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MARDI GRAS FILM FESTIVAL 2014 ON SALE NOW



[Mardi Gras Film Festival](#)

February 13 - 23

Mardi Gras Film Festival is turning 21 and to celebrate we've arranged eleven days of great films and parties in our new home at Event Cinemas George Street. Check out our great [selection of films](#) available now, and don't forget the [Festival Bar line-up](#). Our program guide is also in this week's Sydney Star Observer so remember to pick up a copy.

Our sold out program launch on Wednesday night was buzzing, and the film [ANY DAY NOW](#), was a big hit. If you missed out on this touching and funny film you still have the chance to see our repeat screening on Saturday 22 February.

Before the film Festival Director Paul Struthers unveiled some highlights of this year's program, which is packed with great features, documentaries, and short films from all over the world. With five world premieres, nineteen Australian Premieres, and several films direct from the Sundance and Berlin Film Festivals we're proud to be bringing the best in queer film direct to Sydney.

Lastly, don't say we didn't warn you. Here is a list of some of the films we think are going to sell like hotcakes this year. Grab your tickets fast or you may miss out: [C.O.G.](#), [ZOE.MISPLACED](#), [OUT IN THE LINE-UP](#) (image above), [REACHING FOR THE MOON](#), [G.B.F.](#) and [THE RUGBY PLAYER](#)

[VIEW ALL FILMS BY TITLE](#)

MEMBERSHIP AND PASSES

We're confident there are loads of films you're going to love at the festival this February. See more and save money by purchasing a [festival pass](#).

Queer Screen Memberships get you cheaper prices - even on festival passes - and also give you priority entry to the cinema. Best of all they help Queer Screen bring you the best film festival around. [Memberships are a available now](#).

AUSTRALIAN FILMS



Australian cinema has produced the goods this year. A remarkable ten sessions of Australian film is on offer, including great documentaries, new Australian features, and Australia's richest prize for locally made short films, [MY QUEER CAREER](#).

Women have directed all of our new Australian feature films, including [52 TUESDAYS](#) which will come to Mardi Gras Film Festival direct from screenings at the Sundance and Berlin Film Festivals. We think Sophie Hyde's directorial debut is a one-of-a-kind film. It was filmed over the course of a year, once a week, every week, only on Tuesdays. The plot mirrors the filming: these Tuesday meetings are the only time teenager Billie sees her mother, who is undergoing a gender transition. Here is your chance to see an Australian film that's making big waves internationally.

We will also host the World Premiere of [ZOE.MISPLACED](#), which is set in and around Sydney, whereas [SUBMERGE](#) (image above) tells a dark tale of sexual discovery set in Melbourne.

Four Aussie docs are having their World Premiere including photographer William Yang's record of Sydney's gay scene [FRIENDS OF DOROTHY](#), [CROC-A-DYKE DUNDEE](#), [THE LEGEND OF DAWN O'DONNELL](#), our closing night film, takes a look at an intriguing Sydney lesbian personality, [OUT IN THE LINE-UP](#) shines a light on the taboo of homosexuality among surfers, and [VICKY – THE GAY GENE COMES TO AUSTRALIA](#) documents the first openly gay bishop's 2013 visit.

To top it all off, don't miss our 20th anniversary screenings of iconic Australian comedies [MURIEL'S WEDDING](#) and [THE ADVENTURES OF PRISCILLA, QUEEN OF THE DESERT!](#)

FESTIVAL FAVOURITES



Many of the films are coming to Mardi Gras Film Festival after appearing at big international film festivals. A highlight is [GERONTOPHILIA](#) (image above), from queer cinema legend Bruce LaBruce, which screened at Venice Film Festival last year. The film's transgressive, touching story of a sexual relationship between a young nursing home attendant and a confined elderly man will keep people talking. Our Wednesday 19 February session is followed by afternoon tea with Aunty Mavis in the [Festival Bar](#).

[FREE FALL](#) and [TWO MOTHERS](#) come from 2013 screenings in the Berlin Film Festival. The first is Germany's answer to Brokeback Mountain, while the second is about fertility clinics refusing to offer treatment to lesbian couples.

Still to come at the Berlin Film Festival in 2014 is [QUICK CHANGE](#), a gritty look at the dangerous underbelly of the implant industry and its effects in the beauty pageant world of Filipino gay culture. [TEST](#) follows a contemporary dancer in 1980's San Francisco and charts his fear when the HIV/AIDS epidemic hits.

SPORT FILMS



Mardi Gras Film Festival has some great sport documentaries this year including [THE BATTLE OF THE SEXES](#) (image above). In 1973, tennis star Billie Jean King agreed to face 1940s men's champion Bobby Riggs in what became the most watched tennis match in history. This illuminating documentary goes behind the scenes to show the history of the match, how it came to pass, and the impact it had on the media, the tennis community and the ever-present battle of the sexes.

[THE RUGBY PLAYER](#) is an uplifting and stereotype-defying documentary telling the story of an unlikely hero and his unique relationship with his mother. Mark Bingham was a gregarious, happy-go-lucky amateur rugby player with gay rugby team the San Francisco Fog. But his life ended abruptly on board United Flight 93, which went down on September 11, 2001. In his honor The Bingham Cup, a worldwide gay rugby competition, is created. See this fantastic documentary before The Bingham Cup arrives in Sydney.

We're also playing [OUT IN THE LINE-UP](#) about homosexuality in surfing.

COMEDIES



These comedies are sure to make for a fun night out. Bring along a group of friends and have a drink in the Festival bar

afterwards.

[WHO'S AFRAID OF VAGINA WOLF](#) is an award winning and hilarious coming-of-middle-age comedy. We first meet Anna at her 40th birthday party dressed as a life-sized plush vagina. Anna has three goals in life; make a feature film, lose 20 pounds and get a girlfriend. She currently has none out of three, but is determined this is the year to make it happen.

In [HETEROSEXUAL JILL](#) the "All American" Jill tracks down her butch ex-girlfriend Jamie to prove to herself that she is no longer attracted to women. Strung along by guilt and desire, Jamie agrees to the preposterous plan of "dating" Jill so that Jill can close this chapter of her life and move forward with men.

Our [SHORTS PACKAGES](#) have some very funny films that will keep you rolling in the aisles. [SPOONERS](#) features the most outrageous 'intuitive mattress' trying to find the best fit for a gay couple. [P.D.A.](#) shines a light on public hand-holding, and [A STABLE FOR DISABLED HORSES](#) is the perfect fit for those who like their comedy to be squirmish and awkward.

QUEERDOCS



[VALENTINE ROAD](#)

On February 12 2008, in Oxnard, California, Lawrence "Larry" King, 15 years old and openly gay, was shot and killed by his 14-year-old classmate Brandon McInerney after Larry asked Brandon to be his Valentine. This not-to-be-missed documentary tells the powerful, important and moving story of two young boys from small-town USA. One of mixed race, a ward of the state and exploring his gender identity, the other, white from a troubled home and with an interest in neo-Nazi philosophy.

[BORN NAKED](#)

Andrea and Paula, aged 23 and 25, lead us through their personal experiences and the reality of young lesbians of their generation in Madrid, London and Berlin. Traveling through these three cities, we will meet diverse individuals and a range of organised groups, all of which describe their proposals and attitudes towards their sexual orientation.

[BORN THIS WAY](#)

With some of the world's harshest laws against homosexuality, life in Cameroon for gays and lesbians can be a daily struggle. Shot guerilla style, and set largely in and around a centre for the local LGBT community, we meet an array of young gay men, lesbians, and those helping them to live their lives with dignity and justice. Gertrude struggles to come out to the Catholic nun who helped raise her; the flamboyant Cedric is forced to move house when he is attacked; Alice is a prominent lawyer who defends LGBT clients.

LA TOURISM

It's called the City of Angels. But don't let that fool you.

LA's trademark industries — entertainment, fashion, art, design, among others — have been magnets for creative LGBT trendsetters for more than a century. And by their sheer numbers and substantial influence, these pioneering men and women have left a permanent, positive and gay-friendly legacy on LA's community.



LGBT life in this region of more than 15 million people continues to be as diverse and dynamic as the Los Angeles itself. In fact, there is not just one gay neighborhood in this glittering metropolis: They dot the region. You could spend an entire week just exploring the gay and lesbian enclaves throughout the city.

LA's original gay neighborhood is [Silver Lake](#), where trendsetters mix with one of America's most ethnically diverse populations in hip clubs and friendly bars. Go west and you'll find yourself in West Hollywood, the gay and lesbian capital of the world, where *50 percent* of the resident population identify as gay or lesbian.

Between Hollywood and West Hollywood lies the [Los Angeles County Museum of Art](#), the most extensive collection of art in the Western U.S. including many works by prominent gay and lesbian artists.

Finally, what's a trip to LA without the beach? [Will Rogers State Beach](#) in [Santa Monica](#) has been a gay hangout since Isherwood and his kind lived just up the nearby canyon. A few miles down the coast in [Venice Beach](#), [Roosterfish](#) has been serving honest drinks at honest prices on Venice's chic [Abbot Kinney Boulevard](#).

For more tips on visiting LA, visit discoverLosAngeles.com/gayLA



Also remember that there is even more you can do to help:

- 1) Share this message via email or on social media.
- 2) Volunteer your time by clicking [here](#).
- 3) Become a member by clicking [here](#).
- 4) Donate goods and services for our fundraisers.
- 5) Introduce us to potential sponsors and advertisers.