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MEDIA RELEASE



Celebrated filmmakers from the original Australian underground film movement have today been announced as patrons of the annual Sydney Underground Film Festival.

In the 1960's and 70's, during a time of turbulent politics and surging censorship, there were instrumental independent filmmakers who were intent on shaking the foundations of the art and film world in Australia. Such filmmakers were members of the Sydney UBU Films group; David Perry, Albie Thoms, Paul Winkler and John Clarke and Melbourne filmmakers Arthur and Corinne Cantrill.

Stefan Popescu, SUFF Director said, "It became aware to us that the historically and culturally significant efforts of these artists was constantly on the point of fading into an almost obscurity."

"It was an honour to have members of UBU and the Cantrills involved in our first year as politically we are in line with what these filmmakers stood for and have in the context of this critically-ill film industry, we looked for inspiration and further motivation. We are very excited to welcome them onboard as patrons for this year's festival."

The Sydney Underground Film Festival successful inaugural year saw approximately 2000 people file through the doors of last year's festival, proving to the organisers and the community at large of the need for a festival of this nature. "We never doubted that this would be well received." Popescu said. "The Festival was born out of a passion for freedom and expression in film and also a frustration with the lack of a local rebellious film culture...I think people responded to what we were out to achieve."

With the recent media attention about artistic expression and with many questioning the conservativeness of society, that once was thought to have disappeared, the climate that the festival was developed under is all too similar to what was happening in the 60s and 70s.

Many films in the inaugural festival challenged issues that mainstream cinema would never give a voice and with the encouragement and support of patrons such as the members of UBU, the Sydney Underground Film Festival knows they can pick up where they left off and help forge a more sustainable and stronger alternative film culture.

For more information, visit www.suff.com.au

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Paul Winkler, Albie Thoms, David Perry and Festival Director Stefan Popescu

About the Sydney Underground Film Festival:

The Sydney Underground Film Festival is dedicated to nurturing an alternative film culture through the promotion of independent and experimental films. The festival seeks to support filmmakers who operate outside established film industry infrastructures, by providing a platform for exhibition, exposure and critical discussion. Founded in 2007 by filmmaking team Stefan Popescu and Katherine Berger and assisted by a dedicated team of volunteers, the Sydney Underground Film Festival achieved vast success in its first year with a sell out opening night on the 7th of September and with weekend crowds of 2000 guests.