

Vibrant culture hits the big screen

A FESTIVAL of a variety of works made by budding filmmakers from across Western Sydney will screen at Auburn Town Hall tomorrow.

The free Auburn on Screen festival, part of the 2005 Auburn Festival, will feature a selection of 15 short films, documentaries and videos tackling a wide range of topics - from multicultural identity to kung fu, comedy, and spiritual journeys.

"This event is an exciting opportunity to highlight the fantastic talent in our region, and also a chance to reflect Auburn's vibrant and diverse culture on the big screen," said Auburn councillor Malikeh Michaels, who coordinated the event with assistance from Ms Mouna Zaylah and the Parramatta-based Information and Cultural Exchange (ICE).

Lidcombe filmmaker NS Thanapalasuretheram, or 'Thana', has included his first short film, a documentary called *Citizenship*, in the festival's line-up.

Originally from Sri Lanka, Thana decided last year to follow a long-held ambition to study filmmaking and enrolled at



AUBURN Film Festival showcases many film talents. Among those ready for the big day are: Malikeh Michaels, Kirisha Thanapalasuretheram, N.S. Thanapalasuretheram, Aynalem Tessema (AMRC) and Sarwa Abdelraheem.

the Waterloo-based Sydney Film School's Screen Studies course.

When Thana and wife Kana immigrated to Australia in the 1980s, he began to think about the passage to permanent residency for newcomers to the country and of how the issue of identity affects us all.

Years later, he explored the idea further until finally, the concept of the film was born. The seven-minute documentary was filmed last year as a project for his course.

Thana interviewed his

teenage daughter Kirisha, who was born in Australia, and a Ukrainian woman aged in her 80s for the film, focussing on questions of identity and what it means to be an Australian citizen.

"Many immigrants who come to Australia tend to forget, or not to have a big appreciation for their Australian citizenship, once they have got it.

"The message I want to try to give to people is not to take citizenship for granted," he said.

"Just don't forget the gift you have been given

with your new life in Australia."

Auburn on Screen is scheduled at Auburn Town Hall on Thursday, September 22, from 7-9pm.

Bookings are essential. Details: Vera Moors on 9735 1295.

It's just one part of the festival which also features Tim Campbell who plays the young and likable character Dan Baker in *Home and Away*, performing during the street festival on Saturday, September 24 on Auburn Road, Auburn.

His performance is

scheduled at 11.45am to 12.15pm on the Youth Stage and will continue his performance on the Main Stage from 12.30pm to 1pm.

Frank Ifield will also be a special guest at the *Review Pictorial* stall.

The Auburn Street Festival will see Auburn Road packed with colourful entertainers and street performers as well as amusement rides and stalls.

In addition to Tim Campbell's performance, the festival will also feature:

- More than a 100 stalls with craft, food and information will line up along Auburn Road.

- Numerous amusement rides for children, an animal farm and a circus performance at the Town Hall.

- A Youth Talent Quest will be held from one from 1-4pm on the Youth Stage.

- The main stage will feature The Travis Collins band, winner of the Toyota Star maker Award 2004, Wiradjuri Koori Kids dance group, Heval will playing a mix of Kurdish, classical music, funk, jazz, the Iraqi Band and the Cedars of Lebanon Folkloric Group.

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