

# MEDIA RELEASE

## Introducing the National Inaugural West Papua Mini Film Festival

WOLLONGONG | SYDNEY | **CANBERRA** | BRISBANE | ADELAIDE |  
HOBART | MELBOURNE | DARWIN | LISMORE

A diverse mini festival of hot off the press short documentaries from inside West Papua and Indonesia screens in **Canberra** at the National Film and Sound Archives on **11 April 2024 at 4:20pm**.

- Ticketing for the Canberra screening available here:  
<https://tickets.nfsa.gov.au/Events/West-Papua-Mini-Film-Festival>
- Fundraiser to support the festival here:  
<https://www.gofundme.com/f/west-papua-mini-film-festival>
- Canberra event Facebook page here:  
<https://www.facebook.com/events/739159421730652>

The riveting selection of five short films looks to promote peace, justice, and education, and the prevention of harm to the thousands of internally displaced persons and refugees in West Papua.

Soccer, hip-hop and emotional family dramas created by on the ground activist filmmakers tell stories of positive resistance, struggles for social justice, and the fight against environmental destruction.

The films highlight conditions and developments in our near neighbour in West Papua, where there is civil and armed conflict, thousands of internally displaced people, and ongoing large-scale environmental destruction from mining and logging industries.

Join some of the film makers for screening and Q&A' at the National Film and Sound Archive on 11 April 2024 to publicise their situation and lend support to activists in West Papua as they struggle for basic human rights and land rights.

Arranged in association with the West Papua Project at Wollongong University in collaboration with filmmakers from West Papua, Indonesia and Australia, and community support groups and citizens in Australia.

Please see below a synopsis of the 5 films to be screened.

## Synopsis of Five Documentary Films

### 1. My Name is Pengungsi (Refugee)

Refugee Kogoya and Refugee Wakom, featured two of many internally displaced children, who were born in the midst of the jungle of West Papua, namely Nduga, Puncak Jaya and Maybrat, due to parents fled during the armed conflict between the Indonesian National Army/Police (TNI/POLRI) and the West Papua National Liberation Army (TPNPB).



### 2. Black Pearl 'General of the Field'

After winning the fourth Indonesia Premier League, the Jayapura-based Persipura Football Club, better known as 'The Black Pearl' capture the imagination of many Papuans and broader Indonesian football community, as Papua's pride. The club is now a symbol of dignity and self-esteem of Papuan people.



### 3. Papuan Hip-Hop 'When the Microphone Talks'

With the ongoing humanitarian crises in West Papua, often marked by state violence, discrimination, as well social and political unrest, the hip-hop community has fine-tuned and synced their beats with lyrics to highlight and awaken collective consciousness amongst the youth and broader Papuan music lovers.



#### 4. The Voice of Grime Valley

The Grime Valley tells the story of the indigenous people of Grime Valley, defending their ancestral land from the onslaught of investment, as well as those who have been affected by palm oil investment. The forest, known for producing cocoa and being a place to see birds of paradise near Jayapura, is almost lost due to the palm oil company PT PNM opening it up for palm oil plantations, even though the operational permit has been revoked by the President.



#### 5. Pepera 1969, A Democratic Integration?

A film about the highly controversial 1969 United Nations vote for West Papuan inclusion into the Republic of Indonesia. In what was meant to be a country wide vote only 1026 Papuans were included in the Indonesian military-controlled UN referendum. Those that did vote were threatened with violence and torture and death, and yet Australia and the United Nations accepted the so called, 'Act of Free Choice', as a legally binding referendum that sealed West Papua's fate as a part of Indonesia.

