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CAPITAL  
FILM  
FESTIVAL

OCT 30 — NOV 3

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## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

It's my pleasure to welcome you to the program of the 2024 **CAPITAL FILM FESTIVAL**. It's been an exciting year for cinema with many first-time filmmakers and established auteurs unravelling their works on screens and it's been a tough process narrowing the program down to a 5-day film festival.

A recurring theme found throughout film's this year, and reflected in selections, is that of isolation and its many forms. Perhaps we are still seeing the effects caused by the worldwide shutdowns of 2020, and the internal conflicts many artists looked to explore.

From the literal and figurative imprisonment of local Melbourne filmmaker Charles Williams' blistering debut *INSIDE*, and across the patriarchal societal restraints experienced so deeply in young Indian filmmaker Payal Kapadia's ethereal *ALL WE IMAGINE AS LIGHT*, to the repressed gender dysphoria of Mexican gangster with the show-stopping opening film *EMILIA PÉREZ*. Settle in and enjoy travelling the globe from the comfort of your seat at Dendy Canberra.

**Andrew Perkin, FESTIVAL DIRECTOR**

## TICKET PRICING

	GENERAL TICKETS	CLUB DENDY		GENERAL TICKETS	CLUB DENDY
ADULT	\$24	\$18	3 FESTIVAL PASS	\$60	
STUDENT/ CONCESSION	\$17.50	\$13.15	OPENING NIGHT	\$60	\$45
SENIOR	\$16	\$12	CLOSING NIGHT	\$30	\$23

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EVERY TICKET INCLUDES A BENTSPOKE HAZY PALE ALE ON ARRIVAL



# EMILIA PÉREZ

## OPENING NIGHT

2024

CAPITAL FILM FESTIVAL



**7:00pm Wed 30th Oct | OPENING NIGHT GALA**

ACT Premiere | 2hr 12min | Spanish | Jacques Audiard

Featuring fearless performances from Zoe Saldaña, Selena Gomez, Adriana Paz, and Karla Sofía Gascón, EMILIA PÉREZ is a wild, ingenious, and eye-popping spectacle from French director Jacques Audiard (Rust and Bone). The brilliant strategies of Mexico City defence attorney Rita (Saldaña) have kept many murderous but wildly affluent clients out of jail. But an unexpected way out soon appears in the form of helping notorious cartel leader Manitas Del Monte (Gascón) retire from business and transition into the woman he has always dreamed of being.

Part cartel drama, part musical, part Mexican melodrama, and part redemption parable, this bombastic epic is bursting with life in every scene. Unlike anything you've ever seen on screen, we couldn't be prouder to open the 2024 Capital Film Festival with the ACT Premiere of this celebration of cinematic power. Discover for yourself why this masterpiece scored the Grand Jury Prize and its superb ensemble cast collectively received the Best Actress award at the Cannes Film Festival this year.

**JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL MEXICAN CANTINA OPENING NIGHT GALA!**

**ENCORE SCREENING 8:40pm Sat 2nd Nov**

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# Eazee Drinking

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# A REAL PAIN

6:30pm Sat 2nd Nov

ACT Premiere | 1hr 30min | English | Jesse Eisenberg

Writer/director Jesse Eisenberg delivers his critically acclaimed sophomore directorial effort with A REAL PAIN, a poignant, funny exploration of the unexpected permutations of intergenerational trauma. Eisenberg and Emmy Award winner Kieran Culkin star as mismatched cousins David and Benji who reunite for a tour through Poland to honour their beloved grandmother. The adventure takes a turn when the pair's old tensions resurface against the backdrop of their family history. Eisenberg's intimate, resonant script complements the tension and humour of the two very different cousins' tumultuous road trip with a sensitively drawn reckoning of the legacy of World War II among the survivors of survivors.



# ALL WE IMAGINE AS LIGHT

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8:45pm Fri 1st Nov | 6:10pm Sat 2nd Nov

ACT Premiere | 1hr 50min  
Malayalam & Hindi | Payal Kapadia

A groundbreaking masterpiece that scored the prestigious Grand Prix prize at the Cannes Film Festival 2024, ALL WE IMAGINE AS LIGHT made history as the first Indian film to compete at Cannes in 30 years. A dreamy and intoxicating romantic drama from writer/director Payal Kapadia, the film follows two female nurses in Mumbai experiencing personal turning points tinged with the possibility of romance. Visually gorgeous and emotionally resonant, Kapadia captures the city of Mumbai in an observational and dreamlike manner while revelling in the lives and dreams of two women in their wistful search for love.





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# ANORA

6:00pm Fri 1st Nov | 8:30pm Sat 2nd Nov

ACT Premiere | 2hr 19min | English | Sean Baker

Winner of the Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival 2024, acclaimed writer/director Sean Baker (The Florida Project) returns with the big, bold, and very funny romantic comedy ANORA that's drawing a rapturous response from critics around the world. Mikey Madison is magnetic as Anora, a sex worker from Brooklyn who gets her chance at a Cinderella story when she meets and marries the son of an oligarch. Just as she's living her fairytale, his Russian parents swoop in to crash the party and undo the magic. Tender and dynamic yet raucous and feisty, this is a must-see gem destined to make a big impact this awards season.



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# CUCKOO

9:00pm Fri 1st Nov

ACT Premiere | 1hr 43min  
English & German | Tilman Singer

Starring Euphoria break-out star Hunter Schafer, CUCKOO is the sinister new horror centred on the unsettling occurrences at a resort in the German Alps. After the death of her mother, troubled American teen Gretchen (Schafer) is forced to relocate to Bavaria with her estranged father (Marton Csokas) and his new family. In a bid to distract from her grief and homesickness, Gretchen begins working at a resort overseen by eccentric entrepreneur Herr König (Dan Stevens). When Gretchen is plagued by strange noises and disturbing visions, she suspects something isn't right in this tranquil vacation paradise. Directed with inventive flair by Tilman Singer and led by a stellar turn from Schafer, this tense and unsettling thriller will keep you guessing until the very last frame.







FAMILY

COMEDY

ANIME



# GHOST CAT ANZU

4:00pm Sat 2nd Nov

ACT Premiere | 1hr 37min

Japanese | Yōko Kuno & Nobuhiro Yamashita

Based on Takashi Imashiro's popular manga, the unconventional and delightfully wacky GHOST CAT ANZU is an eccentric anime crafted with rotoscope to deliver something totally unique. After 11-year-old Karin is abandoned by her father at the Sousei-Ji temple where her grandfather lives, she befriends capricious spirit animal Anzu, a Hawaiian-shirt-clad anthropomorphic cat. The pair soon develop a tight bond and travel to Tokyo in search of Karin's father. Shot live on location and rotoscoped to melt the real world into Japan's fantastical kami realm, this quirky work paints a sympathetic portrait of the less-than-perfect personalities we often encounter in life and death.



# INSIDE

DRAMA

LOCAL

6:15pm Thurs 31st Oct | 1:30pm Sun 3rd Nov

ACT Premiere | 1hr 44min | English | Charles Williams

Guy Pearce, Cosmo Jarvis, and Vincent Miller star in INSIDE, shot entirely in Melbourne, it's a gripping portrait of institutionalisation from the local filmmaker and Short Film Palme d'Or winner Charles Williams. When Mel Blight (Miller) is transferred from juvenile detention to a maximum-security jail, he's assigned to share a cell with one of Australia's most infamous inmates, Mark Shepard (Jarvis). Seizing an opportunity, the hardened Warren Murfett (Pearce) recruits Mel to kill Mark, who has a contract on his head. As Warren nears parole and a reunion on the outside with his son, the relationship between the three men grows more entangled and intimate. Led by a trio of powerhouse performances, this is a poignant examination of the complex interplay between incarceration, rehabilitation, and remorse.



# FROMAGE & FILM

Embark on a sensory journey to the heart of French gastronomy. An exclusive film festival event that beautifully marries wine and cheese with the magic of French cinema. This event promises to be a celebration of French flair and fine filmmaking.



DOCUMENTARY



## MENUS-PLAISIRS - LES TROISGROS

1:45pm Sun 3rd Nov

ACT Premiere | 4hr | English & French | Frederick Wiseman

Master documentarian Frederick Wiseman latest masterpiece takes you on a captivating journey into the world of one of the world's most iconic restaurants - La Maison Troisgros - located in the idyllic French region of Ouches and proudly overseen by the renowned Les Troisgros family. Boasting triple Michelin-stars for over 50 years, discover the history, terroir, tradition, and culinary innovation that has made La Maison Troisgros a symbol of excellence in the global food scene and the visionary family behind it. We are proud to present the exclusive ACT premiere screening of this companion to your culinary journey.

Capital Film Festival has partnered with Le Cheeserie and Domaine Wine Shippers to bring you an array of gourmet delights. Savour a curated selection of fine cheeses by Le Cheeserie, expertly paired with a glass of premium French wine. This event promises to be a true celebration of French culture and perfect for cheese lovers, wine enthusiasts, and film buffs alike.





# LE CHEESERIE



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# NIGHTBITCH

6:30pm Fri 1st Nov | 4:20pm Sun 3rd Nov

ACT Premiere | 1hr 38min | English | Marielle Heller

Based on Rachel Yoder's best-selling novel and adapted for the screen by celebrated director Marielle Heller (*Can You Ever Forgive Me?*), *NIGHTBITCH* stars Academy Award® nominee Amy Adams as an overworked stay-at-home mum trying to catch a break, any break, while caring for her rambunctious toddler. Also, she might be turning into a dog. Yes, you read that correctly. A profoundly original exploration of motherhood and identity with a typically committed performance from Adams, Heller weaves drama, comedy, and significant elements of surrealism into an audacious and important piece destined to be one of the most talked-about films of the year.



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# PIECE BY PIECE

1:20pm Sat 2nd Nov

ACT Premiere | 1hr 33min | English | Morgan Neville

A unique cinematic experience that invites audiences on a vibrant journey through the life of music and cultural icon Pharrell Williams, *PIECE BY PIECE* is a bright, bouncy, and energetic sensory delight. Told through the lens of LEGO® animation and directed by Oscar-winning documentarian Morgan Neville (*20 Feet from Stardom*), this must-see doco captures the multi-hyphenate musician's unyielding creative spirit along his journey from humble beginnings in Virginia to global stardom working with artists like Jay-Z, Snoop Dogg, Justin Timberlake, and Gwen Stefani, who all appear in LEGO® form. Turn up the volume on your imagination and witness the evolution of one of music's most innovative minds in this wildly unconventional and endlessly entertaining documentary.







# SING SING

8:30pm Thurs 31st Oct | 4:10pm Sun 3rd Nov

ACT Premiere | 1hr 46min | English | Greg Kwedar

Winner of Festival Favorite at SXSW 2024 and based on the real-life arts rehabilitation programme founded at Sing Sing Correctional Facility, SING SING is the powerful and moving celebration of the transformative power of art. In one of the most memorable and affecting performances of his career, Academy Award® nominee Colman Domingo stars as a man imprisoned at Sing Sing for a crime he didn't commit who finds purpose by acting in a theatre group with other incarcerated men. When a wary outsider joins the group, the men decide to stage their first original comedy. A stirring true story of resilience, humanity, and redemption, this unforgettable gem is a deceptively beautiful portrait of incarceration rarely seen on screen.



# THE SEED OF THE SACRED FIG

6:00pm Thurs 31st Oct | 12:50pm Sun 3rd Nov

ACT Premiere | 2hr 48min | Persian | Mohammad Rasoulof

From renowned filmmaker Mohammad Rasoulof (There Is No Evil) and winner of the Special Jury Prize at the 2024 Cannes Film Festival, THE SEED OF THE SACRED FIG is a social drama turned cat-and-mouse thriller that will have you at the edge of your seat. As a state investigator in Tehran's Revolutionary Court, ambitious lawyer Iman is responsible for prosecuting young political protestors. As the streets alight with unrest and Iman becomes more entrenched in his work, he grows increasingly at odds with his own family. When his wife and daughters refuse to fall in line, an explosive clash beckons. An urgent and devastating film, this is an unforgettable tribute to those who have and continue to resist.





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# WE WERE DANGEROUS

8:45pm Thurs 31st Oct | 1:45pm Sat 2nd Nov

ACT Premiere | 1hr 22min  
English | Josephine Stewart-Te Whiu

Winner of the Special Jury Prize at SXSW this year, **WE WERE DANGEROUS** is the fiercely feminist Maori-led directorial debut from Josephine Stewart-Te Whiu centred on three fiery delinquent schoolgirls railing against the colonial system in 1950s New Zealand. After attempting to escape an institution for delinquent girls, Nellie and Daisy are relocated to a facility on a remote island where they join forces with well-to-do Lou. As the trio rebel against the oppressive rule of the devout Matron, a sense of doom settles in when experimental forms of punishment occur in the dead of night. A funny, frightening, and inspirational film about the power of female friendship, this terrific film is imbued with a wicked sense of humour and exuberant hopefulness.



# WELCOME TO BABEL

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3:30pm Sat 2nd Nov | Q&A Screening

ACT Premiere | 1hr 39min  
English & Mandarin | James Bradley

A fascinating and absorbing portrait of Chinese-Australian artist Shen Jiawei, **WELCOME TO BABEL** follows Jiawei's quest to create 'Tower of Babel,' a monumental mural depicting his homeland's tumultuous recent history. Intertwined with political context and the inter-country relationship between China and Australia, this illuminating documentary follows one obsessive, determined man's mission to craft an epic work that will take years to complete and ultimately stand over three storeys high. Uncover Jiawei's incredible journey from growing up in Mao's China and surviving the Cultural Revolution before emigrating to Australia where he now stands as one of the most important figures in the art world.







# THE ROOM NEXT DOOR CLOSING NIGHT

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CAPITAL FILM FESTIVAL

6:30pm Sun 3rd Nov | CLOSING NIGHT PREMIERE

ACT Premiere | 1hr 50min | English | Pedro Almodóvar

Winner of the prestigious Golden Lion at the Venice Film Festival, renowned Spanish director Pedro Almodóvar's first English-language feature *THE ROOM NEXT DOOR* is a visually exquisite and intimate drama centred on the relationship between two fascinating, complex, and flawed women. Ingrid (Academy Award® winner Julianne Moore) and Martha (Academy Award® winner Tilda Swinton) were close friends in their youth when they worked together at the same magazine. After years of being out of touch and separated by the circumstances of life, they meet again in an extreme but strangely sweet situation.

We are thrilled to close the 2024 Capital Film Festival with this critically acclaimed masterpiece from one of cinema's most beloved auteurs. Don't miss two of the greatest actresses of our time as they deftly deliver two superb performances in Almodóvar's latest that finds all of his signature hallmarks remain firmly in tact. A film about the magic of life while we live it, this is an unforgettable piece of cinema.



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# PROGRAM GUIDE

<b>WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 30TH</b>	<b>START</b>		<b>CLASSIFICATION</b>
Emilia Pérez	7:00 pm		Unclassified 18+
<b>THURSDAY OCTOBER 31ST</b>	<b>START</b>	<b>END</b>	<b>CLASSIFICATION</b>
The Seed of the Sacred Fig	6:00 pm	9:03 pm	M 15+
Inside	6:15 pm	8:14 pm	Unclassified 18+
Sing Sing	8:30 pm	10:31 pm	Unclassified 18+
We Were Dangerous	8:45 pm	10:22 pm	Unclassified 15+
<b>FRIDAY NOVEMBER 1ST</b>	<b>START</b>	<b>END</b>	<b>CLASSIFICATION</b>
Anora	6:00 pm	8:34 pm	Unclassified 18+
Nightbitch	6:30 pm	8:23 pm	Unclassified 15+
All We Imagine As Light	8:45 pm	10:58 pm	M 15+
Cuckoo	9:00 pm	10:58 pm	Unclassified 18+
<b>SATURDAY NOVEMBER 2ND</b>	<b>START</b>	<b>END</b>	<b>CLASSIFICATION</b>
Piece By Piece	1:20 pm	3:08 pm	All Ages
We Were Dangerous	1:45 pm	3:22 pm	Unclassified 15+
Welcome To Babel	3:30 pm	6:04 pm	All Ages
Ghost Cat Anzu	4:00 pm	5:49 pm	Unclassified 15+
All We Imagine As Light	6:10 pm	8:23 pm	M 15+
A Real Pain	6:30 pm	8:15 pm	M 15+
Anora	8:30 pm	11:09 pm	Unclassified 18+
Emilia Pérez	8:40 pm	11:08 pm	Unclassified 18+
<b>SUNDAY NOVEMBER 3RD</b>	<b>START</b>	<b>END</b>	<b>CLASSIFICATION</b>
The Seed of the Sacred Fig	12:50 pm	3:58 pm	M 15+
Inside	1:30 pm	3:29 pm	Unclassified 18+
Menus-Plaisirs – Les Troisgros	1:45 pm	6:05 pm	Unclassified 18+
Sing Sing	4:10 pm	6:11 pm	Unclassified 18+
Nightbitch	4:20 pm	6:13 pm	Unclassified 15+
The Room Next Door	6:30 pm	8:46 pm	Unclassified 15+

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