



MEDIA RELEASE

Keep Calm, Stay Queer: Queer Screen Film Fest is Here!

9th Queer Screen Film Fest Hitting Smaller Screens: 16 – 26 September 2021

Thursday 26 August: The upcoming Queer Screen Film Fest will bring much needed new, comforting and inspiring content to the small screens from Thursday 16 September to Sunday 26 September. Tickets are on sale now at queerscreen.org.au for over 40 films that will screen nationally on-demand.

Bringing the world to Australian audiences who currently cannot travel, the Festival showcases films from 17 countries, in 18 different spoken languages, and hosts no less than 22 Australian Premieres.

“Everyone in our community has been impacted by the pandemic in some way and we are delighted to create an online Festival to help us through these times,” says Lisa Rose, Festival Director. “We are very thankful to the Producers, Sales Agents and Distributors who agreed to let us share their work on smaller screens, and grateful we can bring some fantastic new and also much-loved encores to people all around the country”.

Documentaries:

AIDS DIVA: THE LEGEND OF CONNIE NORMAN tells the story of self-proclaimed AIDS diva and trans trailblazer Connie Norman who lived and died fighting for the right to be seen and heard.

More groundbreakers are explored in **FANNY: THE RIGHT TO ROCK**, an inspiring documentary that introduces us to the all-female Filipina American rock band Fanny, who were written out of rock history in the 1970s.

A SEXPLANATION from gay filmmaker Alex Liu is a refreshing and fun documentary that explores why there’s still so much shame when talking about sexuality and what floats our boats.

Narrative Features:

Winner of the Frameline Audience Award, **LOLA** is the story of a trans girl and her estranged father who journey the Belgian coast to fulfil her late mother’s wishes. A beautiful film that will stay with you for a long time.

BEYTO is a critically acclaimed drama from Switzerland exploring the clash between queer and traditional immigrant cultures, as well as the heartbreak that happens when people are prevented from making their own life choices.



More culture clashes arise in the lesbian comedy *KISS ME BEFORE IT BLOWS UP*, where love is put to the test with prejudices and hidden family secrets trying to derail German botanist Maria and her Israeli girlfriend Shira as they plan their wedding.

François Ozon's *SUMMER OF 85* is a seductive story of first love. Two teenagers fall into a passionate summer fling and their worlds are forever changed. It's intoxicating and dripping in 80s nostalgia, a coming of age film to love.

Reminiscent of Armistead Maupin, *BEAUTIFUL DREAMER* is a warm-hearted Bay Area comedy-drama about love, friendship and building your 'logical' family starring *The L Word*'s Erin Daniels.

DEAR TENANT is a slow-burn tale of humanity, heartbreak and family, weaving within it the experience of being a gay man in contemporary Taiwan.

Not available in Victoria, Finnish film *TOVE* sketches the life of Moomin creator, Tove Jansson. The film follows Tove's artistic journey from struggling painter to successful illustrator, and her impassioned relationship with the alluring theatre director, Vivica.

The program includes three new gay, lesbian and trans and gender diverse shorts programs and because we all need a laugh, one encore program called 'Best of Comedy Shorts.'

Our five encores feature some of our most loved past films. *FREE FALL* (MGFF 14) is a sexy gay classic from Germany. Mardi Gras Film Festival's 2015 Opening Night Film returns with the moving docudrama *THE CIRCLE*. Romantic dramedy *FRONT COVER* (MGFF 16) is overflowing with charm and warmth, *SIGNATURE MOVE* (MGFF 18) is a multicultural lesbian romcom and *WILD NIGHTS WITH EMILY* (MGFF 19) hilariously tweaks the life story of poet Emily Dickinson.

In addition to the on-demand program, Queer Screen has a number of live free events scheduled including filmmaker Q&As and panels; the Halfway Hangout where people can meet virtually to chat about the films and short film competition, Queer Screen Pitch Off.

Single tickets, 3 pass and 5 pass packs are available as well as an 'All In' pass for every film (at a cost of \$99 or \$85 for members). Please visit queerscreen.org.au or download the Queer Screen app, or call (02) 9280 1533 to book. Become a Queer Screen member for discounted tickets.

-ENDS-

Note to Editors:

- Festival Director Lisa Rose and Queer Screen Co-Chair Cheryl Kavanagh are available for interview.
- Film talent or select screeners may be available for interviews or reviews on request.
- Media Enquiries: Louise Nealon, 0403 569 177 or publicity@queerscreen.org.au