

SUSTAINABLE FUTURE



Opening shot: Charlotte Gainsbourg stars in the acclaimed, *The Tree*, which premieres at Mission Beach.

A uniquely tropical film festival returns for its second annual event in 2010 16/9/10

The Mission Beach Film Festival is upping the ante in 2010, with a special gala opening night featuring internationally renowned US actor, filmmaker and environmentalist Daryl Hannah.

She will officially open the festival before the gala Australian premiere of *The Tree*, an Australian/French production that received a 10-minute standing ovation at this year's Cannes Film Festival.

Ms Hannah says she is honoured to be opening the festival with such a strong environmental theme.

"At this critical moment in history, we are facing many crises; resource wars, mass extinctions, environmental disasters," she says. "It is crucial we all share information and inspiration on ways to care for and live harmoniously with this planet, other species and each other. Festivals such as Mission Beach Film Festival play an important role in this evolution."

Festival curator and award-winning film producer Sue Clothier says *The Tree* will be a particular highlight of the program.

Set in rural Queensland, *The Tree* will screen nationally from September 30.

"We are thrilled that the



distributors have given our audience the opportunity to see this sneak preview before the Australian premiere," she says.

"The film suits our sustainability theme very well and will get the festival off to a great start."

In another coup for the festival,



Festival coups: Actress and environmental activist Daryl Hannah, left, a scene from *The Most Dangerous Man in America* and below left, a scene from *The Farewell*.

the recently announced Academy Award nominee, *The Most Dangerous Man in America*, will screen on the closing night of the festival.

Based on a true story that dominated the daily news for months, this documentary shows how the man who helped to plan the Vietnam War risked all to unmask the lies behind the war.

Individual courage and the belief in a better world are also celebrated in the foreign feature film *Farewell*. Based on an incredible true story about high level espionage that helped to

usher in the end the Cold War, the political drama-cum-thriller will be introduced by Liberal former opposition leader Peter Turnbull.

The 2010 Mission Beach Film Festival program features a slate of features, documentaries and children's anime programming. It will be complemented by a series of Q&A panels with expert speakers.

In Cinema 2, David Ikin's Emmy Award winning film *Coral Sea Dreaming* - a documentary about the Great Barrier Reef - will take part in a Q&A panel.

Local tropical fruit grower Peter Salleras will also be featured in a sustainable farming feature film the screening of *The Real Farmer John*.

STUFF

■ The Mission Beach Film Festival runs from Friday to Sunday at the Mission Beach Resort at Wongaling Beach. The full program of 18 films, all Q&A panels and expert speakers, Sustainable Shore Screenings and the Mission Beach Film Festival Stills Exhibition are available at the festival website missionbeachfilmfestival.com.