



For immediate release: Sunday, 10<sup>th</sup> September 2017

## **BUNYA PRODUCTIONS' SWEET COUNTRY CLAIMS AWARDS AT VENICE FILM FESTIVAL**

Bunya Productions' **SWEET COUNTRY** has won the SPECIAL JURY PRIZE at the 2017 Venice Film Festival.

Following its world premiere screening at the festival, **SWEET COUNTRY** received a standing ovation and has garnered outstanding international critical reviews. The film has also won the Premio Bisato d'Oro award, the Venice Critic's award for Best Film.

Inspired by real events and starring **Hamilton Morris, Sam Neill, Bryan Brown, Ewen Leslie, Thomas M. Wright, Natassia Gorey-Furber, Anni Finsterer, Matt Day** and introducing, **Gibson John, Tremayne Doolan** and **Trevon Doolan**, **SWEET COUNTRY** is set in the 1920s on the Northern Territory frontier - where justice itself is put on trial.

Directed by Warwick Thornton, recipient of the Camera d'Or at the 2009 Cannes Film Festival for his debut feature *Samson and Delilah*, the period western is a stunning cinematic vision and soundscape set in the desert of the magnificent MacDonnell Ranges around Alice Springs in central Australia.

Bunya Productions' and Producer of Sweet Country Greer Simpkin said: "To have worked with our close friends David Tranter, Steven McGregor and Warwick Thornton on this film has been a joy. To have this potent story about our country's history shared and honoured internationally is both humbling and empowering."

Earlier this week Transmission Films released the Australian trailer and key art for the film. The trailer is now available to view online here: <https://youtu.be/sYKBG1znk4A>. Key art is available for download from the Transmission Films website here: <http://www.transmissionfilms.com.au/films/sweet-country>.

**SWEET COUNTRY** premieres in Australia on 7 October 2017 at the Adelaide Film Festival, with tickets now on sale. **SWEET COUNTRY** will release nationally in Australia in 2018.

**-ENDS-**

**For further media enquiries and interview opportunities please contact Transmission Films:**

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#### **ABOUT SWEET COUNTRY**

Inspired by real events, **SWEET COUNTRY** is a period western set in 1929 in the outback of the Northern Territory, Australia. When Aboriginal stockman Sam (Hamilton Morris) kills white station owner Harry March (Ewen Leslie) in self-defence, Sam and his wife Lizzie (Natassia Gorey-Furber) go on the run. They are pursued across the outback, through glorious but harsh desert country. Sergeant Fletcher (Bryan Brown) leads the posse with the help of Aboriginal tracker Archie (Gibson John) and local landowners Fred Smith (Sam Neill) and Mick Kennedy (Thomas M. Wright). Fletcher is desperate to capture Sam and put him on trial for murder - but Sam is an expert bushman and he has little difficulty outlasting them. Eventually, for the health of his pregnant wife, Sam decides to give himself up. He is put on trial in the courtroom of Judge Taylor (Matt Day). But will justice be served?

<http://www.transmissionfilms.com.au/films/sweet-country>

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