

# LEBANESE FILM FESTIVAL



SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA · [LFF.ORG.AU](http://LFF.ORG.AU)

28 AUG – 13 SEP 2025



LEBANESE  
FILM FESTIVAL



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We're proud to back the Lebanese Film Festival again this year, as the home of Where Interesting Happens.

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# 2025 LEBANESE FILM FESTIVAL AUSTRALIA: SYDNEY PROGRAM

DATE	TIME	FILM EVENT	FILM TYPE	VENUE
Thu 28 Aug*	6:15pm	<b>OPENING NIGHT:</b> Spotlight on Karim Rahbani: Cargo, With Thy Spirit, One Last Time	Short Films	Bryan Brown Theatre, Bankstown
Fri 29 Aug	7:00pm	Maroun Returns to Beirut	Documentary	HOYTS Bankstown
Sat 30 Aug	2:00pm	<b>FESTIVAL FAVOURITE:</b> Kahlil Gibran's The Prophet	Animation	HOYTS Bankstown
Sat 30 Aug	6:00pm	Wine and War	Documentary	HOYTS Bankstown
Sat 30 Aug	9:00pm	<b>FESTIVAL FAVOURITE:</b> Rue Huvelin	Feature	HOYTS Bankstown
Sun 31 Aug**	12:00pm	Cilama	Documentary	Western Sydney University, Bankstown
Sun 31 Aug**	2:30pm	Sons of Lebanon + Little Wings Journey	Documentary	Western Sydney University, Bankstown
Sun 31 Aug**	4:30pm	<b>AUSTRALIAN SPOTLIGHT:</b> Dependant + Molokhia + Puncture	Short Films	Western Sydney University, Bankstown
Sun 31 Aug**	6:30pm	Walid Chmait, A Life at the Heart of Cinema	Documentary	Western Sydney University, Bankstown
Wed 3 Sept	7:30pm	<b>LFF x AFFA:</b> Monsieur Aznavour	Feature	The Theatre, Bankstown Sports Club
Thu 4 Sept	7:00pm	Portrait of a Certain Orient	Feature	HOYTS Broadway
Thu 4 Sept	7:00pm	<b>AUSTRALIAN SPOTLIGHT:</b> The Correspondant	Local Feature	HOYTS Bankstown
Fri 5 Sept	7:30pm	<b>FESTIVAL FAVOURITE:</b> The Third Rahbani	Documentary	HOYTS Bankstown
Fri 5 Sept	8:45pm	The Fourth Wall (Le Quatrième Mur)	Feature	HOYTS Bankstown
Sat 6 Sept**	11:00am	Yeprem: The Spark of a Legacy + Lines We Cross + Manal Issa 2024 + Yearning to Know	Short Films	Bankstown Arts Centre
Sat 6 Sept**	12:30pm	Her Own Peak + Tanjara w Ghataha + After the Sunrise + Saint Rose	Short Films	Bankstown Arts Centre
Sat 6 Sept**	2:00pm	Letters	Documentary	Bankstown Arts Centre
Sat 6 Sept**	4:15pm	Alitisa! (The Call) + Eye of Rmeich + To Fade Away	Short Films	Bankstown Arts Centre
Sat 6 Sept**	5:45pm	Beirut Addio - Singing Under the Bombs + Mama + In Maya's Eyes	Short Films	Bankstown Arts Centre
Sat 6 Sept	7:15pm	MTV Lebanon: Prisons	Documentary	Bankstown Arts Centre
Sat 6 Sept	9:00pm	Disorder	Feature	Bankstown Arts Centre
Thu 11 Sept	7:30pm	<b>RETROSPECTIVE:</b> Beirut Oh Beirut	Feature	The Theatre, Bankstown Sports Club
Fri 12 Sept	8:00pm	<b>AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE:</b> Nohad Al Chami: A Life of Faith	Feature	The Theatre, Bankstown Sports Club
Sat 13 Sept*	7:00pm	<b>CLOSING NIGHT - FESTIVAL FAVOURITE:</b> Where Do We Go Now?	Feature	The Theatre, Bankstown Sports Club

All films are subtitled in English | \*Special Event: Pre-film food & beverages | \*\*Short & Doco Program; complimentary event, registrations required

***The lebanese film festival  
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# WELCOME

## LFF Co-Director Message



Welcome to the thirteenth edition of the Lebanese Film Festival Australia. In 2025, we proudly present our biggest program yet, with 38 films that reflect Lebanon's resilience, memory, and identity.

This year also marks key anniversaries: 50 years since the civil war and Maroun Baghdadi's *Beirut Oh Beirut*; 20 years since the Syrian withdrawal; and 5 years since the Beirut Port Blast - moments that continue to shape Lebanese storytelling.

Our Opening Night holds special resonance as we honour award-winning director Karim Rahbani. His cinematic journey - spanning *Cargo*, *With Thy Spirit*, and now the Australian premiere of *One Last Time* - is a celebration of his evolving direction and artistry. We are also remembering the late, legendary Ziad Rahbani and paying tribute to the Rahbani legacy through Karim's work and the screening of Feyrouz Serhal's documentary *The Third Rahbani*.

We also spotlight Australian Lebanese voices showcasing the talents of Lebanese Australians in works such as *The Correspondent*, *Dependent*, and *Sons of Lebanon*.

A heartfelt thank you to our team, partners, and volunteers, whose dedication makes this celebration possible.

We invite you to immerse yourself in the stories that define Lebanon - past, present, and future.

**Camille Lattouf**  
Director,  
Lebanese Film Festival Australia

**Jessica Zeait**  
Co-Director,  
Lebanese Film Festival Australia

# BRYAN BROWN

## Patron Welcome Message



Wow, thirteen years of the Lebanese Film Festival Australia and counting.

What I've always loved about this Festival is the way it brings people together through stories that matter - stories that stay with you.

This year we look back at the work of Maroun Baghdadi, a filmmaker whose legacy continues to inspire, while also celebrating new voices and fresh perspectives. The program has plenty to enjoy - festival favourites, student short films, local productions, and a spotlight on award-winning director Karim Rahbani, whose journey the Festival has proudly shared since his early days as a student filmmaker.

To the team, the volunteers, and everyone who makes this Festival possible - thank you. And to audiences, my advice is simple: don't just hear about it, get along and see the films. They'll move you; they'll make you think, and they'll stay with you long after the credits roll.

Enjoy the Festival.

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

**Bryan Brown AM**

Patron, Lebanese Film Festival Australia



## OPENING NIGHT

Bryan Brown Theatre, Bankstown

THU 28 AUG · 6.15PM

TICKETS: \$90

(ALL-INCLUSIVE)

Arrive on the red carpet and experience a culinary journey with Lebanese dishes by **Taytas Food Co**, sweet treats from **Smeed Maamoul** and **BuBooza** ice cream, paired with Lebanese beer, wine and non-alcoholic beverages. Then be **transported to the heart of Beirut** with live Lebanese entertainment by **Zaffet Lebne**, followed by formalities and an exclusive screening spotlighting award-winning director **Karim Rahbani**: *Cargo*, *With Thy Spirit*, and the **Australian Premiere** of *One Last Time*.



## CLOSING NIGHT

The Theatre, Bankstown Sports

SAT 13 SEP · 7.00 PM

TICKETS: \$55

(INCLUDES FOOD + FILM)

Wrap up the Festival in style with Lebanese canapés, followed by live entertainment to set the mood. Enjoy a selection of Lebanese beer, wine, and non-alcoholic beverages available for purchase from Bar LFF. Then, settle in for the final screening – *Where Do We Go Now?* by Nadine Labaki - a moving and powerful gem of Lebanese cinema that brings the 13th Edition to a memorable close.





## SPOTLIGHT ON LOCAL CONTENT

Western Sydney University,  
Bankstown Campus

SUN 31 AUG · FROM 12.00 PM

TICKETS: FREE  
(BOOKING REQUIRED)

Immerse yourself in the stories of Lebanese Australians as local talent takes centre stage. Featuring *Dependent* by Joseph Chebatte (starring Julian Maroun and written by Marcus Khoudair), *Molokhia* by James Elazzi, *Puncture* by Evan Dixon, and documentaries by AusRelief and Little Wings, this program presents 7 powerful films across 4 sessions - celebrating community, identity, and impact both in Australia and Lebanon.



## DAY OF SHORTS & DOCOS

Bryan Brown Theatre, Bankstown

SAT 6 SEP · FROM 11.00 AM

TICKETS: FREE  
(BOOKING REQUIRED)

A festival favourite! LFF presents you with a day of 17 films across 7 sessions, at Bankstown Arts Centre, featuring a special collection of bold Lebanese shorts and documentaries from diverse voices. Snacks, drinks and coffee will be available for purchase.

# FEATURES



## NOHAD AL CHAMI: A SIGN OF FAITH

Nohad Al Chami: A Sign of Faith tells the powerful true story of a Lebanese woman whose faith carried her through illness, hardship, and a miraculous encounter with Saint Charbel. Directed by Samir Habchi and starring Julia Kassar and Yorgos Chalhoub, the film is a moving tribute to spiritual resilience and the global community united by devotion.

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**LEBANON – 2025 – 90 MINS – 15+**

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**LANGUAGE**      Arabic with English Subtitles

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**DIRECTOR**      Samir Habchi

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**CAST**      Julia Kassar, Yorgo Chalhoub,  
Maya Yammin, Melissa Aziz,  
Theresia Tawk

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**SCREENING**      **The Theatre, Bankstown  
Sports Club**  
FRI 12 SEP, 8:00PM



## MONSIEUR AZNAVOUR

Monsieur Aznavour follows the beginnings of the iconic French-Armenian singer, songwriter and actor, Charles Aznavour, from zero to fame – a voice that has long echoed in Lebanese homes, taxis, and hearts.

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**FRANCE – 2024 – 134 MINS – M**

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**LANGUAGE** French + Armenian with English Subtitles

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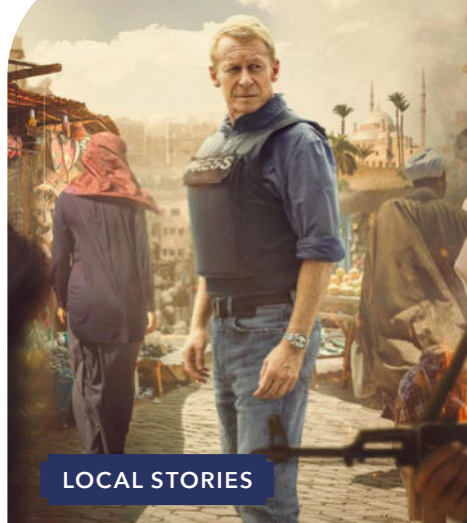
**DIRECTOR** Mehdi Idir

---

**CAST** Tahar Rahim, Bastien Bouillon, Marie-Julie Baup, Camille Moutawkil

---

**SCREENING** The Theatre, Bankstown Sports Club  
WED 3 SEP, 7:30PM



## THE CORRESPONDENT

The Correspondent tells the gripping true story of Australian journalist Peter Greste, who was wrongfully imprisoned in Egypt while reporting for Al Jazeera. Caught in a political power play, his fight for freedom becomes a powerful testament to press freedom and the human spirit.

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**AUSTRALIA – 2025 – 119 MINS – M**

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**LANGUAGE** English

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**DIRECTOR** Kriv Stenders

---

**CAST** Julian Maroun, Richard Roxburgh, Rahel Romahn

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**SCREENING** HOYTS Bankstown  
THUR 4 SEP, 7:00PM



## PORTRAIT OF A CERTAIN ORIENT

Portrait of a Certain Orient follows two Catholic siblings from 1949 Lebanon whose journey to Brazil takes a dramatic turn when Emilie falls for a Muslim merchant, igniting jealousy, cultural tension, and tragedy. Set against the lush backdrop of the Amazon, the film explores love, prejudice, and the complex legacy of Lebanese immigration.

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**LEBANON, ITALY, BRAZIL – 2024 – 93 MINS – 15+**

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**LANGUAGE** Arabic, Portugese with English Subtitles

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**DIRECTOR** Marcelo Gomes

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**CAST** Charbel Kamel, Wafa Celine Halawi

---

**SCREENING** HOYTS Broadway  
THU 4 SEP, 7:00PM



## DISORDER

Disorder is a multi-layered portrait of the turbulent and pivotal years that Lebanon has been living, since the big collapse of October 2019 and the Beirut Port explosion in August 2020, through four short stories mixing drama and dark comedy. Produced in collaboration with Lebanon's Nadine Labaki and Khaled Mouzannar.

**\*Content Warning:** *This film contains satirical depictions of suicide, which some viewers may find distressing. Viewer discretion is advised. If you or someone you know is feeling distressed, please contact Lifeline on 13 11 14 or visit [www.lifeline.org.au](http://www.lifeline.org.au)*

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**LEBANON – 2024 – 91 MINS – 18+**

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**LANGUAGE** Arabic with English Subtitles

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**DIRECTOR** Lucien Bourjeily

---

**CAST** Manal Issa, Said Serhan, Rodrigue Sleiman

---

**SCREENING** Bankstown Arts Centre  
SAT 6 SEP, 9:00PM



## BEIRUT OH BEIRUT

Marking its 50th anniversary, Beirut, Oh Beirut returns to the big screen at LFF in celebration of both the film and its visionary director, Maroun Baghdadi—one of Lebanon's most influential cinematic voices. Released in 1975, just before the outbreak of the Lebanese Civil War, the film follows four young Lebanese after the defeat of Lebanon by Israeli forces in the Six Day War of 1967. Beirut, Oh Beirut remains a landmark in Lebanese cinema, offering a powerful lens into the country's complex history and a tribute to Baghdadi's enduring legacy.

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**LEBANON – 1975 – 111 MINS – 15+**

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**LANGUAGE** Arabic with English Subtitles

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**DIRECTOR** Maroun Baghdadi

---

**CAST** Ezzat El Alaili, Mireille Maalouf, Joseph Bou Nassar

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**SCREENING** The Theatre, Bankstown Sports Club  
THU 11 SEP, 7:30PM

*\*Please note: This is a retrospective screening of a restored archival print, and while the film's visual quality reflects its age, its impact remains timeless.*

## KAHLIL GIBRAN'S THE PROPHET

Based on Lebanese philosopher Kahlil Gibran's famous book, "The Prophet," this animated film follows exiled artist and poet Mustafa on his journey home with his housekeeper and her daughter. As they travel, they must evade authorities who fear that Mustafa's powerful words will spark a rebellion.

The Lebanese Film Festival Australia is bringing this captivating animation back to the screen due to popular demand.

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**LEBANON – 2014 – 85 MINS – PG**

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**LANGUAGE** English

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**DIRECTOR** Roger Allers

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**CAST** Liam Neeson, Salma Hayek-Pinault, John Krasinski

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**SCREENING** HOYTS Bankstown  
SAT 30 AUG, 2:00PM





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**FESTIVAL FAVOURITE**

## RUE HUVELIN

Rue Huvelin, directed by Mounir Maasri, is a powerful student-led political drama set in 1990s Beirut, where a group of university friends risk everything to resist Syrian occupation. Based on true events, the film captures the courage, sacrifice, and spirit of a generation determined to reclaim their country's independence.

This film featured in the Lebanese Film Festival Australia's inaugural program in 2012 first year program.

**LEBANON – 2011 – 90 MINS – 15+**

<b>LANGUAGE</b>	Arabic/French with English Subtitles
<b>DIRECTOR</b>	Mounir Maasri
<b>CAST</b>	Charbel Kamel, Robert Cremona, Carmen Bsaibes, Adel Karam, Betty Taoutel
<b>SCREENING</b>	<b>HOYTS Bankstown</b> SAT 30 AUG, 9:00PM



**CLOSING NIGHT**

## WHERE DO WE GO NOW

We're bringing Nadine Labaki's beloved Where Do We Go Now? back to the big screen for a special Closing Night screening. This bold and bittersweet tale blends humour, heartbreak, and hope in a remote Lebanese village where religious tensions simmer. To prevent the men from reigniting violence, a group of determined women devise a series of clever and unexpected schemes. A Cannes favourite and timeless crowd-pleaser, this film is a powerful ode to sisterhood, resilience, and the lengths women will go to for peace. The perfect way to close this year's festival.

**LEBANON – 2011 – 110 MINS – M**

<b>LANGUAGE</b>	Arabic with English Subtitles
<b>DIRECTOR</b>	Nadine Labaki
<b>CAST</b>	Nadine Labaki, Julien Farhat, Claude Baz Moussawbaa, Yvonne Maalouf
<b>SCREENING</b>	<b>The Theatre, Bankstown Sports Club</b> SAT 13 SEP, 7:00PM (Pre-film Function)   8:00PM (Film Screening)



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## THE FOURTH WALL / LE QUATRIÈME MUR

Beirut, 1982. Amid the chaos of civil war, idealistic French theatre director Georges arrives with a dream – to stage *Antigone* (a stage play) on the frontline, uniting actors from opposing factions in a fleeting act of defiance and hope. Guided by the local and enigmatic Marwan, Georges navigates a fractured city where art and ideology collide. As the violence escalates and love blossoms with Imane, Georges must confront the limits of his idealism and the harsh truths of war.

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**FRANCE, LUXEMBOURG, BELGIUM –**  
**2024 – 116 MINS – 15+**

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**LANGUAGE**      Arabic with English Subtitles.  
Arabic dialogue is intentionally left  
untranslated to reflect the main character's  
perspective and disconnection.

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**DIRECTOR**      David Oelhoffen

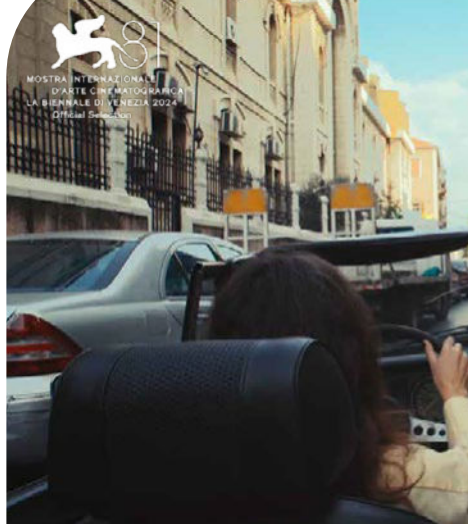
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**CAST**              Laurent Lafitte, Manal Issa,  
Simon Abkarian

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**SCREENING**      HOYTS Bankstown  
FRI 5 SEP, 8:45PM

# DOCUMENTARIES



## CILAMA

Cilama is a lyrical documentary that traces the golden age of cinema in Tripoli, where over thirty movie theatres once brought the city to life from the 1930s to the end of the 20th century. Through rare archival footage and personal testimonies, the film reconstructs the memory of a bygone era, capturing the cultural soul of a city where cinema was once its heartbeat.

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**LEBANON – 2024 – 89 MINS – 15+**

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**LANGUAGE** Arabic with English Subtitles

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**DIRECTOR** Hady Zaccak

---

**CAST** Mayez Al Adhamy,  
Samer Annous,  
Georges Chamchoum

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**SCREENING** Western Sydney University  
Bankstown Campus  
SUN 31 AUG, 12:00PM

## MAROUN RETURNS TO BEIRUT

Feyrouz Serhal embarks on a Beirut journey, meeting associates of late filmmaker Maroun Baghdadi. Tracing his life and work during the civil war, the sociopolitical backdrop reflects how cinema mirrored the nation's stories.

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**LEBANON, QATAR – 2024 – 125 MINS – 15+**

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**LANGUAGE** Arabic + French with English Subtitles

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**DIRECTOR** Fayrouz Serhal

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**CAST** Elie Adabachi, Souraya  
Baghdadi, Nour Dimachkeih

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**SCREENING** HOYTS Bankstown  
FRI 29 AUG, 8:00PM



## WINE AND WAR

Wine and War is a documentary about the history of winemaking in Lebanon and the resilience of the Lebanese entrepreneurial spirit seen through the lens of war and instability.

UNITED STATES – 2022 – 95 MINS – 15+

**LANGUAGE** English

**DIRECTOR** Mark Johnston and Mark Ryan

**CAST** Michael Broadbent, Ramzi Ghosn, Sami Ghosn

**SCREENING** HOYTS Bankstown  
SAT 30 AUG, 6:00PM

## THE THIRD RAHBANI

The Third of the Rahbanis chronicles the extraordinary journey of the late Lebanese composer Elias El Rahbani, who carved his own unique path distinct from his renowned brothers, Assi and Mansour. Elias's innovative compositions and collaborations have left an indelible mark on the Arab music world, cementing his legacy as a visionary artist.

LEBANON, QATAR – 2023 – 80 MINS – 15+

**LANGUAGE** Arabic with English Subtitles

**DIRECTOR** Fayrouz Serhal

**CAST** Elham Rahbani, Ghassan Rahbani, Jihad Darwich, Munjed El Cherif, Henri Zougheib, Mahmoud Zibawi, Nabil Ghosn, Jad Rahbani, Fadia Tomb El Haj, Majida El Roumi, Ghassan Saliba, Michel Meaiki

**SCREENING** HOYTS Bankstown  
FRI 5 SEP, 7:30PM



## LETTERS

Letters is a powerful collective work by 18 Lebanese filmmakers, created in late 2023 during the war on Gaza, as an exchange of personal letters transformed into short films. Completed in May 2024—just before Lebanon became the next target of conflict—this deeply emotional project captures the weight of anticipation, solidarity, and looming devastation through a mosaic of cinematic voices.

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**LEBANON – 2025 – 90 MINS – 15+**

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<b>LANGUAGE</b>	Arabic/English/French with Subtitles
<b>DIRECTOR</b>	Josef Khallouf, Christy Whaibe, Corine Shawi, Damoun Ghawi, Dwan Kaoukji, Elie Khalife, Hassan Zbib, Alexandra Kahwagi, Marie-Rose Osta, Michèle Tyan, Mike Malajalian, Myra Zbib, Myriam El Hajj, Nadim Tabet, Rania Rafei, Reine Chahine, Salim Mrad, Zeina Daccache

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**SCREENING**    **BANKSTOWN ARTS CENTRE**  
SAT 6 SEP, 2:00PM

## WALID CHMAIT - A LIFE AT THE HEART OF CINEMA

Walid Chmait: A Life at the Heart of Cinema is a heartfelt documentary by Salim Saab that pays tribute to his late father, Walid Chmait Saab – a trailblazing Lebanese film critic, director, actor, and beloved media personality. What began as a father-son project became a moving cinematic eulogy, capturing Walid's profound impact on Lebanese and Arab cinema through personal reflections and the voices of those who knew him best.

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**LEBANON/FRANCE – 2025 – 52 MINS – 15**

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<b>LANGUAGE</b>	Arabic with English Subtitles
<b>DIRECTOR</b>	Salim Saab

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**SCREENING**    **WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY, BANKSTOWN CAMPUS**  
SUN 31 AUG, 6:30PM



# PRISONS

Prisons follows Samir Youssef as he visits Australia to explore its prison system, drawing comparisons and insights from Lebanese prisons. Through this lens, the film examines justice, rehabilitation, the human stories behind bars, and the realities of life inside Australian correctional facilities. Produced by MTV Lebanon.

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**LEBANON, AUSTRALIA – 2025 – 45 MINS – 15+**

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**LANGUAGE**      Arabic with English Subtitles

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**DIRECTOR**      Samir Youssef

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**SCREENING**      **BANKSTOWN ARTS CENTRE**  
SAT 6 SEP, 7.15PM



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**The Sopranos**  
1999-2007

**True History of the Kelly Gang**  
2019



**The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel**  
2017-2023

**Deadpool**  
2016

**Friends**  
1994-2004

**Maleficent**  
2014

**Titanic**  
1997

**The Matrix**  
1999

**Barbie**  
2002

**Heartland**  
2014-2023

**Jurassic Park**  
1993

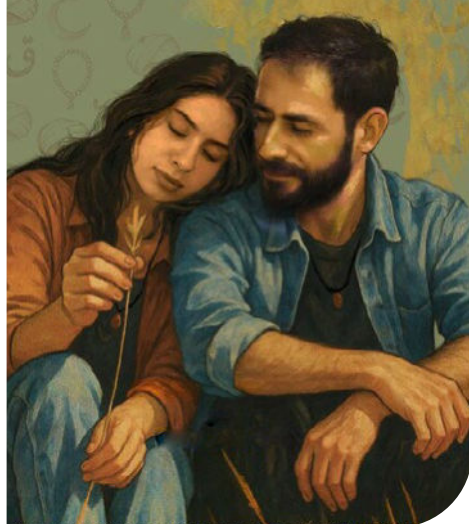
**Fight Club**  
1999

**Destroyer**  
2018

**Australia**

SHORTS





## LINES WE CROSS

Lines We Cross follows Raya as she bravely pursues love across religious divides, challenging deeply rooted sectarian norms. In confronting societal prejudice and rigid authority, she exposes the contradictions of a tradition-bound community unwilling to confront its own biases.

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**LEBANON – 2024 – 11 MINS – 15+**

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**LANGUAGE** Arabic with English Subtitles

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**DIRECTOR** Samah Kanaan

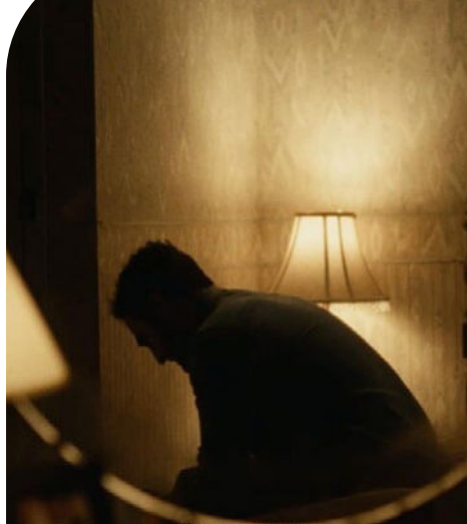
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**CAST** Mirna Bou Aboud, Elie Mitri, Joseph Sassine

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**SCREENING** Bankstown Arts Centre  
SAT 6 SEP, 11:00AM

★ LFF DAY OF SHORTS & DOCUMENTARIES



## ALITISAL (THE CALL)

As a deadly explosion shatters their hometown of Beirut, three siblings living abroad confront their mental health struggles amid uncertainty about their parents' fate.

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**LEBANON – 2024 – 19 MINS – 15+**

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**LANGUAGE** Arabic with English Subtitles

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**DIRECTOR** Sabine Kahwaji

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**CAST** Omar Sidani, Vanessa Issa, Marc Yammine, Dima-Thalia Rizk

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**SCREENING** Bankstown Arts Centre  
SAT 6 SEP, 4:15PM

★ LFF DAY OF SHORTS & DOCUMENTARIES



## BEIRUT ADDIO - SINGING UNDER THE BOMBS

The incredible story of the Italian singer Joe Diverio is tied with that of the Lebanese civil war. 1982 marks Joe's life, Italy wins the World Cup and the war in Beirut rages.

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**ITALY – 2025 – 20 MINS – 15+**

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**LANGUAGE** Italian with English subtitles

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**DIRECTOR** Jean-Claude Chinchéré

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**CAST** Joe Diverio

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**SCREENING** Bankstown Arts Centre  
SAT 6 SEP, 5:45PM

★ LFF DAY OF SHORTS & DOCUMENTARIES



## TO FADE AWAY

Based on a True Story set in 1935  
Schenectady, New York.

After the company he works for refuses to invest in his solar energy project, Lebanese scientist Camil Al-Sabbah pursues another opportunity to achieve his dream, but becomes increasingly suspicious of forces that seem to be conspiring against him.

Supported by the Alfred P. Sloan  
Foundation and BAFTA.

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**LEBANON, UNITED STATES – 2024 –  
16 MINS – 15+**

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**LANGUAGE** English/Arabic with  
English Subtitles

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**DIRECTOR** Camille Hamadé

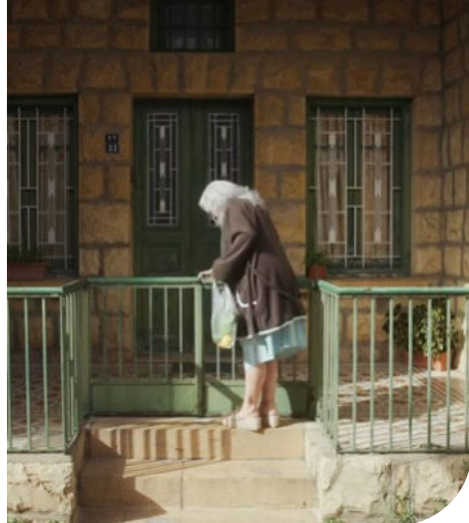
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**CAST** Sam Yazback, Avery Banks,  
Richard Sexton

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**SCREENING** Bankstown Arts Centre  
SAT 6 SEP, 4:15PM

★ LFF DAY OF SHORTS & DOCUMENTARIES



## MAMA

Aida, an elderly mother living alone, was abandoned by her only daughter after a sever argument. Years later, her daughter decides to return, but everything has changed. Nothing is as it once was, and their relationship must face the weight of time and the wounds of the past.

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**LEBANON – 2024 – 13 MINS – 15+**

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**LANGUAGE** Arabic with English subtitles

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**DIRECTOR** Sally El Hage

---

**CAST** Sylvie Hatem, Eva Aljebai, Aida Younes, Youssef Bou Khaled

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**SCREENING** Bankstown Arts Centre  
SAT 6 SEP, 5:45PM

★ LFF DAY OF SHORTS & DOCUMENTARIES



## MANAL ISSA, 2024

Manal Issa, 2024 is a haunting and intimate portrait of acclaimed Lebanese-French actress Manal Issa, filmed in Beirut just hours before bombing escalated across the country. Through unseen interviews and reflections drawn from year-long conversations, Issa contemplates the role of the actor in times of crisis, confronting the politics of visibility, conflict, and gender with a boldness that echoes—and surpasses—the critiques once voiced by Maria Schneider.

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**UNITED STATES – 2024 – 10 MINS – 15+**

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**LANGUAGE** Arabic with English subtitles

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**DIRECTOR** Elizabeth Subrin

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**CAST** Manal Issa

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**SCREENING** Bankstown Arts Centre  
SAT 6 SEP, 11AM

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## YEARNING TO KNOW

In the quiet Bekaa Valley town of Rayak, 10-year-old Sarah lives with her 70-year-old grandmother, Hayat. When she stumbles upon recent money transfer receipts from her father—long believed to have died in the Beirut blast—Sarah sets out on a determined search for the truth.

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**LEBANON – 2024 – 14 MINS – 15+**

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**LANGUAGE** Arabic with English Subtitles

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**DIRECTOR** Sacha Daher

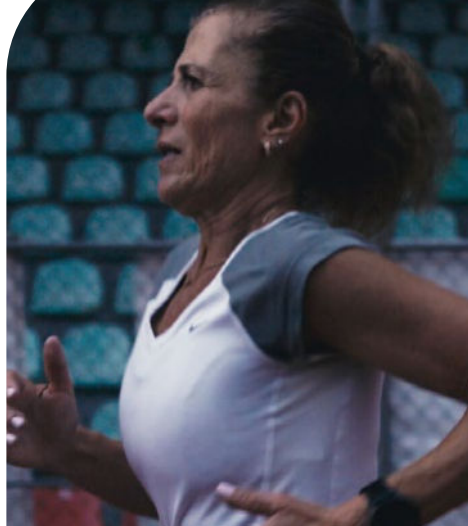
---

**CAST** Oumaya Lahoud,  
Michelle Sakr

---

**SCREENING** Bankstown Arts Centre  
SAT 6 SEP, 11AM

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## HER OWN PEAK

At 62, Rafca defies societal expectations, transforming from a beginner into a world-class runner, and proving that true passion knows no age.

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**LEBANON – 2025 – 17 MINS – 15+**

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**LANGUAGE** Arabic with English Subtitles

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**DIRECTOR** Emilio Bou Onk

---

**SCREENING** Bankstown Arts Centre  
SAT 6 SEP, 12:30PM

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## TANJARA W GHATAHA (THE POT AND IT'S COVER)

Two strangers that cross paths realise that they have been living almost the same life.

---

**LEBANON – 2023 – 4 MINS – 15+**

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<b>LANGUAGE</b>	Arabic/English with English Subtitles
<b>DIRECTOR</b>	Ryan Nakhle, Zinia Khalifeh
<b>CAST</b>	Ryan Nakhle, Zinia Khalifeh
<b>SCREENING</b>	<b>Bankstown Arts Centre</b> SAT 6 SEP, 12:30PM

## EYE OF RMEICH

Eye of Rmeish is a poetic short documentary that explores the unwavering faith of a community in a small Lebanese town on the border with Israel. Through the lens of belief, rooted in land, harvest, family, and self, the film reveals how a shared spiritual and cultural identity binds the people of Rmeish to their home, history, and one another.

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**LEBANON – 2025 – 11 MINS – 15+**

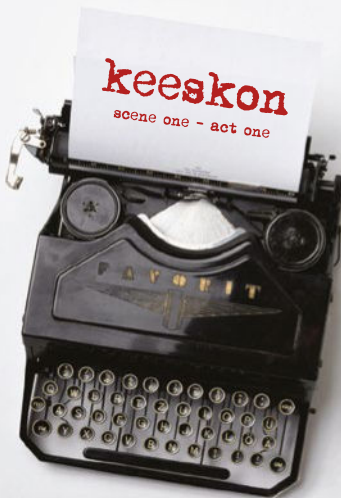
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<b>LANGUAGE</b>	Arabic with English Subtitles
<b>DIRECTOR</b>	Celine Ibrahim
<b>SCREENING</b>	<b>Bankstown Arts Centre</b> SAT 6 SEP, 4:15PM

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## SAINT ROSE

As her husband takes over the preparations for their daughter's engagement ceremony, an unhappy housewife hides in her bathroom and drinks vodka.

---

**LEBANON – 2024 – 14 MINS – 15+**

---

**LANGUAGE** Arabic with English subtitles

---

**DIRECTOR** Zayn Alexandre

---

**CAST** Ghada Basma, Sharon Chepkwemoi Watoka

---

**SCREENING** Bankstown Arts Centre  
SAT 6 SEP, 12:30PM

★ LFF DAY OF SHORTS & DOCUMENTARIES



## IN MAYA'S EYES

Arriving in Paris about two years ago, Nassim is a young Lebanese designer nostalgic for his country. While he is drawing at home, he receives an unexpected visit from his new neighbour, a mysterious woman named Maya.

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**LEBANON, FRANCE – 2024 – 12 MINS – 15+**

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**LANGUAGE** Arabic with English subtitles

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**DIRECTOR** Salim Saab

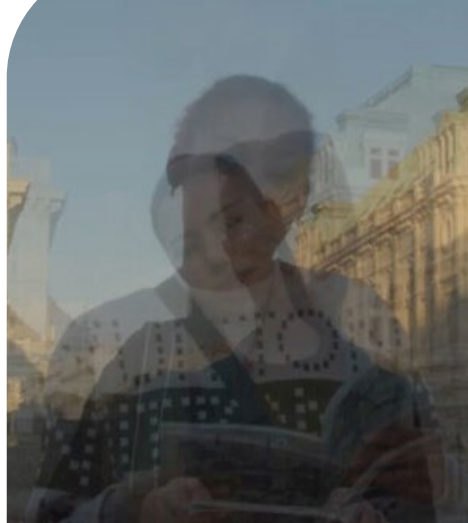
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**CAST** Acil Abdul Hadi, Ralph Khoury

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**SCREENING** Bankstown Arts Centre  
SAT 6 SEP, 5:45PM

★ LFF DAY OF SHORTS & DOCUMENTARIES



## YEPREM: THE SPARK OF A LEGACY

Yeprem: The Spark of a Legacy tells the true story of Mr. Yeprem, who rose from a childhood of war and hardship in Lebanon to become a global name in luxury jewellery. Inspired by his mother's gift of a simple bracelet, it's a powerful tale of resilience, transformation, and how even the smallest spark can ignite a lasting legacy.

---

**LEBANON – 2024 – 14 MINS – 15+**

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**LANGUAGE** English

**DIRECTOR** Joseph Nabil Hanna

**SCREENING** Bankstown Arts Centre  
SAT 6 SEP, 11AM

## AFTER THE SUNRISE

After the Sunrise explores the universal journey from darkness to light – showing how love and humanity can transform even the deepest shadows. In just one minute, seven volunteer actors from diverse nationalities and languages, including Lebanese Christian and Lebanese Muslim voices, unite in a single space to deliver a powerful collective reading on hope, healing, and our shared humanity.

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**AUSTRIA – 2024 – 1 MINS – 15+**

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**LANGUAGE** English

**DIRECTOR** Peiman Biabanaki

**SCREENING** Bankstown Arts Centre  
SAT 6 SEP, 12:30PM

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OPENING NIGHT

## CARGO

Lost in the middle of the Bekaa valley after fleeing the Syrian war, little Abed and his sick grandfather find their way into the city of Beirut, only to face a ruthless fate.

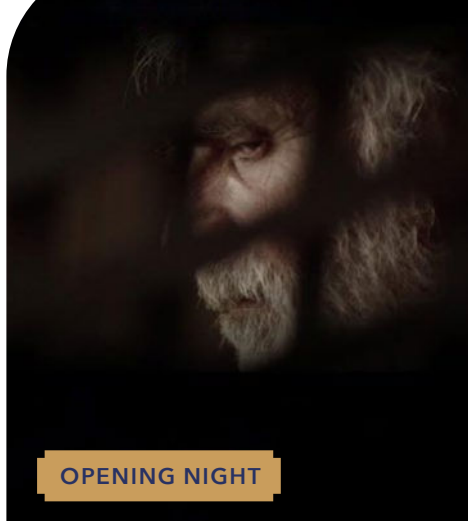
LEBANON, CYPRUS, FRANCE – 2017 – 20 MINS – 15+

**LANGUAGE** Arabic with English subtitles

**DIRECTOR** Karim Rahbani

**CAST** Abed el Hady Assaf, Saad el Din Moukhalalati, Cynthia Khalifeh, Ghady Rahbani

**SCREENING** Bryan Brown Theatre  
THU 28 AUG, 6:15PM



OPENING NIGHT

## WITH THY SPIRIT

Father Geryes, a priest leading a peaceful life within his monastery in Lebanon finds himself involved in a tragic accident. Will he have enough courage and integrity to face the consequences of his actions?

LEBANON – 2014 – 18 MINS – 15+

**LANGUAGE** Arabic with English subtitles

**DIRECTOR** Karim Rahbani

**CAST** Josef Chemaly, Abed el Hady Assaf, Michel Abadachi

**SCREENING** Bryan Brown Theatre  
THU 28 AUG, 6:15PM



OPENING NIGHT

## ONE LAST TIME

Toufic, a loner in his 80's, experiences a late-life crisis when a younger attractive neighbor mistakes his house for another, awakening within him a passion for life that has been long asleep.

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**LEBANON – 2025 – 19 MINS – 15+**

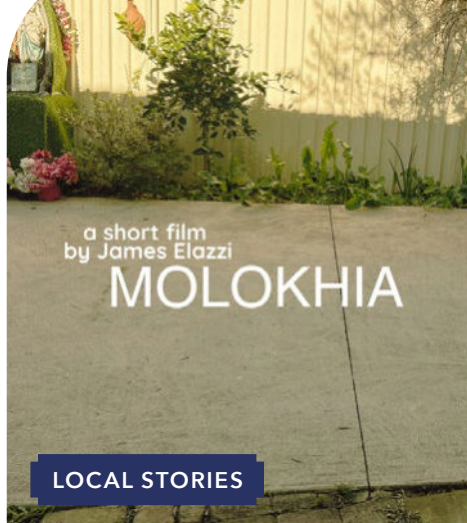
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**LANGUAGE** Arabic with English subtitles

**DIRECTOR** Karim Rahbani

**CAST** Afif Mazboudi, Elie Njeim, Asmahan Alhelali, Sylvie Hatem, Hady Issa

**SCREENING** Bryan Brown Theatre  
THU 28 AUG, 6:15PM



## MOLOKHIA

Molokhia is a tender short film capturing a grandmother teaching her granddaughter to cook a traditional Lebanese dish. As the recipe unfolds, so do layers of memory, with subtle flashes of Lebanon's civil war interrupting the quiet of the kitchen. Inspired by the filmmaker's mother, Molokhia explores cultural inheritance, resilience, and the unseen ways history lingers in everyday rituals.

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**AUSTRALIA – 2025 – 4 MINS – 15+**

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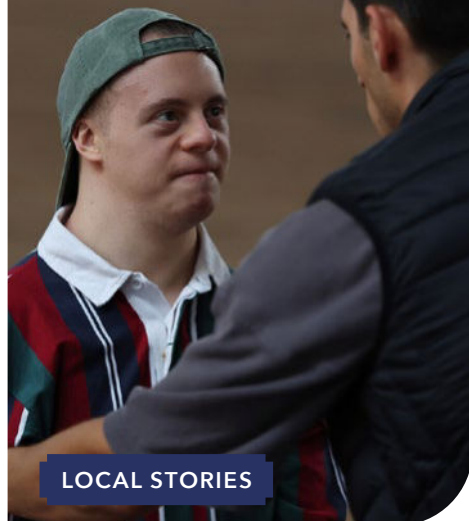
**LANGUAGE** English + Arabic with English subtitles

**DIRECTOR** James El-Azzi

**CAST** Bernadette Kazzi

**SCREENING** Western Sydney University  
SUN 31 AUG, 4:30PM

★ LFF AUSTRALIAN SPOTLIGHT



## LOCAL STORIES

# DEPENDENT

Set in present-day Western Sydney, *Dependent* centres on Julian, a dedicated carer, who's grappling with his own physical limitations and emotional strain while caring for his younger brother Luke, who has Down syndrome and cerebral palsy. As Julian faces a testing medical diagnosis, the weight of responsibility begins to overwhelm him. Amidst their daily routines, the brothers' bond is tested, especially when news of conflict in the Middle East hits close to home.

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**AUSTRALIA – 2025 – 14 MINS – 15+**

---

**LANGUAGE** English

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**DIRECTOR** Joseph Chebatte

---

**CAST** Julian Maroun, Luke Maroun

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**SCREENING** Western Sydney University  
SUN 31 AUG, 4:30PM

★ LFF AUSTRALIAN SPOTLIGHT



## LOCAL STORIES

# PUNCTURE

Yussef, a Lebanese migrant, is forced to work at the petrol station on the night of his daughter's piano recital. As he tries to listen to her play over the phone a group of aggressive boys pull up and insist he pump their tyres, he does so uneasily. But as her music drowns out the violence of the world he becomes distracted.

---

**AUSTRALIA – 2024 – 8 MINS – 15+**

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**LANGUAGE** Arabic with English subtitles

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**DIRECTOR** Evan Elbeaini-Dixon

---

**CAST** Fayssal Bazzi

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**SCREENING** Western Sydney University  
SUN 31 AUG, 4:30PM

★ LFF AUSTRALIAN SPOTLIGHT



## SONS OF LEBANON

Sons of Lebanon follows AusRelief Co-founder and Chair Tom Zreika, Nazih Sabih (who tragically died saving a loved one in the sea on 26 December 2024), and Ahmed Al-Ayoubi Australians of Lebanese heritage. Directed and produced by Linda Corley and Joel Kaplan, the film reflects on the aftermath of a tragic boat wreck in Lebanon, capturing a powerful story of loss, resilience, and the human spirit.

This short documentary will screen at LFF's Shorts & Documentaries Day as part of our Locally Made program. Donations made at this screening will be donated to AusRelief.

---

**AUSTRALIA – 2025 – 35 MINS – 15+**

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**LANGUAGE** English

**DIRECTOR** Joel Kaplan, Linda Corley

**SCREENING** Western Sydney University  
SUN 31 AUG, 2:30PM

★ LFF AUSTRALIAN SPOTLIGHT



## LITTLE WINGS JOURNEY

This short documentary follows one family's journey with Little Wings Australia – capturing not only the hardships they face, but also the ripple of love, care, and support that surrounds them. More than a service, Little Wings is a lifeline – a story of resilience, community, and hope. Donations made at this screening will be donated to Little Wings.

---

**AUSTRIA – 2025 – 17 MINS – 15+**

---

**LANGUAGE** English

**DIRECTOR** Little Wings Limited

**SCREENING** Western Sydney University  
SUN 31 AUG, 2:30PM

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# OUR PURPOSE



Lebanese Film Festival Australia (LFF) is a 100% volunteer-led, Bankstown-based non-profit organisation, proudly founded in 2011 and debuting in 2012 as a national celebration of Lebanese arts and culture.

Since our inaugural season, LFF is now a national platform attracting thousands of patrons annually and engaging audiences across Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide, and Canberra. With Australian film icon Bryan Brown AM as our Patron since inception, the Festival has become a vital stage for Lebanese and Australian Lebanese stories to shine on the big screen.

Based in the heart of Australia's largest Middle Eastern community diaspora, LFF has screened more than 380 films to over 50,000 Australians to date. Our reach is truly national, while our impact remains deeply local - in 2024 alone, we delivered 33 high-profile events across Australia, boosting brand visibility, community connection, and cultural exchange.

At the heart of our mission is a commitment to showcasing world-class Lebanese cinema, dispelling misconceptions, fostering inclusivity, and strengthening community pride. Through initiatives like our schools program, we also bring international cinema directly to young Australians, enriching their cultural and educational experience.

The Lebanese Film Festival is more than cinema - it is about uniting people through the power of film, celebrating culture, and building lasting community connections.

Learn more at [lff.org.au](http://lff.org.au)





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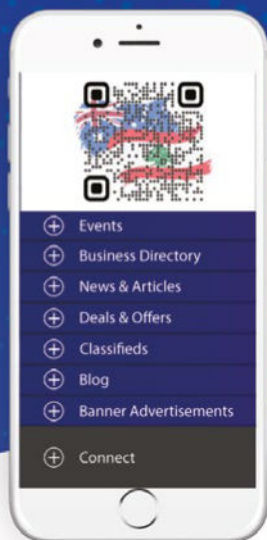


## The New App is here!

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

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# WITH GRATITUDE



As we celebrate the 13th Edition of Lebanese Film Festival Australia in 2025, we extend our heartfelt thanks to our filmmakers, film crews, sponsors, partners, and friends from Australia, Lebanon, and beyond. Your unwavering support has brought this year's Festival to life - enriching cinema, celebrating culture, and uniting communities.

## **Our Special Thanks To::**

Bryan Brown AM · City of Canterbury Bankstown Mayor Bilal El Hayek, Councillors and Staff · Screen NSW · Michael Clancy and the Bankstown Sports Team · Elias Doummar · Ed, Carol and Cassie Hanna · Steve Voulgaris · Jenny Noble · John and Ronique Gebran · Johnny Youssef · John Nicholas, Rana Abaki, Jolyana Ashtoy and the Art & Soul Creations Team · Chris Azar · Natalie Yarak · Jason Ghazal and the Jay Productions Team · David Isaac and the Harkola Team · Bill Parasiris and the Western Sydney University Team · Serena and Amal Tadjour and the Smeed Team · Dorry Kordahi · David Kordahi · Elias Mattar · Suzan Horani · Charbel Khabbaz · Bankstown Central and Vicinity Centres Team · Paul Jackson · Ethan Thomas and the Brewcasa Creative Team · The Lattouf, Khoury, Touma, Fayad and Zeait families · Marina Semaan · Nassim Allam · Antoinette Lattouf · Damian Keough, Michelle Gater and the HOYTS Team · Mare Treneski · Brian Hansen · Mel Ngo · Milia Azar · Paul Ceklawi and the MySat Team · Pat Cunningham · Dean Turner · Peter Skillman · Michael Harriden · Hannah Lane · Lucien Jankelson · Anthony Zibara · Andrew Hawa · Shay Gittany · Remy Wehbe · Wally Mehanna · Anthony Allam · Hala Khoury · Vera Farah · Fayrouz Ajaka · Carol Ferrone · Yotam Hatzvi

With love and thanks,

## **Lebanese Film Festival 2025 Committee:**

Camille Lattouf · Jessica Zeait · Julia Lattouf · Priscilla Fayad · David Zeait · Karen Touma



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Photo: Opening Night of the Lebanese Film Festival 2024.  
Photo courtesy the Festival

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