

MEDIA RELEASE

Mardi Gras Film Festival Coming to the Blue Mountains for the first time!

Best of the Festival Screening at the Carrington Hotel: 11 – 13 March 2016

3 February 2016: For the first time, and in partnership with the local Pink Mountains organisation, The Carrington Hotel in Katoomba will host the best five films of the 23rd Mardi Gras Film Festival presented by Queer Screen, as well as the winner of the prestigious *My Queer Career* awards from 11 – 13 March 2016. Tickets on sale at queerscreen.org.au and via the Mardi Gras Film Festival app.

“We are delighted to bring the Mardi Gras Film Festival to the Blue Mountains for the first time and to screen at the beautiful Carrington Hotel,” said Festival Director Paul Struthers. “It’s very exciting to bring the best festival films on tour to such a supportive community”.

Peter Hackney, Pink Mountains co-convenor said: “It’s indicative of the burgeoning LGBTIQ community in the Mountains that Mardi Gras has decided to expand outside its Inner Sydney heartland and come to our region. They’ve seen that we have a vital, rapidly growing queer scene and have responded accordingly.

“We congratulate the Mardi Gras Film Festival for thinking outside the box and we urge all local LGBTIQ people and visitors to support these film screenings wholeheartedly”, he added.

The screenings include:

REMEMBERING THE MAN – a bittersweet documentary further exploring the relationship between Australians Timothy Conigrave and John Caleo as detailed in *Holding the Man*. This film was the winner of Most Popular Documentary at the Adelaide Film Festival. *Friday 11 March, 7pm.*

The winner of My Queer Career, Australia’s largest LGBTIQ film prize, will be shown on Friday 11 March along with REMEMBERING THE MAN. This year the eight finalists are: Kate Halpin (A PRIVATE MATTER), Brian Fairbairn and Karl Eccleston (DON’T CRY THOSE TEARS), Tim Marshall (FOLLOWERS), Nathan Keene (LITTLE BOY BLUE), Stevie Cruz-Martin (MARROW), Joshua Longhurst (OASIS), Ben Southwell (ON STAGE), and Dannika Horvat (THE SUMMER OF ABC BURNS).

LIZ IN SEPTEMBER - The striking supermodel and actor Patricia Velásquez comes to the screen in this Venezuelan lesbian film. Winner of the audience award at Miami’s queer film festival, this film is captivating. *Saturday 12 March, 6pm.*

BEAUTIFUL SOMETHING - Featuring some of the hottest sex scenes from any LGBTIQ film this year, this movie is a sexy and tender glimpse into life for the contemporary gay man as the stories of Brian a poet and Jim, an actor intertwine. *Saturday 12 March, 8pm.*

TCHINDAS – A sensual and transporting documentary that reveals an open and multicultural corner of Africa seldom explored, follows the life of three queer artists as they prepare for a spectacular Carnival. *Sunday 13 March, 2pm.*



THAT'S NOT US – With beautiful cinematography, and nuanced and natural performances, this engaging dramedy about relationships is a breath of fresh air. Three couples – one gay, one lesbian, one straight - are on a weekend away at a beach house managing the intricacies, vulnerabilities, laughter and connection that comes with relationships. *Sunday 13 March, 4pm.*

-ENDS-

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