PB**
Hindi, Saraiki



**Njaan Revathi
(I Am Revathi)**
Tamil, Malayalam, Kannada



The Gas Station Attendant
English



Working Girls
Bengali, Hindi, Marathi,
Malayalam, Tamil, Telugu

BEST SERIES



Baai Tuihyapayai
Marathi



**Freedom at Midnight
Season 2**
Hindi



Kohrra: Season 2
Punjabi



Matka King
Hindi



**Real Kashmir
Football Club**
Hindi



Sapne Vs Everyone
Hindi



The Ba*ds of Bollywood**
Hindi



Perfect Family
Hindi

Awards Nominees



BEST PERFORMANCE (MALE) - SERIES



Amrish Verma
Sapne Vs Everyone



Arif Zakariat
Freedom at Midnight:
Season 2



Barun Sobti
Kohraa: Season 2



Kunal Khemu
Single Papa



Manav Kaul
Real Kashmir Football Club



Manoj Pawar
Perfect Family



Paramvir Singh Cheema
Sapne Vs Everyone



Vijay Varma
Matka King

BEST PERFORMANCE (FEMALE) - SERIES



Anandhi
Arabia Kadali



Huma Qureshi
Maharani: Season 4



**Lakshmi Priya
Chandramouli**
Kuttram Purinshavan:
The Guilty One



Mona Singh
Kohraa: Season 2



Rasika Dugal
Delhi Crime: Season 3



Seema Pahwa
Perfect Family



Shefali Shah
Delhi Crime: Season 3



Swastika Mukherjee
Kaaliptoka

30 Years of Cinematic Excellence



📅 Friday, 14 August

🕒 11:00AM

📍 The Edge, Federation Square

Rani Mukerji to Receive Honorary Doctorate by La Trobe University



As Rani Mukerji celebrates 30 remarkable years in Indian cinema, the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne is honoured to celebrate another defining milestone in her illustrious journey.

At IFFM 2026, she will be conferred an **Honorary Doctorate by La Trobe University**, recognising her exceptional contribution to cinema, storytelling, and culture.

For 30 years, Rani has captivated audiences with powerful performances, broken barriers with fearless choices, and inspired generations through her artistry. This prestigious honour is a fitting tribute to an actor whose work continues to shape the landscape of Indian cinema and resonate with audiences across the globe.

Join us as we celebrate an icon, a pioneer, and an artist whose legacy only grows stronger with time. Here's to celebrating 30 incredible years of cinematic excellence at IFFM 2026.

*Congratulations, Rani Mukerji,
on this well-deserved
recognition.*

IFFM Opening Night



📅 Friday, 14 August

🕒 7:00PM

📍 HOYTS District Docklands

The Ultimate Opening Night Double Feature Event!



Opening Short Film

The night opens at 7:30 PM with the Hindi short film *We Were Here*, setting a poignant tone for what is to come.

Directly following is our highly anticipated **Opening Film**, *Members of the Problematic Family*. This brilliant 105-minute Tamil feature delivers a chaotic, razor-sharp, and deeply relatable look into family dynamics, secrets, and the generational friction that defines modern homes.



R. Gowtham

Stay in your seats after the credits roll for an exclusive, live **Q&A session** with **R. Gowtham** to dive deep into the making of this powerhouse opener.

Special screening of Umrao Jaan



📅 Friday, 14 August

🕒 8:30PM

📍 Village Crown

Restored Classic • Directed by Muzaffar Ali (1981)



Umrao Jaan (1981), directed by Muzaffar Ali, returns in its restored form as one of Indian cinema's most exquisite works.

Set in 19th-century Lucknow, the film follows Amiran, who becomes Umrao Jaan, a celebrated courtesan and poet navigating love, loss, and resilience. Rekha's iconic performance remains a masterpiece of emotional depth and dignity, complemented by Khayyam's timeless music and Shahryar's unforgettable lyrics, brought alive through Asha Bhosle's soulful voice.

With its poetic storytelling, rich visual artistry, and enduring themes, *Umrao Jaan* continues to captivate audiences across generations.



Rekha



Muzaffar Ali

In Attendance Rekha and Muzaffar Ali

Celebrations, covered.

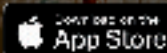


Family



Remitly

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When money flows,
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IFFM Independence Day Celebrations



Saturday, 15 August

10:00AM Onwards

Federation Square

Indian Flag Hoisting Ceremony

10:00 AM

Every year, Fed Square comes alive as the Indian community gathers to celebrate Independence Day with pride, joy and a deep sense of belonging. The ceremonial hoisting of the Indian national flag, presided over by our distinguished guest, the legendary actress Rekha, marks the beginning of a morning that honours India's journey while celebrating the culture, traditions and people shared with thousands of festivalgoers across Melbourne.



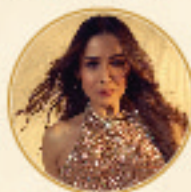
Legendary Actress, Rekha will be presiding the Indian National Flag

Remitly IFFM Dance Competition

12:00 PM

Celebrating dance with our official partner, **Remitly**
Sponsored with

Dance has always been a powerful expression of culture, identity and community. The Remitly IFFM Dance Competition celebrates that spirit by bringing together performers from across Melbourne for an unforgettable showcase of talent, artistry and creativity.



Malaika Arora



Manushi Chhillar

At Melbourne's iconic Fed Square, participants will perform before a live audience and celebrity judges Malaika Arora and Manushi Chhillar, showcasing their talent on one of IFFM's biggest public stages. More than a competition, it is a celebration of community, self-expression and the joy of dance that lies at the heart of the festival.



A big surprise awaits during the IFFM Dance Competition come along to find out!

IFFM Chats and In Conversations



Saturday, 15 August

The Edge



Moderator
Rajeev Masand

IFFM Chat: Women in Cinema

Join us for an exclusive chat with visionary women filmmakers, celebrated icons and artists of cinema!

Get ready for an inspiring evening of stories, laughs, and raw conversations about breaking boundaries, creating representation, and redefining South Asian cinema. Whether you are a creator, an aspiring filmmaker, or a massive film lover, this is your chance to interact directly with the trail-blazing women shaping the industry today.



Rima Das



Dolly Singh



Saiyami Kher



Kirti Kulhari

2:00 PM (60 Minutes)

In Conversation with Pankaj Tripathi

Come and be a part of a special conversation with the highly acclaimed actor and cinematic powerhouse, Pankaj Tripathi!

Get ready for an inspiring conversation with the cinematic powerhouse as we dive deep into the craft of acting, breaking creative boundaries, and bringing authentic, ground-breaking characters to life. Fresh off his massive milestones on the global festival circuit, this is your unique chance to learn directly from the journey of one of cinema's most versatile and beloved talents.



Pankaj Tripathi

3:30 PM (60 Minutes)

IFFM Chats and In Conversations



In Conversation with Rani Mukerji

Celebrate the historic milestones of the legendary Rani Mukerji at the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne by joining us for this exclusive conversation!

Get ready for an inspiring conversation with the ultimate cinematic queen as we dive deep into her extraordinary journey, her powerful impact on global cinema, and her dedication to championing strong female voices on screen. From her unforgettable festival moments to her massive contributions to Indian cinema, this is your rare chance to connect with a true icon who continues to redefine women in cinema.

🕒 5:00 PM (60 Minutes)



The Winner Circle - Meet the Best Talent of IFFM 2026

Join us for an exclusive chat featuring the phenomenal talents from the Awards Night Winning Circle at the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne!

Get ready for an inspiring live session with the awards night winners. Dive deep into their filmmaking journeys, and behind-the-scenes stories in this exclusive conversation.

🕒 6:30 PM

Celebrating 100 Years of Mahasweta Devi



A writer.

A novelist.

An activist.

A chronicler of the marginalized.

A fearless social conscience.

A literary icon.

Celebrating A Literary Legacy

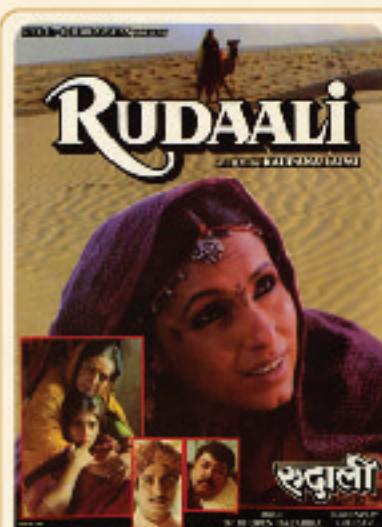
To celebrate 100 years of Mahasweta Devi's Literary Legacy, the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne 2026 will be screening **Rudaali** in her honour.

Mahasweta Devi transformed Indian literature into a powerful instrument of resistance, giving voice to Indigenous communities, women, and the marginalized with unwavering honesty and compassion.

Her stories exposed injustice while celebrating resilience, dignity, and humanity. Blending literary excellence with fearless activism, she redefined socially engaged writing, leaving behind a timeless legacy that continues to inspire readers, writers, and movements for justice.

IFFM honours one of India's most powerful literary voices.

Special Screening



Rudaali

115 Mins | 1993 | India

Hindi



Monday, 17 August



6:00 PM



HOYTS Highpoint

Celebrating 100 Years of Uttam Kumar



An actor.

A producer.

A director.

A matinee idol.

A cultural icon.

The Mahanayak of Bengali cinema.

Celebrating A Cinematic Legend

To celebrate 100 years of Mahanayak Uttam Kumar, the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne 2026 will be screening **Saptapadi** in his honour.

Uttam Kumar redefined stardom with effortless charisma, emotional depth, and unforgettable performances that transformed Bengali cinema. Celebrated as the Mahanayak, he brought grace and humanity to every role, creating characters audiences embraced across generations.

His remarkable versatility made him an icon whose influence continues to inspire actors, filmmakers, and lovers of cinema for generations beyond.

*Honouring the timeless legacy of
Bengal's Mahanayak.*

Special Screening



Saptapadi

163 Mins | 1961 | India

Bengali

Wednesday, 19 August

6:00 PM

HOYTS Highpoint

Celebrating 100 Years of Shakti Samanta



A filmmaker.

A producer.

A storyteller.

A pioneer of modern Hindi cinema.

A master of romance and musical entertainers.

A visionary who bridged Hindi and Bengali cinema.

Celebrating The Hitmaker's Legacy

To celebrate 100 years of Shakti Samanta: The Hitmaker's Legacy, the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne 2026 will be screening *Aradhana* in his honour.

Shakti Samanta crafted timeless cinema blending romance, music, emotion, and entertainment, creating films that continue to resonate across generations. His unforgettable classics shaped the golden era of Indian popular cinema while bridging Hindi and Bengali audiences through pioneering bilingual productions. With iconic songs, memorable characters, and enduring storytelling, Samanta's legacy remains a celebration of cinema's emotional power and universal appeal.

IFFM honours one of Indian cinema's greatest storytellers.

Special Screening



Aradhana

165 Mins | 1969 | India
Hindi

Wednesday, 19 August

6:30 PM

Village Knox

IFFM Centrepiece Double Screening



📅 Wednesday, 19 August

🕒 6:00PM

📍 HOYTS District Docklands

Join us for one of the festival's signature screenings and experience two remarkable works that showcase the richness and diversity of contemporary South Asian cinema!



IFFM Centrepiece Short Film

Immerse yourself in a powerful cinematic journey navigating the delicate spaces of human connection, isolation, and identity. The showcase begins with the striking short film *Parchhaave Massia Rataan De (Shadows of the Moonless Nights)*, an intimate exploration of unseen emotional landscapes told across Hindi, Marathi, and Punjabi.



IFFM Centrepiece Feature Film

This is followed by our major Centrepiece Feature, *Not a Hero*. Fresh from its acclaimed, award-winning run at the Berlin International Film Festival, National Award-winning filmmaker Rima Das delivers an atmospheric, contemporary coming-of-age masterpiece. Moving between the frantic rhythms of city life and the slow, unfamiliar terrain of a rural Assamese village, the film gently observes a young boy's quiet transformation and his unexpected journey toward resilience, courage, and roots.



Mehar Malhotra



Rima Das

Followed by an exclusive, live in-person Q&A featuring director Mehar Malhotra and Rima Das.

IFFM x MQFF Pride Day



Friday, 21 August

5:00PM

HOYTS District Docklands

IFFM Pride Day brings together five powerful stories that celebrate love, identity, resilience, and community through bold, contemporary storytelling.

From **Aakash Heno Nadir Naam (Ballad to the Winds)**, where language becomes a path to acceptance, to **Queering India**, documenting the fight for marriage equality, the programme embraces diverse queer experiences. **Tumhari Khushboo (Your Fragrance)**, **Pakka**, and **Jasmine That Blooms in Autumn** explore intimacy, chosen family, and love across generations with honesty and tenderness.

Experience these moving films, then join conversations that celebrate diverse perspectives and the transformative power of inclusive storytelling.



Aakash Heno Nadir Naam (Ballad to the Winds)

116 Mins | 2026 | India
Assamese



Jasmine That Blooms in Autumn

15 Mins | 2025 | India
Bengali, Hindi



Pakka

18 Mins | 2025
The Netherlands
English, Dutch, Tamil



Queering India

60 Mins | 2026
India, Australia
Hindi, Marathi, English



Tumhari Khushboo (Your Fragrance)

33 Mins | 2026 | India
Hindi

Celebrate diverse voices through the power of storytelling

IFFM Sensory Friendly Screenings



📅 Saturday, 22 August

🕒 1:00PM

📍 HOYTS District Docklands



Indian Film Festival of Melbourne is delighted to present a Low-Sensory Family-Friendly Screening, curated to create a comfortable and welcoming cinema experience. The screening will include:

The screening will feature:

- House lights dimmed throughout the screening
- Lowered audio volume to reduce noise sensitivity
- Cinema doors opening early to allow extra time for settling in
- Calm, family-friendly film content
- Frequent breaks throughout the programme
- Concession and Carer ticket pricing
- Please note that some films feature subtitles and foreign languages

Our Programme

A sensory-friendly cinema experience for audiences of all ages with 15minute interval between each film.



Rasmalai

9 Mins | 2024

Hindi



That Perfect Day

23 Mins | 2026

Bengali, English,
Hindi



This Tree Won't Fall

20 Mins | 2026

Hindi, Garhwali,
English

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EVENTS

Changing The Narrative

Indian Indigenous Films: Cinema From The Margins

Curated by Meenakshi Shedde



📅 22 & 23 August

🕒 4:30PM Onwards

📍 HOYTS District Docklands



Experience "Indian Indigenous Films: Cinema from the Margins"—a curated selection of seven feature films, shorts, and documentaries.

Exploring identity, heritage, and climate change, these works break tribal stereotypes. The showcase features Naga director Theja Rio presenting *Remains* and *Ade* on August 22, alongside five other compelling filmmakers from across India.



Theja Rio
Presenter



Meenakshi Shedde
Moderator



Tiriki Onus
Presenter

Featured Films



Opening Feature

Kangbo Aloti, The Last Path by Khanjan Kishore Nath, in Karbi, Assam, North East India, Feature



Thanthapperu, Life of a Phallus by KS Unnikrishnan Avala, Malayalam, Cholanaiikka, Kerala, South India, Feature



Noi Katha, River Tales by Pankaj Borah, Assamese, North East India, Feature



Remains by Theja Rio, Naga, Nagaland, North East India, short



Ade (On a Sunday) by Theja Rio, Naga, Nagaland, North East India, short



Tenfa by Nihaarika Negi, Kinnauri, Himachal Pradesh, Western Himalayas, short



Flowers in a Hailstorm by Maharshi Tuhin Kashyap, Assamese, North East India, short documentary

EVENTS

3AW IFFM Regional Rhapsody



📅 Saturday, 22 & Sunday, 23 August

📍 Village Cinemas: Geelong, Bendigo and Shepparton

IFFM Regional Rhapsody returns on 22 and 23 August, bringing the festival beyond Melbourne with special screenings in Geelong, Bendigo and Shepparton.

Spend the weekend with stories that will make you laugh, reflect and connect. Meet unforgettable characters, celebrate the bonds of family and community, and discover journeys of hope, resilience and belonging through a carefully curated selection of feature films and shorts. We can't wait to share these stories with audiences across regional Victoria.

📅 Saturday, 22 August

📍 Village Cinemas Geelong



Kuttikkali (Child's Play)

23 Mins | India
Malayalam

🕒 4:00PM

Exclusive Q&A featuring the directors.



Loving Karma

85 Mins | 2025
India, UK
English, Monpa,
Hindi



Tuhade Vich Mera Aks (I See Myself In You)

9 Mins | 2026
Canada
English, Punjabi

🕒 6:30PM

Exclusive Q&A featuring the directors.



Jersey Boy

105 Mins | 2026
Canada, USA
English, Punjabi

📅 Saturday, 22 August

📍 Village Cinemas Shepparton



Njaan Revathi (I Am Revathi)

115 Mins | 2025 | India
Tamil, Malayalam, Kannada

🕒 4:00PM



Pinjar (The Cage)

137 Mins | 2025 | India, Singapore
Bengali

🕒 6:30PM

EVENTS

3AW IFFM Regional Rhapsody



📅 Saturday, 22 August

📍 Village Cinemas Bendigo



Photosensitive

20 Mins | 2025

India

Hindi, Marathi



Sheshippu (The Remnant)

111 Mins | 2025

India

Malayalam

🕒 3:00PM



'Tapman' The Man Who Loved Pollution

12 Mins | 2025 | India

Hindi



Bhaavi (The Well)

63 Mins | 2025

India

Tamil, Kannada

🕒 6:30PM

📅 Sunday, 23 August

🕒 4:00PM



This Tree Won't Fall

20 Mins | 2026

India, USA

Hindi, Garhwali,
English



Delupi

98 Mins | 2025

Bangladesh

Bengali

📍 Village Cinemas Geelong



Echoes

23 Mins | 2025 | India

English, Hindi



Spying Stars

99 Mins | 2025 |

France, Sri Lanka,
India

English, Sinhala

📍 Village Cinemas Shepparton



Yeh Mera Ghar (My Home)

132 Mins | 2025 | India

Hindi

📍 Village Cinemas Bendigo

IFFM Special Screenings and Q&A



Opening Night

Members of the Problematic Family Q&A with R. Gowtham

Join director Pranav Bhasin and director R. Gowtham to discuss the opening night selections, highlighting complex relationships, contemporary societal structures, and human behavior.

Friday, 14 August

7:00 PM

HOYTS District Docklands

*Breaking The Code* Q&A with, Ben Rekhi and Kanwal Rekhi

Join this crucial session to track the human cost of tech success, generational immigration sacrifices, and child coming-of-age paths against social disparity.

Saturday, 15 August

6:00 PM

Village Crown

*Lala & Poppy* Q&A with Kazaid Gustad, Suruj Rajkhowa, Veer Singh

Join the director and cast of *Lala and Poppy* for a dedicated Q&A on *Lala & Poppy* to navigate the fluidity of non-binary identities, trans rights.

Saturday, 15 August

8:30 PM

Village Crown

*Pal Bhar Ke Liye* Q&A with Vikram Phadnis & Saiyami Kher

Join director Vikram Phadnis and actress Saiyami Kher explore personal accountability, relationship turnpoints, and the delicate nature of moving forward from unresolved historical frameworks.

Sunday, 16 August

6:30 PM

Village Crown

*Pankhudiyaan* Q&A with Abdul Aziz

Meet the filmmakers to discover the creative processes and underlying themes behind the world premiere of *Pankhudiyaan* and Shuchi Talati's *Hidden Sun*, focusing on memory, intimacy, and traditions.

Monday, 17 August

4:30 PM

HOYTS District Docklands

*Notice Me Now* Q&A with Sarika Jadhav (Writer/Producer)

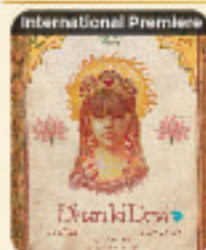
Uncover reflections on hyper-connected modern teen realities, toxic online spaces, and urban relationship struggles during an in-depth conversation with the attending director.

Monday, 17 August

5:00 PM

HOYTS District Docklands

IFFM Special Screenings and Q&A



Dhan Ki Devi with Aashna Singh (Director) & **King in the Land of the Princess** Q&A with Ashna Habib Bhabna and Sakib Iftikhar
Explore the unique intersection of financial dynamics and cultural structures through this combined dual-film screening followed by an active audience discussion.

Monday, 17 August 6:00 PM HOYTS District Docklands



Chhath (The Festival) Q&A with filmmaker Nitin Chandra

Join the director Nitin Chandra to examine the deep structures of ancestral family heritage, cultural traditions, and linguistic diversity across modern rural communities.

Monday, 17 August 8:30 PM Village Crown



The Audition Q&A with Manas Shashidharan Jacob

A deep dive into extreme environmental conditions, personal testing boundaries, and human perseverance against unexpected modern obstacles.

Tuesday, 18 August 4:30 PM HOYTS District Docklands



Diwali Ke Shor Mein Q&A with Rohan Bakshi

Examine the sharp contrasts between environmental depletion and loud, chaotic urban festivals, unpacking regional challenges across the subcontinent.

Tuesday, 18 August 5:00 PM HOYTS District Docklands



Pukam Pukai Q&A with filmmaker Abhay Punjabi

Join director Abhay Punjabi to highlight native pastoralist crafts, sustainability models, pluralistic childhood friendships, and environmental resource inequalities.

Tuesday, 18 August 8:30 PM Village Crown



Kalki Q&A with Meghna Pandey

Join directors Meghna Pandey to dissect traditional gendered expectations of grief.

Wednesday, 19 August 4:00PM Village Crown

IFFM Special Screenings and Q&A

**Olakh Q&A with Sulagna Chatterjee**

A sensitive portrait tracking domestic relationships, identity struggles, and the quiet dynamics of sisterhood across generation shifts.

📅 Thursday, 20 August

🕒 4:30 PM

📍 HOYTS District Docklands

**Between Cradles Q&A with filmmaker Sanket Gupta**

Unpack everyday human interactions, urban solitude, and unexpected bonds formed across unexpected labor sectors during the festival's closing slots.

📅 Thursday, 20 August

🕒 5:00 PM

📍 HOYTS District Docklands

**Aakash Heno Nadir Naam Q&A with Sanjib Sabhapandit**

Join the director to discuss the vital themes of societal co-existence and inclusivity within modern communities.

📅 Friday, 21 August

🕒 5:00 PM

📍 HOYTS District Docklands

**Pride at IFFM****Tumhari Khushboo Q&A with Onir & Queering India Q&A with Swapnesh Dubey**

A vital documentary and short film block exploring identity, community safety, resilience, and LGBTQ+ narratives across modern India.

📅 Friday, 21 August

🕒 6:00 PM

📍 HOYTS District Docklands

**Past Tense Q&A with Sharin Hashmi**

Join versatile, acclaimed actor Sharib Hashmi to discuss a young man seeking justice and dignity for his assaulted biological mother.

📅 Friday, 21 August

🕒 8:00 PM

📍 Village Crown

**Indigenous Screening****Remains & Kangbo Aloti Q&A with Theja Rio and Meenakshi Shedde**

Features a 5-minute introduction by the filmmaker followed by an extensive breakdown of indigenous representation, rare languages, and forgotten historical trails.

📅 Saturday, 22 August

🕒 4:30 PM

📍 HOYTS District Docklands

IFFM Special Screenings and Q&A



Tenfa & Thanthapperu Film Screening

An exclusive cinematic double-feature highlighting regional Kinnauri and deep Malayalam cultural perspectives on lifestyle and identity structures.

Saturday, 22 August 5:00 PM HOYTS District Docklands



Kikkran De Phull Q&A with Attending Directors

Join the directors to discuss the vital themes of societal co-existence and inclusivity within modern communities.

Saturday, 22 August 6:30 PM Village Crown



Winkle Twinkle Q&A with Srijit Mukherjee (World Premiere)

An exclusive cinematic double-feature highlighting regional Kinnauri and deep Malayalam cultural perspectives on lifestyle and identity structures.

Saturday, 22 August 8:30 PM Village Crown



Ade, Flowers in a Hailstorm & Noi Kotha Film Screening

A collective presentation of Assamese and Tenzidie language cinema tracking regional river tales, native folklore, and environmental landscape storytelling.

Sunday, 23 August 4:30 PM HOYTS District Docklands



Closing Night

Graveyard Shift Q&A with Benu Bindra (World Premiere)

Join first-time director **Benu Bindra** to explore the silent burdens, quiet resilience, and deep isolation confronting modern immigrant women.

&

Full Plate Q&A with Tannishtha Mukherjee and Kirti Kulhari

Join acclaimed filmmaker Tannishtha Chatterjee and powerhouse actor Kirti Kulhari to examine patriarchy, systemic discrimination, and a mother's resilient fight for independence.

Sunday, 23 August 6:30 PM Village Crown





THEME

EMPATHY

This year, we want you to share your story through a completely fresh lens as we shift our focus to the powerful theme of Empathy. We invite creative filmmakers from around the world to capture unique human connections and show what it truly means to walk in someone else's shoes.

We're also delighted to announce acclaimed filmmaker Shoojit Sircar as one of our official judges. Stay tuned as we reveal the rest of our expert judging panel soon. Until then, we can't wait to watch your stories!



Official Judge

Shoojit Sircar*Award-winning filmmaker*

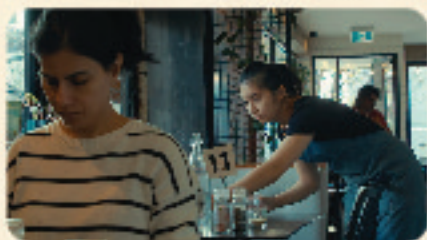


Sunday, 23 August

6:30PM

Village Cinemas Crown

Celebrate the grand finale of the 17th Indian Film Festival of Melbourne with unforgettable Closing Night screenings! Additionally getting a chance to interact with the talented artists who will be present for the screening of their respected films.



Closing Short Film - **Graveyard Shift**

2026 | 12 Mins | No Dialogues

A World Premiere short film, directed by Benu Bindra, this compact, high-stakes thriller explores structural survival during the isolating night hours, followed by an interactive talent Q&A.

Closing Feature Film - **Full Plate**

2025 | 109 Mins | Hindi

Directed by Tannishtha Chatterjee, this Hindi drama follows a traditional Muslim homemaker forced to support her family by mastering a foreign vegan cuisine for a progressive Hindu employer. This follows a highly decorated global run, including its **World Premiere** at the Busan International Film Festival, its **Australian Premiere** opening the Indian Film Festival of Sydney, its **Indian Premiere** at the Dharamshala International Film Festival, its **US Premiere** at MSPIFF, and a screening at the Habitat Film Festival. It also won the **Best Feature Film** award at the DANAFF Festival.



Benu Bindra



Tannishtha Chatterjee

Followed by an exclusive, live in-person Q&A featuring directors Benu Bindra and Tannishtha Chatterjee.

G'day India

AUSTRALIAN INDIAN PERSPECTIVE



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This year, the festival pushes boundaries by screening over 130 extraordinary films across 38 diverse languages. Celebrating a rich amalgamation of visionary women filmmakers, impactful Pride cinema, vital Indigenous stories and critical, in-depth films that tackle complex social issues.



1942: A Love Story

1994 | 157 Mins | **Hindi**

Director: Vidhu Vinod Chopra

Cast: Anil Kapoor, Manisha Koirala, Jackie Shroff, Danny Denzongpa, Anupam Kher, Pran, Chandni, Brian Glover

A young Indian couple, both from wealthy backgrounds, find themselves caught up in the 1940's Indian revolutionary movement against their families, who are under the thumb of a sadistic British general.

No restriction

Special Screening

Sunday, 16 August

7:00 PM

HOYTS District Docklands



52 Blue

2026 | 91 Mins | **English, Arabic**

Director: Ali El Arabi

Cast: Yadv Shashidhar, Neha Dhupia, Adil Hussain

Isolated by his father, Ashish escapes home aged 23 with his mother's unwavering support to meet his idol, Messi, in the 2022 world cup in Qatar. Starting a journey that leads him to discover himself and the world for the first time.

No restriction

Australian Premiere

Saturday, 22 August

4:00 PM

HOYTS Highpoint

Festival: Washington DC International Film Festival 2026



Aakash Heno Nadir Naam (Ballad to the Winds)

2026 | 116 Mins | **Assamese**

Director: Sanjib Sabhapandit

Cast: Bishnu Khargharia, Rina Bora, Atul Pachani, Chanku Niranjan Nath, Atanu Mahanta

A revered scholar's mission to revive Brajaawalee, a nearly extinct classical Assamese language, takes on new meaning when his long-absent son returns and reveals his same-sex orientation. Rooted in a philosophy of compassion, inclusivity, and the collective over the self, the language guides the father toward understanding, acceptance, and a transformed worldview.

No restriction

Australian Premiere

Festival: Best Film - Third Eye Asian Film Festival 2026

Friday, 21 August

5:00 PM

HOYTS District Docklands

Q&A with
Director

**Abracadabra**

No restriction

2026 | 20 Mins | **Hindi, English, Marathi**

Director: Amay Mehrishi

Cast: Advay Pradhan, Arsh Victor Suri, Ira Chitalia, Anvishaa Tyagi, Supriya Sawant

On a school bus ride that feels endless and fleeting, 12-year-old Agastya wrestles with identity & unspoken emotions when his best friend chooses to sit elsewhere.

Festivals: Berlin International Film Festival 2026 | Junges Kurzfilm Festival Hamburg Mo & Friese 2026 | London Indian Film Festival 2026

Australian Premiere

Saturday, 15 August **8:30 PM** Village Crown

**Adamya (The Unbroken)**

Restricted to persons aged below 18+

2026 | 105 Mins | **Bengali**

Director: Ranjan Ghosh

Cast: Aryun Ghosh, Senjuti Mukherjee (Guest Actor), with Sourya Madraji, Relish Khan, Arjo Giri, Shubham Dutta, Samrat Bose, Tamal Bag.

After a failed assassination attempt on a minister in power, 23-year-old Palash, the perpetrator, seeks refuge in a remote village in the Sundarbans and is declared a fugitive fleeing through the marshlands. Torn between being a patriot and an extremist, his gripping, psychological journey tests his survival, beliefs, and true identity.

Festivals: UK Asian Film Festival 2026 | New York Indian Film Festival 2026 | Habitat Filmm Festival 2026

Australian Premiere

Wednesday, 19 August **6:00 PM** HOYTS Chadstone

**Ade (On a Sunday)**2024 | 17 Mins | **Tenyidie**

Director: Theja Rio

Cast: Visalie Kotsu, Kedo Kuotsu

An evocative coming of age film—beautifully shot on 16mm film—of two young Naga boys, Ade and Abu, about 8 years, who bunk Sunday church to go for a swim, then innocently indulge in something of which adults absolutely disapprove, whose consequences they don't realise.

Festivals: International Film Festival Rotterdam 2024 | IndieLisboa International Independent Film Festival 2024 | Best Short Film - MAMI Mumbai Film Festival 2024

Australian Premiere

Saturday, 23 August **4:30 PM** HOYTS District Docklands

**Amar Comrade (My Comrade)**

No restriction

2025 | 25 Mins | **Bengali, Santhali**

Director: Tathagata Ghosh

Cast: Sounak Kundu, Anarick Bhadra, Adrija Majumder

When a wounded rebel accidentally takes refuge in the home of a tribal villager, both the men's lives spiral into a tense interplay of politics and forbidden love.

Festivals: Jury Award - Arizona International Film Festival 2025 | Vancouver International Film Festival 2025

Australian Premiere

Wednesday, 19 August **6:00 PM** HOYTS Chadstone



Ammann Haelbeda (Don't Tell Mother)

2025 | 88 Mins | **Kannada, English**

No restriction

Director: Anoop Lokkur

Cast: Siddarth Swaroop, Aishwarya Dinesh, Anirudh P. Keserker, Karthik Nagarajan

Set in 1990s Bangalore, a young boy hiding abuse at school begins to understand his mother's hidden struggles as a family tragedy unfolds.

Festivals: Busan International Film Festival 2025 | International Film Festival of Kerala 2025 | Bengaluru International Film Festival 2026

Victorian Premiere

Friday, 21 August

6:00 PM

HOYTS Chadstone



And the Sun Said

2025 | 21 Mins | **No Dialogue**

No restriction

Director: Vidar Joshi

Cast: Abhishek Khan, Mahesh Pitale, Manisha Udani, Dev Shah, Inder Choudhary

Inspired by Plato's Allegory of the Cave, this silent experimental film explores belief and control within a rigid family structure. As repetitive rituals unfold, a son's return disrupts the system, exposing cracks in faith, gender roles, and obedience. Through stark imagery and silence, the film examines the cost of questioning inherited truths.

Festivals: Himachal International Film & Art Festival 2025

International Premiere

Sunday, 16 August

6:00 PM

Village Sunshine



Aradhana

1969 | 165 Mins | **Hindi**

Director: Shakti Samanta

Cast: Sharmila Tagore, Rajesh Khanna, Sujit Kumar, Ashok Kumar, Pahari Sanyal, Anita Guha, Abhi Bhattacharya, Prasad Saxena, Manmohan, Madan Puri, Asit Sen, Farida Jalal, Subhash Ghai, Krishna Kant

Air Force pilot Arun and the lovely Vandana marry in secret after a brief courtship. But when Arun perishes in a plane crash, the heartbroken and pregnant Vandana must fend for herself and her child.

Special Screening

Wednesday, 19 August

6:30 PM

Village Knox



Avi Atara (Between Arms)

2026 | 75 Mins | **Sinhala, Tamil**

Restricted to persons aged 15 and below unless accompanied by an adult

Director: Rob Nevis

Cast: Dillhani Ekanayake, Rob Nevis, Shesha Palihakkara, Malini Fonseka, Ranjith Wickramasinghe, Srinath Maddumage, Ravindra Randeniya and Gamini Fonseka

Amid the Sri Lankan Civil War, Janakie, a young LTTE guerrilla fighter, rescues Rohitha, a wounded soldier of the SL Army — a man she is sworn to see as the enemy. Seeking refuge in a ruined monastery inhabited by an eccentric Buddhist monk with a mysterious past, the two find themselves bound by compassion that soon deepens into forbidden love

Australian Premiere

Festival: International Film Festival Rotterdam 2026

Sunday, 16 August

6:30 PM

Village Knox

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**Avihitham (An Illicit Affair)**2025 | 105 Mins | **Malayalam**

Director: Senna Hegde

Cast: Unniraj, Renji Kankol, Dhanesh Koliyat, Rakesh Ushar, Vrinda Menon, Vineeth Chakravarthy

In a patriarchal village consumed by rumors of an illicit affair, Avihitham lays bare the absurdities of societal judgment and the relentless scrutiny of a woman's identity.

Festival: New York Indian Film Festival 2026

Restricted to persons aged below 18+

Australian Premiere

📅 Wednesday, 19 August

🕒 4:00 PM

📍 Village Crown

**Baapya (The Man)**2026 | 134 Mins | **Marathi**

Director: Sameer Tewari

Cast: Girish Kulkarni, Rajshree Deshpande, Shrikant Yadav, Devika Daftardar, Aryan Mengji, Gauri Kiran, Ananda Karekar, Varsha Dandale, Aasha Joshi, Raksha Naiga, Vaibhav Misal, Shravani Abhang, Atharva Fadnis, Ira Pervade, Aarush Chikhale, Ira Alshi

BAAPYA is a warm, rooted comedy-drama set in coastal Konkan, India. When the ex-wife of a fisherman returns as a man after a gender transition, his close-knit family and community are forced to confront change, identity, and buried emotions.

Festival: Best Film, Best Actor and Best Actress - Pune International Film Festival 2026

Restricted to persons aged 15 and below unless accompanied by an adult

Australian Premiere

📅 Monday, 17 August

🕒 6:00 PM

📍 HOYTS Chadstone

**Balur Nogorite (Sand City)**2025 | 99 Mins | **Bengali**

Director: Mahde Hasan

Cast: Mostafa Monwar, Victoria Chakma

Emma and Hasan don't know each other, but they share a secret—they both steal sand. Emma uses it for kitty litter, Hasan for homemade glass. When a severed finger is found, their lives unravel, revealing that the human psyche can shatter just as easily as glass.

Festivals: Grand Prix - Karlovy Vary International Film Festival 2025 | Busan International Film Festival 2025 | Cairo International Film Festival 2025

Restricted to persons aged below 18+

Australian Premiere

📅 Tuesday, 18 August

🕒 6:00 PM

📍 HOYTS Chadstone

**Bayaan (Testimony)**2025 | 118 Mins | **Hindi**

Director: Bikas Mishra

Cast: Huma Qureshi, Chandrachur Singh, Sachin Khedekar, Aditi Kanchan Singh, Vibhore Mayank, Swati Das, Sampa Mandal

When a letter accusing a revered cult leader of abuse surfaces in a small Indian town, rookie detective Roohi is sent to investigate. Confronted by a wall of silence and blind devotion, she must navigate a closed community to uncover the truth no one dares to speak.

Festivals: Toronto International Film Festival 2025 | Busan International Film Festival 2025 | Cairo International Film Festival 2025

Restricted to persons aged 15 and below unless accompanied by an adult

Australian Premiere

📅 Thursday, 20 August

🕒 7:00 PM

📍 Village Crown



Australian Premiere

Beacon of Light2026 | 7 Mins | **No Dialogue**

No restriction

Director: Anindita Naskar, Jayshree Verma, Mayuresh Ravindra More, Sanket Deepak Nikam, Sneha Jaiswal, Roshni Tigga

For years, Vidhu has lived alone in a lighthouse, devoted to guiding ships through darkness while hiding from the daylight he believes is not meant for him. His routine shatters when a storm exposes him to the morning sun. Awakened by its brilliance, he leaves his post behind, restores an abandoned boat, and sails toward a world he has only ever illuminated.

Festivals: Animela 2026 | Mumbai International Film Festival 2026 | First Film's Fest Animation Festival 2026

📅 Sunday, 16 August

🕒 6:30 PM

📍 Village Knox



World Premiere

Between Cradles20 Mins | **Hindi, Marathi**

No restriction

Director: Sanket Gupta

Cast: Sobita Kudtarkar, Anjali Joshi, Nyra Varun Chhabra, Jija Nandawate, Gayatri Bansode, Bhakti Athawale, Amruta Suresh, Vishwajeet Shinde

Torn by grief and necessity, Suman, a young widow, must leave her newborn behind in the care of an elderly neighbor, as she takes a nanny job caring for a three-year-old daughter of a busy corporate woman, navigating the fragile balance between survival and motherhood.

📅 Thursday, 20 August

🕒 5:00 PM

📍 HOYTS District Docklands



International Premiere

Bhaavi (The Well)2025 | 63 Mins | **Tamil, Kannada**

No restriction

Director: Balaji Maheshwar

Cast: Sivaraj, Manjari, Madhesh, Maari, Pandan, Pasumari, Sivamurthi, Kundan, Nagaraj, Giri, Palanisami, Eerannan, Pandi, Puttan, Dhaasan, Grandmother

In a remote village, a community unearths an ancient well, restoring water and their spiritual ties.

Festivals: Dharamshala International Film Festival 2025 | Chennai International Documentary and Short Film Festival 2026 | PK Rosy Film Festival 2026

📅 Saturday, 22 August

🕒 6:30 PM

📍 Village Bendigo



Australian Premiere

Biye Fiye Niye2025 | 96 Mins | **Bengali**

No restriction

Director: Neel Dutt

Cast: Shrimoyee Ghosh, Sawon Chakraborty, Alkaria Hashmi, Aniruddha Gupta, Anusha Vishwanathan, Arghya Roy, Anwesha Bandyopadhyay, Sashreek Ganguly

Set against the vibrant backdrop of a traditional Bengali wedding in Cooch Behar, Biye Fiye Niye is a witty, contemporary exploration of love, friendship, and the evolving institution of marriage.

Festivals: Special Jury Prize - Ganges Sur Seine Film Festival 2025 | International Film Festival of India 2025 | Jaffna International Cinema Festival 2025

📅 Saturday, 15 August

🕒 4:00 PM

📍 Village Sunshine



Bramhakamal (The Queen of the Night)

2026 | 21 Mins | **Marathi**

No restriction

Director: Ashutosh Popat Jare

Cast: Mohan Joshi, Neena Kulkarni, Keya Ingale, Santosh Juvekar

After Nalini is granted 25 days before her request for passive euthanasia is finalized, her estranged family must confront their past and rediscover one another. Inspired by the fleeting bloom of the rare Brahma Kamal flower, the film is a moving reflection on love, loss, and the value of time.

Australian Premiere

Sunday, 16 August

4:00 PM

HOYTS Highpoint



Breaking The Code

2026 | 82 Mins | **English**

No restriction

Director: Ben Rekhi

Before the internet changed the world, a radical outsider changed the internet. The true story of an outsider who came with nothing to help build the tech revolution that reshaped all of our lives. A filmmaker retraces his father's journey from immigrant to pioneer, uncovering a powerful story of sacrifice and love.

Festivals: Audience Award - Indian Film Festival of Los Angeles 2026 | New York Indian Film Festival 2026 | CAAMFest 2026

Q&A with Director

International Premiere

Saturday, 15 August

6:00 PM

Village Crown



Bride of Aravan

2026 | 51 Mins | **Tamil**

No restriction

Director: Lesley Branagan

During a unique transgender festival in south India, trans woman Bhavadharini and her community participate in the reenactment of an ancient myth in which they are elevated to goddess status, a far cry from the prejudice they experience in real life.

Festivals: Auroville Film Festival 2026 | German International Ethnographic Film Festival 2026 | Best Indian Documentary Film - Out & Loud

Australian Premiere

Thursday, 20 August

6:30 PM

Village Knox



Calorie

2025 | 97 Mins | **English, Punjabi**

Restricted to persons aged 15 and below unless accompanied by an adult

Director: Eisha Marjara

Cast: Ellora Patnaik, Anupam Kher, Dolly Ahluwalia

Overwhelmed single mom Monika reluctantly sends her two daughters to India for the summer, where they struggle to adapt under the watchful eye of their spirited great-aunt and uncle. But the fragile love that binds this family together is thoroughly tested as buried family secrets rise to the surface and past meets present in the sweltering heat of Amritsar.

Festivals: Calgary International Film Festival 2025 | Best Feature, Best Director, Best Actor - International Film Festival of South Asia 2025

Australian Premiere

Wednesday, 19 August

6:00 PM

Village Sunshine

**Chhath (The Festival)**

No restriction

2025 | 140 Mins | **Bhojpuri**

Director: Nitin Chandra

Cast: Shashi Verma, Deepak Singh, Meghna Panchal, Sneha Pallavi, Sushma Sinha, Nibha Srivastava, Shalini

As Chhath approaches a village in Champaran, Govind welcomes relatives returning from India and abroad to fulfil his grandmother's wish for a family reunion. Tension arises when his nephew Deepak objects to a building Govind constructed on ancestral land.

Festival: International Film Festival of India 2025

📅 Monday, 17 August

🕒 8:30 PM

📍 Village Crown

**Dear Awa**

Restricted to persons aged 15 and below unless accompanied by an adult

2026 | 87 Mins | **Singpho, Assamese**

Director: Dr. Lachit Baruah

Cast: Niyar Kana Saikia, Mala Goswami, Nirmali Buragohain, Darshana Devi, Khonpha Singphoongphan Lusuan, Ananya Baruah, Kusum Nath, Momi Kolita, Himadri Shyam, Atul Bora, Amitabh Rajkhuva

Set in a peaceful Singpho village in Assam, Dear Awa follows Khonpha, a young girl with cerebral palsy, and her mother as they navigate grief after the loss of her father, an Indian Army officer. A teacher and community help them heal, until a figure from the mother's past threatens their stability.

Festival: Best Feature Film - Indian Panorama International Film Festival 2026

📅 Monday, 17 August

🕒 6:00 PM

📍 Village Sunshine

**Delupi**

No restriction

2025 | 98 Mins | **Bengali**

Director: Mohammad Touqir Islam

Cast: Chiranjit Biswas, Aditi Roy, Rudra Roy, Md Zakir Hossain, Prashanta Roy, Alpona Bairagi

In a flood-ravaged village struggling with political chaos, the fractured community unites by a spark of love and activism against corruption and despair.

Festivals: International Film Festival Rotterdam 2026 | Red Lotus Asian Film Festival 2026

Australian Premiere

📅 Sunday, 23 August

🕒 4:00 PM

📍 Village Geelong

**Desi Oon**

No restriction

2025 | 7 Mins | **Hindi**

Director: Suresh Eriyat

The film explores the deep connection between Deccani wool, the land, and its people, highlighting its cultural, spiritual, and ecological significance. It delves into the resilience of the Deccani sheep, the traditions of shepherding, and the sacred role of wool in daily life.

Festivals: International Film Festival Rotterdam 2026 | Jury Award for a Commissioned Film - Annecy International Animation Festival 2025

Australian Premiere

📅 Tuesday, 18 August

🕒 8:30 PM

📍 Village Crown



Dhan Ki Devi (Goddess of Wealth)

10 Mins | **English, Hindi, Urdu**

Director: Aashna Singh

Cast: Ebadat Hussain, Meghana Panchal, Girish Singh

Set in a small town in India during the festival of Diwali, Dhan Ki Devi follows a day in the life of a child influencer, Ayesha, whose parents have unintentionally traded her innocence in pursuit of social media fame. Using Goddess Lakshmi as a metaphor, the film critiques the commodification of children and the silent loss of childhood in the age of likes and shares.

No restriction

Festival: World Premiere

Q&A with
Director

International Premiere

Monday, 17 August

6:00 PM

HOYTS District Docklands



Diwali Ke Shor Mein (In the Chaos of Diwali)

2026 | 102 Mins | **Hindi**

Director: Rohan Bakshi

Cast: Shashank Barua, Dibanisha Banerjee, Jitender Kumar, Lokesh Jain, Chavi Jain, Aaditya Gupta, Aditya Raj, Vasil Khan, Abhishek John, Girish Cally, Vibha Shukla

In Delhi, during Diwali, members of a middle-class family find themselves embroiled in a crime. Searching for a solution forces them to confront both the immediate situation and the truths they have been hiding from one another.

No restriction

Festival: Toulouse Indian Film Festival 2026

Q&A with
Director

Australian Premiere

Tuesday, 18 August

5:00 PM

HOYTS District Docklands



Early Days

2025 | 102 Mins | **Hindi**

Director: Priyanka Patra

Cast: Manasi Kaushik, Sarthak Sharma

Early Days follows Preeti and Samrat as they begin their professional journey as couple-influencers in Mumbai with big dreams, but are soon met with the socio-economic realities of navigating love and ambition in the costliest city of the country.

No restriction

Festivals: Red Sea International Film Festival 2025 | New York Indian Film Festival 2026

Australian Premiere

Sunday, 16 August

6:00 PM

HOYTS District Docklands



Echoes

2025 | 23 Mins | **English, Hindi**

Director: Srishti Garg

Cast: Preeti Panigrahi, Sonal Jha, Ayan Mukherjee

When Anshika brings home an AI clone of her dying mother, she hopes it will help her feel less alone. But the clone is too perfect, it adapts all her mother's words, habits and even breathing pattern, but it isn't really her. As her mother passes away, Anshika must make an impossible choice: buy the clone to keep her mother alive in some form, or let her go and face her grief alone.

No restriction

Festival: Tasveer Film Festival 2025

Australian Premiere

Sunday, 23 August

4:00 PM

Village Shepparton



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Ek Mutthi Badal (My Share of Sky)

No restriction

2026 | 115 Mins | **Nepali, Germany**

Director: Sahara Sharma

Cast: Aanchal Sharma, Nisha Sharma, Usha Rajak, Sahayog Adhikari, Shekhar Chapagain, Manish Niraula, Abiral Pratap Adhikari, Gaurav Bista, Bhima Mainali, Asmita Gautam

On the eve of her wedding, a young woman returns to her family home in Nepal and begins to question the life being arranged for her, as three generations of women confront duty, silence, and the cost of belonging.

International Premiere

📅 Thursday, 20 August ⌚ 6:00 PM

📍 HOYTS District Docklands



Far From Home

No restriction

2025 | 75 Mins | **Spiti Bhoti (Tibetan), English**

Director: Kristi Tethong

Cast: NA

Far From Home traces a dual struggle against erasure: of the Tibetan nation, and a father's memory as Alzheimer's advances in the shadow of exile. As rare archives resurface, a family pieces together an unexpected, hopeful love story across generations, revealed in a delicate dance between past and present, tragedy and resilience. Is remembering itself a powerful act of resistance?

Festival: Dharamshala International Film Festival 2025

International Premiere

📅 Saturday, 22 August ⌚ 7:30 PM

📍 Village Sunshine



Flames

86 Mins | **Hindi**

Restricted to persons aged 15 and below unless accompanied by an adult

Director: Ravi Shankar Kaushik

Cast: Vikram Kochhar, Garvit Mudgil, Kalavati Amma, Vajid Ali, Aslam Khan, Kalicharan

In the flourishing yet unjust farmlands of Haryana, India, a mute farmworker is forced to embark on a harrowing journey for survival when his 10-year-old son is accused of a murder.

Festivals: Jogja-NETPAC Asian Film Festival 2025 | International Film Festival of Kerala 2025

Australian Premiere

📅 Saturday, 22 August ⌚ 6:00 PM

📍 Village Sunshine



Flowers in a Hailstorm

2024 | 29 Mins | **Assamese**

Director: Maharshi Tuhin Kashyap

Cast: Mind Power Wasim, Susmita Talukdar, Buddhiman Rai, Bikram Rai, Himangshu Prasad Das, Suruj Kalita

While trying to craft a film on deserted houses, I was forced to confront my deep-rooted fears of abandonment and come face to face with my terrified soul. Incidentally, my lover can magically ignite the dead souls.

Festivals: Tasveer Film Festival 2024 | Nara International Film Festival 2024 | IZDOC - Izmir International Documentary Festival 2024

Australian Premiere

📅 Sunday, 23 August ⌚ 4:30 PM

📍 HOYTS District Docklands



Flying Tigers

No restriction

2026 | 105 Mins | **Bengali, Miya, English, Mandarin, German, Polish**

Director: Madhusree Dutta with Mi You, Purav Goswami, Devika Hazarika | Cast: NA

A daughter investigates her mother's Alzheimer's-triggered memories of tigers in Assam, uncovering connections to a WWII US supply route to China. The search spans locations and generations, blending documentary and fiction.

Festival: Berlin International Film Festival 2026

Australian Premiere

📅 Thursday, 20 August ⌚ 6:00 PM

📍 Village Sunshine



Friend of the Fireflies

No restriction

2026 | 37 Mins | **Hindi, Marathi, Gondi**

Director: Saurav Mookherji, Antara Banerjee

Cast: Bhagyashri Lekhami

Friend of the Fireflies is an intimate political documentary set in a remote Adivasi village in Gadchiroli, Maharashtra. It follows a young woman who transforms her dream of becoming a sportsperson into a commitment to lead her community. Through education, resilience, and courage, she challenges generations of marginalization, illuminating the transformative power of grassroots leadership.

Festival: World Premiere

World Premiere

📅 Saturday, 15 August ⌚ 6:00 PM

📍 HOYTS Chadstone



Full Plate **CLOSING FILM**

Restricted to persons aged 15 and below unless accompanied by an adult

2025 | 109 Mins | **Hindi**

Director: Tannishtha Chatterjee

Cast: Kirti Kulhari, Sharib Hashmi, Indraneil Sengupta, Monica Dogra

After a Holi accident leaves her husband disabled, homemaker Amreen must support her family and educate her three children. Taking up domestic work despite resistance at home, she faces discrimination because of her Muslim identity and veil. Amreen navigates a vegan workplace, family duties, and newfound independence.

Festivals: Visionary Director Award - Busan International Film Festival 2025 | Indian Film Festival of Sydney 2025

Q&A with Director

Victorian Premiere

📅 Sunday, 23 August ⌚ 6:30 PM

📍 Village Crown



Ghamela

No restriction

25 Mins | **Hindi, Marathi**

Director: Vasudha Navneet Rungta

Cast: Delzad Hiwale, Akshata Doddamani, Imaad Shah, Akarsh Khurana, Vijay Maurya

Bharat's life is upended when his wife asks for a gold necklace for Dhanteras (the annual festival for buying gold). Determined to fulfill her wish, he embarks on an unexpected journey through Mumbai's underbelly. As the festival approaches, will he succeed before time runs out?

World Premiere

📅 Saturday, 22 August ⌚ 6:00 PM

📍 Village Sunshine



GIVING MOM THE TALK



Giving Mom the Talk

2025 | 14 Mins | **English, Tamil**

No restriction

Director: Vidhya Iyer

Cast: Kavi Ramachandran, Anita Kalathara, Garrick Bernard, Karthik Srinivasan

In this literal COMING-of-age film, an Indian woman gives her mom 'the talk'

Festivals: Cleveland International Film Festival 2025 | Best Short Screenplay - Riverrun International Film Festival 2025 | Tasveer Film Festival 2025

Australian Premiere

📅 **Wednesday, 19 August**

🕒 **6:00 PM**

📍 Village Sunshine



Goodbye Sisters

2025 | 90 Mins | **Nepali**

No restriction

Director: Alexander Murphy

Cast: Jamuna Budha Magar, Anmuna Budha Magar, Anjali Budha Magar, Lachhin Maya Budha Magar, Govina Budha Magar, Darshan Budha Magar

The journey begins in vibrant, spiritual yet harsh Kathmandu and continues towards the majestic Himalayas. Twenty-one-year-old Jamuna accompanies her younger sister on what could be their last trip to the mountains.

Festivals: Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival 2025 | Hong Kong International Film Festival 2026

Q&A with Director

Australian Premiere

📅 **Thursday, 20 August**

🕒 **4:30 PM**

📍 HOYTS District Docklands



Graveyard Shift **CLOSING SHORT FILM**

2026 | 10 Mins | **No Dialogue**

Director: Benu Bindra

Cast: Nina Porciuncula, Benu Bindra, Ramnish Chaudhary

Late at night in Melbourne, two immigrant women - one a young student grieving a loss back home, the other a wife suffocating in an abusive marriage quietly fight loneliness and despair. Inspired by true events, Graveyard Shift weaves their silent struggles into a moving tale of resilience and hope.

Q&A with Director

World Premiere

📅 **Sunday, 23 August**

🕒 **6:30 PM**

📍 Village Crown



Hidden Sun

2025 | 24 Mins | **English, Japanese**

No restriction

Director: Shuchi Talati

Cast: Kazuki Kitamura, Mieko Harada, Samiya Mumtaz

While visiting Japan, philosopher Shushila and her astrophysicist husband Kenji attend dancer Mako's farewell performance. The stage awakens long-buried tensions and unspoken desires between them, drawing both into charged encounters with Mako that force them to confront hidden emotions.

Festival: Indian Film Festival of Los Angeles 2026

Australian Premiere

📅 **Monday, 17 August**

🕒 **4:30 PM**

📍 HOYTS District Docklands

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**How To Not Have Sex**2026 | 98 Mins | **Hindi**

Director: Sudharshan Narayanan

Cast: Aakash Prabhakar, Nishank Verma, Amrita Bagchi

Three high school friends reunite after 10 years and confront a case of sexual misconduct that none of them were ready for. As layers of denial resurface, the film traces the thin lines that lie between misogyny, persuasion, and consent.

Festival: New York Indian Film Festival 2026

Restricted to persons aged 15 and below unless accompanied by an adult

Australian Premiere

Monday, 17 August

5:00 PM

HOYTS District Docklands

**In the Room**2025 | 76 Mins | **English, Dari, Farsi**

Director: Brishkay Ahmed

Cast: Nelofer Pazira, Vida Samadzai, Sahar Parniyan, Mozhdah Jamalzadah, Shogofa Sediqi

Through a series of honest conversations, five extraordinary Afghan women reveal how their commitment to freedom and equality empowered them to take the world stage and reclaim their homeland.

Festivals: Showcase Audience Award - Vancouver International Film Festival 2025 | ReelWorld Film Festival 2025

No restriction

Australian Premiere

Sunday, 16 August

6:00 PM

Village Sunshine

**It's Only 47°C**2026 | 16 Mins | **Hindi**

Director: Tej Sisodia

Cast: Sharib Hashmi, Adithi Kalkunte, Saarika Singh, Vikram Singh, Ambrish Saxena, Saatvika Sharma, Shivam Pal

In a city pushed to breaking point by extreme heat, traffic constable Laxman Chaubey's exhausting shift reveals a brutal truth: climate change is not endured equally.

Festivals: Mumbai Climate Week - Climate Cinema Festival 2026 | Frome Climate Film Festival 2026 | Babul Eco Film Festival 2026

No restriction

Australian Premiere

Tuesday, 18 August

4:30 PM

HOYTS District Docklands

**Jasmine That Blooms in Autumn**2025 | 15 Mins | **Bengali, Hindi**

Director: Chandradeep Das

Cast: Sudipa Basu, Uma Jhunjhunwala, Anjan Gupta

In an elderly care home, Indira and Meera begin a secret romance, mindful of a society that proscribes homosexuality. While Meera is forthright and unreserved, Indira remains cautious. Unsettled by Meera's assertive approach, which echoes past repressive behaviour from her husband and in-laws, Indira quietly seeks a gentler, understanding love.

Festivals: BFI Flare: London LGBTQIA+ Film Festival 2025 | Fribourg International Film Festival 2025 | Festival Chéries Chéris 2025

No restriction

Australian Premiere

Friday, 21 August

5:00 PM

HOYTS District Docklands



JERSEY BOY

THE STORY OF THE BOY

Jersey Boy

2026 | 105 Mins | **English, Punjabi**

Director: Jaskaran Singh

Cast: Praneet Akilla, Surjun Lail, Raysan Singh Sahni, Sara Garcia, Grace Grewal, Amit Aujila, Noor Dhand, Gavan Anand, Jon McLaren, Jordan Singh Sahni

Shattered by a family tragedy in the wake of 9/11, a young Sikh boy struggles to hold onto love, family, and identity as he grows up in a country feeling like he doesn't belong.

Festivals: Toronto International Film Festival 2025 | CAAMFest 2026 | Hamilton Film Festival 2026

Restricted to persons aged 15 and below unless accompanied by an adult

Australian Premiere

Saturday, 22 August 6:30 PM Village Geelong



Kaathirippu (Await)

2025 | 81 Mins | **Malayalam**

Director: Nipin Narayanan

Cast: Jitheesh Raichel Samuel, Renju Thadikkaran

A reclusive man named David spends his days repairing old electronics in his workshop. When a stranger named Anoop seeks shelter for the night, their encounter leads to revelations about David's mysterious past and moral choices.

Festivals: International Film Festival of Kerala 2025 | Independent and Experimental Film Festival of Kerala 2026 | International Film Festival Delhi 2026

No restriction

Australian Premiere

Tuesday, 18 August 6:00 PM HOYTS Highpoint



Kalki

2026 | 11 Mins | **Hindi**

Director: Meghna Pandey

Cast: Akshara Chute, Kenneth Desai, Atul Jain, Sharvari Jamenis

Imagine loving someone your whole life and then not being allowed to say goodbye. After the loss of her beloved grandfather, a young girl struggles to come to terms with his absence while navigating a world of traditions, expectations, and adults who decide how, and if, she is allowed to grieve.

Festival: South Asian Short Film Festival, Kolkata, 2026

No restriction

Q&A with Director

Australian Premiere

Wednesday, 19 August 4:00 PM Village Crown



Kangbo Aloti (The Lost Path)

2025 | 108 Mins | **Karbi**

Director: Khanjan Kishore Nath

Cast: Harmony bey, Rajib Kro, Malin Engtipi, Ranjit Teron, Dilip Bey, Rang Mukrang, Langkiram Kro, Rengka Engtipi, Gautam Ingti

A militant group in North East India assigns the handsome Longsing to infiltrate a village and recruit new members. The kind school teacher he volunteers with, opposes violence as the way forward, but the militia order Longsing to kill him. Disillusioned, Longsing leaves the militia and plans to build a peaceful future, but will fate allow it?

Festivals: Kolkata International Film Festival 2025 | Bengaluru International Film Festival 2026 | Indian Film Festival of Stuttgart 2026

Restricted to persons aged 15 and below unless accompanied by an adult

Q&A with Director

Australian Premiere

Saturday, 22 August 4:30 PM HOYTS District Docklands



Australian Premiere

Khidki Gaav (If on a Winter's Night)2025 | 100 Mins | **Malayalam, Hindi**

No restriction

Director: Sanju Surendran

Cast: Bhanu Priyamvada, Roshan Abdul Rahoof, Jitheesh Raichel Samuel, Arathy K B

If on a Winter's Night follows Sarah and Abhi, a young couple from Kerala struggling to find their footing in Delhi. When their landlord dies and his body is laid out in their living room according to family tradition, they are suddenly asked to leave. On a cold December night, with no money and nowhere to go, they confront an unfamiliar city and an uncertain future.

Festivals: Busan International Film Festival 2025 | International Film Festival of Kerala 2025

Thursday, 20 August
6:00 PM
HOYTS Chadstone


Australian Premiere

Khooh Waala Ghar (Room At The Farm)2025 | 23 Mins | **Punjabi**

No restriction

Director: Jasmine Kaur Roy, Avinash Roy

Cast: Guru Bamrah, Vrinda Malhotra

Nihal fights to hold on to the small plot of farmland that consumed his father before him, refusing to surrender to debt or development. The struggle puts quiet but mounting pressure on his new marriage. Room at the Farm is the story of a young couple trying to find tenderness in uncertainty and of a community's last stand against an encroaching world.

Festivals: Dharamshala International Film Festival 2025 | Grand Jury Prize for Best Short - Indian Film Festival of Los Angeles 2026 | Mumbai International Film Festival

Thursday, 20 August
6:00 PM
HOYTS Chadstone


Australian Premiere

Kikkran De Phull (Flowers of Acacia)2026 | 87 Mins | **Punjabi, Bengali, Hindi**

Restricted to persons aged 15 and below unless accompanied by an adult

Director: Anmol Sidhu

Cast: Jasskirat Bajwa, Harmandeep Singh, Yashika Sharma, Shivam Kamboj, Bandana, Priyanshee, Zainab Rajput, Ritika Thakur, Gaurav Kumar

Inspired by a true story, the film follows the gritty life of orchestra dancers who perform at weddings, longing for their dreams to be fulfilled. But their lives unravel in the face of patriarchy and misogyny.

Festivals: New York Indian Film Festival 2026

Q&A with Director

Saturday, 22 August
6:30 PM
Village Crown


Australian Premiere

King in the Land of the Princess2026 | 70 Mins | **Bengali**

Restricted to persons aged 15 and below unless accompanied by an adult

Director: Asif Islam

Cast: Arabinda Majumdar, Ashna Habib Bhabna, Satej Chowdhury, Mahmud Alam, A K Azad Shetu, Jannatul Baker Khan, Salauddin Sheikh

A veteran Jatra actor struggles to preserve his art as Bengal's traditional folk theatre collides with modern spectacle. Set over a single winter night in rural Bangladesh, the film explores fading cultural traditions, artistic dignity, desire, and the uneasy tension between authenticity and commercial entertainment.

Festival: Moscow International Film Festival 2026

Q&A with Team

Monday, 17 August
6:00 PM
HOYTS District Docklands

**Koli**2025 | 14 Mins | **Assamese**

No restriction

Director: Jyotirmoy Mazumdar

Cast: Dhrishman Das, Himangshu Das, Polash Mech, Babi Barua

Niyor, a fifth-grader, weaves an elaborate web of lies to conceal his failing grades from his family. As deception compounds deception, his younger brother bears the emotional weight of secrets he never asked to carry.

Festivals: Bengaluru International Short Film Festival 2025 | International Film Festival of Kerala 2025 | Los Angeles International Children's Film Festival 2025

Australian Premiere

📅 Thursday, 20 August

🕒 6:30 PM

📍 Village Crown

**Kuchar (The Itch)**2025 | 20 Mins | **English, Hindi**

No restriction

Director: Vaidangi Sharma

Cast: Subhashree Sahoo, Neha Vyaso, Umar Sharif, Saisha Salvi

On the morning of her birthday, a teenager's accidental discovery of pleasure cracks open a world of unspoken desires within her seemingly conservative Indian household, forcing her and her mother onto unexpected paths.

Festivals: Palm Springs International Shortfest 2025 | Dharamshala International Film Festival 2025 | New York Indian Film Festival 2026

Australian Premiere

📅 Sunday, 23 August

🕒 4:00 PM

📍 Village Sunshine

**Kuttikkali (Child's Play)**23 Mins | **Malayalam**

No restriction

Director: Rithu J

Cast: Athmika Vijesh Dhyana Santhosh Nihal Krishna Jaish Mohammed Jassim

Aindhriya Anwin Sreenu

Beneath the serene surface of a Kerala village, twelve-year-old Kannan gathers his friends to show off the hut he built alone with enormous, solitary effort. He assigns the roles - a family, a fish-seller, and a postman - taking the part of father for himself. What begins as imaginative play turns disturbing with each new move Kannan dictates; the game unfolds as a twisted mirror, reflecting the latent gender hierarchies of their world.

World Premiere

📅 Saturday, 22 August

🕒 4:00 PM

📍 Village Geelong

**Lala & Poppy**2025 | 92 Mins | **Hindi**

No restriction

Director: Kaizad Gustad

Cast: Suruj Rajkhowa, Veer Singh

Lala and Poppy, two trans individuals, fall in love while going through their respective gender transitions - she to female, he to male.

Festival: International Film Festival of India 2025

Q&A with
Director

Australian Premiere

📅 Saturday, 15 August

🕒 8:30 PM

📍 Village Crown



Australian Premiere

Last Night I Dreamed it was Raining Fish2026 | 17 Mins | **Marathi**

No restriction

Director: Shraddha Khanna

A poetic exploration of the lives of the Kolis—Mumbai's indigenous fisherfolk—whose enduring connection to the primordial rhythms of the sea are disturbed by the ruthless transformation of their city. An ethnographic meditation on the native fisherfolk and their resilience in the face of a city that never stops changing.

Festivals: International Film Festival Rotterdam 2026 | IAWRT Asian Women's Film Festival 2026 | Dharamshala International Film Festival 2025/2026

Tuesday, 18 August **6:00 PM** **HOYTS Chadstone**



Australian Premiere

Loving Karma2025 | 85 Mins | **English, Monpa, Hindi**

No restriction

Director: Andrew Hinton, Johnny Burke

Cast: Lobsang Phuntsok, Tashi Drolma, Raju Kumari

A former monk builds a Himalayan refuge where compassion and community help traumatized children heal.

Festivals: DocEdge Festival 2026 | Kathmandu International Mountain Film Festival 2026 | Dharamshala International Film Festival 2025

Saturday, 22 August **4:00 PM** **Village Geelong**



Australian Premiere

Maaybaapache Aashirwaad (Blessings)2025 | 20 Mins | **Marathi**

No restriction

Director: Apurva Bardapurkar

Cast: Smita Tambe, Suhas Shirsat, Pratiksha Khasnis, Swapnil Kanase

Overprotective parents Sangeeta & Suryakant will go to any length to protect their son's childhood secret from his girlfriend.

Festivals: New York Indian Film Festival 2026 | Indie Meme Film Festival 2026 | Tasveer Film Festival 2025

Tuesday, 18 August **6:00 PM** **HOYTS Highpoint**



World Premiere

Manch (A Stage)2026 | 122 Mins | **Gujarati**

Director: Abhishek Jain

Cast: Abhinay Banker, Hemant Kher, Shruhad Goswami, Aarti Patel, Jay Bhatt

After winning India's first Olympic gold, a grief-stricken athlete is showered with praise—until his demand for real political change threatens the establishment. Sabotaged by a powerful bureaucrat and stripped of his medal, he returns to his village and turns his public humiliation into a sharp, comic hunt that exposes greed, abuse of power, & the hollow rituals of patriotism.

Festival: World Premiere

Saturday, 15 August **6:30 PM** **Village Knox**

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Guardian**

**Support
fearless,
independent
journalism.**

**The
Guardian**



Australian Premiere

Maya Satya Bhram (Illusion of Truth and Delusion)2026 | 128 Mins | **English, Bengali**

Restricted to persons aged 15 and below unless accompanied by an adult

Director: Samik Roy Choudhury

Cast: Sanat Chattopadhyay, Soham Majumdar, Priyanka Sarkar, Sankhadeep (Child Artist)

When the son of a Kolkata police officer and a Swedish researcher vanish under mysterious circumstances, all paths lead to the enigmatic Trilokadarshi Baba, a mystic haunted by visions since childhood. As faith collides with reason, a search for truth spirals into a haunting exploration of guilt, redemption, and perception, where the greatest mystery may be the nature of belief itself.

Festivals: New York Indian Film Festival 2026 | Bishkek International Film Festival 2026 | Third Eye Asian Film Festival 2026

Sunday, 16 August **6:00 PM** **HOYTS Highpoint**



Australian Premiere

Mayilaa (Peahen)2026 | 112 Mins | **Tamil**

No restriction

Director: Semmalar Annam

Cast: P. Melody Dorcas, V. Shudhar Kodi

Poongodi, known as Mayilaa, escapes her abusive husband and rebuilds her life with her young daughter in a South Indian village. Selling mats to survive, she finds strength in the village goddess Mayilaatha. As a temple festival nears, trance-like possessions become acts of grief, faith, and defiance, helping Mayilaa reclaim her dignity and forge her own future.

Festivals: International Film Festival Rotterdam 2026 | Audience Award - Toulouse Indian Film Festival 2026 | Frauen Film Fest ortmund+k3ln 2026

Saturday, 22 August **6:30 PM** **Village Knox**



Australian Premiere

Members of the Problematic Family2026 | 105 Mins | **Tamil** **OPENING FILM**

No restriction

Director: R Gowtham

Cast: Karuthadayan, A.R. Ajith Kumar, Uvesri, Kanchana Senthil, Saravana Siddharth, TPS aka T Panneerselvam, Aswine, Hari Krishnan, Thaen Iniyan, Thiyagu Kallu, Vijay Sooran

Members of a problematic family stumble through grief, guilt, memory, and yearning over the death of their alcoholic son, each confronting the pendulum of void and solace left by an unfinished life.

Festival: Berlin International Film Festival 2026

Q&A with Director

Friday, 14 August **7:00 PM** **HOYTS District Docklands**



Australian Premiere

Moham (Desire)2025 | 100 Mins | **Malayalam**

Restricted to persons aged 15 and below unless accompanied by an adult

Director: Fazil Razak

Cast: Amrutha Krishnakumar, Ishak Musafir, Gauthami Gopan, Vineeth Vasudhavan

Amala faces psychological challenges due to some bitter experiences in her life. Taking advantage of this, a young man named Shanu befriends her and involves her in crimes to escape the law and punishment.

Festivals: FIPRESCI Award for Best Malayalam Film of a Debut Director - International Film Festival of Kerala 2025

Sunday, 23 August **4:00 PM** **HOYTS Chadstone**



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Festivals: FIPRESCI Award for Best Malayalam Film of a Debut Director - International Film Festival of Kerala 2025

Sunday, 23 August **4:00 PM** **HOYTS Chadstone**



International Premiere

Moromor Deuta (Dear Father)2025 | 90 Mins | **Assamese**

Restricted to persons aged 15 and below unless accompanied by an adult

Director: Himjyoti Talukdar

Cast: Mintu Baruah, Bodhisattva Sharma, Aparna Dutta Choudhury, Arun Nath, Kula Kuldeep, Gaurav Borah

Separated by distance, a father watches helplessly as his son's aggression tears his family apart, until a brutal assault and a police investigation expose secrets that challenge everything they believed about love, guilt, and protection.

Festivals: Chennai International Film Festival 2025 | International Film Festival Delhi 2026

Sunday, 16 August
4:00 PM
HOYTS Highpoint


Australian Premiere

Mother2025 | 104 Mins | **English**

Restricted to persons aged 15 and below unless accompanied by an adult

Director: Teona Strugar Mitevska

Cast: Noomi Rapace, Sylvia Hoeks, Nikola Ristanovski, Ekin Corapci, Marijke Pinoy, Labina Mitevska, Akshay Kapoor, Amrita Chattopadhyay

In August 1948 in Calcutta, Teresa, Mother Superior of the Sisters of Loreto, awaits permission to leave her convent and found a new religious order inspired by a divine calling. As her dream seems within reach, an unexpected dilemma challenges her faith, convictions, and the true meaning of her mission.

Festivals: Venice Film Festival 2025 | BFI London Film Festival 2025 | Göteborg Film Festival 2026

Sunday, 23 August
4:00 PM
Village Sunshine


International Premiere

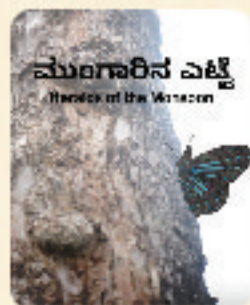
Mr. Francis & The Last Standing PCO2026 | 15 Mins | **English, Hindi, Marathi**

Director: Divya Hemant Kharnare

Cast: Pradeep Dixit, Jhulan Sarkar, Kanchan Khilare, Gayatri Godbole, Amitabh Bhawar, Somnath Usture, Stephen M Rengsi, Sourav Brahma, Rajesh Ambadas Ghule

When a mysterious tip leads him to the mythical Last Standing PCO- rumored to dial calls to heaven, a lonely old man Mr. Francis embarks on a rickshaw road trip for one final call to his deceased wife, Sonia.

Festival: MAMI Independent 2026

Sunday, 16 August
5:00 PM
Village Crown


Australian Premiere

Mungarina Ette (Heralds of the Monsoon)2026 | 9 Mins | **Kannada**

No restriction

Director: Meera Krishnamurthy

In this ecological whodunit, a peaceful dawn in the BR Hills in the Western Ghats is broken by the discovery of a dead elephant. A wise old Maththi Tree (Crocodile bark tree) and a visiting Sitte (Blue tiger butterfly) sift through the clues together to uncover the truth.

Festivals: IAWRT Asian Women's Festival 2026 | Babul Eco Film Festival 2026

Sunday, 23 August
4:00 PM
HOYTS Chadstone



International Premiere

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Sunday, 23 August
4:00 PM
Village Sunshine


International Premiere

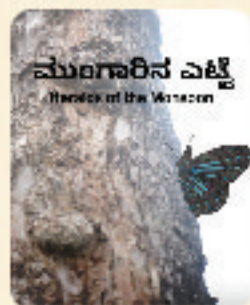
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Festivals: IAWRT Asian Women's Festival 2026 | Babul Eco Film Festival 2026

Sunday, 23 August
4:00 PM
HOYTS Chadstone



Music in a Village Named 1PB

2025 | 130 Mins | **Hindi, Saraiki**

No restriction

Director: Surabhi Sharma
Cast: NA

In a landscape of shifting sands, a community enclosed into grids with no name, just a number, rehearses its music from the middle ages. A Village named 1 PB, a dot in the Thar desert, at the Indian side of the India-Pakistan border is one such place.

Festivals: International Documentary and Short Film Festival Kerala 2025 | Dharamshala International Film Festival 2025 | Special Mention Documentary - SIGNS Film Festival 2026

Australian Premiere

Tuesday, 18 August **6:00 PM** Village Sunshine



Nighiyaan Chhavan (Warm Shadows)

2025 | 15 Mins | **Hindi, Punjabi**

No restriction

Director: Aakash Chhabra

An interlude of silence, longing and separation between a mother and a son.

Festivals: Dharamshala International Film Festival 2025 | Hamburg International Queer Film Festival 2025 | Seoul International Pride Film Festival 2025

Australian Premiere

Saturday, 22 August **7:30 PM** Village Sunshine



Nipaniya (Dropless)

2025 | 19 Mins | **Hindi**

No restriction

Director: Anamika Pal

Cast: Ishita Joshi, Tiya Biswas, Rupsha Bhattacharjee, Suhasini Dighe, Barun Nag, Vijaylaxmi Mohata, Shatabdi Banik, Roopanjali Roy

During a family funeral, Preeti, a middle-class daughter-in-law, faces a crisis when her breast milk dries up, leaving her 4-month-old baby hungry. Desperate, she drinks a glass of undiluted milk; an act deemed a domestic sin under the prevailing social norms.

Festivals: Red Sea International Film Festival 2025 | Tasveer Film Festival 2025 | IAWRT Asian Women Film Festival 2026

Australian Premiere

Tuesday, 18 August **5:00 PM** HOYTS District Docklands



Njaan Revathi (I Am Revathi)

2025 | 115 Mins | **Tamil, Malayalam, Kannada**

No restriction

Director: P. Abhijith

Cast: A. Revathi, Perumal Murugan, Annieraja, Renju Renjimar, Sheethal Shyam, Surya Ishaan, Ishaan K. Shaan, A. Mangai, Sriyith Sundaram, Chandini Gagan, Umi P., Bhanu
Njaan Revathi (I Am Revathi) offers a deeply personal and intimate glimpse into the life of A. Revathi - trans woman, writer, activist, and theatre artist - amid the struggles, resilience, and ongoing fight for dignity and inclusion faced by transgender people in India.

Festivals: Vancouver International Film Festival 2025 | Jaffna International Cinema Festival 2025 | International Documentary & Short Film Festival of Kerala 2025

Australian Premiere

Saturday, 22 August **4:00 PM** Village Shepparton



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Festivals: Vancouver International Film Festival 2025 | Jaffna International Cinema Festival 2025 | International Documentary & Short Film Festival of Kerala 2025

Australian Premiere

Saturday, 22 August **4:00 PM** Village Shepparton



Victorian Premiere

No Good Men2026 | 103 Mins | **Dari, Pashto**

No restriction

Director: Shahrbanoo Sadat

Cast: Shahrbanoo Sadat, Anwar Hashimi, Liam Hussaini

A young camera operator falls head-over-heels in love with a married TV reporter, who is twice her age. The clash between intense love and the beliefs of Afghan society creates idiosyncratic ways of being together and handling romantic life.

Festivals: Berlin International Film Festival 2026 | Sydney Film Festival 2026 | Durban International Film Festival 2026

Thursday, 20 August 6:00 PM HOYTS Highpoint



International Premiere

Noi Kotha (River Tales)2025 | 103 Mins | **Assamese**

No restriction

Director: Dr. Pankaj Borah

Cast: Raju Roy, Meghali Kalita, Ankita Nandini Chamuah, Arnav Akash Chamuah

Tilou's village and community have depended on small-scale fishing for generations, but are now being forced to abandon their traditional socio-ecological way of life. As they struggle to adapt to unprecedented change, the livelihood that once sustained them can never be the same again.

Festivals: Kolkata International Film Festival 2025 | International Film Festival of Thrissur 2025 | Guwahati Asian Film Festival 2026

Sunday, 23 August 4:30 PM HOYTS District Docklands



Australian Premiere

Not a Hero **CENTERPIECE FILM**2026 | 97 Mins | **Assamese, English, Hindi**

Director: Rima Das

Cast: Bhuman Bhargav Das, Sukanya Boruah, Mrinmoy Das

Exiled from city comforts to his ancestral village, a boy encounters a distant aunt, befriends a horse, and joins wild local children on untamed adventures — discovering the beauty of life offline and a courage he never knew he possessed.

Festival: Generation Kplus: Special Mention - Berlin International Film Festival 2026

Wednesday, 19 August 6:00 PM HOYTS District Docklands



Australian Premiere

Notice Me Now2026 | 25 Mins | **English**

No restriction

Director: Aakash Prabhakar

Cast: Naisha Badjatya, Aditi Nahar, Stuthi Rao, Anaahira Bansod, Jagruthi M Vagale

A newly relocated teenager, Aliena, struggles to adjust to her new school. Her classmate, Sheena, invites her to join their group. Not everyone is happy with Aliena's inclusion in the group. The friendships start to unravel when another new student joins the school, triggering insecurities and raising concerns about how far they will go to hurt each other.

**Q&A with
Writer**

Festival: New York Indian Film Festival 2026

Monday, 17 August 5:00 PM HOYTS District Docklands



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Cast: Shahrbanoo Sadat, Anwar Hashimi, Liam Hussaini

A young camera operator falls head-over-heels in love with a married TV reporter, who is twice her age. The clash between intense love and the beliefs of Afghan society creates idiosyncratic ways of being together and handling romantic life.

Festivals: Berlin International Film Festival 2026 | Sydney Film Festival 2026 | Durban International Film Festival 2026

Thursday, 20 August 6:00 PM HOYTS Highpoint



International Premiere

Noi Kotha (River Tales)2025 | 103 Mins | **Assamese**

No restriction

Director: Dr. Pankaj Borah

Cast: Raju Roy, Meghali Kalita, Ankita Nandini Chamuah, Arnav Akash Chamuah

Tilou's village and community have depended on small-scale fishing for generations, but are now being forced to abandon their traditional socio-ecological way of life. As they struggle to adapt to unprecedented change, the livelihood that once sustained them can never be the same again.

Festivals: Kolkata International Film Festival 2025 | International Film Festival of Thrissur 2025 | Guwahati Asian Film Festival 2026

Sunday, 23 August 4:30 PM HOYTS District Docklands



Australian Premiere

Not a Hero **CENTERPIECE FILM**2026 | 97 Mins | **Assamese, English, Hindi**

Director: Rima Das

Cast: Bhuman Bhargav Das, Sukanya Boruah, Mrinmoy Das

Exiled from city comforts to his ancestral village, a boy encounters a distant aunt, befriends a horse, and joins wild local children on untamed adventures — discovering the beauty of life offline and a courage he never knew he possessed.

Festival: Generation Kplus: Special Mention - Berlin International Film Festival 2026

Wednesday, 19 August 6:00 PM HOYTS District Docklands



Australian Premiere

Notice Me Now2026 | 25 Mins | **English**

No restriction

Director: Aakash Prabhakar

Cast: Naisha Badjatya, Aditi Nahar, Stuthi Rao, Anaahira Bansod, Jagruthi M Vagale

A newly relocated teenager, Aliena, struggles to adjust to her new school. Her classmate, Sheena, invites her to join their group. Not everyone is happy with Aliena's inclusion in the group. The friendships start to unravel when another new student joins the school, triggering insecurities and raising concerns about how far they will go to hurt each other.

**Q&A with
Writer**

Festival: New York Indian Film Festival 2026

Monday, 17 August 5:00 PM HOYTS District Docklands



Australian Premiere

Nyingma.. Through Her Eyes2025 | 20 Mins | **Spiti Bhoti (Tibetan)**

Director: Liton Paul

Cast: Konchok Dolma, Konchok Tharchen, Tenzin Dorje, Kalzang

In a high-altitude Himalayan mountain village, a young girl named Nyingma lives with her family. She's very ambitious and hopes to attend school, relying on her father's promise to send her after the long, harsh winter. Facing consecutive poor harvests from global warming, they must stock up on essentials to survive an upcoming harsh La Niña winter.

Festivals: Golden Royal Bengal Tiger Award - Kolkata International Film Festival 2025 | Best Director Award - Jaipur International Film festival 2025

📅 Friday, 21 August

🕒 6:00 PM

📍 HOYTS Highpoint



Australian Premiere

O'Sey Balamma2026 | 13 Mins | **Telugu**

Director: Raman Nimmala

Cast: K.L.K. Mani Amma, Dhanalakshmi Bandlamudi

During the Sankranti festival celebrations, a matriarch and her housekeeper confront solitude through the intimacy of each other's company.

Festivals: Sundance Film Festival 2026 | Indian Film Festival of Los Angeles 2026 | New York Indian Film Festival 2026

📅 Sunday, 23 August

🕒 4:00 PM

📍 HOYTS Highpoint

No restriction



World Premiere

Olakh (Identity)21 Mins | **Hindi**

Director: Sulagna Chatterjee

Cast: Suhasini Mulay, Nikita Grover

On a cloudy Mumbai afternoon, a grieving widow and her recently heartbroken domestic worker discover that they have both sacrificed pieces of themselves to be loved. As they cook a long-forgotten recipe together, they begin reclaiming their identities, one ingredient at a time.

📅 Thursday, 20 August

🕒 4:30 PM

📍 HOYTS District Docklands

No restriction

Q&A with
Director

Australian Premiere

Our President is a Crocodile2025 | 4 Mins | **English, Hindi**

Director: Srishti Seema Shukla

'Our President is a Crocodile' is a satire on the current Indian political landscape and explores themes of ignorance, complacency, and political resistance in India. It highlights the lengths people go to justify their beliefs, often to absurdity. The film follows its protagonist, Sandy, walking through a neighbourhood of people all unwilling to see that their president is a crocodile - or, worse, do something about it.

Festivals: Cairo International Animation Forum 2025 | New York Tri-State International Film Festival 2026 | AniMela Festival 2026

📅 Friday, 21 August

🕒 6:00 PM

📍 HOYTS Highpoint

No restriction



Australian Premiere

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6:00 PM
HOYTS Highpoint

No restriction



Website QR Code

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0421 677 082 / satimes@gmail.com



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24th Year



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INFORMED**

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**Pakka**2025 | 18 Mins | **English, Dutch, Tamil**

Director: Iniyavan Elumalai

Cast: Chirag Benedict Lobo, Kymo de Valk, Atharv Dhiman, Ruchir Kathusing

Four gay Indian friends share an unbreakable bond on a Dutch cricket field. But when one agrees to an arranged marriage in India, their chosen family begins to unravel.

Festivals: Palm Springs International ShortFest 2025 | BFI Flare: London LGBTQIA+ Film Festival 2026 | Indian Film Festival of Los Angeles 2026

No restriction

Australian Premiere

Friday, 21 August

6:00 PM

HOYTS District Docklands

**Pal Bhar Ke Liye**2026 | 132 Mins | **Hindi**

Director: Vikram Phadnis

Cast: Saiyami Kher, Vineet Kumar Singh, Tahir Raj Bhasin, Suhasini Mulay, Suchitra Pillai, Manish Paul, Trupti Khamkar, Chahat Tewani

When an inexplicable crisis unravels elite fashion photographer Samaira Sehgal's controlled life, career, and upcoming marriage, she retreats into silence. However, a free-spirited houseguest challenges her to embrace Mumbai's chaos and discover a new way to capture the world.

Festival: World premiereQ&A with
Director

World Premiere

Sunday, 16 August

6:00 PM

Village Crown

**Pankaja**2026 | 14 Mins | **Telugu, Kannada**

Director: Anooja Swamy

Cast: Harshini Boyalla, Padmashree G.

The story follows Pankaja, a woman who, along with her daughter Lalli, desperately navigates the city slums and bureaucracy of Bangalore in a quest to locate her missing husband.

Festivals: Sundance Film Festival 2026 | Palm Springs International ShortFest 2026 | Huesca International Film Festival 2026

No restriction

Australian Premiere

Saturday, 22 August

6:30 PM

Village Knox

**Pankhudiyaan (Petals in the wind)**2026 | 95 Mins | **Hindi**

Director: Abdul Aziz

Cast: Dhruv Solanki and Jyotsana Rajpurohit

Petals in the Wind follows Raj and Shobha, two newly-wed strangers in an arranged marriage in their 30s, as they embark on their honeymoon in Goa. As they explore the city, a tentative romance blossoms until Shobha reveals a hidden truth from her past that could shake the fragile foundation of their relationship.

Told in immersive long takes, the film delicately explores love, honesty, and the weight of tradition.

No restriction

World Premiere

Monday, 17 August

4:30 PM

HOYTS District Docklands

Q&A with
Director

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Director: Iniyavan Elumalai

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Four gay Indian friends share an unbreakable bond on a Dutch cricket field. But when one agrees to an arranged marriage in India, their chosen family begins to unravel.

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No restriction

World Premiere

Monday, 17 August

4:30 PM

HOYTS District Docklands

Q&A with
Director



Australian Premiere

Papa Buka2025 | 92 Mins | **Tok Pisin, Hindi, English, Bengali**

No restriction

Director: Dr. Bijukumar Damodaran

Cast: Sine Boboro, Ritabhari Chakroborty, Prakash Bare, John Sike

On a quest to uncover the forgotten stories of Indian soldiers in Papua New Guinea during World War II, two Indian historians, guided by a wise, aging war hero from a village on the Kokoda Track, embark on a journey of untold histories, personal awakening, and the haunting echoes of war.

Festivals: Special Jury Award - Listapad Minsk International Film Festival 2025 |
Special Jury Award - Fantasporto International Film Festival 2025

Thursday, 20 August **6:30 PM** **Village Crown**



Australian Premiere

Parchhaave Massia Rataan De (Shadows of the Moonless Nights)2026 | 24 Mins | **Hindi, Marathi, Punjabi**

No restriction

Director: Mehar Malhotra

Cast: Prayrak Mehta, Nikita Grover, Himanshu Kohli, Swapnil Sharma, Radhika Singla, Pragya Joshi, Gyan Prakash Tiwari

Sleep-deprived warehouse worker Rajan struggles with alcoholism and family strife, eventually finding an absurd, forced sanctuary in a hospital bench after a severe work injury.

Festival: Cannes Film Festival 2026

Wednesday, 19 August **6:00 PM** **HOYTS District Docklands**



World Premiere

Past Tense2026 | 107 Mins | **Hindi**

Restricted to persons aged below 18+

Director: Ananth Narayan Mahadevan

Cast: Aditya Rawal, Tanishtha Chatterjee, Paresh Rawal, Smita Tambe, Aadil Hussain, Suchitra Pillai, Sharib Hashmi, Dolly Ahluwalia, Trishla Patel, Vinay Jain, Gagan Dev

Raunak Phadnis, a young man, sets out to seek the truth behind why his biological parents abandoned him. He opens up a hornet's nest when he learns that as a young girl, his mother was assaulted. 26 years later, the boy traced his mother, and learns the startling truth. As the boy stays back to get dignity and justice for his mother, he has to face a cathartic situation from which there is no turning back.

Q&A with
Director

Friday, 21 August **8:00 PM** **Village Crown**



International Premiere

Photosensitive2025 | 20 Mins | **Hindi, Marathi**

No restriction

Director: Vishal Nagargoje

Cast: Lakshay Jain, Divya Purohit

Desperate to escape debt, Sanjay discovers an antique camera that makes anything he photographs vanish into its film. With his partner Urmi, he turns the device into a criminal shortcut, stealing valuables without a trace. But during a high-stakes burglary, Sanjay accidentally kills a woman and uses the camera to erase her body, triggering a terrifying trap.

Festivals: Mumba International Film Festival 2025 |
Chandigarh University International Film Festival 2026

Saturday, 22 August **4:00 PM** **Village Bendigo**



Australian Premiere

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Festivals: Mumba International Film Festival 2025 |
Chandigarh University International Film Festival 2026

Saturday, 22 August **4:00 PM** **Village Bendigo**

**Pinjar (The Cage)**2025 | 137 Mins | **Bengali**

Restricted to persons aged 15 and below unless accompanied by an adult

Director: Dr. Rudrajit Roy

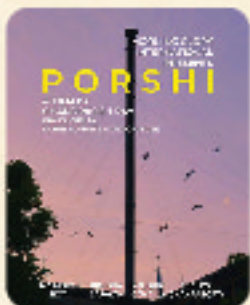
Cast: Joy Sengupta, Sagnik Mukherjee, Mallika Banerjee Roy, Satakshi Nandy, Ishan Mazumder, Mamata Shankar

Pinjar is an evocative meditation on captivity of bodies, spirits and choices told through five intertwined lives and a wild bird. Set between rural Bengal and urban life, the film explores freedom, loneliness, violence, displacement and resilience, asking what truly keeps us caged.

Festivals: Chicago South Asian Film Festival 2025 | Indian Film Festival of Sydney 2025 | Asian Film Festival Barcelona 2025

Victorian Premiere

Saturday, 22 August 6:30 PM Village Shepparton

**Porshi (Neighbours)**2025 | 102 Mins | **Bengali**

No restriction

Director: Chandrasish Ray

Cast: Indrasish Roy, Nimisha Sajayan, Kaushik Ganguly, Sudipta Chakraborty, Shataf Figar

In Kolkata, diverse lives intersect as supervisor Bappa endures a tyrannical boss, his girlfriend Monika awaits a government job, young driver Choto seeks direction, and homemaker Siuli navigates an abusive marriage. Together, these strangers form Porshi - a mosaic of neighbours unknowingly creating a rainbow.

Festivals: Best Film Winner - Kolkata International Film Festival 2025 | Sikkim International Film Festival 2026 | Habitat Film Festival 2026

Australian Premiere

Saturday, 22 August 4:00 PM HOYTS Chadstone

**Private**2025 | 133 Mins | **Malayalam**

Restricted to persons aged 15 and below unless accompanied by an adult

Director: Deepak Deon

Cast: Indrans, Meenakshi Anoop, Annu Antony

A young woman from Kerala flees an arranged marriage and finds refuge in the home of a solitary old man in Karnataka. As an unexpected bond develops between them, she becomes drawn into his unfinished journey connected to his estranged son. Together, they set out in an aging truck, embarking on a moving search for connection, belonging, and hope.

Australian Premiere

Festivals: Moscow International Film festival 2026 | PK Rosy Film Festival 2026

Tuesday, 18 August 6:30 PM Village Knox

**Pukam Pukai (To Fetch a Pail of Water)**2026 | 108 Mins | **Hindi, English, Urdu**

No restriction

Director: Abhay Punjabi

Cast: Rajkumar, Sheeba Chaddha, Zoie Aggarwal Ahmed, Saksham Dhawan, Charu Shankar, Shardul Bhardwaj, Manish, Gayatri Bansode, Baljinder Kaur, Jamie Alter

Pukam Pukai is the story of three twelve-year-olds: one wants a swimming pool in his basti, another dreams of getting into an Ivy League university before puberty, and the third wants to bowl yorkers while wearing a hijab. Together, they dive headfirst into the most chaotic summer of their lives.

Festival: Best Dramatic Feature - Taiwan International Children's Film Festival 2026

Q&A with Director

Australian Premiere

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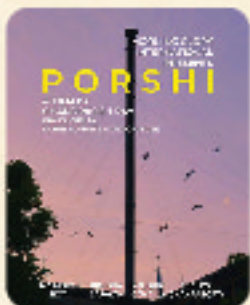
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Festival: Best Dramatic Feature - Taiwan International Children's Film Festival 2026

Q&A with Director

Australian Premiere

Tuesday, 18 August 8:30 PM Village Crown



Queering India

2026 | 60 Mins | **Hindi, Marathi, English**

Director: Swapnesh Dubey, Lakhinandan Boruah
Cast: NA

As India stands at the crossroads of love and law, Queering India journeys through the hearts and homes of queer people, families, and everyday citizens, revealing a nation's forgotten legacy of acceptance and its urgent fight for marriage equality.

Festival: KASHISH Pride Film Festival 2026

No restriction

Q&A with
Director

International Premiere

Friday, 21 August

6:00 PM

HOYTS District Docklands



Rasmalai

2024 | 9 Mins | **Hindi**

Director: Debopom Chakraborty

Cast: Parul Keshri, Animesh Gautam, Soma Banerjee, Shubhanshu Tiwari.

Guddi, a spirited girl, quietly pursues her passion within a rigid middle-class home where her emotionally distant father struggles to understand her world. Through everyday conflict, care, and unspoken affection, their relationship evolves into a subtle, powerful shift where love transcends authority. Rasmalai captures how empathy bridges generational and emotional distance within a family.

Festival: Moscow International Film Festival 2025

No restriction

Australian Premiere

Friday, 21 August

6:00 PM

HOYTS Chadstone



Razaa

2025 | 15 Mins | **Hindi, Urdu**

Director: Pooja Tolani

Cast: Geetanjali Kulkarni, Bhumiika Sharma, Archana Patel, Zeba Hussain, Kundan Roy

18 year old Razaa and her mother Sabeen wait in a gynaecologist's clinic for an abortion. As they argue about the morality of the difficult decision they must make, Razaa's father calls. They cannot let him find out about the pregnancy...

Festivals: Honorable Mention Award for Best Short Film - Tasveer Film Festival 2025 | Best Short Film Award - Castellania Film Festival 2025

Restricted to persons aged below 18+

Australian Premiere

Sturday, 22 August

6:30 PM

Village Crown



Remains

2024 | 20 Mins | **English**

Director: Theja Rao

Cast: Terique Jarrett, David Grant, Tim Plester, Kee Moi Soh, Crispin Holland

An astonishing, post-colonial pushback, horror genre film, shot in lush 35mm film. Abraham, a Black 'Windrush' Caribbean migrant to the UK, is appointed to care for the nasty, old Mr Chapman, his vast manor, and colonial artefact collection—including life-sized figures, and the skull of a Naga woman. Amazingly, all the figures come to life—as does the ghost of a Naga woman. Fearing he will end up an artefact, Abraham escapes.

Festivals: London Short Film Festival 2025 | EnergaCAMERIMAGE Film Festival 2024 | Cambridge Film Festival 2024

Australian Premiere

Saturday, 22 August

4:30 PM

HOYTS District Docklands



Queering India

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Director: Swapnesh Dubey, Lakhinandan Boruah
Cast: NA

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4:30 PM

HOYTS District Docklands

**Rihanna**2025 | 17 Mins | **Nepali**

Director: Suraj Paudel

Cast: Prithu Bhatta, Srijana Adhikari

In rural Nepal, thirteen-year-old Saraswati changes her name to Rihanna. The school principal scolds and disciplines her for blindly imitating Western culture. She wants to prove herself with quiet support from her watchful mother.

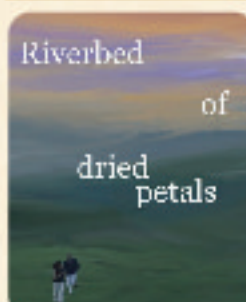
Festivals: Busan International Film Festival 2025 | Nepal International Film Festival 2026 | Indian Film Festival of Los Angeles 2026

Australian Premiere

📅 **Thursday, 20 August** ⌚ **6:00 PM**

📍 HOYTS District Docklands

No restriction

**Riverbed of Dried Petals**2025 | 13 Mins | **Hindi, English**

Director: Kalash Jain

Cast: Anshul Kumar and Khushboo Rajpurohi

In the near future solutions of rekindling love, a couple grapples with the idea of erasing their most intimate memories to reignite their fading connection. Despite being physically present with each other, they are consumed by a deep longing - a void that neither time nor proximity seems to fill.

Festivals: Kolkata International Film Festival 2025 | Madurai International Documentary and Short Film Festival 2025 | Pune Short Film Festival 2025

Australian Premiere

📅 **Saturday, 15 August** ⌚ **4:00 PM**

📍 Village Sunshine

No restriction

**Riverstone**2025 | 119 Mins | **Sinhala**

Director: Lalith Rathnayake

Cast: Randika Gunathilaka, Shyam Fernando, Mahendra Perera, Priyantha Sirikumara, Ananda Kumaraunnahe, Prabodini Chandrasena

Riverstone examines suspected criminals being killed in police custody, which many believe are staged executions rather than shootouts. It implies governments mandate these actions, with officers executing them for promotions. Through three officers, the film explores their moral conflict before executing a stranger.

Festivals: Best Screenplay & Cinematography Award - Shanghai International Film Festival 2025 | São Paulo International Film Festival 2025

Australian Premiere

📅 **Sunday, 23 August** ⌚ **4:00 PM**

📍 Village Knox

Restricted to persons aged 15 and below unless accompanied by an adult

**Roid**2026 | 109 Mins | **Bengali**

Director: Mejbaur Rahman Sumon

Cast: Mostafizur Noor Imran, Nazifa Tushi, Gazi Rakayet, Ahsabul Yamin Riad, and others

Shadu, his mad wife, and the palm tree beside their home feel like a tale of some ancient human couple. The ripened palm fruit becomes a symbol of love, longing, and affection. And then? Shadu, his mad wife, and the palm tree merge into a spellbound enigma.

Festivals: International Film Festival Rotterdam 2026 | Seattle International Film Festival 2026

Victorian Premiere

📅 **Sunday, 16 August** ⌚ **5:00 PM**

📍 Village Crown

Restricted to persons aged 15 and below unless accompanied by an adult



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2025 | 17 Mins | **Nepali**

Director: Suraj Paudel

Cast: Prithu Bhatta, Srijana Adhikari

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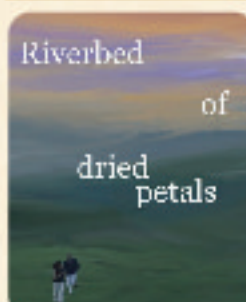
Festivals: Busan International Film Festival 2025 | Nepal International Film Festival 2026 | Indian Film Festival of Los Angeles 2026

Australian Premiere

Thursday, 20 August 6:00 PM

HOYTS District Docklands

No restriction



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No restriction



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Festivals: International Film Festival Rotterdam 2026 | Seattle International Film Festival 2026

Victorian Premiere

Sunday, 16 August 5:00 PM

Village Crown

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Romantic Affairs

2026 | 141 Mins | **Assamese**

Director: Monjul Baruah

Cast: Boloram Das, Kasvi Sonkorison, Arun Nath, Swagata Bharali, Alokjyoti Saikia, Deepjyoti Kakoti, Rina Bora, Gayatri Sarma

A restless heart reaches for freedom, only to find herself entangled in the consequences of her own desires. In the blur between discovery and unraveling, she learns that growing up can both liberate and confine.

Festivals: Best Director, Best Actor (Female) & Special Jury Mention Best Actor (Male) - Third Eye Asian Film Festival 2026 | Best Director - North East India Film Festival 2026

Restricted to persons aged below 18+

Australian Premiere

Saturday, 22 August **6:00 PM** **HOYTS Highpoint**



Roundabout

2025 | 10 Mins | **English, Hindi**

Director: Srijan Sinha

Cast: Preeti Panigrahi, Sharon Joseph, Animesh Sharma

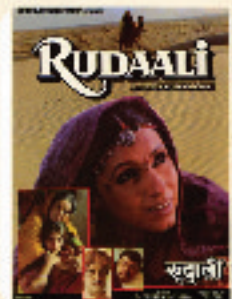
Kavya and Roshan are heading back from a party, and they're about to get into the same argument for the hundredth time.

Festivals: National Documentary Short Film Festival 2025 | Independent and Experimental Short Film Festival 2025 | International Film Festival Delhi 2026

No restriction

International Premiere

Saturday, 22 August **4:00 PM** **HOYTS Chadstone**



Rudaali

1993 | 115 Mins | **Hindi**

Director: Kalpana Lajmi

Cast: Dimple Kapadia, Rakhee, Raj Babbar, Amjad Khan, Raghubir Yadav, Sushmita Mukherjee

Sanichari is a rudaali, a professional mourner. After her husband dies, she joins a tribe of bonded labourers. Despite being buffeted about by a male-dominated society, Sanichari has never cried. A seasoned rudaali, Bhinkni, enters her life and suggests that Sanichari learns the tricks of the trade.

Special Screening

Monday, 17 August **6:00 PM** **HOYTS Highpoint**



Saptapadi

1961 | 163 Mins | **Bengali**

Director: Ajoy Kar

Cast: Uttam Kumar, Suchitra Sen, Chhabi Biswas, Chhaya Devi, Tarun Kumar, Utpal Dutt, Jennifer Kapoor, Dean Gasper, Padma Devi

Set in World War II, the reverend Krishnendu runs a military hospital in Bankura. A drunken Anglo-Indian woman soldier is brought to him for treatment and he recognized her as his former love.

Festival: Best Actress - Moscow International Film Festival 1963

Special Screening

Wednesday, 19 August **6:00 PM** **HOYTS Highpoint**



Romantic Affairs

Restricted to persons aged below 18+

2026 | 141 Mins | **Assamese**

Director: Monjul Baruah

Cast: Boloram Das, Kasvi Sonkorison, Arun Nath, Swagata Bharali, Alokjyoti Saikia, Deepjyoti Kakoti, Rina Bora, Gayatri Sarma

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Festivals: Best Director, Best Actor (Female) & Special Jury Mention Best Actor (Male) - Third Eye Asian Film Festival 2026 | Best Director - North East India Film Festival 2026

Australian Premiere

Saturday, 22 August **6:00 PM** **HOYTS Highpoint**



Roundabout

No restriction

2025 | 10 Mins | **English, Hindi**

Director: Srijan Sinha

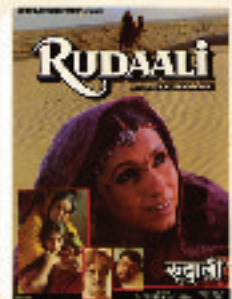
Cast: Preeti Panigrahi, Sharon Joseph, Animesh Sharma

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Festival: Best Actress - Moscow International Film Festival 1963

Special Screening

Wednesday, 19 August **6:00 PM** **HOYTS Highpoint**



Australian Premiere

Secret of a Mountain Serpent

2025 | 108 Mins | Hindi

Director: Nidhi Saxena

Cast: Trimala Adhikari, Adil Hussain, Pushpendra Singh, Richa Meena, Aaradhya Mehta, Rashmi Kandpal

Set in a remote Himalayan town during the Kargil War, Secret of a Mountain Serpent follows Barkha, a schoolteacher whose husband is away at the border. When a mysterious outsider arrives, he awakens long-suppressed desires among the village women. As local serpent folklore comes alive, myth and reality intertwine in this poetic tale of love, longing, freedom, and transformation.

Festivals: Venice International Film Festival 2025 | Vancouver International Film Festival 2025 | New Voices Award - Bangkok International Film Festival 2025

Sunday, 23 August 4:00 PM HOYTS Highpoint

Restricted to persons aged below 18+



International Premiere

Sheshippu (The Remnant)

2025 | 111 Mins | Malayalam

Director: Gritto Vincent, Sreejith S Kumar

Cast: Rashid Rahman, Meenakshi Jayan, Rajan Pootharakkal, Skariah Babu, Albert

A ghostwriter's quiet life is disrupted by a woman's tragic arrival; together, they forge a powerful bond, finding strength and connection amidst life's darkest moments.

Festivals: International Film Festival of Kerala 2025 | Happiness International Film Festival 2026 | Kochi Muziris Biennale 2026

Saturday, 22 August 4:00 PM Village Bendigo

Restricted to persons aged 15 and below unless accompanied by an adult



Australian Premiere

Skin

2025 | 12 Mins | English

Director: Urvashi Pathania

Cast: Shreya Navile, Sureni Weerasekera

Insecure about her appearance, Kanika visits a mysterious skin lightening center.

Festivals: 2nd place: Audience Award for Best International Short - Fantasia International Film Festival 2025 | Tasveer Film Festival 2025 | Indian Film Festival of Los Angeles 2026

Sunday, 16 August 6:00 PM HOYTS District Docklands

No restriction



Australian Premiere

Smriti~ (Memoria~)

2026 | 13 Mins | Marathi

Director: Shahi AJ

Cast: Deepa Dhanraj, Ammu

A delicate voice-over and surreal collages trace memory loss from grief to gentle surrender.

Festival: International Film Festival Rotterdam 2026

Monday, 17 August 6:00 PM Village Sunshine

No restriction



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Festival: International Film Festival Rotterdam 2026

Monday, 17 August

6:00 PM

Village Sunshine

No restriction



Australian Premiere

Spying Stars2025 | 99 Mins | **English, Sinhala**

Restricted to persons aged below 18+

Director: Vimukthi Jayasundara

Cast: Indira Tiwari, Hidayath Hazeer, Saumya Liyanage, Sumanalee Fonseka, Shreepura Mithra, Kaushalya Fernando

Set in a future ravaged by a mysterious pandemic caused by the over-dependence of mankind on technology. The protagonist is a refugee from Sri Lanka who returns to the country and is forcibly admitted into a valley resort that has been converted into an isolation facility.

Festivals: Busan International Film Festival 2025 | Bangkok International Film Festival 2025 | International Film Festival of India 2025

Sunday, 23 August **4:00 PM** **Village Shepparton**



Australian Premiere

Super Afghan Gym2026 | 14 Mins | **Dari**

No restriction

Director: Shahrbanoo Sadat

Cast: Ziwar Nama Tavakkoli, Yalda Saffi, Khatera Mohammadi, Aarzoo Burhani, Karima Ahmadi, Sarah Rahgozar, Rahim Sharifi

In a gym in downtown Kabul, a group of housewives gather during the only hour of the day reserved for women. They train at lunchtime behind closed doors, talking about body norms and their daily life.

Festivals: International Film Festival Rotterdam 2026 | Kurzfilm Festival Hamburg 2026

Thursday, 20 August **6:00 PM** **HOYTS Highpoint**



Australian Premiere

Switch Off2026 | 10 Mins | **Malayalam**

Restricted to persons aged 15 and below unless accompanied by an adult

Director: Sandeep Francis

Cast: Arunjith, Hrishikesh PS, Sreeram, Deekshith Lakshman, Tutesy

When a seemingly dead phone comes back to life, it begins documenting a man's reality and his future. As the images turn fatal, he finds himself trapped in a moment he can't escape.

Festivals: Jury's Choice Award - Bucheon International Fantastic Film Festival 2026 | Indian Film Festival Stuttgart 2026

Saturday, 22 August **4:00 PM** **HOYTS Highpoint**



World Premiere

'Tapman' The Man Who Loved Pollution2025 | 12 Mins | **Hindi**

No restriction

Director: Haider Khan

Cast: Rajiv Kalita

Tapman (meaning Temperature in Hindi) is a fast-paced, noir-style thriller that blends dark humour with a powerful message on climate change and global warming.

Saturday, 22 August **6:30 PM** **Village Bendigo**



Australian Premiere

Spying Stars2025 | 99 Mins | **English, Sinhala**

Restricted to persons aged below 18+

Director: Vimukthi Jayasundara

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Saturday, 22 August **6:30 PM** **Village Bendigo**

**Tenfa**

No restriction

2026 | 30 Mins | **Kinnauri, Hindi**

Director: Nihaarika Negi

Cast: Gangari Chho Negi, Himanshu Negi, Leela Negi, Savita Negi, Shreya Negi

In the tribal region of Kinnaur, deep in the Himalayas, where ecological damage and development have begun to erode both land and knowledge, a government-certified midwife teams up with an 85-year-old grandmother and her teenage granddaughter to find an endangered Indigenous herb that can help save a pregnant mother's life.

Festival: Indian Film Festival of Los Angeles 2026

Australian Premiere

📅 Saturday, 22 August

🕒 5:00 PM

📍 HOYTS District Docklands

**Thanthapperu (Life of a Phallus)**

Restricted to persons aged below 18+

2025 | 107 Mins | **Malayalam, Cholanakka**

Director: KS Unnikrishnan Avala

Cast: Bellakkariyan Maneesh, Chinchina Bhamini, Ayyappan Poochappara

This jaw-dropping film is set among the Cholanakkas, one of Asia's last cave dwellers, in Kerala, South India; and is the first film in the Cholanakka language. With few women left in the tribe, possessive brute Nari's wife Bella, dumps him for Poomala. Nari also has an identity crisis, resulting from India's Emergency (1975-77), when the government conducted forcible sterilisations on tribals. Top tech credits; direction is discreet, yet savage.

Festival: Rajatachakoram Audience Prize | International Jury Prize and NETPAC Award - International Film Festival of Kerala 2025 |

International Premiere

📅 Saturday, 22 August

🕒 5:00 PM

📍 HOYTS District Docklands

**That Perfect Day**

No restriction

2026 | 23 Mins | **Bengali, English, English, Hindi**

Director: Anup Abraham Parackal

Cast: Tanmay Dhanania, Sriy Bhattacharya, Arfat Ali, Ipsita Kundu, Tarun Baidya, Priyanka Dasgupta, Animesh Sharma, Avani Meena, Umang Ratilal Sangani

Like his other classmate, 10-year-old Michael wishes to distribute fancy chocolates for his birthday. But, aware that his father, a modest driver, cannot afford it, Michael finds unusual ways to raise the required money, with the help of his best friend.

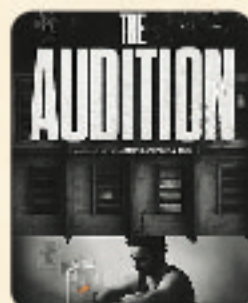
Festival: Kolkata People's Film Festival 2026

International Premiere

📅 Saturday, 15 August

🕒 6:00 PM

📍 Village Crown

**The Audition**

No restriction

2025 | 93 Mins | **Hindi, English, Marwari, Marathi**

Director: Manas Shashidharan Jacob

Cast: Vishal Vashishtha, Parimal Aloke Jha, Prashanti Talpankar

A struggling actor, Nikhil Dagga, 31 stands at the brink of surrender. Broke and beaten down, he retreats to a claustrophobic Mumbai apartment where intrusive neighbors and mounting debts test his resolve. When his final chance at redemption collapses, one desperate, late-night performance becomes an unexpected act of rebellion.

Festival: Girona Film Festival 2025 | Buenos Aires International Film Festival 2026 | South Asian Film Festival of Montreal 2026

Australian Premiere

Q&A with Director

📅 Tuesday, 18 August

🕒 4:30 PM

📍 HOYTS District Docklands

**Tenfa**

No restriction

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Director: Nihaarika Negi

Cast: Gangari Chho Negi, Himanshu Negi, Leela Negi, Savita Negi, Shreya Negi

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Australian Premiere

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International Premiere

📅 Saturday, 22 August

🕒 5:00 PM

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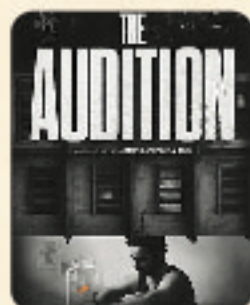
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International Premiere

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Director: Manas Shashidharan Jacob

Cast: Vishal Vashishtha, Parimal Alope Jha, Prashanti Talpankar

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Festival: Girona Film Festival 2025 | Buenos Aires International Film Festival 2026 | South Asian Film Festival of Montreal 2026

Australian Premiere

Q&A with Director

📅 Tuesday, 18 August

🕒 4:30 PM

📍 HOYTS District Docklands



The Gas Station Attendant

2025 | 83 Mins | **English**

No restriction

Director: Karla Murthy

Cast: Jad Abumrad, Amil Murthy Abumrad, Tej Murthy Abumrad, Leo and Faye Kern

A daughter chronicles her father's journey from India to America. Combining home movies with recorded phone calls from his night shifts at a gas station, this intimate film meditates on family, the immigrant experience, and shared dreams.

Festivals: Santa Barbara International Film Festival 2026, Special Mention Jury Award - Sheffield DocFest 2025 | Best Documentary Feature - Nashville Film Festival 2025

Australian Premiere

Thursday, 20 August

5:00 PM

HOYTS District Docklands



The Great Shamsuddin Family

2025 | 97 Mins | **Hindi**

No restriction

Director: Anusha Rizvi

Cast: Kritika Kamra, Shreya Dhanwantary, Farida Jalal, Sheeba Chaddha, Purab Kohli

Set over one summer day in Delhi, the film follows Bani Ahmed, a divorced writer facing a life-changing 24-hour deadline. Her carefully planned day unravels as relatives, admirers, and unexpected guests arrive with urgent crises. Amid comic chaos, interfaith tensions, family conflicts, and social anxieties emerge, overshadowing Bani's dilemma while revealing the resilience, complexities, and enduring strength of women and family bonds.

Festivals: Toulouse Indian Film Festival 2026 | Indian Film Festival of Los Angeles 2026 | New York Indian Film Festival 2026

Australian Premiere

Thursday, 20 August

8:00 PM

Village Crown



The Last Photo

2025 | 13 Mins | **English, Hindi, Marathi**

No restriction

Director: Shreyas Mandhare

With the unpredictability of life, do we get to choose our last photo framed on the wall? Maybe with the advent of AI and photo manipulations people will try to take control over it. And some actually do decide their respective photos before passing away.

Festivals: Symbiosis Film Festival 2025 | SIGNS Film Festival 2025 | Drishyam Film Festival 2026

International Premiere

Friday, 21 August

8:00 PM

Village crown



The Voice of Old

2025 | 15 Mins | **Marathi**

No restriction

Director: Adesh Vinod Dhage

Cast: Sarthak Masne

In a remote village, a young tribal boy struggles to memorize an English poem about disappearing languages. As he journeys through forests and hills, he absorbs the rhythms of nature and a centuries-old song sung by his grandmother. The next day, while being punished at school, the song resurfaces within him—echoing the resilience of a fading culture and forgotten language.

Festivals: Best Storyline - Luksuz Film Festival 2026 | Astoria Film Festival 2026 | International Folklore Film Festival of Kerala 2026

Australian Premiere

Thursday, 20 August

6:30 PM

Village Knox



The Gas Station Attendant

2025 | 83 Mins | **English**

No restriction

Director: Karla Murthy

Cast: Jad Abumrad, Amil Murthy Abumrad, Tej Murthy Abumrad, Leo and Faye Kern

A daughter chronicles her father's journey from India to America. Combining home movies with recorded phone calls from his night shifts at a gas station, this intimate film meditates on family, the immigrant experience, and shared dreams.

Festivals: Santa Barbara International Film Festival 2026, Special Mention Jury Award - Sheffield DocFest 2025 | Best Documentary Feature - Nashville Film Festival 2025

Australian Premiere

Thursday, 20 August

5:00 PM

HOYTS District Docklands



The Great Shamsuddin Family

2025 | 97 Mins | **Hindi**

No restriction

Director: Anusha Rizvi

Cast: Kritika Kamra, Shreya Dhanwantary, Farida Jalal, Sheeba Chaddha, Purab Kohli

Set over one summer day in Delhi, the film follows Bani Ahmed, a divorced writer facing a life-changing 24-hour deadline. Her carefully planned day unravels as relatives, admirers, and unexpected guests arrive with urgent crises. Amid comic chaos, interfaith tensions, family conflicts, and social anxieties emerge, overshadowing Bani's dilemma while revealing the resilience, complexities, and enduring strength of women and family bonds.

Festivals: Toulouse Indian Film Festival 2026 | Indian Film Festival of Los Angeles 2026 | New York Indian Film Festival 2026

Australian Premiere

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8:00 PM

Village Crown



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2025 | 13 Mins | **English, Hindi, Marathi**

No restriction

Director: Shreyas Mandhare

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Festivals: Symbiosis Film Festival 2025 | SIGNS Film Festival 2025 | Drishyam Film Festival 2026

International Premiere

Friday, 21 August

8:00 PM

Village crown



The Voice of Old

2025 | 15 Mins | **Marathi**

No restriction

Director: Adesh Vinod Dhage

Cast: Sarthak Masne

In a remote village, a young tribal boy struggles to memorize an English poem about disappearing languages. As he journeys through forests and hills, he absorbs the rhythms of nature and a centuries-old song sung by his grandmother. The next day, while being punished at school, the song resurfaces within him—echoing the resilience of a fading culture and forgotten language.

Festivals: Best Storyline - Luksuz Film Festival 2026 | Astoria Film Festival 2026 | International Folklore Film Festival of Kerala 2026

Australian Premiere

Thursday, 20 August

6:30 PM

Village Knox



RADIO, PODCASTS, ARTICLES AND MORE!

Bangla Gujarati Hindi Malayalam *Nepali*
Punjabi **Sinhala** *Spice* **Tamil** *Telugu* Urdu





Australian Premiere

This Tree Won't Fall2026 | 20 Mins | **Hindi, Garhwali, English**

No restriction

Director: Deepak Ramola

This climate action-themed film celebrates the extraordinary resilience of Sudesha Devi, an 86-year-old Indian environmentalist and one of the pioneering voices of the Chipko Andolan (Tree Hugging Movement). Set against the breathtaking Himalayan landscape, the film captures her unwavering commitment to safeguarding forests from industrial destruction, offering a poignant reflection on the profound environmental wisdom of women and their role in grassroots activism.

Festival: New York Indian Film Festival 2026

Sunday, 23 August
4:00 PM
Village Geelong


Australian Premiere

Tuhade Vich Mera Aks (I See Myself In You)2026 | 9 Mins | **English, Punjabi**

No restriction

Director: Amreen Kullar

Cast: Simran Kaur, Manpreet Sandhu, Prabhmeet Sabharwal

Amidst rising xenophobia, 1st and 2nd gen South Asian settlers in Brampton, Ontario explain their side of the story through interweaving dual language prose and 16mm film.

Festival: Hot Docs 2026

Friday, 22 August
6:30 PM
Village Geelong


Australian Premiere

Tumhari Khushboo (Your Fragrance)2026 | 33 Mins | **Hindi**

No restriction

Director: Onir

Cast: Barun Sobti, Shashi Bhushan

A visually impaired masseur and his sports-teacher client grow close through hushed conversations during massage sessions, until intimacy stirs a buried past and tests desire and boundaries, and the future of their relationship.

Festivals: Special Mention Best Actor: Shashi Bhushan - Kashish Pride Film Festival 2026 | Indian Film Festival Stuttgart 2026

 Q&A with
Director

 Friday, 21 August
6:00 PM
HOYTS District Docklands


Special Screening

Umrao Jaan1981 | 145 Mins | **Urdu**

Director: Muzaffar Ali

Cast: Rekha, Farooq Shaikh, Naseeruddin Shah, Raj Babbar, Ishtiaque Khan, Gajanan Jagirdar, Shaikat Kaifi, Dina Pathak, Prema Narayan, Bharat Bhushan Bhalla, Mukri, Satish Shah

Abducted from home and sold into a Lucknow kotha, Amiran is raised as Umrao Jaan, an accomplished courtesan and poet. Navigating love, betrayal, and displacement amid fleeting patronage, her journey becomes a graceful, dignified elegy for a life shaped by circumstance.

Festival: Re-Release of Restored Version - Red Sea International Film Festival 2025

Friday, 14 August
8:30 PM
Village Crown



Australian Premiere

OPENING SHORT FILM

We Were Here

No restriction

2026 | 10 Mins | **Hindi, English**

Director: Pranav Bhasin

Cast: Satish Kashyap, Devendra Dodke, Arindol Bagchi

In a crumbling Indian town, three retired men protest machines replacing human jobs by pretending to be household appliances.

Festivals: Redbreast Unhidden Award - SXSW Film Festival 2026
Clermont-Ferrand International Short Film Festival 2026

Friday, 14 August

7:00 PM

HOYTS District Docklands



Australian Premiere

White Snow

No restriction

2025 | 81 Mins | **Urdu**

Director: Praveen Morchhale

Cast: he Yak, Madhu Kandhari, Bhavya Khurana, Kachoo Ahmad Khan, Kaneez Fatima, Ghulam Mohmmad

With her yak Riri and an old cathodic TV, a mother journeys through the Himalayan peaks to screen her son's film banned by religious fanatics - a path that breaks her body and mind but ultimately leads her to profound, liberating freedom.

Festivals: São Paulo International Film Festival 2025 | International Film Festival of India 2025 | Jogja-NETPAC Asian Film Festival 2025

Friday, 21 August

6:00 PM

HOYTS Highpoint



World Premiere

Winkle Twinkle

No restriction

2026 | 124 Mins | **Bengali**

Director: Srijit Mukherji

Cast: Ritwick Chakraborty, Parambrata Chattopadhyay, Anusuya Majumder, Sohini Sarkar, Angana Roy, Rajatava Ditta, Debesh Chattopadhyay

In 1970s Kolkata, communist revolutionary Sabyasachi faces political obstacles, finds love in comrade Rajlokhkhi and marries her. Shot during a police chase, he falls into a Rip Van Winkle like slumber. Awakening to a changed modern world, he discovers his son aligned with opposing political ideologies, challenging his own beliefs, sparking an emotional clash of political ideologies and generational conflict.

Saturday, 22 August

8:30 PM

Village crown

Q&A with
Director



Working Girls

Restricted to persons aged below 18+

2026 | 133 Mins | **Bengali, Hindi, Marathi, Malayalam, Tamil, Telugu**

Director: Paromita Vohra

A humorous yet raw and authentic journey through an invisible world of work, existing precariously between marriage and the market, colonial morality and modern law. Encounters with sex workers, erotic dancers, surrogacy and egg donation agents, domestic workers, farmers and home makers across India invite us to rethink what it means to work – and who gets to be seen as a worker.

International Premiere

Festivals: IAWRT Asian Women's Film Festival 2026 | Chennai Social Justice Film Festival 2026

Friday, 21 August

6:30 PM

Village Knox



Yakasik Omédé (Yakasi's Daughter)

2025 | 75 Mins | **Mising**

Restricted to persons aged 15 and below unless accompanied by an adult

Director: Dr Jayanta Madhab Dutta

Cast: Anjali Taid, Papujyoti Pegu, Baneswar Pegu, Junumai Pegu, Sadagar Daw

Fourteen-year-old school dropout Jariyum and her 17-year-old fiancé, Migam, live a traditional life with their families on a remote river island in Upper Assam. They belong to the Mising community, the oldest plains tribe of Assam. Living in extreme poverty and constantly battling natural calamities, Jariyum dreams of a life better than that of her mother, Yakasi. But will her dream come true when she elopes with Migam?

Australian Premiere

Festivals: Third Eye Asian Film Festival 2025 | Bengaluru International Film Festival 2025 | Jaffna International Cinema Festival 2025

Saturday, 15 August

6:00 PM

HOYTS Chadstone



Yeh Mera Ghar (My Home)

2025 | 132 Mins | **Hindi**

No restriction

Director: Prabodh Bhajni

Cast: T J Bhanu, Sonal Jha, Keya Ingle, Rama Sharma, Faraz Khan

My Home is a heart-wrenching tale of love, loss, and longing, a story of four women waiting for the return of Mohan, a migrant worker and the family's sole breadwinner. Over the years, their lives are defined by hope, yearning, and dreams that seem increasingly out of reach.

Australian Premiere

Festivals: Listapad - Minsk International Film Festival 2025 | International Film Festival of Delhi 2026 | Ajanta Ellora International Film Festival 2026

Sunday, 23 August

4:00 PM

Village Bendigo



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Acknowledgements & Credits



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Mitu Bhowmick Lange AM

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Yash Raj Films, Dharma Productions, Disney
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Reliance India and Sony

A Big Hug to
Aditya Chopra | Jinsu John | Karan Johar |
Karthik Arasu | Mark Waterson | Minu
Sharma | Mitesh Soni | Neeraj Nanda | Nelson
D'Souza | Onir | Pradeep Jaiswal | Rajeev
Masand | Ranjodh Singh | Stephanie Mills |
Tonee Sethi

We Couldn't Have Done This Without The
Help Of
Staff of HOYTS Chadstone
Staff of HOYTS District Docklands
Staff of HOYTS Highpoint
The team at Village Crown
Team at Village Sunshine
The team at Village Knox
The team at Village Bendigo
The team Village Shepparton
The team Village Geelong
The team at Federation Square
The team at Palais Theatre

Our wonderful interns and volunteers!

And last but definitely not least, all of you
who participated in our festival and made it
such a soaring success!

Special Thanks To Our Partners

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HOYTS Chadstone

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DATE	DAY	TIME	FILM - [DURATION]	LANGUAGE
August 15	Saturday	6.00 pm	Friend of the Fireflies [37 Mins] Yakasik Omédé (Yakasi's Daughter) [75 Mins]	Gondi, Hindi, Marathi, Mising
August 17	Monday	6.00 pm	Baapya (The Man) [134 Mins]	Marathi
August 18	Tuesday	6.00 pm	Last Night I Dreamed it was Raining Fish [7 Mins], Balur Nogorite (Sand City) [99 Mins]	Marathi Bengali
August 19	Wednesday	6.00 pm	Amar Comrade (My Comrade) [25 Mins], Adamyia (The Unbroken) [105 Mins]	Santhali Bengali
August 20	Thursday	6.00 pm	Khooh Waala Ghar (Room At The Farm) [23 Mins], Khidki Gaav (If on a Winter's Night) [100 Mins]	Punjabi Malayalam, Hindi
August 21	Friday	6.00 pm	Rasmalai [9 Mins], Ammang Haelbeda (Don't Tell Mother) [88 Mins]	Hindi Kannada, English
August 22	Saturday	4.00 pm	Roundabout [10 Mins], Porshi (Neighbours) [102 Mins]	English, Hindi Bengali
August 23	Sunday	4.00 pm	Mungarina Ette (Heralds of the Monsoon) [9 Mins], Moham (Desire) [100 Mins]	Kannada Malayalam

HOYTS Highpoint

120-200 Rosamond Road, Maribyrnong, VIC 3032 | Ticket information: Email info@iffm.com.au or visit <https://www.hoyts.com.au>

August 16	Sunday	4.00 pm	Bramhakamal (The Queen of the Night) [21 Mins], Moromor Deuta (Dear Father) [90 Mins]	Marathi Assamese
August 16	Sunday	6.00 pm	Maya Satya Bhram (Illusion of Truth and Delusion) [128 Mins]	English, Bengali
August 17	Monday	6.00 pm	Rudaali [115 Mins]	Hindi
August 18	Tuesday	6.00 pm	Maaybaapache Aashirwaad (Blessings) [20 Mins], Kaathirippu (Await) [81 Mins]	Marathi Malayalam
August 19	Wednesday	6.00 pm	Saptapadi [163 Mins]	Bengali
August 20	Thursday	6.00 pm	Super Afghan Gym [14 Mins], No Good Men [103 Mins]	Dari Pashto
August 21	Friday	6.00 pm	Our President is a Crocodile [4 Mins], Nyingma.. Through Her Eyes [20 Mins], White Snow [81 Mins]	English, Hindi Spiti Bhoti (Tibetan) Urdu
August 22	Saturday	4.00 pm	Switch Off [10 Mins], 52 Blue [91 Mins]	Malayalam Arabic, English
August 22	Saturday	6.00 pm	Romantic Affairs [141 Mins]	Assamese
August 23	Sunday	4.00 pm	O'Sey Balamma [13 Mins] Secret of a Mountain Serpent [108 Mins]	Telugu Hindi

All films have English subtitles unless specified.

All programs and films are accurate while going to print but are subject to change. For updated program, please check our website iffm.com.au closer to the event.



HOYTS District Docklands

440 Docklands Drive, Docklands VIC 3008 | Ticket information: Email info@iffm.com.au or visit <https://www.hoyts.com.au>

DATE	DAY	TIME	FILM - [DURATION]	LANGUAGE
August 14	Friday	7.00 pm	We Were Here [10 Mins], Members of the Problematic Family [105 Mins] OPENING FILM - Q&A with Director	English, Hindi, Tamil
August 16	Sunday	6.00 pm	Skin [12 Mins], Early Days [102 Mins]	English, Hindi
August 16	Sunday	7.00 pm	1942: A Love Story [157 Mins]	Hindi
August 17	Monday	4.30 pm	Hidden Sun [24 Mins], Pankhudiyaan (Petals in the wind) [95 Mins] Q&A with Director	English, Japanese Hindi
August 17	Monday	5.00 pm	Notice Me Now [25 Mins] How To Not Have Sex [98 Mins] Q&A with Director	English Hindi
August 17	Monday	6.00 pm	Dhan Ki Devi (Goddess of Wealth) [10 Mins], King in the Land of the Princess [70 Mins]	English, Hindi, Urdu Bengali
August 18	Tuesday	4.30 pm	It's Only 47°C [16 Mins], The Audition [93 Mins] Q&A with Director	Hindi, English, Marathi, Marwari, Hindi
August 18	Tuesday	5.00 pm	Nipaniya (Dropless) [19 Mins] Diwali Ke Shor Mein (In the Chaos of Diwali) [102 Mins] Q&A with Director	Hindi
August 19	Wednesday	6.00 pm	Parchhaave Massia Rataan De (Shadows of the Moonless Nights) [24 Mins] CENTERPIECE FILM Not a Hero [97 Mins]	Hindi, Marathi, Punjabi Assamese, English,
August 20	Thursday	4.30 pm	Olakh (Identity) [21 Mins] Goodbye Sisters [90 Mins] Q&A with Director	Hindi Nepali
August 20	Thursday	5.00 pm	Between Cradles [20 Mins], The Gas Station Attendant [83 Mins] Q&A with Director	Hindi, Marathi English
August 20	Thursday	6.00 pm	Rihanna [17 Mins] Ek Mutthi Badal (My Share of Sky) [115 Mins]	Nepali
August 21	Friday	5.00 pm	Jasmine That Blooms in Autumn [15 Mins], Aakash Heno Nadir Naam (Ballad to the Winds) [116 Mins] Q&A with Director	Bengali, Hindi Assamese
August 21	Friday	6.00 pm	Pakka [18 Mins], Tumhari Khushboo (Your Fragrance) [33 Mins], Queering India [60 Mins] PRIDE SCREENING Q&A with Director	Dutch, English, Tamil, Hindi, Marathi, English
August 22	Saturday	4.30 pm	Remains [20 Mins], Kangbo Aloti (The Lost Path) [108 Mins] Q&A with Director	English Karbi
August 22	Saturday	5.00 pm	Tenfa [30 Mins] Thanthapperu (Life of a Phallus) [107 Mins]	Hindi, Kinnauri Cholanaikka, Malayalam
August 23	Sunday	4.30 pm	Ade (On a Sunday) [17 Mins], Flowers in a Hailstorm [29 Mins], Noi Kotha (River Tales) [103 Mins]	Tenyidie Assamese

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Village Crown

Shop 50, 8 Whiteman Street, Southbank Vic 3006 | Ticket information: Email info@iffm.com.au or visit <https://www.hoyts.com.au>

DATE	DAY	TIME	FILM - [DURATION]	LANGUAGE
August 14	Friday	8.30 pm	Umrao Jaan [145 Mins] Special Screening	Urdu
August 15	Saturday	6.00 pm	That Perfect Day [23 Mins], Breaking The Code [82 Mins] Q&A with Director	Bengali, Hindi, Eng English
August 15	Saturday	8.30 pm	Abracadabra [20 Mins] Lala & Poppy [92 Mins] Q&A with Team	Marathi, Hindi, Eng Hindi
August 16	Sunday	5.00 pm	Mr. Francis & The Last Standing PCO [15 Mins], Roid [109 Mins]	Hindi, Marathi, Eng Bengali
August 16	Sunday	6.00 pm	Pal Bhar Ke Liye [132 Mins] Q&A with Director	Hindi
August 17	Monday	8.30 pm	Chhath (The Festival) [140 Mins] Q&A with Director	Bhojpuri
August 18	Tuesday	8.30 pm	Desi Oon [7 Mins], Pukam Pukai (To Fetch a Pail of Water) [108 Mins] Q&A with Director	Hindi Hindi, Urdu, Eng
August 19	Wednesday	4.00 pm	Kalki [11 Mins] Avihitham (An Illicit Affair) [105 Mins] Q&A with Director	Hindi Malayalam
August 20	Thursday	6.30 pm	Koli [14 Mins], Papa Buka [92 Mins]	Assamese Tok Pisin, Hindi, English, Bengali
August 20	Thursday	7.00 pm	Bayaan (Testimony) [118 Mins]	Hindi
August 20	Thursday	8.00 pm	The Great Shamsuddin Family [97 Mins]	Hindi, English Hindi
August 21	Friday	8.00 pm	The Last Photo [13 Mins] Pastt Tense [107 Mins] WORLD PREMIERE Q&A with Director	Hindi, Marathi, Eng Hindi
August 22	Saturday	6.30 pm	Razaa [15 Mins] Kikkran De Phull (Flowers of Acacia) [87 Mins] Q&A with Director	Hindi, Urdu Punjabi, Bengali, Hindi
August 22	Saturday	8.30 pm	Winkle Twinkle [124 Mins] WORLD PREMIERE Q&A with Director	Bengali
August 23	Sunday	6.30 pm	Graveyard Shift [12 Mins], Full Plate [109 Mins] CLOSING FILMS Q&A with Director	No Dialogue Hindi

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Village Knox

435 Burwood Highway, Wantirna South, Vic 3152 | Ticket information: Email info@iffm.com.au or visit <https://www.hoyts.com.au>

DATE	DAY	TIME	FILM - [DURATION]	LANGUAGE
August 15	Saturday	6.30 pm	Manch (A Stage) [122 Mins] World Premiere	Gujarati
August 16	Sunday	6.30 pm	Beacon of Light [7 Mins], Avi Atara (Between Arms) [75 Mins]	No Dialogue Sinhala, Tamil
August 18	Tuesday	6.30 pm	Private [133 Mins]	Malayalam
August 19	Wednesday	6.30 pm	Aradhana [165 Mins]	Hindi
August 20	Thursday	6.30 pm	The Voice of Old [15 Mins] Bride of Aravan [51 Mins]	Marathi Tamil
August 21	Friday	6.30 pm	Working Girls [133 Mins]	Bengali, Hindi, Malayalam, Marathi, Tamil, Telugu
August 22	Saturday	6.30 pm	Pankaja [14 Mins], Mayilaa (Peahen) [112 Mins]	Telugu, Kannada Tamil
August 23	Sunday	4.00 pm	Riverstone [119 Mins]	Sinhala

Village Sunshine

80 Harvester Road, Sunshine, Vic 3020 | Ticket information: Email info@iffm.com.au or visit <https://www.hoyts.com.au>

DATE	DAY	TIME	FILM - [DURATION]	LANGUAGE
August 15	Saturday	4.00 pm	Riverbed of Dried Petals [13 Mins] Biye Fiye Niye (All About Weddings) [96 Mins]	Hindi, English Bengali
August 16	Sunday	6.00 pm	And the Sun Said [21 Mins], In the Room [76 Mins]	No Dialogue English, Dari, Farsi
August 17	Monday	6.00 pm	Smriti~ (Memoria~) [13 Mins] Dear Awa [87 Mins]	Marathi Singpho, Assamese
August 18	Tuesday	6.00 pm	Music in a Village Named 1PB [130 Mins]	Hindi, Saraiki
August 19	Wednesday	6.00 pm	Giving Mom the Talk [14 Mins] Calorie [97 Mins]	English, Tamil English, Punjabi
August 20	Thursday	6.00 pm	Flying Tigers [105 Mins]	Bengali, Eng, German, Mandarin, Miya, Polish
August 22	Saturday	6.00 pm	Ghamela [25 Mins], Flames [86 Mins]	Hindi, Marathi Hindi
August 22	Saturday	7.30 pm	Nighiyaan Chhavan (Warm Shadows) [15 Mins] Far From Home [75 Mins]	Spiti Bhoti (Tibetan) Eng, Hindi, Punjabi
August 23	Sunday	4.00 pm	Kuchar (The Itch) [20 Mins] Mother [104 Mins]	English, Hindi English

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Village Geelong

194-200 Ryrie Street, Geelong VIC 3220 | Ticket information: Email info@iffm.com.au or visit <https://www.hoyts.com.au>

DATE	DAY	TIME	FILM - [DURATION]	LANGUAGE
August 22	Saturday	4.00 pm	Kuttikkali (Child's Play) [23 Mins] Loving Karma [85 Mins]	Malayalam English, Monpa, Hindi
August 22	Saturday	6.30 pm	Tuhade Vich Mera Aks (I See Myself In You) [9 Mins] Jersey Boy [105 Mins]	English, Punjabi English, Punjabi
August 23	Sunday	4.00 pm	This Tree Won't Fall [20 Mins] Delupi [98 Mins]	Hindi, Garhwali, Eng Bengali

Village Bendigo

107-109 Queen Street, Bendigo VIC 3550 | Ticket information: Email info@iffm.com.au or visit <https://www.hoyts.com.au>

DATE	DAY	TIME	FILM - [DURATION]	LANGUAGE
August 22	Saturday	4.00 pm	Photosensitive [20 Mins] Sheshippu (The Remnant) [111 Mins]	Hindi, Marathi Malayalam
August 22	Saturday	6.30 pm	'Tapman' The Man Who Loved Pollution [12 Mins] Bhaavi (The Well) [63 Mins]	Hindi Tamil, Kannada
August 23	Sunday	4.00 pm	Yeh Mera Ghar (My Home) [132 Mins]	Hindi

Village Shepparton

9-13 Stewart Street, Shepparton VIC 3630 | Ticket information: Email info@iffm.com.au or visit <https://www.hoyts.com.au>

DATE	DAY	TIME	FILM - [DURATION]	LANGUAGE
August 22	Saturday	4.00 pm	Njaan Revathi (I Am Revathi) [115 Mins]	Kannada, Malayalam, Tamil
August 22	Saturday	6.30 pm	Pinjar (The Cage) [137 Mins]	Bengali
August 23	Sunday	4.00 pm	Echoes [23 Mins] Spying Stars [99 Mins]	English, Hindi English, Sinhala

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Indian Film Festival of **MELBOURNE** 2026

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