



2026 FESTIVAL PROGRAM

12th September – 24th October

@ ACE HOYTS Rockingham

5TH SEASON | PERTH | WESTERN AUSTRALIA



Featured images: (top) After Love, (bottom) The Skeleton Tree, Keith's First Day, Eat The Meat, Threads, Reaper 32, Magic Bibs, A Roof On The Head

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Rock The Boat Film Festival acknowledge the Whadjuk people of the Noongar nation, the traditional custodians of the land on which our office stands. We recognise their continuing connection to land, waters, and community. We pay our respects to their cultures, and to Elders past, present, and emerging.

DIRECTOR'S WELCOME



Renae Hardie Braovich
FESTIVAL FOUNDER & DIRECTOR

To the filmmakers: thank you. Every film in this program took more time, craft and nerve than an audience will ever know. It is a privilege to show it on screen.

Five seasons in, I still get the same joy seeing a student picking up a camera for the first time; an emerging storyteller finding their voice; an independent filmmaker building up their body of work. To be able to encourage and support filmmakers, no matter where they are on their creative journey, is a privilege. As this festival continues to grow, inviting films from every region of Western Australia, and through our collaboration with Yellowstone International Film Festival, our filmmakers have a path to get their stories out into the world.

The WA screen industry is building, and the people who will carry it into the future are in this program: in front of the camera and behind.

For five years, RTBFF has been my passion project. Did I envision it would expand this rapidly, with so many emerging Western Australian filmmakers entrusting their stories with us? No, but it was a hope that has become reality. To the organisations who have already joined us: you get to say you backed this generation of filmmakers early. And the invitation to support emerging filmmakers into the future is open to anyone who wants to sail along with us.

My thanks to this year's sponsors, our volunteers, and the Rock The Boat Film Festival team; above all, my Assistant Director, Joel Braovich. We all look forward to another year of emerging voices making waves.

Our fifth season runs on the support, generosity and collaboration of the below organisations.

Proudly presented by



— Supporting Partner —



— Major Partner —



— Collaborating Partner —



— Community Partners —



— Local Partner —



— Special Thanks —



— Special Thanks —





PERTH, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

What *we* do.

Alongside the film projects we're developing and the corporate films we produce, we offer:



Red Carpet Event Management

Awards nights, screenings and premieres across Perth & WA, produced end to end.



Film Classification

Done by Accredited Classifiers, at a highly competitive rate.



RHBFILMS.COM

EVENT SCHEDULE

OPENING NIGHT

Saturday, 12th September @ 6:00 pm

STUDENT SESSION

Sunday, 13th September @ 4:00 pm

SESSION 3: CONNECTION

Saturday, 19th September @ 6:00 pm

SESSION 4: RESILIENCE

Sunday, 20th September @ 4:00 pm

FINALISTS ANNOUNCED

Sunday, 27th September

AWARDS NIGHT

Saturday, 24th October @ 6:00 pm

Further event information (including about Filmmaker Networking and People's Choice Awards voting) can be found on [Humanitix](#).

"Adrift" by Nathan Burnby

PROUD MAJOR SPONSOR · 2026

Rotary Club of Rockingham



www.rotaryclubofrockinghamwa.org

Rotary Club of Rockingham is a proud major sponsor of Rock The Boat Film Festival once again in 2026. As we continue to support projects that create lasting positive change in our community, we congratulate all filmmakers on their involvement in this year's festival and on being a voice towards that change.

SERVICE ABOVE SELF



Community Projects

Lasting local impact across the Rockingham region.



Youth Development

Mentoring and leadership programs for young people.



Rotary Markets

Raising funds for important local events and causes.

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME · WE MEET



Mondays 6:00pm · Safety Bay Bowling Club

Cnr Gloucester Cres & Penguin Rd, Shoalwater WA

SUPPORTING EMERGING WA FILMMAKERS

WELCOME TO

Rockingham Centre

🕒 OPEN 7 DAYS

1 Council Ave, Rockingham WA 6168
(08) 9527 9155



— OFFICIAL PARTNER OF ROCK THE BOAT FILM FESTIVAL

Proud to be part of the story.

Cheering on Rock The Boat Film Festival
and Western Australia's emerging and
independent filmmakers.

🏪 150+ STORES 🍴 SYREN STREET DINING

🎬 ACE HOYTS CINEMAS



THE PERFECT PRESENT

[Buy now](#) →

One card for 150+ stores.

OPENING NIGHT

Saturday, 12th September @ 6:00 pm

Tickets \$25 (\$22.90 + \$2.10 booking fee)

BOOK HERE

Please note: any ticketholders under 15 years of age must be accompanied by an adult. Viewer discretion is advised. If this session was its own film, it would likely be classified:



Mature themes, violence and coarse language



Ask The Temp

OPEN SHORT FILM

Two co-workers are heading to the funeral of a colleague, when things take an unexpected turn.

Directed by: Poramet Ariyakusonsuthi

Written by: Marla Jane Lynch

Produced by: Poramet Ariyakusonsuthi & Marla Jane Lynch



WORLD PREMIERE

At Great Cost

OPEN DOCUMENTARY

An Overseas Filipino Worker recounts her journey in WA, driven by the exploitative political system of the Philippines and her profound love for her family.

Created by: Mariquiel Gonzales Factor, Alice Guidetti, Benjamin Gianni Payet, Alyssa Kamal Zaharin, Cate Lowry, Isabella Ovalle Quiroga, Tara Shore



At Snail's Place

OPEN SHORT FILM

A collection of three stop motion short stories about a snail family in their home.

Written, Directed, & Animated by: Ben Nixon



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Banana

OPEN SHORT FILM

A monkey keeps his precious new banana safe.

Written, Directed & Produced by: Louis Neylon-Williams



WORLD PREMIERE

Culture, Compressed

OPEN DOCUMENTARY

A closer look at AI's impact on Aboriginal art; what happens when complex culture is reduced from a product of lived knowledge, to data?

Created by: Zeke Morgan-Hind



Holiday Email

OPEN SHORT FILM

A man recites a holiday to France via email, describing his distaste and approval of certain photos.

Directed & Animated by: Ben Nixon

Written by: Rupert Williamson

Produced by: Matt Nixon



Invisible Difference

OPEN SHORT FILM (Documentary)

Chas and Sue Cameron look back on their family life, in sharing their story of how they raised and helped their deaf son Charles.

Directed & Produced by: Emma Louise Shadbolt



Keith's First Day

OPEN SHORT FILM

On his first day as a hitman, former bricklayer Keith is confronted with the reality of a job where bricks aren't the only thing being laid to rest.

Directed by: Conor Flint

Written by: Hannah Roxby

Produced by: Asha Haji



Last Light

OPEN SHORT FILM (Documentary)

Leith Phillips tells the story of how, after suffering a stroke, he discovered a new lens through which he's learned to look at the world.

Directed by: Andrew Barker

Written by: Leith Phillips

Produced by: Kirsten Barker



OPENING NIGHT

Saturday, 12th September @ 6:00 pm

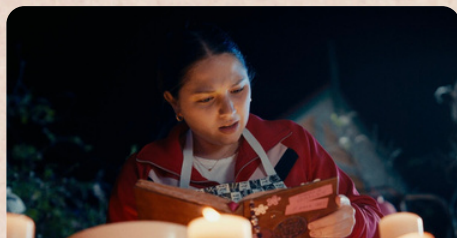
Tickets \$25 (\$22.90 + \$2.10 booking fee)

[BOOK HERE](#)

Please note: any ticketholders under 15 years of age must be accompanied by an adult. Viewer discretion is advised. If this session was its own film, it would likely be classified:



Mature themes, violence and coarse language



Magic Bibs

OPEN SHORT FILM

Nadia, the uptight captain of a failing social netball team attempts to fix their losing streak through the use of spell-casting.

Directed by: Hannah Roxby
Written by: Audrey Pike
Produced by: Ian Yap



Native Garden

OPEN DOCUMENTARY

The story of how Leda resident Behrooz tore up his lawn and planted over 200 plants on his 550m² property in a bid to bring back local wildlife.

Created by: Craig Clitheroe



Pandora

OPEN SHORT FILM

A teenager and his younger brother's curiosity gets the better of them and they unleash the family secret the father has protected for years.

Written & Directed by: General Mamoun Bashir
Produced by: Blade Schoen



Sacrifice for Love

OPEN SHORT FILM

Raised by her mother to fear the world beyond her front door, Emily's curiosity leads her to question if mother really does know best.

Written & Directed by: Lawson Wallace
Produced by: Adam Hall



Sit

OPEN SHORT FILM

An aimless twenty-something, George, housesits as a favour to an acquaintance, but on the property lurks something that may uncover his deepest fear...

Written, Directed & Produced by: George Butterworth



Surprise!

OPEN SHORT FILM

Oddy hopes to pull off the perfect surprise party for his beloved Penny, but must hatch a new plan when she comes home early and realises they're not alone.

Directed by: Elea Gilmore
Written by: Elea Gilmore & Denhm Torr
Produced by: Denhm Torr

INTERNATIONAL SHORT FILM EXCHANGE



Through our collaboration with Yellowstone International Film Festival, our Festival Director will select three short films from our Official Selection to be screened at Y.I.F.F. in India, giving WA filmmakers a chance at international recognition and opportunities that may otherwise be out of reach. In return, we are screening three short films from Y.I.F.F., offering international filmmakers the same. We are incredibly proud of this partnership and we can't wait to see how Y.I.F.F.'s selected short films will rock the boat!



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Rain in the Bathroom

OPEN SHORT FILM

A housemaid's daughter must use her ingenuity to fulfil her basic needs while respecting her mother's command to follow the norms set by class society.

Written, Directed & Produced by: Rohit Relan





Discover Yellowstone International Film Festival →

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



COLLABORATING PARTNER • 2026



★★★★★ FILMFREEWAY TOP 100 FESTIVAL

Proud to share a **global stage.**

We're proud to collaborate with Yellowstone International Film Festival on an International Short Film Exchange, carrying Western Australian voices to a global audience and welcoming Indian cinema to our screen.

3

YIFF films to be
screened at our festival

3

RTBFF films to be
screened in India

15–19 Nov 2026

Yellowstone International
Film Festival, India

RTBFF SELECTION REVEALED AT OUR AWARDS
NIGHT

ALMG
AUSTRALIAN LOCATION MANAGERS GUILD

SCOUTING INTENSIVE

5 & 12 SEP

**TWO FREE TICKETS FOR TWO
EARLY BIRD TICKET HOLDERS!**

ALMG
AUSTRALIAN LOCATION MANAGERS GUILD

Book your Rock The Boat Film Festival
tickets early to be in the draw .

BOOK BEFORE 31ST AUGUST

BOOK FESTIVAL TICKETS HERE

COURSE DETAILS HERE

STUDENT SESSION

Sunday, 13th September @ 4:00 pm

Adults \$25 (\$22.90 + \$2.10 booking fee)

Students \$17 (\$15.24 + \$1.76 booking fee)

BOOK HERE

Please note: any ticketholders under 15 years of age must be accompanied by an adult. Viewer discretion is advised. If this session was its own film, it would likely be classified:



Mental health themes, violence and coarse language



20 Minutes

A young woman embarks on a 20-minute walk home in the dark by herself... but not alone.

Created by: Ava Smigrodzki



A Hollow Dance

A young dancer hides a secret from her peers.

Directed by: Megan Bailey

Written by: Lexi Grey, Sofia Bowler, Miranda McLachlan

Produced by: Megan Bailey, Lexi Grey



OPEN SHORT FILM

Adrift

After his wife's death, a veteran astronaut accepts a high-risk solo mission to save humanity's future.

Written & Directed by: Nathan Burnby

Produced by: Luke Sawle

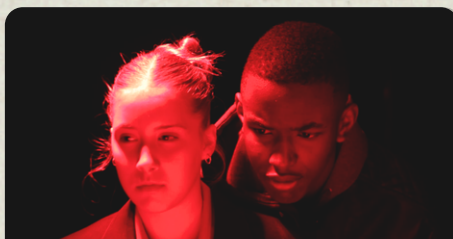


OPEN DOCUMENTARY

Ben Rocks

About the captain of UWA's Football Club.

Created by: Della Coleman, Iyla Cullen, Rosie Joel, Audrey Mallinder, Olive Stagen, Matilda Wright
With the assistance of: Brigette Downes



Beneath the Surface

Noa enters a surreal vision of her own mind, where her inner thoughts take physical form.

by the Year 9 Film Class at South Coast Baptist College



Let It Rest

Stacey, a high-schooler who copes with her anxiety and need for control through baking, must learn to embrace the fact that life is messy.

Created by: Mia Joy Harris



Little Wanderer

An exploration of friendship and empathy.

Directed by: Veronika Vitlov, Georgiana Lockerbie

Written by: Georgiana Lockerbie

Produced by: Sophie Oakey



Lost in Translation

Two childhood best friends start to develop feelings for each other, creating a divide between them.

Created by: Etta Mae Ivory



One Decision

A young man has to decide whether or not he wants to take some illicitly-obtained pills.

Written and Directed by: Kade Espiritu



Rat Utopia

A burnt-out office worker sees an upsetting reflection of himself in a co-worker.

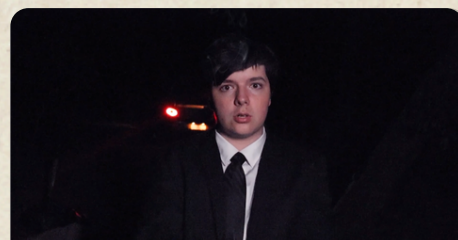
Created by: Namish Gupta & Pradeepan Sivaganesan



Return to Sender

A box of unsent love letters leads to a discovery of an old flame, and the spark of a new one.

Written & Directed by: Owen Godfrey & Advait Puthiyedath, Produced by: Joshua D'Lima



The Body

Two hitmen must bury both of the bodies they were hired to— wait, dude, where's the second body?

Written & Directed by: Cohen Taylor Grbavac
Produced by: Jace Stephen Osborne

STUDENT SESSION

Sunday, 13th September @ 4:00 pm

Adults \$25 (\$22.90 + \$2.10 booking fee)

Students \$17 (\$15.24 + \$1.76 booking fee)

BOOK HERE

Please note: any ticketholders under 15 years of age must be accompanied by an adult. Viewer discretion is advised. If this session was its own film, it would likely be classified:



Mental health themes, violence and coarse language



OPEN SHORT FILM

The Forgotten

Four teens stranded at the historical site of a child migration farm school perform a reckless séance.

Directed by: Zak Robson & Maitland Drake-Brockman
Produced by: Mr Media Creative & Frederick Irwin Anglican School



The Minstrel

After causing an accident, a travelling musician seeks forgiveness using the skills at their disposal.

Created by: Nur Hessa Jamel



The Ocean's Voice

The ocean is asking us to take better care of it and to not fill it with rubbish. It reminds us that if we look after the ocean, it will look after us, too.

Created by: Lincoln Morgan



OPEN SHORT FILM

The Painter

A failed painter tries to create her final masterpiece while descending into madness, blurring the line between inspiration and self-destruction.

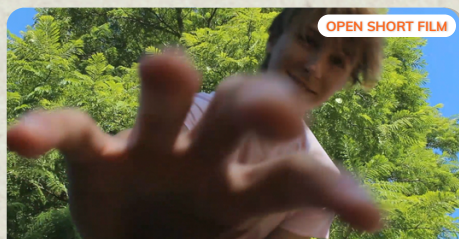
Written & Directed by: Oliver Turner
Produced by: Luke Sawle



Threads

A young investigator goes out into the field chasing up leads after a string of murders.

Written, Directed & Produced by: Noah Duncan



OPEN SHORT FILM

Touching Grass

A young man addicted to video games leaves his bedroom for the first time in years, and it completely changes his perspective on life.

Written, Directed & Produced by: Antony Giesemann



Wet Treasure

Following a map given to them by a dying legend, two pirates must convince a civilian homeowner to let them search for treasure in his backyard.

Directed by: Kieran Joshua Robinson
Written by: Matthew Reece Walford



AFTRS FUNDED PLACEMENTS

ALMG Major Sponsor [Australian Film Television and Radio School \(AFTRS\)](#) is supporting 10 x placements Australia wide. Learn more below.

Applications close 23 August. All applications will be assessed by an AFTRS assessment team to ensure they meet the eligibility criteria, and successful candidates will be notified by email by 1 September 2026.

[Apply For AFTRS Placements Here](#)

AFTRS

Australian Film Television
and Radio School

CHAMPIONING ASPIRING & EMERGING STUDENT FILMMAKERS

Congratulations

To the schools, colleges, universities and tertiary institutions whose aspiring and emerging filmmakers earned a place in the 2026 Rock The Boat Film Festival Official Selection.

PRIMARY SCHOOLS

01 Tranby College YK - 12

HIGH SCHOOLS & COLLEGES

01 Bold Park Community School

02 Court Grammar School

03 Dale Christian College

04 Frederick Irwin Anglican School

05 Harrisdale Senior High School

06 Iona Presentation College

07 Mount Lawley Senior High School

08 Newman Catholic College

09 Seton Catholic College

10 South Coast Baptist College

11 St John Bosco College

UNIVERSITIES & TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS

13 Curtin University

16 North Metropolitan
TAFE

18 South Metropolitan
TAFE

14 Edith Cowan University

17 SAE University College

19 University of Notre
Dame Australia

15 Murdoch University

TO OUR SELF-TAUGHT STORYTELLERS

To student filmmakers in this year's Official Selection who got here without a classroom behind them, a huge congratulations!



SESSION 3: CONNECTION

Saturday, 19th September @ 6:00 pm

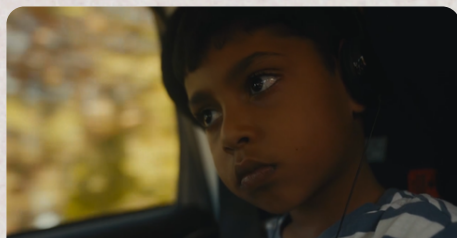
Tickets \$25 (\$22.90 + \$2.10 booking fee)

[BOOK HERE](#)

Please note: any ticketholders under 15 years of age must be accompanied by an adult. Viewer discretion is advised. If this session was its own film, it would likely be classified:



Strong coarse language

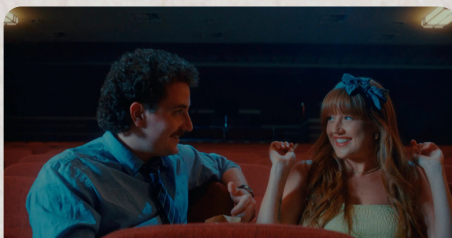


A Roof on the Head

OPEN SHORT FILM

As seen through the eyes of a six-year-old boy, a migrant family's search for housing collapses into conflict.

Written, Directed, & Produced by: Alok Rao



After Love

OPEN SHORT FILM

After dying in a sudden accident, Darlene wakes in a liminal cinema, where she meets another lost soul with whom she forms a connection.

Written & Directed by: Luke Botha
Produced by: Reuben Shaw

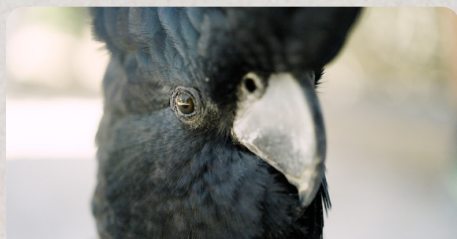


Chicken of Men

OPEN SHORT FILM

In the not-so-distant future, two roommates attempt to solve the chicken eggstinction problem by performing a ritual.

Written, Directed, & Produced by: Léonore Lacaze
Also Produced by: Tallulah Armenti & Demelza Lacaze



City Bird

OPEN DOCUMENTARY

Perth is home to the three species of threatened black cockatoo in Western Australia continuing to survive under increasing urban pressure.

Created by: Josh Clark



W.A. PREMIERE

Exeo

OPEN SHORT FILM

Two sisters escaping from a detention facility are pursued by a soldier who questions the morality of his tasks after a unique encounter.

Directed by: Justin Poi
Written & Produced by: Catherine Blakey & Justin Poi



Kick Ons

OPEN SHORT FILM

When every attempt to leave a backyard party fails, two 20-somethings must confront the fact that their lives (and friendship) are moving on.

Written, Directed, & Produced by: Luke Botha



Hold Me Closer

OPEN SHORT FILM

Mia dreams of being a dancer like her mother, but must grapple with the realisation that she is no longer the centre of her mother's world.

Written & Directed by: Leah Gregory
Story by: Lucia García Bravo
Produced by: Lily Atkinson



Pain is Truth

OPEN SHORT FILM

An insecure young man attends an intense self-improvement seminar and must decide how much of himself he is willing to sacrifice for acceptance.

Written & Directed by: Ash Tunbridge
Produced by: Ash Tunbridge, Jakob Wells, Chantel Bell



W.A. PREMIERE

Salt in the Veins

OPEN DOCUMENTARY

Two brothers who have surfed together for over 50 years continue to defy age and expectations.

Written & Directed by: Emilie Lowe
Produced by: Suzanne Lowe



SESSION 3: CONNECTION

Saturday, 19th September @ 6:00 pm

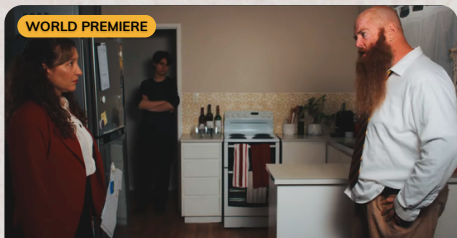
Tickets \$25 (\$22.90 + \$2.10 booking fee)

[BOOK HERE](#)

Please note: any ticketholders under 15 years of age must be accompanied by an adult. Viewer discretion is advised. If this session was its own film, it would likely be classified:



Strong coarse language



WORLD PREMIERE

Shattered

OPEN SHORT FILM

A young man futilely vies for the attention of his parents, whose marriage is at its breaking point.

Written & Directed by: Tahlia Davis
Produced by: Ruby Stammers



Spin Cycle

OPEN SHORT FILM

A young actress tries to process her grief for a breakup by translating it into a performance.

Written & Directed by: Charlotte Kennedy & Laurie Gelmi
Produced by: Haylee Nguyen



The Skeleton Tree

OPEN SHORT FILM

After her mother's funeral, young Melody must deal with the grief consuming her family.

Directed by: Michael McCall
Written by: Steve McCall
Produced by: Brooke Thomas



Through the Lens

OPEN DOCUMENTARY

A quirky roadside icon holds within it the largest collection of cameras in the Southern Hemisphere. This is the story of how it exists and why it matters.

Created by: Zeke Morgan-Hind
Co-Produced by: Lucinda Spence



WORLD PREMIERE

Where the Light Leaks

OPEN SHORT FILM

A girl escapes into a dreamlike world to avoid the reality of domestic violence within her home. But is escape a form of survival- or a form of surrender?

Written, Directed, & Produced by: Sophie Coghlan



Where the Rain Goes

OPEN DOCUMENTARY

In WA's Wheatbelt, nearly half of all rainfall never reaches the seed. A team of Murdoch University researchers may have found a way to change that.

Written, Directed, & Produced by: Alastair Bruce

INTERNATIONAL SHORT FILM EXCHANGE



Through our collaboration with Yellowstone International Film Festival, our Festival Director will select three short films from our Official Selection to be screened at Y.I.F.F. in India, giving WA filmmakers a chance at international recognition and opportunities that may otherwise be out of reach. In return, we are screening three short films from Y.I.F.F., offering international filmmakers the same. We are incredibly proud of this partnership and we can't wait to see how Y.I.F.F.'s selected short films will rock the boat!



W.A. PREMIERE

Razaa

OPEN SHORT FILM

A young woman and her mother have an argument while waiting at an abortion clinic.

Written & Directed by: Pooja Tolani
Produced by: Radhika Sawhney & Suresh Triveni



CONSTRUCTIONS PTY LTD

Commercial & Industrial Contractors

Fit Out & Refurbishment

Demolition

Construction Trades Personnel

0413 108 326

admin@npiconstructions.com.au

NPI CONSTRUCTIONS PTY LTD



**DAVID THE
HANDYMAN**

QUALIFIED CABINET MAKER · OVER 30 YEARS

**Reliable, on time, competitively priced
and always cleans up after himself.**



Property Maintenance



Repairs, Doors & Flat Pack



Residential and Commercial



Custom Cabinetry Work



Happy to service the film industry: set builds, props,
and repairing locations after the shoot.

FULLY INSURED · POLICE CLEARANCE · UPFRONT QUOTES

 rockinghamhandyman.com.au



KAYA! · AN INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY CHOIR

"Fremantle in Truth"

A Noongar-led choir deepening our shared understanding
of Noongar culture, history and language through song. All
ages, backgrounds and abilities, no audition required.

SESSIONS Fortnightly, Tuesdays 6:30–8:30 PM

WHERE Walyalup Fremantle Arts Centre

LED BY Kobi Arthur Morrison

COME AND SING WITH US

Find us on Facebook & Instagram @walyalupkannajil

EVENT LIVE-STREAMING & REMOTE
PRODUCTION

LIVE

**A'Live &
Streaming**

***Your moment, streamed live,
anywhere.***

From weddings and celebrations of life to music, corporate
and niche sporting events. Professional live-streaming,
produced live on location across Perth & the Southwest or
fully remote from anywhere.

WEDDINGS

CELEBRATIONS OF LIFE

MUSIC

CORPORATE & AWARDS

SPORT

BRING YOUR EVENT TO LIFE

 @aliveandstreaming



SESSION 4: RESILIENCE

Sunday, 20th September @ 4:00 pm

Tickets \$25 (\$22.90 + \$2.10 booking fee)

[BOOK HERE](#)

Please note: any ticketholders under 15 years of age must be accompanied by an adult. Viewer discretion is advised. If this session was its own film, it would likely be classified:



Mature themes, violence, coarse language and sexual references



WORLD PREMIERE

Alien Echo

OPEN SHORT FILM

Driven by her father's legacy, a brilliant but troubled scientist must confront her demons and addiction to capture an alien signal and carve out her own future.

Written and Directed by: Mark Regan
Produced by: Mark Regan & Tanya Regan



An Artist's Curse

OPEN SHORT FILM

The nightmares of a mother's childhood bleed into her present, blurring the line between delusion and reality.

Written & Directed by: Steven J Mihaljevich
Produced by: Jay Jay Jegathesan



Bound to the Martuwarra

OPEN DOCUMENTARY

Artist and sculptor Jody Loaring reflects upon her resource-gathering process at the mouth of the Martuwarra in the coastal town of Derby.

Directed and Produced by: Benjamin Loaring
Written by: Jody Loaring



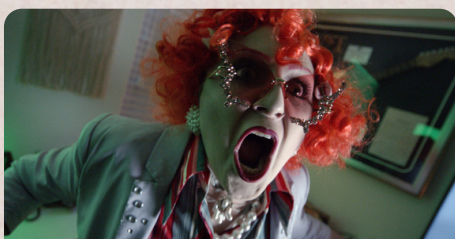
WORLD PREMIERE

Dandelion

OPEN SHORT FILM

A young man fears that his friendships will not be resilient enough to survive over a long distance.

Directed by: Amy Tulk
Written by: Wyatt Booth
Produced by: Hunter Lyons



Eat The Meat

OPEN SHORT FILM

After a mob of outraged reactionaries disrupt a local Drag Story Time event, a drag artist and her partner are attacked at home by mind-controlled protestors.

Written & Directed by: Jacob Kemp
Produced by: Ying Chu



WORLD PREMIERE

Four Name Tags

OPEN SHORT FILM

After one member leaves the clothing brand "Four Name Tags", a viral hate account begins destroying the company's reputation online.

Written, Directed, & Produced by: Callum M. Pilkington



Mother Tree

OPEN SHORT FILM

An adventurous tree-kid separated from their mother discovers that allowing themselves to be vulnerable will help them find their way home.

Directed and Produced by: Keina Sugiyama



My Capable Hands

OPEN SHORT FILM

Artist and sculptor Len Zuks reflects on ageing, creativity, and legacy, and how he hopes to guide the next generation of artists taking their first steps.

Directed by: Peter Renzullo
Written by: Len Zuks
Produced by: Jay Jay Jegathesan



Out of Service

OPEN SHORT FILM

An experimental bush-noir exploring the tension between what is seen and what is heard.

Written, Directed & Produced by: Jasmine Formato

SESSION 4: RESILIENCE

Sunday, 20th September @ 4:00 pm

Tickets \$25 (\$22.90 + \$2.10 booking fee)

[BOOK HERE](#)

Please note: any ticketholders under 15 years of age must be accompanied by an adult. Viewer discretion is advised. If this session was its own film, it would likely be classified:



Mature themes, violence, coarse language and sexual references



Reaper 32

OPEN SHORT FILM

A rogue super-soldier must unite with unlikely allies to rescue the only person to make him feel human, lest her loss destroys what remains of his humanity.

Directed by: Kian Martinus & Ricky Roy Anderson
Written by: Ricky Roy Anderson
Produced by: Kian Martinus & Ricky Roy Anderson



Spark

OPEN SHORT FILM

23 year old pianist Lottie is up for a life-changing audition, but must confront her grief for the recent loss of her mother to reignite the spark she lost.

Written, Directed & Produced by: Indiah Clark
Also Produced by: Alison Scott & Rebecca Owens



Sweet Oblivion

OPEN DOCUMENTARY

A celebration of the Y HQ all ages gig space in Boorloo (Perth), the people who make it, and what we risk if we lose it.

Directed and Produced by: Sophie Minissale
Also Produced by: George Samios



The Becoming

OPEN SHORT FILM

A woman confronts the versions of herself who she refuses to release, and must decide whether to stand on, or finally become who she is meant to be.

Written, Directed & Produced by: Angie Stojic



The Night We Met

OPEN SHORT FILM

At a bad Halloween party, Maddi meets someone who helps remind her of the special times she spent with her mother.

Written & Directed by: Hulangoo Unurbat
Original Story by: Bel Townsend
Produced by: Mia Pangiarella



To the Last Slice

OPEN SHORT FILM

At game night, three friends with fantastical powers fight over the last slice of pizza.

Written, Directed & Produced by: Henry Peters

INTERNATIONAL SHORT FILM EXCHANGE



Through our collaboration with Yellowstone International Film Festival, our Festival Director will select three short films from our Official Selection to be screened at Y.I.F.F. in India, giving WA filmmakers a chance at international recognition and opportunities that may otherwise be out of reach. In return, we are screening three short films from Y.I.F.F., offering international filmmakers the same. We are incredibly proud of this partnership and we can't wait to see how Y.I.F.F.'s selected short films will rock the boat!



W.A. PREMIERE

Automagic

OPEN SHORT FILM

On his return home, an androgynous man attempts to seduce his rickshaw driver, who is practicing celibacy in preparation for a religious pilgrimage.

Written & Directed by: Ashok Vish
Produced by: Claire Chassagne & Ashok Vish

5TH SEASON JURY

Meet RTBFF's Judges for 2026

[READ THEIR FULL BIOS HERE!](#)

Four filmmakers from across the W.A. screen and arts community are deciding this year's awards.



Michael Abercromby

Judge Chair, Actor, Writer, Director

Perth actor, writer and director seen in *Last Train to Freo*, *The Surfer* and *I Met a Girl*. He lectures and directs and WAAPA and John Curtin College of the Arts.



Alexandra Nell

Actor, Director, Producer 

A NIDA acting graduate working across the Australian and US industries, screened on Netflix, Stan, ABC view and SBS. Best Actress at the 28th WA Screen Awards.



Carmelo Musca

Director, Producer, Writer

Nearly four decades making films in WA. ATOM Award winner for *My Asian Heart*; ScreenWest & Lotterywest Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Industry.



Jemma King

Producer, Educator, Audio Engineer

Producer and educator on Whadjuk Noongar country. She began at ABC Perth and lectured Curtin Screen Arts students, producing Noongar Dandjoo TV.

A Note for Transparency: as with every previous year of RTBFF, any judges who play a role in a selected short film will be excluded from the judging process for that film, and made ineligible for any Awards of Recognition. This year, Alexandra Nell plays the lead role in *Ask The Temp* (dir. Poramet Ariyakusonsuthi), and thus, she will not judge the film, nor will she be an eligible nominee for Best Performance. For more information about our Awards of Recognition, please see our website.



OFFICIAL SELECTION 2026

CHAMPIONING INDEPENDENT FILMMAKERS

Congratulations

To the independent filmmakers in this year's Official Selection: the ones who financed it themselves, borrowed the gear, called in the favours and finished the film anyway.

And to all our filmmakers, drawn from every corner of Western Australia: good luck with your screenings and the judging ahead. May this be the start of something bigger – new connections, future collaborations, and films that keep travelling to festivals, audiences and screens well beyond our own.

ROCK THE BOAT FILM FESTIVAL



2026 AWARDS NIGHT

24th October
ACE HOYTS ROCKINGHAM

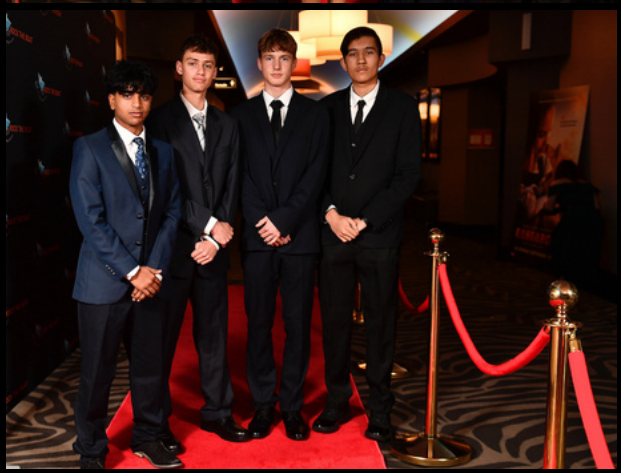
DRESS FOR THE RED CARPET!

PHOTOS, FOOD, FUN AND A
FABULOUS NIGHT CELEBRATING
OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS AND
WATCHING SHORT FILMS FROM SOME
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA'S BEST
EMERGING FILMMAKERS.

A NIGHT NOT TO BE MISSED!

[BOOK HERE](#)







Supporting emerging and independent WA filmmakers.



Program may be subject to changes and updates.

The Organisers reserve the right to adjust or amend elements of the Festival Program should it be deemed necessary and of importance to do so for the positive continuation of the Festival.