



the queer world in a weekend! 5-8 September 2002 Chauvel Cinemas, Paddington

Opening Night \$18 no conc
Other screenings \$14/\$11.50 member/conc
Film Forum \$10/\$8 member/conc
Pink Pass \$99 members only

Concessions available to Queer Screen and AFI members, Pension/Health Care card holders and full-time students. All prices include GST.

Advance bookings are available from Friday 23 August from MCA Ticketing, tel 9645 1611, from 9am to 4pm Monday to Friday, and online 24/7 at www.queerscreen.com.au. Booking fees are \$2.40 per transaction for up to five tickets, and \$4.80 for more than five tickets. Advance bookings will close at 2pm on Thursday 5 September for Opening Night, and 2pm on Friday 6 September for all screenings after this time. Tickets will only be available for collection from the cinema. Please remember to bring your concession ID or membership card with you.

Once the festival has opened, tickets can also be purchased on the day of screening from the cinema directly.

Pink Passes, for Queer Screen members only, include all festival sessions and are available from the Queer Screen office up until 5 September. Tel 9332 4938.

The Chauvel Cinema is located in the Paddington Town Hall building, on the corner of Oatley Road and Oxford Street, Paddington, tel 9361 5398.

Please note that Film Classification conditions prohibit the admittance of people under the age of 18.

Media sponsor



Thursday 5 September

7pm



Opening Night

Ruthie and Connie: Every Room in the House

Dir: Deborah Dickson, USA, 2002, Beta SP, 54mins

In 1959, Ruthie and Connie were Jewish housewives from Brooklyn. They were active members of their community, raising their respective children with their respective husbands and generally living a traditional suburban life. Until the unthinkable happened: they fell in love.

A major award-winner at gay and straight film festivals around the world, this inspiring documentary traces the lives of these two Golden Girls who, even now, can run rings around your average gay activist. From the early days of their furtive affair to their final coming out, Ruthie and Connie have turned their personal battles into political change. After leaving their husbands and children, the two women moved in together and successfully sued the New York City Board of Education for its discriminatory stance on partner benefits. The two women are now retired and spend winters in Florida, but they're showing no signs of slowing down yet. *Ruthie and Connie: Every Room in the House* is a wonderful tale about two wonderful women who love life, each other, and a good stoush.

Best Documentary - Seattle Film Festival, Miami Gay and Lesbian Film Festival, Nashville Film Festival

Preceded by

Your Brother, My Tidda

Dir: Kelrick Martin, Australia, 2002, Beta SP, 20mins

Coming out to family and living with HIV are some of the life-changing situations faced by two Aboriginal gay men, Sam and Aaron.

Join us for a cocktail or two after the screening, courtesy of



Friday 6 September

7pm



Hand on the Pulse

Dir: Joyce Warshow, USA, 2001, Beta SP, 52mins

Filmmaker Joyce Warshow brings us a life portrait of Joan Nestle, one of the lesbian and gay community's unsung heroes. The shy daughter of a working-class mother in New York City, Nestle's career as an activist spans nearly half a century. *Hand on the Pulse* takes us with her from the butch-femme bars of Greenwich Village in the 50s to civil rights marches in the 60s, from the early days of women's rights to the heated feminist sex wars. Ever the rebel, even within the radical movements she was part of, Nestle has ardently challenged barriers against women expressing and controlling their own sexualities. And as cofounder of the Lesbian Herstory Archives (which were housed in her living room for over 20 years), she has devoted her life to documenting the lesbian history she helped forge.

Now in her 60s, living in Melbourne, and struggling with cancer, Joan Nestle continues to celebrate women's sexuality with fierce fabulosity, writing erotic poetry and giving readings in her trademark black slip.

Queer Screen is delighted to announce that Joan Nestle will be attending this screening, and will take part in a Q&A session afterwards.

Preceded by

She Wears Cufflinks

Dir: Diana J Brodie, USA, 2002, Beta SP, 18mins

Poet K. Anne Richardson provides a guide to proper butch attire.

Sponsored by Martha Knox & Associates Accommodation supplied by Hughenden Boutique Hotel



9pm



The Truth About Gay Sex

Cyberslut

Dir: Jonathan Gann, USA, 2001, Beta SP, 9mins

A gay man confesses all about his obsession with finding sex online.

Hard Fat

Dir: Frederic Moffet, Canada, 2002, Beta SP, 23mins

Rick has his own unique way of addressing that time-honoured gay body-image worry. More is more! This fascinating and disturbing documentary takes us into the world of 'gainers', men who like to gain weight, and the men who like to encourage them. These are guys who actively reject the buffed ideals of gay male culture and find liberation in glorifying big bellies.

The Truth About Gay Sex

Dir: Kristiene Clark, UK, 2001, Beta SP, 51mins

Everything you ever wanted to know about gay sex, but were too afraid, polite or intimidated to ask. *The Truth About Gay Sex* opens with some very befuddled - and very funny - responses from straight people questioned about gay sex, and then goes on to tell and show them more than they probably ever wanted to know. Anal Sex 101. Blow Job Dos and Don'ts. The Joys of Fisting. Which Lube Is For You? What do you do when it's too big? And are you ready for penis-cam? An enlightening (and explicit) how-to, why-is and why-not manual from the UK which answers all these questions, and more! You may never look at a melon the same way again...

Sponsored by



Saturday 7 September

3pm



In the Name of Allah

Fear of Love

Dir: Frank Vellenga, The Netherlands, 2000, Beta SP, 24mins

This insightful documentary reveals how Islamic gays in the Netherlands must reconcile their sexuality with the heavy burden of Islamic culture.

How I Love You

Dir: Akram Zaatar, Lebanon, 2001, Beta SP, 29mins

Carefully veiling the identity of its subjects, who were recruited from gay internet chat groups, this film explores sexuality and self image among young gay men in Lebanon, where homosexuality is still punishable by imprisonment.

Just a Woman

Dirs: Mitra Farahani and B.Y., France/Iran, 2001, Beta SP, 29mins

Moravid experiences life as a male-to-female transsexual in her homeland. How does she cope when that homeland is Iran? This fascinating documentary challenges many of the Western clichés about Iranian society, and reveals a woman and a nation filled with surprising contradictions.

5pm



Forum

East Meets West: Reconciling Culture and Sexuality

In a world where global identities are increasingly relevant, how do our own life experiences contribute to our sense of self and how do we continue to tell stories that resonate with each other in spite of all of our cultural, religious and sexual differences? This forum focuses on themes from the collection of short documentaries from Iran, The Netherlands and Lebanon screening at 3pm. These provocative, challenging and informative films explore how our sexual identity is influenced by our heritage, the traditional values of our families, our faith and our culture. Using the films as a basis, we will explore these ideas with a panel of special guest speakers.

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Sunday 8 September

7pm



Questioning Faith

Dir: Macky Alston, USA, 2001, Beta SP, 84mins

How can anyone believe in God, any god, after experiencing life at its most devastating? And what is it about human nature that leads one person to find religion in the midst of chaos and another to lose it?

Following the AIDS death of his friend Alan Jones, award-winning filmmaker Macky Alston resumes his seminary studies, addressing his own questions about personal faith as well as how different religions and creeds approach grief and loss. Employing the emotionally evocative style of his acclaimed film *Family Name*, Alston pursues everyone from Buddhists to born-again Christians, atheists to Orthodox Jews, to discover how people find meaning in life when absolutely nothing seems to make sense. Alston meets Latifa and Jamila, who despite the devastation of a brain tumour and the premature birth of twins, hold fast to their belief in Allah. He speaks to Carol, a minister with cancer who teaches him to 'let God have it'. And with every interview, Alston finds himself questioning not just his faith but also his loyalty as a friend. An intriguing, surprising and sometimes harrowing journey of self-discovery.

'A documentary of quiet, at-times shattering emotional power...' - POZ

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1pm



Devil in the Holy Water

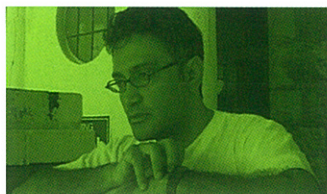
Dir: Joe Balass, Canada, 2001, Beta SP, 94mins

In 2000, Rome became a place of pilgrimage for thousands of Catholics celebrating the Jubilee of Pope John Paul II. It also became a place of pilgrimage for thousands of gays and lesbians celebrating World Gay Pride. While the Vatican officially opposes World Pride, drawing on its considerable influence to try and stop the event, Italians themselves send a more complex – and ultimately tolerant – message. Interviews include everyone from practical-minded grandmothers to rigid young neo-fascists, self-effacing nuns to ebullient drag queens, providing an entertaining cross-section of both the Catholic and the gay communities – sometimes one and the same! In this extreme clash of cultures, documentary maker Joe Balass cuts straight to the epicentre of Catholicism and finds a candid, enlightening, and often humorous take on contemporary sexuality and morality. And as the World Pride controversy heats up, he finds a perfect vehicle to explore the similarities and divisions between the church and the queer community.

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STA TRAVEL

3pm



It's My Life

Dir: Brian Tilley, South Africa, 2001, Beta SP, 74mins

Zackie Achmat is South African, HIV-positive and pissed off. Though he can afford the drug cocktails that might stem the advance of the virus, millions of his countrymen and women cannot. So, as part of an ongoing battle with apathetic government and pharmaceutical agencies, he refuses to take his drugs until something is done.

But it's a daunting fight: South African President Thabo Mbeki has consistently questioned the basic link between HIV and AIDS. In addition, Achmat and his Treatment Action Campaign are involved in a time-and-energy-consuming legal battle with one of the world's largest pharmaceutical companies. These public fights take an ever greater toll on Achmat's health, already ravaged by his disease.

In a country where one of the world's highest rates of seroconversion is coupled with denial and ignorance, this powerful film highlights the struggles faced by people living with AIDS in Africa, as well as the David-and-Goliath determination of one man stridently pushing for change, even at great personal cost.

Preceded by

That's Me

Dir: Sasha Wales-Smith, Zimbabwe, 2001, Beta SP, 7mins

In Zimbabwe, President Mugabe has said that gay people are 'worse than pigs or dogs'. To be HIV-positive is even more shameful in the eyes of society. *That's Me* traces a Zimbabwean transvestite's odyssey of acceptance.

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5pm



Daddy & Papa

Dir: Johnny Symons, USA, 2002, Beta SP, 57mins

One of the hits of this year's Sundance Film Festival, this amazing documentary explores the trials and tribulations of same-sex fathers. Taking us inside his own family and three others, Symons, a radical gay activist, discovers that his most revolutionary act is the most traditional thing in the world: becoming a parent. Every day these men confront not only the day-to-day obstacles facing all parents. They must also face conservatives who regard gay fathers as the enemy of their cherished 'traditional' families, neighbours who feel children must have mothers, and members of their own gay community, who accuse them of selling out to mainstream values.

From issues of surrogate parenting and adoption to questions of interracial parenting, from the meaning of marriage and divorce in the gay community to the legal battles faced by gay parents, *Daddy & Papa* provides an in depth look at the growing 'gayby' boom. With thousands of gay men around the world making the conscious decision to become fathers, Symons' film provides a fascinating look at the effects of gender and sexuality on children and a powerful argument for the value of alternative households.

Best Documentary, Miami Lesbian and Gay Film Festival

Preceded by

Naming Prairie

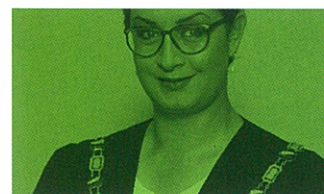
Dir: Alexandra Juhasz, USA, 2001, Beta SP, 6mins

A lesbian couple's Jewish baby-naming ceremony demonstrates how invention and tradition converge for contemporary queer families.

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7pm



Georgie Girl

Dirs: Annie Goldson & Peter Wells, New Zealand, 2001, Beta SP, 69mins

Most of Sydney's gay and lesbian community will already know and love New Zealand Member of Parliament, Georgina Beyer: former showgirl, former sex worker, former award-winning actress – and former man. In 1999, Georgina became the first transsexual elected to national office anywhere in the world. The fact that she's of Maori descent in a predominantly white government – and that she was elected by an extremely conservative small rural town – makes her story even more astounding.

As a young man, fey George Beyer landed in Wellington's colourful, flamboyant cabaret scene and quickly fashioned himself into beautiful Georgina. Using archival footage of outrageous club performances and a 70s documentary on the country's trans community, *Georgie Girl* provides a fantastic glimpse into a rarely seen world.

Some years later, Georgina settles in rural Carterton, where she receives unexpected encouragement to enter politics. Her passionate dedication to her constituents' needs – and her unwavering commitment to telling the truth about her life – soon had her elected as the town's mayor, and not long afterwards, MP for the region.

Winner - Best Documentary, Sydney Film Festival, and San Francisco Lesbian and Gay Film Festival

Preceded by

The Day I Decided to be Nina

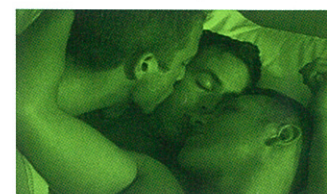
Dir: Ingeborg Jansen, The Netherlands, 2000, Beta SP, 15mins

Eleven year-old Guido doesn't want to be a jet pilot or a policeman when he grows up. He'd rather be a girl.

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9pm



When Boys Fly

Dirs: Stewart Halpern & Lenid Rolov, USA, 2001, Beta SP, 62mins

The beautiful, shallow, drug-fuelled world of the American circuit party, laid bare in Dirk Shafer's 2002 Mardi Gras Film Festival entry *Circuit*, is the subject of this no-holds-barred documentary from American filmmakers Stewart Halpern and Lenid Rolov.

When Boys Fly is a captivating non-fiction feature that follows three men as they find their place in a world where rules don't apply, boundaries are non-existent and physical perfection is demanded.

Brandon, 23, is a shy circuit virgin searching for a community he can call his own. His straight-laced, apple pie life collides head-on with Tone, 21, an extroverted party boy trying to keep himself out of the emergency room. Joining for the ride is Todd, a 35-year-old businessman, who recklessly relives his adolescence while trying to maintain a relationship with Jon, his 19-year-old 'soul mate'. All three stories steam-roll into one dramatic, powerful conclusion, where lives are changed forever.

Don't miss this provocative, startling, no-holds-barred peek into the lives of a new generation: a world of seemingly perfect men, existing for festivity while ravaged by depression.

Preceded by

Jeffrey's Hollywood Screen Trick

Dir: Todd Downing, USA, 2001, 35mm, 11mins

Jeffrey, (a stop-animated Billy Doll) searches desperately through a sweaty strobe-lit nightclub on an anxious mission for sex. He gets a little more than he bargained for.

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