

LEBANESE FILM FESTIVAL

SYDNEY
17 AUG –
2 SEP 23

LFF.ORG.AU





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The City of Canterbury Bankstown located in the centre of Greater Sydney, is an important strategic centre, conveniently located 15-30 minutes from other major Sydney centres.

The Bankstown CBD is home to the Bankstown Arts Centre where artists and community groups collaborate to explore ideas and learn, create and experience contemporary community-based arts.

Our arts and culture venues are a platform for artists, communities and audiences experiencing social exclusion such as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, people with a disability, culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) and low-income communities to showcase their talents.

Our City is also home to the Bankstown Poetry Slam which empowers people to express themselves through spoken word poetry and the Bryan Brown Theatre, our premiere entertainment destination for cultural showcases, dance concerts, musical performances, conferences, seminars and film screening.

The City of Canterbury Bankstown, **Where Interesting Happens**, is the grassroots for the Lebanese Film Festival.



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Lebanese Film Festival 2023 - Sydney

Visit ff.org.au for tickets and info

DATE	TIME	FILM	GENRE	VENUE
Thu 17 Aug	6.15pm	*Opening Night - Carona All Roads Lead to Rome	Feature; Comedy, Drama	The Bryan Brown Theatre, Bankstown
Fri 18 Aug	9.00pm		Feature; Comedy	The Theatre, Bankstown Sports Club
Sat 19 Aug	10.00am	**Le Jardin De Mon Père + Calthourm + To Jeddo with Love Beirut Port Blast Stories + Walking in My Shoes + The Birds Have Left Beirut	Shorts; Family, Memories	Bankstown Arts Centre
Sat 19 Aug	11.00am		Shorts; Documentaries	Bankstown Arts Centre
Sat 19 Aug	12.30pm	My Toy + So Cool + The Woman Pastor + My Neighbour Maleko	Shorts; Drama, Comedy, Documentary	Bankstown Arts Centre
Sat 19 Aug	1.30pm	Tramway Beirut + Sisters of the Rotation + Unseen	Shorts; Family, Drama, Satire Comedy	Bankstown Arts Centre
Sat 19 Aug	2.35pm	Lower Ground + Khalil + Hummus and Chips + Pepe Saya - The Origins	Shorts, Drama, Comedy, Documentary	Bankstown Arts Centre
Sat 19 Aug	3.45pm	***SBS Dateline: Bank Robbers + Q&A Bystander + Illegal + Echoes	Shorts; Documentary	Bankstown Arts Centre
Sat 19 Aug	5.45pm		Shorts; Drama, Crime, Silent Film	Bankstown Arts Centre
Sat 19 Aug	7.00pm	The Cypriot Maronites	Documentary; History	Bankstown Arts Centre
Sat 19 Aug	8.30pm	After the End of the World	Documentary; History	Bankstown Arts Centre
Sun 20 Aug	7.00pm	Hardabash	Feature; Drama, Crime	HOYTS Bankstown
Sun 20 Aug	9.00pm	**Ramases to Paris	Feature; Comedy	HOYTS Bankstown
Wed 23 Aug	8.00pm	Dyounf Sharaf (Guests of Honour)	Feature; Comedy, Drama	The Theatre, Bankstown Sports Club
Thu 24 Aug	7.00pm	***Hostile Forces + Q&A	Feature; Drama, Crime	HOYTS Bankstown
Fri 25 Aug	7.00pm	Mother Valley	Feature; Drama, Romance	HOYTS Bankstown
Fri 25 Aug	9.00pm	Wala Ghalta (Flawless)	Feature; Comedy	HOYTS Bankstown
Sat 26 Aug	7.00pm	***Streets of Colour + Q&A Jacir	Feature; Drama, Crime	HOYTS Bankstown
Sat 26 Aug	8.30pm		Feature; Drama, Crime	HOYTS Bankstown
Sun 27 Aug	6.30pm	All Roads Lead to Rome	Feature; Comedy	HOYTS Bankstown
Wed 30 Aug	7.00pm	Mother Valley	Feature; Drama, Romance	HOYTS Broadway
Thu 31 Aug	7.00pm	Jacir	Feature; Drama, Crime	HOYTS Broadway
Fri 1 Sep	6.45pm	Carona	Feature; Comedy	The Theatre, Bankstown Sports Club
Fri 1 Sep	9.10pm	Big Lie	Feature; Social Drama, Comedy	The Theatre, Bankstown Sports Club
Sat 2 Sep	7.00pm	*Closing Night - El Fil (The Elephant)	Feature; Comedy	The Theatre, Bankstown Sports Club

NOTE: All foreign films are subtitled in English Sat 19 Aug: Complimentary screenings, registrations required *Special event: Pre-film food & beverages **Out of competition ***Q&A with Director & Cast

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WELCOME

LFF Co-Director Message



Dear patrons,

We are pleased to present the eleventh edition of the Lebanese Film Festival! It has been another exciting year in the Lebanese cinema space, and for Lebanese film makers in Australia and across the world!

Despite the obstacles faced in Lebanon at the current time, we are grateful for the resilience and determination of Lebanese filmmakers. Thanks to their unwavering spirit, we are able to bring you an array of captivating new content.

This year's edition offers a unique opportunity to experience the very best of Lebanese cinema. With a reach that extends throughout Australia, we invite all Australians to immerse themselves in the rich tapestry of stories that Lebanese filmmakers have shared over the past year. From a wide selection of locally and Lebanon-produced short films, features, and documentaries, there is something for everyone to enjoy. Through the power of cinema, we can bridge the distance and connect with the stories that have the power to inspire, educate, and entertain us.

As you embark on your festival experience, we encourage you to savour each film and let it transport you to the vibrant world of Lebanese cinema. Take this time to appreciate the artistry, the passion, and the resilience that lies within each frame. And remember, we are united by our shared love for cinema and the power it holds to bring us together.

Thank you for joining us on another exciting edition. We hope that the Lebanese Film Festival of 2023 will leave a lasting impression and kindle a desire to explore more of the incredible talent and stories that Lebanon has to offer.

We look forward to meeting you at Festival events this year!

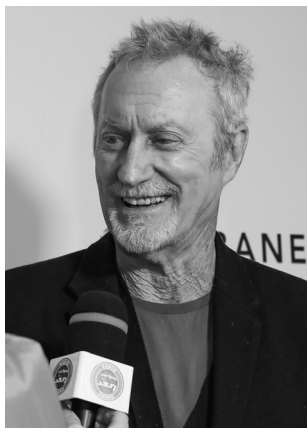


Camille Lattouf
Director,
Lebanese Film Festival

Jessica Zeait
Co-Director,
Lebanese Film Festival

BRYAN BROWN

Patron Welcome Message



As Patron of the Lebanese Film Festival Australia, it fills me with great joy to commemorate eleven remarkable years of bringing the rich tapestry of Lebanese cinema to audiences across Australia. Throughout this incredible journey, we have come to recognise that storytelling lies at the very essence of our humanity. These films have not only entertained and touched the hearts of grandparents, parents, siblings, friends, aunties, and uncles but have also extended a warm invitation to all Australians to delve into the mesmerising world of Lebanese cinema.

Behind the scenes, the dedicated Lebanese Film Festival team has poured their hearts and souls into crafting an unforgettable cinematic experience, not just for the Australian community, but also for our talented local and international film storytellers who represent Lebanon. From visionary directors and gifted actors to skilled writers, producers, and set designers, they have pooled their talents to unveil stories that transcend the boundaries of sight and touch the depths of our hearts. Through their artistic endeavours, they have bestowed upon us a precious gift – the ability to embrace and comprehend a culture that has faced challenges with unwavering resilience while preserving its authentic core.

Working closely with our festival family, I take immense pride in witnessing local productions and stories seamlessly woven into the festival's program. I urge each and every one of you to seize this opportunity and immerse yourselves. Discover the beauty, passion, and profound narratives that Lebanese cinema has to offer. Gather in the theatres to share laughter or shed tears, to be inspired, or perhaps ignite a spirited debate. The world of Lebanese cinema awaits you, and it is a world of boundless wonders waiting to be explored.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Bryan Brown". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a small dot at the end.

Bryan Brown AM
Patron, Lebanese Film Festival



OPENING NIGHT

**Bryan Brown Theatre,
Bankstown THU 17 AUG, 6:15PM**

Join us for a red-carpet welcome, where you will savour the finest Lebanese gastronomic delights provided by Taytas Food Co, along with a selection of Lebanese drinks and entertained with Lebanese music by Zaffet Lebnen. The evening will encompass formalities, followed by an exclusive screening of Carona - a delightful Lebanese Comedy, written and directed by Shady Hanna. Tickets: \$90 (all inclusive).



CLOSING NIGHT

**The Theatre, Bankstown Sports Club
SAT 2 SEP, 7:00PM**

Join us in wrapping up the Sydney event with a delightful blend of flavours, music and film, making it a night to remember. Get ready for a belly-full of a tasty Lebanese buffet, served by Taytas Food Co, before we roll into the hilarious comedy film 'El Fil' (The Elephant), directed by Sami Koujan. Lebanese drinks can be purchased from Bar LFF. Tickets: \$50 (includes food and film).



SHORTS & DOCOS

Bankstown Arts Centre | SUN 20 AUG

Join us for an exhilarating day of cinematic exploration at the Lebanese Film Festival Shorts and Documentary Day on Saturday, 19th August! We've got an incredible lineup of 22 films at 11 sessions featuring captivating shorts and documentaries, with all sessions being absolutely FREE. One of the sessions includes a screening of SBS's Dateline episode "Bank Robbers" followed by a Q&A with SBS's Darren Mara and ABC's Eliza Harvey. Tickets: Free, registration required.

FEATURES



ALL ROADS LEAD TO ROME

From fame to faith: Can Hady's spiritual journey lead him to land the role of a lifetime? All Roads Lead to Rome follows the famous actor's transformative retreat with four nuns and a young woman in Wadi Qannoubin (a world heritage listed village in Northern Lebanon) as he prepares for his decisive casting as the young pope. Will he make it to the audition in time?

LEBANON – 2022 – 90 MINS – G

LANGUAGE Arabic with English Subtitles

DIRECTOR Lara Saba

CAST Chadi Haddad, Ruba Zaarour, Julia Kassar, Betty Taoutel

SCREENING The Theatre, Bankstown Sports Club
FRI 18 AUG, 9:00PM
HOYTS Bankstown
SUN 27 AUG, 6:30PM

BIG LIE

In a world driven by social media, soaring heights await those who wield it wisely, but a dangerous obsession could lead to a devastating downfall. Big Lie follows the lives of intertwined characters, consumed and tested by the relentless grip of the social media world in Lebanon, revealing the hidden truths and challenges they must confront.

LEBANON – 2023 – 100 MINS – 15+

LANGUAGE Arabic with English Subtitles

DIRECTOR Nadim Mehanna

CAST Fouad Yammine, Yaaqoub Chahine, Laura Khabbaz

SCREENING The Theatre, Bankstown Sports Club
FRI 1 SEP, 9:10PM



OPENING NIGHT

CARONA

During a Corona lockdown, a family finds themselves trapped in their apartment. When their neighbour contracts COVID-19, they are compelled to leave the city urgently. Seeking refuge, they relocate to the father's ancestral mountain home, devoid of power and internet. However, their new environment plunges them into chaos, leading to unexpected challenges and a test of their unity.

LEBANON – 2021 – 87 MINS – 15+

LANGUAGE Arabic with English Subtitles

DIRECTOR Shady Hanna

CAST Nada Bou Farhat, Abboudy Mallah, Daniel Abou Chakra

SCREENING Bryan Brown Theatre,
Bankstown
THUR 17 AUG, 6:15PM
The Theatre, Bankstown
Sports Club
FRI 1 SEP, 6:45PM



DYOUF SHARAF (GUESTS OF HONOR)

A Lebanese feature comedy directed by Sami Koujan. Reem's meticulously planned wedding takes an unexpected turn when her long-lost sister, who escaped from a psychiatric hospital, shows up uninvited. Chaos ensues as Adel steps in to help her for his own secret motives.

LEBANON – 2023 – 100 MINS – 15+

LANGUAGE Arabic with English Subtitles

DIRECTOR Sami Koujan

CAST Stephanie Atala, Mohamed Attia, Elias Zayek, Fouad Yammine, Joseph Zaitouny

SCREENING The Theatre, Bankstown
Sports Club
WED 23 AUG, 8:00PM



CLOSING NIGHT & BAR LFF

EL FIL (THE ELEPHANT)

Samy and Makram, facing financial struggles, hatch a plan to steal an ancient artefact from their wealthy friend, Farid, in order to settle their debts. Their risky and adventurous journey is filled with comedic mishaps, testing the bounds of their friendship.

LEBANON – 2023 – 90 MINS – 15+

LANGUAGE Arabic with English Subtitles

DIRECTOR Sami Koujan

CAST Hisham Haddad, Fouad Yammine, Jouneid Zeineddine, Sirina El Shami, Joseph Zaitouny

SCREENING The Theatre, Bankstown
Sports Club
SAT 2 SEP, 7:00PM



HARDABASHT

A family torn apart by drugs and faith must confront their loyalties and face the consequences of their choices in this gripping story of turmoil and morality.

LEBANON – 2023 – 90 MINS – 15+

LANGUAGE English

DIRECTOR Mohammad Dayekh

CAST Randa Kaady, Fouad Yammine, Gabriel Yammine, Joseph Zaitouny

SCREENING HOYTS Bankstown
SUN 20 AUG, 7:00PM



Q&A

HOSTILE FORCES

LOCAL FEATURE

A retired soldier takes his family out to a nice quiet holiday break. They stumble across something they shouldn't have and now the father must rely on his old skills to save his family from a team of trained killers.

***15 minute Q&A post screening**

AUSTRALIA – 2023 – 90 MINS – M

LANGUAGE English

DIRECTOR George Basha

CAST Maya Stange, George Basha, Stephen Anderson, Troy Honeysett

SCREENING **HOYTS Bankstown**
THU 24 AUG, 7:00PM



JACIR

From Aleppo to the Ghetto: JACIR, a brilliantly scripted and gripping social drama that is an absolute must-see. Through the poignant journey of Malek Rahbani's Syrian refugee character, experience the harsh realities of pursuing the American dream amidst poverty, social injustice, and an unlikely bond with his conservative, opioid-addicted neighbour portrayed by the remarkable Lorraine Bracco.

USA – 2022 – 105 MINS – 15+

LANGUAGE English

DIRECTOR Waheed AlQawasmi

CAST Malek Rahbani, Lorraine Bracco

SCREENING **HOYTS Bankstown**
SAT 26 AUG, 8:30PM
HOYTS Broadway
THU 31 AUG, 7:00PM



MOTHER VALLEY

Amidst Lebanon's 1958 civil war, Layla, a young mother and model wife, seeks solace in a remote village while her sisters, Eva and Nada, challenge societal norms and reject arranged marriages during the wedding season.

LEBANON – 2022 – 83 MINS – 15+

LANGUAGE Arabic & French with English subtitles

DIRECTOR Carlos Chahine

CAST Marilyn Naaman, Antoine Merhab Tarb, Nathalie Baye

SCREENING HOYTS Bankstown
FRI 25 AUG, 7:00PM
HOYTS Broadway
WED 30 AUG, 7:00PM



RAMSIS PARIS

OUT OF COMPETITION

An Egyptian Comedy starring Lebanon's Haifa Wehbe, 'Ramsis Paris' is based on a whirlwind romance blossoming between Isabel, the French governor of Rosetta's daughter, and Egyptian Selim, leading to her relocation to France and an unexpected encounter with a mischievous Moroccan sorcerer.

FRANCE, EGYPT – 2023 – 105 MINS – 15+

LANGUAGE Arabic with English Subtitles

DIRECTOR Ahmed Khaled Musa

CAST Haifa Wehbe, Mohamed Sallam, Mostafa Khater

SCREENING HOYTS Bankstown
SUN 20 AUG, 9:00PM



Q&A

STREETS OF COLOUR

LOCAL FEATURE

After being blamed for the death of his best friend in a racist street fight, Tez, a 23-year-old drug dealer loses custody to a son he's never met. He must now find a way to get his life back on track and get his son before it's too late.

***15 minute Q&A post screening**

AUSTRALIA – 2023 – 102 MINS – MA 15+

LANGUAGE English

DIRECTOR Ronnie S. Riskalla

CAST Rahel Romahn, Veronica Cloherty, Elliot Giarola, Simon Elrahi

SCREENING **HOYTS Bankstown**
SAT 26 AUG, 7:00PM



WALA GHALTA

A famous fashion designer tries a new psychological treatment to cure his fear of commitment.

LEBANON – 2023 – 114 MINS – 15+

LANGUAGE Arabic with English Subtitles

DIRECTOR Saed El Marouk

CAST Fouad Yammine, Ziad Bourji, Jessy Abdo

SCREENING **HOYTS Bankstown**
FRI 25 AUG, 9:00PM

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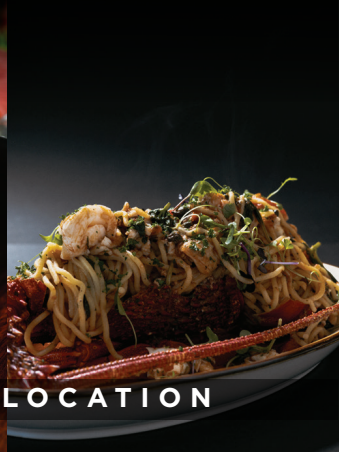
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DOCUMENTARIES



AFTER THE END OF THE WORLD

Set amongst the constantly changing city of Beirut, this rousing film explores the knowledge and history spaces can hold, and what happens when those spaces disappear.



LEBANON – 2022 – 72 MINS – 15+

LANGUAGE Arabic with English Subtitles

DIRECTOR Nadim Mishlawi

SCREENING Bankstown Arts Centre
SAT 19 AUG, 8:30PM

THE CYPRIOT MARONITES

Discover the compelling story of the Cypriot Maronites, a resilient religious community residing in Turkish-controlled areas of Cyprus, as they strive to preserve their fading language, traditions, and cultural heritage in the face of formidable challenges.

LEBANON – 2022 – 61 MINS – 15+

LANGUAGE Arabic, Modern Greek with English Subtitles

DIRECTOR Carmen Labaki

SCREENING Bankstown Arts Centre
SAT 19 AUG, 7:00PM

AZARIADE

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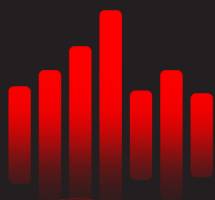
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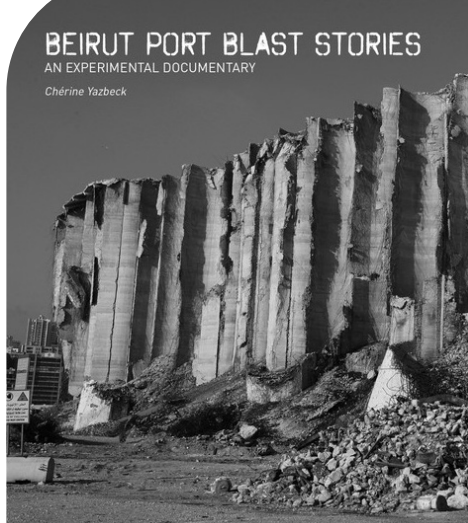
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SHORTS



BEIRUT PORT BLAST STORIES

AN EXPERIMENTAL DOCUMENTARY

Chérine Yazbeck

BEIRUT PORT BLAST STORIES

On August 4, 2020, an explosion destroys half of the city of Beirut.

Through the account of four witnesses who each have lost a beloved one, the documentary gives a voice to the families' victims.

LEBANON, FRANCE – 2023 – 30 MINS – 15+

LANGUAGE Arabic with English Subtitles

DIRECTOR Cherine Yazbeck

SCREENING **Bankstown Arts Centre**
SAT 19 AUG, 11:00AM



BYSTANDER

Roger, a beloved basketball coach, witnesses a shocking act of violence on his way to work. Paralysed by fear, he chooses not to intervene, leading to a spiral of shame.

LEBANON – 2022 – 13 MINS – 15+

LANGUAGE Portuguese with English Subtitles

DIRECTOR Rachel Aoun

CAST Joseph Zaitouny

SCREENING Bankstown Arts Centre
SAT 19 AUG, 5:45PM



CALTHOUM

OUT OF COMPETITION

At the age of 60, Calthoum reminisces about his bittersweet journey to Brazil, where memories of both joy and anguish intertwine.

BRAZIL – 2022 – 8 MINS – 15+

LANGUAGE Portuguese with English Subtitles

DIRECTOR Pedro Miguel

SCREENING Bankstown Arts Centre
SAT 19 AUG, 10:00AM



ECHOES

Told through a single window-frame, the history of three generations unfolds. Family dynamics take place, in a means all too familiar to make one wonder: will they repeat their own history?

LEBANON – 2021 – 9 MINS – 15+

LANGUAGE Silent film

DIRECTOR Julian Kobersy

CAST Rae Gemayel, Ayman Hamawi, Joseph Daaboul

SCREENING Bankstown Arts Centre
SAT 19 AUG, 5:45PM



HUMMUS AND CHIPS

Set against the backdrop of the COVID-19 lockdown, grumpy racist grandma Margaret is lonely and anxiously waiting for her coronavirus test results. She then makes an unusual decision to spend a full day with her Arab neighbour, Bashar. Will this encounter go smoothly?

EGYPT – 2022 – 14 MINS – 15+

LANGUAGE Arabic and English with English subtitles

DIRECTOR Ahmad Moghazy

CAST Bashar Zeedan, Lara Assi, Maggie Bourgein

SCREENING Bankstown Arts Centre
SAT 19 AUG, 2:35PM



ILLEGAL

Ali, living in a poor Beirut suburb, turns to risky business as he attempts to make ends meet, leading to a story of poverty, despair, and mistrust.

LEBANON – 2023 – 24 MINS – 15+

LANGUAGE Arabic with English subtitles

DIRECTOR Ramy El Khoury

CAST Khitam El Laham,
Abbas Hodroj

SCREENING Bankstown Arts Centre
SAT 19 AUG, 5:45PM



KHALIL

A tender tale unfolds as Khalil finds solace and hope in a rescued fish, providing him a secret sanctuary from the domestic violence that plagues him and his mother. With his father's watchful eyes, Khalil must safeguard his newfound source of comfort and find a way to break free from their turbulent reality.

LEBANON – 2022 – 18 MINS – 15+

LANGUAGE Arabic with English Subtitles

DIRECTOR Sarah Safieddine

CAST Ali Sleiman, Georgina Eid,
Shadi Shamas

SCREENING Bankstown Arts Centre
SAT 19 AUG, 2:35PM



LE JARDIN DE MON PÈRE (MY GRANDFATHER'S GARDEN)

OUT OF COMPETITION

A visual memoir capturing the transformative journey of a filmmaker who, reflecting on their tumultuous childhood experiences in their father's garden, discovers a newfound appreciation and connection as they revisit the same garden as an adult.

LEBANON – 2023 – 4 MINS – 15+

LANGUAGE French with English subtitles

DIRECTOR Charbel Kamal

SCREENING Bankstown Arts Centre
SAT 19 AUG, 10:00AM



LOWER GROUND

As a concierge sets out to prepare dinner for his hungry nephew, an insistent resident interrupts, causing a dilemma. Caught between his employer's demands and the boy's needs, the concierge's absence allows the young nephew to take matters into his own hands.

UNITED KINGDOM – 2023 – 13 MINS – 15+

LANGUAGE Arabic with English Subtitles

DIRECTOR Firas Itani

CAST Joy Hallak, Daniel Abou Chakra, Francois Naoum

SCREENING Bankstown Arts Centre
SAT 19 AUG, 2:35PM



MY NEIGHBOUR MALEKO

LOCAL SHORT

A young man tries to find the fastest solution to 'fix' his mental health. Along the way he discovers that some things can't be a race to the finish.

AUSTRALIA – 2023 – 7 MINS – 15+

LANGUAGE English

DIRECTOR Olivia Foa'i

CAST Challito Browne,
Adam Foa'i- Auimatagi

SCREENING Bankstown Arts Centre
SAT 19 AUG, 12:30PM



MY TOY

In a poignant short film, Sarah and Salem, two children estranged from their troubled parents, find solace and fleeting moments of joy in a simple toy. However, their situation is tested as they argue over a toy, reflecting the turmoil they carry within.

DENMARK – 2023 – 8 MINS – 15+

LANGUAGE Arabic, Danish with
English Subtitles

DIRECTOR Mazen Haj Kassem

CAST Hassan El Sayed,
Camilla Kold Krohn Gade,
Abulrahman Chabaani

SCREENING Bankstown Arts Centre
SAT 19 AUG, 12:30PM



PEPE SAYA - THE ORIGINS

LOCAL SHORT DOCO

This is the life journey of Pierre (Pepe) Issa, that led to him making artisan butter and the creation of Pepe Saya Butter Co- the brand, the flavour and the shape. Pierre was born in Lebanon to an Anglo Australian mother and Lebanese father.

AUSTRALIA – 2023 – 3 MINS – ALL AGES

LANGUAGE English

DIRECTOR Rob Locke

CAST Pierre Issa

SCREENING Bankstown Arts Centre
SAT 19 AUG, 2:35PM



SBS DATELINE: BANK ROBBERS

There has been a spate of bank robberies across Beirut. Dateline investigates why one woman held up a bank to get her own cash back.

***15 minute Q&A post screening with Darren Mara and Eliza Harvey**

LEBANON, AUSTRALIA –
2023 – 29 MINS – 15+

LANGUAGE Arabic and English with English subtitles

HOST Darren Mara

SCREENING Bankstown Arts Centre
SAT 19 AUG, 3:45PM



SO COOL

In a quaint corner of Beirut, Nathalie prepares to close the bar where she works to celebrate her boyfriend Amin's life-changing role in a major film. However, as the night unfolds, Amin carries a surprising piece of news that will drastically alter their evening and the course of their lives.

LEBANON – 2022 – 13 MINS – 15+

LANGUAGE Arabic with English Subtitles

DIRECTOR Marilynne Naaman

CAST Marilynne Naaman,
Pio Chihane

SCREENING Bankstown Arts Centre
SAT 19 AUG, 12:30PM



THE BIRDS HAVE LEFT BEIRUT

In this poignant short documentary, we hear about the life of a 40-year-old mother named Zeina, her 9-year-old son Oliver, and her 43-year-old husband Rodolphe as their serene rhythm of daily life in Beirut is abruptly disrupted by the cataclysmic events of August 4, 2022 - the third most powerful explosion in history.

LEBANON – 2022 – 15 MINS – MA15+

LANGUAGE Arabic with English Subtitles

DIRECTOR Kahlil Dreyfus Zaarour

CAST Rodolphe Zaarour

SCREENING Bankstown Arts Centre
SAT 19 AUG, 11:00AM



SISTERS OF THE ROTATION

At Sisters of the Rotation's convent, the Earth doesn't spin by itself.



THE WOMAN PASTOR

In a community of a Muslim majority, the first woman pastor in the Middle East leads a parish in one of the poorest city of the Mediterranean, in the heart of Tripoli, North Lebanon.

LEBANON – 2022 – 15 MINS – 15+

LANGUAGE Arabic with English Subtitles

DIRECTOR Michel Zarazir

CAST Zeina Sfeir, Betty Taoutel, Elias Absi

SCREENING Bankstown Arts Centre
SAT 19 AUG, 1:30PM

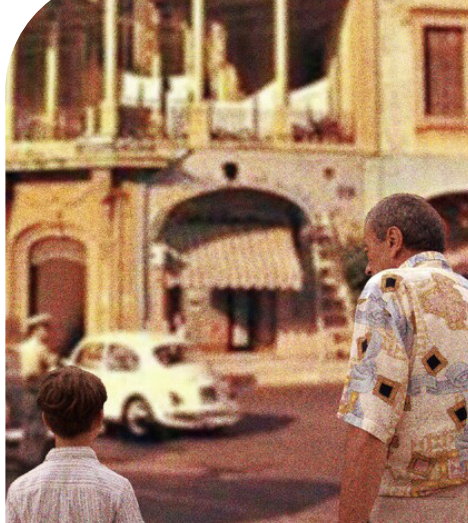
LEBANON – 2023 – 8 MINS – 15+

LANGUAGE Arabic with English Subtitles

DIRECTOR Julian Kobersy

CAST Roula Sleiman, Reem Kahkedjian, Jack Kahkedjian

SCREENING Bankstown Arts Centre
SAT 19 AUG, 12:30PM



TO JEDDO, WITH LOVE

OUT OF COMPETITION

A visual letter dedicated to the filmmaker's late grandfather Mounir who saw nothing but beauty in this world.

LEBANON – 2022 – 8 MINS – 15+

LANGUAGE English

DIRECTOR Yara Matilda Melki

CAST Samia Nassar Melki,
Nayla Nassar

SCREENING Bankstown Arts Centre
SAT 19 AUG, 10:00AM

TRAMWAY BEIRUT

In a small Lebanese village in 1992, eight-year-old Joe longs to visit Beirut after hearing enchanting stories from his grandmother. When a significant event alters Joe's life, he embarks on a journey to find a city that starkly contrasts the one his grandmother described.

LEBANON – 2023 – 19 MINS – 15+

LANGUAGE Arabic with English Subtitles

DIRECTOR Geovany Fayek Mounzer

CAST Bendy Matar, Therese
Tahbani, Nassib Sebaaly

SCREENING Bankstown Arts Centre
SAT 19 AUG, 1:30PM



UNSEEN

As Yusra busily prepares for her wedding, a significant aspect goes unnoticed. Within the whirlwind of preparations, we witness her introspective journey, guided by external influences, as she contemplates a decision that holds the power to bring genuine and profound healing.

LEBANON – 2022 – 10 MINS – 15+

LANGUAGE Arabic with English subtitles

DIRECTOR Yara Lahoud

CAST Chelsea Choueir Antoine
Karam Simon Souaid

SCREENING Bankstown Arts Centre
SAT 19 AUG, 1:30PM



WALKING IN MY SHOES

A documentary following shoes donated from children in the suburbs of Scotland to young Syrian refugees in the settlements in Lebanon. At its heart this a childrens' story. It is as much about the children who donate as the those who receives the shoes.

**UNITED KINGDOM, GERMANY, LEBANON
– 2018 – 18 MINS – 15+**

LANGUAGE English

DIRECTOR Colin Mcrae

CAST Colin Mcrae

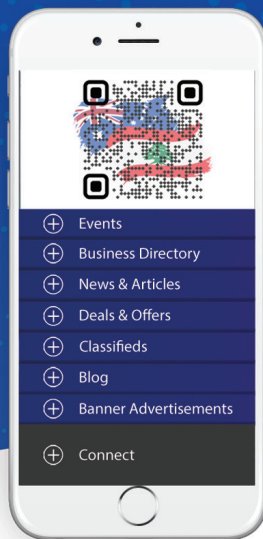
SCREENING Bankstown Arts Centre
SAT 19 AUG, 11:00AM

The New App is here!

Check out the perfect mobile app
for the Australian Lebanese community!

We are a community-based hub created with the aim of
bringing together Lebanese people living in Australia.

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OUR PURPOSE



Experience captivating cinema and celebrate Lebanon's vibrant spirit with us at the Lebanese Film Festival Australia. Co-founded in 2011 by Camille Lattouf, Jessica Zeait (Née Khoury), and Julia Lattouf, we are a 100 percent volunteer-led, Bankstown based non-profit organisation.

Since our debut in 2012, our festival has grown into a national arts and cultural event, drawing diverse audiences from across Australia. We showcase Lebanese Cinema, dispelling misconceptions about Lebanon, its people, culture, and traditions. With esteemed Australian Film icon Bryan Brown AM as our Patron, an enthusiastic Committee of eight members, and award winning journalist and author, Antoinette Lattouf as our Ambassador, we're driven to create an unforgettable cinematic experience.



Supporting local and international filmmakers is at the core of our mission. We foster connections and encourage Lebanese participation in film and creative arts, ensuring a sustainable and inclusive future for the arts.

But that's not all! Through our engaging schools program, we bring international cinema directly to thousands of students, enriching their educational experience.

To date, we've screened over 300 films from around the world, celebrating the art of Lebanese storytelling. Join us on this enchanting cinematic journey, support and become part of the Lebanese Film Festival Australia family!

Learn more at lff.org.au.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

As we enter the next decade with the eleventh edition of the Lebanese Film Festival (LFF) Australia in 2023, we extend our heartfelt thanks to our filmmakers, sponsors, partners, and devoted individuals from Australia, Lebanon, and beyond. Your unwavering support and shared passion has helped bring the 2023 edition to life, enriching cinema and celebrating culture and unity. Gratitude to all and in particular:

City of Canterbury-Bankstown	Michael Harriden
Council team	John and Ronique Gebran
Screen NSW	David and Julie Isaac
Bryan Brown AM	John Nicolas
Antoinette Lattouf	Jacqueline Venesjarvi
His Excellency Mr Milad Raad	Linda Worsfold
Eliza Harvey	Natalie Yarak
Darren Mara	Patrick Zeait
Bankstown Sports team	Pierre Issa
Dorry and David Kordahi	Chris Azar
Joe and Nissrine Daher	Jay Productions team
Johnny Youssef	Robbie Chouman
Pat Cunningham	Ryan Butler
Steve Voulgaris	Christopher George
Paul Jackson	Charbel Khabbaz
Elias Mattar	Tony Said
Suzan Horani	Shay Gittany
Carol Hanna	Remy Wehbe
Lattouf, Khoury, Touma,	Anthony Allam
Fayad, Zeait, Fanous families	Vera Farah
Marina Semaan	Ryan Butler
Nassim Allam	Fayrouz Ajaka
Our amazing LFF volunteers	Elias Doummar
Jonathan Saad	Lucien Jankelson
Damian Keogh	Lani Draheim
Dean Turner	Carol Ferrone
Peter Skillman	

With love and thanks,
Lebanese Film Festival 2023 Committee:
Camille Lattouf (Director)
Jessica Zeait (Co-Director)
Julia Lattouf (Public Affairs & Marketing)
Priscilla Fayad (Finance, Operations & Events)
Ed Hanna (Film Programmer & Festival Advisor)
David Zeait (Strategic Advisor)
Angela Fanous (Volunteer Management)



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Cheers to the storytellers.



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