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SF3

"from pocket dreams to the **BIG SCREEN**"

THE 12TH ANNUAL

SMARTPHONE FLICKFEST

SF3 KIDS 2026 FINALISTS



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...AND
MORE

Welcomes

Angela Blake

CO-FOUNDER & FESTIVAL DIRECTOR SF3

What a privilege I've had this year to sit as the head curator of SF3 and experience the richness and diversity in stories that filmmakers of all ages and abilities entered into our season. We saw films from all corners of the earth - Sudan to Luxembourg, China, Canada, Mexico, South Korea and everywhere in between. We've especially been treated to an incredible array of stories from local filmmakers. Aussies are amazing story-tellers and it's been exciting to see so many - especially kids, first-time and emerging filmmakers - pick up their phones and tablets and share their world, stories, thoughts and creativity with us. We wish we could have screened every film that was entered. Audiences are in for a real treat. I personally guarantee you will leave an SF3 screening feeling completely inspired, moved and a much better person because of the richness of stories and experiences in our line-up.

A very huge thank you to the Sydney Opera House as our returning Venue Partner, to the White Bay Power Station, to Screen NSW for your continued support of SF3 and our filmmakers, to Blackmagic who once again have returned as our Major Sponsor, to Melodie and Try & Byte, our wonderful Silver Sponsors, to Chicken & Chips Casting and Røde, our incredible Bronze Sponsors plus all of our amazing Prize Sponsors who together are helping us award over \$50,000 in prizes across the festival.

We love smartphone filmmaking and the possibilities it opens up and we hope you leave here inspired to pick up your phones and tell those stories in your heart.

Kerry Armstrong

SF3 FESTIVAL AMBASSADOR & AUSTRALIAN ICON

"SF3 is one of our most important cultural and artistic events. I love the idea that all you need is a smartphone and your creativity. There is a great deal of freedom there, especially for young and emerging filmmakers to create now instead of having to wait until film school or wait until they can save enough money to buy a bigger camera. The fact that they can use a professional camera that they already own - their phones - to start making films and exploring their creativity now, is incredible. It means that there's no limits any more; there's no barrier to making a film and the world is a much better place for it, because we're getting to see all these new and diverse stories from typically unheard, remote and young voices - and all because of SF3 and their utilisation and adoption of this new technology and way of making and promoting films."

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The Films

1. The Weight of Water by Romalie Robin McGrail - NSW, Australia

IPHONE 14

Mira, a teenager haunted by guilt after her father drowns in Australia's treacherous ocean rips, must confront her trauma during a school swim test that forces her to relive the tragedy. As flashbacks reveal her Indian family's unfamiliarity with the coastline and how it led to the accident, the test becomes a symbolic struggle between grief, fear, and responsibility. The Weight of Water ultimately invites reflection on the duality of Australia's natural environment its beauty and its peril and the unseen consequences of its waters on migrant families.

2. Alone by Indianna Thompson - NSW, Australia

IPHONE 16 PLUS WITH BLACKMAGIC CAMERA

A girl settles in for a quiet night, her red thread bracelet a symbol of comfort and connection. But the silence begins to unravel, strange knocks, a prank at the door, and a pizza she never ordered. Each disturbance feels like a tug on an invisible thread, tightening around her. As unease grows, her boyfriend arrives wearing the same red thread. He steps inside and locks the door. Suddenly, the thread feels less like a bond... and more like something binding. Was she ever truly alone?

3. Transendencia by Gia Alvarez - NSW, Australia

IPHONE 13

This short film explores the impact of the Uruguayan Great War (Guerra Grande, 1839–1851) on a young girl and how those experiences followed her throughout her life. The story is narrated through the perspective of her older self as she reflects on everything she lived through.

4. Dracooler by Indie Jones - NSW, Australia

SAMSUNG

When Millie has a dream about the most coolest vampire - DracCooler, a pomegranate-loving, guitar-shredding, jam-making legend—she thinks it's just her imagination. But when he shows up at her door, grinning with a guitar and an invite to a jam session, she realizes her dream has come to life. A stylish, animated surreal adventure where rock 'n' roll, vampires, and pomegranates collide.

5. The Wet Bandit by Aria Calabro - NSW, Australia

IPHONE 17 PRO

When \$20 vanishes from the family money jar, siblings-turned-detectives Cleo and Liam follow the clues, flashbacks, and a suspicious towel - straight to their little brother Milo. But the "crime" turns out to have a sweeter motive than they expected!

6. Hero-Man by Aston Di Donato - NSW, Australia

IPHONE 16 WITH BLACKMAGIC CAMERA

"Hero-Man" is a sci-fi superhero drama set across Earth and a distant alien world, that explores grief, power, and the clash between fear and hope in the aftermath of a tragedy.

7. STOP by Tom Morfitt-White - VIC, Australia

IPHONE 14 PRO

It's ok to stop, urgency and stress is often just a matter of perspective.

8. Behind a Smile by Claire D'Ortona & Aksha Harit - NSW, Australia

SAMSUNG GALAXY ULTRA S23

When the students realise they have only ever seen their teacher smiling, they make it their mission to change that.

9. Mission Possible by Zac Deren - VIC, Australia

GOOGLE PIXEL 9A WITH BLACKMAGIC CAMERA

A teenage boy was mistakenly kidnapped to work at a top secret spy agency. With the promise of big money he decided to go along with it. Unfortunately he proved to be a terrible spy.

10. while I was away by Edan Merritt - NSW, Australia

IPHONE 13 PRO MAX WITH BLACKMAGIC CAMERA

while I was away' follows a group of four friends spending an ordinary day together, but beneath the laughter and nostalgia, one of them feels increasingly disconnected. As the day unfolds, memories and dreamlike moments blur the line between being surrounded by people and truly feeling present. A short film about friendship, isolation and the quiet distance we can feel, even when we're never physically alone.

11. Remote Chance by Josslyn, Marlee & Oliver - NSW, Australia

A film by students from NewtownHigh School of the Performing Arts

12. What Happened to Frank? by Centre Stage Academy - NSW, Australia

SAMSUNG S21 WITH BLACKMAGIC CAMERA

It's time for drama class again and no one has seen Frank in ages, but everyone has a crazy theory exactly what happened to Frank? But is the truth stranger than fiction?

13. Miss Unité by Hope St Youth & Milk Crate Theatre - NSW, Australia

IPHONE 17 PRO MAX & IPHONE 15 PRO MAX WITH BLACKMAGIC CAMERA

When three girls decide to prank their teacher, things go horribly wrong. But when they decide to cover up their mistake instead of owning it, things go even worse for them and their prank spirals out of control.

14. COMPUNCTION by Mack Green - TAS, Australia

SAMSUNG S25 ULTRA

COMPUNCTION came from a feeling that many people are quietly falling behind. Across Australia, conversations around the cost of living are constant, and this time I listened. I really wanted to tell this story in a grounded way, focusing on natural human emotion and tension, rather than something that feels fake. I hope the film encourages people to reflect not only on the choices the characters make, but on the society that shaped them during the story. The society we live in everyday.

15. The New Prisoner by Archer, Reily, Emma and Aarav - NSW, Australia

SAMSUNG GALAXY S23 ULTRA

The prison guards have been given clear instructions. Under no circumstances are they to open the door for the new prisoner.

16. Miranda Blackmails by Madeleine and Mila - NSW, Australia

IPHONE 17 PRO MAX

This influencer is not as sweet as she seems.

17. My Great Grandfather by Alexis Truong - VIC, Australia

IPHONE 12 PRO & IPHONE X

A young girl celebrates her 101-year-old great-grandfather through memories, moments, and reflections on a life spanning more than a century.

18. Humans Have Something To Teach Aliens by Students from Film By Inspiration - NSW, Australia

IPHONE 17 PRO MAX & IPHONE 15 PRO MAX

The Aliens have been watching the Earth Kids for weeks now and are jealous of how much fun they're having. They sneak down to Earth, determined to bring some of that fun back to their planet.

19. Between the Mountains and the Sea by Students from Scarborough Public School - NSW, Australia

IPHONE 17 PRO MAX

A documentary on how Scarborough's School Song came to be; a song that is still sung today nearly 30 years later and by generations of local families.

20. Charlie's Secret by Charlie Truong - VIC, Australia

IPHONE 12 PRO

Charlie reveals some of his biggest secrets and takes audiences on a fun, honest, and unexpected journey through his imagination and personal world.

21. Code Blue by Centre Stage Academy Junior Class - NSW, Australia

SAMSUNG S21 WITH BLACKMAGIC CAMERA

It's time to return to everyone's favourite soap opera 'Code Blue'. Dr Matthew is still haunted by visions from a failed surgery, Dr Chelsea is having a bad time with a missing hand and the head nurse is still running triage with an iron fist. Welcome to the world of 'Code Blue'.

SF3 Kids Online Finalists

22. Baby Angel by Ella Grace Helton - USA

IPHONE 15 PRO MAX

Teen sisters set out to prove that they can overcome tragedy, and when everything seemed hopeless, a shocking breakthrough delivered the sign they had been seeking.

23. The Color Thief by Ella Ramas - USA

IPHONE

When an invisible monster called the Color Thief steals children's confidence and turns their artwork gray, one courageous girl stands up to the voice of self-doubt. Through kindness and encouragement, she helps her classmates rediscover their creativity and proves that art doesn't have to be perfect, it just has to be real.

24. Houses in My Heart by Rose & Poppy Gallimore - NSW, Australia

IPHONE 11

On a quiet ferry ride through the harbour at night, fragments of a teenage girl's childhood begin to re-emerge as she reflects on the person she used to be. Memories of laughter, friendship, imagination, and innocence slowly resurface. The film explores nostalgia, growing up, and the bittersweet realisation that parts of yourself can quietly fade over time. Through these memories, she reconnects with forgotten pieces of herself and the child she once was.

25. Leah's List by Lily Ireland Gainey - USA

IPHONE 17 PRO MAX

After losing their friend Leah, a group of kids discovers her unfinished bucket list and decide to complete it together in her honor. Along the way, they heal old friendships, share laughter and adventure, and realize that being the best friends ever was the most important goal of all.

26. **STOP!** by Dung Tan Nguyễn - Vietnam

IPHONE 15 PRO MAX AND BLACKMAGIC CAMERA

As Oliver, a senior in high school, tries to balance the demands of meeting college application deadlines and keeping up with his regular school work, his life spirals out of control and he can't keep it in anymore.

27. **Lights of Devonport** by Rose Noble - NSW, Australia

IPHONE 12 & IPHONE 16

Lights of Devonport, inspired by the song of the same name, explores identity, escape, and belonging through the story of a man who leaves his small Tasmania mining town to escape the homophobia he has endured, searching instead for acceptance on the mainland. The film uses a mixture of archival footage from the landmark Toonen v Australia case and landscape shots of Tasmania. As a young, queer person who grew up in rural Tasmania I aimed to explore both beauty and darkness of my home state.

28. **Before Ur Future** by Sreebhadra Nair - QLD, Australia

IPHONE 12

On his seventieth birthday, a grandfather feels forgotten when no one remembers to wish him. His granddaughter Cheeku skips her coding class to create a small celebration, hoping to bring back his smile. In that moment, she reminds her father that while we focus on building the future, we must never forget the past that shaped us

29. **MY TURN** by Ariella Higgins - QLD, Australia

IPHONE 11 & BLACKMAGIC CAMERA

During a late-night sleepover, four tight-knit friends break out a Ouija board just for a bit of fun. Expecting nothing more than a brief, playful scare, they accidentally make contact with an entity that has a far more serious agenda. Blending tension with dark humor, MY TURN follows the group as a harmless game spirals into chaos, resorting to increasingly dangerous measures as the entity ensures its message is finally heard.

30. **The Babysitter's Treasure** by Mila & Charli Kennedy - WA, Australia

IPHONE 13 PRO

When a new babysitter arrives, a young girl gets stuck doing the chores until she discovers a treasure map. Along the journey they discover that spending time together is the real treasure.

31. **Cop vs Mime** by Aaron Scully and his The Hills Drama School Students - NSW, Australia

SAMSUNG GALAXY S23

A mime film - A thief on the loose and a police officer out to get them.

32. **The Asylum** by Aaron Scully and his The Hills Drama School Students - NSW, Australia

SAMSUNG GALAXY S23

A girl checks into a mental hospital and her pre-judgement of the place begins to change.

33. **The Forbidden TV** by Aaron Scully and his The Hills Drama School Students - NSW, Australia

SAMSUNG GALAXY S23

When 3 school students hear that there are donuts in the teachers lounge room they sneak in to find out, only to discover a forbidden TV.

34. **Mitch & Charlie** by Andy Tang - NSW, Australia

RED 15

One day. Two brothers. A box appears in front of their door. But from who? And what is in it?

35. **Jo-Ha-kyū** by Johanna Piir & Iti Mehide - Estonia

IPHONE 14 & BLACKMAGIC CAMERA

A benevolent force works to protect visitors to a curse building...how will they fare?

36. **Hurt People Hurt People** by Aaron Scully and his The Hills Drama School Students - NSW, Australia

SAMSUNG GALAXY S23

Six people. Six bad days. 6 perspective. You never know the pain that people can carry. Sometimes they pass it on.

37. **Darold and His Wheelie Bin** by Djurdja Arnautovic - NSW, Australia

SAMSUNG GALAXY S23 FE

Darold and his wheelie bin is a humorous story of Darold the emu and his neighbourhood. Darold is on an ultimate quest to find his own wheelie bin with assistance of his neighbour the post man.

SF3 Kids Judging Panel

Our Judges are the best of the best in the film industry and include top writers, filmmakers, directors, cinematographers, producers, casting directors, composers and educators from across Australia, America and Africa including:

Adrian Jeffs

Filmbreaker & Storyteller

Ana Maria Bello

Actor, Writer & Creative Producer

Callum Pritchard

Filmmaker

Ethan Do

Filmmaker

Jasmine Sarkis

Actor, Writer & Producer

Jonathan Lagudi

Actor, Writer & Director

Josie Waller

Actor & Writer

Karishma Mathur

Educator, Actor & Casting Assistant

Michèle Jedlicka

Smartphone Filmmaker & Educator

Oladipo O'Fresh

Smartphone Filmmaker & Educator

Rebecca Kirwan

Filmmaker & Educator

SJ van Breda

Filmmaker, Director & Editor

Pre-Selection Panel

Adam Creighton

Anna Churven

Ashleigh Murray

Christian Power

Coco Tan

Fai Liang

Fu Liu

Gabriel Bascunan

Gayle Blake

Jane Fullerton-Smith

Jennifer Gray

Jordon Briggs

Lisa Hughes

Marina Zivkovic

Max Cumberworth

Minxuan Chen

William Wang

Ambassadors

Anthony Kierann

Producer

Cassius Rayner

Smartphone Filmmaker

Christopher Stollery

Actor & award winning Writer

Emily Prior

Disability Advocate & Actress

Garry Maddox

Film Journalist & Author

Jason van Genderen

Smartphone Filmmaker

John Batchelor

Actor

Kerry Armstrong

Illustrious Actor

Kriv Stenders

Award winning Director

Luis Fernandez

Venezuelan Actor & Director

Nicole da Silva

Illustrious Actor

Pieter de Vries

ACS, National Geographic & NASA Cinematographer

Phillip Noyce

Celebrated Hollywood/Australian Director

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THANK YOU

SF3 cannot happen without the love, help and support of many many people. We would like to thank our truly wonderful Judges and Ambassadors. We're deeply grateful for all of your time and support throughout our season and for supporting SF3 and our filmmakers throughout the past year. We are soo grateful to you all and how special that many of you have been judges for our whole 12 seasons!

Thanks also to our amazing publicist, Geoff Sirmal. It wows us to see SF3 and our filmmakers making the news everywhere.

Thanks to our graphic designer, Kenney Ogilvie. You make SF3 cool and you do it with so much kindness.

Thank you also to Ben Meisner, Wolfe, Lucette, Flynn and Winnie for your patience, support and hugs.

Thanks to Anthony Kierann. Priceless - that's exactly what you are!

Thank you to Emily James, Andrea Rose Aguirre & Katelyn Ighalo for making SF3 hip and out in the world.

Thank you to our pre-selection panel for your help watching this huge volume of films. Over 400 shorts and 20 features!!!

A big thank you to the Sydney Opera House for this venue partnership. Iconic. A special thanks to Stuart Buchanan & Melinda Dransfield and your team.

Thank you to Stephanie Spudic & Minnie Yao-Konya from White Bay Power Station and Property NSW. What a cool venue!

A HUGE thanks to our brand new AV Partners, Event spec. Nicole O'Reilly and Christopher Condon you have elevated SF3's Mini & Feature Screening to something truly memorable and I honoured that I got to Co-Present this screening with you and your team.

Thanks to SJ van Breda for editing our incredible festival reels. You are a God send.

A huge thank you to all of my SF3 volunteers and staff, especially Bee Louise, Bevan Garozzo, Michael Harris, Hollie Meyer, Julie Ward, Sally Fryer and Anthony Khoury.

Thank you to our festival photographers and videographers, including Christina Mishell, Apoorv Jaiswal & Indy Jo Woodward. SF3 has never looked so good.

Thanks to Nick Bolton for your invaluable support always and the hugest support through Screen Illawarra.

Thank you to Greg Dolgoplov for always being a great friend.

Thank you to Christina Maras and the entire Kino Sydney Team. You put on one of the best film nights in Sydney every month and we value all your support of what we do at SF3 and in getting your community of filmmakers making films with their phones.

And a huge thank you to all of our sponsors and partners, we really couldn't do this without you. You provide us with the most wonderful prizes, venue, support, help, street cred and more. We are able to award over \$50,000 worth of prizes this and past seasons because of you. THANKYOU! SF3 is only possible because of you and your generosity.

A mammoth thanks to Mel Atherton from Blackmagic Design - what you guys are doing at Blackmagic is just out of this world! Evan Buist and Andy Wilson from Melodie, for continuing a wonderful partnership with us and providing a platform for filmmakers to access the best music for their films. Derek Choi from Try&Byte - a local family business doing incredible things for smartphone filmmaking, Stephanie Pringle and Alison Fowler from Chicken & Chips Casting - you two continue to inspire us all.

Thank you also to Danielle McCarthy, Catherine Zealand and your team from Screen NSW. Your continued support of SF3 is why we are still doing this 12 years on. What you do for screen culture in NSW is invaluable to our society.

Thank you to Dov Kornits from Film Ink for loving film and filmmakers as much as us, or even more.

Thank you to Julian Neuhaus and Ironbark Films for not only getting our films on screen this weekend, but for making them look so damn good and being the best DCP technician out there. Seriously, Ironbark Films is where it's at!

Thanks to all of our wonderful educators who have helped us teach smartphone filmmaking throughout Australia and the world this season. We have taught both live and online for AFTRS, The Shepherd Centre, Milk Crate Theatre, Bus Stop Films, the Equity Foundation, the NSW Department of Education, Get Online Week, Bus Stop Films, Midnight Feast and soo many more.

Find out more and keep up to date at www.sf3.com.au

Thanks for being part of SF3.

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