

MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release



detail: Robert McFARLANE, Toni Collette as Muriel, from the film *Muriel's Wedding*, 1994, directed by P J Hogan. National Film and Sound Archive of Australia. Courtesy House and Moorhouse Films.

**Be inspired by Australian cinema at the Samstag Museum of Art with
STARSTRUCK: AUSTRALIAN MOVIE PORTRAITS
and a new gallery commission by filmmakers MOLLY REYNOLDS &
ROLF DE HEER, THE WAITING ROOM**

Samstag Museum of Art invites you to discover previously untold stories of Australian cinema with the star-studded exhibition *Starstruck: Australian Movie Portraits*, coming to the Samstag Museum of Art **September 14** as part of the 2018 Adelaide Film Festival.

Starstruck explores striking portraiture emerging from 100 years of Australian movies.

Developed by the **National Portrait Gallery** and the **National Film and Sound Archive of Australia**, *Starstruck* highlights iconic visions of Australian life and watershed moments in Australian cinema; revealing the way portraiture can create a bridge between the magic of a movie's fictional worlds and the realities of filmmaking.

Be captivated by never-before-seen portraits including David Gulpilil in *The Last Wave*, Toni Collette in *Muriel's Wedding*, and Anne-Louise Lambert in *Picnic at Hanging Rock*. See behind the scenes through the lens of renowned Australian photographers, among them Rennie Ellis, Max Dupain and SA's Robert McFarlane, Matt Nettheim and Lisa Tomasetti. One of the exhibition's highlights will be the infamous 'thong dress' designed by Tim Chappel and worn by Hugo Weaving's character Mitzi in the 1994 cult classic *The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert*.

Curators Penelope Grist, Assistant Curator, NPG and Jennifer Coombes, Curator, NFSA had a wealth of items to draw on for the exhibition. "*Starstruck* features over 250 items, predominantly drawn from the NFSA's superb collection. There are portraits of beloved Australian actors such as Hugo Weaving, Nicole Kidman, Hugh Jackman and Cate Blanchett and photography from iconic films like *Australia*, *Moulin Rouge!*, and *RED DOG*," said Grist.

"The faces and fashions may change, but our fascination with movies is still as strong as it was 100 years ago. *Starstruck* takes you on a journey that all generations can enjoy together - whether they are revisiting the classics or discovering them for the first time, there is something for everyone," said Coombes.

Amanda Duthie, Director of the Adelaide Film Festival, says, “The Australian screen industry is a passionate factory of dreams created for audiences. In an industry landscape where we are striving to create more Australian production, it is more important than ever that we encourage our audiences to acknowledge Australian screen stories and keep the industry thriving.”

The Samstag Museum of Art is simultaneously presenting a newly commissioned work by iconic, award-winning Australian filmmakers **Molly Reynolds** and **Rolf de Heer**. *The Waiting Room* is a cinematic installation in five dimensions, traversing the audio-visual realm through space and time.

Erica Green, Director of the Samstag Museum of Art, says that “in *The Waiting Room*, Reynolds’s and de Heer’s distinct filmic sensibilities combine to create an ambitious moving image installation that transports the audience to a familiar yet unsettling otherworld, where we wait for time to both begin and end. This immersive work at the Samstag Museum of Art is the artists’ first foray into creating expressly for a gallery context and, matching technical dexterity with conceptual depth, it promises to push the boundaries of the cinematic experience”.



Image: Molly REYNOLDS, Rolf DE HEER and Mark ELAND, *The Waiting Room*, 2018

Join us on **Wednesday 10 October from 5pm** as we celebrate our final two exhibitions for 2018 with a party to coincide with launch of the Adelaide Film Festival! **Thursday 18 October** we will be screening *Robert McFarlane: The Still Point*, a short film surveying the life's work of one of Australia's most respected and pioneering documentary photographers. Audiences will be invited to stay for a panel discussion with McFarlane, Molly Reynolds and Rolf de Heer. See our website for the full list of public programs: www.unisa.edu.au/samstagmuseum

KEY DATES

- **EXHIBITION: Friday 14 September – Friday 30 November 2018**
- **LAUNCH EVENT: Wednesday 10 October, 5 – 6.30pm, Samstag Museum of Art**
- **STARSTRUCK & THE WAITING ROOM DISCUSSION: Thursday 18 October, 5.30 – 7pm**
Robert McFarlane: The Still Point followed by panel discussion with McFarlane, Reynolds & de Heer

MEDIA CONTACT

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**NATIONAL
PORTRAIT
GALLERY**




Australian Government
National Collecting Institutions
Touring & Outreach Program


showcast

**ADL
FILM
FEST**

Samstag Museum of Art
55 North Terrace, Adelaide
University of South Australia, City West precinct
Tues to Fri 10am – 5pm / Sat 12 – 5pm
Free admission – all welcome!

Starstruck: Australian Movie Portraits was made possible through the collaboration of the National Portrait Gallery (NPG) and National Film and Sound Archive (NFSA), and is supported by exhibition partner Showcast. *This exhibition is supported by the National Collecting Institutions Touring and Outreach Program, an Australian Government program aiming to improve access to the national collections for all Australians.*