



Barry O'Farrell MP

Premier of NSW

Minister for Western Sydney

MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday, 31 October 2012

PREMIER LAUNCHES AUSTRALIAN FILM FESTIVAL OF INDIA

Premier Barry O'Farrell is in Mumbai – home of the Hindi-language film industry Bollywood – to launch the program for a major Australian film festival recognising one of our country's greatest filmmakers.

Mr O'Farrell said Australia's film making credentials would be showcased to Indian audiences at the 2012 Australian Film Festival of India in December - including a retrospective of films by legendary Aussie filmmaker and former Sydneysider Baz Luhrmann.

Screenings of Mr Luhrmann's internationally-acclaimed work including *Australia*, *Romeo + Juliet*, *Strictly Ballroom* and *Moulin Rouge* will be held in multiple cities across India as part of the festival.

"India is a passionate film-making nation and this festival is a tremendous opportunity to highlight our state's outstanding film industry and what it has to offer," Mr O'Farrell said.

"The festival not only provides the perfect forum to show off our film-making credentials, but also showcases the attractions of NSW on the big screen, resulting in important tourism benefits for our state.

"NSW is home to some of Australia's leading filmmakers and industry experts and has hosted some of the biggest Bollywood films to ever shoot in Australia.

"Past Bollywood projects in NSW such as *Dil Chahta Hai*, *Heyy Babyy* and *From Sydney with Love* have showcased the best of NSW to hundreds of millions of Indians."

Mr Luhrmann said it was an honour to be recognised in this year's festival.

"As someone who has visited India many times, and having drawn inspiration from the cinema and culture of India for my own work, I am very honoured that a retrospective of my films is being celebrated in the Australian Film Festival of India," said Mr Luhrmann.

Australian Film Festival of India co-director Anupam Sharma said the event would help develop and strengthen professional production relationships with the Indian film production sector.

“The festival is a crucial annual event that draws India's attention on the potential and possibilities of associating with Australia as a supplier of quality entertainment content,” he said.

“The event also highlights NSW as a premier production destination, as well as NSW’s and Australia’s potential as a co-production partner in quality screen entertainment.”

The NSW Government is providing funding for the festival through Destination NSW and Screen NSW.

For more information on the 2012 Australian Film Festival of India visit:
<http://www.aafilminitiative.org/>

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