



HELPMANN
Academy

HOME ALONE FILM FEST

JUDGING PANEL BIOS (ALPHABETICAL ORDER)



Scott Hicks, Director & Screenwriter

Scott Hicks is an Australian film director and screenwriter. Hicks graduated from Flinders University in 1975 and was awarded an honorary doctorate in 1997. He is a member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences and the British Academy of Film and Television Arts.

In his very early working years in the 1980s, Hicks worked closely with the band INXS to direct three pivotal video clips for the band - *Spy of Love*, *To Look At You* and *Don't Change*.

Hicks is best known as the director and screenwriter of *Shine*, the 1997 Oscar-winning biopic about pianist David Helfgott. The film was up for seven Academy Awards, with Geoffrey Rush winning the Academy Award for Best Actor. Hick's first Hollywood studio film *Snow Falling on Cedars* (1999) also received an Academy nomination. Scott currently serves as Patron of Helpmann Academy's Foundation Board.

Photo credit Russell Millard



Richard Jasek, Director

Richard Jasek is a director of drama and documentary. His television drama credits include *City Homicide*, *McLeods Daughters*, *Neighbours*, *Heartbreak High*, *Blue Heelers*, *Stingers*, *Home & Away*, *Something in the Air*, *All Saints* and *The Secret Life of Us*.

Richard's passion for arts and sciences is evident in his documentary work, including science biopics *Driven to Diffraction* (2008), and *Microbes to Macrobes* (2011). *Making A Mark* (Adelaide Film Festival, 2017), follows a selection of emerging artists as they vie for the inaugural Ramsay Art Prize, valued at \$100,000, and won the Australian Director's Guild award for Best Documentary under 60mins in 2019. *Getting Their Acts Together* (ABC, 2020) follows Adelaide Festival joint artistic directors Rachel Healy and Neil Armfield over 18 months as they curate the 2020 festival.

Richard was also Producer of 7's primetime crime drama *City Homicide*, and Executive Producer of *Neighbours*. He has lectured widely in Australia and around the world, and serves on the boards of several arts and philanthropic organisations including The James and Diana Ramsay Foundation and The Helpmann Academy Foundation Board.

Photo credit Georgia Matthews



Mat Kesting, Chief Executive & Creative Director of the Adelaide Film Festival

Mat Kesting was appointed the Chief Executive and Creative Director of the Adelaide Film Festival (AFF) at the beginning of 2019. Mat has almost 20 years of experience in the Australian film industry, including AFF Programs Manger from 2015 - 2019. In between AFF's biennial programs he has been Exhibition Manger at Adelaide's Mercury Cinema and has curated six editions of the OzAsia film program.

Mat was also the Program Manager at the Brisbane International Film Festival from 2006 until 2008 and produced the 15/15 Film Festival between 1999 - 2009.

Photo credit Mike Smith



Maya Newell, Director & Impact Producer

Maya Newell is a Japanese/ Australian documentary director and impact producer. She recently directed the acclaimed feature *In My Blood It Runs* (2019) about ten-year-old Arrernte/Garrwa boy Djuwan Hoosan and his community, which was produced by Sophie Hyde, Larissa Behrendt and Rachel Naninaaq Edwardson and made in collaboration with those onscreen. It was selected for Good Pitch² Aus, a Sundance Institute Fellowship, and was nominated for Best Doc and best Cinematography at the AACTAs. It premiered at Hotdocs, AFI Docs, DocNYC, Sydney Film Festival and many more.

Previously, Maya has made short documentaries, directed *Growing Up Gayby* (2013) and *Gayby Baby* (2015). Made with Charlotte Mars, *Gayby Baby* screened at festivals internationally, was selected for Good Pitch² Aus, broke cinema-on-demand records, was nominated for Best Doc at the ACCTAs, won an ATOM award and sparked a national conversation about the rights of children raised in LGBTIQ families.

Photo credit Jacquie Manning



Madeleine Parry, Director & Writer

Madeleine Parry is the director of the Emmy awarded *Nanette* for Netflix and writer/director/host of the ADG nominated and awarded *Maddie Parry* series and *Meatwork* for the ABC. An autodidact film-maker who works across documentary, comedy and scripted drama, Madeleine has worked with sex workers and slaughtermen and in her first multi-award winning short, killed her own food for the first time, including a chicken with her grandmother. Madeleine was selected as part of Screen Australia's 2019 Talent USA delegation, serves on the board of The Mercury and tells nuanced, vulnerable stories with incisive wit and warmth.

Photo credit Sarah Enticknap