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SCIFI FILM FESTIVAL WELCOMES NEW PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Film industry journalist, film festival consultant and founder of the website Screen-Space Simon Foster has joined the SciFi Film Festival as Program Director.

“I’ve been trying for some time to get Simon to free himself from his many film industry commitments and focus in on our festival,” says Festival Director Tom Papas, who first spoke with Foster in 2016 about working together on an expansive vision for his event.

“The time was right to make some bold decisions about the path we wanted to forge, and Simon’s vision matched the breadth and complexity of our plans,” says Papas, whose festival celebrates its 5th anniversary in 2018.

With a background that includes 4 years as editorial contributor at SBS Movies and Head of Jury for both the Russian Resurrection Film Festival and Sydney’s A Night of Horror Film Festival, the Sydney-based Foster promises the SciFi Film Festival will reflect the most contemporary trends in both international and local science fiction cinema.

“The submissions suggest the global community of science fiction filmmakers are embracing humanistic themes with inspired artistry at a moment in history that demands strong cinematic voices,” said Foster, whose role will be to enhance the unique movie-going experience established by the event’s founder. “Tom has worked tirelessly to forge the festival’s reputation, both with local audiences and within the international film festival circuit,” he says. “It is an honour to have been entrusted with helping to shape the future of the SciFi Film Festival”.

Some of the planned SciFi Film Festival initiatives include:

- The appointment of a respected science fiction figurehead as the official Festival Patron;
- The establishment of a Festival Jury to adjudicate Feature and Short Film Competition strands;
- The introduction of Anniversary event screenings; short and feature length documentaries; new media and technology exhibitions; and, the involvement of associated industries such as visual effects and gaming;
- A programming strand called The Female Gaze, celebrating the art and craft of women filmmakers working within the science fiction genre.

The full program for the 5th annual SciFi Film Festival will be revealed in September.

In addition to curating the 2018 program, Simon Foster will be contributing exclusive editorial content to <http://scififilmfestival.com> in the lead-up to the festivals launch on October 17.

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***** SciFi Film Festival press pack and images available [HERE](#)**

ABOUT SCIFI FILM FESTIVAL

SciFi Film Festival is an annual event in Sydney, Australia, dedicated to celebrating and promoting fantastical science fiction, fantasy and horror genre stories with diverse perspectives and rich emotional journeys, from all around the world. Our curated program includes the new wave of art house and mainstream films; themed screenings and cult classics; forums and Q&As with filmmakers and their crew. For more information visit: www.scifilmfestival.com

SciFi Film Festival is a not for profit incorporate organisation made up of people from diverse backgrounds and experiences, who make all the decisions and manage the festival program of screenings, events and sideshows.

The seed of the idea to create SciFi Film Festival grew out in part from the positive feedback we received from filmmakers, stakeholders, audience and cosplayers at our Project SciFi awards ceremony and after party in 2013, and immediately establishing the ideal branding based on the prime domain name www.scifilmfestival.com.

Hashtag #scifilmfestival, #sfff, #sfff18, #sfff2018