

GRAPHIC Program of Events

EXCLUSIVE WORLD PREMIERE

Neil Gaiman: *The Truth Is A Cave In The Black Mountains*

Illustrations: Eddie Campbell Music: FourPlay String Quartet

Neil Gaiman is one of the most celebrated writers of our times. Having achieved legendary status with his *Sandman* comics, his stories cross all boundaries, from comics to award-winning novels, screenplays, scripts and even audio theatre plays. A number of his works have been turned into or optioned for major motion pictures including *Stardust* and *Coraline*. Exciting future projects in the works include the films *Death: the High Cost of Living* and *The Graveyard Book* as well as a forthcoming episode of *Dr Who*. In a world first, Gaiman will read aloud his previously unreleased story *The Truth Is A Cave In The Black Mountains*, in the spectacular surrounds of the Concert Hall. Sydney Opera House has commissioned the renowned artist Eddie Campbell to illustrate the story and FourPlay String Quartet to create an entirely new underscore to the story.

Concert Hall, 8pm, Saturday August 7. A Res from \$65 or \$55 conc. B Res \$49/\$39.

EXCLUSIVE AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

An Evening with Kevin Smith

Kevin Smith is the legendary indie filmmaker of the cult classic *Clerks*, as well as successful features including *Dogma*, *Chasing Amy* and *Zack & Miri Make a Porno*. He also served as a producer on the multiple-Academy Award-winning film *Good Will Hunting*. A celebrated writer for both the DC & Marvel Comics empires, Smith has handled such legendary characters as Batman, Daredevil, Spider Man and the Green Arrow. Well known for his long and often hilarious talks and Q&A sessions, Smith is so entertaining that three have been released on DVD while his weekly podcasts have made him a star in cyberspace too...plus he even has his own iPhone app.

Opera Theatre, 7pm, Sunday August 8. From \$45 or \$39 concession.

EXCLUSIVE WORLD PREMIERE

Akira with live score by Regurgitator

Akira is the benchmark film by which all other anime are judged, spawning countless imitators and defining many of the themes, concerns and style of the genre. Set in 2019 in post-World War Three Neo-Tokyo, this animated classic introduced the western world to adult-oriented Japanese animation and has been lauded worldwide as the movie that "started it all". *Akira* started life as Katsuhiro Otomo's epic 2,000+ page manga (Japanese comic book), before being adapted into an animated film in 1988. The film will be shown in the original Japanese language version with English subtitles and rescored live by Regurgitator. As Australia's most renowned and successful experimental art-rockers, Regurgitator have achieved triple-platinum status – an astonishing feat for such an uncompromising band – who never shy away from the unusual, the untried, or indeed any genre that attracts their creative sensibility.

Opera Theatre, 3pm, Sunday August 8. From \$45 or \$39 concession.

EXCLUSIVE WORLD PREMIERE

***The Arrival* by Shaun Tan with live score by Ben Walsh's Orkestra of The Underground**

Shaun Tan is one of Australia's most celebrated and uniquely articulate illustrators and storytellers whose work has been adapted by many different mediums, including stop motion animation, puppetry, theatre and musical interpretation. *The Arrival* is a masterpiece of visual storytelling devoid of text, straddling the line between graphic novel and picture book. Ben Walsh randomly discovered *The Arrival* in a bookshop and fell in love with the work immediately. For three years the respected percussionist has dreamed of breathing musical life into Tan's beautiful illustrations. A musical chameleon who straddles genres, styles and performance mediums effortlessly and with aplomb, Walsh has an innate talent for bringing talented individuals together around musical projects. As a composer he has scored Rene Laloux's classic animated science fiction film *Fantastic Planet* for the Sydney Festival, created numerous scores for major dance and physical theatre companies and scored three award-winning short films. His Orkestra of The Underground pools the diverse and creative talent of Sydney's local music scene towards composition projects.

Playhouse, 7.30pm, Saturday August 7. From \$25 or \$20 concession.

Best of the Independent Games Festival 2009

The Independent Games Festival is a selection of the most innovative and exciting new computer games from this year's Sundance Festival for Games. IGF is the longest-running and largest festival relating to independent games worldwide. It was formed 13 years ago in San Francisco when organisers - noticing the valuable recognition and commercial exposure that the Sundance Film Festival provided to independent filmmakers - decided to create a similar event for independent game developers. This **FREE** event will be held in the Western Foyers.

PANEL DISCUSSIONS in The Studio

Storyboarding for Film featuring W. Chew Chan, Mark Sexton and Chris Georgiou

One of the critical tools in turning a great idea into a great film is the storyboard. Seldom seen, few people recognise or understand the role they play in the filmmaking process. Some directors swear by them while some producers don't think they need them. But every filmmaker agrees that when storyboards are great, they don't just inform, they inspire. Don't miss this unique opportunity to gain serious insights into a critical aspect of the contemporary film industry in both its animated and live-action forms.

11.30am, Saturday 7 August.

Focus on Fantagraphics with special guest Gary Groth

Fantagraphics are the world's leading publisher in the realm of alternative comics. Gary Groth and his partner Kim Thompson established the company in 1981, publishing Graphic Novels well before the trend. They have continued to publish some of the most influential cartoonists of our times such as; Robert Crumb, Chris Ware, Charles Burns, Daniel Clowes, Joe Sacco and Jim Woodring. Groth has become a giant figure within the comics industry. He is the editor-in-chief and publisher of *The Comics Journal*, which was the first regular publication that brought a level of serious criticism to the medium of comics.

11am, Sunday August 8

The Evolution of an Idea: Neil Gaiman, Shaun Tan and Eddie Campbell on creativity and the collaborative process

Three well known artists will shine a light on the inner workings of some very famous and infamous partnerships and the trials, tribulations and joys of the collaborative process.

2pm, Sunday August 8

All tickets to Panel Discussions are \$25.

FREE WORKSHOPS in the Utzon Room

Comic Making

Learn from the passion of a crack team of practicing professionals in the art of comics. In this workshop guests will have the opportunity to see and create comics under the tutelage of Matthew Huynh, Andrew Weldon, Bernard Caleo, Pat Grant and Leigh Rigozzi.

1pm, Saturday August 7

Publishing Your Work

How do you get your work out of the bedroom and across the world? Seek advice from three people who know how to get the job done: Gary Groth (Fantagraphics), Erica Wagner (Allen & Unwin) and Jeremy Wortsman (Jacky Winter Group).

5.30pm, Saturday August 7

The Art of Australian Illustration

Illustration is a broad word that encompasses an ocean of graphic arts. Come see exactly what is illustration in Australia right now. Be exposed to the talent and leaders in the field of illustration. Leading the charge is Dave Ladd in conversation with We Buy Your Kids, Rocco Faazari and Jeremy Wortsman from the Jacky Winter Group.

11am, Sunday August 8

Good Game workshop on computer games

4pm, Sunday August 8

Workshop places are limited. Email graphic@sydneyoperahouse.com to register your interest.

FILM SCREENINGS

All screenings will take place in the Drama Theatre on Sunday, August 8. Tickets are \$15 or \$10 concession.

Marvel Then and Now (1pm)

Golden and Silver Age meets present day when Marvel icon Stan Lee sits down for a chat with current Marvel editor-in-chief Joe Quesada. Hosted by uber-geek Kevin Smith, this roundtable discussion leaves no corner of the Marvel universe unexposed. The past, the future, the fun and the biz are all discussed with startling honesty in this film which was recorded at a live benefit for the Hero Initiative, a not-for-profit charity that provides financial assistance for comic creators in need.

The Lost Thing and The Mysterious Geographic Explorations of Jasper Morello (3.45pm)

A 15 minute animated short film based on the highly acclaimed picture book by multi-award winning author and illustrator Shaun Tan. *The Lost Thing* is a modern fable with a unique aesthetic, the story is at once idiosyncratic and universal in its appeal to all ages. A boy discovers a bizarre looking creature while out collecting bottle tops at the beach. Realising it is lost, he tries to find out who owns it or where it belongs, but is met with indifference from everyone else, who barely notice its presence, each unwilling to entertain this uninvited interruption to their day to day lives. For reasons he does not explain, the boy empathises with the creature, and sets out to find a "place" for it.

Nominated for an Oscar and for a BAFTA award, *Jasper Morello* is a short feature made in a unique style of silhouette animation developed by director Anthony Lucas and inspired by the work of authors Edgar Allan Poe and Jules Verne. In the frontier city of Carpathia, Jasper Morello discovers that his former adversary Doctor Claude Belgon has returned from the grave. When Claude reveals that he knows the location of the ancient city of Alto Mea where the secrets of life have been discovered, Jasper cannot resist the temptation to bring his own dead wife Amelia back. But they are captured by Armand Forgette, leader of the radical Horizontalist anti-technology movement, who is determined to reanimate his terrorist father Vasco. As lightning energises the arcane machineries of life in the floating castle of Alto Mea, Jasper must choose between having his beloved restored or seeing the government of Gothia destroyed. Set in a world of iron dirigibles and steam powered computers, this gothic horror mystery tells the story of Jasper Morello, a disgraced aerial navigator who flees his Plague-ridden home on a desperate voyage to redeem himself.

Spirited Away (5.15pm)

From Hayao Miyazaki, one of the most celebrated filmmakers in the history of animated cinema, comes the Academy Award winning masterpiece, *Spirited Away*. A wondrous fantasy about a young girl named Chihiro who discovers a secret world of strange spirits, creatures and sorcery. When her parents are mysteriously transformed, she must call upon the courage she never knew she had to free herself and return her family to the outside world.

Tokyo Express (8pm)

Four of the freshest anime out of Japan – the titles will be so new we cannot announce them until just before the screening!

Fear(s) of the Dark (10pm)

A wildly inventive and visually dazzling collection of fearful tales by six of the world's most renowned comic and graphic artists - Blutch, Charles Burns, Marie Caillou, Pierre Di Sciullo, Lorenzo Mattotti, and Richard McGuire. From a besotted student whose girlfriend is weirdly ardent in her affections, to a Japanese schoolgirl menaced by a long-dead samurai, and a pack of hounds on a bloodthirsty rampage, "Fear(s)" has a story strand to trouble every sleep - not to mention a stunning range of animation styles. Shot in shimmering black and white, the six intertwined tales create an unprecedented epic where phobias and nightmares come to life and reveal Fear at its most naked and intense.

www.sydneyoperahouse.com/graphic