

## Films for Now

Refugee Alternatives Conference film screenings. 22 and 23 February.<sup>1</sup> 202 Ainsworth Building UNSW.

### 22 February

- 10 am – 10.30 am. *Call to Account* (2015) dir. Steve Thomas with Suvendrini Perera and Joseph Pugliese.

This film is our *welcome to country*, from Fremantle, Western Australia. Australians in WA, Sydney and Melbourne give voice to crimes perpetuated against children and adults in the recent history of the country, and in specific reference to the offshore solution supported by both major parties in the House of Representatives, placing these harms in the longer story of damage done to Australian Indigenous peoples.

Introduction: Professor Suvendrini Perera

More details: <http://researchersagainstpacificblacksites.org/index.php/2015/12/18/rapbs-call-to-account-2015/>

- 10.45 am – 12 noon. *Cast from the Storm* (2016) dir. David Mason, producer James Cogswell.

This film charts the work of theatre educators working with young refugees in Sydney.

Introduction: James Cogswell.

More details: <http://www.castfromthestorm.com>

- 12.05 pm – 12.15 pm *Tampa* (2015) Dennis Del Favero

*Tampa* forms part of the ongoing Firewall series, first exhibited at William Wright Artists Projects in 2015. *Firewall* explores the concept of the 'door' as a metaphor for the dynamic interaction between the human and natural worlds. 'Doors' occupy a fundamental place in human society, whilst also being central to the natural world. It is the interrelationship between human and natural 'doors' that is the focus of *Tampa*. Since white settlement, the oceans surrounding Australia have been perceived as vast impenetrable 'doors', keeping human and natural dangers at bay while protecting Australia's inhabitants. 20th century Australia prided itself on opening its 'doors' to those fleeing persecution. That all changed on 29 August 2001 when a Norwegian freighter, the MV Tampa, carrying Afghan refugees entered Australian waters. The government responded by closing its doors and dispatching its Special Forces to intercept an 'invasion'.

- 12.15 pm – 2pm. *Constance on the Edge* (2016) dir. Belinda Mason

A superb account of life after resettlement. Constance is a magnificent, brave and unique human being but also a woman on the edge.

Introduction (and Q and A): Belinda Mason (Director) or Allison Henry (Impact producer).

More details: <http://constanceontheedge.com>

- 2 pm – 2.45 pm. *Bon Voyage* (2016) dir. Marc Raymond Wilkins (Switzerland)

This finely poised film deals with the emotional, moral and ethical challenges faced by a couple when their sailing vessel encounters an over-laden boat, filled with refugees.

Introduction: Dr Greg Dolgoplov

More details:

<http://marcwilkins.com/film/>

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<sup>1</sup> Permissions have been obtained from film-makers for the showing of these films to conference delegates at no charge. Some films and film-extracts are only available via Internet downloads. We apologise in advance if there are problems with download and bandwidth beyond our control. We have tested all films in advance so we trust there will be few if any issues.

## February 23<sup>rd</sup>.

- 10 am – 10.30 am. *Call to Account* (2015) dir. Steve Thomas with Suvendrini Perera and Joseph Pugliese. SECOND SHOWING

This film is our *welcome to country*, from Fremantle, Western Australia.

More details: <http://researchersagainstpacificblacksites.org/index.php/2015/12/18/rapbs-call-to-account-2015/>

- 10.45 – 12 noon. Short films for *Now*. This session includes excerpts from *new films and films in preparation* including works from:

Behrouz Boochani (Iranian journalist currently detained on Manus Island) –new insights into the conditions of life for those required by Australian offshore policies to remain indefinitely on Manus island. More details *tbc*. (Mr Boochani will be presenting via Dr Tofighian at the panel on Creative Industries on the 22<sup>nd</sup> February)

*The Staging Post* dir. Muzafar Ali (with Jolyon Hoff and Khadin Dai), is a film in process, exploring the lives of refugees (both Ali and Dai are photographers) living in Indonesia.

*The Jolly Swagman*, dir. Charby Ibrahim. A short but powerful exploration of the impact on traumatised men, women and children of detention. SECOND SHOWING

- 12 noon – 12.15 pm. *Tampa* (2015), dir. Dennis Del Favero

More details: <http://icinema.unsw.edu.au/projects/tampa/project-overview/>

- 12.30 – 1.30 *Khamsa*, (2016) dir. Marc Almodóvar

This film, the result of a collaborative project between the European Union and North African universities, and young film-makers. Five youths, five Mediterranean cities, five stories. Hiba, Hakeem, Seif, Nina and Ayoub. Beirut, Alexandria, Djerba, Timezrit and Casablanca. A journey through the dreams and preoccupations of five people united by a generation and the waters of a shared sea, but separated by distant horizons and environments. The film reminds us that the everyday life of young people is diversely impacted in times of global uncertainty and war.

More details: <http://www.sahwa.eu/EVENTS/SAHWA-events/SAHWA-Documentary-is-available-online>

- 2 pm – 2.45 pm. *Bon Voyage* (2016) dir. Marc Raymond Wilkins (Switzerland)

This finely-poised film deals with the emotional, moral and ethical challenges faced by a couple when their sailing vessel encounters an over-laden boat, filled with refugees. SECOND SHOWING

More details: <http://marcwilkins.com/film/>

- 3pm – 4.00 pm *Faraway So Close to the Homeland* (2013), Producer: Maher Jamous  
Director: Alfoz Tanjour

A documentary that follows the lives of Syrian refugees, all of whom work in some form of creative industry but who now try to make a difference to the future of their country, as exiles.

Introduction: Dr Omid Tofighian.

Q and A: Maher Jamous

Curated by Stephanie Hemelryk Donald (UNSW) on behalf of the organising committee.

