



SXSW SYDNEY® REVEALS ITS FULL SCREEN FESTIVAL PROGRAM

7 days of screenings, featuring over 100 feature films, 5 World Premieres and 39 Australian Premieres

*A live script read of the Australian 1983 classic, **BMX Bandits**, with Alexei Toliopoulos and Gen Fricker*

*A spotlight on **The Wicker Man** featuring the cult 1973 original and its unhinged 2006 remake*

An expanded shorts program and much, much more!

[IMAGES AVAILABLE HERE](#)

Tuesday 16 September – South by Southwest Sydney® (SXSW Sydney) has unveiled its full 2025 Screen program, with 100 screenings over seven days and a lineup that spans everything from bold genre cinema to masterful dramas.

Leading the charge are the Festival's already announced Opening Night film ***Springsteen: Deliver Me from Nowhere*** starring **Jeremy Allen White** and Headliner titles hot off the festival circuit including ***Bugonia***, ***Nirvana The Band The Show The Movie***, ***Die My Love***, ***If I Had Legs I'd Kick You*** and Universal Pictures' and Blumhouse's ***Black Phone 2***.

The programme's special Featured Sessions will include Japanese thriller ***Exit 8***, based on the viral game of the same name by Kotake Create; winner of the 2025 Cannes Un Certain Regard Prize, ***The Mysterious Gaze of the Flamingo***; and ***Peter Hugar's Day*** which sees Ben Whishaw reunite with *Passages* director Ira Sachs for another revealing account of the queer experience.

Receiving their Australian premieres in this category will be Paramount Pictures' ***Primate*** from director **Johannes Roberts**, producer **Walter Hamada** and starring Oscar® winner **Troy Kotsur**; ***Luna Rose***, the fourth feature by Puerto Rican director and musician **Omar Rodríguez-López**, frontman for Grammy-winning band, The Mars Volta; and ***F*ck My Son!*** a gleefully profane adaptation of Johnny Ryan's underground comic about a decrepit mother who will stop at nothing to get her mutant son laid.

The Festival's Showcase feature film highlights include fantasy drama ***The Ice Tower*** starring Oscar® winner **Marion Cotillard**; dark comedy ***Psycho Therapy*** starring **Steve Buscemi**; **Amanda Kramer's** outlandish and absurd body-swap dramedy ***By Design***, starring Oscar® nominee **Juliette Lewis**, **Melanie Griffith** and **Udo Kier**; indie satire ***Magic Farm*** starring Oscar® nominee and Golden Globe® winner **Chloë Sevigny**, **Alex Wolff** and **Simon Rex**; **Pete Ohs' *The True Beauty Of Being Bitten By A Tick***; **Oscar Boyson's** audacious drama ***Our Hero, Balthazar*** starring **Jaeden Martell**, **Chris Bauer**, **Asa Butterfield** and **Noah Centineo**; **Hailey Gates' feature length debut *Atropia***; **John C. Reilly starrer *Heads Or Tails?*** a surreal Western from Italian directorial duo **Alessio Rigo de Righi** and **Matteo Zoppis**; British genre auteur **Ben Wheatley's *Bulk***; and local Australian productions including ***Proclivitas***, from debut writer / director **Miley Tunnecliffe** and producer **Kate Separovich** and ***The Great Entertainer*** in collaboration with the Foxtel Group, honouring the extraordinary life and career of **Brian Walsh**. The captivating documentary will receive its world premiere at the Ritz on Thursday 16 October, and feature a pre-screening in-conversation with **Rudi McGregor**, **Bernadette Cooper**, **Lana Greenhalgh** and **Matt Shirvington**, moderated by **Deborah Hutton OAM**.

SXSW Sydney Screen Festival Director Jordan Bastian said: "What we love about film and what shapes our program, is seeking out filmmakers who are bold, creative, and willing to take risks. We are not here for safe choices or predictable cinema. We want stories that stay with you, that make you feel something long after the credits roll. SXSW Sydney is about films that excite us, and voices setting the tone for a new era of film. Come discover, be surprised, and fall for cinema all over again."

In the Episodic Program, Jungle Entertainment will present a sneak peek of its hotly anticipated Stan Original series **He Had It Coming**, followed by a Q&A with key creators, including **Gretel Vella** (creator, writer, and EP) at Dendy Newtown; audiences can also look forward to premieres of **The Sleeping Beauty**, a horror by acclaimed Laotian director **Mattie Do**; **Jacques The Giant Slayer** from celebrated directorial duo **Aaron Moorhead** and **Justin Benson**; and **Nuhash Humayun's** horror **Dui Shaw**.

SXSW Sydney is doubling down on its love of short films this year, expanding the program to include four new spotlights: television pilots, horror anthologies, and a showcase of the best emerging Australian filmmakers including a collection of First Nations shorts from filmmakers across the country.

Headlining this year's shorts program is the uniquely hypnotising 27-minute short **How To Shoot A Ghost** directed by **Charlie Kaufman** and starring Oscar nominee **Jessie Buckley** and discovery **Josef Akiki**; BAFTA-nominated **Stomach Bug**; **Chasing The Party**, produced by Oscar winner **Sam Rockwell**; **Kwatye Urrere** created by GARUWA's Kieran Satour; Jack Salvadori's **Blondi** co-written by BAFTA winner **Peter Greenaway**; and **Help, I'm Alien Pregnant** starring **Hannah Lynch**, **Arlo Gibson** and **Tandi Wright**.

A selection of shorts from the program will also screen at Tumbalong Park as part of the free SXSW Sydney Unlocked program.

The innovative future of the moving image will also be showcased across a curated selection of music videos including **King Gizzard & the Lizard Wizard's** 'Grow Wings and Fly' directed by **Hayden Somerville**; **Emily Wurramara's** 'Lordy Lordy' directed by **Claudia Sangiorgi Dalimore**; 'Always Looking' directed by **Millar Wileman** for **Winter McQuinn and Friends**; **Gut Health's** 'Cool Moderator' directed by **Renee Kypriotis**; and 'Coup de Gronk' for **Party Dozen** directed by **Tanya Babić** and **Jason Sukadana**.

Comedians and cinephiles **Alexei Toliopoulos** (*The Last Video Store* podcast, *Finding Yeezus*) and **Gen Fricker** (*Gruen*) will return to the SXSW Sydney stage to host a **live script read** of the Australian 1983 classic, **BMX Bandits** to celebrate the beloved Aussie action classic. Joined onstage by some of Australia's favourite, funniest performers and special guests on Friday 17 October at Dendy Newtown, this is a live script that is guaranteed to be as thrilling as chucking a wheelie down the escalators at Warringah Mall.

Additional programming highlights this year include the already announced **Paul Feig Retrospective** which will feature a screening of **Bridesmaids** followed by a special Q&A with the man himself, as well as a screening of **The Heat** and a 14-hour **Freaks and Geeks** marathon to honour his work. Audiences can also look forward to a **The Wicker Man Spotlight** which features a screening of **The Last Sacrifice**, followed by an unhinged double feature of the 1973 original cult version of **The Wicker Man**, and the 2006 version of **The Wicker Man** starring **Nicholas Cage**.

Judging the projects in-competition will be:

BEST FEATURE: Alexei Toliopoulos (Comedian, Podcaster), Michael Shanks (Director), Mish Wittrup (Comedian, Writer, Podcaster)

BEST SHORT: Ben McLeay (Programmer Two Bit Cinema, cult twitter), Jenna Suffern (Comedian, Producer), Zachary Ruane (Comedian, Writer, Podcaster)

BEST EPISODIC: Gen Fricker (Comedian, Writer, Podcaster), Neil Sharma (Director), Remy Hii (Actor)

BEST MUSIC CLIP: Ben Lee (Musician), Campbel McNeil (Co-Founder Lunatic Entertainment, Manager of ChVrches), Ruby Miles (Laneway Festival Programmer, Radio Host on Triple J)

SXSW Sydney runs October 13-19, 2025, across venues including Dendy Newtown, Ritz Cinemas, Palace Cinemas and, for the first time, the Seymour Centre. **To view the full SXSW Sydney Screen program or to secure Passes, Wristbands and Rush Tickets, visit sxswsydney.com.**

SXSW SYDNEY 2025: 13 – 19 OCTOBER

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About SXSW Sydney

SXSW Sydney is an annual gathering of visionaries, thought leaders and emerging talents from the Asia-Pacific region. The week-long program is stacked with 1,600 events and networking sessions across the conference, expo and the tech and innovation, games, music and screen festivals. The event seamlessly integrates art and entrepreneurship with cutting-edge advancements, fostering a collaborative ecosystem where ideas are exchanged and partnerships are forged. SXSW Sydney 2025 will take place on 13–19 October, on the land of the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation. SXSW SYDNEY, SOUTH BY SOUTHWEST SYDNEY and other SXSW, LLC marks used under license.

About SXSW

South by Southwest (SXSW) dedicates itself to helping creative people achieve their goals. Founded in 1987 in Austin, Texas, SXSW is best known for its conferences and festivals that celebrate the convergence of tech, film and television, music, education, and culture. An essential destination for global professionals, the annual March event features sessions, music, and comedy showcases, film and television screenings, exhibitions, professional development, and a variety of networking opportunities. SXSW proves that the most unexpected discoveries happen when diverse topics and people come together. SXSW 2026 will take place from March 12-18 in Austin. Learn more at sxsw.com.

About Destination NSW

Destination NSW is the champion and voice for the visitor economy within the NSW Government. Spearheading a whole-of-government approach to visitor economy growth, Destination NSW influences and shapes the visitor economy through strategic research, policy and thought leadership, stakeholder engagement and consultation, commercial partnerships and investment in visitor experiences, business support, marketing and events. Destination NSW is also the major investor in Business Events Sydney (BESydney) for the purpose of securing more international and domestic conventions, incentive travel reward programs, corporate events and exhibitions.

About TEG

TEG is a global leader in Live Entertainment, Ticketing and Technology and has been at the heart of the live event experience for 50 years through its touring and ticketing operations. Every day TEG connects fans to experiences and customers with brands. TEG are proud partners of some of the world's largest and most iconic venues as well as leading global brands and events. Through TEG's integrated operating model, the business brings the best live content, ticketing, and technology to partners with access to the best and most compelling music, sporting, and entertainment events across the globe. TEG is headquartered in Sydney, Australia and operates globally with offices across Asia, Europe and the US.