



Commencing operations in September 2007 at the Melbourne International Film Festival (MIFF), the **MIFF Premiere Fund** offers strategic minority co-financing to new Australian quality theatrical films (narrative-drama and documentaries) and, in exchange for the Fund's support, those films premiere at MIFF. The **MIFF Premiere Fund** deepens the festival's relationship with filmmaking talent and builds a pipeline of new quality Australian content for MIFF. Launched at **MIFF 2007** by Victorian State Premier John Brumby, the **MIFF Premiere Fund** has committed finance to 16 projects. Under the charge of MIFF Chair Claire Dobbin, the **MIFF Premiere Fund** Manager/Executive Producer is Mark Woods, former CEO of the Irish Film Board and Ausfilm and previously Head of Content Investment and International Acquisitions for Showtime Australia. Woods has co-invested in and Executive Produced many quality cinema titles, including *Rabbit Proof Fence*, *Japanese Story*, *Somersault*, *Breakfast on Pluto*, Palme d'Or winner *The Wind that Shakes the Barley*, and the Oscar-winning *Six Shooter*.

The **Premiere Fund** slate for **MIFF 2010** comprises the following.

- **KIN:** Romantic comedy from Director **Amanda Jane** and Producer **Nicole Minchin** with co-financing from the former Australian Film Commission (AFC) IndiVision program strand. Starring **Essie Davis** and **Isabel Lucas**. (Australian/NZ distributor: Arkles; World Sales Agent: **RIGHTS AVAILABLE**).
- **MATCHING JACK:** Family drama from Director **Nadia Tass** and Producer **David Parker**, starring **James Nesbitt**, **Jacinda Barrett**, **Richard Roxburgh** and **Kodi Smit-McPhee** (Australian/NZ distributor: 20th Century Fox; World Sales Agent: Content).
- **BLAME:** Psychological thriller from director **Michael Henry** and producers **Michael Robinson**, **Ryan Hodgson** and **Melissa Kelly**, with co-financing from ScreenWest. (Australian/NZ distributor: The Pack; Sales Agent: Highpoint)
- **BEN LEE: CATCH MY DISEASE:** From Director **Amiel Courtin-Wilson** (*Bastardy*) and Producer **Richard Lowenstein** (*Dogs in Space*), this feature documentary, seven years in the making, about pop music, spirituality, fame, family and celebrity, profiles the 30 year-old Australian star, who recorded his first album at age 14, through archival, performance and interview footage with **Ben Lee**, **Winona Ryder**, **Claire Danes**, **Jason Schwartzman**, **Michelle Williams** and others. (Australian Distributor: Madman; World Sales Agent: **RIGHTS AVAILABLE**).
- **MACHETE MAIDENS & MIDGET MAYHEM:** From director **Mark Hartley** (*Not Quite Hollywood*) and producer **Veronica Fury**, this feature documentary is a fast-moving odyssey into the little-explored province of Filipino genre filmmaking – complete with miniature James Bonds, karate kicking soul sisters, anorexic Rambos and gun-toting nuns - especially during the oppressive Marcos regime. (World Sales Agent: ABC Commercial).
- **MOTHER OF ROCK:** From director **Paul Clarke** and producer **Robert deYoung**, this feature documentary is a lively profile into 1960s New York-based Australian rock journalist Lillian Roxon, who authored the acclaimed Rock Encyclopedia, featuring Germaine Greer, Helen Reddy, Alice Cooper and Iggy Pop. (World Sales: SBS)

The **Premiere Fund** slate for **MIFF 2009** comprised the following world premieres:

- **BALIBO:** Political thriller from Director **Robert Connolly** (*The Bank*) and Producer John Maynard (*The Boys*), starring (**Anthony La Paglia**) and **Oscar Isaac** (*Body of Lies*), investigating the 1975 murders of the Balibo Five Australian journalists during the Indonesian invasion of East Timor. (Australian Distributor: **Footprint**; Sales Agent: **Content**).
- **BLESSED:** from Director: Ana Kokkinos (*Head On*) and Producer Al Clark (*Priscilla, Queen of the Desert*), *Blessed*, which stars **Frances O'Connor**, **Miranda Otto**, **Deborra-Lee Furness** and **William McInnes**, is an evocative feature film about mothers and children, about love and beauty, about being lost and finding your way home. (Australian Distributor: **Icon**; Sales Agent: **Bankside**). Winner of best screenplay at 2009 San Sebastian Film Festival.
- **BRAN NUE DAE:** from Director Rachel Perkins (*The First Australians*, *Radiance*) and Producer Robyn Kershaw (*Kath & Kim*, *Looking for Alibrandi*) and starring **Geoffrey Rush**, **Ernie Dingo**, **Magda Szubanski**, **Missy Higgins**, **Deb Mailman**, **Nigali Lawford**, **Tom Budge**, **San Sultan** and **Jessica Mauboy**, *Bran Nue Dae* is adaptation of a popular Aboriginal musical, the film is an upbeat coming-of-age, romantic musical and 1960s road movie featuring the choreography of Stephen Page. (World Sales Agent: **Bankside**). Selected for 2009 Toronto and 2010 Sundance and Berlin.
- **INDONESIA CALLING – JORIS IVENS IN AUSTRALIA:** A signature documentary, from Producer, Director, Writer John Hughes (*What I Have Written*, *After Mabo*), charting a little-told angle on the birth of the Indonesian Republic and the impact of Australian unions and a rogue Film Commissioner and an emerging film industry at a moment of crisis at the end of the age of Empire. (World Sales Agent: **RIGHTS AVAILABLE**).
- **THE LOVED ONES:** from Producer Mark Lazarus (*Australian Rules*) and Director/Writer Sean Byrne, whose short film *Advantage* was selected for Sundance 2008, *Loved Ones*, which stars **Xavier Samuel** and **Victoria Thaine**, tells the story of a young man in rural Victoria digging himself out his own grave. You don't have to die to go to hell! (Australian Distributor: **Madman**; Sales Agent: **Arclight**). Winner of 2009 Toronto Midnite Madness audience award.

The **Premiere Fund** slate for **MIFF 2008** included the following world premieres.

- **BASTARDY:** Producer: Philippa Campey; Director/Writer: Amiel Courtin-Wilson. An adventurous portrait of Jack Charles, a well-known personality on the streets of Melbourne, colourful fringe-dweller and sometime actor, that journeys into a little-seen side of Melbourne. *Bastardy* was voted by **MIFF 2008** audiences as the 8th most popular film overall and the 5th most popular documentary.
- **CELEBRITY: DOMINIC DUNNE:** Executive Producers: Sue Maslin (*Japanese Story*) & Daryl Dellora; Producers, Directors, Writers: Tim Jolley & Kirsty De Garis. Set against the backdrop of the Phil Spector trial, *Celebrity* traverses a world of intrigue, showbiz, the US justice system and the all-pervasive cult of celebrity and gives the inside scoop through on Vanity Fair's Dominick Dunne - a celebrated chronicler. Voted 9th most popular documentary during its sell-out run at **MIFF 2008**, *Celebrity* went on to the Sheffield and Hamptons Film Festivals. (Sales Agent: **Mercury Media**).
- **NOT QUITE HOLLYWOOD:** Director/Writer: Mark Hartley, Producers: Michael Lynch & Craig Griffin. A seriously entertaining and informative celebration of 1970s Oz-ploitation cinema featuring **Quentin Tarantino**, **Barry Humphries** and **Jamie Lee Curtis**. After its sell-out premieres at **MIFF 2008**, the film went on to 2008's Toronto, London, Sitges, Austin and Stockholm and 2009's Rotterdam. (Australian Distributor: **Madman**, USA distributor/World Sales Agent: **Magnolia**).
- **ROCK & ROLL NERD:** Producer/Director/Writer: Rhian Skirving). A rags to riches observational documentary following Melbourne musician and performance artist's Tim Minchin meteoric rise to international fame. (Australian Distributor: **Madman**).
- **WHATEVER HAPPENED TO BRENDA HEAN?:** Director: Scott Millwood; Producer: Michael McMahon (*Home Song Stories*). Explores the story of one of one of the world's first leaders of an environmental party and her fight to save Tasmania's Lake Pedder, which ends abruptly with her mysterious disappearance in 1979.