



SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER  
SYDNEY | BRISBANE | CANBERRA



CASULA  
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ARTS CENTRE



QMC



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*Thanks to support from*



## Welcome to the 2016 Pasifika Film Fest!

Talofa Iava, Ni sa bula vinaka, Aloha, Fakalofa lahi atu, Malo ni, Hafa adai, Halo, warm Pacific greetings.

In 2018, Pasifika Film Fest brings to you a festival that is working towards longevity and strategic awareness in our community. It's been awhile since we last showed films. In fact the last time we did was February 2017 - when we showed in Auckland and Wellington, New Zealand. Since then, we have been working towards creating outreach activities in our Sydney Pacific and filmmaking community as well as the newest iteration of Pasifika Film Fest. Since then we've undergone a few changes, the largest being that former PFF Director, Nigel Vagana has had to leave his role. We still keep Nigel in our community, and have welcomed Elijah Malifa in as co-Director of Pasifika Film Fest alongside founding Director Kalo Fainu.

This year we are honoured to partner with Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre in Sydney, Brisbane Multicultural Centre in Brisbane and National Film & Sound Archive in Canberra, to bring Pacific films to our communities in 3 states.

As well as this, we are partnering with Information & Cultural Exchange and Australian Film, Television and Radio School to deliver the PFF 48 Hours of Film Challenge, which will be the first time we've gotten a group of emerging Pacific filmmakers together to collaborate on work ever. The 48 Hours of Film Challenge will take place between Sept 12 - 14, while PFF Sydney is happening. By the end of the 2 days, groups will be expected to have 2 short films made and these will be shown on the Sunday of the Sydney festival.

In the way of films, you can expect thought provoking and topical films this year, as well as a wide geographical spread with Pacific communities in the islands and the wider diaspora, engaging with filmmaking all over the world.

We're very much relieved and looking forward to seeing the community at our sessions this year. Welcome to all. Our deepest thanks and gratitude for your support and to our sponsors for keeping us airborne.



Mahalo nui loa  
Kalo & Elijah

## Laef i Swit (Life is Sweet)

### SHOWING

Queensland Multicultural Centre, 27/9/2018 | 7.00 PM

Country | Vanuatu

Director | Peter Walker (Wan Smolbag Theatre)

Synopsis | A newly formed all female singing group, Tamure Party, fronted by lead singer, Sonia, have their first gig at Club Tequila, hosted by a controversial, sexually ambiguous MC, 'je suis neutral'. The group explore through song and dramatic reenactments, the life of Sonia and her partner Max. The film switches from sections reimagined in the nightclub in front of an audience to scenes from their life set in the informal settlement areas of Port Vila, Vanuatu's capital. But does the group speak with one voice? Will Max divide them? Can they really work together to free Sonia from her abusive partner?

*Recommended for audiences 15 years and over*



## Leitis in Waiting

### SHOWING

Queensland Multicultural Centre, 28/9/2018 | 8.30 PM

National Film & Sound Archive, 6/10/2018 | 4.00 PM

27/9/2018 | 7.00 PM

Country | Tonga

Director | Dean Hamer, Joe Wilson, Hina Wong-Kalu

Synopsis | Leitis in Waiting is the story of Joey Mataele and the Tonga leitis, an intrepid group of transgender women fighting a rising tide of religious fundamentalism and intolerance in their South Pacific kingdom. With unexpected humour and extraordinary access to Tonga's royals and leaders, this emotional journey reveals what it means to be different in a society ruled by tradition, and what it takes to be accepted without forsaking who you are.

*Recommended for children to view with an adult*



## Out of State

### SHOWING

Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre, 16/9/2018 | 6.00 PM

Country | USA (Hawaii)

Director | Ciara Lacy

Synopsis | Shipped thousands of miles away from the tropical islands of Hawaii to a private prison thousands in the Arizona desert, two native Hawaiians discover their Indigenous traditions from a fellow inmate serving a life sentence. It's from this unlikely setting that David and Hale finish their terms and return to Hawaii, hoping for a fresh start. Eager to prove to themselves and to their families that this experience has changed them forever, David and Hale struggle with the hurdles of life as formerly incarcerated men, asking the question: can you really go home again?

*Recommended for children to view with an adult*



## Power Meri

### SHOWING

Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre, 15/9/2018 | 7.00 PM

Queensland Multicultural Centre, 28/9/2018 | 6.30 PM

National Film & Sound Archive, 7/10/2018 | 4.00 PM

Country | Papua New Guinea

Director | Joanna Lester

Synopsis | Power Meri follows Papua New Guinea's first national women's Rugby League team, the PNG Orchids, on their journey to the 2017 World Cup in Australia. These trailblazers must beat not only the sporting competition, but also intense sexism, a lack of funding, and national prejudice to reach their biggest stage yet.

*Recommended for children to view with an adult*



## The Opposition

### SHOWING

Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre, 16/9/2018 |

6.00 PM

National Film and Sound Archive, 7/10/2018

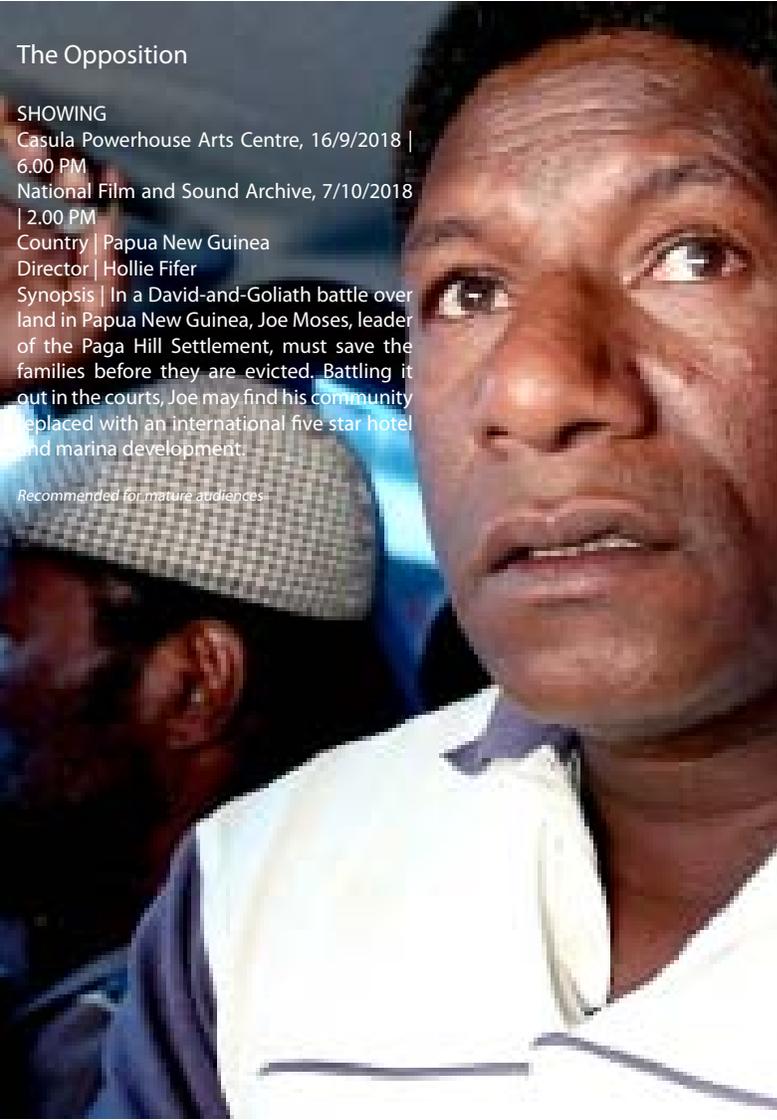
| 2.00 PM

Country | Papua New Guinea

Director | Hollie Fifer

Synopsis | In a David-and-Goliath battle over land in Papua New Guinea, Joe Moses, leader of the Paga Hill Settlement, must save the families before they are evicted. Battling it out in the courts, Joe may find his community replaced with an international five star hotel and marina development.

*Recommended for mature audiences*



## A BOY FROM RAROTONGA

Country | New Zealand

Director | Joshua Teariki Baker

Synopsis | A grandmother is forced to look after a grandson she never knew she had. Now in a difficult situation, she must learn to accept the mistakes of her past and reconnect with family she thought had forgotten about her.

Recommended for all audiences



## AIGA

Country | Australia

Director | Isack Hoppitt

Synopsis | In the wake of their mother's death, Leiloa must teach her younger brother to cope without Mum's cooking.

Recommended for all audiences



## I HINANAO-TA (OUR JOURNEY)

Country | USA (Guam)

Director | Cara Flores

Synopsis | This film explores the origins of the Chamoru people, the first peoples to settle in Micronesia almost 4000 years ago.

Recommended for all audiences



NIU KIDS SHORTS

Casula Powerhouse 15/9/18 2pm

National Film & Sound Archive 6/10/18 12.30 pm

## GWALA RISING

Country | Papua New Guinea

Director | Stephani Gordon

Synopsis | Gwala Rising in the Bwanabwana Islands depicts the revitalization of traditional conservation practices in the islands of Papua New Guinea.

Recommended for all audiences

## LIBORIO

Country | Solomon Islands

Director | Elliot Spencer

Synopsis: | Liborio Maemari is a painter, carpenter, and boat builder from the artificial Islands of Malaïta, Solomon Islands. Liborio paints religious imagery for the Catholic Church along side paintings that represent traditional customs of the Solomon Islands.

Recommended for all audiences

## NAGHOTANO

Country | Solomon Islands

Director | Taco van der Eb

Synopsis | The island of Naghotano (Solomon Islands) is less than a kilometer square and home to about 600 people. While the population continues to grow, rising sea levels are chewing away at Naghotano and the other islands of the Pacific archipelago year after year.

Recommended for all audiences

## THE ROOTS OF ULU

Country | USA (Hawaii)

Director | John Antonelli

Synopsis | The Roots of 'Ulu transports the viewer from the Polynesian voyaging canoes that brought 'ulu from Tahiti to Hawai'i, up through the present day efforts of native practitioners, medical specialists and agricultural experts who have a shared vision of the 'ulu tree playing an important role in Hawai'i's cultural preservation, health restoration and food sustainability.

Recommended for all audiences

## WEAVING THE FUTURE

Country | Samoa

Director | Isack Hoppitt

Synopsis | Andy is a young Samoan who left behind his dream of studying art to chase a new passion - tourism.

Recommended for all audiences

## SALAMASINA'S DAUGHTERS

Country: Australia

Director | Aruna Po-Ching

Synopsis: Salamasina's Daughters is set in South Auckland, New Zealand, following two Samoan female chiefs, specifically orators, tulafale, a role traditionally for men only. Recommended for all audiences

TALES OF OCEANIA SHORTS

Casula Powerhouse 16/9/2018, 2.00 PM

## LADY EVA

Country | Tonga

Director | Dean Hamer, Joe Wilson, Hina Wong Kalu

Synopsis | A brave young transgender woman sets off on a journey to become her true self in the Pacific Island kingdom of Tonga - with a little inspiration from Tina Turner along the way

Recommended for children to view with their parents



## MEKE

Country | New Zealand

Director | Tim Worrall

Synopsis | The arrival of a trainer's daughter into the midst of backstage preparations before an important boxing match threatens to destroy the relationship between fighter and coach.

Recommended for audiences 15 years and over



## MOON MELON

Country | New Zealand

Director | Trina Peterrz

Synopsis | A group of young Polynesian women trying to break cultural boundaries and gender stereotypes within their community find themselves and something else.

Recommended for children to view with adult



## PANGUNA

Country | Australia

Director | Carmen Smith

Synopsis | In the midst of a civil war a woman is torn between her childhood and her future. The strength of her family continues to drive her through all her troubles.

Recommended for all audiences



## SUNDAY FUN DAY

Country: NZ

Director: Dianna Fuemana

Synopsis | A teenager's fantasy and a single mum's reality collide, leaving both to grapple a system that doesn't know how they fit in.

Recommended for all audiences



## TIFA

Country: Netherlands

Director: Jeftha Pattikawa

Synopsis | Originally the Tifa was used to bridge the tangible world to the world of spirits and to warn the inhabitants of the Moluccan Islands (Melanesia) of the arrival of the 'Marinjo', a messenger.

Recommended for all audiences



## WAITING

Country | New Zealand

Director | Amberley Jo Aumua

Synopsis | Two boys wait outside a shop for a phone-call.

Recommended for all audiences



## TALANOA SHORTS

Casula Powerhouse 13/9/2018, 7.00 PM

PFF18



PASIFIKA FILM FEST PRESENTS

# 48 HR FILM CHALLENGE

SEPTEMBER 12-14  
SYDNEY

## NEW TO PASIFIKA FILM FEST



### AEASI: AS FAR AS THE EYE CAN SEE ABOVE THE SEA (360 VR)

Country: Solomon Islands

Director: Amie Batalibasi

Synopsis | There is no direct translation of the word 'horizon' in my family's language but 'aeasi' means: as far as the eye can see above the sea. I see the sea as a living body; a keeper of ancestral spirits and memories; the past and the future, a map for travel; and at the same time, something that remains an ominous threat to my Pacific community due to climate change.

### OUR HOME, OUR PEOPLE: FIJI'S CLIMATE CHANGE STORY IN VR (360 VR)

Country: Fiji

Director: Tash Tan

Synopsis | 'Vei lomani' is a Fijian expression meaning 'love in action', and it is a value at the heart of Fijian life. And it is in the spirit of 'vei lomani' that Fijians are coming together to respond to the impacts of climate change. Experience the story of Catalina, Rai, Asmita and Rupeni in 360 VR.



### PRAISE SONG FOR OCEANIA (MOVING IMAGE INSTALLATION)

Country: USA (Guam)

Director: Craig Santos Perez, Justyn Ah Chong  
Synopsis | Praise Song for Oceania is a video poem about the ecologies, histories, politics, economies, and the cultures of the Ocean. Poem is written by Chamorro poet Craig Santos Perez and video was created by Hawaiian filmmaker Justyn Ah Chong of Olona Media.



WWW.PASIFIKAFILMFEST.COM

SYDNEY | SEPT 13 - 16  
Casula Powerhouse  
1 Powerhouse Road, Casula 2170

SYDNEY 48 HOUR FILM CHALLENGE  
SEPT 12 - 14 (FILMS SHOWN SEPT 16)  
Information and Cultural Exchange  
8 Victoria Rd, Parramatta 2150

BRISBANE | SEPT 27 & 28  
Queensland Multicultural Centre  
102 Main St, Kangaroo Point 4169

CANBERRA | OCT 6 & 7  
National Film & Sound Archive  
McCoy Circuit, Acton 2601

