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**AUSTRALIA DAY
TO HAVE WORLD PREMIERE
AT SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL
Monday, June 12 at 8:40pm at State Theatre**

Foxtel, and Emmy and BAFTA Award winning Hoodlum, are proud to announce that their first feature film, **AUSTRALIA DAY**, has been selected to screen at the prestigious Sydney Film Festival on Monday, June 12 at 8:40pm at the State Theatre, which will mark its world premiere.

AUSTRALIA DAY's top-line cast is led by Australian acting legend **Bryan Brown** with the respected **Kriv Stenders** (*Red Dog*), directing **Stephen M Irwin's** (*Secrets & Lies*) riveting and unpredictable script.

Joining Brown are **Shari Sebbens** (*The Sapphires, The Gods of Wheat Street*), **Sean Keenan** (*Lockie Leonard, Glitch*), **Matthew Le Nevez** (*The Kettering Incident, Offspring*), plus **Daniel Webber**, **Elias Anton** (*Barracuda*, for which he won the Graham Kennedy Award For Most Outstanding Newcomer at the 2017 TV Week Logies), **Jenny Wu**, **Isabelle Cornish** and **Phoenix Raei**. **AUSTRALIA DAY** will also introduce rising star 14-year-old **Miah Madden**.

Set in Brisbane, where the film was shot entirely, **AUSTRALIA DAY** takes place over 12 hours and interweaves the stories of three Australians from diverse backgrounds: those of April Tucker (**Miah Madden**), a 14-year-old Indigenous girl, Sami Ghaznavi (**Elias Anton**), a 17-year-old Persian boy, and Lan (**Jenny Wu**), a 19-year-old Chinese woman. Each is alone, each is terrified for their life...

Taking place on our most controversial national holiday, **AUSTRALIA DAY** illuminates contemporary issues that simmer beneath the surface of modern Australia. And above all, this is a film with heart and hope where the choice to do the right thing does not come cheaply or easily.

Foxtel's Head of Drama Penny Win said: "The feature film *Australia Day* is another bold first for our production slate. It is thrilling to be able to bring Foxtel's passion and commitment to telling original and daring Australian stories to a different format with this thought-provoking and ultimately moving drama delivered by Hoodlum's brilliant production team."

Hoodlum's Executive Producer Nathan Mayfield said: "We are so delighted to be premiering at Sydney Film Festival. The film takes audiences on a gripping ride through contemporary Australia and is set to ignite conversations about what it means to be Australian."

As well as **AUSTRALIA DAY's** Sydney Film Festival world premiere at the State Theatre on June 12 at 8:40pm as part of the Special Presentations at the State

strand, it will also screen at the Hayden Orpheum Cremorne on Wednesday, June 14 at 8:00pm. The Festival runs from June 7 to 18, 2017.

Following its Sydney Film Festival premiere, **AUSTRALIA DAY** will be released in cinemas later in 2017 before having its Australian television premiere on Foxtel.

AUSTRALIA DAY further cements Foxtel's commitment to original drama and its place as the home of Australian stories. AACTA and TV WEEK Logie Award winner *Wentworth's* sixth season has just been announced with its fifth currently on showcase, *A Place To Call Home*, the 2017 recipient of the TV Week Logie for Most Outstanding Drama Series, will return later this year for season five, and *Top of the Lake: China Girl* to BBC First. Plus currently in production are the re-imagining of Joan Lindsay's timeless Australian novel, *Picnic At Hanging Rock*, and *Fighting Season*, a powerful exploration of the experiences of Australian soldiers returned from duty.

AUSTRALIA DAY is financed by Foxtel, **Screen Australia** and **Screen Queensland**. Executive Producers are Nathan Mayfield, Tracey Robertson, Leigh McGrath and Foxtel's Head of Drama Penny Win and Producer Edward Herbert.

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About Foxtel

Foxtel is one of Australia's most progressive and dynamic media companies, directly employing around 2,800 people and delivering a diverse subscription television service over cable, satellite and broadband distribution. Foxtel effortlessly connects Australians to all the stories they love by offering a better entertainment experience every day to more than 2.8 million subscribing homes through delivery of new and inspiring programming across all genres, the world's most popular channel brands, and investment in high quality local content. As constant champions of innovation we have brought customers the iQ personal digital recorder; Australia's largest HD channel offering; the Foxtel Go App for tablets and mobile devices; internet TV service, Foxtel Play; and television, broadband and home phone bundles with Foxtel internet and voice services delivered over Australia's largest telecommunications network. Foxtel is owned by Telstra Corporation Limited ACN 051 775 556 (50%) and News Corporation (50%). foxtel.com.au

About HOODLUM:

Hoodlum is an Emmy® and BAFTA Award winning Production Company. With an experienced television division and an expert digital team, Hoodlum creates multiplatform entertainment for a global market. Hoodlum has produced *Secrets & Lies* (AUS), *Secrets & Lies I and II* (USA), *Strange Calls* (AUS/US), *Slide* (AUS), *Illusion5* (AUS/US). *Australia Day* is Hoodlum's debut feature film. www.hoodlum.com.au