



My Melbourne Returns: A Bold New Chapter in Indo-Australian Storytelling

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After the sweeping success and international acclaim of its debut, **My Melbourne**—the pioneering Indo-Australian film project—returns with a second edition that promises to be even more powerful, poignant, and globally resonant.

Presented by the **Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM)** and produced by **Mind Blowing Films**, this cinematic collaboration stands as a celebration of **diversity, inclusion, and cross-cultural dialogue**. Following its premiere in March 2025, the first chapter of **My Melbourne** captured hearts across India and Australia, weaving together stories of **identity, gender, race, sexuality, and disability** through the lenses of acclaimed directors Rima Das, Onir, Imtiaz Ali, and Kabir Khan.

The film not only garnered critical praise but also won **Best Film at the UK Asian Film Festival**, cementing its place as a standout international production. Now, **My Melbourne 2** is officially underway—with an even more iconic slate of directors attached to the project.

Cinematic Powerhouses Come Together

In a major announcement that has ignited excitement across the film community, **My Melbourne 2** brings together a dream team of Indian cinema’s finest:

- **Rajkumar Hirani** (PK, 3 Idiots)
- **Anjali Menon** (Bangalore Days, Koode)
- **Shoojit Sircar** (Piku, October, Vicky Donor)
- **Onir**, returning from the first edition

Each filmmaker is known for championing narratives that are heartfelt, socially conscious, and artistically rich—making them perfectly suited for this uniquely collaborative project that connects two nations through story.

A Vision Beyond Borders

Mitu Bhowmick Lange, CEO of Mind Blowing Films and the visionary behind **My Melbourne**, said the success of the first edition proved that stories grounded in authenticity can resonate universally.

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“The success of *My Melbourne* has been overwhelming and deeply fulfilling,” she shared. “It has proven that stories told with heart can transcend borders. We are honoured to once again collaborate with such esteemed filmmakers, while also giving emerging talent from underrepresented communities a platform to shine.”

At its heart, *My Melbourne* is more than a film—it’s a **movement**. A cultural bridge between India and Australia, it invites audiences to reflect, feel, and see the world through a more inclusive lens.

What the Filmmakers Are Saying

Rajkumar Hirani, one of India’s most beloved directors, expressed his enthusiasm:



MUMBAI, INDIA – AUGUST 27 : RAJKUMAR HIRANI ATTENDS THE DVD LAUNCH OF THE FILM ‘IDIOTS’ ON AUGUST 27, 2010 IN MUMBAI, INDIA. (PHOTO BY PRODIP GUHA/GETTY IMAGES)



“

**I am truly excited to be part of a project that uses cinema to explore diverse human experiences while connecting two vibrant cultures. *My Melbourne* offers a rare opportunity to tell a story that is intimate, universal, and culturally resonant.”**

”

Anjali Menon, celebrated for her nuanced and emotionally intelligent storytelling, added:



MUMBAI, INDIA – NOVEMBER 05: ANJALI MENON ATTENDS THE IMDB PORTRAIT STUDIO AT THE 2023 JIO MAMI MUMBAI FILM FESTIVAL ON NOVEMBER 05, 2023 IN MUMBAI, INDIA.  
(PHOTO BY ANURAG KABBUR FOR IMDB/GETTY IMAGES)

“

**The themes and intention behind *My Melbourne* align deeply with the kind of stories I love to tell—ones that build empathy and bring people closer. I’m thrilled to collaborate on this journey of storytelling across continents.”**

”

Shoojit Sircar, known for his powerful, socially relevant films, said:





“Storytelling knows no boundaries. *My Melbourne* is a meaningful initiative that reminds us how stories rooted in local contexts can have global significance.”

Returning director **Onir** reflected on the journey so far and what lies ahead:





BOLLYWOOD FILM DIRECTOR ONIR ATTENDS AN EVENT OF VICTORIAN STATE GOVERNMENT OF AUSTRALIA AND THE INDIAN FILM FESTIVAL OF MELBOURNE (IFFM) TO CELEBRATE INDIAN CINEMA, IN MUMBAI ON DECEMBER 8, 2023. (PHOTO BY SUJIT JAISWAL / AFP) (PHOTO BY SUJIT JAISWAL/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES)

“

Coming back for the second chapter of *My Melbourne* is like returning to a story that’s still unfolding. The opportunity to work with new themes and voices, while continuing a journey I deeply believe in, is truly rewarding.”

A Platform for Emerging Voices

In addition to enlisting some of the biggest names in Indian cinema, *My Melbourne* also serves as an incubator for emerging talent in Australia—particularly from **diverse and underrepresented communities**. This element is central to the project’s ethos: celebrating stories that too often go untold.

With production set to begin soon, **expressions of interest for creatives, technicians, and artists** to join *My Melbourne 2* officially open on **July 15**. Aspiring filmmakers and storytellers are encouraged to apply at [www.iffm.com.au](http://www.iffm.com.au).

**Final Take: More Than Just a Film**

In a time when cultural storytelling is more important than ever, *My Melbourne* is a rare gem—both as an artistic achievement and a diplomatic bridge. As the second instalment prepares to take shape, audiences across India, Australia, and beyond eagerly await another tapestry of narratives that are as personal as they are powerful.

With its focus on empathy, collaboration, and bold filmmaking, *My Melbourne* continues to prove that cinema is not just entertainment—it’s connection, courage, and change.

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