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SF3

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

THE 12TH ANNUAL
**SMARTPHONE
FLICKFEST**

SF3 MINI & FEATURE FILM

THREE CHAPTERS



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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."

The Program

1. **Crafternoon (or death by crochet)** by Lisa Hanssens - NSW, Australia

SAMSUNG GALAXY S26

It was a quiet afternoon or a Crafternoon, when a murder is discovered among a group of friends. Who could have done it and will they get away with it?

Crafternoon, is a classic film noir murder mystery based in the world of crochet.

2. **Not Like That** by Marina Zivkovic - NSW, Australia

SAMSUNG S21 & S26 ULTRA
WITH BLACKMAGIC CAMERA

An actor struggling with self-doubt in an industry full of contradictory advice confronts the absurdity of trying to create her own opportunities and discovers that the act of creating might just be enough.

3. **Emergency Contact** by Natasha Ruth Reynolds - NSW, Australia

IPHONE 16

When Mila calls her emergency contact in a panic, Tracey drops everything and rushes to her aid. But as the situation appears more alarming by the second, Tracey discovers that being someone's emergency contact can mean dealing with far more than she ever expected.

4. **CITADELS** by Emanuele Pizzonia - NSW, Australia

SAMSUNG S24 ULTRA

The City's are full of marks. When Friday hits, there is nothing else.

5. **AI DJ** by Joshua Shediak - NSW, Australia

IPHONE 15 PRO MAX WITH BLACKMAGIC CAMERA

A one night stand is derailed by an AI Home Assistant.

6. **The Bus Stop** by Layza Wenclevski & Jente Wieling - NSW, Australia

IPhone 15

A girl spends an entire day at a bus stop holding on to a memory she still longs for. A feeling she once experienced with someone else and moment she no longer can get back. She is nostalgic for this relationship she once had but is desperately trying to move on and move forward with her life. This is her attempt to do so.

7. **Bloom** by Oliver, Marlee, Daisy - NSW, Australia

A film by students from Newtown High School of the Performing Arts

8. **SMA** by Osvaldo Raul Ponce - Buenos Aires, Argentina

IPHONE 15 PRO MAX WITH BLACKMAGIC CAMERA

A dance in nature rekindles the desire for movement.

9. **Blackhood** by Fintan Hogan - NSW, Australia

IPHONE 15

Blackhood is a mysterious ninja who emerges at night to protect the city and help those in danger. Moving through the shadows, he uses his skills to become an unlikely hero.

10. **A Day in the Life of a Children's**

Entertainer by June Holmes - NSW, Australia

IPHONE 13 PRO

It follows a children's entertainer a day in her life, it gives us an insight to our children entertainers life.

11. **Long Distance** by Sunwoo Lee - NSW, Australia

IPHONE 17 PRO WITH BLACKMAGIC CAMERA

Marcus goes on a date around the city with his girlfriend Ali. They walk, eat, visit the library and a flower shop. At the flower shop, we realise Ali isn't actually there- they're in a long-distance relationship, and Marcus has been FaceTiming her. Later, Marcus wishes they could finally be together. His phone buzzes: his AI girlfriend subscription has ended. He looks up, and Ali is gone.

12. **An Average School Trip?** by Aaron Scully and his The Hills Drama School Students - NSW, Australia

SAMSUNG GALAXY ULTRA S23

A short narration about a girl who is gives us a glimpse of one of her average school trips.

13. **Double Scoop** by Anton Danko - NSW, Australia

SAMSUNG GALAXY S14

Anton started paddling a surfski this year and found it challenging. This is a film about his inner monologue, struggling to master staying in the pretty tippy ski, being scared to paddle off shore, the sharks and the tides and the bluebottles and the big waves and their inner fears.

14. **Gather Your Rosebuds** by Hugo Stewart & Lilly Snell - NSW, Australia

IPHONE 15 PRO MAX & IPHONE 17 PRO

A young woman undergoes a harrowing journey through the Garden.

15. **DADSPLAINING** by Vlad Zokitch - NSW, Australia

IPHONE 15 PRO

Dad knows best. Apparently.

16. **Lost Time** by Huxley Forras - QLD, Australia

IPHONE 15 PRO MAX WITH BLACKMAGIC CAMERA

A father's unwavering commitment to his son's weekly games spans years of unseen change, becoming a haunting reflection on love, loss, and the mysteries hidden within ordinary moments.

17. **The Last Post** by Catherine Hill - VIC, Australia

IPHONE 17 PRO MAX WITH BLACKMAGIC CAMERA

A daughter's plea to her father becomes devastatingly final when he suffers a heart attack at her mother's grave.

18. **Mute Bark** by Elena Hunt - Aix-en-Provence, France

IPHONE 12 PRO MAX

We, humans, know what we feel. But what about him? On February 24, 2022, the full-scale invasion of Ukraine began, abruptly breaking an ordinary morning into fear, displacement, and flight. I don't claim to know how a dog experiences war, but I saw his trembling. I saw how he looked at me — confused, silent, yet knowing.

This short film tells the story from his perspective. It is a poetic reconstruction of real events — told not through facts, but through the quiet bond between a dog and his human, when everything else collapses.

19. **The Dress** by Lois Oh & Asiya Ilyasova - NSW, Australia

IPHONE 16 PRO WITH BLACKMAGIC CAMERA

Claire and Emily's relationship is pushed to breaking point when cultural expectations and family loyalty force them to confront what it means to choose each other.

20. **Your Film Has Not Been Selected** by Enrique González Sánchez - NSW, Australia

IPHONE 14 PRO

The producer: "There is nothing we can do to save this". The post-production manager: "Hold my beer".

21. **Give Me A Break** by Dalí Connelly - NSW, Australia

IPHONE 16 PRO MAX

Through three students, the film portrays the stress and pressure of school, highlighting the toll of studying, deadlines and constant academic expectations.

22. **Out of Sync** by Paula Garcia - NSW, Australia

IPHONE 17 PRO MAX WITH BLACKMAGIC CAMERA

Is about a couple at the start of a relationship. The split screen shows them apart, out of sync and everything unspoken filling that gap. An unanswered message becomes the seed for all the anxious stories we tell ourselves: the doubt, the spiralling thoughts, the "what does this mean", when the real answer is usually so much simpler. Each side of the screen breathes at its own uneven rhythm, Then they come together, the screen becomes one, their breath finds the same rhythm.

23. **The Underpass** by Veronica Hall-George & James Caley - NSW, Australia

SAMSUNG GALAXY S24 ULTRA & IPHONE SE2 WITH BLACKMAGIC CAMERA

I was so fortunate enough to be asked to direct this film very humbled, I got to work on this project with the most enthusiastic like minded bunch of people who could see the vision and answered the call. Doing this film was definitely an experience and the one I will never forget I truly hope to do it all again. I never thought directing would be on my cards but it's been fun and I can't wait to do another film.

Founders' Flick Pick Winners

24. **The Last Rehearsal** by Patrick Kucharski, Claire Peng, Fintan Hogan, William Hanks, Lucy Fu & Aaron Scully from the The Hills Drama School - NSW, Australia

SAMSUNG GALAXY ULTRA S23

An obsessive theatre director and some frustrated actors are desperately trying to prepare for a performance, when they visited by an unknown entity.

25. **Tiger Goni - Sundarbans Saga** by Max

Schleserer & Abdul Kabil Khan - VIC, Australia & Bangladesh

IPHONE

Tiger Goni is a documentary that unveils the extraordinary story of Abdul Gani, a local hero in the Ganges Delta, known to the people of the Sundarbans as "Tiger Goni." He shares his home, the vast mangrove forest, a UNESCO World Heritage site since 1997, with the world's largest population of Bengal tigers. His story is not only one of courage, but of compassion and building community resilience.

26. **Stolen** by Wayne Tunks and his Centre Stage Academy Adult Acting Class - NSW, Australia

SAMSUNG S21 WITH BLACKMAGIC CAMERA

There is a thief at Sinclair Logistics, and this time they have stolen from the wrong person. Someone has taken Lara's Yogo, and she will not rest until the thief has been found and several people have been fired. In this true crime mockumentary, thieves will be exposed and the truth will be found.

SF3 Feature Film Finalist THREE CHAPTERS

by James Demitri

IPHONE 16 PRO MAX WITH BLACKMAGIC CAMERA

WORDS HAVE NO MEANING WITHOUT CONTEXT

Three Chapters is not an anthology. It's an experiment in language itself. Every line of dialogue spoken across its three unconnected stories is word-for-word identical, yet each chapter delivers a completely different emotional gut-punch.

In KINK, a night of ecstasy between three men spirals into something far darker.

In THE VISITOR, a child welfare officer's routine home visit collides with something ancient and unexplainable.

In THE END, a husband and wife face an impossible final decision together.

Words like "I wasn't expecting you," and "I love you" appear in all three, but what they mean changes entirely each time. By the third chapter, the audience isn't just watching a story unfold, they're actively decoding language in real time, discovering how completely context reshapes meaning.

It's a film best experienced knowing as little as possible, and best discussed for a long time after.

CAST: KINK: Mitch Eliot, Luke Condie, Keenan Walker, Matej Kohut | THE VISITOR: Anja Kastowsky, Bronte Simpson, Amy Victoria Brooks | THE END: Matt Wilson, Tatjana Marjanovic, Tom Absalom, Emily Teede.

A CONVERSATION WITH WRITER/DIRECTOR JAMES DEMITRI

WHAT WAS THE STARTING POINT FOR THIS FILM?

I've always been fascinated by how perspective can completely change your experience of something - how the exact same thing can feel entirely different depending on how you're looking at it. A simple example: you send someone a text, trying to be funny, and it lands wrong.

Same words. But suddenly it reads as aggressive, or rude, or worrying. Nothing changed except the way it was received. That idea stuck with me, and I wanted to push it as far as I possibly could - into film.

SO HOW DID THAT TURN INTO THREE CHAPTERS?

I decided to take three completely different genres and use the exact same dialogue, in the exact same order, across all three. Not similar lines - identical. The challenge became: how far can I stretch the meaning of the same words before they break? Each chapter is a totally different story, a totally different world, but the script underneath never changes.

WHAT DO YOU WANT AUDIENCES TO EXPERIENCE WATCHING IT?

There's a moment I hope happens for every viewer - where they clock that the dialogue is repeating, and they start silently asking, "How is this going to work this time?" That question is the fun of it. But then something else happens: they get pulled into the story, and they forget the words are the same, because they feel completely different. That's the whole experiment working. By the third chapter, you're not tracking repetition anymore - you're just feeling.

WHAT DO YOU HOPE PEOPLE TAKE AWAY FROM IT?

I hope people walk away thinking about how little meaning words actually carry on their own - without context, without tone, without everything that surrounds them. And beyond that, I hope it gets people thinking about perspective more broadly - how much of what we experience isn't really about the thing itself, but everything we bring to it, and everything around it. If someone leaves the film and looks at their own life, their own conversations, even just a little differently - that's the whole point. Maybe we don't change how we see things completely. But maybe, just a little.

Judging Panel

Adam Creightton
Anna Churven
Ashleigh Murray
Butterfly Panther
Christian Power
Coco Tan
Fai Liang
Fu Liu
Gabriel Bascunan
Gayle Blake
Jane Fullerton-Smith
Jennifer Gray
Jordon Briggs
Juliette Gillies
Lisa Hughes
Marina Zivkovic
Max Cumberworth
Minxuan Chen
Oleksandr Zemlyanyy
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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