



**AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY
KATHMANDU**

PRESS STATEMENT

25 January 2011

AUSTRALIAN FILM FESTIVAL, 28-31 JANUARY

The Australian Embassy will host a festival of contemporary Australian films from 28 – 31 January 2011 at the Russian Culture Centre.

This is the ninth consecutive year the Embassy has hosted the festival that showcases best Australian films for Nepali film-lovers. Australian films have successfully competed in the international market for decades, winning accolades and introducing talented actors, directors and technicians to the world.

The Roadshow will feature six Australian features films from the genres of animation, comedy, drama, thriller, romance and history.

Mary and Max, an animated comedy tale of friendship between two very different people living in Melbourne and New York will be screened as the inaugural show for invited guests on 28 January.

The schedule for the films is as follows:

Date / Time	2.30 pm	5.00 pm
29 January	<i>Breaker Morant</i> (historical drama)	<i>Ned Kelly</i> (crime/history)
30 January	<i>Lantana</i> (thriller/mystery)	<i>Radiance</i> (family/women)
31 January	<i>Man from Snowy River</i> (drama/romance)	<i>Mary and Max</i> (animated comedy)

Tickets are available at the Australian Embassy gate, (Ph 4371678 Ext 114), and the Russian Culture Centre from 28th January.

General Information about the Australian Film Industry can be found at <http://www.screenaustralia.gov.au/>

Background information on the films

28th Jan, 6.00 pm (by invitation), 31st Jan, 5.00 pm (open for all)

Mary and Max (92 mins, Animation Comedy)

Writer/Director: Adam Elliot

Producer: Melanie Coombs

Synopsis: Mary and Max is an animated feature film. It is a simple tale of pen-friendship between two very different people. Mary, a chubby lonely eight year old girl living in the suburbs of Melbourne, and Max, a 44 year old, severely obese, Jewish man with Asperger's Syndrome in New York. Spanning 20 years and two continents, Mary and Max's friendship survives much more than the average diet of life's ups and downs.

29th Jan, 2.30 pm

Breaker Morant (104 min, Drama)

Director: Bruce Beresford

Producer: Matthew Carroll

Synopsis: One of the most famous and popular of all Australian films, Beresford's Breaker Morant is based on the Boer War court martial of two Australian soldiers, and the British protagonist, Harry 'Breaker' Morant.

29th Jan, 5.00 pm

Ned Kelly (110 min, Crime /Historical bio pic)

Director: Gregor Jordan

Writer: John Michael Mc Donough

Producers: Lynda House, Nelson Woss.

Synopsis: The true story of Ned Kelly, an Australian outlaw, who carried out a series of robberies with his gang of outlaws from 1878 –80. The film stars the young Heath Ledger.

30th Jan, 2.30 pm

Lantana (120 min, Thriller, Mystery)

Director: Ray Lawrence

Producer: Jan Chapman

Writer: Andrew Bovell

Synopsis: A woman disappears. Four marriages are drawn into a tangled web of love, deceit, sex and death. Not all of them survive. LANTANA is a psychological thriller about love.

30 Jan, 5.00 pm

Radiance (81 min, Family/Women)

Director: Rachel Perkins

Writer: Louis Nowra

Producer: Ned Lander, Andrew Myer

Synopsis: A mother's death draws her three disparate, distant daughters back to their ramshackle childhood home where they are forced to confront their mother's legacy of half-truths, unfinished business and family secrets. The three sisters are finally able to lay to rest the ghosts of the past, along with the ashes of their mother's body.

31st Jan, 2.30 pm

Man from Snowy River (102 min, Drama/Family/Romance)

Director: George Miller

Writer: Geoff Burrowes, A.B 'Banjo' Patterson (poem), Cul Cullen (Script)

Synopsis: Based on the Banjo Paterson poem, this is the story a prize stallion and its capture. It depicts the tough lives, code of honour, and splendid horsemanship of Australian Bushmen living in the Australian Alps in the 19th century.