

Evolve.
Emerge.
Fly.

13 - 27
Feb
2020



Queer
Screen's
27th

Mardi Gras Film Festival



EVENT
C I N E M A S

BELL
SHAKESPEARE

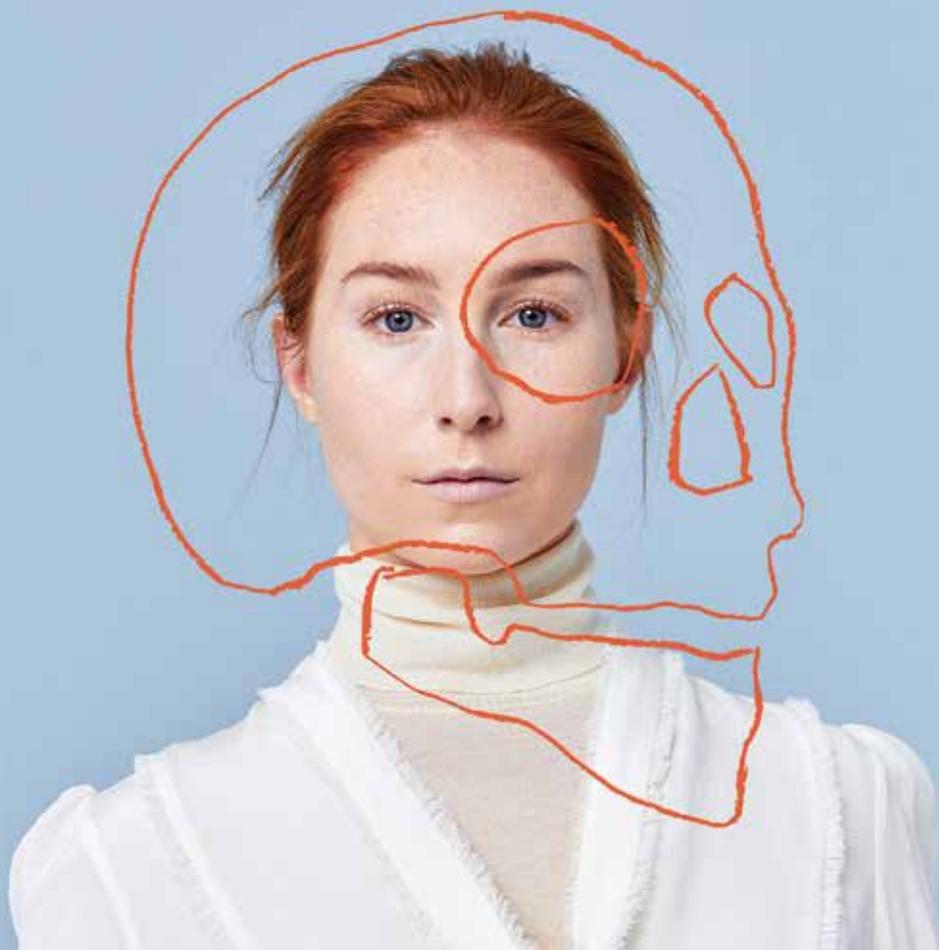
BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE
DIRECTOR PETER EVANS

HAMLET



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29 FEB - 4 APRIL



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UCCO



Happy Mardi Gras! I look forward to working with you in 2020 towards a liveable, sustainable, and progressive Sydney for all.

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A discussion and screening series opening 20 Feb 2020
Presented by the UTS Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
uts.edu.au/precursor

Festival Welcome

It's 2020 and the festival, and the world at large, is ever evolving. Queer Screen's 27th Mardi Gras Film Festival expands its reach this year, as we return to Sydney's Inner West, with over 20 screenings at Dendy Newtown, along with one night north of the harbour at Hayden Orpheum, and the bulk of the festival with our Principal Venue Partner, Event Cinemas George Street.



We have six World Premieres, over 90 Australian Premieres, and more films and sessions than last year. One of the most exciting things to emerge is the diversity of story and genre, with sci-fi, thriller, mystery and animation films featuring. Queer Scream, a program strand on queer horror films is a first for the festival and includes arguably the most fun film in the program, transgender and lesbian vampire flick, *Bit*.

We also have plenty of Australian talent on display and I'm thrilled to be opening the festival with a locally made feature for the first time in the festival's 27 year history - the heartfelt romantic comedy *Ellie & Abbie (& Ellie's Dead Aunt)*.

One of the most buzz-worthy films on the festival circuit, *And Then We Danced*, sparked scenes of violent protest in its home country of Georgia and is our Centrepiece feature. And if you only watch one animated film this year (or ever), make it the bittersweet *Top 3*. Trust me, add it to your list of top three films not to be missed!

Evolve. Emerge. Fly.

Lisa Rose
Festival Director

Opening Night Gala

Ellie & Abbie (& Ellie's Dead Aunt)



THUR 13 FEB 7PM

WORLD PREMIERE

Directed by Monica Zanetti | Australia | English | 84 mins | 15+

The first Australian feature to open the Festival in its 27-year history, this heartfelt romantic comedy follows Ellie, a strong-willed school captain who is seriously crushing on her rebellious classmate, Abbie. Luckily, her aunt Tara, a lesbian activist who died in the 1980s, appears from the afterlife with plenty of old-school advice for Ellie - whether her niece wants it or not! Featuring an all-star cast including Marta Dusseldorp (*Janet King*), Rachel House (*Thor: Ragnarok*) and Julia Billington (*Starting from...Now*) with Sophie Hawkshaw (*Love Child*) and Zoe Terakes (*Wentworth*) as the lovestruck and headstrong teens. **Presented with AGL | Festival Guests in attendance for Q&A. Additional screening + Q&A: Sunday 23 Feb 6:30pm**

Closing Night Gala

An Almost Ordinary Summer



THUR 27 FEB 7PM

Directed by Simone Godano | Italy | Italian with English subtitles | 100 mins | M15+

Come along on one hilarious Italian getaway that follows two very different families brought together for a summer to remember. Tony (Fabrizio Bentivoglio), a wealthy silver fox, invites his grown daughters to his coastal abode. Also arriving is widower Carlo (Alessandro Gassmann), a boardshorts-wearing fish seller, along with his two sons. When Carlo and Tony tell their respective clans that they're actually a couple, and planning on getting married - mamma mia, talk about meltdowns! This very cheeky comedy - a hit at last year's Frameline - will tug on the heartstrings, as well as have you cheering out loud. **Presented with Accenture.**

Closing Night Party Tickets available.

Festival Centrepiece

And Then We Danced



FRIDAY 21 FEB 7PM

SYDNEY PREMIERE

Directed by Levan Akin | Georgia, Sweden, France | Georgian with English subtitles | 105 mins | 15+

One of the most acclaimed LGBTIQ+ films of 2019, *And Then We Danced* is a powerful film about rivalry, desire and defiance. Goal-oriented Merab (an astonishing Levan Gelbakhiani) wants nothing more than to dance with the National Georgian Ensemble and has trained most his life for the honour. But all this is thrown into chaos when he falls for the carefree and rebellious newcomer Irakli (Bachi Valishvili). With an eclectic soundtrack that inspires a seductive dance scene to Robyn's *Honey*, Georgian-Swedish director Levan Akin's film sparked wild scenes of protest outside cinemas in Georgia when it screened. Against the backdrop of a country which remains deeply conservative, this mesmerising film is riveting, joyful and not to be missed. **Additional screening: Tuesday 25 Feb 8:30pm**

V I N D E P R O V E N Ç E



PROUDLY SUPPORTING QUEER SCREEN'S MARDI GRAS FILM FESTIVAL



TUES 25 FEB 6:30PM

WORLD PREMIERE

Directed by Ian Watson | Australia | English | 88 mins | MA15+

Unsound is a unique, Australian movie that follows the lives of two young people at a crossroads in their lives. When guitarist Noah returns from the UK to his mother's home in Sydney, he stumbles across The Deaf Club, a pounding nightclub run by the deaf Finn. As the two men embark on a relationship, Noah supports Finn as he takes further steps in his transition and comes out as a trans man. Through a mutual love of music from two very different perspectives, a heart-wrenching love story unfolds. Presented with AGL and Deaf Rainbow NSW | Festival Guests in attendance for Q&A with Auslan Interpreter | Australian Showcase Party Tickets available

Out Here Shorts



MONDAY 17 FEB 7PM

WORLD PREMIERE

Australia | English | 66 mins | 18+

Three fascinating, short-form documentaries shine a light on the LGBTIQ+ experience in regional and rural Australia in *Out Here*, a new joint initiative between Screen Australia and Network 10. *The Rainbow Passage* follows two transgender women in regional NSW as they navigate love, life, and womanhood. In *Alone Out Here*, gay fourth-generation farmer Jon Wright meets resistance as he attempts to transform the cattle industry. Teen activist Sam Watson takes a road trip around Tasmania in *Belonging*, examining how the state's gay law reform has impacted young LGBTIQ+ people. Festival Guests in attendance for Q&A | Australian Showcase Party Tickets available

Cloudy River + Without a Tracey



WED 19 FEB 7PM

WORLD PREMIERE

Australia | English | 68 mins | 18+

These two Australian episodics are very different but equally exciting. Both the hilarious *Without a Tracey* and the riveting *Cloudy River* are not to be missed. Boasting laugh-out-loud performances and a killer script, *Without a Tracey* sees ex-cop Tracey stumble across a murder case, in a comedy about a very serious crime that is anything but serious. While pansexual painter Cloudy and musician River navigate the complications of an open relationship in *Cloudy River*, a sexy drama about jealousy, mental health, and finding something solid in a life filled with fluidity. [Festival Guests in attendance for Q&A](#) | [Australian Showcase Party Tickets available](#)



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The Power of Queer Fandom

SAT 15 FEB

ClexaCon, the largest entertainment convention for LGBTIQ+ women and allies, takes centre stage in lively documentary *Queering the Script*. (p.49) Festival guest Danielle Jablonski, Co-Owner and Executive Director of ClexaCon, and panelists will explore the influence that queer female fandoms have had on shaping accurate character portrayals.



Game Plan: Affirmation and Inclusion in Australian Sport

SUN 23 FEB

Join Beau Newell, National Program Manager at Pride in Sport, Australia's first and only sporting inclusion program assisting sporting bodies with the inclusion of people with diverse sexualities and genders; trans athlete and pioneer Ricki Coughlan; Merrilee Barnes, Director of Inclusive Sport at the Australian Sports Commission; and Twenty10's Well Played initiative to discuss *Changing the Game* (p.42) and the hurdles faced by trans and gender diverse athletes in Australia.



Crystal Sydney

THUR 20 FEB

Stick around for a post-screening discussion of the issues raised in *Crystal City* (p.43) providing local context to the film's powerful exploration of crystal meth use in New York's gay community.

Speed Networking for Queer Filmmakers



TUES 18 FEB 7PM SET BAR

Queer Screen's filmmaker networking is a chance for you to find that missing collaborator for your next project. We encourage artists from every discipline, at whatever level they are at in their career to attend, so we can work together to advance queer film. Entry is completely free and open to filmmakers from every level. [Presented with UTS Arts and Social Sciences](#)

Masterclass with Omar Zúñiga



SUN 23 FEB 4PM SET BAR

Join the writer and director of *Los Fuertes* (p.28) and *San Cristóbal* (MGFF16) for an immersive masterclass on what it takes to direct a personal story. Omar premiered his short *San Cristóbal* at the Berlinale in 2015, where it won the Teddy Award. He is a founding partner of Cinestación, a production company that creates bold auteur filmmaking in Chile and Latin America.

Queer Screen Completion Fund

The Queer Screen Completion Fund was established to provide support to Australian LGBTIQ+ filmmakers and storytellers whose work is consistent with the vision and mission of Queer Screen.

It brings much needed financial assistance to worthy LGBTIQ+ screen projects. Queer Screen strives to support LGBTIQ+ filmmakers through grants, awards and programs. Queer filmmakers reflect the diversity of our communities and tell stories that directly reflect our lives and struggles. It is for this reason Queer Screen will provide up to \$20,000 in Completion funding for screen projects in 2020. *Cloudy River* (p.11), *More Beautiful For Having Been Broken* (p.29), and *Sequin in a Blue Room* (p.31) are all past Completion Fund recipients and feature in MGFF20.

Olivia



SAT 22 FEB 3:30PM

Directed by Jacqueline Audry | France | French with English subtitles | 95 mins | 15+

A simultaneously weird and fascinating film, *Olivia* tells the story of a young student's infatuation with her teacher. The pupils at this flamboyant French boarding school are divided by their affections for either Miss Julie or Miss Cara. When new girl Olivia arrives, her adoration is immediately coveted by both teachers. However, it soon becomes clear that Olivia's desires are directed at only one of them. This 4K restoration of the 1951 French classic brings to life the bizarre subtleties and tension-filled innuendo of queer representation in this period.

Taxi Zum Klo



MON 17 FEB 8:30PM

Directed by Frank Ripplloh | West Germany | German with English subtitles | 98 mins | R18+

Taxi Zum Klo (1980) is an audacious queer classic from Germany, which upon release created a stir because of its uninhibited depiction of gay sex. The film tells the story of Frank, a dedicated high school teacher who cruises Berlin's public toilets at night seeking anonymous thrills. Along the way, he falls in love with the sensitive and monogamous Bernd. Will Frank's voracious sexdrive derail this fledgling relationship? Restored to 2K digital, *Taxi Zum Klo's* explicit sexuality and enduring themes of monogamy and fidelity in gay relationships make it as provocative and fresh as ever, forty years after its premiere.

QUEER FILM MEETS CLASSIC PUB GRUB



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*Offer is available from Monday to Sunday, 5pm - 10pm. Dinner only. Not to be combined with any other discounts or offers. Choose mains from the Pub Favourites section and any beverage of choice.

**Mardi Gras
Film Festival**

13 - 27 Feb 2020

BIT



FRI 14 FEB 9PM & TUES 18 FEB 6:30PM

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by Brad Michael Elmore | USA | English | 90 mins | 18+

Fans of *Buffy* and *D.E.B.S* will revel in this queer, lesbian vampire film about what it means to belong. Laurel (transgender actress Nicole Maines, *Supergirl*) is graduating high school and moving to LA to crash on her brother's couch and sample the nightlife. Of course it is here that she falls in with a group of lesbian vampires, for whom the only rule is to never turn a man, because they can't be trusted with power. *BIT* has a gritty, 90s aesthetic but is set today, and Laurel's journey as a young woman finding her place in a new city, albeit with vampires, is compelling, moving, sexy and most importantly, wildly entertaining.

HalloKween Shorts



SAT 22 FEB 8:30PM

87 mins | 18+

A zombie trans woman, gay wannabe serial killer, lesbian monster in the closet, and some seriously queer transformations are just a few of the things haunting this wonderfully weird collection of shorts. Prepare for chills, thrills, and kills from this spine-tingling set of tales that draw on the unique horrors, anxieties, and desires concerning LGBTIQ+ people. Things like coming out, first crushes, dating, and explorations of sexuality and gender identity all get twisted new interpretations in this often hilarious yet spooky package, featuring Queer Palm 2019 nominee *Jeremiah*.

Scream, Queen! My Nightmare on Elm Street



QUEER SCREAM

TUES 18 FEB 8:30PM

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by Roman Chimienti, Tyler Jensen | USA | English | 99 mins | 18+

Against the backdrop of Reagan-era USA, a closeted young actor, Mark Patton, lands the lead in the hotly anticipated *A Nightmare on Elm Street 2: Freddy's Revenge*. Upon its release, it quickly earned infamy as 'the gayest horror film ever made' for its homoeroticism, and effectively ended the promising young actor's career. This fascinating documentary explores the film's subsequent cult status and its firm place in the pantheon of queer horror, and traces Patton's defiant return to Tinseltown to embrace his legacy as horror cinema's first gay male scream queen.

Spiral



FRI 21 FEB 9PM

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by Kurtis David Harder | Canada | English | 90 mins | 18+

In 1995, Malik (Jeffrey Bowyer-Chapman, *UnREAL*) and Aaron move from Chicago to small-town America with their teenage daughter, but there's something unnerving about their overly friendly new neighbours. After someone breaks in and spray-paints homophobic graffiti on their wall, Malik must reckon with past traumas as he tries to prove Rusty Creek is not what it seems. But how far is he willing to go to unravel the truth and protect his family, as his own life begins to spiral out of control? A chilling and timely addition to the queer horror canon.

15 Years



SUN 23 FEB 6PM

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by Yuval Hadadi | Israel | Hebrew with English subtitles | 89 mins | 18+

Ruggedly handsome Yoav is having a midlife crisis. Everything around him reminds him of his age, from the wrinkles on his face, his fifteenth anniversary with boyfriend Dan, to seemingly everyone in his life deciding to settle down and have kids, including best friend Alma. The last thing he wants is to be a daddy – in either sense of the word – but when it becomes clear he and Dan want different things, Yoav must confront his inner demons as his life begins to unravel around him.

Aniara



TUES 25 FEB 8:30PM

Directed by Pella Kågerman, Hugo Lilja | Sweden, Denmark | Swedish with English subtitles | 106 mins | R18+

With Earth now uninhabitable, luxury space cruise ship *Aniara* transports people to a new life on Mars. Bisexual crew member MR oversees a sentient computer that helps keep passengers calm but few use it, until the *Aniara* veers off-course without immediate means of righting its path. Overwhelmed by demands to soothe people's anxiety over an uncertain future, MR seeks out companionship in beautiful but standoffish Isagel. Exploring the personal impact of tragedy through an epic sci-fi lens, *Aniara* is a sometimes grim but gripping film that will stay with you long after the credits roll.

Billie and Emma



SAT 15 FEB 4PM

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by Samantha Lee | Philippines | Filipino & Tagalog with English subtitles | 104 mins | 15+

Billie and Emma tells the story of two young girls in the Philippines in the 1990s. When Billie arrives in the small town of San Isidro to live with her aunt, she immediately creates a stir amongst the girls at her new religious school. Meanwhile, popular, high-achieving, star pupil Emma suddenly finds her life upturned by a rush of new feelings, experiences and challenges. A rare and genuine film that captures both the simplicity and the depth of youth. **Presented with SheQu**

FEATURE FILMS

Bonnie & Bonnie

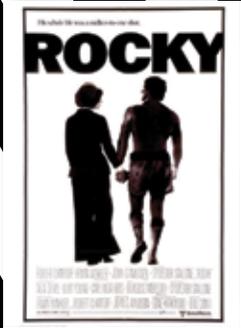


THU 20 FEB 8:30PM

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by Ali Hakim | Germany | German & Albanian with English subtitles | 90 mins | 18+

A modern day *Bonnie and Clyde* set on the 'wrong side of the river' in Hamburg. Seventeen year old Yara is trapped in a world dictated by cultural obligations to her strict Albanian family. When she meets Kiki, a free-spirited bartender, she is presented with a life she never expected. But when her secret is discovered by her domineering older brother, and becomes a shameful viral video, Yara is forced to make a life-changing decision. A thriller about the risks of being true to yourself in the face of adversity.



IN THE HOUSE

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Defiant Souls



FEATURE FILMS

SAT 15 FEB 6:30PM & MON 24 FEB 6:30PM AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by Fernando Pérez, Laura Cazador | Cuba, Switzerland | Spanish with English subtitles | 94 mins | 18+

Defiant Souls explores the extraordinary life of Enriqueta Faber, an accomplished surgeon that transgressed against the unjust patriarchy of 19th-Century colonialist Cuba, to live, love and practice medicine whilst disguised as man. Their life built as Enrique is put into jeopardy as rumours spread and suspicions arise within the community, spurred by his sympathies to the slave trade rebellion. Sexuality, gender identity and systems of oppression collide in this sweeping historical retelling of the life of Enrique Faber, subject of the most scandalous gender trial in colonial Cuban history.

Distance



TUE 25 FEB 6:30PM

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by Perci Intalan | Philippines | Tagalog with English subtitles | 91 mins | 15+

After five years living abroad, Liza returns to the life and family she left behind in the Philippines. Her husband wants things to go back to the way they were, but her daughters still have questions about why she left. As Liza grapples with her past and the choices she made, eldest daughter Karla is struggling with whether to pursue her secret crush on a girl at university. Featuring beautiful, nuanced performances, *Distance* is a poignant film about what happens when bottled-up emotions and buried secrets finally rise to the surface.

The Elder One



SUN 23 FEB 8PM

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by Geethu Mohandas | India | Malayalam, Hindi & Indian Sign Language with English subtitles | 112 mins | 18+

The disappearance of Mulla's older brother, Akbar, looms large over life in beautiful Lakshadweep. After braving the seas to find him, young Mulla is plunged headlong into the harsh realities of Mumbai's red light district and a fateful encounter with drug-addicted gangster, Bhai. In the past, a tender but forbidden love affair unfolds between Akbar and Amar, a mute islander on the verge of an arranged marriage. *The Elder One* audaciously blends social realism and magic realism; sexuality and gender identity; gay romance and crime-thriller, to startling effect. **Presented with Trikone**

End of the Century



TUES 18 FEB 8:30PM

Directed by Lucio Castro | Argentina | Spanish with English subtitles | 84 mins | 18+

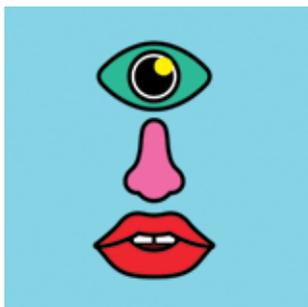
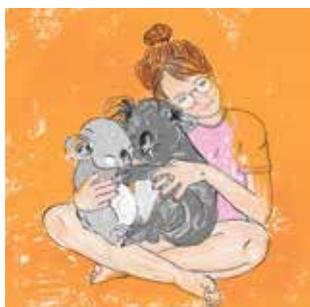
A festival favourite from QFFF19, *End of the Century* is back due to popular demand. Ocho, an Argentinian poet, and Javi, a Spanish filmmaker, meet by chance while in Barcelona. Initially intended as a brief hook-up, the two men realise that they met twenty years earlier. This serendipitous relationship unfolds in a non-linear fashion in three parts. Lucio Castro's sensual film captures the romanticism of a balmy European summer, and explores the role of fate and chance in our sexual encounters. Is this just a summer fling or are they meant for each other?

Meet Missy



Missy Dempsey from Fletcher Street Design is the illustrator & graphic designer behind Queer Screen's vibrant branding for the past 5 years. Give her a follow on Insta.

-  @missydempsey
-  missy@fletcherstreetdesign.com
-  fletcherstreetdesign.com



Fireflies



WED 26 FEB 8:30PM

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by Bani Khoshnoudi | Dominican Republic, Greece, Mexico, USA | English, and Spanish & Persian with English subtitles | 87 mins | 15+

Ramin has landed in the Mexican port city of Veracruz, lost on his way to Europe after fleeing persecution in Iran. With a boyfriend back home, Ramin is desperate to return to Tehran, but with little money finds himself stuck in the transitory city. In between learning Spanish from his sweet and lonely landlady, and working menial jobs, he meets the enigmatic Guillermo, whose tales of gang life and scarred body belies the growing closeness between the two men. The second feature from Iranian filmmaker Badi Khoshnoudi, *Fireflies* is a quietly powerful film about finding your place of belonging. **Presented with AGL**

The Glass Room



WED 26 FEB 7PM

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by Julius Ševčík | Czech Republic, Slovakia | English | 104 mins | 15+

A stunning love story of two women trapped by war and circumstance in Nazi-era Czechoslovakia. Shot on location at the historic Villa Tugendhat in the Czech Republic, this film captures the unwavering hope of love as seen through the eyes of Hana (Carice van Houten, *Game of Thrones*) and Liesel (Hanna Alström, *Kingsman*) who share an intense friendship which frequently verges on more. Based on Simon Mawer's Booker Prize-shortlisted novel of the same name, in turn based loosely on the lives of the Tugendhat family, this era-spanning film is a historical, visual feast.

The Ground Beneath My Feet



FEATURE FILMS

SAT 22 FEB 8:30PM

Directed by Marie Kreutzer | Austria | German with English subtitles | 108 mins | 18+

Lola, portrayed with impeccable iciness by the exceptional Valerie Pachner, is torn between two German cities. Rostock for a high pressure job and an illicit, hotel-room-bound affair with her boss, Elise. And Munich, as guardian for her unstable and suicidal older sister, Conny. When she receives a series of mysterious calls from her sister, Lola begins to question her own sanity and finds herself on a one-way path to oblivion that she may not be able to escape. The stark environs and nuanced performance from Pachner serve up a tense, careful and provocative film.

Label Me



MON 24 FEB 8:30PM

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by Kai Kreuser | Germany | English, and German & Arabic with English subtitles | 60 mins | 18+

Syrian refugee Waseem has arrived in Cologne seeking asylum, and to survive becomes a gay-for-pay hustler. When Waseem meets Lars, a wealthy German with a lavish lifestyle, what begins as a transactional relationship develops into a growing intimacy as Lars' increasing personal interest in Waseem slowly begins to break down the wall Waseem has built for himself. Renato Schuch and Nikolaus Benda deliver compelling performances as the two men navigating the increasing complexity of their relationship and desires, taking the audience on a journey of self-acceptance and resilience. *Screens with Faragh (22mins)*

Lingua Franca



SAT 22 FEB 6:30PM

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by Isabel Sandoval | USA, Philippines | English, and Tagalog with English subtitles | 93mins | 18+

Enchanting and sensual, this gentle romance is a landmark drama written, directed, edited by and starring critically acclaimed transgender filmmaker Isabel Sandoval. *Lingua Franca* chronicles the struggles of Olivia, an undocumented Filipina transgender woman who cares for Olga, an elderly Russian grandmother in Brooklyn. Olivia's search for love, security and a green card takes an unexpected turn following the arrival of an unlikely drifter who also happens to be Olga's adult grandson, Alex. Set against Trump-era immigration anxieties, *Lingua Franca* is a mesmerising portrait of just some of the struggles facing the transgender community. [Festival Guest Isabel Sandoval in attendance for Q&A.](#)

Lizzie



SAT 15 FEB 8:30PM & FRI 21 FEB 6:30PM

SYDNEY PREMIERE

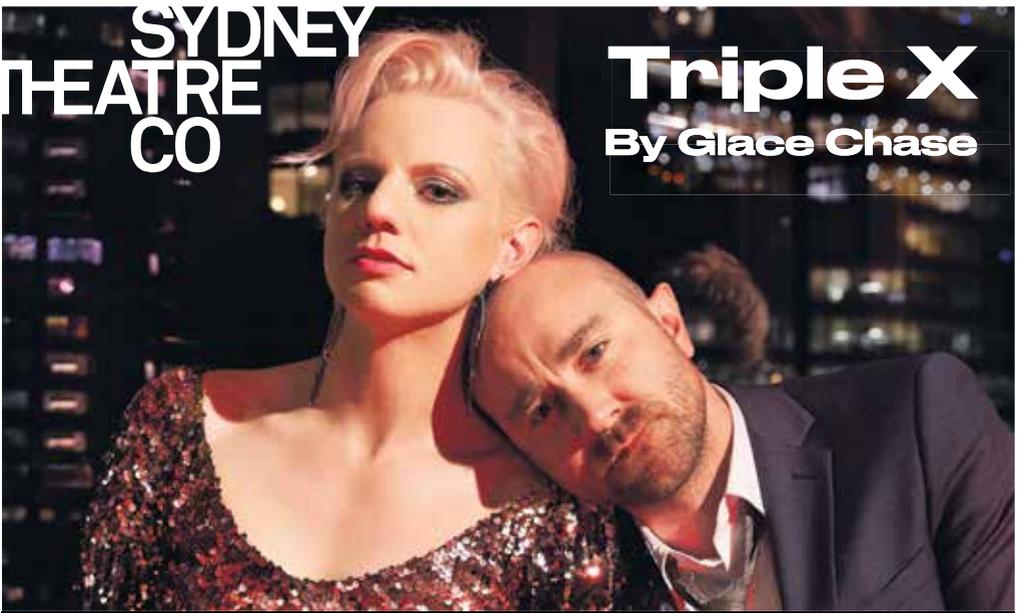
Directed by Craig William Macneill | USA | English | 105 mins | 18+

In 1892, Lizzie Borden was accused of the grisly axe murder of her father and stepmother. At 32 years of age, unmarried and already deemed an outcast by her family and society, Lizzie Borden (Chloë Sevigny) strains against stifling social conventions and the domineering and abusive rule of her father, finding solace in an intimate connection with the new housemaid Bridget (Kristen Stewart). An Official Selection at Sundance Film Festival 2018, *Lizzie* speculates a forbidden and passionate romance between the two women, and reimagines the events which led to the trial that stopped the nation.

SYDNEY
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Triple X

By Glace Chase



30 APR-23 MAY | Open your heart with this racy and hilarious rom-com reimaged, written by and starring NYC-based Australian trans drag performer Glace Chase.



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BOOK AND LYRICS
BY LISA KRON

BASED ON THE GRAPHIC NOVEL BY
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29 AUG-2 OCT | Don't miss this one-of-a-kind musical about coming out and coming of age. This brand new production of the Broadway smash-hit stars Lisa McCune (*The Sound of Music*) and Maggie McKenna (*Muriel's Wedding The Musical*).

Los Fuertes



SAT 22 FEB 6:30PM & MON 24 FEB 6:30PM AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by Omar Zúñiga | Chile | Spanish with English subtitles | 98 mins | 18+

This Chilean romantic drama is set against a stunning backdrop of crashing waves and rolling fog. Whilst visiting his sister in a remote south-Chilean town Lucas meets Antonio, an attractive local fisherman, and their chemistry is instantly palpable. But when their simmering sexual tension boils over and an intense romance blossoms, both men have major decisions to make as Lucas' planned move abroad edges ever closer. *Los Fuertes* is about finding the inner strength to be yourself instead of bowing to expectations. **Presented with SBS. Festival Guest Omar Zúñiga in attendance for Q&A**

Monsoon



SUN 16 FEB 6PM & THU 20 FEB 7PM AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by Hong Khaou | UK | English, and Vietnamese with English subtitles | 85 mins | 15+

Crazy Rich Asians' sexy leading man Henry Golding stars in this poetic film from director Hong Khaou (*Lilting* MGFF15) about a man who returns to his native Vietnam from the UK to distribute his parents' ashes. As part of his journey, he hooks up with an American, Lewis (Parker Stevens) who has his own personal connection to the country - their liaison offering both men a sympathetic ear. Asking questions about home, place and identity, this beautifully-shot film, with the dreamy Golding at its heart, finds that the answers can sometimes be wondrously elusive.

More Beautiful For Having Been Broken



FEATURE FILMS

TUES 18 FEB 7PM

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by Nicole Conn | USA | English | 111 mins | 15+

Profilic lesbian filmmaker Nicole Conn (*Elena Undone* MGFF11, *A Perfect Ending* MGFF13) returns with her new drama *More Beautiful For Having Been Broken*. McKenzie (Australian Zoe Ventoura) takes refuge in a lakeside town where she meets ten-year-old Freddie, a boy with special needs, and his beautiful single mother, Samantha. As Freddie's unique view of the world helps McKenzie heal from past trauma, her connection with Samantha deepens. This heartfelt drama reminds us about the power of love and the importance of living each day as it comes. [Presented with AGL](#) | [Festival Guests in attendance for Q&A](#)

Papi Chulo



WED 26 FEB 6:30PM

Directed by John Butler | USA, Ireland | English, and Spanish with English subtitles | 98 mins | 15+

After an on-air meltdown, gay TV weatherman Sean (Matt Bomer) is forced to take a sabbatical. But following a long-term relationship's end, the last thing he wants is to be alone. Upon hiring straight migrant day labourer Ernesto (Alejandro Patiño) to do home repairs, he finds comfort in his company, and begins paying him to spend time with him. Ernesto goes with the flow, and endures the gentle teasing of his wife and friends who struggle to understand the friendship. With *Papi Chulo*, writer-director John Butler has crafted a poignant buddy comedy about learning to finally let go.

Season of Love

OPEN CAPTIONED SCREENING



FRI 14 FEB 7PM

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by Christin Baker | USA | English | 104 mins | 15+

For anyone who loved *Love Actually*, but felt that there was one thing missing: lesbians. *Season of Love* is a lively, enthusiastic comedy following the ups and downs of three queer female relationships in the lead-up to Christmas. From left-at-the-altar breakdowns, to first kisses and friendships, this film weaves together the lives and loves of six very different women. Full of allusions to your favourite queer and Christmas classics (spot *Love Actually*, *Carol*, *Rent* and more!), *Season of Love* is a sweet, refreshingly queer, feel-good Christmas film. Presented with Deaf Rainbow NSW | Festival Guests in attendance for Q&A with Auslan interpreter

Sell By



SUN 16 FEB 8PM & TUES 18 FEB 6:30PM

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by Mike Doyle | USA | English | 92 mins | 15+

What happens when the facts don't match the Insta filter? In this comedy-drama, artist and painter Adam (Scott Evans) and successful influencer Marklin (Augustus Prew) have the seemingly perfect New York lifestyle. However, with cracks beginning to show, they'll need to put some long-held ideas about love and sex to the test. A witty exploration of modern relationships that asks: how do you live your most authentic life when you're not even sure what that is? The ensemble cast includes Kate Walsh and a cameo by the brilliant Patricia Clarkson. Presented with Novotel Sydney Darling Square

Sequin in a Blue Room



FEATURE FILMS

SUN 16 FEB 6PM

Directed by Samuel Van Grinsven | Australia | English | 80 mins | 18+

The winner of the Audience Award at the Sydney Film Festival, *Sequin in a Blue Room* explores the exciting and alienating world of hook-up culture. With stunning visuals and a gripping soundtrack, *Sequin in a Blue Room* brings to the screen the world of Sequin (Conor Leach), a teenager who finds himself ensnared in a cycle of sex, obsession, and mystery. Determined to find someone he met at an anonymous sex party, the question becomes will Sequin be able to find them before he loses himself? [Festival Guests in attendance for Q&A](#)

The Shiny Shrimps



FRI 14 FEB 6:30PM & FRI 21 FEB 8:45PM AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by Maxime Govare, Cédric Le Gallo | France | French with English subtitles | 100 mins | 15+

After making homophobic remarks on air, Matthias, a hot-headed swimming champ, is ordered to coach a diverse and flamboyant water polo team more interested in partying than competing. But before long, the Shrimps transform themselves and soon find themselves embarking on an action-packed road trip from Paris to Croatia in a beat-up old bus to compete in the Gay Games. A massive box office hit in France, *The Shiny Shrimps* is a feel-good comedy guaranteed to leave audiences on a high! [Presented with Sydney Stingers.](#) [Festival Guest Cédric Le Gallo in attendance for Q&A \(Feb 14 only\)](#)

Event Cinemas George Street

Dendy Newtown

THU 13 FEB	7:00 PM	Opening Night Gala Ellie & Abbie (& Ellie's Dead Aunt) p.6		
FRI 14 FEB	6:30 PM	Shiny Shrimps p.31		
	7:00 PM	Season Of Love p.30		
	8:30 PM	Guy on Guy Shorts p.54		
	9:00 PM	Bit p.16		
SAT 15 FEB	2:00 PM	QueerDoc Shorts p.53	1:30 PM	Queering The Script p.49
	4:00 PM	5B p.41	4:00 PM	Billie and Emma p.19
	6:00 PM	Tu Me Manques p.38		
	6:30 PM	Defiant Souls p.21	6:30 PM	Top 3 p.37
	8:30 PM	Lizzie p.26	8:30 PM	Queer Japan p.49
	9:00 PM	Young Hunter p.39		
SUN 16 FEB	6:00 PM	Monsoon p.28	5:00 PM	The Archivettes p.41
	6:00 PM	Sequin in a Blue Room p.31	7:00 PM	Unsettled: Seeking Refuge in America p.50
	8:00 PM	White Lie p.39		
	8:00 PM	Sell By p.28		
MON 17 FEB	6:30 PM	Song Lang p.35		
	7:00 PM	Out Here Shorts p.10		
	8:30 PM	Taxi zum Klo p.14		
TUE 18 FEB	6:30 PM	Sell By p.30	6:30 PM	Bit p.16
	7:00 PM	More Beautiful For Having Been Broken p.29		
	7:00 PM	Filmmaker Networking p.13		
	8:30 PM	End of the Century p.23	8:30 PM	Scream, Queen! My Nightmare on Elm Street p.17
WED 19 FEB	6:30 PM	Sid & Judy p.50	6:30 PM	Trans Shorts p.56
	7:00 PM	Cloudy River + Without a Tracey p.11		
	8:30 PM	Tu Me Manques p.38	8:30 PM	Walking with Shadows p.38
THU 20 FEB	6:30 PM	T11 Incomplete p.36	6:30 PM	Circus of Books p.43
	7:00 PM	Monsoon p.28		
	8:30 PM	Bonnie & Bonnie p.19	8:30 PM	Straight Up p.35
	9:00 PM	Crystal City p.43		

Event Cinemas George Street

Cremorne

FRI 21 FEB	6:30 PM	Lizzie p.24	6:30 PM	Tell It To The Bees p.35
	7:00 PM	And Then We Danced p.8		
	8:30 PM	Girls Like Girls Shorts p.51		
	9:00 PM	Spiral p.17	8:45 PM	The Shiny Shrimps p.29
SAT 22 FEB	1:30 PM	For They Know Not What They Do p.42	Dendy Newtown	
	3:30 PM	Olivia p.14	2:30 PM	Are You Proud? p.40
	6:00 PM	Tell It To The Bees p.37	4:30 PM	APQFFA Shorts p.53
	6:30 PM	Los Fuertes p.28	6:30 PM	Lingua Franca p.26
	8:30 PM	The Ground Beneath My Feet p.25	8:30 PM	HalloKween Shorts p.16
	9:00 PM	Jonathan Agassi Saved My Life p.47		
SUN 23 FEB	1:00 PM	Changing The Game p.42	1:00 PM	No Box For Me. An Intersex Story p.48
	4:00 PM	Lesbian Shorts p.55	3:30 PM	Gay Chorus Deep South p.47
	4:00 PM	Masterclass with Omar Zúñiga p.13		
	6:00 PM	15 Years p.18	5:30 PM	Fabulous p.46
	6:30 PM	Ellie & Abbie (& Ellie's Dead Aunt) p.6		
	8:00 PM	The Elder One p.23		
MON 24 FEB	6:30 PM	Los Fuertes p.28	6:30 PM	Defiant Souls p.21
	7:00 PM	My Queer Career Shorts p.52		
	8:30 PM	Label Me p.25	8:30 PM	A Night at Switch n' Play p.48
TUE 25 FEB	6:15 PM	The Teacher p.36		
	6:30 PM	Unsound p.10	6:30 PM	Distance p.21
	8:30 PM	And Then We Danced p.8	8:30 PM	Aniara p.18
WED 26 FEB	6:30 PM	Papi Chulo p.29	6:30 PM	White Lie p.39
	7:00 PM	The Glass Room p.26		
	8:30 PM	Gay Shorts p.54	8:30 PM	Fireflies p.24
THU 27 FEB	7:00 PM	An Almost Ordinary Summer p.7		

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Song Lang



MON 17 FEB 6:30PM

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by Leon Le | Vietnam | Vietnamese with English subtitles | 101 mins | 15+

1980s Saigon is gorgeous in this dreamy melodrama of two men who unexpectedly find solace in each other's company. The surprising connection sparks when debt collector Dung (brooding Lien Binh Phat) meets opera singer Linh Phung (V-pop sensation Isaac), who performs *cải lương*, a contemporary form of traditional Vietnamese opera. The two men from seemingly different walks of life meet when Dung shows up demanding payment from the struggling company. As the two learn that they have more in common than they thought, their smouldering friendship begins to mirror the operatic heights of *cải lương* in this gorgeously shot film.

Straight Up



THU 20 FEB 8:30PM

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by James Sweeney | USA | English | 95 mins | 15+

Much to the chagrin of his therapist, overthinker Todd (James Sweeney) has an epiphany - the answer to his loneliness is to be... straight! Who cares that he loves *Legally Blonde* and cashmere sweaters? Enter Rory (Katie Findlay), who can return Todd's banter better than anyone. But is that enough to build a relationship? Especially when no one wants to talk about S-E-X? Could she be the Doris Day to his... um... Rock Hudson? Bursting with eminently quotable dialogue, and full of pop culture references, this modern screwball comedy is charming from start to end.

T11 Incomplete



THU 20 FEB 6:30PM

WORLD PREMIERE

Directed by Suzanne Guacci | USA | English | 107 mins | 18+

Recovering alcoholic Kate (Karen Sillas, *Female Perversions*) is working as a home health aide striving to rebuild her life and her relationship with her adult son (Zachary Booth, *After Louie* QSFF17). Laura (Kristen Renton from *Sons of Anarchy*) is a fiercely independent paraplegic who is fighting her own demons. When circumstances bring the two together they find commonality in their struggles and an undeniable connection deepens until trust is tested. This world premiere is an authentic, romantic and heartfelt character study about people striving to be better. **Festival Guest** [Suzanna Guacci in attendance for Q&A](#)

The Teacher



TUE 25 FEB 6:15PM

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by Ming-Lang Chen | Taiwan | Mandarin & Taiwanese with English subtitles | 92 mins | 15+

A story about loving and living in a society that is slowly working towards acceptance, this love letter to Taiwan explores culture, expectation and the high stakes of love. Kevin is a passionate and at times painfully naïve romantic that has been swept off his feet by a reserved older man. As their relationship develops, he must face internal and external pressure while trying to figure out the type of person he wants to be. Set against the backdrop of the fight for marriage equality in Taiwan, *The Teacher* captures the friction of living in a country moving towards progressiveness while still grappling with conservative attitudes.

Tell it to the Bees



FEATURE FILMS

FRI 21 FEB 6:30PM & SAT 22 FEB 6PM

Directed by Annabel Jankel | UK | English | 106 mins | MA15+

In the UK in the 1950s, Dr. Jean (Anna Paquin) has returned to her hometown where whispers of improper acts as a schoolgirl follow her. Lydia (Holliday Grainger) and her son are looking for a home, and Jean kindly takes them in. Lydia finds herself drawn to Jean in a way she never expected, and the two embark on a passionate affair that starts a series of events which neither of them can stop. This sweeping period drama has an intoxicating mix of romance and magical realism, and is an engrossing story about love and sacrifice. [Presented with The Bookshop Darlington](#)

Top 3



SAT 15 FEB 6:30PM

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by Sofie Edvardsson | Sweden | Swedish with English subtitles | 44 mins | 15+

Anton loves making lists. Anton loves David even more. From the first time he laid eyes on him, Anton knew his life was never going to be the same. But when they realise they want totally different things in life, is love enough to keep them together? Featuring wonderfully inventive animation that takes us to picturesque Sweden, vibrant India, beautiful Japan, and inside Anton's mind at its most euphoric and neurotic, *Top 3* is a bittersweet comedy about what happens when our dreams don't quite fit into our reality. Add it to your top three must-see list now! [Screens with Wonder \(17 mins\)](#) and [Engaged \(17 mins\)](#)

Tu Me Manques



SAT 15 FEB 6PM & WED 19 FEB 8:30PM

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by Rodrigo Bellott | Bolivia, USA | English, and Spanish with English subtitles | 105 mins | 18+

In French you don't say "I miss you". You say "tu me manques" which translates to "you are missing from me". Sebastian and Gabriel are two Bolivian men living in New York City who meet serendipitously and are instantly drawn to one another. As they fall in love, the complicated issue of Gabriel coming out to his family back home starts to drive a wedge in their fairytale life stateside. Based on a play that started a revolution in Bolivia, *Tu Me Manques* is an innovative film which turns a deeply personal story into a universal call for love and acceptance.

Walking with Shadows



WED 19 FEB 8:30PM

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by Aoife O'Kelly | UK, Nigeria | English | 90 mins | 15+

Based on Jude Dibia's groundbreaking 2005 novel, *Walking with Shadows* is an intimate look at being forced to live in the closet. In the conservative nation of Nigeria, Adrian Njoko has created a life that fits the expectations of society and his family. However, it all comes crashing down when his sexuality and past is exposed to his loved ones. The empathy that permeates the novel is rich within this film, and Ozzy Agu brings an aching yearning to the role of Adrian, as the film explores the damage done by being forced to hide your true self and the strength it takes to move forward.

White Lie



FEATURE FILMS

SUN 16 FEB 8PM & WED 26 FEB 6:30PM AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by Yonah Lewis, Calvin Thomas | Canada | English | 96 mins | 15+

Why would anyone fake having cancer? Dance student Katie Arneson is a star on campus; she's the brave girl who's fighting melanoma and raising money for charity. Except it's all a lie. When she's told that her grant is in jeopardy, her loving girlfriend Jennifer offers to give her money. Katie turns to her father instead but he doesn't believe her, hinting at a troubled history and past trauma. *White Lie* ramps up the tension as Katie digs in and her elaborate charade begins to publicly fall apart.

Young Hunter



SAT 15 FEB 9PM

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by Marco Berger | Argentina | Spanish with English subtitles | 102 mins | 18+

With his parents away on holiday, awkward teenager Ezéquiél is desperate to use his newfound independence to explore his burgeoning sexuality. When he's approached by attractive, older Mono (Lautaro Rodríguez *My Best Friend* MGFF19) at the skate park it's like something out of a dream – but this isn't your typical coming-of-age romance. As Ezéquiél's feelings for Mono grow he's drawn into a dark web of deceit that may just compromise his own innocence. With signature restraint, Marco Berger (*The Blonde One* MGFF19) delivers a surprising and haunting thriller about youth caught in a cycle of exploitation.

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SAT 15 FEB 4PM

SYDNEY PREMIERE

Directed by Paul Haggis, Dan Krauss | USA | English | 93 mins | 15+

The start of the HIV epidemic is well-documented, but this heartfelt documentary on ward 5B in San Francisco brings a new, personal perspective to the experience. Complex villains and heroes emerge through a rich mixture of archival footage, interviews and masterful storytelling. *5B* is an incredible, resonant and important story about a troubling period in history. Some of the footage and material covered is upsetting and tissues are almost mandatory, but ultimately, this doc is a powerful, moving, informative and surprisingly hopeful experience. [Screens with / Bleed \(7 mins\)](#)

The Archivettes



SUN 16 FEB 5PM

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by Megan Rossman | USA | English | 61 mins | 15+

The story behind the Lesbian Herstory Archives is one of hope, community and passion. In the 1970s, Deborah Edel and Joan Nestle co-founded a library of artifacts that speak to the lesbian experience. Documentarian Megan Rossman has skillfully interspersed interviews with valuable footage and photographs of milestones achieved by the LHA over the past 40 years. The resulting experience, with a sentiment of pride sure to resonate with any viewer, provides inspiration to participate in and understand more about not only lesbian, but LGBTIQ+ history. [Screens with Nice Chinese Girls Don't! \(20 mins\)](#)

Are You Proud?



SAT 22 FEB 2:30PM

FREE SCREENING AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by Ashley Joiner | UK | English | 96 mins | 15+

Are You Proud? tracks the rise of UK Pride from its beginnings through to the diverse range of Pride celebrations that exist today. It provides a thorough history of Pride, featuring interviews with some of the trailblazers of the Gay Liberation Front, as well as present-day community leaders. This vital documentary isn't just a historical recount - it embraces intersectionality and the nuance of identity to explore what Pride means. *Are You Proud?* shows us where we've come from and leaves us with the question of how to move forward. [Bookings essential.](#)

Changing the Game



SUN 23 FEB 1PM

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by Michael Barnett | USA | English | 95 mins | 15+

A timely and urgent documentary following three transgender teens fighting for their right to compete in the sports they love. Mack Beggs, a wrestler who made headlines around the world when he became the Texas state champion in the girls' division - twice. Sarah Rose Huckman, a skier and policymaker fighting for equal rights in New Hampshire. And Andraya Yearwood, an African American track star in Connecticut who is allowed to compete with other women, but faces a torrent of abuse from the sidelines. [Presented with Pride in Sport.](#)

42 [Panel discussion to follow the screening \(more info page 12\)](#)

Circus of Books



THU 20 FEB 6:30PM

SYDNEY PREMIERE

Directed by Rachel Mason | USA | English | 92 mins | 18+

This fascinating, warm and often humorous documentary is directed by Rachel Mason, who grew up in Los Angeles with her parents and two brothers. This close-knit suburban family appeared to be run of the mill, but Mason's parents were in fact successful distributors of X-rated gay porn films and magazines, and even faced jail time during the Reagan era! The Masons owned Circus of Books, West Hollywood's premiere gay adult bookstore. *Circus of Books* profiles this sweet, elderly Jewish couple and explores their personalities, their past, and the reasons they entered the risky world of gay porn. [Presented with The Bookshop Darlinghurst](#)

Crystal City



THU 20 FEB 9PM

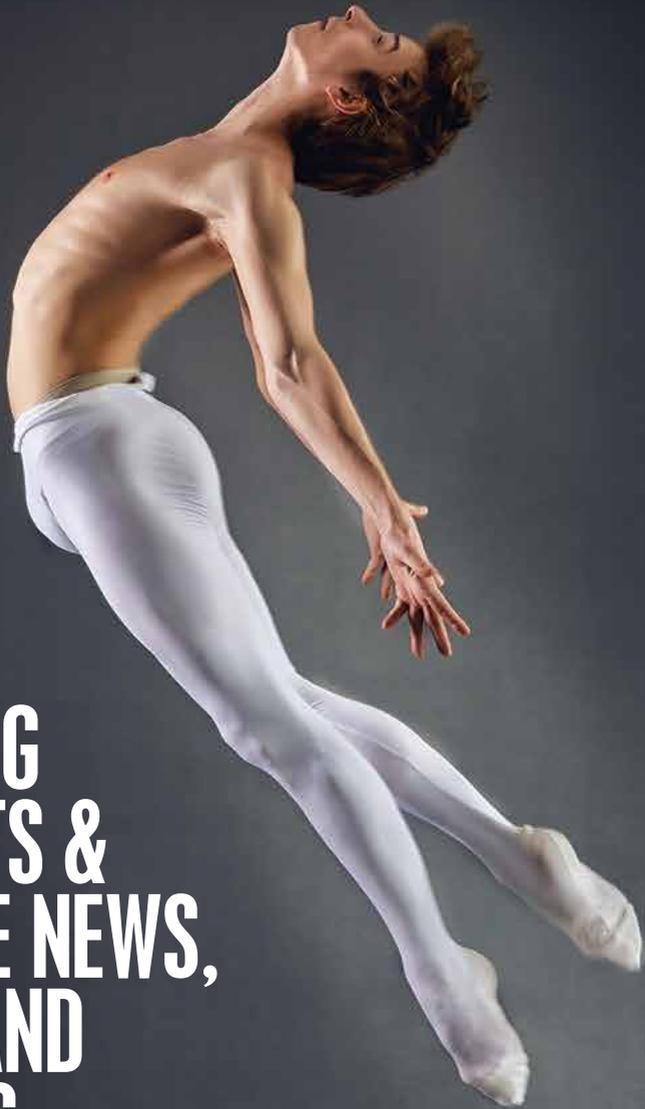
AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by Terrence Crawford | USA | English | 89 mins | 18+

It's 2019 in New York City and there's been a 400% surge in the use of crystal meth in the gay community. In this gritty, harrowing and provocative documentary, we trace the lives of 12 courageous men over the course of a year, as they struggle to put - and keep - their addictions behind them, while revealing the allure and terror of this highly addictive drug. Beautifully cinematic, informative and powerfully inspirational, this is a sensitive tale of hope and survival that will stay with you long after the credits roll.

[Post-screening discussion to follow \(more info page 12\)](#)

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Fabulous



SUN 23 FEB 5:30PM

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by Audrey Jean-Baptiste | French Guiana | French with English subtitles | 46 mins | 15+

Lasseindra Ninja, founder of the House of Ninja in Paris, left for NYC to spread her wings at a young age, discovered the underground ballroom scene, and the rest is history. She returns home to French Guiana to bring the art of voguing to the young LGBTIQ+ community who still have to contend with cultural attitudes toward masculinity and homosexuality. Voguing isn't just dance moves, it's attitude. Together Lasseindra and her young crew set about demonstrating their authenticity with love, pride and pure fabulousness. [Screens with Father Figure \(25 mins\)](#) and [Haus \(14 mins\)](#)

For They Know Not What They Do



SAT 22 FEB 1:30PM

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by Daniel Karlake | USA, Germany | English | 92 mins | 15+

With a focus on four gay and transgender Americans and their devout Christian families, this moving documentary shines a light on the love and acceptance possible within faith, while profiling the continued struggles for acceptance at the intersection of sexuality, gender identity, politics, and religion. As religious freedom is increasingly used as an excuse to target the LGBTIQ+ community here in Australia, director Daniel Karlake's poignant follow-up to *For the Bible Tells Me So* (2007) is both timely and hopeful for the future, and highlights the importance of resilience, family, and making amends for past mistakes.

Gay Chorus Deep South



SUN 23 FEB 3:30PM

SYDNEY PREMIERE

Directed by David Charles | USA | English | 97 mins | 15+

Winner of the Documentary Audience Award at 2019's Tribeca Film Festival, this inspiring film follows the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus as they travel through the US Bible Belt – a region with some of America's most restrictive anti-discrimination laws. Along the way, they attempt to reconnect with the churches, communities and family members that previously rejected them, with their soaring vocals providing a rousing gospel soundtrack to their journey. A touching film that hits all the right notes and shows the power of music to ignite dialogue and spread hope. [Presented with Sydney Gay & Lesbian Choir](#)

Jonathan Agassi Saved My Life



SAT 22 FEB 9PM

Directed by Tomer Heymann | Israel | Hebrew with English subtitles | 105 mins | 18+

Offering explicit access to Israeli adult film star Jonathan Agassi's life, on camera and off, it's often the unique bond with his supportive mum and their time together that's the most fascinating to watch. Charting his rapid rise to fame and his attempts to cope with the pressures that brings, *Jonathan Agassi Saved My Life* is a personal story of addiction and survival. Filmed over eight years, it offers an at times confronting look behind the curtain at a man many think they know, but few have seen this naked and raw.

No Box For Me. An Intersex Story



SUN 23 FEB 1PM

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by Floriane Devigne | France | French with English subtitles | 58 mins | 15+

Through intimate interviews and footage, we are given a careful, thought-provoking and informative window into the lives of four young people in France and Switzerland, who also happen to be intersex. They provide a fascinating viewpoint that is rarely spoken about and for generations has been seen as taboo by society in general. With a mixture of warmth and intelligence, we are given insights and come to new understandings that pave the path for a brighter, braver and more diverse future. [Screens with *A Normal Girl* \(14mins\) and *XY* \(16 mins\)](#)

A Night at Switch N' Play



MON 24 FEB 8:30PM

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by Cody Stickels | USA | English | 71 mins | 18+

Forget about *RuPaul's Drag Race* and dive into *A Night at Switch n' Play*, the New York destination for queer culture and the art of drag. The Switch n' Play collective is a modern twist on drag houses and ballroom culture. This documentary spans several performances from the collective, with interviews giving us access to their inspirations and aspirations as queer people and as performers. Be captivated by the friendship, the power of their performances and the all-round fantastic vibe of this fun, heartfelt documentary. [Screens with *Love & Revolution* \(6 mins\)](#)

Queer Japan



SAT 15 FEB 8:30PM

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by Graham Kolbeins | USA, Japan | English, and Japanese with English subtitles | 100 mins | 18+

Think you know Japan? Think again! *Queer Japan* is here to take you on a journey through parts of the country that you won't see in travel guides. From the underground gay scene in Tokyo, to the avant-garde party scene, to the quieter Okinawa - *Queer Japan* opens the doors to the fascinating spectrum that is 'queer' in this traditionally closed off society. Get ready for a surprising side of Japan - one that's brilliant, strange, and will no doubt have you planning your next trip.

Queering the Script



SAT 15 FEB 1:30PM

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by Gabrielle Zilkha | Canada, USA | English | 90 mins | 15+

Dust off your chakrams and brush up on your *Buffy* trivia because *Queering the Script* will take you on a trip down nostalgia lane. A love letter to LGBTIQ+ fans this documentary charts the evolution of queer women on screen, and traces the moments that have galvanised us through the fanfic-filled, cosplaying glory of shows like *Xena* to *The 100*. Set amidst an all-woman retreat for *Xena* fans and ClexaCon (the largest fandom event for LGBTIQ+ women and allies globally), *Queering the Script* demonstrates the impact of fandoms on the media landscape. [Panel discussion to follow the screening \(more info page 12\)](#)

Sid & Judy



WED 19 FEB 6:30PM

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by Stephen Kijak | USA | English | 100 mins | 15+

Judy Garland fever is upon us! Hot on the heels of Renée Zellweger's incredible performance in *Judy* comes this fresh look at Judy Garland's life based on the unpublished memoirs of her third husband, Sid Luft. With Luft's writing read by Jon Hamm (while Jennifer Jason Leigh adds some wry touches as Garland), this documentary explores the performer's rise to become a legend. Featuring plenty of archival footage, including goosebump-inducing live recordings of Garland herself, this is a fascinating profile told by someone who knew the icon intimately. [Presented with The Bookshop Darlinghurst](#)

Unsettled: Seeking Refuge in America



SUN 16 FEB 7PM

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by Tom Shepard | USA | English | 84 mins | 15+

Four queer refugees – Subhi, Junior, Cheyenne and Mari – arrive in San Francisco to seek asylum in the United States. Fleeing persecution at home, they struggle to secure basic human needs and overcome loneliness, homesickness and isolation in a country not their own. Acclaimed documentarian Tom Shepard unpacks their stories with care and it's impossible not to be shattered by the lows and delighted by the highs they experience. *Unsettled* provides an opportunity to bear witness to the real lives of the real people who are conspicuously absent from politics. [Presented with AGL](#)



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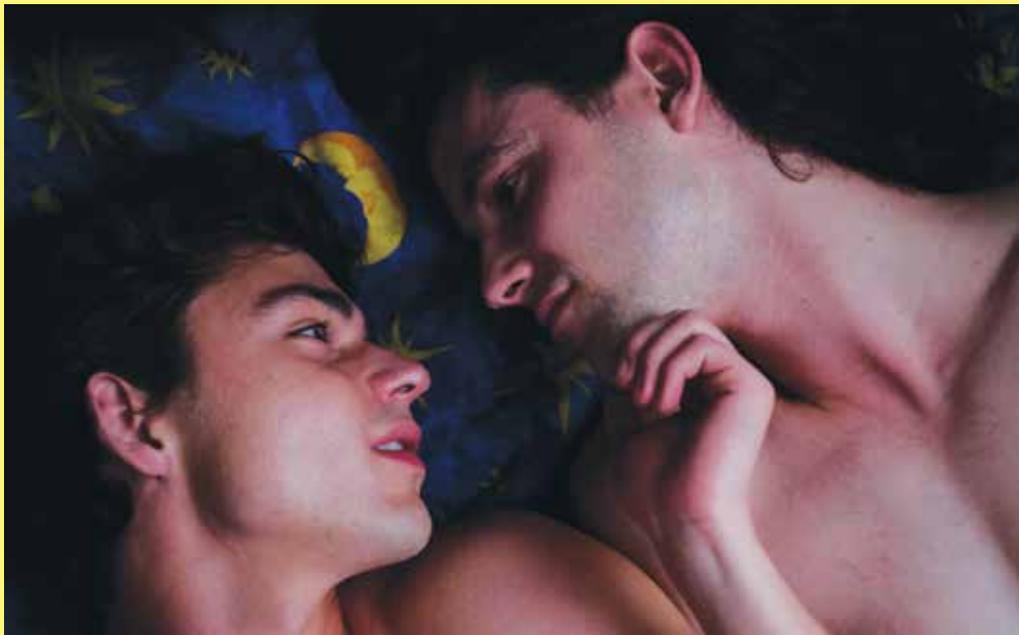


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MON 24 FEB 7PM 105mins 18+

All Good Things (13mins)

Directed by Simon Croker

Produced by Linus Gibson

Boldly Go (6 mins)

Directed and Produced by Christopher Cosgrove

Kids on Fire (8 mins)

Directed by Tommy Hart

Produced by Frances Mariani, Olivia Fay

Lone Wolf (7 mins)

Directed by January Jones

Produced by Mary Musolino

Long Distance (7 mins)

Directed by Anoop Lokkur

Produced by Tiffanie-Jowie Liew, Anoop Lokkur

Mindset (12 mins)

Directed by Amelia Crawford

Produced by Magdalen Lovegrove

St. Augustine (17 mins)

Directed by Thomas Wilson-White

Produced by Lizzie Cater

Strangers (13 mins)

Directed by Jamieson Pearce

Produced by Liam Heyen, Cyna Strachan

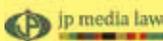
We're All In This Together (11 mins)

Directed and Produced by Logan Mucha

We're Not Here (11 mins)

Directed by Bonnie Moir

Produced by Benjamin Rigby



Asia Pacific Queer Film Festival Alliance Shorts



SHORTS

SAT 22 FEB 4:30PM

90 mins | 18+

Representing some of the best short films from the region, these Asia Pacific Queer Film Festival Alliance (APQFFA) shorts include a lesbian couple's secret rendezvous, a trans boy's fight to wear what he wants, a gay man's heartfelt plea for acceptance, a trans woman's attempt to give an abandoned baby a better life, a single mother's growing infatuation for her son's teacher, and even a sexy peek into a gay soldier's kinky relationship. Featuring APQFFA Best Short Film 2019 winner *A Gift (Kado)*, this package highlights defiant resistance against cultural norms.

Queer Doc Shorts



SAT 15 FEB 2PM

97 mins | 15+

This diverse selection of documentaries profile LGBTIQ+ people carving out space for themselves in communities, societies, and even families that weren't built with them in mind. Originating in Asia, Europe, North America and the Middle East, these shorts delve into an HIV+ gay couple's artistic collaboration, a lesbian stripper's day-to-day life, a boy's journey towards acceptance by homophobic parents, the Taiwanese queer community's marriage equality celebrations, long-buried interviews with trans people from the 1950s, the importance of a safe space for Lebanese women and queer people, and reflections from children with same-sex parents.

Gay Shorts



WED 26 FEB 8:30PM

101 mins | 18+

Bringing together a variety of shorts that explore the experiences of vastly different men, at their core each film grapples with the nature of perception and how we categorise people. Featuring Iris Prize 2019 winner *Black Hat* and Queer Palm Short Film 2018 winner *The Orphan*, this package showcases filmmaking that's at times beautiful, poetic, side-splitting, and outrageous. Whether tackling traditionally serious subjects as asylum seekers, rejection, adoption, and religion, or seemingly mundane as nail polish, Céline Dion, dancing, and Grindr, each story offers a unique perspective on gay life.

Guy on Guy Shorts



FRI 14 FEB 8:30PM

103 mins | 18+

Connected by a shared reverence for the male form, both clothed and in all its glory, these sexy shorts cover a surprising amount despite their relatively skimpy length. Stimulate your mind and senses as this brief set of tales collectively explore issues of sexual empowerment, identity, stigma, kink, fear of intimacy, romance, pornography, and the very nature of desire. With psychosexual thrillers, quirky comedies, and meditative arthouse fare, this package is bursting at the seams with a variety of films to suit every taste, including poignant multi-award winning drama *Thrive*.

Lesbian Shorts



SHORTS

SUN 23 FEB 4PM

93 mins | 15+

Capturing the experiences of women caught at a crossroads in life, these shorts reflect how even small decisions can affect others. Offering insights into the worlds of a Palestinian asylum seeker, two Muslim women's oddly familiar pillow talk, an older woman's memories of schoolgirl romance, a conflicted woman going through IVF treatment, a couple's jumbled breakup, a student's magical secret to overcoming her straight girl crush and a thirteen year-old busybody who's hellbent on "saving" an agnostic lesbian's soul. This package explores the variety of lesbian life, both serious and hilarious.

Girls Like Girls Shorts



FRI 21 FEB 8:30PM

101 mins | 18+

Winner of the Outfest Los Angeles Audience Award for Best Narrative Short 2019, *Time & Again* is just one from this assortment of shorts about queer women, regardless of how they identify. These are the stories of their discreet dalliances, stubborn grudges, cinematic escapades, roadside encounters, repressed crushes, long-awaited kisses and out-and-out romance in its purest form. Serious, silly, and even strange, these shorts stretch the bounds of genre, tone and the Kinsey scale whether it's about going to karaoke, down memory lane, or to St Kilda beach in search of dolphins.

Transgender Shorts



WED 19 FEB 6:30PM

84 mins | 15+

This collection of diverse shorts share a narrative throughline of transgender people - both real and fictional - claiming a space for themselves in society, history, and life. Showcasing some of the best and most moving filmmaking around the transgender experience being made around the world, this package of beautifully realised shorts confronts bigotry, stereotypes, religion, cultural norms, and the medical establishment. Featuring the multiple award-winning *Miller & Son* and Asia Pacific Queer Film Festival Alliance 2019 winner, *A Gift (Kado)* is a must-see.

Same But Different: A True New Zealand Love Story



#MGFF20 ON TOUR

Directed by Nikki Si'ulepa | New Zealand | English | 95 mins | 15+

The QSFF19 audience in September fell in love with this film, so we are taking it on tour in March! When bumbling single mum Rachel meets stunning Kiwi-Samoan filmmaker Nikki it's love at first sight - at least for Rachel. After a hilariously awkward beginning, true love surely beckons for this sexy odd couple. A modern, cross-cultural romantic comedy about being your true self.

#MGFF20 ON TOUR

Event Cinemas, Manuka (Canberra)

An Almost Ordinary Summer

Fri 13 Mar 7PM

Transgender Shorts

Sat 14 Mar 6PM

White Lie

Sat 14 Mar 8PM

5B + I Bleed (Short)

Sun 15 Mar 4PM

Same But Different:

A True New Zealand Love Story

Sun 15 Mar 6PM

Riverside Theatres (Parramatta)

The Elder One

Fri 20 Mar 7PM

Same But Different:

A True New Zealand Love Story

Sat 21 Mar 6PM

15 Years

Sat 21 Mar 8:15PM

Unsettled: Seeking Refuge in America + Love & Revolution (Short)

Sun 22 Mar 5PM

Fireflies

Sun 22 Mar 7:15PM

BCC (Lismore)

An Almost Ordinary Summer

Fri 20 Mar 7PM

Gay Shorts

Sat 21 Mar 4PM

Lesbian Shorts

Sat 21 Mar 6PM

Same But Different:

A True New Zealand Love Story

Sat 21 Mar 8PM

Event Cinemas, Kotara (Newcastle)

An Almost Ordinary Summer

Fri 27 Mar 7PM

Gay Shorts

Sat 28 Mar 4PM

Lesbian Shorts

Sat 28 Mar 6PM

Same But Different:

A True New Zealand Love Story

Sat 28 Mar 8PM

Mount Vic Flicks (Blue Mountains)

Same But Different:

A True New Zealand Love Story

Fri 27 Mar 8PM

Gay Shorts

Sat 28 Mar 6PM

An Almost Ordinary Summer

Sat 28 Mar 8PM

Lesbian Shorts

Sun 29 Mar 4PM

Festival Tickets

Sydney Pricing Info

Full	\$19.90
Concession	\$17.90
Queer Screen Members	\$16.90
APQFFA Shorts	\$10

Flexi Passes

Flexi 5 Pass	\$90
Queer Screen Members	\$75
Flexi 10 Pass	\$170
Queer Screen Members	\$140

Up to 2 tickets per session can be redeemed on your pass until it's full. Passes can be redeemed for any session. Tickets on your Flexi Pass can be redeemed for all tour screenings.

Gala Events

Opening Night Gala: *Ellie & Abbie*
(*& Ellie's Dead Aunt*)

Closing Night Gala: *An Almost Ordinary Summer*

Australian Showcase Film + Parties
(pg 10 & 11)

Film + Party	\$32
Concession	\$30
Queer Screen Members	\$29

Film Only tickets are also available. Flexi 5 and Flexi 10 passes can be used to redeem Film Only tickets; "Party Add-On" tickets are available at an additional charge.

Please visit queerscreen.org.au for full terms and conditions.

#MGFF20 On Tour Pricing Info

Canberra, Parramatta, Lismore & Newcastle	\$19.90
Concession	\$17.90
Queer Screen Members	\$16.90

Blue Mountain Screenings	\$15.00
Concession	\$13.00
Queer Screen Members	\$12.00

Online & Over the Phone Bookings

Visit queerscreen.org.au to book tickets via our website.

To download the Queer Screen app visit Google Play for Android or the App Store for Apple.

Phone 02 9280 1533 for telephone bookings between 10am - 6pm weekdays.

In Person Bookings - Pre Festival

By appointment only at the Queer Screen office between 10am - 6pm on weekdays.

500 Harris St, Sydney.

Please call 02 9280 1533 to arrange a time.

In Person Bookings - During the Festival

Tickets for all sessions are available from the Queer Screen desk at all venues unless sold out. The box office opens one hour before the first session of the day.

Classification

Please check the classification of the screenings you are attending. Anyone under the age of 18 will not be allowed into 18+ sessions. Anyone under the age of 15 will not be allowed into 15+ sessions unless accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Venues

Venue Information

Event Cinemas

505/525 George St, Sydney

Dendy Newtown

261-263 King St, Newtown

Hayden Orpheum

380 Military Rd, Cremorne

Accessibility

Queer Screen welcomes all visitors to screenings and events, and endeavours to increase the accessibility of the Mardi Gras Film Festival 2020. For venue specific access information please visit queerscreen.org.au

For all access bookings and enquiries, and to notify us of your needs so we can make your visit as enjoyable as possible, please email ticketing@queerscreen.org.au

Companion Cards

Queer Screen accepts Companion Cards to all sessions. For guests who require assistance of a companion or carer, a second ticket is issued at no cost to the Companion Card holder.

Wheelchair Spaces

All venues at Queer Screen's 27th Mardi Gras Film Festival are wheelchair accessible and have a limited number of wheelchair spaces per theatre. We encourage booking - to do so please email ticketing@queerscreen.org.au

Open Captions

Open Captioning is a text display of all the words and sounds heard on screen. Queer Screen's 27th Mardi Gras Film Festival will screen 3 films with open captions, *Unsound* (p.10) *Season of Love* (p.30) and *5B* (p.41)

Subtitled Screenings

All foreign language in films is subtitled in English. This does not include full open captions.

Youth Tickets (25 and Under)

\$10 tickets on the door! See website for full details.

Become a Member

Membership - a friendship with benefits! Queer Screen members save money on tickets and gain priority entry to our festival screenings. And, your support helps us do what we do best: keep the big screens queer and provide much needed support for queer filmmakers. If you're an avid fan of queer film, then the Deluxe or Super Deluxe membership is the friend you've been looking for. queerscreen.org.au/membership

Queer Screen Membership Pricing

Standard	\$45
Youth	\$20
Concession	\$10
Senior (60+)	\$10
Premium	\$150
Deluxe	\$375
Super Deluxe	\$500

Donate to Queer Screen

Queer Screen is a not-for-profit arts organisation who, with the assistance of generous supporters, stages events such as the Mardi Gras Film Festival and Queer Screen Film Fest. All donations over \$2 are tax deductible and assist Queer Screen to reach its goals. For more information about how to donate visit queerscreen.org.au



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- Access to St Vincent's Stimulant Health Check service



acon.org.au/substance-support

**Check out the self-assessment tool at
Pivot Point: pivotpoint.org.au**

**For all enquiries please call
02 9206 2000**

This program is funded by Central and Eastern Sydney Primary Health Network.



Thanks/Who We Are

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at fletcherstreetdesign.com

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Animation by Missy Dempsey, Gabriel Virata

Key Volunteers Adrik Kemp, David Blanco,

Hamish Elliot, HollyMae Steane Price, Jean Kearney, Paula Henderson, Robert O'Shea, Ron McCullagh, Sanouk Peiper, Teresa Pham, Thomas Hamilton, Zach Bui

Prescreening Team A huge thanks to all members of the team, including many helping Queer Screen in other areas and with a shout out to Aaron Sue, Alan Tubery, Carol Muller, David Harper, Diana King, Gail Hewison, Jonathan Solomon, Rolmar Baldonado, Sal Colecin, Terence Priestler, Troy Byrnes, Tsachi Pilosoff & Wayne C. Blair for the sheer volume.

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The energy within Mardi Gras Film Festival

Queer Screen's Mardi Gras Film Festival recognises LGBTIQ+ filmmakers past, present and future. It's an important place to come together and celebrate the creative talents of our queer community. That's why AGL has been a proud partner since 2016.

agl.com.au/pride

