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My Melbourne's inclusive tales reflect migrant experience

'My Melbourne' releasing in Australia on March 6 & in India on March 14, 2025



By Neeraj Nanda

11 February 2025

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MELBOURNE, 10 February, 2025: With the talent of Kabir Khan

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– India's to top filmmakers, My Melbourne, produced by the IFFM sensation Mitu Bhowmick Lange, is all set to hit the screens here on March 6, and in India on March 14. It is the first Australian film to be distributed in India since 2016.

On the release of this movie with four true and inclusive stories, Mitu Bhowmick Lange AM says: "It's been almost ten since an Australian film has been released in India so we are absolutely delighted that the film will be screening in more than 22 cities across the country."

Each of the film's four narratives are Inspired by true stories or lived experiences, and together create

a portrait of life in today's multi-cultural Melbourne. From the early stages of writing to the final cut, the Indian directors and their professional teams mentored the local cast and crew, and were in Melbourne for each of the shoots.

Featuring in the films are acclaimed Australian actors Kat Stewart (OFFSPRING), and Arka Das (LION), cricket coach and legendary player Brad Hodge, Hindi star Arushi Sharma, Nathan Borg - the first deaf actor to appear in Neighbours, and a number of exciting new talents, such as Afghanistan refugee and budding cricket star Setara Amiri, each playing roles close to their own lived experiences.



Mitu Bhowmick Lange

The title track of MY MELBOURNE is sung by Janaki Eshwar, known for being the youngest contestant on 'The Voice Australia' and a highly accomplished singer, and Parvyn Kaur Singh, the former frontwoman of the cult band, The Bombay Royale. The second track, Azadi, has been sung in both Hindi and Dari by Aryana Sayeed, who is one of Afghanistan's most loved and inspiring singers and activists, dubbed 'the Taylor Swift of Afghanistan'. Mitu Bhowmick Lange AM adds : "Our goal for 'My Melbourne' is not only to create an entertaining feature film that

is authentic, contemporary, honest and relevant but also to discover and nurture the next generation of underrepresented diverse filmmakers and their unique stories. Working with some of the most respected filmmakers in the world, our local creatives have learnt from the best without compromising on their cultural and authentic narrative styles.

'MY MELBOURNE' STORIES

NANDINI

Inspired by true events with the theme of gender

Bengali/English

DIRECTOR: ONIR

CO-DIRECTOR: WILLIAM DUAN

CONCEPT BY: GREGORY FRANCIS

SCREENPLAY BY: GREGORY FRANCIS AND WILLIAM DUAN

STARRING: ARKA DAS, JACKSON GALLAGER, MOULI GANGULY

Synopsis: A story of grief and forgiveness, NANDINI follows the reunion of a queer Indian man, Indraneel and his father Mihir after many years of estrangement. The pair are thrust together again when Mihir comes from India to complete the Asthi Visarjan ash spreading ceremony after the passing of his late wife, Indraneel's mother.

JULES

Inspired by true events with the theme of gender

Hindi/English

DIRECTOR: IMTIAZ ALI

CO-DIRECTOR: TAMMY YANG

CONCEPT BY: MITU BHOWMICK LANGE AM

SCREENPLAY: ARIF ALI, SHIVANGI BHOWMICK AND MONIQUE NAIR

STARRING: ARUSHI SHARMA, KAT STEWART

Synopsis: Sakshi is a 23-year-old newly married woman who has recently moved to Melbourne Jules is a 52-year-old homeless wanderer with a sharp tongue, a survivor's spirit and a flair for crossword puzzles and poetry. Their worlds collide on the pavement of St Kilda with unexpected results.

SETARA

Inspired by true events with the theme of race

Dari/English

DIRECTOR: KABIR KHAN

CO-DIRECTOR: PUNEET GULATI

CONCEPT AND SCREENPLAY: MONIQUE NAIR AND NAZIFA AMIRI

STARRING: SETARA AMIRI, BRAD HODGE, SEPIDAH FALLAH

Synopsis: Fifteen year old Setara joins a local cricket team as she attempts to rebuild her life in

Setara

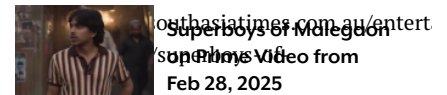
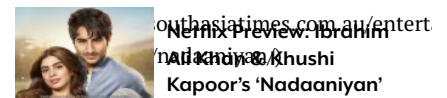
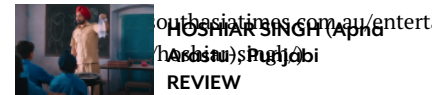
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EMMA

Inspired by true events with the theme of disability

Auslan/English

DIRECTOR: RIMA DAS

CO-DIRECTOR: SAMIRA COX

CONCEPT AND SCREENPLAY : SAMIRA COX AND MONIQUE NAIR

STARRING: NATHAN BORG, RYNNA LAWSON, MIKHAELA EBONY

Synopsis: Emma is a talented deaf dancer living with Usher Syndrome in her early 20s with increasing doubts about her sense of self and her prospects of a career in professional dance. Since childhood, she has dreamed of being a dancer but industry discrimination and other attitudes are holding her back. Despite the support of her family and friends it is not until she meets Nathan, a highly successful deaf dancer who is at peace with himself that she regains her self belief.

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