



Press Release April 17, 2012

## Art and Film at the Museum: Night and Dae

On May 2<sup>nd</sup> The Imperial Valley Desert Museum in Ocotillo is hosting an event of art and film exploring the ability of art to create dialogue. *Art and Film at the Museum: Night and Dae*, will begin at 4:00 p.m. with the opening of the visual arts exhibit *Every Day is Earth Day* with works by the faculty of Imperial Valley College. There will be the opportunity to discuss the theme of the exhibit with the artists at a reception which will last until 6:00.

At 6:00 there will be a screening of the Australian film *Bran Nue Dae* (*Brand New Day*) followed by a conversation with the film's director Rachel Perkins. *Bran Nue Dae* is a musical, set in the summer of 1969, which tells the story of a young man who flees the Catholic mission where he is studying to join the priesthood. He journeys across Australia on a life-changing journey that ultimately leads him back home. The cast includes Rocky McKenzie, Jessica Mauboy, and Geoffrey Rush. *Bran Nue Dae* is not widely available in the United States so don't miss this rare opportunity to view the film and speak to the accomplished and highly regarded Australian director.

*Bran Nue Dae* director, Rachel Perkins, is from the Arrernte and Kalkadoon nations of Australia. She was presented the Australian Film Institute's Byron Kennedy Award for her body of work which embodies innovation, vision and the relentless pursuit of excellence. She is currently a board member of Screen Australia. Commenting on the film, Ms. Perkins explains, "For Aboriginal Australians our narrative has been dominated by themes of invasion, racism and dispossession. *BRAN NUE DAE* rebels against this tradition, using a comedic approach and the musical form to redefine the Aboriginal experience. This spirit of rebellion and celebration is personified in our hero, the young boy Willy, who overrides all others expectations to be himself."

The screening is being brought to the museum in partnership with Film Forward, an initiative of Sundance Institute and the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Institute of Museum and Library Services. Film Forward connects contemporary U.S. and international films and filmmakers

with diverse global audiences and features documentary and narrative films. Film Forward underscores the importance of mutual understanding and respect for other cultures and traditions that is at the heart of cultural exchange.

The event will be held at the Museum Facility at 11 Frontage Road, in Ocotillo, CA. Artist Reception 4-6pm. Film Screening at 6pm with director Q&A afterward.

For more information contact Museum Staff at [ivdmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:ivdmuseum@gmail.com) or call Jessica at 845-702-3968.