



# BOLLYWOOD

## *Film Festival*

### 2023 PROGRAM GUIDE

2-5 NOVEMBER





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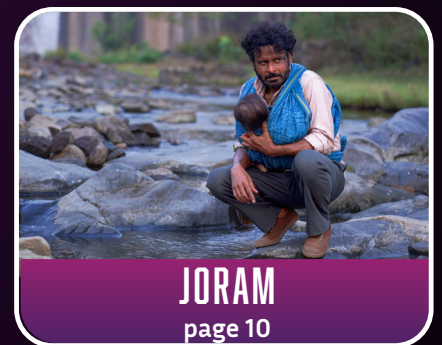
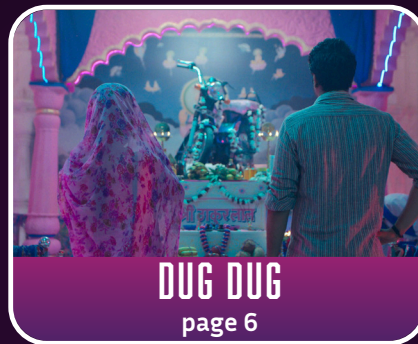
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Showcasing the very best of Indian cinema from around the globe, the Bollywood Film Festival Australia presents a unique opportunity to highlight the cultural significance of India through a cinematic lens.



## Participating Venues

Sydney – Dendy Newtown  
Canberra – Dendy Canberra  
Brisbane – Dendy Coorparoo & Dendy Portside  
Gold Coast – Dendy Southport  
Melbourne - Cinema Nova  
Adelaide - The Piccadilly, Wallis Cinemas  
Perth - Luna Leederville



# OPENING NIGHT

## KENNEDY

Thursday 2 November, 6.30pm



In Hindi, English and Marathi (with English Subtitles) · CRIME · 143mins · Unclassified 18+ ·

Director: Anurag Kashyap · Starring: Rahul Bhat, Sunny Leone, Mohit Takalkar, Abhilash Thapliyal, Megha Burman.

### SYNOPSIS

Kennedy, an insomniac ex-cop, presumed dead poses as a driver but is actually an expert assassin, extortionist and blackmailer. He does job after gruesome job on the instructions of corrupt Police Commissioner Rasheed Khan. During one of his jobs, Kennedy meets the mysterious Charlie and together they become embroiled in a drama that reaches the upper echelons of society.

### OPENING NIGHT GALA

Enjoy a Sydney Beer on arrival and a sweet treat!

Cricket legend and Bollywood star Brett Lee, will be a special guest on the opening night at Dendy Newtown in Sydney.





From the Director of **GANGS OF WASSEYPUR, UGLY** and **PSYCHO RAMAN**

**RAHUL  
BHAT**  
**SUNNY  
LEONE**



FESTIVAL DE CANNES  
OUT OF COMPETITION  
2023 OFFICIAL SELECTION

## ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Anurag Kashyap is the most influential Indian filmmaker in recent times with a superlative career including more than 50 films as a director producer, screenwriter, editor and actor. He was awarded the Knight of the Order of Arts and Letter by the French government in 2013 and was voted as one the top 50 influential Indians by India Today.

"I've lived with the character for a very long time since I was writing for Sudhir Mishra and he used to tell me stories of this mad policeman. Then years later during the lockdown, a headline incident happened in Mumbai and that triggered an idea, and I took the cop from Sudhir Mishra's stories and put him around that incident and 'Kennedy' was born." - Anurag Kashyap



# DUG DUG

Friday 3 November, 7:00pm



Hindi (English subtitles) · COMEDY MYSTERY SATIRE · 107mins · Unclassified 18+ ·  
Director: Ritwik Pareek · Starring: Altaf Khan, Yogendra Singh Parmar, Durga Lal Saini, Mukul  
Kumar Mk Singh, Gaurav Soni.

## SYNOPSIS

40-year-old alcoholic, Thakur, is riding his bike on a highway one night and dies a gruesome death. Next morning, Thakur's bike disappears from the police station, and is found on the exact same spot where Thakur had died. After more bizarre incidents, the villagers take these as signs from heaven and declare that Thakur has become a god. Inspired by true events, the movie revolves around the mystery of Thakur's bike, people's honest faith in the higher power, and how a new religion spreads like wildfire.



## FROM THE DIRECTOR

"My film is a blend of larger-than-life cinematic visuals and unpretentious rawness of Indian rural life where I want viewers to lose themselves in the bizarre and colourful world of Dug Dug. Viewers may find my cinematic world to be very absurd, funny, and bizarre. But I assure you, once you travel across India, you will realize that the reality is far more absurd than my film, Dug Dug". - Ritwik Pareek



# TO KILL A TIGER

Saturday 4 November, 4:00pm



Hindi and Nagpuri (English subtitles) · DOCUMENTARY · 125mins · Unclassified 18+ ·

Director: Nisha Pahuja · Producers: Cornelia Principe, David Oppenheim (Producers), Anita Lee, Andy Cohen, Atul Gawande, Andrew Dragoumis (executive producers)

## SYNOPSIS

On the night of a family wedding in a village in India, Ranjit's 13-year-old daughter is dragged into the woods and gang raped by three men. Ranjit takes on the fight of his life when he demands the accused be brought to justice. With tremendous access to all facets of the story, *To Kill a Tiger* charts the emotional journey of an ordinary man thrown into extraordinary circumstances—a father whose love for his daughter forces a social reckoning that will reverberate for years to come.



## FROM RANJIT'S DAUGHTER

"People should see this film, because of the courage we showed—how to face people, how to deal with this situation, people can learn from this. They'll think, if her family can do it, why can't we? I wanted people to see me. After doing all this, why should I hide myself? At first, I thought what will people think, now I feel, after going through all that, why go backwards. This is why I feel I should be shown in the film. Sometimes I can't believe that was me – how did I find the courage? But you do, when something happens to you, you can find the courage."



# FIRE IN THE MOUNTAINS

Saturday 4 November, 6:45pm

"There is an elegant simplicity to this movie, but nothing about it feels easy."  
– The New York Times



Hindi (English subtitles) · DRAMA · 84mins · Unclassified 15+ ·

Director: Ajitpal Singh · Starring: Vinamrata Rai, Chandan Bisht,  
Harshita Tiwari, Mayank Singh Jaira

## SYNOPSIS

A mother toils to save money to build a road in a Himalayan village to take her wheelchair-bound son for physiotherapy but her husband who believes that a shamanic ritual is the remedy, steals her savings.





# BRAND BOLLYWOOD DOWNUNDER

Sunday 5 November, 4:00pm

“  
Our cinema is the  
richest cinema in the  
world. We don't sell  
misery of life.  
We celebrate life.  
”

Anupam Kher

ACTOR & TEACHER



English and Hindi (English subtitles) · DOCUMENTARY · 89mins · Unclassified 15+ ·

Director: Anupam Sharma · Starring: Anupam Kher, Mike Rann, Jacqui Feeney, Farhan Akhtar, Hon. Ted Baillieu, Fardeen Feroz Khan, Julie Marlow, Tammy Bartaia, Sajid Nadiadwala, Ritesh Sidhwani.

## SYNOPSIS

Brand Bollywood Downunder is the story of the 'Bollywoodisation' and globalisation of Indian popular cinema through its love affair with Australia. Delve beneath the colourful exterior of Hollywood's biggest rival to discover the artistry, organised chaos, music, dance, politics and unique characters that have led to Bollywood taking Australia by storm.

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

“What you see in Brand Bollywood Downunder is my homage to the world's most prolific, followed, colourful, enchanting, ridiculed, engaging and celebratory film industry. The film is a look at the confused, well-meaning, chaotic, unpredictable Australian reaction to the equally chaotic and confused Bollywood, as it invaded iconic Australian locations.”

- Anupam Sharma



# CLOSING NIGHT

## JORAM

Sunday 5 November, 6:00pm



Hindi (English subtitles) · THRILLER · 138mins · Unclassified 15+ ·

Director: Devashish Makhija · Starring: Manoj Bajpayee, Mohd. Zeeshan Ayyub, Smita Tambe, Megha Mathur, Tannishtha Chatterjee, Rajshree Deshpande.

### SYNOPSIS

A desperate man and his infant daughter fleeing a system that want them crushed at any cost, a cop giving unwilling chase, and a bereaved mother seeking ruthless vengeance, collide in a tense, breathless survival thriller across a brutal landscape of devastated forests, blind greed, rebellion, and the bloody aftershocks of 'development'.

### FROM THE DIRECTOR

"JORAM echoes the ancient wisdom of the indigenous peoples...'When the blood in your veins returns to the sea, and the earth in your bones returns to the ground, perhaps then you will remember that this land does not belong to you. It is you who belong to this land!'"

- Devashish Makhija

