

# MOTION PICTURES

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*A Festival of New Cinema*

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Saturday 18 April 2015

*Motion Pictures* is a new festival in Western Sydney that aims to support the development and presentation of ambitious screen-based work. With a focus on fostering emerging artists and filmmakers, *Motion Pictures* looks towards the future of cinema in a region undergoing significant transition.

Directed by Kate Blackmore and David Capra, *Motion Pictures* is a unique cinematic event that pays tribute to Australian film industry pioneer A.J. Beszant and his dedication to building culture and community through cinema in Sydney's western suburbs.

**Powerhouse Youth Theatre** 19 Harris Street, Fairfield  
**The Old Crescent Cinema** 8 The Crescent, Fairfield  
**Stars Palace Reception Centre** 15A Railway Parade, Fairfield  
**The Old Forum Cinema** 8-36 Station St, Fairfield

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[pyt.com.au/motion-pictures](http://pyt.com.au/motion-pictures)

1.00-1.05pm	<b>Screening</b>	<i>Violent Light</i> captures a drive-in cinema screen and its surrounding environment from morning through to evening. As the landscape darkens, our focus inverts to the screen where a montage of 'junk' film is projected. Junk film is the disposable heads and tails from film reels, which Rafferty collected whilst working as a film projectionist. The title of the work refers to both the rapid flickering light of cinema, and the burning of projected light in our field of vision.	Powerhouse Youth Theatre
1.05-1.20pm	<b>Introduction by Motion Pictures Co-Directors</b>	Kate Blackmore & David Capra	Powerhouse Youth Theatre
1:20-1:30pm	<b>Screening</b>	Through a re-imagining of the initial sequence of <i>The Wizard of Oz</i> (1939), the fantasy world of cinema and the reality of Judy Garland's complex life collide. Instead of taking Dorothy to Oz, the twister transports a young, hopeful Garland into the future where she encounters her disillusioned adult self.	Powerhouse Youth Theatre
1:30-2:20pm	<b>Presentations</b>	<p>Cinephiles talk about their favourite scenes.</p> <p>Actor/director Craig Anderson presents a video from his collection of 8500 VHS tapes, an accumulation charting the history of film and featuring found footage oddities.</p> <p>Maria Tran talks about her experience as a female actor, director and producer pursuing the martial arts action genre.</p> <p>Pakourist Ali Kadhim speaks about the opening scene of one of his favourite comic book films.</p> <p>Curator and writer Isobel Parker Philip takes Gene Kelly's mirror dance in Charles Vidor's <i>Cover Girl</i> (1944) as a point of departure to interrogate the split status of the cinematic body.</p> <p>Oscar winning costume designer Tim Chappel talks about the transformative nature of costumes and how to create memorable characters with them.</p>	Powerhouse Youth Theatre
2:20-2:45pm	<b>Screening</b>	<i>Guerrilla</i> was filmed by Sabsabi prior, during and post the 33 day war in Lebanon in 2006. The film documents three people, an ex-guerrilla fighter who fought in the Lebanese wars between 1975 and 2000, a female ex-fighter in the civil neighbourhood and militia wars of Lebanon and a Lebanese/Palestinian woman who grew up during the Lebanon civil war. The work is an attempt to highlight the contradictions of war: a combination of justice actions and violence.	Powerhouse Youth Theatre

2:50-3:30pm	<b>Walking Tour</b>	John Kirkman discusses the changing role of cinema in the suburbs whilst leading a tour to Fairfield's original golden age cinema, The Crescent, built in 1934 by Australian film industry pioneer, A.J. Beszant. The Crescent closed its doors in 1967 and is currently awaiting redevelopment into apartments. At the old cinema, Kirkman will talk to Shirley McLeod and Florence Callicot who frequented the bustling picture house in the 1940s.	The Old Crescent Cinema
3:30-4:15pm	<b>Performance, Screening &amp; Refreshments</b>	Musician Bashar Hanna sings Arabic love songs in Fairfield's most romantic venue, followed by cake and a screening of Tracey Moffatt's video work <i>Love</i> .	Stars Palace Reception Centre
	Tracey Moffatt, <i>Love</i> , 2003, found film montage on video, sound (collaboration with Gary Hillberg), 21 mins. Courtesy of the artist and Roslyn Oxley Gallery	Moffatt and collaborator Hillberg created <i>Love</i> as a "hymn to cinema" through mining Hollywood films in an attempt to craft new narratives.	
4:30-5:30pm	<b>Beszant Award: Screenings &amp; Presentation</b>	Hosted by Craig Anderson  Sponsored by Neeta City, the Beszant Award showcases a selection of films made by young and emerging Western Sydney filmmakers (16-25 years). The Beszant Award will be presented by Amie Webber, Great-granddaughter of A.J. Beszant and the winning filmmaker will receive \$1000.	Powerhouse Youth Theatre
	<b>John Nguyen</b>	<b><i>The Neighbourhood Thief</i>, 2014, 3 mins</b> An unexpected arrival compromises a robbery.	
	<b>Jerry Kahale</b>	<b><i>Game On</i>, 2014, 6.52 mins</b> Inside a violent video game, where punks roam the corridors and peacekeepers shoot to kill, a cleaner dreams of being upgraded to a game character until a young hacker gets into the system and short circuits his options.	
	<b>Andres Bustamante</b>	<b><i>Memoria</i>, 2014, 2.06 mins</b> A lone astronaut awakens on an alien planet that seems to trigger memories, but of who and what?	
	<b>Mahdi Mohammadi</b>	<b><i>Mahtab's 9th Birthday</i>, 2014, 10 mins</b> Set in Afganistan, <i>Mahtab's 9th Birthday</i> is a coming of age story about a girl who receives an unexpected gift from her father.	
	<b>Vinh Nguyen</b>	<b><i>The Subsistent Glamour</i>, 2014, 2 mins</b> A filmic study of the meticulous and repetitive work of the beauticians at Family Hair and Beauty Salon in Granville.	
	<b>Cathy Vu</b>	<b><i>Identity</i>, 2014, 6.03 mins</b> Jack awakes from unconsciousness to find himself in an unfamiliar room in a strange building with no memory of who he is and where he has been.	

5:30-5:45pm	<b>Presentation</b>	Intermedia artist Giselle Stanborough will address the influence of director David Cronenberg's films on her practice with specific reference to the images in her Instagram account "gisellestanborough".	Powerhouse Youth Theatre
6:00-7:00pm	<b>Performance</b>	In an abandoned cinema, electronic media artist Van Gelder uses an analogue audio-video synthesiser to generate hypnotic images and sounds that are intrinsically linked.	The Old Forum Cinema
12:00-7:00pm	<b>Exhibition</b>	<p><b>Shaun Gladwell,</b> <i>Midnight Traceur</i>, 2011, single channel HD video, colour, silent, 23 mins. Courtesy the artist and Anna Schwartz Gallery</p>	Powerhouse Youth Theatre
	<b>Angelica Mesiti,</b>	<p>Filmed in slow motion, <i>Midnight Traceur</i> features parkour practitioner Ali Kadhim as he dexterously negotiates the urban landscape of Sydney. A male parkour practitioner is usually called a 'traceur', and a female practitioner a 'traceuse'.</p>	
	<p><i>Some dance to remember, some dance to forget</i>, 2012, single channel HD video, colour, sound, 6.04 mins. Courtesy the artist and Anna Schwartz Gallery</p>	<p>Set inside a Paris nightclub, Algerian singer/musician Mohammed Lamourie sings an Arabic rendition of the 1970s Eagles' song 'Hotel California', originally recorded by Cheb Hasni, the Algerian Rai singer and cult hero assassinated in the 1990s by Muslim extremists for singing about taboo subjects like divorce and alcohol. Mohammed's sincere rendition of the song and the glitzy appearance of the nightclub environment, highlight and contrast contradictions of these complex states.</p>	
	<p><b>Sean Rafferty,</b> <i>Crescent</i>, 2014, single channel video, 2.55 mins.</p>	<p><i>Crescent</i> is a video of a newspaper printing plate in the collection of the Fairfield City Museum depicting Fairfield's now defunct Crescent Cinema. In the fixed-frame video, a light is guided over the plate's surface, animating it to describe the relief on the plate and give form to the plate's seemingly flat surface. The textural differences across the plate's surface and the glistening and glittering elements of the building are intended as physical allusions to the 'silver screen', and also as a melancholic and/or nostalgic look at films and their once glamorous picture houses.</p>	

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## Artist Biographies

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**Craig Anderson** is a comedian who works in the medium of film. As a director he has twice won the Australian Oscar (AFI- Best Comedy TV Series 2004/ AACTA- Best Director- Light Entertainment or Reality 2015) and an International Gold Promax for his network promos for Showtime Australia. As a performer Craig has won Best Actor at the world's largest Short Film festival (Tropfest 1999) and appeared in many of the most recent award winning television comedies in Australia (*Maximum Choppage*, *The Moody's*, *LAID*, *Elegant Gentleman's Guide*, *Black Comedy*, *Double The Fist*).

**Andres Bustamante** is an emerging filmmaker who spent most of his childhood in Chile before moving to Australia with his family and settling in Fairfield. He graduated from UNSW with a Bachelor of Digital Media and is currently working on a series of short films with friends. Bustamante plans to work in visual effects and animation in the future.

**Tim Chappel** studied for a BA in Fashion and Textile design at Sydney College of the Arts before defecting to the Entertainment industry. For his first feature film *The Adventures of Priscilla Queen of the Desert*, Tim won an American Academy Award (OSCAR), British Academy of Film and Television Arts Award (BAFTA) and Australian Film Institute Award (AFI) for costume design. After the success of *The Adventures of Priscilla Queen of the Desert*, Tim spent many years in the US designing for feature films, TV and music video clips. Feature film credits include; *Miss Congeniality*, *Lovewrecked* and *Into the Sun* amongst others. His TV credits include; Pamela Anderson's high camp series *V.I.P.*, *High Society* as well as a number of music video clips for popular artists such as *Missy Elliott*, *Cher* and *Matchbox 20*. Tim has returned to Sydney where he lectures in costume design at The Australian Film Television and Radio School and Whitehouse Institute of Design.

**Shaun Gladwell** was born in Sydney and is currently based in London. He has undertaken international residencies and commissions in Europe, North and South America, and the Asia Pacific Region. Recent solo exhibitions include *The Lacrima Chair*, Sherman Contemporary Art Foundation (2015) and *Collection+ : Shaun Gladwell*, UNSW Galleries, Sydney (2015). Gladwell was Australia's representative at the 53rd Venice Biennale in 2009 and he was awarded the Josephine Ulrick and Win Schubert Photography Award and the Shirley Hannan National Portrait Prize in 2014.

**Soda\_Jerk** is a 2-person art collective that works with sampled material to construct rogue histories and counter-mythologies. Taking the form of video installations and live video essays, their archival image practice is situated at the interzone of experimental film, documentary and speculative fiction. Formed in Sydney in 2002, Soda\_Jerk are currently based in New York.

**Ali Kadhim** is a self-taught filmmaker who has directed, shot and edited music videos and commercials for just over a decade, often with little to no budget. He started out shooting on DV tapes and mini camcorders and eventually transitioned to DSLR format cameras. Kadhim is also a member of Team 9Lives, a Western Sydney based team of Parkourists who are currently developing a dance theatre work with acclaimed choreographer Byron Perry, in partnership with PYT and Force Majeure.

**Jerry Kahale** is a drummer in grindcore bands and a composer who creates diverse pieces of melodic and experimental music under the name *Seagull Chainsaw*. In 2012, he completed his Advanced Diploma in Sound Engineering and took part in Weeklybeats (an online challenge to compose a song every week for one year).

**John Kirkman** is the Executive Director of Information Cultural Exchange (ICE) in Parramatta and has worked extensively as curator and project manager for a range of exhibitions, performance programs and major public art commissions and consultancies. He has held roles including, Chief Executive Officer Penrith Performing & Visual Arts (2005-2012); Director of the Penrith Regional Gallery & The Lewers Bequest (2001-2005); Curator/Manager of djamu Gallery Australian Museum at Customs House (1998-2001); and was the inaugural Director, Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre (1992-98).

**Angelica Mesiti** was born in Sydney and currently lives and works in Paris. Angelica's video works use cinematic conventions and performance languages as a means of responding to the particularities of a given location, its history, environment and communities. Recent solo shows include Lilith Performance Centre Malmo Sweden (2015), Anna Schwartz Gallery Sydney (April 2015) and Galerie Allen Paris (September 2015). She has received numerous awards, grants and commissions including: Inaugural Ian Potter Moving Image Commission (2013), Anne Landa Award for Video and New Media Arts (2013), AFTRS Creative Fellowship (2011) and 58th Blake Prize (2009).

**Tracey Moffatt** was born in Queensland and currently lives and works in New York. In 1989, Moffatt received international attention when her film *Night Cries: A Rural Tragedy* was screened at the Canne Film Festival. In this film, the artist engages with both national and personal history through the complex relationship between an Aboriginal woman and her dying white foster mother. Since then, Moffatt has presented over 50 solo exhibitions in Europe, USA and Australia and in 2007 she was awarded the Infinity Award for Excellence in Photography by the International Center for Photography in New York.

**Mahdi Mohammadi** is an Afghani writer and director for film and theatre who lives in Fairfield. He obtained a Bachelors Degree in Directing for Cinema at Kabul University in 2011 and was a founding member and director of Papyrus Theatre Group, a Kabul based theatre troupe that sought to empower women and educate audiences on gender based violence and structural disadvantage.

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**John Nguyen** is an emerging filmmaker from Canley Vale who is currently studying a Bachelor of Media Arts at UNSW. He is influenced by filmmakers including Steve McQueen, Christopher Nolan, Paul Thomas Anderson and Quentin Tarantino and in the future hopes to move into independent filmmaking.

**Vinh Nguyen** is an emerging filmmaker from Padstow with a Bachelor of Design in Visual Communications from UTS. Through his company, Blatant Labs, Nguyen aims to tell riveting tales with a tactile aesthetic and produces videos for clients including Sydney Theatre Company, Cancer Council and Headspace. His films *Bliss* and *Handy* have been screened throughout Australia and at Cannes and he has received numerous awards including Best Film at 48 Green Hours and Shortcuts.

**Isobel Parker Philip** is a curator, writer and photographer from Sydney. She is presently the Assistant Curator, Photographs at The Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney and has independently curated exhibitions at UTS Gallery, Firstdraft, Sydney Guild, Breezeblock, MOP Projects (forthcoming) and the Villa Alba Museum, Melbourne. With a background in film theory and art history, she completed her honours degree at the University of Sydney in 2012 and was awarded the University Medal. Her thesis, *The Cinema as a Space of Flow, or: How to Think Cinema Topography*, interrogated the haptic and immersive nature of cinematic space.

**Sean Rafferty** uses a wide variety of strategies and media in his art practice, and has an ongoing interest in photography; its physicality and potential to 'burn' images into our field of vision and our memories. His interest in the photography of cinema peaked when he worked as a projectionist in the dying days of celluloid. In recent years he has adopted the role of collector, salvaging fragments from various sources, which he arranges according to sets of criteria. His current collection focuses on Australian fruit cartons, each of which are mapped. Rafferty believes the cartons' designs have the potential to reveal mystic truths about the land.

**Khaled Sabsabi** is an artist who specialises in multimedia and site-specific installation work to present mediated and intensively media-based experiences. Sabsabi was born in Tripoli, Lebanon, and migrated with his family to Australia in 1978, settling in Western Sydney. Since the late 1980s he has created arts projects that explore the experience of people across social, political and ideological spectrums. Sabsabi has been a recipient of an Australia Council for the Arts Fellowship; the Helen Lempriere Travelling Art Scholarship (2010); the 60th annual Blake Prize (2011); and the 53rd Fishers Ghost Prize Campbelltown Arts Centre. He is represented by Milani Gallery, Brisbane.

**Gielle Stanborough** is an emerging intermedia artist whose practice often addresses online user generated media and the way in which such technologies encourage us to identify and perform notions of self. She has a special interest in the intersection between image and ethics in the contemporary mediascape. She graduated from COFA in 2010 with the University Medal and since then has exhibited in galleries around NSW and in Melbourne. Her work has been shown online in The Washington Post's *Pictures of The Day* and in Hennessy Youngman's *Art Thoughtz*.

**Maria Tran** is an award winning actor, filmmaker and community arts trainer. With a Bachelor degree in Psychology, she is passionate about working with disadvantaged and culturally diverse communities. She has made various short films including *A Little Dream*, *Happy Dent* and action Kung Fu comedy movie *Maximum Choppage*. Her mockumentary short *Hot Bread Shop* was official selected for the 2011 Colourfest Film Festival. In 2013, Tran played a lead female assassin in Roger Corman's upcoming action film *Fist of the Dragon*, set in China. Also in 2013, Tran directed and produced Australia's first Vietnamese TV series *Change of Our Lives* for the Cancer Council. Tran is currently completing the mixed genre movie project *Quest for Jackie Chan!*.

**Pia van Gelder** is an electronic artist, teacher and curator who has exhibited and performed widely across Australia and internationally. Van Gelder develops performances and installations by working with media machines, both custom built heirloom technologies like the audio-video modular synthesiser, and common electronic devices which are hacked and opened up to perform in ways that negate their use or assumed design. Van Gelder is an 'Overlord' of Dorkbot Sydney, a regular meeting for people doing strange things with electricity and she lectures at the University of New South Wales in the School of Art and Design.

**Cathy Vu** is an emerging filmmaker from Canley Heights who graduated from the University of New South Wales in 2014 with a Bachelor of Media, majoring in Screen and Sound. A passion for filmmaking came naturally from a young age as a result of her interest in photography and obsession with movies. Cathy is interested in telling engaging stories through screen in ways never done before.

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## Supporters

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*Motion Pictures* is presented by **Powerhouse Youth Theatre (PYT)** and is a re-imagining of Shortcuts Film Festival (2004-2014).  
*Motion Pictures* is supported by **Fairfield City Council** and **Neeta City** in conjunction with **Youth Week**.



VERGE GALLERY

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