

SE Arts
HD **Names sign on for access to NFSA review**
BY Michael Bodey
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More than 100 notable film industry types, including The Australian's David Stratton, documentary filmmaker Bob Connolly, author and screenwriter Frank Moorhouse and actor Jack Thompson, have called for a more "open and accountable process to manage change at the National Film and Sound Archive". The co-signed letter to NFSA chairman Gabrielle Trainor, and copied to Arts Minister George Brandis, opposition arts spokesman Mark Dreyfus and Greens leader Christine Milne, seeks access to the release of the Loebenstein NFSA Business Review that preceded mooted changes to the structure of the agency and staff reductions of more than 10 per cent. The letter, which expresses "our concern at the management and other changes currently being undertaken by the National Film and Sound Archive", also asks for an open forum to discuss publicly any changes. Those willing to add their names to the letter can go to www.filmalert.net/news.

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THE Australian erotic drama starring Emmanuelle Beart, *My Mistress*, has secured sales to Britain, Russia and **Hong Kong**. Stephen Lance's debut feature, in which the French star plays an S&M mistress who befriends a teen boy (Harrison Gilbertson), will premiere at the Melbourne International Film Festival in July before a spring release here.

THE last night of the Monty Python Live (mostly) series of shows from London will be broadcast into more than 100 Australian cinemas on August 6. More follow-on broadcast dates will also be confirmed. The shows at London's O2 Arena marks the first time the stars of Monty Python have shared a stage since performing at the Hollywood Bowl in 1980, and 40 years after they last appeared on stage in Britain. John Cleese, Terry Gilliam, Eric Idle, Terry Jones and Michael Palin will perform in what is bound to be a lucrative venture as it beams to more than 1500 cinemas in 20 countries. Australian cinema tickets are on **sale** from Friday May 23. All major exhibitors — Village, Event, Greater Union, Dendy, Hoyts, Kino, BCC and Palace — are participating.

MELBOURNE colleagues of Wendy Hughes are invited to a celebration of her life next week hosted by the Melbourne Theatre **Company**. Friends and industry colleagues of the much-loved actor, who died in March, can attend the celebration on Sunday, June 1, at MTC's Southbank Theatre at 140 Southbank Boulevard.

THE Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts has opened entries for the fourth AACTA awards short film and feature film categories and introduced an Excellence In Shorts program. It has reduced entry fees for short films this year and will launch the Social Shorts initiative, in which those short films not nominated for an award will still be shown and discussed via AACTA online channels. The Social Shorts program will be curated into comedy, drama and independent (self-funded) categories for exhibition and additional acknowledgments.

AUSSIE expat director Craig Gillespie's latest film, *Million Dollar Arm*, starring Jon Hamm, has opened to middling box office in the US. The *Mad Men* star plays a US agent who tries to convert Indian cricketers to Major League baseball. It opened with \$US10.5 million (\$11.33m) to rank fourth for the weekend behind *Godzilla*'s \$US93m. Rose Byrne's chops as a comic actor grow as *Bad Neighbours* added another \$US25m for a \$US90m total. Gillespie, who started here as a TV **commercial** director, began his career in the US with *Mr Woodcock* before breaking through with *Lars and the Real Girl* in

2007 and a series of episodes of United States of Tara. He directed Fright Night in 2011. Jonathan Teplitzky's The Railway Man added \$US305,000 to bring its US box office to \$US2.7m.

IN Australia, Godzilla recorded the biggest opening weekend of the year, earning \$6.7 million from 498 screens. Bad Neighbours continued to perform, earning \$3.1m in its second week for \$12m while The Grand Budapest **Hotel** keeps on keeping on, up to \$10.56m in its seventh week. Craig Monahan's local film, Healing, starring Hugo Weaving and Don Hany, earned \$72,825 in its second week, for a disappointing total of \$204,869.

HUGH Jackman's whirlwind tour promoting X-Men: Days of Future Past took him away briefly from Joe Wright's production of Pan. The prequel to JM Barrie's original stage play Peter Pan or The Boy Who Wouldn't Grow Up began filming a fortnight ago with Jackman, Garrett Hedlund, Rooney Mara and Amanda Seyfried.

AUSTRALIAN producers Emile Sherman and Angie Fielder, and See-Saw Films' Iain Canning, have secured a \$12m worldwide distribution deal for their film Lion, based on the true story of a five-year-old Indian boy separated from his family aboard the wrong train, and who finds his way home decades later via his investigations on Google Earth from his Australian home. The film is adapted by Candy's Luke Davies from the novel A Long Way Home by Saroo Brierley. It will be directed by Top of the Lake director Garth Davis. The film is co-financed by Screen Australia and begins production in August. Sherman and Canning's See-Saw signed the deal with Harvey Weinstein's The Weinstein **Company**, which distributed The King's Speech and is partnering with See-Saw on Justin Kurzel's Macbeth, starring Michael Fassbender.

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