RETROSPECTIVE Luc Besson



Luc Besson, is one of contemporary Europe's most influential filmmakers and perhaps more relevantly one of world cinema's powerful producers. Creator of a dazzling film style and a master of spectacles, Besson's films are signs of their times. Besson made his name with what came to be known as Cinema du look, along with directors Leos Carax and Jean Jacques Bieneix. This style of film making often described as preferring style over substance and spectacle over narrative and is alternately called neo-baroque. Besson's oeuvre consists of more than fifty films, either as a director, producer or writer.

His important films include Le Dernier Combat (1983), Subway (1985), The Big Blue (1988), La femme Nikita (1990), Leon (1994), The Fifth Element (1997), The Messenger: Story of Joan of Arc (1999), Angel-A (2004), The Extraordinary Adventures of Adele Blanc (2010), The Lady (2011) and the live action and animation films Arthur and the Invisibles, Arthur and the Revenge of Maltazards and Arthur 3: The War of the Two Worlds. While Besson is outspoken about his desire to promote French film culture, he is often seen by some as way too American and 'un-French' in his attempts to produce commercially successful films in Asia.

Besson's first feature film *Le Dernier Combat* came out in 1983, which deals with an unspecified Holocaust with no hopes of survival. Sometimes described as the thinking man's

Mad Max, Besson's *Subway* (1985), was a playful hybrid genre film that cuts across thriller, comic-thriller, musical and fantasy, emanating a bricolage in genres and a worthwhile experiment in style. Resonating some of the most important concerns of the youth in Francois Mitterand's France, Besson's films have been huge successes in the 1980s and 1990s. *Le Grand Bleu* or *The Big Blue* (1988), despite criticism went on to become a cult movie.

La femme Nikita (1990) is crafted carefully through a skillful technical detailing of music, decor, costume, editing and camerawork in elucidating the central protagonist's relationship to the State and gendered constructions. In The Messenger: The Story of Joan of Arc, Besson revisits the epic story of Joan of Arc as a cultural phenomenon, and embeds visions of challenging male domination.

In terms of his technique, Besson primarily chooses the Scope frame, thus not opting for the safe three dimensionality of the traditional 35mm or 70mm and introducing elements of tension between reality and illusion.

Besson doesn't describe himself as an auteur but as a story teller, a bard who tells stories that emanate from popular knowledge and work as the signs of a troubled time.

ANGEL-A

2005 | 91 mins | French | B/W | 35 mm



SYNOPSIS

André, a small-time ex-convict, seems to owe money to everyone in Paris, including a crime boss who promises to kill him if he doesn't repay him by midnight. After failing to find protection from the American embassy and the French police, a despairing André scrambles onto a bridge over the Seine, intending to leap to his death. He is surprised to see a tall, beautiful girl clinging to a rail on the same bridge, apparently preparing to end her life as well. She jumps, and he jumps too, suddenly resolving to save her life. After scrambling ashore, she tells him her name is Angel-A. Together, they take a cruise on the Seine, repay André's creditors, and visit a Parisian nightspot, and more, as Angel-A helps André. He learns that it's for this purpose she has fallen out of the sky and into his life. André finds himself falling in love with this mysterious beauty.



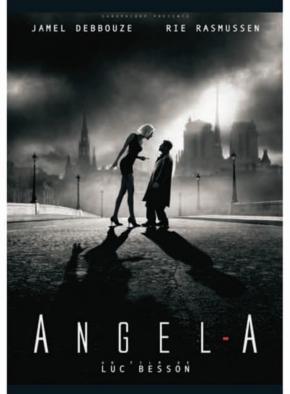
FRANCE

Original Title Angel-A
Director Luc Besson
DOP Thierry Arbogast
Editor Frédéric Thoraval, Christine Lucas Navarro
Music Anja Garbarek
Designer Jacques Bufnoir
Cast Jamel Debbouze, Rie Rasmussen, Gilbert
Melki, Serge Riaboukine

Festival Participation Sundance Film Festival, 2007

Production/Sales
EuropaCorp
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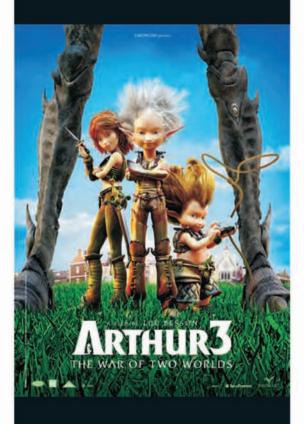


FRANCE

Original Title Arthur et la guerre des deux mondes Director Luc Besson DOP Thierry Arbogast Editor Julien Rey Music Eric Serra Designer Gilles Boillot Cast Freddie Highmore, Mia Farrow

Production/Sales EuropaCorp 137, rue du Faubourg Saint-Honoré 75008 Paris, France

Phone: +33 1.53.83.03.03 Fax: +33 1.53.83.03.04 Email: contact@europacorp.com Web: www.europacorp.com



ARTHUR 3-THE WAR OF THE TWO WORLDS

2010 | 101 mins | English | Colour | 35 mm



SYNOPSIS

Maltazard, the Evil M, is now 7 feet tall and evolving among the humans, causing terror wherever he goes. His goal is simple: forming an army of giant henchmen and ruling over the universe. Meanwhile, Arthur is still a Minimoy, and thus in a state where he's unable to fend him off. With the help of Selenia and Betameche, he hatches a plan to regain his usual size: all they must do is infiltrate Arthur's house through the pipe-works, catch an electric train from his bedroom to his grandfather's study and find an elixir that will make him grow back to his human size. Sounds simple enough, if it weren't for Darkos, Maltazard's own son, hot on their tails...





LÉON THE PROFESSIONAL

1994 | 108 mins | English | Colour | 35 mm



SYNOPSIS

Mathilda, a twelve-year old girl, is living an undesirable life among her half-family. Her father stores drugs for two-faced cop Norman Stansfield. One day, Stansfield and his team take revenge on her father for stretching the drugs, thus killing the whole family. Only Mathilda survives by finding shelter in Léon's apartment in the moment of highest need. Soon, she finds out about the strange neighbour's unusual profession - killing - and seeks his help in taking revenge for her little brother. Léon, who is inexperienced in fatherly tasks, and in friendships, does his best to keep Mathilda out of trouble - unsuccessfully.



FRANCE

Original Title Léon
Director Luc Besson
DOP Thierry Arbogast
Editor Sylvie Landra
Music Eric Serra
Designer Dan Weil
Cast Jean Reno, Gary Oldman, Natalie Portman,
Danny Aiello, Peter Appel, Michael Badalucco,
Ellen Greene, Maïwenn, Elizabeth Regen, Carl J.
Matusovich

Festival Participation/ Awards
Best Foreign Language Film- Czech Lion, 1996

Production/Sales GAUMONT S.A. 30 avenue Charles de Gaulle 92 200 Neuilly-sur-Seine France

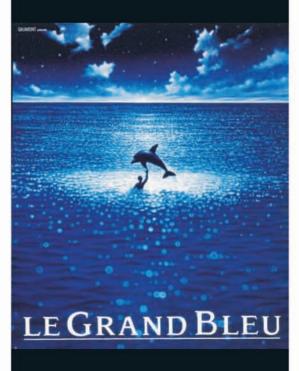


FRANCE, ITALY, US

Original Title Le grand bleu
Director Luc Besson
DOP Carlo Varini
Editor Olivier Mauffroy
Music Eric Serra, Bill Conti
Designer Dan Weil
Cast Rosanna Arquette, Jean-Marc Barr, Jean Reno

Production/Sales GAUMONT S.A. 30 avenue Charles de Gaulle 92 200 Neuilly-sur-Seine France

COLUMBIA PICTURES Los Angeles, California, USA



THE BIG BLUE

1988 | 132 mins | English, French, Italian | Colour | 35 mm



SYNOPSIS

Two men answer the call of the ocean in this romantic fantasy-adventure. Jacques and Enzo are friends who have been close since childhood, and share a passion for the dangerous sport of free diving. Professional diver Jacques opted to follow in the footsteps of his father, who died at sea; to the bewilderment of scientists, Jacques harbours a remarkable ability to adjust his heart rate and breathing pattern in the water, so that his vital signs more closely resemble that of dolphins than men. As Enzo persuades a reluctant Jacques to compete against him in a free diving contest - determining who can dive deeper and longer without scuba gear - Jacques meets Johanna, a beautiful insurance investigator from America, and he finds that he must choose between his love for her and his love of the sea.







THE EXTRAORDINARY ADVENTURES OF ADELE BLANC-SEC

2010 | 107 mins | French | Colour | 35 mm



SYNOPSIS

Desperate to cure her near catatonic sister, intrepid authoress Adèle Blanc-Sec braves ancient Egyptian tombs and modern Egyptian lowlife to locate a mummified doctor and get him back to Paris. Her hope is that oddball Professor Espérandieu will then use his unusual powers to bring the doctor back to life so he, in turn, can use his centuries-old skills on the unfortunate sister. In Paris, however, Espérandieu is already causing mayhem, having brought to life what was a safe museum egg but is now a very active pterodactyl.



FRANCE

Original Title Les aventures extraordinaires d' Adèle Blanc-sec Director Luc Besson DOP Thierry Arbogast Editor Julien Rey Music Eric Serra Designer Hugues Tissandier Cast Louise Bourgoin, Mathieu Amalric, Gilles Lellouche, Philippe Nahon, Jean-Paul Rouve, Laure de Clermont-Tonnerre, Frédérique Bel, Nicolas Giraud, Jacky Nercessian

Production/Sales

EuropaCorp

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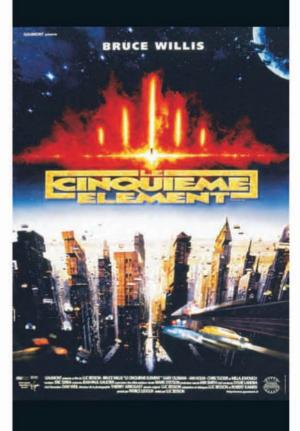


FRANCE

Original Title Le Cinquième Elément
Director Luc Besson
DOP Thierry Arbogast
Editor Sylvie Landra
Music Eric Serra
Designer Dan Weil
Cast Bruce Willis, Gary Oldman, Ian Holm, Milla
Jovovich, Chris Tucker, Luke Perry, Brion James,
Tommy 'Tiny' Lister, Lee Evans, Charlie CreedMiles, Tricky, John Neville, John Bluthal, Mathieu
Kassovitz, Maïwenn

Festival Participation/ Awards Festival de Cannes- 1997

Production/Sales GAUMONT S.A. 30 avenue Charles de Gaulle 92 200 Neuilly-sur-Seine France



THE FIFTH ELEMENT

1997 | 126 mins | English, German, Swedish | Colour | 35 mm



SYNOPSIS

New York, the twenty-third century, Earth is about to be destroyed by a huge ball of fire racing toward the planet. Victor Cornelius, an old monk, knows how to stop the burning sphere: the Fifth Element, the Supreme Being, who unites the four basic elements - air, water, fire and earth - must be summoned, for it is the only being who can stop evil. Cornelius gets a hand from Korben Dallas, a taxi driver and former secret agent, and from Leeloo, an alien in the shape of a beautiful young woman. Adventures galore await the trio as they set off to save humanity and fight the horrendous Zorg and his allies, the dreadful Mangalores.







THE MESSENGER THE STORY OF JOAN OF ARC

1999 | 160 mins | English | Colour | 35 mm



SYNOPSIS

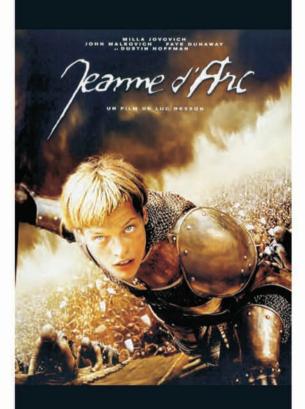
In 1412, a young girl called Jeanne is born in Domrémy, France. The Hunderd Years war with England has been going on since 1337; English knights and soldiers roam the country. Jeanne develops into a very religious young woman, and the age of 13, she has her first vision and finds a sword. Years later, in 1428, she knows her mission is to be ridding France of the English and so sets out to meet Charles, the Dauphin. In his desperate situation, he welcomes all help and gives the maiden a chance to prove her divine mission. After the successful liberation of Orléans and Reims, the Dauphin can be crowned traditionally in the cathedral of Reims - and does not need her anymore. Jeanne d'Arc is imprisoned by the Burgundians. Condemned of witchcraft and being a heretic, she is burnt alive in the marketplace.

FRANCE

Original Title Jeanne d'Arc
Director Luc Besson
DOP Thierry Arbogast
Editor Sylvie Landra
Music Eric Serra
Designer Hugues Tissandier
Cast Milla Jovovich, John Malkovich, Faye
Dunaway, Dustin Hoffman, Pascal Greggory,
Vincent Cassel, Tchéky Karyo, Richard Ridings,
Desmond Harrington, Toby Jones, Vincent Tulli,
Timothy West, Andrew Birkin, David Gant,
Gérard Krawczyk, Gina McKee

Festival Participation/ Awards
Best Director, Best Film- Lumiere Awards,
France, 2000
Best Costume Design, Best Sound- César Awards,
France, 2000

Production/Sales GAUMONT S.A. 30 avenue Charles de Gaulle 92 200 Neuilly-sur-Seine, France



LUC BESSON- FILMOGRAPHY & AWARDS

FILMOGRAPHY

1981

2010	Arthur and the War of the Two Worlds
2010	The Extraordinary Adventures of Adele Blanc-Sec
2008	Arthur and the Revenge of Maltazard
2006	Arthur and the Invisibles
2005	Angel-A
1999	The messenger: Joan of Arc
1997	The Fifth Element
1994	Léon: The Professional
1991	Atlantis
1990	La Femme Nikita
1988	The Big Blue
1985	Subway
1983	The Last Battle

L'avant-dernier (Short film)

AWARDS

Special Jury Award for "The Last Battle" - Avoriaz
Fantastic Film Festival, 1983
Critic's Prize for "The Last Battle"- Brussels
International Festival of Fantasy Film, 1983
Caixa de Catalunya- Best Director and Best Film for
"Le Dernier Combat"- Sitges - Catalonian
International Film Festival, 1983
Audience Jury Award - Special Mention for "Le
Dernier Combat" - Fantasporto, 1984
International Fantasy Film Award- Best Director for
"Le Dernier Combat" - Fantasporto, 1984
International Fantasy Film Award- Best Film for "Le
Dernier Combat" - Fantasporto, 1984

Academy Award for "The Big Blue" - National Academy of Cinema, France, 1989

Silver Ribbon- Best Director - Foreign Film for "La Femme Nikita"- Italian National Syndicate of Film

Czech Lion Best Foreign Language Film for "Leon: The Professional"- Czech Lions. 1996

Journalists, 1991

César Award- Best Director for "The Fifth Element" - César Awards, France, 1997

Alexander Korda Award for Best British Film "Nil by Mouth" - BAFTA Awards, 1998

Lumiere Awards Best Director for "The Fifth Element" - Lumiere Awards, France 1998

Lumiere Awards Best Director and Best Film for "The Messenger: The Story of Joan of Arc"- Lumiere Awards, France 2000

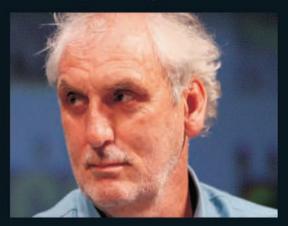
Grand Prix Special des Amériques- Montréal World Film Festival, 2002

Honorary Award- NRJ Ciné Awards, 2007 Visionary Award- Stockholm Film Festival, 2009





RETROSPECTIVE Phillip Noyce



Born in the Australian outback town of Griffith, New South Wales, Phillip Noyce moved to Sydney with his family at the age of 12. As a teenager, he was introduced to underground films produced on shoestring budgets as well as mainstream American movies. He was 18 when he made his first film, the 15-minute Better to Reign in Hell, utilizing a unique financing scheme selling roles in the movie to his friends.

In 1973 he was selected to attend the Australian National Film School in its inaugural year. Here, he made *Castor and Pollux*, a 50-minute documentary which won the award for best Australian short film of 1974.

Noyce's first professional film was the 50-minute docudrama God Knows Why, But It Works in 1975. This helped pave the way for his first feature, the road movie Backroads (1977) which starred Australian Aboriginal activist Gary Foley. In 1978, he directed and co-wrote Newsfront, which won Best Film, Best Director and Best Original Screenplay at the Australian Film Awards, as well as proving a huge commercial hit in Australia. In addition to opening the London Film Festival, Newsfront was the first Australian film to screen at the New York Film Festival.

In 1982, *Heatwave*, co-written and directed by Noyce and starring Judy Davis, was chosen to screen at the Director's Fortnight at the Cannes Film Festival.

Noyce's other film credits include the political thrillers Patriot Games and Clear And Present Danger starring Harrison Ford, Dead Calm starring Nicole Kidman, Sam Neill and Billy Zane, The Bone Collector which starred Oscar-winner Denzel Washington and Angelina Jolie. Returning to his native Australia after 12 years working within the Hollywood system, 2002 saw two Noyce films released worldwide at almost the same time.

The Quiet American starred Michael Caine in an Academy nominated best actor performance and appeared on over 20 top ten lists for 2002, including the National Board of Review and the American Film Institute.

Rabbit Proof Fence was based on the true story of three Aboriginal girls abducted from their families by Australian authorities in 1931 as part of an official government policy. The film won Best Picture at the Australian Film Awards, and together with The Quiet American garnered Noyce numerous best director awards including National Board of Review in the US and UK's London Film Critics Circle.

In 2006 Noyce directed Tim Robbins and Derek Luke in the South African set political thriller Catch A Fire.

2010 Saw Noyce reteaming with Angelina Jolie for his biggest box-office hit, the spy thriller *Salt*, which grossed \$295 million worldwide.

Noyce's television credits include the Australian miniseries *The Dismissal* as well as *The Cowra Breakout*, which he also co-wrote. Noyce directed the pilots for Fox's *Tru Calling* and Showtime's *Brotherhood* TV series. In 2011, Noyce directed the pilot for ABC Network's current hit series, *Revenge*.



THE QUIET AMERICAN

2002 | 101 mins | English, French, Vietnamese | Colour | 35 mm



SYNOPSIS

Saigon, 1952, a beautiful, exotic, and mysterious city caught in the grips of the Vietnamese war of liberation from the French colonial powers. New arrival Alden Pyle, an idealistic American aid worker, befriends London Times correspondent Thomas Fowler. When Fowler introduces Pyle to his beautiful young Vietnamese mistress Phuong the three become swept up in a tempestuous love triangle that leads to a series of startling revelations and finally - murder. Nothing, and no one, is as it seems, in this adaptation of Graham Greene's classic and prophetic story of love, betrayal, murder and the origin of the American war in Vietnam



USA/UK/AUSTRALIA/ FRANCE/GERMANY

Original Title The Quiet American
Director Phillip Noyce
DOP Christopher Doyle
Editor John Scott
Music Craig Armstrong
Designer Roger Ford
Cast Michael Caine, Brendan Fraser, Do Thi Hai
Yen, Rade Šerbedžija, Tzi Ma, Robert Stanton,
Holmes Osborne, Hai Quang, Ferdinand Hoang

Festival Participation/ Awards
Best Director - Phillip Noyce - National Board of
Review, 2002
Best Actor - Runner-up - Michael Caine- National
Society of Film Critics- 2002

Production/Sales Miramax Films

RETROSPECTIVE

AUSTRALIA

Original Title Backroads
Director Phillip Noyce
DOP Russell Boyd
Editor David Huggett
Music Robert Murphy
Cast Bill Hunter, Gary Foley

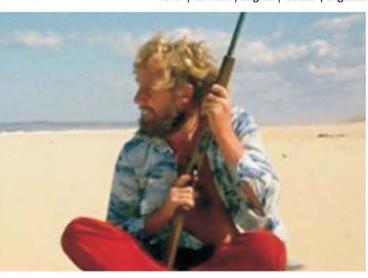
Festival Participation Berlin International Film Festival, 1978 Festival de Cannes, 1978

Production/Sales
The Home Cinema Group Pty Ltd
112 Bank, Melbourne, VIC

Distribution Home Cinema Group

BACKROADS

1977 | 60 mins | English | Colour | DigiBeta



SYNOPSIS

An Aussie male duo, one redneck dropout white, the other a young black, steal a car and joyride their way across the outback of New South Wales before coming to the inevitable end of all good movie outlaws. Very much the result of a collaborative tension between director Noyce and his black lead actor (Foley), Backroads is an existentialist road movie that stands beside the very best American examples of the genre.







CATCH A FIRE

2006 | 101 mins | English, Zulu, Afrikaans | Colour | 35 mm



SYNOPSIS

Patrick Chamusso is a charming and loving husband to his wife and a caring father to his two young daughters. He works as a foreman at the centrally located Secunda oil refinery- a symbol of South Africa's self-sufficiency at a time when the world was protesting the country's oppressive apartheid system. Carefully toeing the hard line imposed on blacks by apartheid, Patrick is completely apolitical, until he is arrested on suspicion for sabotage of the oil refinery. His alibi is compromised as he is ill-prepared to withstand the interrogations by Nic Vos, a Colonel in the country's Police Security Branch. When finally released, Patrick leaves his family to join the African National Congress, becoming a rebel fighter and political operative. He ultimately envisions a formidable and dangerous follow-up strike against the same refinery, risking his own life and future. Change must and will come, for Patrick and his family, and for South Africa itself.



AUSTRALIA

Original Title Catch a Fire
Director Phillip Noyce
DOP Ron Fortunato, Garry Phillips, Giulio Biccari
Editor Jim Bilcock
Music Philip Miller
Designer Delarey Wagener
Cast Tim Robbins, Derek Luke, Bonnie Henna
Screenplay Shawn Slovo

Festival Participation
Telluride Film Festival, 2006
Toronto International Film Festival, 2006

Production/Sales
Focus Features
International Office
Fourth Floor, Oxford House
76 Oxford Street
London, UK
W1D 1BS

USA

Original Title Clear and Present Danger
Director Phillip Noyce
DOP Donald McAlpine
Editor Neil Travis
Music James Horner
Designer William Cruse
Cast Harrison Ford, Willem Dafoe, Ann Archer,
James Earl Jones

Production/Sales Paramount Pictures 5555 Melrose Avenue, Suite 121, Hollywood CA 90038

CLEAR AND PRESENT DANGER

1994 | 141 mins | English | Colour | 35 mm



SYNOPSIS

Clear And Present Danger is the third film in the Jack Ryan series. Ryan, the CIA agent, is assigned to a delicate anti-drug investigation after a close friend of the President is murdered by a Colombian drug cartel. When Ryan discovers that the President's wealthy friend was in league with the cartel, the President's devious national security adviser James Cutter and the ambitious CIA deputy director Robert Ritter, send a secret paramilitary force into Colombia to wipe out the drug lords. The force is captured and then abandoned by the President's lackeys. It falls to Ryan to enter Colombia and rescue them, aided only by a renegade operative named Clark, with both his life and career on the line.



WORLD E

NEWSFRONT

1978 | 106 mins | English | Colour | 35 mm



SYNOPSIS

Set between the years 1949 and 1956, Newsfront tracks the destinies of two brothers, their adventures and misadventures placed in the context of sweeping social and political changes in their native Australia. Both of the protagonists are newsreel photographers. Frank is constitutionally resistant to change, while Len welcomes any alterations in his own life and in the world around him. The film fluctuates between black and white and colour, between actual news footage and reconstructed events.



AUSTRALIA

Original Title Newsfront
Director Phillip Noyce
DOP Vincent Monton
Editor John Scott
Music William Motzing
Designer Lissa Coote
Cast Bill Hunter, Wendy Hughes, Bryan Brown

Production/Sales Roadshow Films PTY LTD





PHILLIP NOYCE- FILMOGRAPHY & AWARDS

FILMOGRAPHY

2012 Hunter Killer

2010 Salt

2006 Brotherhood: Mark 8:36

2006 Catch a Fire

2004 Welcome to São Paulo

2003 Tru Calling: Pilot

2002 The Quiet American

2002 Rabbit-Proof Fence

1999 The Bone Collector

1997 The Saint

1994 Clear and Present Danger

1993 Sliver

1992 Patriot Games

1990 Blind Fury

1989 Dead Calm

1986 Promises to Keep

1986 Echoes of Paradise

1985 The Cowra Breakout

1983 The Dismissal

1983 The Hitchhiker ITV Series]

1982 Heatwave

1979 In Search of Historic Jesus

1978 Newsfront

1977 Backroads

AWARDS

Best Director, Best Screenplay for "Newsfront", Australian Film Institute Award, 1978

Special Mention for "Heatwave" - Mystfest, 1983

Audience Award for "Rabbit-Proof Fence" - Aspen Filmfest, 2002

Best Film for Rabbit-Proof Fence - Australian Film Institute Award, 2002

ASPI Award for "Rabbit-Proof Fence"- Castellinaria International Festival of Young Cinema, 2002

Golden Castle for "Rabbit-Proof Fence"- Castellinaria International Festival of Young Cinema, 2002

People's Choice Award- Best Feature-Length Fiction Film for "Rabbit-Proof Fence"- **Denver International Film Festival. 2002**

Audience Award for "Rabbit-Proof Fence"- Durban International Film Festival, 2002

Audience Award for "Rabbit-Proof Fence" -Edinburgh International Film Festival 2002

FCCA Award- Best Director for "Rabbit-Proof Fence"-Film Critics Circle of Australia Awards, 2002

Audience Award for "Rabbit-Proof Fence"- Leeds
International Film Festival 2002

NBR Award-Best Director for "The Quiet American" and "Rabbit-Proof Fence" National Board of Review, USA, 2002

Special Citation for "The Quiet American" and "Rabbit-Proof Fence"- San Francisco Film Critics Circle, 2002

Audience Award for "Rabbit-Proof Fence" Valladolid International Film Festival. 2002

Audience Award- Best Foreign Film for "Rabbit-Proof Fence"- São Paulo International Film Festival, 2003

ALFS Award- Director of the Year for "The Quiet American" and "Rabbit-Proof Fence"- London Critics Circle Film Awards, 2003

Outstanding Achievement Award- Australian Directors Guild, 2006

Outstanding Achievement Award- Australian Screen Directors' Association, 2006