



11th  
**queerscreen**  
**film fest** 

28 Aug - 1 Sep 2024 In Cinema  
2-8 Sep 2024 On Demand

[queerscreen.org.au](http://queerscreen.org.au)

# Welcome!

Get ready to feast your eyes on 35 new and a few favourite LGBTIQ+ films at the 11th edition of Queer Screen Film Fest. We're bookending the festival with two fabulously flirty and romantic films, and we're continuing that theme with an incredible documentary in the program. Enjoy appearances from well-known faces like Elliot Page, Evan Rachel Wood, Lukas Gage, and Australia's own Keiynan Lonsdale. Don't miss our two Australian films, including one having its world premiere.



**Lisa Rose**  
Queer Screen Festival Director

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the Editors



SYDNEY  
FILM  
FESTIVAL



## OPENING NIGHT



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

## The Astronaut Lovers

Directed by Marco Berger | Argentina, Spain | Spanish, English Subtitles | 116 mins | Unclassified 15+

Festival favourite Marco Berger (*The Blonde One*, MGFF19) teases with another story about male desire that sizzles just below the surface. One hot summer, openly gay Pedro returns to Buenos Aires to spend a holiday with his cousin and some friends – including Maxi, who's seemingly straight and full of swagger. The pair enjoys some friendly, machismo-fuelled flirting that even they're not sure how to contain, but are they playing with fire? With a palpable chemistry between his two leads, Berger keeps them (and us) on the very edge. Opening Night Party tickets are available.

WED 28 AUG 7PM, Event George St

CLOSING NIGHT



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

**Gondola**

Directed by Veit Helmer | Germany, Georgia | No Dialogue | 82 mins | Unclassified 15+

Public service announcement: this super-charming film will leave you grinning from ear to ear. Cleverly told without a word of dialogue, *Gondola* sparks queer joy as it follows the burgeoning romance between two young female cable-car conductors whose carriages pass each other all day long. As their chemistry blooms, they find ingenious ways to communicate their feelings. This funny and totally original love story is well worth the ride!

**SUN 1 SEP 7PM, Event George St**  
**MON 2 – SUN 8 SEP, On Demand**

CENTREPIECE



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

**Close to You**

Directed by Dominic Savage | Canada | English | 100 mins | Unclassified 15+

After years in Toronto, Sam (Elliot Page) takes a long-dreaded trip to visit family for the first time since his transition. En route, he runs into Katherine, a high school crush, and feelings from their unresolved past begin to bubble to the surface. Capturing an all-too-familiar experience of trying to remain patient in the face of clumsy (if well-intentioned) acceptance, *Close to You* is an emotionally observant drama about coming home as yourself, only to be treated like a completely different person. Content warning, see website.

**SAT 31 AUG 6PM, Event George St**



## All Shall Be Well

Directed by Ray Yeung | Hong Kong, China | Cantonese, English Subtitles | 95 mins | Unclassified 15+

Hong Kong couple Pat and Angie have been devoted to each other for over 30 years, with the full support of Pat's extended family. However, when Pat dies without leaving a will, a devastated Angie is confronted with the true limits of acceptance as money and the law become involved. Filmmaker Ray Yeung (*Twilight's Kiss*, *MGFF21*; see it On Demand) delivers a powerfully restrained examination of grief in the face of inequality in this Berlinale Teddy award winner.

**SAT 31 AUG 6:30PM, Event George St**



SYDNEY PREMIERE

## American Parent

Directed by Emily Railsback | USA | English | 68 mins | Unclassified 15+

This warm indie drama tenderly follows the everyday life of a lesbian couple trying to raise their toddler while navigating financial and career uncertainties during the pandemic. When Bette and Elsie find themselves jobless and potentially homeless, they turn to Elsie's wealthy, religious aunt for help. However, assistance comes with strings attached, and the couple must confront what matters most in their life together. [Content warning, see website.](#) [Screens with \*Expecting\* \(30 mins\).](#)

**THU 29 AUG 7PM, Event George St**  
**MON 2 – SUN 8 SEP, On Demand**



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

## Baby

Directed by Marcelo Caetano | Brazil, France, The Netherlands | Portuguese, English Subtitles | 106 mins | Unclassified 18+

Fresh from a stint in juvie, 18 year old Wellington must fend for himself on the streets of São Paulo. When he encounters older, handsome sex worker Ronaldo there's an instant animalistic attraction. Taken under his wing as a protégé, the pair are caught in a constant push and pull between fiery romance and the realities of business. Filled with moments of surprising tenderness, *Baby* is a colourful, empathetic ode to queer found family. [Content warning, see website.](#)

**FRI 30 AUG 7PM, Event George St**



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

## Backspot

Directed by D.W. Waterson | Canada | English | 93 mins | Unclassified 15+

Talented and driven competitive cheerleader Riley (Devery Jacobs, *Reservation Dogs*) dreams of joining the Thunderhawks, an elite professional cheer squad. When she and her girlfriend are given the opportunity to join, new pressures from a demanding head coach (Evan Rachel Wood, *Westworld*) and Riley's own pursuit of perfection cause her world to spiral. This compelling, character-driven drama is a welcome addition to the queer cheerleading canon. [Content warning, see website.](#)

**FRI 30 AUG 8:30PM, Event George St**

WEAR IT PURPLE

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

## Big Boys

Directed by Corey Sherman | USA | English | 90 mins | Unclassified 15+

When 14-year-old Jamie learns that his cousin's new boyfriend is joining their camping trip, he's less than thrilled. But over the course of the weekend, he develops much more complicated feelings towards the surprisingly handsome and charming Dan. This multi-award-winning crowd-pleaser is a heartfelt journey through the awkwardness of self-discovery. [Screens with Mikey's Army \(11 mins\)](#). All in cinema tickets just \$10, or FREE for anyone under 26.

**SAT 31 AUG 2PM, Event George St** OC  
**MON 2 – SUN 8 SEP, On Demand** CC

SYDNEY PREMIERE

## The Judgment

Directed by Marwan Mokbel | Egypt, Lebanon, USA | English, Arabic, English Subtitles | 112 mins | Unclassified 15+

US-based Egyptian boyfriends Mo and Hisham are forced back into the closet when they travel to Alexandria to visit family. Having not returned in years, Mo is haunted by traumatic memories from his childhood. The pressure to hide who he is resurfaces old anxieties that he has been cursed as punishment for his 'sins' in this tense, contemplative supernatural horror. [Content warning, see website](#).

**SAT 31 AUG 8:30PM, Event George St** OC  
**MON 2 – SUN 8 SEP, On Demand** CC

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

## Fragments of a Life Loved

Directed by Chloe Barreau | Italy | French, Italian, English Subtitles | 95 mins | Unclassified 15+

*Fragments of a Life Loved* is an evocative documentary that tenderly revisits the past loves of Chloé Barreau. Having meticulously and reverently documented her relationships since her teens, Barreau juxtaposes memories with present-day reflections through archival footage and current interviews. This brave and poignant film explores the intimate nuances of love and memory, offering a unique perspective on human connection and the art of storytelling.

**SUN 1 SEP 4PM, Event George St**

WORLD PREMIERE

## Strange Creatures

Directed by Henry Boffin | Australia | English | 87 mins | Unclassified 15+

Proud pansexual Nate hasn't spoken to his brother Ged in over four years following an intense falling out. But when their mother passes away, the brothers must set aside their differences to fulfil her dying wish: to scatter her ashes at the old family home in remote Narrabri. Setting out across Australia in a black hearse (courtesy of Nate's funeral director boyfriend), they're forced to finally confront the ghosts of their past in this touching comedy-drama. [Content warning, see website](#). [Filmmakers in attendance for a Q&A](#).

**THU 29 AUG 6:30PM, Event George St**



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

## Turtles

Directed by David Lambert | Belgium, Canada | French, English, English Subtitles, English without Subtitles | 83 mins | Unclassified 15+

A poignant comedy-drama about older gay couple Thom and Henri, who suddenly find themselves living in close quarters after Henri retires. When Henri begins to withdraw from the relationship it pushes the increasingly baffled Thom to go all-out to rekindle their love – no matter the price. A must-see gem that offers a refreshing and authentic story of queer love and self-discovery. *Screens with Ticker* (9 mins).

**SUN 1 SEP 5PM, Event George St**  
**MON 2 – SUN 8 SEP, On Demand**



ON DEMAND ENCORE

## Snapshots

Directed by Melanie Mayron | USA | English | 95 mins | Unclassified 15+

Runner-up in the Audience Award at the 2019 Mardi Gras Film Festival, *Snapshots* is a tantalising drama about three generations of women on a family weekend away. When a roll of old film is uncovered, matriarch Rose's memories drift back to life in the early 1960s, centering on a forbidden lesbian romance with her playful and enigmatic friend Louise.

**MON 2 – SUN 8 SEP, On Demand**



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

## Videoland

Directed by Jessica Smith | Australia | English | 48 mins | Unclassified 15+

Video store clerk Hailey researches how to be a lesbian by watching every sapphic film she can get her hands on. But when she develops a crush on a customer, Hailey embarks on a series of hapless misadventures in her attempts to come out – and maybe even find love. Spot homages to classic films and indulge in the nostalgia of growing up gay in the '90s with this sweet, funny coming-of-age series. *Screens with We Met at Camp* (16 mins). Filmmakers in attendance for a Q&A.

**FRI 30 AUG 6:30PM, Event George St**



ON DEMAND ENCORE

## Twilight's Kiss

Directed by Ray Yeung | Hong Kong | Cantonese, English Subtitles | 100 mins | Unclassified 18+

An audience and critics' favourite at the 2021 Mardi Gras Film Festival, *Twilight's Kiss* (*Suk Suk*) comes from prolific queer film director Ray Yeung (*All Shall Be Well*, QSFF24; *Front Cover*, MGFF16). As a relationship blooms between two older men, they must also navigate societal responsibilities while guiding each other through wandering daydreams of roads untraveled and the reality of life in Hong Kong.

**MON 2 – SUN 8 SEP, On Demand**



## Gay Shorts

Canada, Spain, Sweden, Taiwan, USA | English, Chinese, Spanish, Swedish, English Subtitles, English without Subtitles | 91 mins | Unclassified 18+

Featuring Lukas Gage (*The White Lotus*) and Keiynan Lonsdale (*Love, Simon*) as nomadic lovers, these shorts explore the highs and lows of gay life. From the exciting butterflies of a new high school crush, to the toxic expectations of a sweaty gym hook-up, to the overwhelming grief after the death of a husband, these films navigate an array of topics with sincerity and humour.


**THU 29 AUG 8:30PM, Event George St**  
**MON 2 – SUN 8 SEP, On Demand**



## Sapphic Shorts

France, India, Spain, Switzerland, USA | English, Catalan, French, Hindi, Spanish, English Subtitles, English without Subtitles | 90 mins | Unclassified 15+

Exploring everything from the innocence of schoolgirl crushes and the stirring of newfound feelings to the breakdown of a long-term marriage, this package of films is equal parts humorous, heartbreaking, and heartwarming. Accidental broken arms, a (somehow unrelated) runaway rollerblade chase, and passive-aggressive celebratory cakes punctuate this eclectic selection of sapphic tales. [Content warning, see website.](#)

**SAT 31 AUG 4:20PM, Event George St**  
**MON 2 – SUN 8 SEP, On Demand** 



## Trans & Gender Diverse Shorts

Brazil, Canada, France, Iran, Spain, UK, USA | English, French, Persian, Portuguese, English Subtitles, English without Subtitles | 91 mins | Unclassified 15+

An animated dive into a mermaid's experience grappling with gender dysphoria. A non-binary singer's transition from mezzo-soprano to tenor. A trans man's search for his lost bird with the help of a trans woman (and a cavalcade of backup dancers). These films aren't limited by genre as they explore the many facets of the trans and gender diverse experience. [Content warning, see website.](#)

**SUN 1 SEP 2:30PM, Event George St**  
**MON 2 – SUN 8 SEP, On Demand**



## Queer Screen Pitch Off!

Pitch Off is back for its 7th edition and this time the prize pool is worth \$20,000. Come and watch six Australian filmmakers pitch their LGBTIQ+ short film projects as they compete for \$10,000 in production funding from Queer Screen. Screen Australia's Gender Matters Taskforce have also generously contributed additional prizes for eligible female and gender-diverse practitioners: \$5,000 for best screenplay and \$5,000 for professional development.

**SUN 1 SEP 2PM, Event George St - Set Bar**

## Credits

### Festival Director

Lisa Rose

### Festival Producer

Michael McCurdie

### Head of Partnerships

Paul Kennedy

paul.kennedy@queerscreen.org.au

### Programming Assistant & Industry Coordinator

Andrew Wilkie

### Digital Marketing Executive

Adrik Kemp

### Graphic Design & Illustration

Luke Tribe

### Web Design

Design Logic

### Bookkeeper

Adam Bold

### Festival Trailer

Grace O'Connell at The Editors

### Key Volunteers

Benson Wu, Cameron Bayley, David Blanco, Sanouk Peiper, Sevana Ohandjianian, Troy Byrnes, Vanessa McQuarrie and the entire Programming Prescreeener team.

## Board of Directors

### Co-Chairs

Abs Osseiran, Angela Ruchin

### Treasurer

Michelle Mutchink

### Company Secretary

Lara Sabbadin

### Directors

Finn O'Keefe (Digital Engagement Director), Ian Goshko (Members and Volunteers Director), Saro Mugnaini (Funding Director)

### Associates

Anthony Young, David Libter, Jessica Liley, Michael Rolik, Mike Whalley, Mike Worsley, Ted Rose

### Queer Screen would like to thank

All of our members, donors, volunteers, filmmakers, sponsors; sales agents and distributors; venue partners, media partners, community partners, suppliers, advertisers; Pitch Off finalists and jury; and the festival audience. Andi Egan, Annika Stagg, Barbara Karpinski, Berenger Playford, Bradley Clark, Dallas Currie, Dianna Graf, Dominique and the team at Silvertrak; Dov Kornits, Greg Topalain; Jeremy Low and the team at Allens Linklaters; Josh De Matteo, Katja Sinani, Lana Zilla, Lawrence Gibbons, Liz Cooper, Mal Moody, Maxine Zanoni, Mel Rumble, Michael Sabater, Q Programmers; Rebecca, Rodney and the team at JORR; Rob Raulings and the team at Ferve; Sam Martin and Sharon Hickey.

## Ticketing & Venue Information

### Cinema Tickets (Film Only)

\$22 Full Price

\$19 Concession

\$18 Queer Screen Member

\$10 Youth\*

### Opening Night Film + Party

\$40 Full Price

\$37 Concession

\$36 Queer Screen Member

### Big Boys

#### (Wear It Purple Day Screening)

Cinema tickets \$10, or FREE for anyone under 26.

### On Demand

\$12 Full Price

\$10 Queer Screen Member

\$18 Full Price Household Tix

\$15 Member Household Tix

### Festival Passes

	Full	Member
Flexi 5 (Cinema)	\$95	\$75

+ On Demand)

On Demand 3	\$33	\$27
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On Demand All In	\$60	\$52
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### \*\$10 Youth Tickets

#### (15-25 years old)

Available on the door for any non sold out session.

### Supportix

Two free tickets are available to those who cannot afford to buy their own. See ticketing info at [queerscreen.org.au](http://queerscreen.org.au) for how to request.

### Become a Member

Queer Screen members save money on tickets and gain priority entry to our festival screenings. Go to [queerscreen.org.au/membership](http://queerscreen.org.au/membership) for more information.

### How to Book

Visit [queerscreen.org.au](http://queerscreen.org.au) to book tickets or download the Queer Screen app in the Google Play or App Store. Phone (02) 9280 1533 for telephone bookings between 11am and 5pm weekdays.

**Please note:** no in person bookings are available at the Queer Screen office. If not sold out, tickets will be available at the venue from 1 hour before the film's start time.

### Venue

#### Event Cinemas George Street

505-525 George Street,  
Sydney, NSW 2000

### Terms and Conditions

Booking fees apply for all transactions.

### Classification

Please check the classification of the screenings you are attending. Nobody under the age of 18 will be allowed into 18+ sessions.

### Accessibility

All cinema venues are accessible for a person using a wheelchair, and Companion Cards are accepted. Please email [ticketing@queerscreen.org.au](mailto:ticketing@queerscreen.org.au) to arrange. *Big Boys* and *The Judgment* will screen in cinema with Open Captions.



## Festival Schedule - Event Cinemas George St

DATE	MOVIE	TIME
WED 28 AUG	The Astronaut Lovers	7:00 PM
THU 29 AUG	Strange Creatures	6:30 PM
	American Parent	7:00 PM
	Gay Shorts	8:30 PM
FRI 30 AUG	Videoland	6:30 PM
	Baby	7:00 PM
	Backspot	8:30 PM
SAT 31 AUG	Big Boys <b>OC</b>	2:00 PM
	Sapphic Shorts	4:20 PM
	Close to You	6:00 PM
	All Shall Be Well	6:30 PM
	The Judgment <b>OC</b>	8:30 PM
SUN 1 SEP	Queer Screen Pitch Off	2:00 PM
	Trans & Gender Diverse Shorts	2:30 PM
	Fragments of a Life Loved	4:00 PM
	Turtles	5:00 PM
	Gondola	7:00 PM

## Festival Schedule - On Demand Nationally

MON 2 SEP - SUN 8 SEP

American Parent	Sapphic Shorts <b>CC</b>
Big Boys <b>CC</b>	Snapshots
Gay Shorts	Trans & Gender Diverse Shorts
Gondola	Turtles
The Judgment <b>CC</b>	Twilight's Kiss

Bookings must be made by 8 Sep, you have until 11 Sep to watch.