10th Benalla National & International Short Film Festival

10 November 2024

DIRECTORS MESSAGE

Welcome to the 10th National & International Benalla Short Film Festival 2024. Benalla Shorts embraces national and international film makers across all age groups and walks of life.

We are so honoured and excited to have been Nominated for the Victoria Community Achievement Award 2024 in this our 10TH year bringing Benalla and district unique thought provoking short films.

Our screen industry tells stories that allow us to connect with one another, and to better understand ourselves and each other.

Of the 76 films entered, the judges have selected 9 finalists for this year's Festival, with one bonus film from Writer/Director Jack Rintoul, staring our very own new judge Bruce Hunt-Hughes.

We have also introduced a new category this year in honour of my dear friend and colleague Kevin Perry. (Page 7)

The Benalla Shorts Team would like to thank the local community for their continued support for allowing us to grow for the last 10 year's.

Sit back, relax and enjoy Benalla Shorts Film Festival 2024.

Written by Anna Smith

Meet the amazing team.

Assistant Director and Projectionist Peter Maddock

Treasurer Paul Smith

Graphic Designer Sarah Perrett

Technical Adviser Bev Lee

Media/Publicity Noelle McCracken

Photographer Rene Martens, Cinematographer Michael Raso

Ushers: Sue Ellis, Marcia Christofas and Lucy Hall

SHORT FILM EVENT PROGRAM

Welcome by Master of Ceremonies Paul Smith

Invite Special Guest to Dias, Benalla Rural City CEO Dominic Testoni

Welcome to Country

Short Film Screenings at 3PM 90 min & 6.30PM 110 min

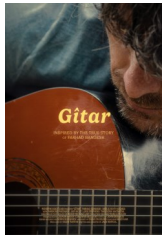
Note — after the screenings there will be **Voting for People's Choice**

Please place Voting Slips in the ballot box in the foyer for counting. The winner of the People's Choice Award will be announced after the 6.30pm screening.

Prior to the Short Film Screenings we are screening the Short Film Gitar. On Manus Island, asylum seekers are imprisoned by the Australian Government. There, out of sight and out of mind, the prisoners endure humiliating conditions. When guards attempt to confiscate a guitar from the detainee Farhad, he takes a stand for his human rights, forcing the guards to respond.

Inspired by the true story of Farhad Bandesh, who plays the lead role. Screenplay by Jack Rintoul.

Our new Judge this year Bruce Hunt-Hughes, who plays a leading role in Gitar will have a short Q&A after the film.



6.30 PM Screening Includes Bonus Short Film "Firelight"

Benalla Shorts Awards 2024

Student Award $500

Local Award $250

Best Documentary $250

Kevin Perry Encouragement Award $250

LAURIE WATTERS & ASSOCIATES

Best Performance $100

Best International $500

Judges Award Best Australian $1000

BENALLA BUSINESSES

Peoples Choice Award $200

Thank You

Many people have contributed to the 2024 Benalla Shorts Film Festival and we thank you all. In addition to those mentioned earlier we also thank;

Alison Angus and the Benalla Information Centre, Lois Smith, Jake Bowtell and the Benalla Cinema Team, Other Council Staff assistance.

LUEY Committee, Lorraine Monshing OAM, Ross Bootes, Cheryl Laurien, Betty Milligan, Ian Phillips Cinema IT Assistance, Trudi Nichols & Jason Adams.

History of Benalla Shorts

The Inaugural Benalla Festival in 2014 initiated by two Benalla locals, Anna Smith and Bernice Vance.

The Premiere event was officially opened by Australian actor and entertainer Mr. Tom Burlinson (The Man From Snowy River) via a video presentation. And well wishes from (MASTERCHEF) Judge Matt Preston.

The Festival has gone from strength to strength with every year with Kevin Perry ESM joining the team in 2017 and his amazing technical skills.

Covid-19 restrictions interfered and we saw our 2020 event screened online. This action ensured we honoured our long commitment to our film makers and sponsors to have their work judged, screened. and supported financially

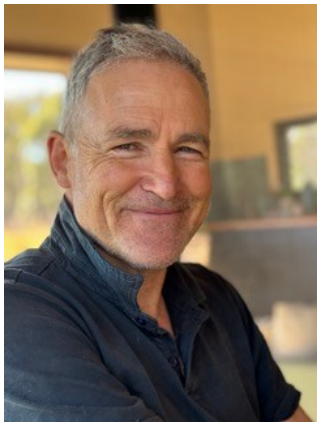
An Australia Day Achiever Award was given to Anna Smith in 2021 for her contribution to the Arts in Benalla.

In 2022 it was decided to go International with our 1st Award Winner from Italy.

Benalla Shorts have been nominated in 2023 & 2024 for the 7NEWS Victoria Community Achievement Award.

We have been honoured by the attendance of our esteemed Judges past and present Frank Bruzzese, David Forster, Matt Scholten, Polly Staniford, Tom Long, John Orcsik, Krista Vendy, Tony Bonner AM and Bruce Hunt-Hughes.

BENALLA SHORTS 2024 JUDGES



BRUCE HUNT-HUGHES

Bruce holds a Bachelor Arts from the University of Western Australia and is also a graduate of the National Institute of the Dramatic Arts.(NIDA). He is a highly-regarded facilitator and coach, who bases his work on more than 20 years of experience as a professional actor.

His extensive experience working in theatre and on screen, includes a season with “The Streetcar named Desire” in London.

Bruce is a mainstay of Australian television and is known for his roles in “A Country Practice”, “Halifax F.P”, “HOWZAT Kerry Packer War” , “ The Portable Door” and many more.

KRISTA VENDY

Krista Vendy has balanced her acting and modelling with a lifelong interest in charity, which is evident by her commitment as judge, now returning for her 5th gig. Krista is an Australian actress known for her roles on TV shows including Neighbours, where she played teacher Teresa "Tess" Bell. Since Neighbours she has guest starred in television roles in Australia and the United States including, Blue Heelers, Shock Jock, Nightmares and Dreamscapes, Leverage and Mental. Her Film credits include The Writer, Fat Pizza, Horseplay, The Incredible Hulk and Matching Jack.

Vale Kevin Perry ESM

Kevin Perry retired from Victoria's State Emergency Service in July 2007 after 31 years dealing with emergency situations and natural disasters.

Without Kevin's generous spirit, big heart and enormous efforts the Benalla Short Film Festival would not exist today.

KP was not only my friend but he was my mentor, he shared my dedication and passion in creating an international event and together we worked through all the issues that would arise. Nothing would stand in his way, not even COVID 19 when he suggested we take the Festival online. As usual he was absolutely right. This decision meant that we could proceed and fulfil all our obligations to the film makers and sponsors.

Kevin was diagnosed with MND (Motor Neurone Disease) last year and passed away in May 2024. He was determined to do all he could for as long as he could.

Kevin would champion the little guy and he was a firm believer in reward for effort. That's why we have created The Kevin Perry Encouragement Award in his honour.

Written by Anna Smith

LAURIE WATTERS & ASSOCIATES

BENALLA shorts FILM FESTIVAL

FILMS

SHE MADE IT SERIES EP1 (4:45). Illuminating stories of resilience, innovation and triumph, as embodied by women in the manufacturing industry in Queensland. A testament to women: to their hard work, their passion and their indomitable spirit.

Caitlin Johnston Qld……...

CREEK GREEKS (5:32). Two volunteers take an unorthodox approach to deal with some unsightly graffiti beside their beloved creek.

Andrew Rob and Jessica Gerger Vic ……..

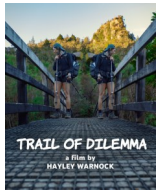
COLLAGE (9:51). A girl who works in a museum tries to convince another co-worker that two visitors are flirting. And how does she know? Scientific studies show there are six signs that show one person's attraction for another.

Marius Conrotto Spain …… ..

THE HUNT (9:28). Before the first light, two men wake, strap on their gear and meet for a hunt. As the sun rises over the Australian bush, they scour the landscape. A simple documentary it leaves space for the audience to question their place in the food cycle.

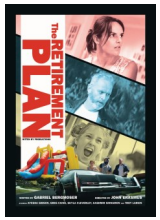
Rachel Tierney Vic……..

FILMS



TRAIL OF DILEMMA, 9:18. A YouTuber grapples with an internal conflict over their latest video, questioning whether it sends the wrong safety message to an avid community of hikers. The delicate balance between influence and responsibility in the digital age.

Hayley Warnock Vic……



THE RETIREMENT PLAN (14:56). On the day of her daughter's birthday Chloe has to contend with worlds colliding as her role as domestic mother comes into conflict with her past as a hardened undercover cop.

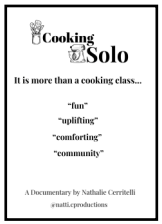
14:56 John Erasmus Vic……

BEAUTIFUL STORM (8:07) Loosely based on the coffee table book of the same name, that Yanni published in 2020 featuring 30 years of storm chasing photography taken around the coastline of Victoria Australia. Accompanied by an original music score composed by Yanni.

Yanni Dellaportas Vic……

SOCK'S MANIFESTO (3:30). Socks go in pairs. They cannot exist on their own, only as a pair! Why? I am in favour of the self-existence of socks!

Angeliki Pardalidou Greece……



COOKING SOLO (8:17).

Cooking Solo addresses the importance of social connection.

8:17 Nathalie Cerritelli ACT……

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