We are thrilled to be back at Parramatta

**JOHN POLSON**

We’re thrilled to bring Tropfest back to Parramatta for another year.

As one of Sydney’s most ethnically diverse areas, Parramatta makes a fitting new home, perfectly aligning with Tropfest’s call for entries to showcase greater cultural diversity on our screens.

In 2017, Tropfest achieved gender equality for the first time, with female filmmakers making up half of the finalists. This year, Tropfest is striving to further increase inclusivity, encouraging submissions from filmmakers of all backgrounds.

It goes without saying; Tropfest would not exist, and could not continue to grow bigger and better every year, without the loyal support of our communities, and our partners - including our Foundation Partner, CGU.

Parramatta’s thriving local community, from residents to businesses, is big and small, and we’re instrumental in bringing everything together for this unique event in 2017.

Back for its biggest year yet, TropTalks will now run over four massive days across Western Sydney University’s Parramatta and City campuses as part of a huge week-long extravaganza of filmmaking events, including the Tropfest Craft Awards and our Opening Party.

The FRF (for young filmmakers) is back on February 17, having settled into Events Cinemas at Parramatta Westfield.

We’ve also brought back Pick Your Patch, allowing fans to see the viewpoint of the camera, with a beach chair to relax into and exclusive food and drink options. And look out for Tropfest Food Village on event day in gorgeous Parramatta Park!

**2018: Tropfest’s Year Of The Rose**

The world’s largest short film festival, Tropfest Australia, is calling for entries, encouraging submissions from filmmakers that showcase Australia’s vibrancy and diversity.

The Tropfest main event returns on Saturday, February 24 2018 to Parramatta Park, thanks to multiple partnerships with CGU Insurance, Parramatta Park Trust, City of Parramatta and Western Sydney University. Other satellite Tropfest events - including TropTALKS - will take place in the days leading up to the big night.

In 2017 Tropfest achieved gender equality for the first time ever, with 50% of the Festival finalists made by female filmmakers. This year, Tropfest will strive to further increase inclusivity, welcoming support from the NSW Government through Multicultural NSW to encourage culturally diverse film-makers to submit their stories," said Tropfest Founder and Director John Polson.

"Australia is one of the most multicultural countries on Earth, which makes for some unique perspectives. We’re willing for diverse voices from filmmakers of all backgrounds to showcase in the heart of Parramatta, Western Sydney - one of Australia’s most ethnically vibrant communities," he said.

Minister for Multiculturalism Ray Williams, said he supported the 2018 Tropfest theme of diversity and inclusive representation.

"Nearly half of Australians were either born overseas or have at least one parent born overseas, so it’s only natural Tropfest tells the stories of our diverse society.

The NSW Government encourages greater cultural diversity on our screens to reflect Australia’s rich multicultural identity," Mr Williams said. 

Amateur or pro, Tropfest is open to anyone with a camera and a story to tell. All you must do is start shooting. Entries opened for submission through the Tropfest website on October 15 2017 and close 11 January.

In Tropfest tradition, films must be no longer than seven minutes, and must contain the Tropfest Signature Item (TSI) - "ROSE."

It is entirely up to entrants as to how they include the TSI in their film, with filmmakers encouraged to be as literal or as subtle as they like.

Every year, Tropfest sees filmmakers from all walks of life competing for the chance to be one of 16 finalists whose films will premiere live in front of tens of thousands of people, and broadcast to an even bigger home audience.

Along with unrivalled attention from the film community both locally and internationally, the winner of Tropfest will also host a prizes - being announced soon - designed to help them take the next critical steps in their career.

"We’re really pleased CGU is a Tropfest partner again this year and New Year, New Deal event," said Ben Bessell, IAG’s Executive General Manager Business Distribution.

"As a backer of Australian small businesses with its parent company IAG, CGU recognises the contributions they make to their communities and the economy. With more than a third of small businesses owned by first and second-generation migrants to Australia, we know it’s important to shine a light on their success and celebrate their hard work, grit and dedication as part of the 2018 festival."

"We are thrilled to be a Strategic Partner for Tropfest and encourage filmmakers from all walks of life to enter," said Suellen Fitzgerald, Executive Director, Parramatta Park Trust. "Parramatta Park is a stunning world-class destination and a key part of the cultural life of Western Sydney that the festival can use to create incredible experience for festival-goers and filmmakers. Tropfest is an exciting part of Parramatta’s cultural calendar that runs from December to March every year."

Tropfest has grown incredibly since its humble beginnings at the Tropicana Cafe in Sydney’s Darlinghurst in 1993, where an eager crowd of 200 showed up for a short film screening organized by Tropfest founder John Polson.

For further details, screening venues and regular updates on all things Trop visit: Website: www.tropfest.org.au Facebook: www.facebook.com/tropfest Twitter: www.twitter.com/TROPFEST Instagram: @Tropfest Australia www.youtube.com/user/TROPFEST

ABOUT TROPFEST

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