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of DOCUMENTARIES
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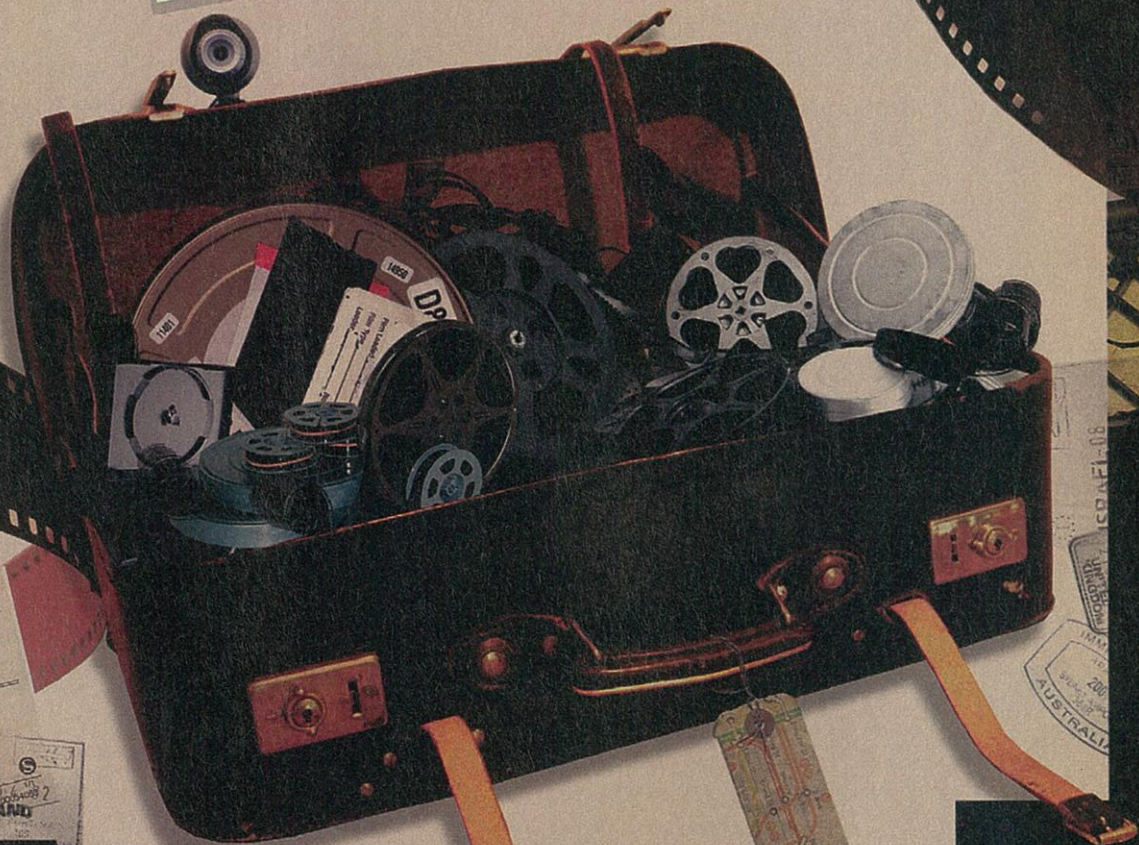
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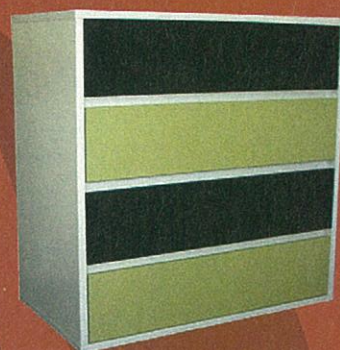


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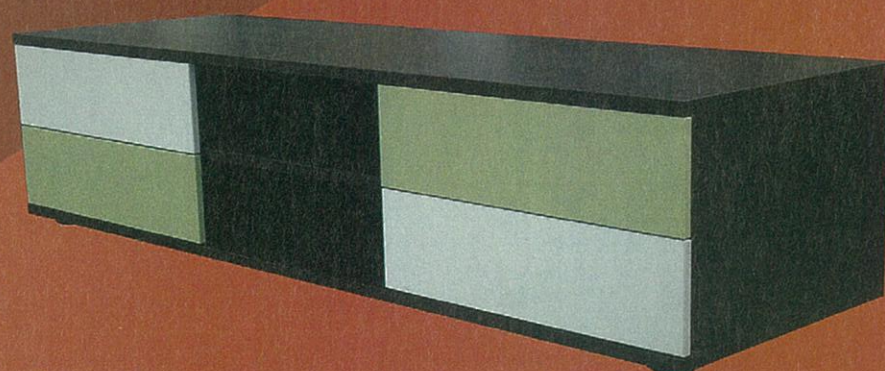
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Before you depart...



Get ready for the trip of a lifetime. In 2008, queerDOC takes you on a package tour through a world of true queer stories.

Our annual LGBT documentary festival has always had an international flavour, but we've never visited this many destinations in an 11 day event before. In living proof the queer experience knows no boundaries, these stories cross borders of culture, politics, gender and even our moral codes.

The characters you will meet on this amazing race include a Hollywood actor with a crush on a Republican spin doctor, a British mobster possessing 'a touch of lavender,' a women's soccer team with a uniform code like no other, sassy lesbians making love in a war zone, catty queens

declaring war over a crown, and a celebrated poet with a penchant for young men.

This year, to keep you on your toes, we've included two MOCKumentaries in the festival line up... and we're not telling you which ones they are - we'd rather let you figure out how real these realities are.

This is your guide book to the 'must see destinations' in GLBT documentaries this year, with three Teddy Award-winning films, a multiple audience award-winner, and the most talked about Irish documentary in years.

Keep your itinerary close at hand, buckle up and prepare yourself for unforgettable adventures.

Go on, be a cinema-chair traveller, you know you deserve a holiday.

Enjoy the ride,

Lex Lindsay
Festival Director

Itinerary

Departing September 4, 2008

Sydney to Paris, via Cebu and Reykjavik	THE AMAZING TRUTH ABOUT QUEEN RAQUELA	p4
Arrive: Memphis	PAGEANT	p6
Return Trip: Donegal to Kathmandu	FAIRYTALE OF KATHMANDU	p6
Arrive: Beirut	THE BEIRUT APARTMENT	p8
Arrive: Tehran	BE LIKE OTHERS	p8
Arrive: Manchester	A VERY BRITISH GANGSTER	p10
Arrive: Los Angeles	KARL ROVE, I LOVE YOU	p11
Road Trip: Los Angeles to New York	A FINISHED LIFE	p12
Depart Berlin, Arrive Tehran	FOOTBALL UNDER COVER	p12

Things to do in Australia:

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HEART	p6
LESBANES	p8
KRIS CROSS	p8

Tickets and traveller information p14

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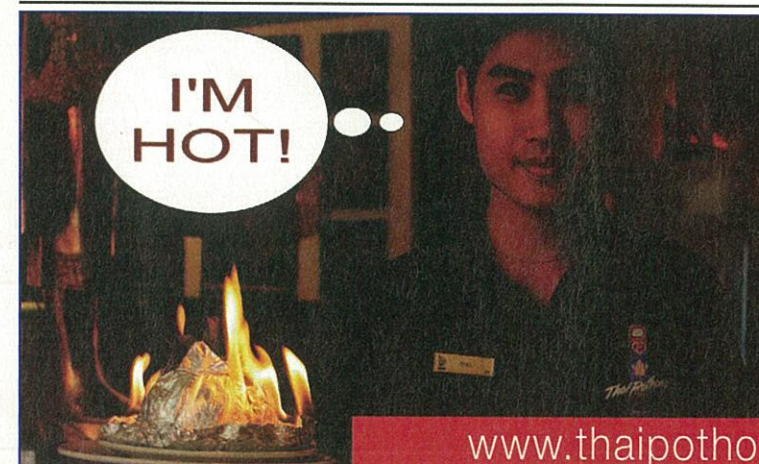
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Iceland/Philippines
THE AMAZING TRUTH ABOUT QUEEN RAQUELA
 Olaf de Fleur, 2008, 80min
 English, Thai, Icelandic, Visayan.
 English subtitled throughout.

This globe-trotting real-fantasy follows the larger than life journey of Filipina 'ladyboy', Queen Raquela, from street-worker in Cebu to internet celebrity in Paris, via Iceland and New York. Winner of the prestigious Teddy Award at the Berlin Film Festival in 2008, our Opening Night presentation virtually defies description.

Raquela Rios is a born star who dreams of a glamorous life in the West, but how will a poor prostitute in the Philippines ever be 'discovered'? With nothing but her webcam, wit



and a whole lot of attitude, this self-proclaimed queen of internet porn is soon turning heads on the other side of the world, and her fantasy could be just a plane ride away.

A film that absolutely embodies the spirit of queerDOC — that the truth is more fabulous than fiction.

Thursday September 4, 7pm
 Chauvel, Paddington
 Opening Night screening & party, special ticket price applies.

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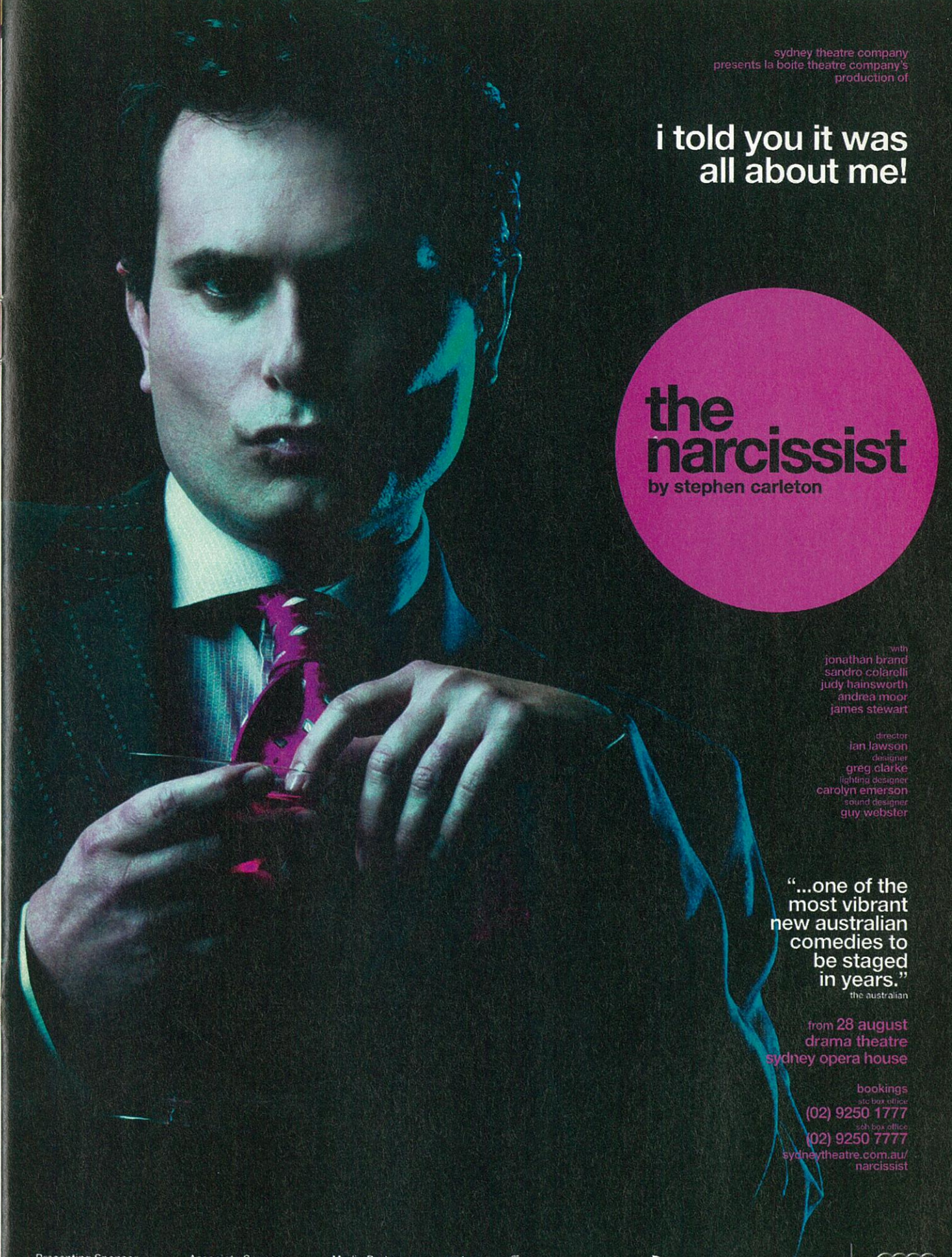
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Ireland
FAIRYTALE OF KATHMANDU

Neasa Ni Chianan, 2007, 60min
English, Gaelic and Nepalese with English Subtitles

Filmmaker Neasa Ni Chianan unexpectedly finds herself neighbour to one of her great heroes, the openly gay, celebrated Irish poet Cathal O'Searcaigh. Fascinated by his annual pilgrimage to the Himalayan city of Kathmandu, she follows him to record the tranquil writing process he undertakes there. Once in Nepal, however, she discovers O'Searcaigh's other life as a godlike benefactor to dozens of struggling young men. O'Searcaigh laughingly revokes her concerned observations on the nightly visits he receives from teenagers as young as 16, but once she turns her camera on the young men themselves, the murky moral ground these exchanges stand on is exposed. Ni Chianan is forced to confront a man she previously idolised with an accusation that could cost him his reputation. The most controversial film of the festival, *Fairytale of Kathmandu* recently dominated front page news when

USA
PAGEANT

Ron Davis & Stewart Halpern, 2008, 95min

The fight for the crown is never as glamorous as it appears. Join the 52 contestants of the Miss Gay America competition as they converge on Tennessee for the battle of the year. These female impersonators will do whatever it takes to claim the title. From evening wear to talent to the all-important question and answer round, this pageant has it all, plus the contestants are all packing



it premiered in Dublin. Director Neasa Ni Chianan will be in attendance for this screening.

Screening with
HEART

Amy Gebhardt, Australia, 2008, 25min

A revealing study on Aussie artist Jacqui Stockdale and her complicated relationship with her longtime muse, Rose. Yet another captivating film from 2007's My Queer Career winner, Amy Gebhardt.

Saturday September 6, 5pm
Dendy, Newtown

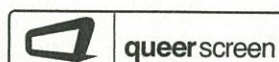
something more than your average beauty queen. Hysterical behind-the-scenes antics are measured with a moving insight into the desire to be a star in this glittering crowd-pleaser that took out audience awards at both New York's NewFest and San Francisco's Frameline.

Screening with
UNDRESSING VANESSA

Matthew Pond, Australia, 2007, 23min

Get up close and personal with one of Australia's most political drag personalities, Vanessa Wagner, charting nearly two decades of frocking up and fighting the good fight.

Friday September 5, 7pm
Dendy, Newtown



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wed 17th september / maria venuti
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slide
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Iran
BE LIKE OTHERS
Tanaz Eshagian, 2008, 74min
Farsi with English subtitles

Under Iran's current fundamentalist laws, homosexuals can be arrested, tortured and even put to death. Changing your gender, however, is completely accepted and indeed subsidised by the state. So what do young gay men do when offered the choice between being incarcerated and disowned by their family or living a free life as a woman ... they join the long waiting list for gender reassignment surgery. This is



a powerful insight into a cultural climate that, whilst providing a service that many genuinely transgendered people would ache for, has created a situation in which homosexuality can be virtually eradicated. This is one of the most thought-provoking, confronting films we have shown in queerDOC.

Screening with
KRIS CROSS

Sarah Spillane, Australia, 2007, 14min
Kris is part way through the long and costly (both financially and emotionally) process of transitioning from female to male, but that isn't going to get him down. His upbeat outlook and charismatic charm can't even be dampened by his mum calling him Kristy. A life-affirming work in progress from Sydney's Sarah Spillane.

Tuesday September 9, 7pm
Dendy, Newtown

Lebanon
THE BEIRUT APARTMENT
Daniele Salaris, 2007, 50min
English and Arabic with English subtitles

Take a guided tour through gay and lesbian life in Beirut through the eyes of the locals. The criminalisation of homosexuality in Lebanon makes for an LGBT community vulnerable to blackmail (even from the police), social isolation and fear of reporting violence and health issues. Yet the spirit of the community thrives through secret networks and hidden places. Concerned for safety and anonymity, the director hired an apartment in Beirut to interview a variety of queer locals. In this small space issues of an international scale come to light, from growing up in a war zone to the rise of Hezbollah, from issues of identity and freedom to where to pick up. Everything is sacred and shared in *The Beirut Apartment*.



Screening with
LESBANESE

Alissar Gazal, Australia/Lebanon, 2008, 21min
Sydney filmmaker Alissar Gazal journeys to her homeland to ask the question "how do lesbians live, love and play in a troubled, restrictive nation like Lebanon?". With great charm and determination it seems. Welcome to the sexy, savvy, confident world of the Le(s)banese

Monday September 8, 7pm
Dendy, Newtown



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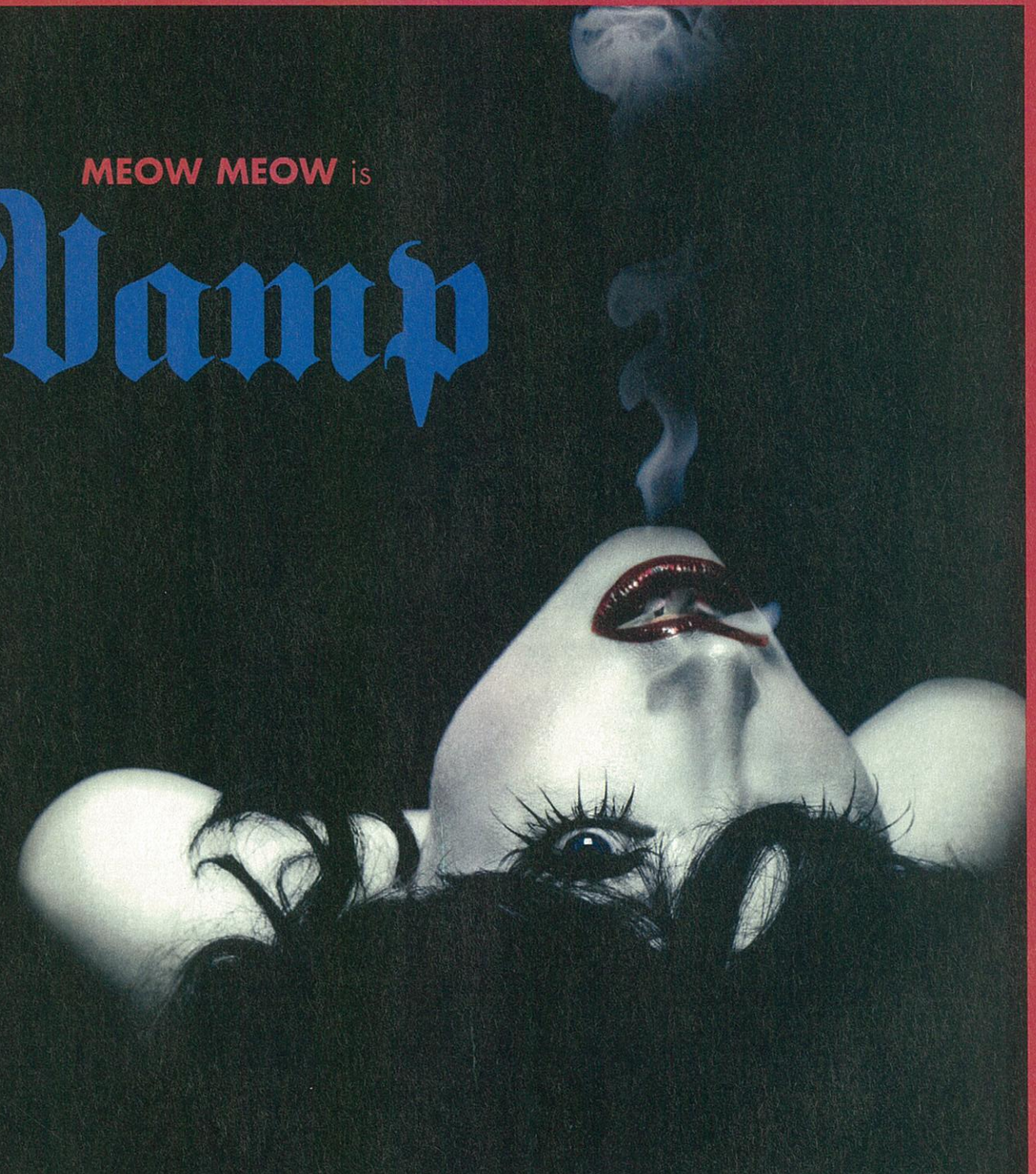
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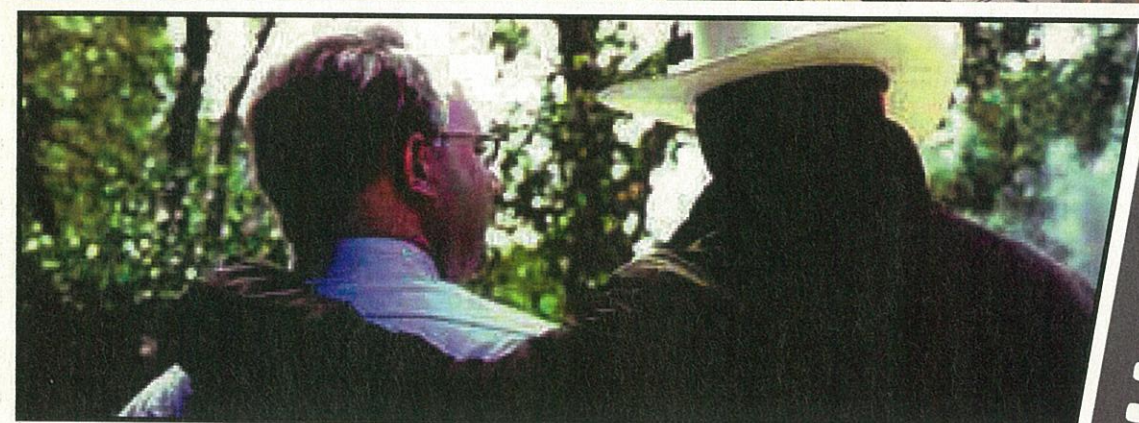
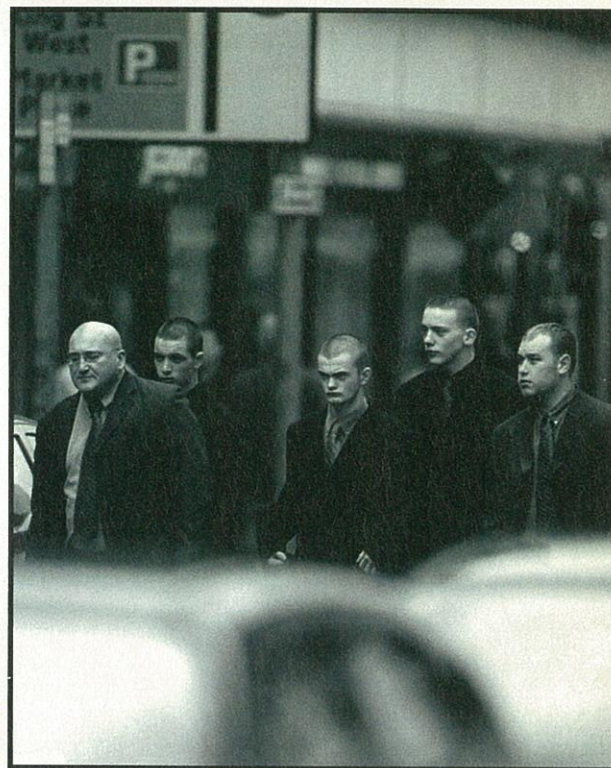
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UK
A VERY BRITISH GANGSTER

Donal MacIntyre, 2008, 98min

Here's something you don't see everyday — a gay gangster. Dominic Noonan is the head of Manchester's most notorious crime dynasty, weaving his way through criminal trial after criminal trial, with a sinister art for evading jail time. Surrounded by a posse of impressionable young men, Noonan has built himself an army over which he rules, one part cruel tyrant, one part compassionate father figure. Captured with remarkable open access to the internal workings of organised crime, revealing the brutal ethos of gangster justice alongside the intimate kinship of those in the clan, *A Very British Gangster* exposes a world seldom seen, frequently glorified and often misunderstood.

Thursday September 11, 7pm
Dendy, Newtown



USA
KARL ROVE, I LOVE YOU

Dan Butler & Phil Leimess, 2007, 97min

Dan Butler ('Bulldog' from *Frasier*) has spent his career being a supporting actor. While being chronicled as the subject of a documentary about the plight of the supporting man, Butler stumbles across his greatest leading role. Gathering his friends and collaborators he sets about creating a one-man show aimed at exposing the ultimate supporting man in

American politics, Karl Rove, the mastermind behind Bush's White House. But as he researches and develops the play, delving deeper into Rove's psyche, the very liberal Butler begins to transform with an intimate empathy for his conservative character. To the dismay of his friends and lover, Dan's great role becomes the object of his affections.

Thursday September 11, 9pm
Dendy, Newtown



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USA

A FINISHED LIFE: THE GOODBYE & NO REGRETS TOUR

Barbara Green & Michelle Boyaner, 2008, 80min

This powerful documentary records, to the final hour, the last days of Gregg Gour. After 24 years living with HIV, his health has begun to deteriorate. Faced with needing to change medication once again, and becoming more reliant on others, Gour makes the clear and determined decision to cease treatments and let the virus run its course. Given less than 6 months to live, Gour packs up his life into an RV and, with his pet dog, sets out on a road trip

across America to say farewell to his family and friends. Dubbed The Goodbye & No Regrets Tour, this coast-to-coast pilgrimage takes us through an emotional, inspiring and often very funny journey that confronts death and our responses to it.



Saturday September 13, 5pm
Dendy, Newtown

Germany/Iran

FOOTBALL UNDER COVER

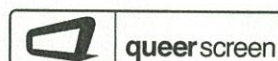
David Assmann & Ayat Najafi, 2007, 86min

English, German and Persian with English subtitles.

We bring the festival to a close with a determined trip from the west to the Middle East in one of the most joyous expressions of sportswomanship you'll ever see. *Football Undercover* follows a Berlin women's soccer team as they struggle against relentless bureaucratic odds to make a dream come true — to travel to Tehran to play the Iranian women's soccer team, who have never been allowed to compete with an international team before. This group of sporty women just want to kick around a field and make some new friends, but when cross-cultural politics come into play, this game might not be so easy. While in Tehran the largely lesbian team from Krueberg must observe strict codes of conduct: homosexual sex is forbidden, and when on the field, players must wear hijab at all times. Funny, thrilling and inspirational down to the final goal.



Sunday September 14, 7pm
Chauvel, Paddington



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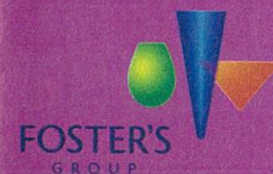
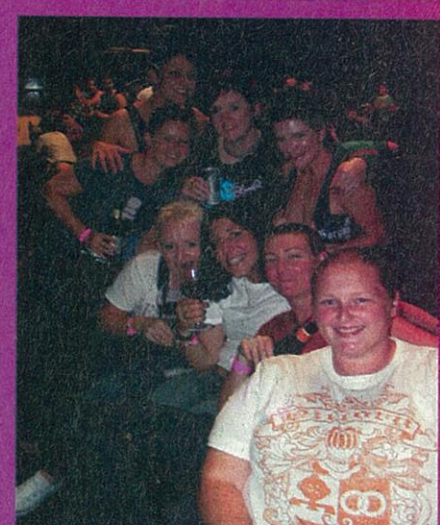
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Information for travellers

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Phone: 1300 306 776

In Person: from the box office of the venue
the session is screening at.

Tickets:

Standard Sessions:

\$15.50 Full
\$13.50 Conc
\$11.50 QS Member

\$55.00 5 films (Queer Screen
Members only, not including Opening)

Opening Night + Party:
\$20.00 Full
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A booking fee of \$1.50 applies per ticket
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For full booking details and conditions visit
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Venues:

Dendy Newtown
261 King St, Newtown
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Chauvel Cinema, Paddington.
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Jeremy Stewart

Festival Guide produced by:

SSO Media

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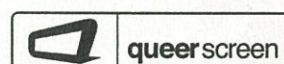
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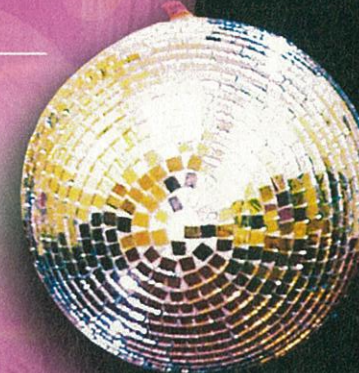
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