

MEDIA RELEASE

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Attention: News Editor

Breath pleases critics

Printed and online reviews of Great Southern-located movie *Breath* are adding to critical praise for Simon Baker's directorial debut.

On Friday 4 May, the day after the film's Australian cinema release, Baker was named the winner of the Australian Directors' Guild award for Best Direction of a Feature Film.

The award affirms critics' views about the film, which have been overwhelmingly positive. Veteran critic David Stratton, writing in *The Australian*, gave the film four stars and said "Baker succeeds admirably in bringing to life the characters of these two impressionable boys and the adults who change their lives."

Online reviewer Jason King, of *Salty Popcorn*, wrote: "Most of the film is shot in Denmark, Western Australia, and what a beautiful town and beaches this place has. Wouldn't mind living there myself!"

In other reviews and ratings, *Breath* was given 7 to 10 out of 10, and described as 'an instant Australian classic' (*Sunshine Coast Daily*), 'unpretentiously profound' and 'a surfer film with soul and gravitas' (*The Guardian*).

Breath was shot on location in Denmark, Peaceful Bay and along the south coast in 2016.

Funding of \$1.5 million through the Great Southern Development Commission (GSDC) helped to clinch the decision to shoot *Breath* in the Great Southern.

GSDC CEO Mr Bruce Manning said the reviews confirmed local reaction to the film at its April launch in Albany.

"*Breath* is a thoughtful and captivating film about growth, fear and acceptance," Mr Manning said.

"It has some epic south coast surf scenes but it doesn't succumb to the surf movie stereotype.



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“Great Southern audiences have given it a warm reception and it is wonderful to see it getting positive responses from critics, with some significant promotion of the region.”

Breath is now showing in cinemas across Australia. It opens in Albany on Thursday 24 May and in the United States on Friday 1 June.

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