

**Down Under Berlin | Public Relations**

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# 10th Down Under Berlin Film Festival Announces Lineup

All Screenings in Kreuzberg at Kino Movimento, 21-23 October 2022

BERLIN, 20 September 2022 - **Down Under Berlin** Australian and New Zealand Film Festival (DUB) is back after a 2-year hiatus. The festival announces the

film lineup for its 10th edition, themed “Back to our Nature.” The 2022 edition will feature 5 German premieres. In total, **Down Under Berlin** will show six features and sixteen shorts.

The official selection is a combination of films from Australia and New Zealand as well as overseas-based Aussie and Kiwi filmmakers. The full lineup includes five narrative features and one documentary feature. The festival will also present 9 narrative shorts, 3 animations, and 3 experimental short films and one surprise world premiere.

On 21 October, **Down Under Berlin** will open the festival with a Berlin premiere screening of the touching Australian environmental-activist drama **Blue-back**, written by Robert Connolly and Tim Winton, and directed by Connolly himself. With an A-List Aussie cast. The screenplay is based on Tim Winton’s 1997 best-selling novel of the same name. It tells the story of Abby (Mia Wasikowska), a young woman reconnecting with her mother Dora (Radha Mitchell), both determined to protect the coral reef of their tranquil seaside town from greedy industrial developers. Australian star-actor Eric Bana is seen here in a supporting role. Watch the official trailer [here](#).

Festival Co-Director Mala Ghedia said: “The last 2 -3 years have been a bit of a wake-up call for most of us. Pandemic, lockdowns (where most Aussies and Kiwis were literally locked out of their homelands), disastrous wildfires and floods, war and inflation. Life seems very grim. We want to be part of a solution so this year, the 10th year of Down Under Berlin we have carefully curated a selection of films reflecting an inner urge of going back to our roots, back within, back to our nature. Here is where we find community, unity, and hope.”

Down Under Berlin acquired new collaborations with Tourism Australia and Humboldt Forum Berlin for this year's festival. The Australian and New Zealand embassies in Berlin are returning as long-standing supporters.

The festival films from Australia and New Zealand filmmakers span a variety of genres and topics such as

- Climate change and environmental activism
- Australian indigenous life and dreaming
- Queer identity and fantasy
- Gang violence and questioning belonging
- Self-discovery, love and culture clash

Festival Co-Director Angus McGruther agrees: "With all this happening - people all over the world have felt trauma. With Australian and New Zealand borders open again, families have been able to reunite with expat relatives and friends. The 2022 lineup is about the simple things, real emotions and empathy."

Tickets cost 10€ per screening. A festival pass for multiples screenings can be purchased from the Movimento box office in person. (Kottbusser Damm 22, 10967 Berlin)

Below is a line up of the feature films selected for this year.

## **BLUEBACK**

Feature Film | Opening Night 21.10.22 | 7pm | Berlin Premiere

Australia | 2022 | 102 min | Director: Robert Connolly

Starring: Eric Bana, Radha Mitchell, Mia Wasikowska

Based on the book by Tim Winton, *Blueback* follows Abby, a young girl who befriends a wild blue groper while diving off the coast of her small town. She soon

realises that a greedy corporation has been overfishing, threatening the precious marine life of the area. Inspired by her activist mother Dora, Abby decides to take on the poachers to save her friend and the ocean she loves.

### **KOKO: A RED DOG STORY**

Feature Film | Saturday 22.10.22 | 5pm

Australia | 2019 | 78 min | Directors: Aaron McCan / Dominic Pearce

Starring: Jason Isaacs, Sarah Woods

“An ordinary dog, whose good fortune and ability to connect with people, catapults him to fame.”

### **I’LL BE FRANK**

Documentary | Saturday 22.10.22 | 5:15pm

Australia | 2022 | 52 min | Directors: Aaron Lucas

*European Premiere + Director Q&A*

“After receiving a German passport, a young Jewish man from Australia takes to his grandfather’s memoir to understand his connection to his new-found identity. Guided by Frank’s animated memories, Aaron searches for traces of his family's life in Germany and for his own connection to the place his family once called home. But when his research leads him down a dark path, Aaron is forced to confront a trauma that has long lay hidden under the surface of his family’s identity. Bringing to question, how much of the past is hidden in the present when we really look for it?”

### **NUDE TUESDAY**

Feature Film | New Zealand Special Screening | Saturday 22.10.22 | 8pm

New Zealand | 2022 | 90 min | Director: Armagan Ballantyne

Starring: Jemaine Clement, Jackie van Beek, Damon Herriman

*In Gibberish with English subtitles*

“A suburban couple goes to a new-age retreat as a last ditch attempt to save their marriage. Their path to reconnection is riddled with hilarity and humiliation as they seek to find themselves and each other.”

### **SHUT EYE**

Feature Film | Emerging Filmmaker Spotlight | Sunday 23.10.22 | 12pm

New Zealand | 2022 | 92 min | Director: Tom Levesque

Starring: Sarah May, Millie Van Kol

“To cure their insomnia, a social outcast befriends an ASMR streamer where the lines between friendship and obsession become blurred.”

Feature directorial debut from New Zealand Director, Tom Levesque.

### **SAVAGE**

Feature Film | New Zealand Spotlight | Sunday 23.10.22 | 5pm

New Zealand | 2019 | 100 min Director: Sam Kelly | Starring: Jake Ryan, John

Tui

“Inspired by the true stories of New Zealand's street gangs across 30 years, SAV-AGE follows Danny at three defining moments in his life as he grows from a boy into the violent enforcer of a gang.”

### **MY NAME IS GULPILIL**

Documentary | Closing Film | Sunday 23.10.22 | 7:30pm

Australia | 2021 | 101 min | Director: Molly Reynolds

German Premiere in collaboration with Humboldt Forum, Berlin.

“Early in 2017, Gulpilil was diagnosed with lung cancer. His doctors estimated six months for him but David, being David, was always likely to defy the odds. And he continues to do so with probably his last great work.”

David Gulpilil passed away in November 2021

### **About Down Under Berlin**

The organisers of the Australian and New Zealand Film Festival have been hosting this film event since 2011.

Down Under Berlin’s mission is to provide a public forum in Berlin to promote artistic excellence and to advance public interest in Australian and New Zealand film-making and cinematography in Germany and Europe-wide. Down Under Berlin is an e.V., a not-for-profit organisation.

For further info on all the films, passes, and tickets, please visit [downunderberlin.de](https://downunderberlin.de) or send an email to **mike.bartsch@downunderberlin.de**.