

## GOOD PITCH<sup>2</sup> AUSTRALIA 2015 SELECTS SIX FEATURE DOCUMENTARIES

### The world's leading forum for social impact documentary returns to the Sydney Opera House, September 16, 2015

Six outstanding documentaries – each with a powerful agenda for social impact and change – have been chosen for Good Pitch<sup>2</sup> Australia 2015.

Last year's successful inaugural Good Pitch<sup>2</sup> Australia secured more than \$2 million in philanthropic funding and over 60 powerful new strategic partnerships were forged to fund production, build audiences and ensure the lasting impact.

The six high-impact, feature-length documentary projects chosen for Good Pitch<sup>2</sup> Australia 2015 are:

***Blue* (Director, Nick Robinson; Producer, Karina Holden)**

Devastation of the Reef and destruction of marine sanctuaries highlight the need to protect Australia's precious seas for future generations. *Blue* takes us on an inter-generational journey to safeguard the waters surrounding our vast continent. Our ocean guardians show us what we have lost, what we have gained and what must be done to conserve our beloved blue ocean.

***Happy Sad Man* (Director, Genevieve Bailey; Producer, Rebecca Barry)**

*Happy Sad Man* explores the complexity of 21<sup>st</sup> century masculinity. With Australian men 4 times more likely to suicide than women, this is a portrait of mental health which removes the stigma associated with depression and anxiety. Mapping mens' joy and despair, humour and hopelessness it gives voice to the rich interior lives of a range of unforgettable characters.

***The Hunting Ground* (Director, Kirby Dick; Producer Amy Ziering)**

From the team behind the Academy Award nominated *The Invisible War*, comes a startling exposé of sexual assaults on university campuses, institutional cover-ups and the brutal social toll on victims and their families. Weaving together vérité footage and first-person testimonies, the film follows survivors pursuing their education while fighting for justice — despite harsh retaliation, harassment and pushback at every level.

***On Richard's Side* (Director, Andrew Wiseman)**

Filmed over three decades, this documentary charts the life-story of Richard, a young man with severe intellectual disability. Intimate insights into his parents' quest to establish a quality life for their son and themselves underscore the crisis of overworked and under resourced carers. Richard's mum is ageing. His father has passed away. Who will care for Richard into manhood?

***Prison Songs* (Director, Kelrick Martin; Producer, Harry Bardwell)**

At a time when over-representation of Indigenous Australians in prison is deemed a national crisis, this film shares the experiences, faults and feelings of the men and women incarcerated in a tropical Northern Territory Prison. Over 80% of these inmates are Aboriginal and their personal stories reveal the human face of a justice system in desperate need of reform.

***Whiteley* (Director, James Bogle; Producer, Sue Clothier)**

A visual journey into the life and legacy of one of Australia's most celebrated artists, Brett Whiteley. Through archive, drama and visual effects, this raw and intimate film shows Whiteley's driving passion to express himself through his art. It underlines the importance of nurturing and supporting all young artists who assume the responsibility of taking Australian art to the world.

Malinda Wink, Executive Director of Good Pitch<sup>2</sup> Australia says, "The power of Good Pitch<sup>2</sup> Australia has been clearly demonstrated with the remarkable impact of the first two Australian Good Pitch films released this year – *That Sugar Film* and *Frackman*. *Gayby Baby* has had its world premiere at Hot Docs in Canada, one of the world's most prestigious documentary film festivals, and will launch in Australia at the Sydney Film Festival."

Ian Darling, Chair and Moderator of Good Pitch<sup>2</sup> Australia, said: "Our goal is not only to find and support outstanding films, but to select a diversity of subject matter with a view to continuing the 'national conversation' that we began with Good Pitch<sup>2</sup> Australia in 2014. The six remarkable films selected this year touch on entirely different areas of social concern to those presented last year."

Good Pitch<sup>2</sup> Australia is hosted by Ian Darling's Shark Island Institute in partnership with Documentary Australia Foundation. Good Pitch is a BRITDOC project in partnership with Ford Foundation and the Sundance Institute Documentary Film Program, and is held in various major cities around the world.

Once again the Sydney Opera House will host the Good Pitch<sup>2</sup> Australia event in 2015 to bring together filmmakers from the six selected documentaries with foundations, not-for-profits, campaigners, philanthropists, policy-makers, brands, educators, broadcasters and media to forge powerful alliances around these ground breaking films that benefit the partners, the films and society as a whole.

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