

TENTH
MARDIGRAS
FILM
FESTIVAL
2003

12-23 FEBRUARY 03
STATE THEATRE
BALANCE ACADEMY TWIN
BENDY NEWTOWN

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**The 2003 Mardi Gras Film Festival is produced
and presented by Queer Screen Ltd**

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

 PIP NEWLING
PRESIDENT
QUEER SCREEN


Ten years ago a group of Sydney based filmmakers got together to start a company with the primary mission of promoting queer screen culture in all its forms. Now the Mardi Gras Film Festival is one of the highlights of Sydney's cultural calendar.

This Mardi Gras Film Festival is evidence that an idea can form, take hold and grow. Thank you to all those people who over the last 10 years have sat on Boards, worked and volunteered for the organisation, made films, promoted films, acted in films, and finally all of you who have bought tickets to see the films. Without you, your enthusiasm and like-mindedness about the value of queer film we wouldn't be here now.

However, one of the disappointing aspects of this year's Film Festival is that the Roxy Cinema closed last year for refurbishment and won't be open in time for us to screen any films in Parramatta this year. We have looked at a number of different venues in Parramatta and surrounding suburbs but have not been able to secure anything we could afford or that would provide us with the necessary facilities for film screenings.

Instead, we will establish a number of screenings that will occur in various Greater Western Sydney suburbs throughout 2003. We will be widely advertising these screenings as they come up so look out! But I do know that I won't be the only one who will miss the Roxy this year, and the Board and I apologise profusely for disappointing all of our ardent supporters in the West. Hopefully in 2004 we can bring the Parramatta weekend back as well as maintain the new screenings throughout the year.

This year our sponsors are even more important to us and therefore to you, as without Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras funding we are solely reliant on funding bodies, sponsors and our own fundraising.

Showtime is back and stands as our Principal Festival Sponsor for 2003, Aussie Mortgage Market is again Queer Screen's Premier Sponsor and the long running support from the NSW Film and Television Office has increased for 2003. Between the State Theatre and the Civic Hotel our Opening Night will be a party to remember. The Hughenden Boutique Hotel is providing all our festival accommodation. Gingers is the place to be for the Festival Club and our Closing Night Party. Also, Sydney Star Observer, Bent and Filmink are joining forces as our media sponsors.

Thank you to all of our sponsors who have come back year after year and to our new supporters for 2003.

Thank you also to our staff, Mary, David and Matthew, for working above and beyond the call of duty to get this festival up and running.

Our Opening Night party is a mere trundle down the hill from the State Theatre, to the Civic Hotel. This night will be the one to dust off the black tie and sequins as we celebrate with international filmmakers, local film heroes and many of the people who have helped Queer Screen develop over the years.

I encourage you to join Queer Screen now to receive the benefits of membership such as a first jump on tickets when they are released for sale late January, savings on tickets throughout the Film Festival and priority queuing for the Academy Twin. This year we need your financial support and every membership, for which you receive a range of benefits that run across the year, is a significant contribution to the organisation.

Take this Guide as your invitation to our 10-year birthday party and celebrate with us! Join up, buy tickets, eat popcorn, be extra nice to our volunteers and enjoy this significant time in Queer Screen's life.

Happy Mardi Gras Film Festival.

FROM THE FESTIVAL DIRECTOR

DAVID PEARCE
FESTIVAL DIRECTOR

The 2003 Mardi Gras Film Festival is Queer Screen's tenth Anniversary. It highlights the achievements of queer filmmakers from around the world. Our filmmakers are tackling new ideas with startling originality and verve. Many of the films in 2003 are as much at home in a mainstream film festival as they are in a queer festival; and a large number of them have been featured and won awards internationally.

Some themes have emerged, the most obvious of which is a sexual and gender fluidity. As exemplified by the recent film *Kissing Jessica Stein* straight men and women are having queer adventures and enjoying the experience. By contrast some gays and lesbians are having straight experiences, and the results of these affairs are not always expected.

Gender is continually pushed to the boundaries. A boy has a sex change so that his straight boyfriend will sleep with him. A father decides that he now wants to be a mother to his son. A taxi driver becomes increasingly interested in his transgendered passenger. Intersex personalities talk about their experiences and the gender identity they were forced to wear.



Lesbian and gay experiences and the problems of coming to terms with same sex desires can occur at any age. From young men and women struggling with being different at school through to eighty year old Japanese women having their first experience; there are common feelings of confusion, certainty, desire and occasionally, guilt.

We are absolutely thrilled to present the first feature from a number of exciting and fresh young directors. These men and women look at things with the eyes of a new generation. They reflect their experiences and their nationalities, but do so with a global perspective.

This year we are focusing on Canada, a country whose films are as diverse as its regions. The Canadian films are headed by *Leaving Metropolis*, a film adaptation of the play *Poor Superman* by Brad Fraser plus three very different documentaries *Prom Fight*, *Tom* and *Divas: Love Me Forever*. Adding to the Canadian flavour are two shorts programs, one honing in on Canadian boys and the other on Canadian girls. Several of the Canadian directors will be attending the festival.



We have scoured the world for films and have features from Austria, Denmark, Switzerland, Korea, Japan, China, Argentina and more. Included is the first gay and lesbian film ever from Belarus *They Still Smile* and the first Indian fiction film with gay male characters in the lead *Mango Souffle*, and *Guardians of the Frontier* is a glorious lesbian feature from Slovenia.

Our opening night film is *The Trip*, a film that has been a major hit at gay and lesbian film festivals this year.



It combines gay history, politics and romance and signals its writer-director Miles Swain, as someone to watch for in the future.

Sydney is a city where drag kings have thrived and to celebrate this the Closing Night film *Venus Boyz* features some of the top drag king acts and personalities from the US and Germany.

Last year our late nights at the Dendy Newtown proved extremely popular and we have two more delights for you this year. *Desert Hearts* has been called the most romantic lesbian film of all time. This is a must for those who have never seen this 1986 classic.

Don't Ask Don't Tell takes a B grade sci-fi film from the 1950's and transforms it into a queer Mars attack. This sublime piece of trash begins as a US Army general is organising a free Barbra Streisand concert so that he can identify and eliminate all the gay men. At the same time a group of alien invaders are about to turn the whole US population queer. Just remember to duck as the bullets fly.

Those of you who go to see American entertainer Jeffrey Roberson in his one woman show Varla



Jean Merman *I've Got The Music In Me* as part of the Mardi Gras Festival can come back for a second dose as he plays one of the girls in the comedy *Girls Will be Girls*. Returning to the Academy's screens this year is the fabulous Margaret Cho in *Notorious Cho*. Those who saw her in concert last year or her first film, will be lining up for tickets this time. Book now as this film will be one of the first to sell out.

The entrants in My Queer Career display the diversity and imagination of Australia's gay and lesbian filmmakers. This is always a popular session and sells out quickly. Have your say by voting for the Audience Choice Award, with winners announced at the end of the session.

Volunteers, staff, board, and visiting and local film makers will all be relaxing in Gingers Festival Lounge and we'd love to see you there.

Cinema revels in the ability to surprise, enlighten, educate, and entertain. It can make you laugh, make you think and make you cry. I hope that you will taste the delights on offer this year and appreciate the blood, sweat, tears and talent that has gone into each and every film.

Enjoy our tenth Mardi Gras Film Festival!



The Mardi Gras Film Festival is more than just a selection of great queer shorts, documentaries and features.

Gingers in the Oxford Hotel is the host to this year's Festival Lounge. It is the perfect place to relax before and after the films, to meet and chat with filmmakers and festival goers and to enjoy Terry's special MGFF cocktails. Watch out for the Lounge discount offers after the films.

Throughout the Festival there will be lucky door prizes and giveaways courtesy of Showtime. Buy a raffle ticket and you could be on your way to the magnificent Turtle Cove Resort.

Make sure you fill out the voting cards. Your feedback plays a vital role in the planning of future festivals.

Thanks to the festival volunteers who have given up their time to make the tenth annual Mardi Gras Film Festival a success.

Sit back and enjoy the films.



MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS YOU AND QUEER SCREEN

Show your support for Queer Screen by becoming a member and enjoy the benefits.

Queer Screen membership brings you benefits all year.

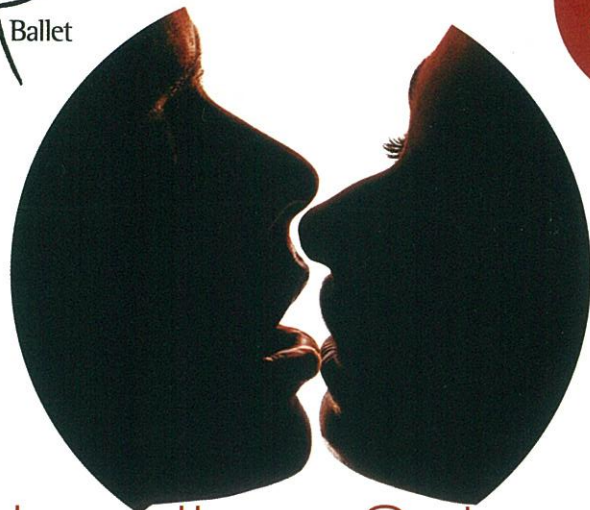
- Priority seating – Queer Screen members enter the cinema before the general public during the Mardi Gras Film Festival
- Fabulous discounts to both the Mardi Gras Film Festival and queerDOC (the world's only gay and lesbian documentary film festival).
- Invitations and discounts to Queer Screen previews and events during the year.
- Cinema ticket discounts at Dendy cinemas.
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- Members get regular emails with news and information of interest.

Queer Screen membership also benefits your organisation.

- Membership fees help fund the Queer Screen office.
- We are a non-profit community based organisation with a volunteer board.
- The Queer Screen office operates 52 weeks a year communicating with members, filmmakers and overseas festivals. These contacts are invaluable when it comes time to request films for our festivals.
- The office also fields requests for My Queer Career films from international festivals.
- Events such as the very popular Queer Screen movie quiz night and film previews are handled from the office.

A MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM IS AVAILABLE ONLINE AT WWW.QUEERSCREEN.COM.AU OR CALL THE QUEER SCREEN OFFICE ON 02 9332 4948.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP IS \$40 / CONCESSIONS \$25



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Model: Estelle & Timothy Harbour Romeo & Juliet Photo: Tim Richardson

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NATIONAL SPONSORS



OPENING NIGHT FILM & PARTY THE TRIP

USA, 2002. 35MM, 95 MINS
DIRECTED BY MILES SWAIN



Take *Tales Of The City*, condense it into an hour and a half, move it to the '70s and '80s LA, focus the storyline on two young men – one a gay activist, the other a Republican out of touch with his own sexuality – add a little *Thelma & Louise* in Mexico at the end, and you have *The Trip*. You won't want to miss the good-natured humour and sweet nostalgia of independent-actor-turned-writer/director Miles Swain's first feature. It comes complete with real footage of Anita Bryant getting a pie in the face, Harvey Milk and George Moscone stumping, Ronald and Nancy Reagan pretending to be the quintessential American family and more.

"Intelligently written, sensitively directed, warmly touching, and laugh-out-loud funny, this debut film by Miles Swain deserves applause on every level. The Trip is one I'm happy I made."
Rex Reed, *New York Observer*

Winner of Directors' Choice Award (Best Feature), Honolulu Gay And Lesbian Film Festival Winner of Audience Award – Best Feature, Reel Affirmations, Washington DC International Gay And Lesbian Film Festival

Winner or Audience Award – Best Feature, Image Out, The Rochester Lesbian & Gay Film & Video Festival

Best Debut Film, Rehoboth Beach Independent Film Festival

The Party

For the fourth consecutive year the Mardi Gras film Festival will open at the sumptuous State Theatre and this year, we are pleased to host our Opening Night Party at the equally glamorous and chic Civic Hotel, just a short stroll from the Theatre.

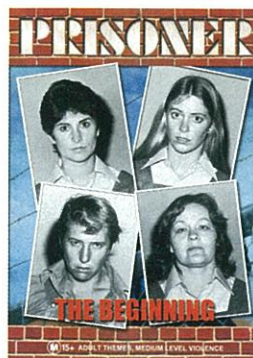
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For only \$6, car parking is available at the Queen Victoria Building (entry via York Street) from 5pm through to midnight. Collect a voucher from the State Theatre Box office to take advantage of the parking discount exclusive to State Theatre Patrons.



S01 WEDNESDAY 12 FEBRUARY, 8:00PM, STATE THEATRE



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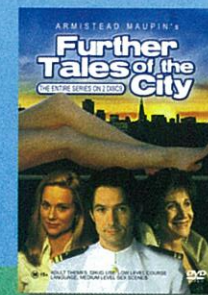


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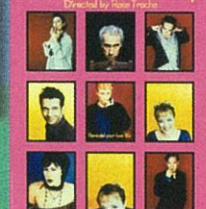
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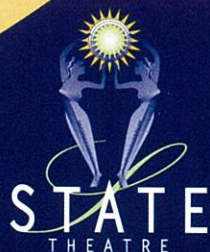
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CLOSING NIGHT FILM & PARTY VENUS BOYZ

SWITZERLAND, USA & GERMANY, 2001, 35MM, 104 MINS
DIRECTED BY GABRIEL BAUR
ENGLISH



An intriguing journey into the universe of female masculinity, *Venus Boyz* delves into the global heart of drag king subculture – Club Casanova in New York City, the very first meeting place specifically for Drag Kings. Winner of the Critics Week Award at Locarno Film Festival 2001, Baur's intimate documentary explores cross-dressing and transformance as performance, politics or lifestyle. Between London and New York, Baur delves into this complex scene using interviews with lesbian, bisexual and transgendered Drag Kings including king-dom luminaries Mo B. Dick, Del LaGrace Volcano (whose striking drag king photographs were recently used in *Sex and the City*), Diane Torr, Shelly Mars and Judith Halberstam (who visited Sydney in 2002). Dréd Gerestant, whose performance was a sellout at Sydney Gay Games, also makes a appearance. Whether they are dressing up just for the night, or making a lifetime physical commitment, these Boyz aren't simply adopting masculinity as it is historically known – they're redefining and reinventing it. *Venus Boyz* is an enticing liaison with those at the helm of this powerful movement.

This year the Mardi Gras Film Festival will be hosting the Closing Night party at our official sassy and savvy Festival Club, Gingers.

Gingers – The Oxford Hotel, Taylor Square
Telephone 02 9331 3467

A69 SATURDAY 22 FEBRUARY, 9:45PM, PALACE ACADEMY TWIN

Gingers

WYNDHAM ESTATE

IQ2
Liquid Energy

WORLD PREMIÈRE TOTALLY SEXY LOSER

USA, 2002, BETA SP, 75 MINS
DIRECTED BY JASON SCHAFFER

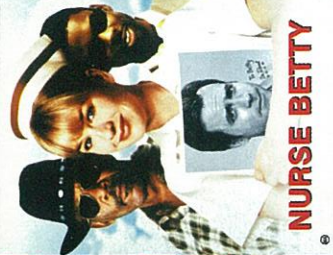


Jeremy has never had a relationship last more than five months. Is his 45th relationship going to be the one that makes a difference? Jeremy is not too sure. His boyfriend, Chip, can only see a bright long-term future, so when Jeremy tells Chip it's over, Chip goes for the pill bottle.

This relationship may be headed for the rocks, but the joy of the film comes from the flashbacks that show many of the highlights of the partnership. As he has shown in *Trick* and his *Queer As Folk* episodes, Jason Schaffer can write some very funny scenes. He mixes the drama and comedy of this romantic tale with real skill.

A47 WEDNESDAY 19 FEBRUARY, 9:15PM, PALACE ACADEMY TWIN

SESSION SPONSOR **SHOWTIME**

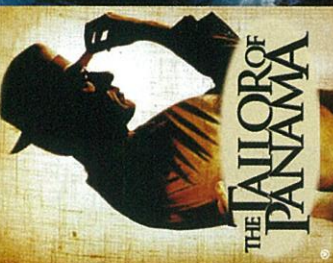


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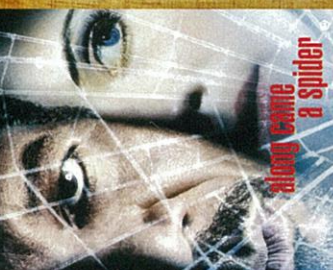


PLANET OF THE APES

A KNIGHT'S TALE



THE TAILOR OF PANAMA



Along Came a Spider



JURASSIC PARK III

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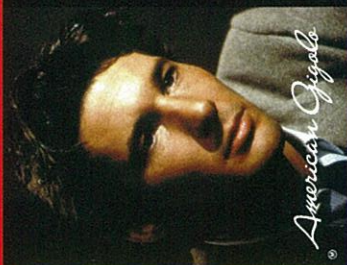
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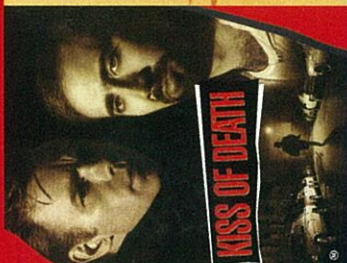
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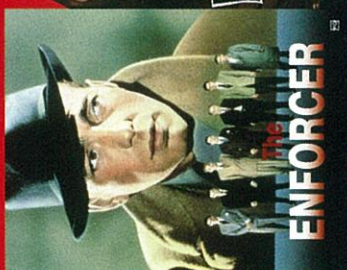
American Gigolo



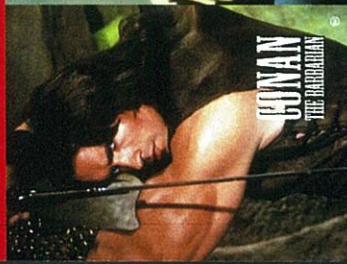
Gallipoli



KISS OF DEATH



THE ENFORCER



CONAN THE BARBARIAN

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MY QUEER CAREER

AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND QUEER SHORTS COMPETITION



We are thrilled to present our annual My Queer Career short film competition. This diverse array of short films comes from some very talented local gay and lesbian filmmakers. Each year we compile a tape of My Queer Career entrants that is sent to film festivals around the world. Last year 50 film festivals invited one or more of last year's My Queer Career films to be part of their festival. A number of the films won prizes at these festivals.

Book early for this session. It is always a sell-out. And do not forget to cast your vote for the Audience Choice Award on the night.

The judges for the this year's awards were:

- Megan McMurchie, board member, NSW FTO
- Martien Coucke, filmmaker and past board member of Queer Screen Ltd,
- Martin Gallery, film marketeer and film reviewer,
- Dr Robert Reynolds, co-director of the Australian Centre for Lesbian and Gay Research, University of Sydney.

Our prizes are:

- **Major Prize** - \$2500, provided by the Stephen Cummins Bequest, in memory of the gifted queer Australian filmmaker who died from an AIDS-related condition in 1994
- **Fujifilm Prize** - film/video stock
- **Panavision** - equipment hire
- **Adrian Clarke Development Award** - \$2000 donated by Paul Van Reyk
- **Audience Award** - facilities, equipment hire or training from Screen Development Australia.

In competition this year:

PORNSTAR

Australia, 2001, Beta SP, 10 mins, directed by Rhian Hinley & Bruce Gladwin

The story of the romantic seduction of a right wing, middle aged, ultra conservative housewife by a lesbian director of erotic films.

INVITATION

Australia, 2002, VHS, 13 mins, directed by Danny Vendramini

Zoe and her city-dwelling flatmate Shane have never told their conservative country parents they're lesbian and gay. So when their parents turn up unexpectedly, soon followed by a succession of Zoe and Shane's weird and wonderful friends, the scene is set for a very queer night.

GLORY

Australia, 2002, Beta SP, 5 mins, directed by Stuart Vauvert
Taking a break from the dance floor, a young scene queen finds glory in the most unlikely places. Drugs, sex and Ricky Martin!

LILLIAN & I

Australia, 2001, Beta SP, 7 mins, directed by Jonathan Wald
Year in and year out, Lillian teaches her music students the same boring piano scales, neglecting her own playing. Until one day, Lillian's piano can't take it any more.

LET THE BOYS PLAY

Australia, 2001, Beta SP, 1 min, directed by Mario Moreras
Let The Boys Play explores human relationships, quick love and impossible lust.

BLOODY HOMOS

Australia, 2002, Beta SP, 7 mins, directed by Robbie Baldwin
This documentary explores the hopes and dreams of an 'alternative lifestyle' as Thomas learns to love himself before passing it on to others.

CONTACT

Australia, 2002, 16mm, 17 mins, directed by Keiran Galvin
A grieving man returns home to spend time with his extended family. They are unaware of his sexuality and his recent loss.

FUGUE

Australia, 2002, 16mm, 5 mins, directed by James Brown
Five relationships from Luke's past are presented; all having one thing in common, they each focus on the issue of Luke's sexuality. The theme of sexual power and its abuse becomes the musical 'theme' of Luke's personal fugue.

THE VISITOR

Australia, 2002, 35mm, 30 mins, directed by Dan Castle
A middle-aged man, living alone, sees an attractive surfer and is reminded of a long lost affair.

BIG SHIRLEY

Australia, 2002, VHS, 2.5 mins, directed by Brodie Lane
'Shirley' wakes with a start to her alarm clock and first ciggie of the day. As she goes about her morning routine, she fantasises about who she will meet that day; who will make her feel 'young and beautiful'.

Stephen Cummins Bequest
Paul Van Reyk



A40 TUESDAY 18 FEBRUARY, 9:15PM, PALACE ACADEMY TWIN
A57 FRIDAY 21 FEBRUARY, 3:00PM, PALACE ACADEMY TWIN

CELLULOID SALON

CELLULOID SALON IS THE DAY WHEN SHORT FILMS ENTERED INTO MY QUEER CAREER BUT NOT SELECTED FOR FINAL COMPETITION ARE SCREENED. A MUST SEE!

The full program, with running order, will be available from the Dendy on the day. Entry is free.

AAXXX

Australia, 2001, VHS, 4.5 mins, directed by Max Ginnane
When a Canadian popstar visited Sydney for the Big Day Out, she was lured out by Sydney's bad girls... & a film clip was made.

BOYS WILL BE BOYS

Australia, 2002, Beta SP, 7 mins, directed by Russell Smith
Two closeted gay boys and their "girlfriends" meet at a party. Only problem is, one of the girlfriends doesn't know she's just for show. Until she finds the boys kissing.

ENOUGH

Australia, 2001, VHS, 4.5 mins, directed by Max Ginnane
A film-clip for Racy Pussycat's first single – all star cast of Sydney girls battling it out.

FAMILY AFFAIR

Australia, 2002, Beta SP, 7 mins, directed by Rie Natalenko
Tara thinks that her mother is having an affair, and sets out to put an end to it.

FASHION VICTIM

Australia, 2001, VHS, 23 mins, directed by Max Ginnane
When Cynthia decided to shift her frocks as one-off exclusives she wasn't banking on who she was ripping off. Every girls nightmare and revenge fantasy.

KINK

Australia, 2002, Beta SP, 7 mins, directed by Nick Moriera
What's a gay boy to do when he wants to get kinky and the boyfriend doesn't? Start by telling a little white lie...

OUT

Australia, 2002, Beta SP, 22 mins, directed by Louise Moody
Out is an upbeat, humorous and emotional documentary that explores the process of coming out for six young queer people in Adelaide.

PIECE OF CAKE

Australia, 2002, Beta SP, 6.5 mins, directed by Chris Bolland & Ashley Terry
The closet door opens with a bang for the birthday boy when Mother meets Marilyn Monroe.

PRESENT TENSE

Australia, 2002, VHS, 18 mins, directed by Luke Robinson
Present Tense is an experimental film that plays with the different fragments that make up a sexual identity.

PRISTINE BOOKS

Australia, 2002, Beta SP, 7 mins, directed by Felix Staica & Adam Artin
A gay relationship teetering on the brink gets a push from an older man.

RUN

Australia, 2002, Beta SP, 4.5 mins, directed by Peter Cornish
"Last night changed my life – and now I'm running for it"

THE VIDEO

Australia, 2002, Beta SP, 11 mins, directed by Christopher Hurley
Bringing "The Video" into her home, Joyce gets more than she bargained for.

WATERPOLO HEROES

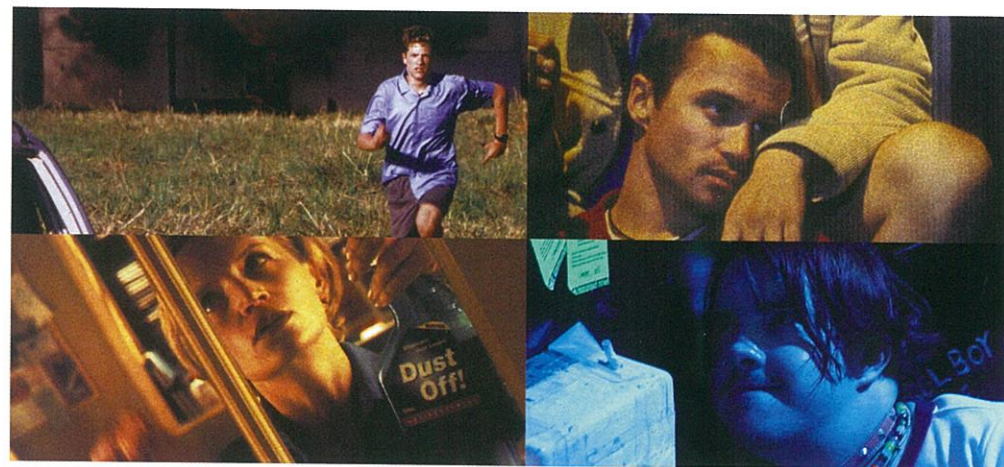
Australia, 2002, Beta SP, 4 mins, directed by Kim Mo
Footage of waterpolo from the Gay Games in Sydney.

MY QUEER CAREER RETROSPECTIVE

There has been a strong history of gay and lesbian filmmaking in Sydney since the early '70s. From the screenings at the Co-Op, to the Gay Film Fund, and right through the '80s, lively and well-attended 'festivals' of queer cinema have given many young or emerging filmmakers the opportunity to screen their films.

In 1993 when Queer Screen was formed the main objectives of the organisation were to support and encourage queer filmmakers and queer screen culture across all areas of our communities. Those objectives hold true ten years on.

When Stephen Cummins left Queer Screen a bequest for an annual short film competition, ten years ago, the door for emerging queer filmmakers opened even further. In recent years the advent of the Adrian Clark Development Award donated by Paul van Reyk, and the Panavision and Fuji awards have provided further recognition and support.



Over the last ten years many films have been entered and screened in the My Queer Career competition. As the recognition and kudos of the competition has grown, many filmmakers have gone on to careers within the film industry and the screenings of the My Queer Career entries now sell out every year.

So in this anniversary year we are screening a range of the highlights from the last ten years. Some of these films have only ever been screened once – some have gone on to win national and international awards. Some of the filmmakers you will recognise and others may have never made another film again. This is a must see for any one interested in film, queer film or Australian gay, lesbian and queer history.

The program will be announced prior to the festival. Details on our website at www.queerscreen.com.au. Join the filmmakers after the screening at the Festival Lounge at Gingers.

A53 THURSDAY 20 FEBRUARY, 7:15PM, PALACE ACADEMY TWIN

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DENDY SESSIONS



The Dendy Late Night Sessions are on again this year and we have unearthed some gems from the past. *Desert Hearts* is historically important because it was the first American lesbian-themed feature film written and directed by a woman. *Don't Ask Don't Tell* started life as a 1953 sci-fi turkey called *Killers From Space* – the film has been changed almost beyond recognition.

DON'T ASK DON'T TELL

USA. 2001. 35MM. 74 MINS
DIRECTED BY DOUG MILLS

Don't Ask Don't Tell is a sordid tale of alien choreography, government conspiracy, and deviant behaviour. This is in fact a 1953 science fiction turkey called *Killers From Space* shamelessly adulterated and entirely re-dubbed.

An elaborate military plot has been devised to wipe out hundreds of thousands of gays. They have been lured to Sodom Flats, Texas with the promise of a free Barbra Streisand concert. This sinister plan to straighten out the country is foiled by gay aliens who have been sent to Earth to reverse the sexual polarity of all animals on the planet.

They came from outer space to take over the planet and they're fabulous.

D01 FRIDAY 14 FEBRUARY. 11:00PM. DENDY NEWTOWN

DESERT HEARTS

1986 USA 91 MINS
PRODUCED AND DIRECTED BY DONNA DEITCH.

Reno, 1959. 35 year old professor Vivian Bell has come to town to dissolve her stagnant marriage. Vivian catches the eye of Cay Rivers, a casino change girl 10 years her junior, and soon enough the brash openly gay youngster and the uptight academic strike up a friendship and eventually much more.

"One of the seminal lesbian/gay films of the 1980's, and arguably the most romantic lesbian film of all time. *Desert Hearts* earns its deserved place in the canon for its rich characterisations, high production values, and its involving depiction of a time and place." *Popcorn Q Movies*

"When is a film not just a film? When it's a cultural and sociological icon like *Desert Hearts*. For the first time in American cinema, a film showed that two women could end up as a couple, and lesbian audiences have come to demand attractive leads, hot sex and happy endings ever since." Lydia Marcus, *The Advocate*

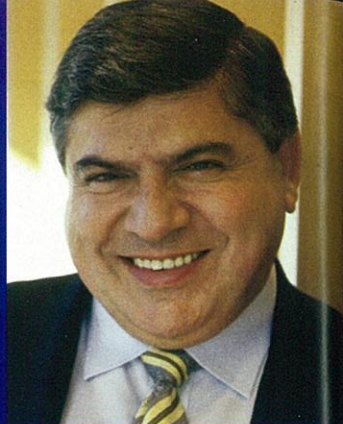
D02 FRIDAY 21 FEBRUARY. 11:00PM. DENDY NEWTOWN

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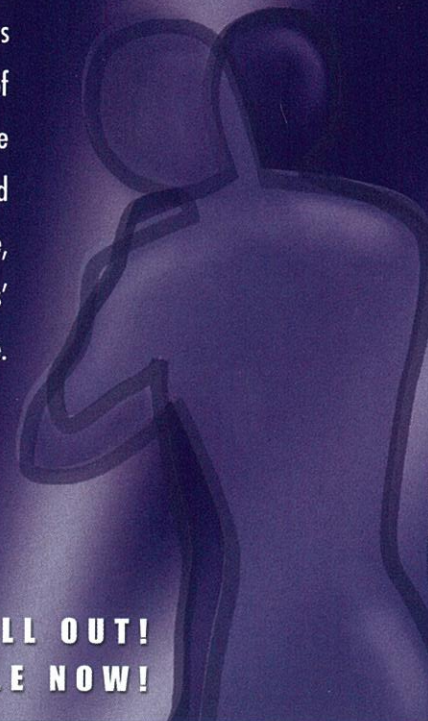


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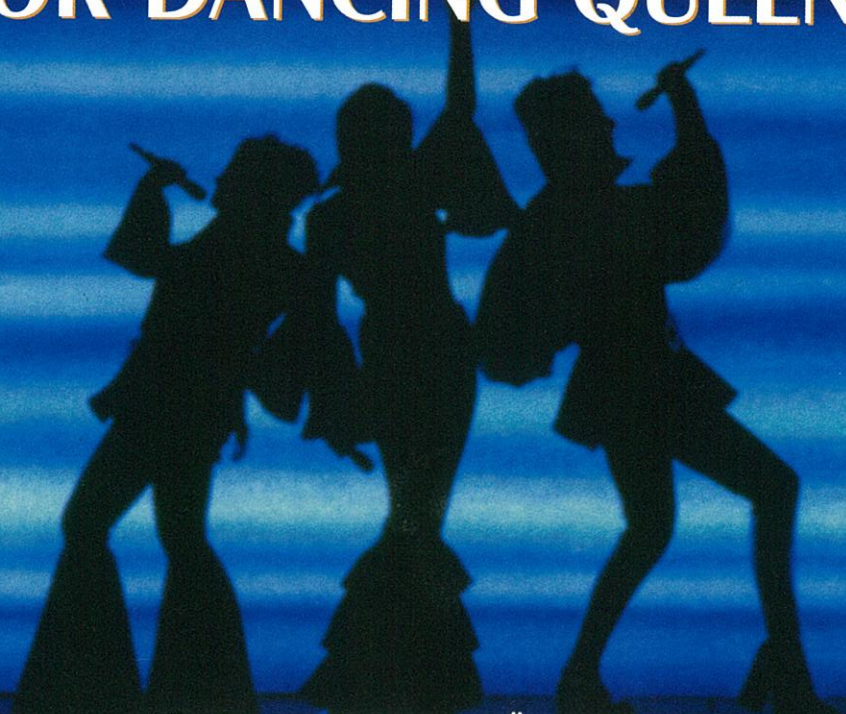
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Photograph of Original Sydney Cast by Joan Marcus



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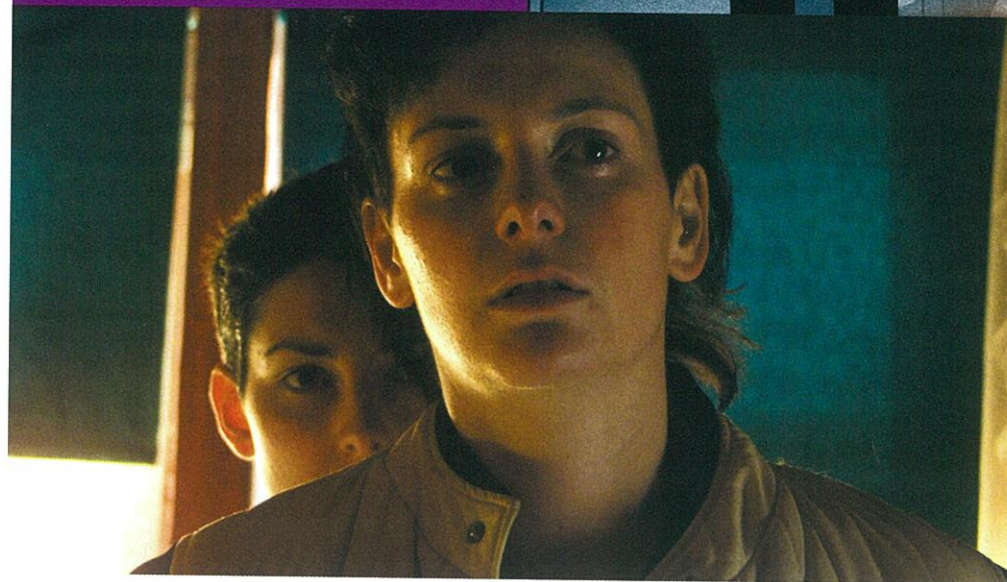
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A-Z FILM LISTING



STOP PRESS FINE DEAD GIRLS

FINE MRTVE DJEVOJKE

CROATIA, 2002, 35MM, 77 MINS
DIRECTED BY DALIBOR MATANIC



Two girls in love rent a room in one of Zagreb's buildings. They are happy because they think they've found a small, hidden place for their love. They do not know yet that entering the doors of that building is entering the doors of hell.

Prizes:

Pula Film Festival, Croatia

Grand Prix best Croatian Film

Critics Prize – Best Film

Audience Prize – Best Film

Fine Dead Girls is the official Best Foreign Film Academy Award nominee from Croatia.

We were negotiating for the film as the program went to press. Consult our website or booking agencies for screening details.

A.K.A.

UK, 2002, 35MM, 123 MINS
DIRECTED BY DUNCAN ROY



A shy, 18 year-old boy is thrown out of his home. He finds a job as a servant to a Lady and learns the ways of high society. This gives him a taste of a better life, and after leaving the household he poses as the Lady's son. His adventures take him to Paris where he furthers his romantic experiences.

The sexy Matthew Leitch makes the most of the lead role, turning in an excellent performance.

A.K.A. is a tale of rent boys and snobs, drugs and booze, high times and low down despair. Director Duncan Roy uses a dazzling split-screen technique utilising three cameras to film much of the action simultaneously. Director Duncan Roy attended the Mardi Gras Film Festival in 1998 with his short film *Clancy's Kitchen*. A.K.A. has been invited to compete in the Sundance Film Festival in January 2003.

A27 SUNDAY 16 FEBRUARY, 9:45PM, PALACE ACADEMY TWIN

AMERICAN MULLET

USA, 2001, BETA SP, 52 MINS
DIRECTED BY JENNIFER ARNOLD



American Mullet has been a favourite on the gay film festival circuit in 2002. Director Jennifer Arnold has looked at the mullet hairstyle, a favourite with Aussie footballers, ageing rockers, lesbians and native Americans.

Jennifer shows great humour as she explores the style and the people who wear it, interviewing bikers, dykes, doctors and a country music DJ.

Preceded by **MAID OF HONOUR**

USA, 1999, 35mm, 28mins

Directed by Jennifer Arnold

Serena is maid of honor at her ex-lover's wedding to a man.

A22 SUNDAY 16 FEBRUARY, 3:00PM, PALACE ACADEMY TWIN

BEING NORMAL

KOREA, 2002, BETA SP, 58 MINS
DIRECTED BY CHOI HYUN JUNG
KOREAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES



J, a young Korean, was born an hermaphrodite but underwent a hysterectomy at a very early age. Having been raised as both a girl and a boy at different times, J struggles with issues of sexual identity and the need to be perceived as 'normal'.

Preceded by **HERMISHLY YOURS**

New Zealand, 2002, VHS, 12 mins

Directed by Susan Potter

Born in 1950's rural New Zealand, Mani Bruce Mitchell's queer life journey involves being brought up as a boy, operated on to become a girl, coming out as a lesbian, and reclaiming a lost identity as a hermaphrodite.

INTERSEX EXPOSITION: FULL MONTY

Australia, 2002, Beta SP, 7 mins

A performance piece in front of a live audience in Sydney.

A44 WEDNESDAY 19 FEBRUARY, 5:15PM, PALACE ACADEMY TWIN

BETWEEN TWO WOMEN

UK, 2001, BETA SP, 92 MINS
DIRECTED BY STEVEN WOODCOCK



Set in 1957 England, *Between Two Women* is the story of Ellen Hardy, an unhappily married mother who forms a friendship with her son's teacher, Kathy. As the friendship grows, she finds herself torn between her duties as a wife and mother and her love for Kathy.

"A powerful tale of suppressed sexuality in which poignant and sharply observed social commentary is interlaced with a tender romance. In the excellent cast, former *Casualty* star Barbara Marten shines brightest as the working class mother struggling with her feelings for another woman. A charming delight." *London Radio Times*

A33 MONDAY 17 FEBRUARY, 9:15PM, PALACE ACADEMY TWIN

BOB & ROSE

UK, 2001, BETA SP, 284 MINS
IN TWO SESSIONS OF 142 MINS EACH
DIRECTED BY STEVEN WOODCOCK



A new TV mini-series by Russell T Davies, writer of the original British *Queer As Folk*, set in Manchester and featuring the legendary Babylon nightclub. Not your conventional love story, it sees Bob, a gay man, end up in bed with Rose, a woman. The experience does not have Bob re-evaluating his sexuality. He is still gay. A comic and dramatic plot unfolds.

Based on a true story *Bob & Rose* has a richly realised collection of gay and straight characters, and is very funny. This is television at its absolute best.

A15 PART ONE SATURDAY 15 FEBRUARY, 1:00PM, PALACE ACADEMY TWIN

A16 PART TWO SATURDAY 15 FEBRUARY, 4:00PM, PALACE ACADEMY TWIN

CANADIAN GIRLS, EH!

OUR SPOTLIGHT ON CANADA FEATURES A DIVERSE SELECTION OF FILMS FROM BOTH THE ENGLISH AND FRENCH LANGUAGE AREAS OF CANADA. WE HAVE CHOSEN SOME OF THE BEST FROM THE LAST TWELVE MONTHS FOR THIS PROGRAM OF FILMS BY AND ABOUT CANADIAN LESBIANS.



SPIKE

Canada, 2002, BetaCam, 4.5 mins, directed by Evie Leder
Spikey has two mommies. A lighthearted look at the joys and anxieties of lesbian parenting.

CHERRIES IN THE SNOW

Canada, 2002, VHS, 4 mins, directed by Melissa Levin
An ode to Joan Nestle and all the other fabulous femmes who came before me.

DRESS CODE

Canada, 2001, VHS, 3 mins, directed by Martha Newbigging
A humorous look at the stick-girl on the sign of a ladies toilet door.

ONCE

Canada, 2001, VHS 12 mins, directed by Ellen Flanders
A journey about language, loss and the construction of memory through language.

HOW TO MEND A BROKEN HEART

Canada, 2002, VHS, 5 mins, directed by Lindsay Moffat
A stewardess brushes with love and loss.

HOW BEATRICE CAME CLEAN

Canada, 2001, VHS, 6 mins, directed by Sean Kaminsky
Beatrice lives in the park and feels dirty. One day she follows an attractive young woman to a nearby laundry.

ANIMALS IN MOTION

Canada, 1968, VHS, 7 mins, directed by John Straiton
A tribute to English photographer Eadweard Muybridge.

DOPPELGÄNGER

Canada, 2002, VHS, 4.5 mins, directed by Alexis Vaughan
Sexy-andro-minimalist-techno party.

MARTIRIO (SUFFERENCE)

Canada, 2000, 16mm, 19 mins,
directed by Claudia Morgado Escanilla
A circus owner wants his daughter to marry a new male trapeze artist. Only she is in love with someone else.

INTERVIEWS WITH MY NEXT GIRLFRIEND

Canada, 2001, 35mm, 13 mins,
directed by Cassandra Nicolaou
Nine women are questioned to see if they will be selected to be the next girlfriend of an unknown interviewer.

A03 THURSDAY 13 FEBRUARY, 5:15PM, PALACE ACADEMY TWIN

CAN'T STOP THE MUSIC

USA, 1980, BETA SP, 118 MINS
DIRECTED BY NANCY WALKER



Come to our special screening of the camp disco classic in costume and win a prize.

The Village People are in Australia this year for their 25th Anniversary tour. To celebrate, Universal Pictures is releasing the cult classic on DVD for the first time.

Revel once more in the vibrant combination of the Village People, Valerie Perrine, Steve Guttenberg, Bruce Jenner and Paul Sand in a rare cinema screening.

Come and sing along.

A13 FRIDAY 14 FEBRUARY, 9:15PM, PALACE ACADEMY TWIN

SESSION SPONSOR **AVANTAGE**

COCK & BULL STORY

USA, 2002, 35MM, 100 MINS
DIRECTED BY BILLY HAYES



An intense, passionate film exploring male friendship and boxing, a sport where same-sex attraction can be an effective game plan.

"*Cock & Bull Story* meanders along with competent performances by Brian Austin Green and Bret Roberts as Jacko & Travis, respectively, amateur boxers and lifelong friends desperate to escape dead-end, violence-riddled, inner-city lives. Then all hell breaks loose as Jacko's long-simmering homophobia erupts into horrific violence and Travis's long-repressed homosexuality emerges with stunningly brutal honesty – and all the build-up becomes worth it.

Green emerges in the film's final moments to show that everything in his performance up to then is cunningly skilled time biding. He holds nothing back, creating an indelible dramatic impression that pushes the film well into the realm of must see."

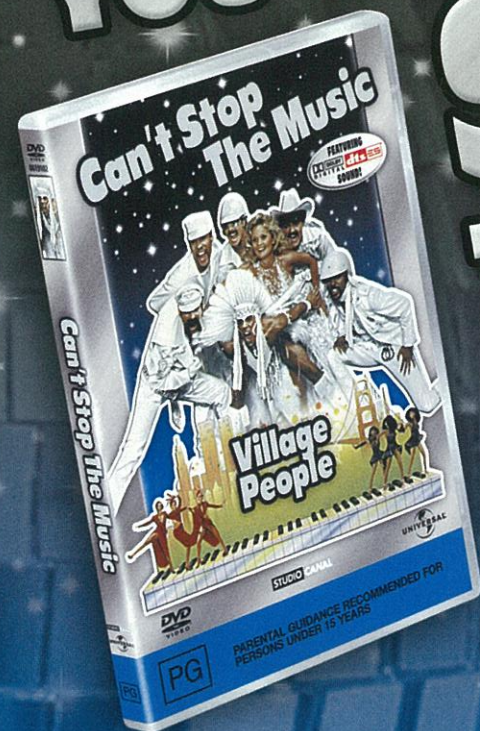
Critics Pick, *Metro Weekly*, Washington DC's Gay & Lesbian Magazine

Cock & Bull Story was written and directed by Billy Hayes, whose real-life experience in a Turkish prison was portrayed in *Midnight Express*.

A17 SATURDAY 15 FEBRUARY, 5:30PM, PALACE ACADEMY TWIN

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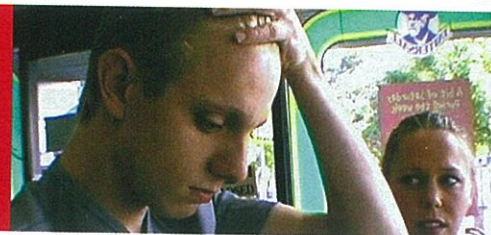
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Also Available:

CRAZY RICHARD

AUSTRALIA, 2001. BETA SP. 64 MINS
DIRECTED BY KATRINA MATHERS & DEAN FRANCIS



Did *Growing Pains* grate? Did *Diff'rent Strokes* drive you to distraction? Did you secretly hope that at least one of the Huxtables would turn out to be a crack-addict cross-dresser? While most ex-child stars settle into a comfortable existence of talk shows and robbing convenience stores, Richard Veed is trying to recapture the limelight he enjoyed as the most popular and highest-paid kiddie actor on TV. Abandoned by his public after a near-fatal drug overdose, the older but not necessarily wiser Richard, accompanied by a tenacious documentary team anticipates a return to former glory via his role as a promiscuous gay teen on a late night sitcom. But is the world ready for it? Does the world care? As our anti-hero finds out, there may be only one way for a has-been to become truly immortalised...

Funny, harrowing and completely entertaining, this Australian mockumentary offers a satirical and pointed look at the contemporary star-making machine, as well as the public voyeurism that feeds it. What do you do when your fifteen minutes are up?

"Arresting and hysterical, seamlessly blending fiction with reality..." *IF Magazine*

Preceded by **GAY GAMES 2002 WITH JOYCE MANGE**

Australia, 2002, Beta SP, 40 minutes, directed by Shane Pascoe
Joyce Mange presents her own special look at the Gay Games.

A37 TUESDAY 18 FEBRUARY, 5:15PM, PALACE ACADEMY TWIN

DAYS

(GIORNI)

ITALY, 2001, 35MM, 80 MINS
DIRECTED BY LAURA MUSCARDIN
ITALIAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES



Claudio is a 35 year-old man with a toned body, an attractive boyfriend, and a good job. But he is not happy. Claudio has been HIV positive for ten years and by taking his drug therapy regularly has kept himself attractive and in good health. After meeting a sexy young waiter, Andrea, all safe sex rules are forgotten.

"And so the affair begins and Claudio's once happy rigid life starts falling apart into a happy one of love and irresponsibility. Why the dramatic change? As Claudio notes about having AIDS: "You have to be careful about everything. Always." With Andrea, everything is immediate and about love.

The astute screenplay never overplays its hand and avoids melodrama. It also lets you play the judge. It's up to you to decide whether two consenting adults with two different HIV statuses who knowingly have unprotected sex are idiots? Monsters? Or just free spirits?" *Popcorn Q.*

Director Laura Muscardin received the Emerging Talent Award at LA's Outfest.

A11 FRIDAY 14 FEBRUARY, 5:30PM, PALACE ACADEMY TWIN

A49 THURSDAY 20 FEBRUARY, 1:00PM, PALACE ACADEMY TWIN

DIVAS: LOVE ME FOREVER

CANADA. 2001. BETA SP. 81 MINS
DIRECTED BY EDIMBARGO CABRERA



Like Sydney, Toronto has a vibrant drag scene. *Divas: Love Me Forever* is a documentary focussing on six Caribbean drag queens living in Toronto, their lives, their goals, their drag personae and their songs.

These drag divas play the usual suspects, Tina Turner, Shirley Bassey, Diana Ross and Grace Jones. What makes them different is the racism they face. Whilst their offstage lives are a battle with discrimination, onstage they shine.

A35 TUESDAY 18 FEBRUARY. 1:00PM. PALACE ACADEMY TWIN

DOWN AND OUT WITH THE DOLLS

CANADA. 2001. 35MM. 88 MINS
DIRECTED BY KURT VOSS



Get ready for rock'n'roll and bad behaviour as female rockers go for fame with their all-girl band, The Paper Dolls. Fights, sex and a new lead singer. These girls are bad, but their music is bloody good.

Down And Out With The Dolls has cameo appearances from members of Motorhead, L7 and the Nymphs. It oozes energy and excitement.

A20 SATURDAY 15 FEBRUARY. 9:45PM. PALACE ACADEMY TWIN

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THE EMBALMER

(L'IMBALSAMATORE)

ITALY, 2002, 35MM, 101 MINS
DIRECTED BY MATTEO GARRONE
ITALIAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES



Have you ever fallen in love with someone you shouldn't? Peppino is a middle-aged dwarf with Mafia connections who becomes obsessed with Valerio, a young Italian hunk he meets at the zoo. After offering Valerio a job, Peppino sets about trying to seduce him at work.

The Embalmer is dark, seductive, sometimes blackly comic and at times grotesque. Stunningly photographed, it puts you under its spell, as it moves towards its climax.

Official Selection Directors' Fortnight, Cannes 2002
London International Film Festival 2002

A41 TUESDAY 18 FEBRUARY, 9:45PM, PALACE ACADEMY TWIN

SESSION SPONSOR

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END GAME

UK, 2001, 35MM, 109 MINS
DIRECTED BY GARY WICKS



British crime thrillers have an edge and a realism that is lacking in glossy American blockbusters. Tough, violent and sexy, *End Game* takes you into the world of a ruthless and conscience-free gangster, and his sexy rent boy.

Daniel Newman is the crim's boy. He is given a classy riverfront loft with expensive furniture and has plenty of spare time to enjoy it. His only obligation is to be available for sex whenever his boss wants it, but he is drawn into other schemes which could prove his downfall.

The Philadelphia Gay & Lesbian Festival called it "surely one of the best gay thrillers in years."

A34 MONDAY 17 FEBRUARY, 9:45PM, PALACE ACADEMY TWIN

ENTER THE CLOWNS

CHINA, 2002, BETA SP, 82 MINS
DIRECTED BY CUI ZI'EN
MANDARIN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES



"Cui Zi'en's *Enter The Clowns* is a groundbreaker in gay cinema as well as in Chinese independent filmmaking. Adapted from his own novel by Cui, a controversial Beijing Film Academy professor, the beautifully shot-in-digital film unfolds as a series of interlocked vignettes revealing the everyday lives of young Beijing gay and transgender men. In their explorations of sexuality, they struggle to link emotions and desire more freely and matter-of-factly than one might expect in the communist nation." Kevin Thomas, *Los Angeles Times*

A32 MONDAY 17 FEBRUARY, 7:15PM, PALACE ACADEMY TWIN

FAMILY FUNDAMENTALS

USA, 2002, BETA SP, 75 MINS
DIRECTED BY ARTHUR DONG



Arthur Dong opens a window on families where right wing ultra conservative parents have gay or lesbian children. Often these parents support their children, but not their lifestyle choices. Some are deeply conflicted while others stand firm in their deeply held conservative beliefs. Others are actively and publicly homophobic.

We meet a Pentecostal church leader with a lesbian daughter and a gay grandson. There is a Mormon bishop who tried to change his son's orientation. Also featured is a Republican congressman, who has campaigned strongly for the introduction of anti-gay measures and whose protégé happens to be gay.

This powerful documentary clearly illustrates that the battles are far from won.

A63 SATURDAY 22 FEBRUARY, 1:00PM, PALACE ACADEMY TWIN

Ken's
KINOLITH

SESSION SPONSOR



FISH AND ELEPHANT

CHINA, 2001, 16MM, 106 MINS
DIRECTED BY LI YU



Fish and Elephant is a wonderful story of first love. Xiao Qun is the elephant keeper at the local zoo. Her girlfriend, Xiao Ling is a saleswoman in a clothing store. The relationship develops in secret and is complicated by parental problems, with Xiao Qun's mother bringing by a succession of prospective bachelors (in some very funny sequences) and the arrival of Xiao Qun's old girlfriend on the run from the police.

"The first lesbian-themed film to emerge from China, *Fish and Elephant* explores sexuality and life in a refreshing way, and director Li Yu doesn't leave much to the imagination in the offering. Strong characters and plot development make this dyke drama hard to resist. Yu employs a non-professional cast, including a lesbian couple she met in a club, to play the main characters, a wise move that adds to the film's sense of realism." *Metro Weekly*, *Washington gay and lesbian weekly*.

A75 SUNDAY 23 FEBRUARY, 9:15PM, PALACE ACADEMY TWIN

FUN IN BOYS' SHORTS

COMEDY, DRAMA, ROMANCE, BITCHINESS. IT ALL COMES OUT IN THESE GAY COMEDIES.



DATE

USA, 2002, VHS, 4 mins, directed by Robert Alan Rackham
David's afternoon of 'romantic delights' involves a car accident, a finicky old man, and a lot of tomatoes.

L.T.R.

USA, 2002, VHS, 16 mins, directed by Phillip J Bartell
Two guys feel their two week affair will last forever.

VIOLIN LESSON

USA, 2002, VHS, 18 mins, directed by Robert Alan Rackham
Harry's sexual desires are driving him to the point of implosion.

SINALELA

Samoa, 2001, VHS, 3 mins,
directed by Dan Taulapapa McMullin
Despite evil drag-stepsisters, Sinalela finds her Samoan Prince with the help of a magic one-eyed fish.

THE MORMON CONQUEST

Australia, 2002, Beta SP, 5.5 mins, directed by Jackie Shulz
With diamonds and Manolo Blahniks at stake, two women fight it out to find the true meaning of the term 'lay preacher'.

ORCHID GAMES

Canada, 2002, Beta SP, 7 mins,
directed by Passia Pandora
Erotic short about role-playing gay lovers who jeopardize their relationship by pushing each other to the edge.

ONE FINE MORNING

WORLD PREMIERE SCREENING
USA, 2002, 16 mins, directed by Scott Boswell
In 1988, goth high school senior Adam returns to face Matt, the boy of his fantasies.

QUACKS LIKE A DUCK

USA, 2002, Beta SP, 8.5 mins, directed by Steve Ferger
A man's gaydar breaks at a critical moment.

THE BOYFRIEND

USA, 2002, 19 mins, directed by Chiedu Egbuniwe
Todd picks up a cute stranger while boyfriend is away.

SHADOW BOX

France, 2000, Beta SP, 1.5 mins,
directed by Pierre Yves Clouin
A guy goes for a walk with his camera.

A23 SUNDAY 16 FEBRUARY, 5:15PM, PALACE ACADEMY TWIN

FUN IN GIRLS' SHORTS

THE NEW MILLENNIUM HAS SEEN SOME MAJOR CHANGES IN LESBIAN SHORTS AND THESE REFLECT SOME OF THOSE DEVELOPMENTS.

ON THE OUTS

USA, 2002, Beta SP, 24 mins,
directed by Courtney Rowe

Can you romance a lesbian without actually being one? Paige, the quintessential twenty-something, bi-curious, 'straight girl' seems to think so.

PUSSIES FROM OUTTA SPACE

USA, 2002, Beta SP, 13 mins, directed by Nanci Gaglio
What happens when a lesbian artist needs to find a 'real job'? A comedy horror that has everything: two poor lesbians, an alien abduction, much probing, scary special effects and wet kittens!



STARCHED

UK, 2001, 35mm, 6 mins, directed by Cath Le Couteur
A stylish comedic tale of sex, power, and revenge played out in the Hempel Hotel via a maid, a female executive, and a bottle of starch.

LEAVE IT

USA, 2002, 35mm, 28 mins,
directed by Laura Jean Cronin
Trish meets the girl of her dreams at dog obedience school.

PRETTY LADIES

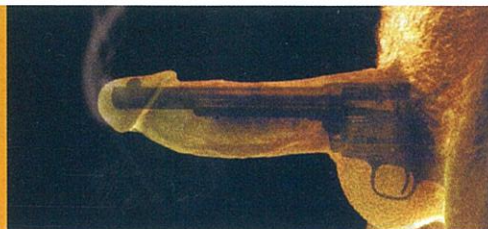
USA, 2002, 35mm, 28.5 mins,
directed by Catherine Crouch
A butch fairytale with sex, drugs and religion.

A30 MONDAY 17 FEBRUARY, 5:15PM, PALACE ACADEMY TWIN

SESSION SPONSOR **SHOWTIME**

THE GIFT

USA, 2002, BETA SP, 75 MINS
DIRECTED BY LOUISE HOGARTH



"I do not know anybody who has died of AIDS," says one of the interviewees in this powerful documentary. Images of healthy HIV positive men in parades and in bars as well as a declining annual death toll in western countries from AIDS has seen a new complacency among many young men. There is a strong belief in the community that AIDS is now a manageable disease.

This has seen a kneejerk reaction against safe sex and a strong new trend towards barebacking in some segments of the community. *The Gift* takes a hard look at Gift Givers (HIV positive men who give the gift of HIV infection) and Bug Chasers (HIV negative men who deliberately become infected with HIV), as well as the growth of barebacking. It interviews men who have taken part in these practices and raises strong questions for the gay community.

A21 SUNDAY 16 FEBRUARY, 1:00PM, PALACE ACADEMY TWIN

GIRL KING

USA, 2002, 16MM, 80 MINS
DIRECTED BY ILEANA PIETROBRUNO



A sexy, gender-bending, perverse tale with a fistful of fetish in every frame... not for the faint hearted!

The Queen's treasure has been plundered by her ex-lover, the King. Equally devastating – she finds she can no longer orgasm. The Queen's pirate, Captain Candy, catches a baby butch whom the Queen enlists to confront the King and return her precious treasure. Soon these playful pirates are lusting their way through a steamy adventure on the high seas; playing with queer identities whilst keeping its tongue planted firmly-in-cheek. Amon Tobin provides a contemporary electro soundtrack to complement the campness of this modern myth. Theatrical and surreal, this is a drag king pirate adventure into uncharted waters of dyke desire that will make you want to walk the plank.

A51 THURSDAY 20 FEBRUARY, 5:15PM, PALACE ACADEMY TWIN

GIRL WILL BE GIRLS

USA, 2002, BETA SP, 83 MINS
DIRECTED BY RICHARD DAY



Three actresses at various levels on the Hollywood food chain navigate the minefield of love, ageing and ambition. Oh, and they are all played by men.

Girls Will Be Girls features Jeffrey Roberson as Varla Jean Merman, Jack Plotnick (who played the interviewer in *Gods And Monsters*), and Clinton Leupp from *Trick*.

This bitchy soap opera is designed to have you rolling in the aisles and comes to Australia directly from the Sundance Film Festival.

A72 SUNDAY 23 FEBRUARY, 5:15PM, PALACE ACADEMY TWIN

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GUARDIAN OF THE FRONTIER

(VARUH MEJE)

SLOVENIA, 2001, 35MM, 100 MINS
DIRECTED BY RICHARD DAY
SLOVENIAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES



Programmers at the Berlin Film Festival in February 2002 were knocked out by this gutsy lesbian-themed *Deliverance* from Slovenia. It has a freshness of vision that made it a standout in a strong selection of films and it was subsequently selected for most major gay and lesbian festivals around the world.

For their summer holidays, three students decide to take a canoe trip down the Kolpa River, the river which divides Slovenia from Croatia. They are unaware that they are being watched by the Guardian of the Frontier, a conservative local politician, the self-styled defender of traditional Slovenian values, who is quite possibly prepared to kill those who transgress. As the girls float deeper into the woods, rifts develop in their relationships. Is there more than friendship between Alja and Zana? Does Simona harbour a secret sympathy for the Guardian and what he stands for?

A08 FRIDAY 14 FEBRUARY, 1:00PM, PALACE ACADEMY TWIN

A55 THURSDAY 20 FEBRUARY, 9:45PM, PALACE ACADEMY TWIN

GYPSY 83

USA, 2001, 35MM, 94 MINS
DIRECTED BY TODD STEPHENS



Stand back and brace yourself for *Gypsy Vale*, the small-town girl with a Stevie Nicks fixation. Dissatisfied with her lot, this backwoods-Bella Donna quits her job at the local photo mart and, with her gay Goth best friend Clive in tow, decides to travel across the country to New York to take part in the annual Nicks fest, 'Night of 1000 Stevies'. Meeting a requisite amount of oddbods and quirky characters along the way (a past-dwelling karaoke hostess, a hunky Amish runaway), their voyage soon becomes one of acceptance and self-discovery.

Upbeat, cheerful and armed with a killer soundtrack, director Todd Stephens takes us back once again to the big-haired '80s of his previous gay cult hit *Edge of Seventeen* and delivers a road movie with a twist. With standout performances that include perennial favourite Karen ("I can't fly this plane!") Black, *Gypsy 83* will soon have you throwing on a chenille bedspread, teasing out the hair and spinning around to 'Leather and Lace'.

A31 MONDAY 17 FEBRUARY, 5:30PM, PALACE ACADEMY TWIN

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

USA, 2002, BETA SP, 93 MINS
DIRECTED BY YEN TAN
MANDARIN, URDU AND SPANISH
WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES.



A young girl's recent breakup with her lover leads to wondering about what might have been. An overweight gay man's career success hides sadness and pain. A priest expounds the virtues of becoming straight, all the while finding his own closet increasingly confining. An Islamic man faces deportation back to his estranged family and separation from his porn star lover. An Asian student whose visit by her mother forces her to 'straighten up' for the duration. They have nothing in common, except the same birthday.

This quiet and sensitive insight into the lives of five very different people is an impressive effort for first-time director Yen Tan, who garnered The Philadelphia International Gay & Lesbian Film Festival's Jury Competition Award for this film. With its Altman-esque style of separate and individual stories within one film, *Happy Birthday* offers a refreshing take on issues of longing and relationships.

A74 SUNDAY 23 FEBRUARY, 7:15PM, PALACE ACADEMY TWIN



THE HISTORY OF MASTURBATION

UK, 2001, BETA SP, 52 MINS
DIRECTED BY KRISTIE CLARKE



This documentary traces masturbation back through time to some of the earliest documentation. Dealing with both female and male masturbation it delves into areas such as why we do it, how we do it, and why we will never stop. Many juicy tidbits are revealed throughout with highlights on shaving your genital area and increasing your enjoyment. Clarke poses the question: can it ever be bad for you?

A39 TUESDAY 18 FEBRUARY, 7:15PM, PALACE ACADEMY TWIN

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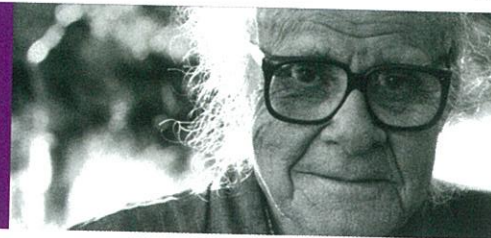
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HOPE ALONG THE WIND - THE LIFE OF HARRY HAY

USA, 2001, BETA SP, 77 MINS
DIRECTED BY ERIC SLADE



In 1948, Harry Hay founded the first gay rights organisation in America, the Mattachine Society. As a radical, Marxist gay man he has spent his whole life fighting for basic human rights and he is regarded internationally as a leader for gay politics.

Eric Slade uses fascinating archival footage and dramatisations to complement passionate interviews with Harry and his fellow activists.

This program is dedicated to Harry, who died late 2002. He remains an inspiration.

Preceded by FENCED OUT

USA, 2001, VHS, 20 mins

Directed by Carlos Pareja

A popular meeting place for homeless gay youth is closed.

A25 SUNDAY 16 FEBRUARY, 7:15PM, PALACE ACADEMY TWIN

A42 WEDNESDAY 19 FEBRUARY, 1:00PM, PALACE ACADEMY TWIN

HOT BOYS FROM COOL CANADA

CANADA MAY BE COOL IN WINTER. BUT THAT DOES NOT STOP THINGS FROM STEAMING UP. FROM PROSTITUTION. TO SPERM BANKS AND LATIN AEROBICS INSTRUCTORS. CANADIAN SHORTS KNOW NO BOUNDARIES.



BESO NOCTURNO

Mexico/Canada, 2000, 35mm, 14 mins,
directed by Boris Rodriguez

A young man witnesses the death of his girlfriend, and is then picked up in a bar and paid to provide sexual services to a dying old man.

TOUS LES DEUX

Canada, 2001, VHS, 3 mins, directed by Marc Beurteaux
Animated feature. Two groups march drearily along opposite sides of a border. Two stragglers want a little more.

BABY BLUE

Canada, 2002, VHS, 7 mins, directed by Patrick McGuinn
While visiting the ocean, a young man reflects on a childhood sexual experience.

LATE NIGHT VISITOR

Canada, 2002, VHS, 3 mins, directed by Michael Barry
A tribute to the physique films of Bob Mizer and AMG Studios

RELEASE

Canada, 2001, VHS, directed by Shawn Postoff
There's a spirit that moves you. To do something you wouldn't otherwise do. To go somewhere without telling anyone.

CANADA: SPERM BANK OF SATAN

Canada, 2002, VHS, 12 mins, directed by Graham Hollings
In 1999, a U.S. preacher called Canada "the sperm bank of Satan" after the Supreme court extended the definition of spouse to include same-sex couples. This film explores the consequences of this decision for US-Canada relations.

TANGO PARA DOS

Canada, 2002, VHS, 4.5 mins, directed by J T O'Neal
A sexy latino instructor and a female student battle for the attention of a handsome hunk.

THAT THING WE DO

Canada, 2002, 35mm, 16 mins, directed by Andrew Hull
While visiting his family at the cottage, Kevin meets up with his younger cousin sparking a sweet and inspiring connection.

A19 SATURDAY 15 FEBRUARY, 9:15PM, PALACE ACADEMY TWIN

SESSION SPONSOR  Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade / Ministère des Affaires étrangères et du Commerce international

I LOVE YOU BABY

SPAIN. 2001. 35MM. 110 MINS
DIRECTED BY ALFONSO ALBACETE & DAVID MENKES
SPANISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES



Boy George, country boys in the city, pop anthems and disco balls come crashing together in this sparkling romantic comedy from Spain.

We have had a number of films from Spain in recent years and this is one of the best. A country boy comes to the city where he works at his uncle's café. He meets a Boy George-loving-actor and the two start a passionate affair. But when a disco ball comes crashing down on the head of one of the lovers, everything changes.

I Love You Baby, is a comedy, a love story and a story of destiny complete with a bouncy musical score.

"It's a cute flick with a 'what's new?' plot and some quirky antics involving karaoke and falling disco balls... *I Love You Baby* is a movie for first dates and soft hearts as well as bi-curious types who fancy being chased by both sexes." *Metro Weekly* – Washington's gay & lesbian magazine.

A14 FRIDAY 14 FEBRUARY. 9:45PM. PALACE ACADEMY TWIN
A36 TUESDAY 18 FEBRUARY. 3:00PM. PALACE ACADEMY TWIN

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN SHORTS

LESBIAN SHORTS ARE ALWAYS HOTLY PURSUED
AND 2003 WILL HAVE YOU RUNNING AROUND THE
WORLD FOR THESE!



SELMA & SOFIE

Sweden, 2002, Beta SP, 18 mins, directed by Mia Engberg
Selma has a boring job and boring boyfriend. When she meets Sofie at the bath house she can't stop thinking about her and wants to have sex with her all the time. Made by an all lesbian cast and crew.

THEY STILL SMILE

Belarus, 2002, VHS, 16 mins, directed by Irina Sizova
Irina Sizova records the struggles of gay activists in Belarus, a part of the world not often projected on Australian screens.

GLADYS. A CUBAN MOTHER

Spain, 2001, Beta SP, 11 mins, directed by Xavier Daniel
Now married and with children, Gladys discusses the lesbian feelings she suppressed that never went away. An fascinating insight into growing up in Cuba.

PENSÃO INTERNACIONAL

Portugal, 2002, 35mm, 15 mins, directed by Rui Goulart
The boarding house called International is located in a deserted spot in Algarve, Portugal. This is a boarding house with hidden night habits.

CORTOMIRAGGI

Italy, 2001, Beta SP, 16.5 mins, directed by Cristina Zanetti
Two lesbians meet up at a screening of experimental lesbian films. They make cutting remarks about some of the films and decide to leave early. One of them invites the other home to watch *Conan the Destroyer* and *Grace Jones*.

A58 FRIDAY 21 FEBRUARY. 5:15PM. PALACE ACADEMY TWIN

KARMEN GEI

SENEGAL. FRANCE & CANADA. 2001. 35MM. 86 MINS
DIRECTED BY JOSEPH GAI RAMAKA
FRENCH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES



Currently banned in Senegal, *Karmen Gei* is an explosive, sexy, imaginative re-creation of Bizet's saucy Spanish opera *Carmen*. To great effect Ramaka reinvents the female lead of *Carmen* as a black Senegalese woman of Amazonian proportions, in full control of her powerful sexuality. While the Spanish cigarette factory is replaced by the smuggling underworld of Senegal, the plot line remains true.

Escaping the penitentiary and leaving behind her beautiful warden lover, Karmen returns to the helm of her crime racket, denouncing the corrupt police and luring the soon-to-be superintendent, Lamine, away from his new bride and into her fold of good-natured thieves. She continues to attract suitors and fans, but only her old friend Samba understands her free and passionate spirit and is worthy of putting her body to rest. Stunningly beautiful newcomer Djeinaba Diop Gai imbues the magical character of Karmen with a palpitating sensuality, as director Joseph Gai Ramaka transforms her character into a kind of enchanted heroine of the common people.

A48 WEDNESDAY 19 FEBRUARY. 9:45PM. PALACE ACADEMY TWIN

LEAVING METROPOLIS

CANADA. 2002. 35MM. 90 MINS
DIRECTED BY BRAD FRASER



Trying to find his muse again after success as a painter, David takes on a waiting job in a small cafe run by dependable Matt and his wife Violet. Aided by his best friend Shannon, a pre-op transsexual coping with her HIV status, life continues to coast along for the young artist. But suddenly there's a complication when he and the husband, fall for each other...

Playwright/director Brad Fraser is still courting the darker and often shocking side of human relations as he did in his phenomenally successful *Unidentified Human Remains and the True Nature of Love*. This is his adaptation of his 1994 hit play *Poor Superman*. It maps the slow combustion of a relationship and tells a tale that we all know – sometimes you can't help who you fall in love with. What happens when a gay man falls in love with a married man, and the passion is returned?

"...a witty, entertaining and sometimes sexy drama..." *Variety.com*

A43 WEDNESDAY 19 FEBRUARY. 3:00PM. PALACE ACADEMY TWIN
A67 SATURDAY 22 FEBRUARY. 7:15PM. PALACE ACADEMY TWIN

LESBIANS BEHAVING BADLY / LESBIANS OLÉ



LESBIANS BEHAVING BADLY

UK, 2001, Beta SP, 46 mins

Directed by Kerry McKibbin

"We're the new gay men" says one of the lesbians in this documentary. The girls are about and they are out to have a rowdy and raunchy time. Among the members of the London lesbian scene we meet Channah, a club promoter who hosts a monthly lesbian strip show, Natasha Vale, one of her dancers, and Nikki, Emma and Rachel who are trying to win the New Year's Eve snog-a-thon.

And there is so much more to the lesbian London scene after dark.

LESBIANS OLÉ

UK, 2002, Beta SP, 50 mins

Directed by Caz Gorham

Follows the stories, relationships and personal dramas of a group of British lesbians out for a good time while on holiday in Spain.

"Chic gay women turn into marauding mistresses of the night terrifying other holiday makers and the locals in Sitges, Spain." *World of Wonder*

A01 THURSDAY 13 FEBRUARY, 1:00PM, PALACE ACADEMY TWIN

A26 SUNDAY 16 FEBRUARY, 9:15PM, PALACE ACADEMY TWIN

LILY FESTIVAL



JAPAN, 2001, 35MM, 100 MINS

DIRECTED BY HAMANO SACHI

JAPANESE WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Based on the novel *Lily Festival* (Yurisa), this film is a brightly humorous portrayal of the sexual reawakening of a group of elderly Japanese women. Written by Momotani Hoko, the book won the Hokkaido Newspaper Literary Prize in 1999.

When an aged ladies' man moves into a vacant apartment block populated by an equally aged community of widowed women, it's only a matter of time before each sets in motion her plans to lay claim on this fresh piece of flesh. Before you can say Viagra, the women are causing the Casanova to scurry among apartments, delivering his smooth and eloquent charm on cue to satisfy each particular mistress.

Humorous and poignant, this glance into the twilight years of a likeable bunch of old-timers is both refreshing and bold. *Lily Festival* effectively portrays the lively reawakening of sexual energies in these older Japanese women who would have spent most of their lives shackled by oppressive tradition. That the female protagonist finally transcends traditional boundaries of gender and sexuality at the ripe old age of seventy gives the film a queer sensibility – and a delightfully happy ending!

A24 SUNDAY 16 FEBRUARY, 5:30PM, PALACE ACADEMY TWIN

MACBETH – THE COMEDY



USA, 2001, BETA SP, 91 MINS

DIRECTED BY ALLISON L. LICALSI

A power hungry lesbian couple, a slow-witted King, a Caribbean sidekick, a trio of fabulously gay "weird sisters," and a host of other misfits combine in *Macbeth – The Comedy*, the second film adaptation of a famous theatrical work (see also *Karmen Gei*) in this year's festival.

Having just led the Scottish forces to victory, all Macbeth wants to do is go home, take a bubble bath and slip into her tartan mini-dress. Her plans change when she encounters three prognosticating sisters who appear to be refugees from Greenwich Village. They tell Macbeth that she will one day become King... and the wheels of her ambition are set in motion.

Interweaving Shakespeare's original language with modern dialogue and crazy twists, this fun, flamboyant recreation draws on the tradition of *Monty Python* and *BlackAdder*.

A46 WEDNESDAY 19 FEBRUARY, 7:15PM, PALACE ACADEMY TWIN

MANGO SOUFFLE



INDIA, 2002, 35MM, 90 MINS

DIRECTED BY MANESH DATTANI

ENGLISH

There is very strong pressure in India to conform to certain accepted rules and to be perceived as heterosexual by society. This pressure affects the lives of many, and can be seen clearly in Mahesh Dattani's *Mango Souffle*. The main characters take off for a weekend at the Mango Grove, a farmhouse owned by fashion designer Kamlesh. The guests include his lover Sharad, a TV star who is living a double life. At the core of *Mango Souffle* is a drama of love, loss and a renewed sense of gain. The characters fight their battles and what emerges is the victory of love over prejudice. The texture and flavour of the film is comic but its concerns are classic, dealing with the human need for love and respect.

Bangkok Film Festival 2002

Austin Film Festival 2002

A28 MONDAY 17 FEBRUARY, 1:00PM, PALACE ACADEMY TWIN

A59 FRIDAY 21 FEBRUARY, 5:30PM, PALACE ACADEMY TWIN

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MELISSA ETHERIDGE LIVE ... AND ALONE

USA. 2002. 35MM. 78 MINS
 DIRECTED BY MICHAEL A. SIMON



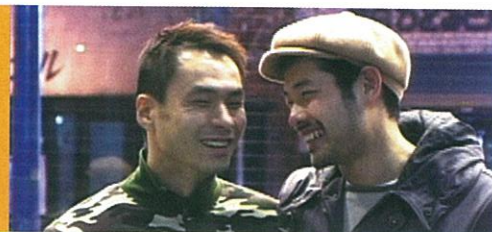
In 2001, Melissa Etheridge embarked on a solo tour without a band to back her up. She performed alone on stage with just a guitar or piano. Ridge Road films captured her live in concert at the Kodak Theatre in Los Angeles as part of this tour. She performs in front of an adoring audience on a custom stage setup with lighting developed specially for the solo tour.

This is the essence of a Melissa Etheridge concert featuring some of Melissa's greatest hits, along with a brand new recording, *Alive*.

A07 THURSDAY 13 FEBRUARY, 9:45PM, PALACE ACADEMY TWIN

NAUGHTY BOYS

JAPAN. 2002. BETA SP. 76 MINS
 DIRECTED BY IMALZUMI KOICHI
 JAPANESE WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES



Takayuki and Gatchan are boyfriends who have been together for two years. When Gatchan cheats yet again, Takayuki storms out of the house muttering "two can play at that game". Meanwhile Gatchan goes to visit his latest bit of trade. As feelings clash, Takayuki gets embroiled in trouble and mayhem.

Love, desire and jealousy intertwine in this battle movie set in Shinjuku 2-chome. *Naughty Boys* is a good example of the hip new gay movies that are being made by some of the emerging filmmakers around the world. They see things with a fresh perspective and represent the views of a new generation.

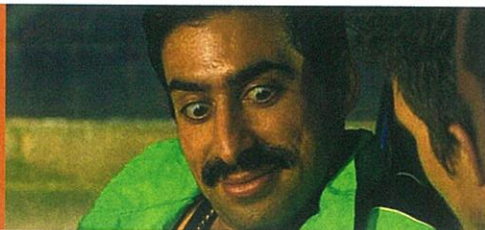
A54 THURSDAY 20 FEBRUARY, 9:15PM, PALACE ACADEMY TWIN

SESSION SPONSOR

CIVIC

9 DEAD GAY GUYS

UK, 2002. 35MM. 90 MINS
DIRECTED BY LAB KY MO



Dare if you will, to come and meet a couple of rent boys (who are not as straight as they pretend to be), and their acquaintances and customers – a rich Orthodox Jew, a well-endowed black man, an unhygienic Indian taxi driver and a dwarf with a cattle prod.

"The most shocking film showing at the Cannes Film Festival this year is not a gruesome foreign thriller or an explicit erotic drama. It is a British comedy. *9 Dead Gay Guys* has had critics and hardened film industry executives walking out from screenings in droves. 'I am not easily shocked,' said Arlene Carter, An American assistant producer, 'but I could not believe what I was watching and hearing.'" *The Observer, London*

9 Dead Gay Guys is the feature debut of British writer Lab Ky Mo, who is a previous winner of the Carl Foreman Screenwriting Fellowship.

Winner of Audience Award – *Just For Laughs Festival, Montreal*

Winner of Audience Award – *Dublin Lesbian & Gay Film Festival*

A05 THURSDAY 13 FEBRUARY. 7:15PM. PALACE ACADEMY TWIN

A66 SATURDAY 22 FEBRUARY. 5:30PM. PALACE ACADEMY TWIN

NO SECRET ANYMORE

USA, 2002. BETA SP. 58 MINS
DIRECTED BY JOAN E BIREN



Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon launched the Daughters of Bilitis in 1955. This was the first public organisation for lesbians in America. The two have been partners in love and political struggle for 50 years. This inspiring film follows their story through half a century, tracing the emergence of lesbians from the fear of discovery to an expectation of equality.

No Secret Anymore follows Del and Phyllis through the creation of coalitions that took on the prevailing belief that lesbians were immoral and sick. Phyllis and Del did the groundbreaking work on lesbian mothers, sex education, family violence and more. Working from within and outside the institutions they sought to change, Del and Phyllis were able to advance the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people. Today these unapologetic and unstoppable activists are educating both the LGBT and ageing movements on the needs of old lesbians.

No Secret Anymore arrives just a week after its world premiere in San Francisco.

Preceded by *IT WILL END UP IN TEARS*

Israel, 2000, VHS, 47 mins, directed by Gonen Glaser

An Israeli woman struggles against her family's homophobia.

A64 SATURDAY 22 FEBRUARY. 3:00PM. PALACE ACADEMY TWIN

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★★★★

Peter Travers, Rolling Stone

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Music: Alberto Iglesias Art Director: Antxón Gómez Director of Photography: Javier Aguirresarobe A.E.C.
Director of Production: Esther García Executive Producer: Agustín Almodóvar

Written and Directed by: Pedro Almodóvar

IN CINEMAS FEBRUARY 20

NOTORIOUS CHO

USA, 2002, 35MM, 95 MINS
DIRECTED BY LORENE MACHADO



Margaret Cho's first film *I'm The One That I Want* was a major hit at our 2001 Festival. Margaret was a hit again last year when she performed at Mardi Gras. We are thrilled that we can bring her back this year in her latest concert film. She covers a multitude of subjects from her elusive G-spot to Los Angeles S & M clubs through to what sort of woman turns her on, then it is over to drag queens and colonic irrigation. Nothing is sacred in a Margaret Cho concert.

If you are a fan, you will not want to miss this. If you have never seen Margaret Cho perform, do yourself a favour and join the audience in this no-holds-barred laugh feast for men and women.

"Cho's weapons are a wildly imaginative sense of humour and the courage to be absolutely uninhibited." *Los Angeles Times*

"Brilliant over-the-edge concert film Notorious CHO carries candid sexual humour into previously uncharted territory" *New York Times*

A18 SATURDAY 15 FEBRUARY, 7:15PM, PALACE ACADEMY TWIN
A29 MONDAY 17 FEBRUARY, 3:00PM, PALACE ACADEMY TWIN

SESSION SPONSOR **Gingers**

OH BABY A BABY

AUSTRIA, 1999, BETA SP, 90 MINS
DIRECTED BY WOLFGANG MURNBERGER
DUBBED INTO ENGLISH



Sandra and Iris are the perfect lesbian yuppie couple – one of them is a successful architect, the other is the owner of a stylish flower shop. They have a beautiful home, a sports car, a pampered cat and a stable eight-year relationship. Iris wants a baby, but Sandra is not so sure. One day a hunky Spaniard comes into the flower shop and Iris whisks him off to the fertility clinic for a specimen.

In true screwball comedy style, this Spaniard just happens to work with Sandra, and the two have a hot fling in the elevator.

What follows is a riotous roller coaster ride that had last year's Melbourne Queer Film Festival audience in stitches. There are twists and turns and a wedding where nobody knows who is going to be the bride.

A65 SATURDAY 22 FEBRUARY, 5:15PM, PALACE ACADEMY TWIN

PROM FIGHT: THE MARK HALL STORY

CANADA, 2002, VHS, 60 MINS
DIRECTED BY LARRY PELOSO



"I am writing to request that the school board reverse the policy taken to deny me the opportunity to attend my school prom with the person of my choice, my boyfriend. That's all I want: to go to the prom with my date, like everybody else, and to make sure that no other student of the Durham Catholic School Board will never have to face what I have over the last few weeks" Marc Hall, 25 March 2002.

What began as a simple request turned into a media frenzy pitting the Church against a Canadian Charter of Human Rights, a community against a school board, and a family against its faith. In the process 17 year-old Marc's story made news across Canada, brought interview requests from as far away as Australia and appearances on TV series *Lofters* and *Queer As Folk*.

Preceded by **O BEAUTIFUL**

USA, 2002, 30 mins

Directed by Alan Brown

A young gay guy is hassled by a couple of other guys.

A02 THURSDAY 13 FEBRUARY, 3:00PM, PALACE ACADEMY TWIN

QUEER HOLLYWOOD SHORTS

THIS DIVERSE SELECTION OF SHORT FILMS TAKES VERY DIFFERENT TACKS ON HOLLYWOOD. THEY TURN STRAIGHT PLOTS INTO GAY AND LESBIAN PLOTS. THEY IDOLISE STARS, AND THEY PROVIDE THEIR OWN TWIST ON HOLLYWOOD AND HOLLYWOOD FILMS.



JAN-MICHAEL VINCENT IS MY MUSE

USA, 2002, Beta SP, 7 mins, directed by Jim Tushinski
Nerdy, 12 year-old Clarence can't keep his mind off his favourite actor, Jan-Michael Vincent.

CALL ME CWAZY

USA, 2001, Beta SP, 12 mins, directed by Lynne Chan & Yvette Choy

A wicked and hilarious spoof of actress Anne Heche's exposé interview covering her mental illness, ruthless ambition, family secrets, and her relationship with Ellen DeGeneres.

GOIN' SOUTH

USA, 2000, 11 mins, directed by Eleanor Savage
Hollywood clichés are used to illustrate some misconceptions about the American South in this comic gem.

MRS DANVERS

Canada, 2000, Beta SP, 5 mins,
directed by Michael Achtman

A romance gone wrong, with reference to Mrs Danvers from Hitchcock's classic *Rebecca*.

UNHUNG HEROES

USA, 2001, 15 mins, directed by Ilya Pearlman

Inspired by macho films, a group think about penis transplants.

GAY PROPAGANDA - RECLAIMING AMERICAN CINEMA

USA, 2002, 16mm, 22 mins, directed by J D Disalvatore
Gay and lesbian versions of scenes from classic Hollywood films, including *The Gay Breakfast Club*, *Reservoir Dykes* and *From Queer To Eternity*.

A60 FRIDAY 21 FEBRUARY, 7:15PM, PALACE ACADEMY TWIN

REVOLUTIONARY GIRL UTENA

JAPAN, 1999, 35MM, 87 MINS
DIRECTED BY KUNHIKO IKUHARA
JAPANESE WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES



Always in search of something new and fresh for our audiences, we now bring you lesbian animé.

Utena is a pink-haired gender-bending student at a Japanese school. She becomes involved in a swordfight and wins a beautiful girl known as the Bride. The Bride helps Utena to unleash a new side to her sexual identity as the two get closer in this surreal animation feast.

Utena is a powerfully feminist film that celebrates the strong relationship between these two girls.

A62 FRIDAY 21 FEBRUARY, 9:45PM, PALACE ACADEMY TWIN

RULES OF ATTRACTION

USA, 2002, 35MM, 90 MINS
DIRECTED BY ROGER AVERY



"Parents: College is back in session; do you know where your kids are? Trust us, if they're behaving anything like the troubled troublemakers at the affluent New England institution in *Rules Of Attraction*, you don't wanna know. Roger Avery's hyper-edited pitch-black comedy jumps into the middle of the drugged-out and sexed-up lives of disaffected students looking for a connection - any kind of connection.

"James Van Der Beek [*Dawson's Creek*] plays a womanising drug dealer named Sean Bateman; Shannyn Sossamon's sensitive virgin is looking for love; and the bisexual played by Ian Somerhalder has eyes for Bateman... seeing WB stars turn evil against a background of dazzling, hip camera trickery and plenty of startling moments from Bret Easton Ellis' novel will shock and wow you. Class dismissed... and disturbed." *E! News Online*

See *Rules of Attraction* at this special Mardi Gras screening before it opens to the public.

A06 THURSDAY 13 FEBRUARY, 9:15PM, PALACE ACADEMY TWIN

SAVING PRIVATE TOOTSIE

THAILAND. 2002. 35MM. 91 MINS
DIRECTED BY LEO KITTIKORN



In 2001 *Iron Ladies* was voted most popular film at the festival. We are thrilled to have the first screenings outside Thailand for this new similarly styled Katoey comedy, with some tough action, *Saving Private Tootsie*.

Inspired by a real life event in December 1998, this action comedy follows a group of transvestites, transsexuals and gays lost in the jungle and caught in a border dispute after their plane crashes. A group of six straight soldiers reluctantly takes on the mission to save them – but first they must cast aside their personal prejudices.

"*Saving Private Tootsie* is like a Gay Pride Parade in the grimy Thai-Burmese jungle complete with fake boobs, leaking silicone, a queen bee in sequined dress and fluffy fur scarf, a lot of fart jokes and bumhole gags, and finally, pompously, a spectacular display of gay heroism.

An exceptionally witty script worthy of a Hollywood remake." *Bangkok Post*

A76 SUNDAY 23 FEBRUARY, 9:45PM, PALACE ACADEMY TWIN

SHAKE IT ALL ABOUT

(EN KORT EN LANG)

DENMARK. 2002. 35MM. 97 MINS
DIRECTED BY HELLA JOOF
DANISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES



The biggest hit in Scandinavia last year was this Danish comedy about relationships.

Jorgen and his husband Jacob have been together for some time. Everything is fine until a party one night when Jacob kisses Christine and decides he likes the experience. Christine is married to Tom, an airline pilot who is often away. Christine and Jacob have an affair, and details of this soon leak out.

The two deserted men team up to try and end this affair which has ruined both of their lives.

The plot provides plenty of opportunity for comedy and it is milked for every laugh. Do not expect political correctness here. This is a comedy of stereotypes with pipe smoking lesbians and outrageous queens. As with all comedies there is the prospect of a happy ending – but happy for whom?

A04 THURSDAY 13 FEBRUARY, 5:30PM, PALACE ACADEMY TWIN
A45 WEDNESDAY 19 FEBRUARY, 5:30PM, PALACE ACADEMY TWIN

THE SNAKE BOY

CHINA 2001. BETA SP. 60 MINS
DIRECTED BY MICHELLE CHEN & LI XIAO
MANDARIN & ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES



In the 1920's Shanghai was the hottest city in Asia. It was decied as a city of Western decadence with its jazz clubs and homosexual subculture. The Cultural Revolution soon put an end to that. Shanghai in 2002 is regaining some of its former attractions; it is surging forward with striking architecture and a cultural life that is bristling with energy and innovation.

A hit in Shanghai is the androgynous singer Coco, a gay guy who is almost a Chinese Paul Capsis. Using his own voice and dressing as he pleases, he brings back the jazz classics to the town. This fascinating documentary looks at the man, his relationship with his parents, his private life and his public persona.

Preceded by **PARADISCO**
France, 2002, 35mm, 18 mins
Directed by Stephane Ly-Cuong
Two men relive the disco times of the 1970's.

A71 SUNDAY 23 FEBRUARY, 3:00PM, PALACE ACADEMY TWIN

SUDDENLY

(TAN DE REPENTE)

ARGENTINA. 2002. 35MM. 90 MINS
DIRECTED BY DIEGO LERMAN
SPANISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES



Dreary, insecure lingerie sales girl Marcia is abducted by two cocky lesbians Mao (played by gorgeous Carla Crespo) and Lenin. Feisty and full of attitude, Mao demands to have sex with Marcia. Mao and Lenin hijack a taxi and eventually make their way across country to Lenin's dying, estranged Aunt Bianca's house. Bianca is an intriguing, wise, energetic old soul and welcomes the odd trio into her home, where Mao finally seduces Marcia and then promptly abandons her. Marcia, who has enjoyed her introduction to Sapphic sex, is heartbroken. Meanwhile Lenin is enjoying becoming re-acquainted with her dear old Aunt and her eccentric friends...

A critical favourite that scooped the Silver Leopard accolade at the acclaimed Locarno Film Festival, this distinctly stylised feature debut also enjoyed a prize-winning world premiere in Buenos Aires Independent Cinema Festival. Lerman interweaves a contemporary Argentine soundtrack with long silences, minimalist directing techniques, grainy black and white 16mm, and an attractive and equally strong, mostly female ensemble cast to create a subtle yet captivating road movie about friendship, sex, love, life and loss.

A38 TUESDAY 18 FEBRUARY, 5:30PM, PALACE ACADEMY TWIN
A73 SUNDAY 23 FEBRUARY, 5:30PM, PALACE ACADEMY TWIN

SUGAR SWEET

JAPAN, 2001, BETA SP, 67 MINS
DIRECTED BY DESIREE LIM
JAPANESE WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES



Desiree Lim has come up with a sassy and saucy feature debut with *Sugar Sweet*.

Naomi directs lesbian porn for a living. Her lesbian friends think she is selling out. Her male bosses are upset because the films are not very suitable for their male audiences. Azusa is having problems with her girlfriend. Miki is a marketing executive by day and a lesbian club dancer by night. Sugar is an internet pal of Naomi. Naomi tells Sugar all of her problems. Everything comes to a head when Azusa and Miki are hired for one of Naomi's films. Azusa falls for Miki, Miki falls for Naomi and where does Sugar fall in all of this?

A major hit on the US gay festival circuit last year, *Sugar Sweet* is a fun and sexy romantic story focusing on three women and their search for love in modern-day Japanese society.

Preceded by 3 **SECOND MELANCHOLY**

Japan, 2001, VHS, 35 mins

Directed by Iri

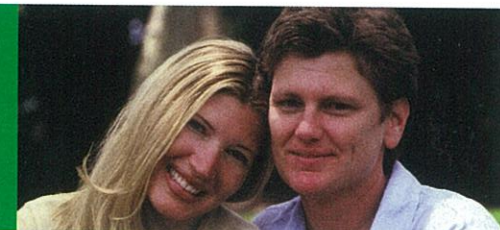
Japanese with English subtitles

Explores the universal dilemma of dykedom: what do you do when you're lusting after your best friend?

A10 FRIDAY 14 FEBRUARY, 5:15PM, PALACE ACADEMY TWIN

SWIMMING UPSTREAM

USA, 2001, BETA SP, 74 MINS
DIRECTED BY JENNIFER FREEDMAN



At the start of this documentary Karen discovers that she is pregnant. The film follows Karen and her partner Jenny through to the birth of their child. Good days, bad days, questioning of each other, themselves and their relationship, waning sex drive and the effect pregnancy has on their butch/femme identities are all under the microscope.

The joys and problems of lesbian parenting are covered in captivating detail in Jennifer Freedman's excellent documentary.

A12 FRIDAY 14 FEBRUARY, 7:15PM, PALACE ACADEMY TWIN

SESSION SPONSOR **CIVIC**

protein just got cool



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Visit aussiebodies.com.au Freecall 1800 247 757

THELMA

SWITZERLAND & FRANCE, 2002. 35MM. 95 MINS
DIRECTED BY PIERRE ALAIN MEIER
FRENCH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES



Thelma has a raging fight with her lover. She storms off and catches a taxi. The taxi driver is a tough ex-boxer who is having money problems. He cannot pay child support to his ex-wife. Thelma offers to pay him a very good fee to drive her to Crete.

As they drive Thelma starts flirting with her taxi driver. He becomes more interested until he opens the bathroom door and, in full frontal view, discovers that Thelma is transsexual. Initially repulsed, he thinks about driving off, but stays and finds himself with confused feelings of both attraction and repulsion. There are more secrets to come as they continue their trip.

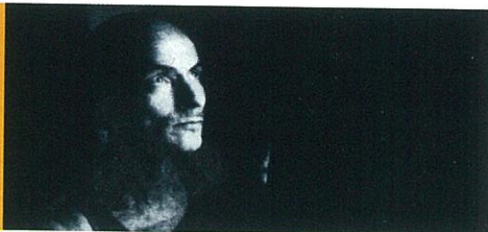
Thelma is a stunningly photographed and deeply moving film with superb performances from its two lead actors.

A52 THURSDAY 20 FEBRUARY. 5:30PM. PALACE ACADEMY TWIN



TOM

CANADA. 2002. VHS. 75 MINS
DIRECTED AND WRITTEN BY MIKE HOOLBLOOM



Tom is a film that stretches the boundaries of cinema. Using a mixture of found footage and interviews, veteran experimental filmmaker Tom Hoolbloom presents a biography of New York photographer and filmmaker Tom Chomont. Tom is an AIDS survivor, famous raconteur and notorious video artist. He is the perfect subject as he tells stories of sex with his brother, fetishism, a mobster's love, infanticide and a rare white light.

Hoolbloom uses excerpts from some of Chomont's films as well as other footage including archival documents and some surprisingly, well known clips.

"One of the pleasures of the fetish scene is you don't have to be beautiful to be a narcissist. All the ugly kids from high school can have their day in the spotlight." Tom Chomont

Berlin Film festival 2002

Outfest, Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Film Festival 2002

A09 FRIDAY 14 FEBRUARY. 3:00PM. PALACE ACADEMY TWIN



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arcade style games, poly-
phonic tones
plus GPRS



AMUSEMEMOTO

UNDER ONE ROOF

USA, 2002. BETA SP. 74 MINS
DIRECTED BY TODD WILSON



Daniel Chang lives at home in San Francisco's Chinatown with his conservative mother and his grandmother. He has a group of gay friends, but has not told his mother about his sexuality. Mother rents the basement to Robert, a guy who is new to San Francisco. Daniel finds this newcomer very interesting, but is too shy to do anything. His best mate comes around and strips in front of the tenant to discover if he is gay or not. This budding friendship could well bring out suspicions from mother, but it is the grandmother who is most aware of what is happening around her.

Under One Roof is a sweet old-fashioned gay romance with some modern twists and an inter-racial love story. It has all of the elements that makes a successful romantic comedy including two leads that you hope will end up together and the flamboyant friends who try to speed up the romance in their own outrageous ways.

A56 FRIDAY 21 FEBRUARY, 1:00PM, PALACE ACADEMY TWIN
A68 SATURDAY 22 FEBRUARY, 9:15PM, PALACE ACADEMY TWIN

SESSION SPONSOR



VENUS BOYZ

SWITZERLAND, USA & GERMANY, 2001. 35MM, 104 MINS
DIRECTED BY GABRIEL BAUR
ENGLISH



An intriguing journey into the universe of female masculinity, *Venus Boyz* delves into the global heart of drag king subculture – Club Casanova in New York City, the very first meeting place specifically for Drag Kings. Winner of the Critics Week Award at Locarno Film Festival 2001, Baur's intimate documentary explores cross-dressing and transformance as performance, politics or lifestyle. Between London and New York, Baur delves into this complex scene using interviews with lesbian, bisexual and transgendered Drag Kings including king-dom luminaries Mo B. Dick, Del LaGrace Volcano (whose striking drag king photographs were recently used in *Sex and the City*), Diane Torr, Shelly Mars and Judith Halberstam (who visited Sydney in 2002). Dréd Gerestant, whose performance was a sellout at Sydney Gay Games, also makes a appearance. Whether they are dressing up just for the night, or making a lifetime physical commitment, these Boyz aren't simply adopting masculinity as it is historically known – they're redefining and reinventing it. *Venus Boyz* is an enticing liaison with those at the helm of this powerful movement.

A50 THURSDAY 20 FEBRUARY, 3:00PM, PALACE ACADEMY TWIN
A69 SATURDAY 22 FEBRUARY, 9:45PM, PALACE ACADEMY TWIN

SESSION SPONSOR

Gingers

WHEN BOYS FLY

USA, 2001. BETA SP. 62 MINS
DIRECTED BY STEWART HALPERN & 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 Job, 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 **OUT IN THE OPEN**

USA, 2001, VHS, 57 mins

Directed by Peter Barbosa & Garrett Lenoir

A documentary exploring public sex and other aspects a gay men's sexuality out in the open.

A61 FRIDAY 21 FEBRUARY, 9:15PM, PALACE ACADEMY TWIN

SESSION SPONSOR



PALACE ACADEMY TWIN SESSION TIMETABLE

1.00PM CINEMA 500	3.00PM CINEMA 500	5.15PM CINEMA 500	5.30PM CINEMA 300	7.15PM CINEMA 500
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WEDNESDAY 12

The Trip – Opening Night at the State Theatre at 8.00pm
S01

THURSDAY 13

Lesbians Behaving Badly A01	Prom Fight A02	Canadian Girls, Eh! A03	Shake It All About A04	9 Dead Gay Guys A05
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FRIDAY 14

Guardian of the Frontier A08	Tom A09	Sugar Sweet A10	Days A11	Swimming Upstream A12
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SATURDAY 15

Bob & Rose (ep1-3) A15	4PM Bob & Rose (ep4-6) A16		Cock & Bull Story A17	Notorious CHO A18
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SUNDAY 16

The Gift A21	American Mullet A22	Fun in Boys' Shorts A23	Lily Festival A24	Hope Along the Wind A25
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MONDAY 17

Mango Soufflé A28	Notorious CHO A29	Fun in Girls' Shorts A30	Gypsy 83 A31	Enter the Clowns A32
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TUESDAY 18

Divas: Love Me Forever A35	I Love You Baby A36	Crazy Richard A37	Suddenly A38	History of Masturbation A39
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WEDNESDAY 19

Hope Along The Wind A42	Leaving Metropolis A43	Being Normal A44	Shake It All About A45	Macbeth – The Comedy A46
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THURSDAY 20

Days A49	Venus Boyz A50	Girl King A51	Thelma A52	MQC Retrospective A53
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FRIDAY 21

Under One Roof A56	My Queer Career A57	Inter. Women's Shorts A58	Mango Soufflé A59	Queer Hollywood Shorts A60
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SATURDAY 22

Family Fundamentals A63	No Secret Anymore A64	Oh Baby A Baby A65	9 Dead Gay Guys A66	Leaving Metropolis A67
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SUNDAY 23

Surprise Film A70	The Snake Boy A71	Girls Will Be Girls A72	Suddenly A73	Happy Birthday A74
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- Tickets are non-refundable and non-exchangeable.
- Please check your tickets carefully for sessions, dates and times.
- Except for Opening Night at the State Theatre, all seats are unreserved.
- We reserve the right to add, delete, or substitute films from the program at short notice.
- We endeavour to start sessions at the advertised time. However, there may be times when sessions run over time into the next session.

- Please clear the cinema as soon as possible after the film has finished to allow the cinema staff time to prepare for the next session.
- Finally, please bear in mind the logistics involved in organising a 12 day, 4 venue festival with 80 sessions, and 135 films coming from all over the world. We do our best to ensure everything goes as smoothly as possible, but things don't always go to plan. Your understanding and assistance at these times is appreciated.

DENDY
NEWTOWN

11.00PM

FRIDAY 14

Don't Ask Don't Tell
D01

FRIDAY 21

Desert Hearts
D02

DENDY BAR
MARTIN PLACE

11.00AM

SUNDAY 23

Celluloid Salon
FREE ENTRY

ROXY
PARRAMATTA

NO SESSIONS AT PARRAMATTA THIS YEAR.
WE WILL BE SCREENING FILMS
THROUGHOUT 2003 IN GREATER WESTERN
SYDNEY (REFER PAGE 3).

EXTRA SESSIONS:

Popular sessions may be repeated on
Monday 24 February, Tuesday 25
February and Wednesday 26 February
at the Academy.
Check www.queerscreen.com.au for
details during the festival.

9.15PM CINEMA 500	9.45PM CINEMA 300
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Rules of Attraction A06	Melissa Etheridge... A07
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Can't Stop the Music A13	I Love You Baby A14
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Hot Boys from Cool... A19	Down & Out With... A20
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Lesbians Behaving Badly A26	AKA A27
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Between Two Women A33	End Game A34
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My Queer Career A40	The Embalmer A41
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Totally Sexy Loser A47	Karmen Gei A48
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Naughty Boys A54	Guardian of the Frontier A55
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When Boys Fly A61	Revolutionary Girl... A62
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Under One Roof A68	Venus Boyz A69
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Fish and Elephant A75	Saving Private Tootsie A76
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VENUE DETAILS:

State Theatre 49 Market Street, Sydney
Civic Hotel Corner Pitt & Goulburn Streets, Sydney
Palace Academy Twin Cinemas 3a Oxford Street, Paddington
Gingers, Oxford Hotel 134 Oxford Street, Darlinghurst
Dendy Newtown 261 King Street, Newtown
Dendy Bar & Bistro 19 Martin Place Sydney

TICKET INFORMATION

PLEASE NOTE THAT CUSTOMS AND FILM CLASSIFICATION CONDITIONS PROHIBIT THE ADMITTANCE OF PEOPLE UNDER THE AGE OF 18 TO ALL FESTIVAL SESSIONS UNLESS INDICATED.

TICKET PRICES (GST INCLUSIVE)

Single Tickets:	
Standard	\$14.50
Concession*	\$12.50
Opening Night:	
State Theatre:	\$38.00
Closing Night:	
Palace Academy Twin:	\$33.00

*Valid Festival concessions: Full-time students, Pensioners, NSW Seniors 60+, Healthcare cardholders, Queer Screen members, Palace Movie Club & AFI members. One concession ticket per cardholder will apply on presentation of a valid card.

MULTI-FILM PASSES

(For pre-selected separate sessions; maximum one ticket per screening. Not valid for Opening or Closing Nights):

5 films:	Full	\$67.50
	Queer Screen member	\$55.00
10 films:	Full	\$130.00
	Queer Screen member	\$100.00
20 films:	Full	\$250.00
	Queer Screen member	\$190.00
Pink Pass:	Queer Screen members only	\$350.00

BOOKING INFORMATION

OPENING NIGHT

On sale now

Opening Night tickets can only be purchased from the State Theatre Box Office, Market Street, Sydney (Monday to Friday 9am to 5.30pm) or through Ticketek, phone 02 9266 4800, online at www.ticketek.com or at any Ticketek outlet. Transaction fees may apply.

BUYING STANDARD SESSION TICKETS OR MULTI-FILM PASSES BY PHONE, INTERNET FAX AND MAIL

On sale now

- All standard sessions (excluding opening night) may be purchased through MCA TICKETING
- Online: 24 hrs from www.queerscreen.com.au
- Phone: 02 9645 1611 from 9am – 4pm Monday to Friday
- Fax: 02 9645 1699
- Online, phone and fax orders must be done 24 hours prior to the first session you wish to attend. If your first session is on a weekend, it must be completed by 10am on Friday.
- Mail: (orders must be received no later than 6 February 2003) MCA Ticketing, PO Box 158, Chester Hill, 2162

Tickets booked through MCA ticketing more than four business days in advance will be mailed out to you; three days or less, they will be held for you to collect at the cinema. Pre-purchased tickets should be collected no later than 30 minutes prior to the session – photo identification may be requested. Please remember to bring your membership card or concession ID with you to verify your bookings. Failure to present correct concession card may result in the voiding of your tickets.

Please direct all telephone enquiries regarding phone, fax and internet ticketing to MCA Ticketing only. Cinema venues do not have access to MCA Ticketing information.

BUYING TICKETS DIRECT FROM THE CINEMAS

- Palace Academy Twin – advance tickets on sale now. Festival box office hours 12pm – 8.30pm. All major credit cards accepted. EFTPOS transactions are NOT accepted.
- Dendy Newtown – Festival box office hours 11am – 9.45pm. Major credit cards are accepted.

Festival venues sell tickets for their venues only (i.e. Palace Academy cannot sell tickets for Dendy Newtown and vice versa).

To speed up the process at the box office please complete the ticket order form on the page provided and bring with you to the cinema.

Please note that cinemas do not accept telephone reservations.

Although we anticipate that many Festival sessions will sell out, a limited number of seats may be released five minutes prior to that commencement time, subject to availability.

BOOKING FEES

Opening Night – no booking fee applies to Opening Night at the State Theatre. Transaction fees may apply.

Booking fees for all other session tickets and passes purchased via internet, mail, phone or fax are \$2.40 per transaction (including GST) for up to five tickets, or \$4.80 for more than five tickets.

No booking fees apply to tickets purchased directly from the Palace Academy Twin or Dendy Newtown box offices

PINK PASSES

A limited number of Pink Passes will be available on a first come, first served basis and can only be purchased through Queer Screen (phone 02 9332 4938). Pink Passes include all sessions at the Palace Academy Twin Cinema

and Dendy Newtown, but exclude Opening and Closing Nights.

No session tickets are issued for Pink Passes. Laminated Pink Passes will be available for collection from the Queer Screen office the day following purchase. Pink Pass holders receive first priority for seating and receive guaranteed admission provided the pass holder is at the cinema 15 minutes prior to the advertised time of screening.

CONDITIONS AND INFORMATION

- Lost or stolen tickets will not be replaced or refunded.
- Tickets purchased at the Palace Academy Twin may be exchanged for other sessions at that venue only prior to the commencement of the festival. Refunds will not be accepted at any time.
- Cinema venues cannot exchange, refund or replace any tickets purchased via MCA Ticketing.
- Tickets purchased through MCA Ticketing cannot be refunded, but may be exchanged, subject to availability and advance notice. Conditions and charges may apply.
- Festival venues sell tickets for their venue only. Multi-film passes for preselected sessions bought from the Palace Academy Twin are only available for sessions at that cinema.
- No concessions are available to Opening and Closing Nights. Concessions are only available for single ticket purchases. Concession and Queer Screen member tickets will only be issued once proof of eligibility is produced. 5, 10 and 20 Multi-film passes are for nominated sessions which are ticketed at time of purchase and do not apply to Opening or Closing Nights.
- Please note that Customs and Film Classification conditions prohibit the admittance of people under the age of 18 to all sessions unless indicated.

ORDER FORM

USE THIS FORM TO BOOK BY FAX. IT IS ALSO A GOOD IDEA TO USE IT TO SPEED UP ORDERING OVER THE PHONE AND OVER THE COUNTER. REMEMBER TO DOUBLE CHECK ALL DETAILS. PARTICULARLY SESSION NUMBERS.

RESERVED TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT THE FESTIVAL FROM THE TICKET COLLECTION DESK AT THE PALACE ACADEMY TWIN AND DENDY NEWTOWN.

For Tickets to Opening Night, please phone Ticketek on 02 9266 4800, visit www.ticketek.com, or in person at the State Theatre.

#	Session code	Date	Time	Title	# Tickets	Sub total
	A69	Closing Night – Palace Academy Twin			@\$33 ea	

#	Session code	Date	Time	Title	Full	Conc	Sub total
1							
2							
3							
4							
5							
6							
7							
8							
9							
10							

For more than 10 sessions,
please supply details on a separate page

*Add booking fees: \$2.40 per transaction for 1-5 tickets
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TOTAL

For fax bookings, please complete the following:

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Concession price single tickets can be purchased by full-time students, invalid pensioners, NSW Seniors 60+, unemployed, Queer Screen, Palace and AFI members. Pink Passes are only available to Queer Screen members.

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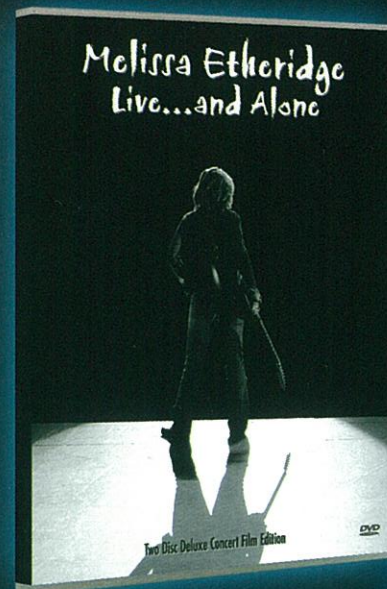
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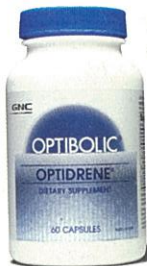
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