

AUSTRALIAN INTERNATIONAL MOVIE CONVENTION THE STAR GOLD COAST

The Australian International Movie Convention (AIMC) Powered by Vista Group is the only event on the Australian film industry calendar to provide opportunities to network with local and international executives from Cinema Exhibition, Distribution, the Filmmaking Community, and Technology & Cinema Equipment Suppliers under one roof.

Attracting delegates from Australia, New Zealand, Asia, the US and Europe, the AIMC provides an invaluable opportunity to preview upcoming product from major and independent studios; learn about local and international trends from guest presenters; and network with colleagues and senior industry executives.

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Going to the movies is the only place where you can fall in love, save the world and survive a zombie apocalypse, with popcorn and explosions. It's like going to a group therapy session - we all laugh, cry, and pretend we understand plot twists. It's magic!

Taika Waititi Filmmaker

The AIMC brings together the leaders and emerging talent across the cinema industry to network and hear from studios and experts on the future content and trends in the industry. HOYTS is a proud supporter of the convention and this October we will be back at The Star on the Gold Coast for this unmissable industry event.

Damian Keogh AM President & CEO The HOYTS Group

As we navigate the rapid evolution of our industry, the AIMC is an essential event to connect stakeholders in a constructive dialogue around the future. It is so exciting to be returning to The Star where we can truly showcase the stellar theatrical line-up for 2026 and beyond.

Mike Baard Managing Director Universal Pictures International Australasia
& MPDAA representative of the AIMC

Love AIMC, it's an amazing opportunity to connect with industry colleagues, hear about the innovative ways we are evolving locally and globally and get excited about the up-and-coming film slate!

Carmen Switzer Event Cinemas Director of Entertainment

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2025 AIMC PROGRAM

MONDAY 27 OCTOBER, 2025

11:00am - 5:00pm The Star Ballroom	Screen Australia Filmmaker Masterclass A Workshop For Filmmakers To Supercharge Australian Local Box Office
7:30pm - 9:15pm HOYTS Theatre	Rental Family Screening - The Walt Disney Studios
5:00pm - 12:00am	For bevies and banter, join us at the Vista Group Bar

TUESDAY 28 OCTOBER, 2025

10:00am - 10:05am HOYTS Theatre	Welcome to Country
10:05am - 10:32am HOYTS Theatre	Cinema Association Australasia Welcome Cameron Mitchell
10:32am - 10:42am HOYTS Theatre	Vista Group Presentation Stuart Dickinson
10:42am - 11:07am HOYTS Theatre	An International Perspective - International Union Of Cinemas Laura Houlgatte Abbott
11:07am - 11:17am HOYTS Theatre	IMAX Presentation Giovanni Dolci / Preetham Daniel
11:30am - 1:00pm HOYTS Theatre	MPDAA Distributor Presentation The Walt Disney Studios
1:00pm - 2:30pm	Lunch Break With Our Trade Partners - Event Centre
2:30pm - 3:15pm HOYTS Theatre	Panel Discussion Embracing Self Service To Elevate The Moviegoing Experience
3:15pm - 4:00pm HOYTS Theatre	Roadshow Films Presentation
4:10pm - 4:20pm HOYTS Theatre	Christie Presentation
4:20pm - 5:50pm HOYTS Theatre	MPDAA Distributor Presentation Sony Pictures
6:00pm - 9:00pm The Star Pool Area	Opening Night Welcome Celebration In Partnership With The Walt Disney Studios Featuring Live Entertainment From Bella Vita
9:15pm - 11:15pm HOYTS Theatre	The Deb Screening - Rialto Distribution
5:00pm - 12:00am	For bevies and banter, join us at the Vista Group Bar

WEDNESDAY 29 OCTOBER, 2025

8:30am - 9:10am HOYTS Theatre	Panel Discussion From Scroll to Screen: Winning the Fight for Attention
9:15am - 9:55am HOYTS Theatre	Panel Discussion - Global Perspectives, Local Opportunities - In Conversation With Laura Houlgatte Abbott & Kurt Rieder
10:00am - 10:12am HOYTS Theatre	Day 1 Recap Sharon Strickland - CEO Dendy / Icon
10:12am - 10:42am HOYTS Theatre	Kismet Movies Presentation
10:42am - 11:12am HOYTS Theatre	Umbrella Entertainment Presentation
11:12am - 11:19am HOYTS Theatre	GDC Technology Presentation
11:19am - 11:49am HOYTS Theatre	Maslow Entertainment Presentation

11:49am - 12:19pm HOYTS Theatre	Rialto Distribution Presentation
12:30pm - 2:00pm	Lunch Break With Our Trade Partners - Event Centre
2:00pm - 2:30pm HOYTS Theatre	Industry Award Presentations
2:30pm - 2:40pm HOYTS Theatre	Gruvi Presentation
2:40pm - 3:10pm HOYTS Theatre	STUDIOCANAL Presentation
3:10pm - 3:17pm HOYTS Theatre	Creative Content Australia Presentation
3:17pm - 3:24pm HOYTS Theatre	Comscore Presentation
3:30pm - 4:30pm HOYTS Theatre	MPDAA Distributor Presentation Paramount Pictures
4:45pm - 6:45pm HOYTS Theatre	The Housemaid Screening - STUDIOCANAL
6:45pm - 8:00pm	Break
8:00pm - 9:28pm HOYTS Theatre	Primate Screening - Paramount Pictures
5:00pm - 12:00am	For bevies and banter, join us at the Vista Group Bar

THURSDAY 30 OCTOBER, 2025

8:30am - 8:42am HOYTS Theatre	Day 2 Recap David Hill - Managing Director Village Entertainment
8:42am - 8:47am HOYTS Theatre	In Memoriam - Australian Independent Distributor Association
8:47am - 9:32am HOYTS Theatre	VVS Films Presentation
9:32am - 10:17am HOYTS Theatre	Madman Entertainment Presentation
10:25am - 10:32am HOYTS Theatre	Barco Presentation
10:32am - 11:32am HOYTS Theatre	MPDAA Distributor Presentation Warner Bros. Pictures
11:32am - 1:10pm HOYTS Theatre	Australian Independent Distributor Association Presentation Lunch will be served to delegates in the HOYTS Theatre
1:30pm - 3:00pm HOYTS Theatre	MPDAA Distributor Presentation Universal Pictures
3:00pm - 5:10pm HOYTS Theatre	Song Sung Blue Screening - Universal Pictures
6:45pm - 7:30pm Vista Group Bar	Dress To Impress For The Gala Dinner Arrival Drinks
7:30pm - 12:30am The Star Ballroom	AIMC Gala Dinner In Partnership With The Motion Picture Distributor Association Of Australia
9:00pm - 3:00am Vista Group Bar	Join us for The Afterparty To End All After Parties...

FRIDAY 31 OCTOBER, 2025

10:00am - 3:30pm	Movie World Visit Thanks To Village Roadshow Theme Parks
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*PROGRAM IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

2025 PANEL DISCUSSIONS

Tuesday 28 October 2:30pm

Embracing Self-Service To Elevate The Moviegoing Experience

Every day, more people choose self-service using technology owned by operators of restaurants, supermarkets, retailers, banks, airports, as well as on their own devices. And these people carry their expectations into your cinemas. In this panel, we'll discuss how existing self-service options impact day-to-day operations and guest experience. We'll also step back to consider the full potential of self-service to transform every step of the moviegoer journey and even the design of tomorrow's theatres. So, join us for a forward-looking discussion on how to harness cutting-edge tech as a catalyst to raising efficiency and the magic of the moviegoing experience.

Matthew Liebman - Chief Product Innovation & Marketing Officer – Vista Group (Moderator)

Sharon Strickland (Dendy/Icon)

Carmen Switzer (EVT)

David Hill (Village Entertainment)

Wednesday 29 October 8:30am

From Scroll To Screen: Winning The Fight For Attention

In today's attention economy, the challenge isn't streaming or AI - it's cutting through the endless scroll to capture moviegoers' focus. The rise of social platforms with exceptional engagement levels presents the industry with a powerful opportunity: to reach audiences in smarter, more bespoke ways. In this panel moderated by Gruvi, leading voices from social media, exhibition and distribution, will explore how shifting consumer behaviour and data-driven insights are redefining moviegoing. From the role of content creators and short-form video in complementing the traditional trailer, to the potential of collaboration between studios, exhibitors and platforms, the discussion will unpack how the industry can leverage social media and targeted engagement to turn attention into ticket sales.

Lee Shelton – Gruvi (Moderator)

Alex Holden (Evt)

Genevieve Canh (Universal Pictures)

Alex Trask (TikTok)

Dean Schrafft (Google)

Wednesday 29 October 9:15am

Global Perspectives, Local Opportunities

Diverse, compelling, well marketed stories and an exceptional guest experience are our “secret sauce”, yet the cinematic experience differs widely from country to country. In France, local productions accounted for three of the top 5 films in 2024, 2024 was the only year of the last decade when animated films made up three of the top five grossing titles worldwide, there are now an estimated 7,967 premium format auditoriums globally, and competition for capital has never been higher. Two of the world's most respected industry leaders will share insights on their territories and opportunities that exist to enhance earnings, market share and global box office.

Laura Houlgatte Abbott - CEO Of UNIC - International Union Of Cinemas

Kurt Rieder - Sr. VP, Theatrical Distribution (APAC), Warner Bros.

Cameron Mitchell – Executive Director – Cinema Association Australasia (Moderator)

2025 SCREENINGS

MONDAY 27 OCTOBER, 7:30PM

Rental Family - The Walt Disney Studios

Release Date: 26 December 2025

Starring: Brendan Fraser, Takehiro Hira, Mari Yamamoto, Shannon Gorman, and Akira Emoto

Director: HIKARI

Genre: Drama / Comedy

Set against modern-day Tokyo, RENTAL FAMILY follows an American actor (Academy Award® winner Brendan Fraser) who struggles to find purpose until he lands an unusual gig: working for a Japanese “rental family” agency, playing stand-in roles for strangers. As he immerses himself in his clients’ worlds, he begins to form genuine bonds that blur the lines between performance and reality. Confronting the moral complexities of his work, he rediscovers purpose, belonging, and the quiet beauty of human connection.

WATCH TRAILER HERE



TUESDAY 28 OCTOBER, 9:15PM

The Deb - Rialto Distribution

Release Date: 15 January 2026

Starring: Rebel Wilson, Shane Jacobsen, Tara Morice and Steph Tisdell

Director: Rebel Wilson

Genre: Musical Comedy

The Deb follows lovable farm girl and high school outcast Taylah Simpkins, who is certain the upcoming Debutante Ball, ‘the Deb,’ is her one chance to redefine herself. When her cynical city cousin Maeve is exiled to Taylah’s drought-stricken town Dunburn, she thinks the ball is a “heteronormative shit-show” and immediately disrupts the status quo. In their search for the spotlight, Taylah and Maeve dig deep to find self-acceptance - and a date to the Deb.



WEDNESDAY 29 OCTOBER, 4:45PM

The Housemaid - STUDIOCANAL

Release Date: 26 December 2025

Starring: Sydney Sweeney, Amanda Seyfried and Brandon Sklenar

Director: Paul Feig

Genre: Thriller

THE HOUSEMAID is a wildly entertaining thriller starring Sydney Sweeney and Amanda Seyfried, based on the best-selling book. From director Paul Feig, the film plunges audiences into a twisted world where perfection is an illusion, and nothing is as it seems. Trying to escape her past, Millie (Sweeney) accepts a job as a live-in housemaid for the wealthy Nina (Seyfried) and Andrew Winchester (Brandon Sklenar). But what begins as a dream job quickly unravels into something far more dangerous - a sexy, seductive game of secrets, scandal, and power. Behind the Winchesters’ closed doors lies a world of shocking twists that will leave you guessing until the very end.

WATCH TRAILER HERE



WEDNESDAY 29 OCTOBER, 8:00PM

Primate - Paramount Pictures

Release Date: 8 January 2026

Starring: Johnny Sequoyah, Jessica Alexander and Troy Kotsur

Director: Johannes Roberts

Genre: Thriller/Horror

In PRIMATE, a group of friends’ tropical vacation turns into a terrifying, primal tale of horror and survival.



THURSDAY 30 OCTOBER, 3:00PM

Song Sung Blue - Universal Pictures

Release Date : 1 January 2026

Starring : Hugh Jackman and Kate Hudson

Director: Craig Brewer

Genre: Romantic Drama

Based on a true story, two down-on-their-luck musicians (Hugh Jackman and Kate Hudson) form a joyous Neil Diamond tribute band, proving it’s never too late to find love and follow your dreams.

WATCH TRAILER HERE



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WHAT THE INDUSTRY THINKS ABOUT THE AIMC

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AIMC perfectly balances big ideas with personal connection and embodies why this part of the world continues to punch above its weight. That's why Vista is proud to be AIMC's naming rights sponsor.

Stuart Dickinson CEO - Vista Group

Demand for The IMAX Experience is expanding exponentially in Australia and New Zealand, one of the world's premiere moviegoing territories, and the AIMC is an important opportunity for us to better understand the market, meet with our expanding roster of world-class partners, and discuss key themes impacting our future.

Giovanni Dolci Global Chief Commercial Officer IMAX Corporation

AIMC isn't just about watching what's next on the big screen – it's about connecting with the people, ideas, and innovations that will shape the future of our industry. Every year, the entire cinema community comes together to be inspired and to ignite new opportunities which will continue to drive the Australia film and exhibition industry.

Dan McCabe Event Cinemas General Manager of Operations Australia

The AIMC is a world class event ...right up there with the best. If you're in the film industry... and connected in any way... it's a conference you must attend.

Stephen Basil-Jones Executive Vice-President - Managing Director Sony Pictures Releasing (Australia & NZ)

The AIMC continues to set the standard for global Cinema Industry showcases. The event is must-attend and appeals to industry friends and colleagues from around the world. It provides an incredible content showcase into the year(s) ahead from all the major and independent Studios... whilst providing the platform to debate how we continue to evolve the cinema industry locally and around the world together. 2025 will be the best AIMC yet – see you there!

Josh Brigham General Manager, The Walt Disney Studios, ANZ

The Paramount Pictures team values the AIMC as the premier opportunity for our industry to come together. Cinema is all about creating connections with audiences, and this convention allows us to strengthen those vital connections with our exhibition partners. Last year's AIMC was one of the best I've attended, and we're even more excited about this year's event and the exceptional year ahead for the industry.

Brian Pritchett Vice President & Managing Director Australasia - Paramount Pictures

It has never been more important to get together at the AIMC. Whether it be learning the latest trends in seating or food and beverage or screening the latest footage from upcoming blockbusters or perhaps finding that unknown jewel in a distributor's line up, it's too important to miss.

Brett Rosengarten CEO Independent Cinemas Australia

Events like AIMC remind us how vital it is to come together as an industry - to collaborate, share ideas, and support one another. It's through working together that we not only strengthen our connections, but also grow our industry for the future.

Elizabeth Trotman Co-President of Australian Independent Distributor Association & CEO STUDIOCANAL Australia & New Zealand

The AIMC is a cornerstone event for our film industry, an invaluable opportunity to connect with peers, share insights, and showcase the stories that will shape the big screen experience in the year ahead. It's also a chance to celebrate the partnerships and collaboration that make our industry unique.

Suzanne Stretton-Brown Director Of Marketing ANZ Universal Pictures International Australasia

The AIMC brings together distributors, exhibitors, and technology providers who each play a vital role in defining the modern cinema experience. For HOYTS Cinema Technology Group, it's where we connect with exhibitors and manufacturers to explore how innovation can deliver the visions of storytellers and elevate the cinema experience for audiences. As proud Platinum Sponsors, we are committed to supporting an event that is not only world-class in its delivery, but also vital in shaping the future of cinema.

Adam Wrightson Managing Director - HOYTS Cinema Technology Group

AIMC is where the future of our industry gets its spark - fresh stories inspire us, global partners become mates again, and the coffee cart turns into the unofficial HQ. EDGE is proud to be part of that energy. We're here to roll up our sleeves and help shape what comes next.

Ben Wilson EDGE Content & Technology General Manager

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WE ARE GREATLY APPRECIATIVE FOR THE SUPPORT OF OUR EVENT SPONSORS

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