



Australian High Commission
Vanuatu

18 May 2018

Media Release

The Namatan Short Film Festival begins

After much anticipation, the Australian High Commission Namatan Short Film Festival 2018 has begun with 13 films shortlisted to win this year's top prize of 200,000 vatu courtesy of Namatan's newest sponsor, ANZ Vanuatu.



Ae blong yu, lukluk blong mi

Started in 2012, Namatan is Vanuatu's only film festival and showcases the talent and creativity of Vanuatu's filmmakers and artists. Thanks to Air Vanuatu, finalists' films will be screened in schools and communities on Efate, Santo, Tanna and Malekula. For the first time ever, Namatan will make its debut in the Torres Islands today, Saturday 19 May.

"Every year the skills of Vanuatu's filmmakers continue to improve, telling stories about Vanuatu, made by Vanuatu. The finalists have done an amazing job and I look forward to seeing who takes home the prizes this year," said Australian High Commissioner, Jenny Da Rin.

Namatan's Finale will take place at 4:30 pm on Friday 25 May at Saralana Park where Namatan's prize winners will be revealed. Thanks to ANZ and Digicel, first place will receive 200,000 vatu cash, second place winner will take home a brand new Samsung S8 64GB and third will receive a Samsung J5. The People's Choice Award winner will be unveiled once all screenings have been completed.

This year, in recognition of the hardship the people of Ambae are facing, Namatan has teamed up with the Vanuatu Wan Voes Kivhan artists and the Ambae community in Port Vila to raise much-



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needed funds at the finale for those displaced by the volcano. The finale will feature live performances and food, drinks and kava will be available.

“The finale this year will be a great opportunity for Vanuatu to show its support for local artists and for the people of Ambae. It will be a great night of entertainment, fit for the whole family. None of this would be possible without the valuable support of Namatan’s sponsors, VBTC, ANZ, Digicel and Air Vanuatu,” said Ms Da Rin.

The Namatan Short Film Festival was born in 2012 as an initiative of the Australian High Commission and VBTC to provide the people of Vanuatu with an opportunity to express their ideas and creativity through film. Since then, the festival has grown from strength to strength, reaching over 3,500 people every year.

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