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Friday 24 July 2009

## **MEDIA RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### ***Festivals Doin' It For Themselves - The Other Film Festival and the Melbourne International Film Festival working together to improve access***

On the eve of the Melbourne International Film Festival, Arts Access Victoria's disability film festival, The Other Film Festival is pleased to announce that it has been working closely with MIFF over the last few months to improve access for all patrons, including people with a disability.

In consultation with The Other Film Festival, MIFF has introduced a range of accessible services and facilities, with an emphasis on providing clear and comprehensive information about the accessibility of films, venues and sessions to all MIFF patrons. This information, available on the MIFF website, lists the specific venues, films and sessions that are accessible for wheelchair users, people with hearing loss, members of the Deaf community and Auslan speakers. This year for the first time MIFF is inviting patrons to provide feedback and comments in order that accessibility can be continually improved.

The Other Film Festival's Festival Director Rick Randall is excited about the collaboration. "The Melbourne International Film Festival is one of the world's leading film festivals, bringing some of the best cinema from all over the world to Melbourne audiences. We are pleased that an increased number of Australians with access requirements will now be able to share the exciting experience of attending this festival."

Rick stresses however that "while the collaboration with MIFF is extremely positive, Australian film festivals in general need increased support from state and federal agencies if they are to continue to improve their levels of accessibility."

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Full details about MIFF's accessible services and facilities can be found on the Disability and Deaf Access Information page on the MIFF website at [www.melbournefilmfestival.com.au/access](http://www.melbournefilmfestival.com.au/access)

Support provided by Arts Access Victoria's The Other Film Festival to MIFF is made possible by the Arts and Culture Branch, City of Melbourne.

#### **MEDIA ENQUIRIES**

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**The Other Film Festival** is a biennial program of **Arts Access Victoria**. Look out for The Other Film Festival in September 2010.

**Arts Access Victoria** provides access, participation and professional development in the arts and cultural life across Victoria for people with a disability. **Arts Access** offers a range of events, programs and opportunities for people with a disability to explore different art mediums, develop skills and create new work.

*Arts Access Victoria is supported by Arts Victoria, Australia Council for the Arts and Department of Human Services*

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