

MULTICULTURAL FILM FESTIVAL 2026

Stakeholder Pack

November 2025

SUPPORTED BY



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Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Country and pay our respect to them, their culture and their Elders past and present.

Introduction



The Multicultural Film Festival (MFF) is a key initiative that directly supports the Victorian Government's Statement of Expectations by fostering inclusion, celebrating cultural diversity, and strengthening social cohesion across the state.

The MFF is an annual celebration of cultural diversity and inclusion, showcasing the power of storytelling through short films that inspire dialogue and understanding. Presented by the Victorian Multicultural Commission, in partnership with Swinburne University of Technology and SBS, the festival invites filmmakers from all backgrounds, including young creatives, to share stories that reflect the richness of multicultural Australia.

The MFF highlights narratives of individuals embracing new ways of life, navigating cultural traditions or celebrating their unique identities. These films, ranging from heartwarming childhood fables to impactful political commentaries, demonstrate the capacity of storytelling to connect audiences, foster social cohesion and promote inclusion.

Winning films will be screened at a prestigious presentation ceremony in Melbourne, celebrating the creativity and talent of diverse voices in our community.



Friends of the MFF



The VMC has partnered with a network of experienced filmmakers and industry professionals, who have become Friends of the MFF.

These passionate advocates are committed to championing diverse storytelling and supporting the next generation of emerging talent across Australia's vibrant screen industry.



Atong Atem – Artist and writer

Atong Atem is a South Sudanese artist and writer from Bor living in Narm Melbourne. Her work explores postcolonial practices in the diaspora primarily working with photography and video.



Helen Kapalos – Journalist and former VMC Chairperson

Appointed as the VMC's Chairperson, from 2015 to 2019, Helen Kapalos is one of Australia's most respected broadcasters, a seasoned communications leader and an award-winning documentary filmmaker.



John Safran – Writer and filmmaker

John Safran is known for his bold explorations of culture, faith, and society. He has won numerous awards for his impactful documentaries, and TV series. His latest book is Squat: A Week Squatting at Kanye's Mansion.



Josh Piterman – Performer and author

Josh Piterman is the author of Behind the Mask and the only Australian to play both the roles of Jean Valjean in Les Misérables and The Phantom in the brilliant original production of The Phantom of the Opera on London's West End.



Ra Chapman – Creator, writer and actor

Ra Chapman is a Korean-Australian writer and actor whose work spans film, television, and theatre. Ra garnered a 2025 Australian Writers Guild (AWGIE) Award nomination for her TV comedy series White Fever.



Tig Terera – Writer and director

Born in Zimbabwe and raised in Australia, Tig Terera's debut TV series, SWIFT STREET, which he created, wrote and directed (episodes 1-4), was funded by SBS and Magpie Pictures.

Help spread the word about the Multicultural Film Festival 2026!



Submissions for the Multicultural Film Festival 2026 are now open!

The Victorian Multicultural Commission is inviting filmmakers to submit creative and original short films that explore themes of cultural diversity and multiculturalism — whether created by or about people from any cultural background.

We encourage you, as valued stakeholders, to share this opportunity with your networks. By promoting the festival, you can help us discover incredible stories and support emerging talent from across our diverse communities.

To participate, filmmakers can visit filmfreeway.com/MulticulturalFilmFestival to review the terms and conditions and upload their submissions.

Entries close at 11:59 PM (Pacific Time) on 10 March 2026.

Prizes include AUD\$2500 per category donated by our sponsors. To find out more about prize details, click [here](#).



2026 Award Categories:

Victorian
entrants

Best Victorian Short Fiction Film
Best Victorian Short Non-Fiction Film

National
entrants

Best National Short Film

Entrants
worldwide

Chairperson's Refugee Stories
Award

Voted at the
premiere

People's Choice Award for
Best Short Film

What you can do to help



You can help by:

- Sharing the materials available in this kit with your communities and networks via social media, WhatsApp, WeChat, Messenger and Facebook groups, ensuring that the information reaches diverse audiences and encourages participation.
- Directing your network to the VMC's website for further information and updates
- Promoting the Multicultural Film Festival through your social media channels to increase awareness and participation.
- Connecting with community groups to involve young filmmakers and support the next generation of storytellers.

Key dates:

- **Entries open:**
7 November 2025
- **Entries close:**
10 March 2026
- **Notifications:**
4 June 2026
- **MFF Premiere:**
18 June 2026

Resources:

- **Creative assets available** [here](#)
- **Multicultural Film Festival website** [here](#)
- **Film Freeway website** [here](#)
- **Utilise hashtags:** #MFF2026 #MulticulturalFilmFestival #VMC
- **Tag us on Facebook/ Instagram:** @multiculturevic
- **Tag us on LinkedIn:** victorian-multicultural-commission



Key messaging



- Join us as we celebrate the richness of Victoria's multicultural identity through the power of film.
- The Multicultural Film Festival 2026 submissions are now open!
- Calling all filmmakers worldwide to submit their films before 10 March 2026 to be a part of this exciting opportunity.
- The Multicultural Film Festival is proudly coordinated by the Victorian Multicultural Commission in partnership with Swinburne University and SBS.
- Victorians, Australians and filmmakers from overseas are welcome to submit a short film 10 minutes and under in any genre.
- Film has a unique ability to connect audiences with diverse perspectives and foster understanding across cultural boundaries.
- This festival celebrates voices from diverse backgrounds and invites creators of all ages to contribute.
- Winning films will be screened in June 2026 at a prestigious presentation ceremony in Melbourne at ACMI Cinemas.

Suggested social media content: Filmmaker call out



Suggested post copy: Option 1

We are delighted to be supporting the Multicultural Film Festival (MFF) in 2026. The MFF is an annual short film festival celebrating diversity and multiculturalism through powerful and thought-provoking films.

Submissions are now open, until 10 March 2026. The Victorian Multicultural Commission is calling all filmmakers to share their stories. Whether you're an emerging filmmaker or an experienced creator, we want to hear your story. Seize the opportunity – submit your entry here: <https://filmfreeway.com/MulticulturalFilmFestival> #MFF2026 #VMC #MulticulturalFilmFestival

Suggested post copy: Option 2

Submissions are now open for the Multicultural Film Festival 2026: <https://filmfreeway.com/MulticulturalFilmFestival>

Entries close on 10 March 2026. Anyone is welcome to submit a short film 10 minutes and under. The premiere event will screen in Melbourne during Refugee Week on 18 June 2026. Films in the Official Selection will screen at multiple venues in partnership with the Victorian Multicultural Commission. For more information visit: <https://www.multiculturalcommission.vic.gov.au/multicultural-film-festival> #MFF2026 #VMC #MulticulturalFilmFestival

Static social tile



Animated social story



Suggested social media content: FINAL Filmmaker call out



Suggested post copy

Last chance! Submissions for the Multicultural Film Festival 2026 close at 11:59 PM on 10 March 2026!

Time is running out to share your story and be part of Victoria's premier celebration of diversity through film.

This is your opportunity to:

- Showcase your talent
- Win exciting prizes
- Have your film screened at multiple venues

Submit now and make your voice heard:

<https://filmfreeway.com/MulticulturalFilmFestival>

The clock is ticking — enter today!

#MFF2026 #VMC #MulticulturalFilmFestival

Static social tile



Animated social story



Newsletter header (EDM)



Suggested EDM content

Join us as we celebrate the richness of Victoria's multicultural identity through the power of film. The Multicultural Film Festival is an annual celebration of cultural diversity and inclusion, showcasing the power of storytelling through short films that inspire dialogue and understanding. Presented by the Victorian Multicultural Commission, in partnership with Swinburne University of Technology, the festival invites filmmakers from all backgrounds, including young creatives, to share stories that reflect the richness of multicultural Australia.

Submissions are now open: <https://filmfreeway.com/MulticulturalFilmFestival>

Entries close on 10 March 2026.

Anyone is welcome to submit a short film 10 minutes and under. The premiere event will screen in Melbourne during Refugee Week on 18 June 2026. Entrants will qualify for the following awards:

VICTORIAN ENTRANTS

- Best Victorian Short Fiction Film sponsored by Swinburne University
- Best Victorian Short Non-Fiction Film sponsored by The Bruce Wong Foundation

NATIONAL ENTRANTS

- Best National Short Film sponsored by SBS

ENTRANTS WORLDWIDE

- Chairperson's Refugee Stories Award sponsored by the Victorian Multicultural Commission
- People's Choice Award for Best Short Film sponsored by Segmento

Submit your short film to win prizes. Films in the Official Selection will screen at multiple venues in partnership with the Victorian Multicultural Commission! For more information, visit:

<https://www.multiculturalcommission.vic.gov.au/multicultural-film-festival>

Newsletter header



Newsletter header – no logos



Promotional poster*

**Please note that posters can be adjusted to be printed in A4 or A3 or can be used as a digital flyer/ screen to promote the filmmaker call out*



A4/A3 Poster

SUBMISSIONS NOW OPEN

**MULTICULTURAL
FILM FESTIVAL 2026**

**CALLING ALL
FILMMAKERS**

The Victorian Multicultural Commission (VMC), in association with Swinburne University of Technology, invites emerging and established filmmakers to submit films for consideration in the 2026 Multicultural Film Festival (MFF).

HOW TO ENTER Visit: www.filmfreeway.com/MulticulturalFilmFestival for more details

ENTRIES CLOSE 10 MARCH 2026

SUPPORTED BY



Promotional video



Suggested post copy

We are delighted to be supporting the Multicultural Film Festival (MFF) in 2026. The MFF is an annual short film festival celebrating diversity and multiculturalism through powerful and thought-provoking films.

Submissions are now open, until 10 March 2026. The Victorian Multicultural Commission is calling all filmmakers to share their stories. Whether you're an emerging filmmaker or an experienced creator, we want to hear your story.

Seize the opportunity – submit your entry here:

<https://filmfreeway.com/MulticulturalFilmFestival>

#MFF2026 #VMC #MulticulturalFilmFestival

For more insights about the festival, watch:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qyRxIDMVr_M

Video



Key milestones*

*The VMC encourages our partners/stakeholders to promote MFF at key milestones leading to the festival. The VMC will provide updated assets at each milestone.



	2024		2025					
MILESTONES	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Entries open: 7 November 2025								
Call for Submissions campaign: November 2025 – 9 March 2026								
Entries close: 10 March 2026								
Ticket sales: May – 18 June 2026								
Official Selection announced: 4 June 2026								
MFF Premiere: 18 June 2026								
Winners announced: 19 June 2026								

Contact



Thank you

For more information, please contact:
events@vmc.vic.gov.au