

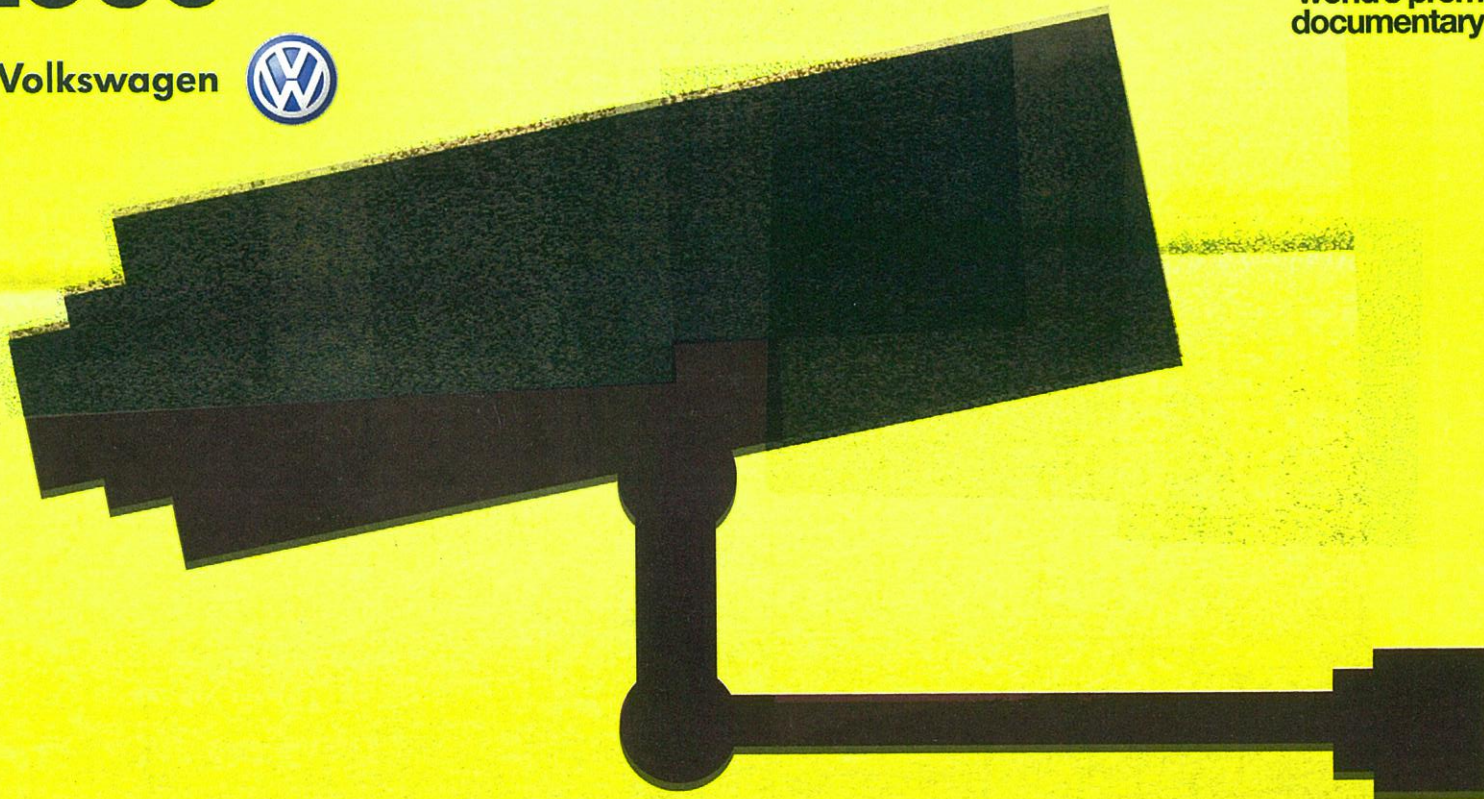
# QueerDoc 2009

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## WELCOME TO QueerDoc 2009

**Admit it**, there's something deliciously voyeuristic about documentary film. Whether you're empathising, sympathising or fantasising, it is thrillingly satisfying to catch a glimpse of somebody's private world. For QueerDoc 2009, we'd like to offer you a guilt-free opportunity to give in to that temptation.

In a world where the GFC (aka Gay Film Crisis) has seen a sharp decline in LGBT themed film production from the non-english-speaking world, this year we find ourselves with a collection that represents Western Queers with their hearts on their sleeves - raw, honest, vulnerable and exposed.

From the courageous sacrifices of AIDS activists recreated in our extraordinary opener *FIG TREES*, to the bravery of two Sydney men who turned an act of violence into a symbol of togetherness in *HOLDING HANDS*; we meet Indigenous Trans identities confronting ignorance with their bodies and art, asking us to *ASSUME NOTHING*; two inspiring women *EDIE & THEA* allow us into their 40 year relationship and long awaited wedding;

while starry eyed teens passionately throw themselves into the spotlight in *SOUNDS LIKE TEEN SPIRIT*; and let's not forget the precocious young men of the *COLLEGE BOYS LIVE* website....

Whether you are an L, a G, a B, an I or a T, or even just queer-curious, there's something sure to satisfy in this year's line up... so what's your Qriosity?

**QUEERLY YOURS**  
Lex, Jain and the Queer Screen Team.



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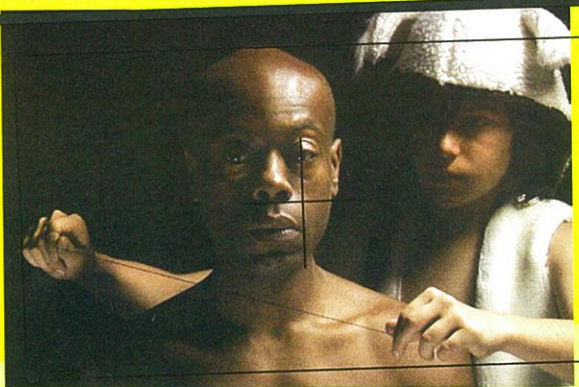


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**OPENING NIGHT THURS SEPT 3 7PM**

## Fig Trees

DIR JOHN GREYSON, CANADA, 2009, 104 MIN

We can promise you, you have never seen anything quite like this year's queerDOC opener, a documentary opera (yes, it's an opera) on the history of AIDS activism.

Combining commentary on the corporate greed of pharmaceutical companies, the fictional beatification of it's victims, the complex connection of these events to Gertrude Stein and Virgil Thomson, celebrity do-gooders, and the top 100 AIDS songs of all time... all narrated by a squirrel... this experimental masterpiece will bend your mind into a profound clarity. Beautifully staged and filmed arias are blended with the testimonies of AIDS activists Tim McCaskell and Zackie Achmat as we revisit South Africa of the nineties, a country suffering both heart-breaking neglect and infuriating denial.

Fig Trees is this year's Teddy Award winner (Berlinale) for best documentary by much celebrated queer director John Greyson (Lilies, Proteus), who has created a work unashamedly as cheeky as it is moving, as magical as it is factual, as invigorating as it is sobering.

**The screening is followed by the queerDOC Opening Night party at our festival bar, Bank Hotel. Tickets are very limited.**



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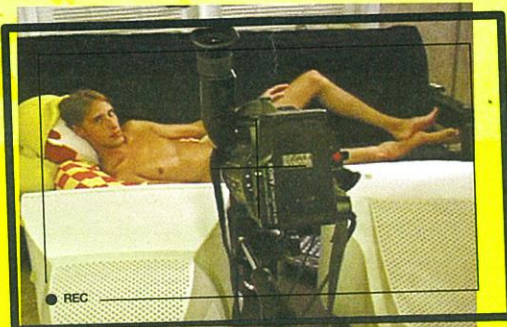
THURS SEPT 10 7PM

## College Boys Live

DIR GEORGE O'DONNELL, USA, 2009, 90 MIN

You want voyeurism – you got it. *College Boys Live* is a website where you pay to watch young men bonk and bare all in front of web cams at routinely timed hours of the day. “House mothers” Zac and Jonathan take in a new batch of teens and twenty-somethings every six months, who get free board and lodgings in exchange for working the cameras. The current residents are: troubled troublemaker JC, seemingly sweet Tim, and fresh-out-of-the-closet-and-ready-for-action Chuck.

Their lives under this roof play out in scenes reminiscent of the *Jerry Springer Show*, as housework rosters clash with webcam rosters, bed-hopping becomes bitch-slapping and affections turn to jealousy, but the real drama begins when the residents of their suburban neighbourhood decide to kick them out. . . In an industry where sex, money and power are interchangeable, and a film genre where the director is hunting the most dramatic story, *College Boys Live* will leave you asking – ‘who’s really exploiting who here?’



SAT SEPT 12 5PM

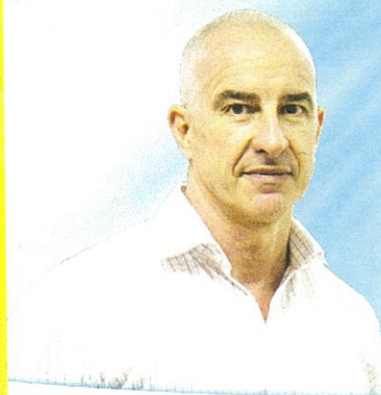
## Edie & Thea: a Very Long Engagement

DIR GRÉTA OLAFSDÓTTIR AND SUSAN MUSKA, USA, 2009, 67 MIN

“We danced so long, I wore a hole in my stocking” says Edie of the night she met Thea. That was 45 years ago. The two women now sit beside each other and reminisce as a slide show of their shared life plays out before them. It is a life both ordinary and extraordinary, as they began their very visible romance in the closeted, pre-Stonewall 60s, in glamorous, New York high-society. The film offers a fascinating exploration of our community’s history, while charting one couples courageous passage through it.

But what makes this documentary most enjoyable is the quirky charisma of both these women and the unfaltering, soul-quaking love they exhibit for one another. And like all good love stories, it ends in a wedding, finally, after their *Very Long Engagement*, Edie and Thea make their way down the aisle for a fittingly poetic and playful climax of their life together. Yes, you will shed a tear, but for ALL the right reasons.

Screens with **Ciao Miao**, Dir Su Goldfish, Australia, 2009, 4 min. Lucy the cat seemed immortal. When she disappeared one rainy night it seemed impossible she had gone forever.



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SAT SEPT 5 7PM

### Holding Hands

DIR TONNETTE STANFORD & KATHERINE WILKINSON, AUSTRALIA, 2009, 65 MIN

Craig and Shane fell victim to a brutal hate crime off Oxford Street in 2007. The image of Craig's shattered face on the cover of the *Sydney Star Observer* called Sydney's queer community to action, and as the couple lead the 2008 Mardi Gras Parade, the community was reminded of our continued struggle for safety and acceptance.

The hardest 18 months in these young men's lives are captured in this local production, interwoven with discussions on homophobic violence from Sydney's queer community, police officers, and Lord Mayor. But this is Craig and Shane's story. Amidst endless surgeries, physical and psychological recovery, they discover that even in the worst circumstances, we can all create positive change.

Presented in association with ACON, the screening will be accompanied by a Q&A with the filmmakers.





SUN SEPT 6 5PM

## Sounds Like Teen Spirit

DIR JAMIE JAY JOHNSON, UK, 2008, 90 MIN

Sure the subjects of this high-energy documentary may be too young to classify as queer or not – but this is queerDOC at its campiest! If there's one thing more kitsch, more devoid of taste, and more electrifyingly shameless than the *Eurovision Song Contest*, it's the *Junior Eurovision Song Contest*.

In the most enjoyable documentary of the year, overly-confident, overly-made-up teens from across Europe converge on Rotterdam to compete in the world's biggest youth music event. This is some of their stories.

In association with [samesame.com.au](http://samesame.com.au), join us for the EuroTrash Party at the Bank Hotel after the screening.



MON SEPT 7 7PM

## Training Rules

DIR DEE MOSBACHER & FAWN YACKER, USA, 2009, 60 MIN

No drugs. No drinking. No lesbians. For more than 25 years, Penn State University women's basketball coach Rene Portland made her *Training Rules* eminently clear. While the school turned a blind eye to this homophobic philosophy, talented young players were harassed, thrown off the team and stripped of their college scholarships. But in 2006, sophomore Jennifer Harris took on the Penn State machine and its iconic coach, and sued for discrimination.

SCREENING WITH:

## Punch Like a Girl

DIR MAYA GALLAS & JUSTINE PIMLOTT, CANADA, 2008, 55 MIN

In *Punch Like A Girl*, three of Sully's Gym's best female boxers go head to head with the unstoppable, reigning champion, Mary from Cabbagetown. Can any of these tougher-than-tough women wrestle the title from her gloved hands?



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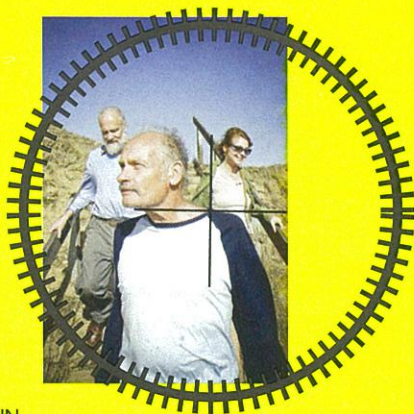
TUES SEPT 8 7PM

## It Came from Kuchar

DIR JENNIFER M KROOT, USA, 2009, 86 MIN

Alongside Andy Warhol and Kenneth Anger, twin brothers George and Michael Kuchar pioneered the underground film scene of 60s New York, even with their awkward disposition, unusual world views and knack for finishing each others' sentences. This hilarious and jaw-dropping documentary sifts through the archives of their low-budget, low-brow epics, including *Hold Me While I'm Naked* and the seminal *Sins of the Fleshapoids* (a 60s sci-fi on sex between robots – a moving metaphor for any love that dare not speak its name), while notables such as John Waters, B. Ruby Rich, Buck Henry and Guy Maddin offer their own takes on the remarkable Brothers Kuchar.

Like generations of filmmakers, cinephiles and societal outcasts, you will be inspired by the bizarre vision, prolific output and extraordinary humanity of these gentle (cinematic) giants.



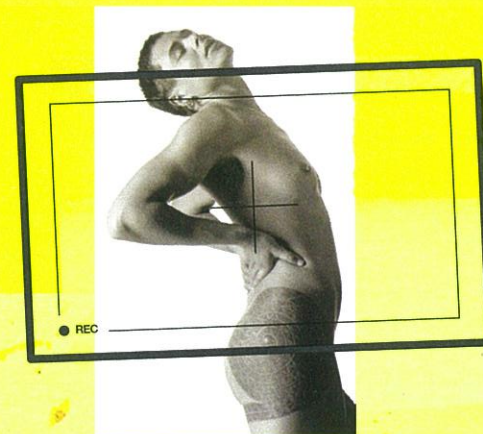
WED SEPT 9 7PM

## ASSUME NOTHING

DIR KIRSTY MCDONALD, NEW ZEALAND, 2009, 80 MIN

Focusing on the art, photography and performances of five "alternative gender" artists of Maori, Samoan-Japanese, and European descent, *Assume Nothing* conjures a rich expression of the vast gender spectrum.

In particular, aspects of transgendered life in the Indigenous cultures of our South Pacific neighbours are brought to the screen in beautiful and enlightening ways. Interviews and intimate glimpses of the artists' lives are interspersed with lush Super-8, 2-D and 3-D animations, photographs and beautifully staged performances, blurring the conventions of documentary as freely as the conventions of gender.



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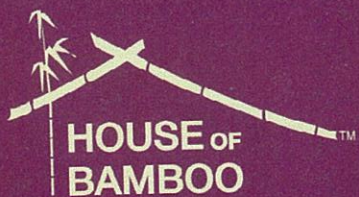
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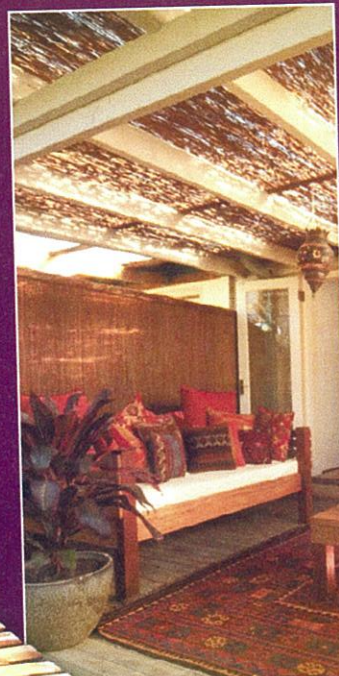
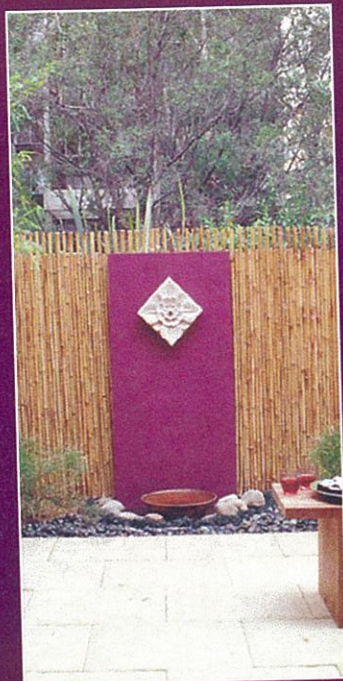
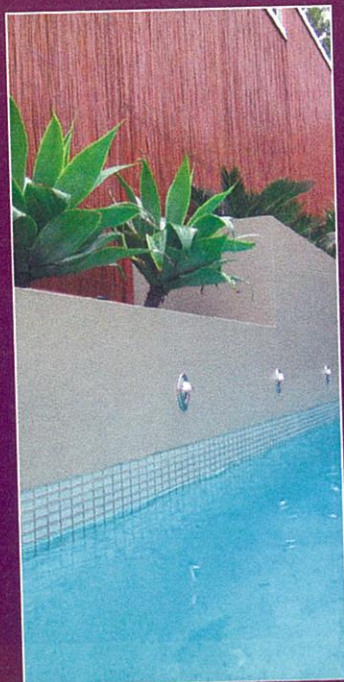
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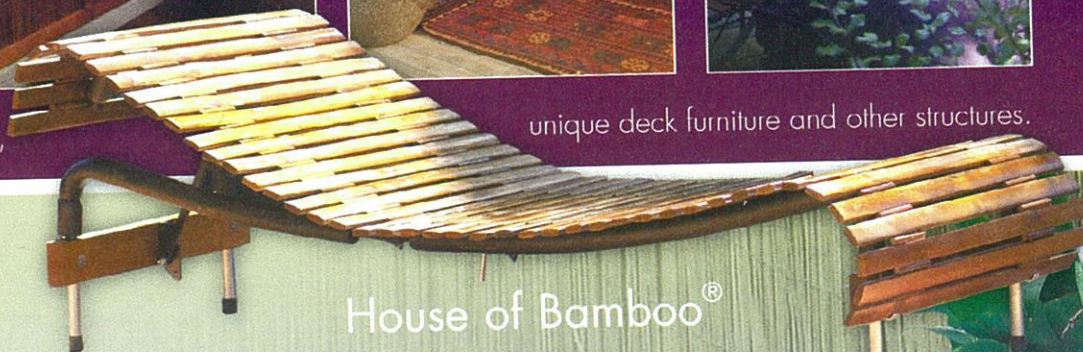
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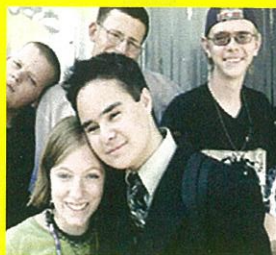
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CLOSING NIGHT SUN SEPT 13 7PM

### This is Family

DIR JEAN-BAPTISTE ERRECA, USA, 2009, 85 MIN

Complete with *Desperate Housewives* style voice over and faux commercial breaks, this Frenchman's take on the modern American family is a snapshot of the USA you'd never see coming from a local. The many variations of 'family', relationships and gender are interwoven in this cross-country expedition through 'the people in your neighbourhood'.

Here's some of the characters you didn't know lived next door: Nicky is the gun-toting tranny who heads up the Pink Pistols, America's LGBT fire-arms appreciation society; Gary and Dick are a gay couple in there 70s, their recipe for longevity is two cocktails nightly; the San Franciscan chapter of Dykes on Bikes take their peace, love and 'we're not Lesbians, we're Dykes' message to the road; then there's the glamour and grace of the Harlem Voguers (some familiar faces from *Paris is Burning* can be found amongst them) whose families are 'houses' and compete in public pose-offs; and don't get us started about the gay zombie rockers of Denver.

Beautifully photographed and intimately captured, this Technicolour Telemovie-simulation is some reality TV we can be proud of... or perhaps just thoroughly delighted by. There's something for everyone and we're all as nutty as each other on our queerDOC closing night.





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Tickets purchased online are subject to a booking fee. No booking fees apply to purchasing tickets in person, directly from the box office. Tickets are only refundable in the event of cancellation. Tickets may be exchanged for another session if seats are available.

## **A Venue**

Dendy Newtown  
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## **A Festival Bar**

BANK Hotel is the official QueerDoc 2009 festival bar. Your QueerDOC ticket stub can be exchanged for a complimentary drink throughout the duration of the festival.

The BANK Hotel is a short stroll from the cinema, located at 324 King St Newtown (beside train station), (02) 8568 1900. Not only does the Bank Hotel have many fabulous indoor and outdoor drinking areas but also the delicious Sumalee Thai Restaurant for that perfect pre or post movie snack.

## **A For Queer Screen**

**QueerDoc** is produced by  
Queer Screen Ltd  
PO BOX 1081 DARLINGHURST  
NSW 1300  
+61 2 9332 4938  
[www.queerscreen.com.au](http://www.queerscreen.com.au)

Festival Director: Lex Lindsay  
General Manager: Jain Moralee  
Operations Coordinator: James Woolley  
QueerDOC Design: Jeremy from Still&Moving  
[www.myspace.com/jeremystewartmotionwork](http://www.myspace.com/jeremystewartmotionwork)  
Interns: Jillian Bartlett, Barry McKay

Queer Screen Board  
Sebastian Rice (president), Lisa George (vice president),  
Ken Crouch (secretary) Monica Considine (treasurer),  
Giovanni Campolo-Arcidiaco, Cass Chester, Simon Venville.

## **A Thank You!**

To all the filmmakers and distributors, to our loyal (more attractive than other festivals') members, to our wonderful (more entertaining than other festivals') volunteers, and to all those who support us through generous donations – without these people, queers on screen would be invisible. Katrina Marton, gone but not far away; the troopers at SSO – Scott A, Scott M, Gary and Troy; the cool kids at Same Same – Timmy D, Cameron McC, Robbie M and Christian T; our charming hosts, Nick, Beth and Melissa – Dendy Cinemas and Peter, Jason and Jodie – Bank Hotel; Kim and Steph – QJump; Brooke and her team at Volkswagen, Sarah and Simon at Martillo; Dr. Janet and her queer friendly vets – Livingstone Rd Animal Health Centre; Michael and all the lovelies at ACON; Rob and Harry – Positive Life; New Mardi Gras – Welcome Home!; Rebekah Gaye – Shelston IP; David Pearce; Leigh Harris; Rie Natalenko; Malcolm Leech; and Lisa Daniel.

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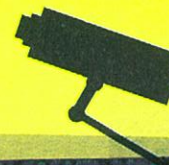
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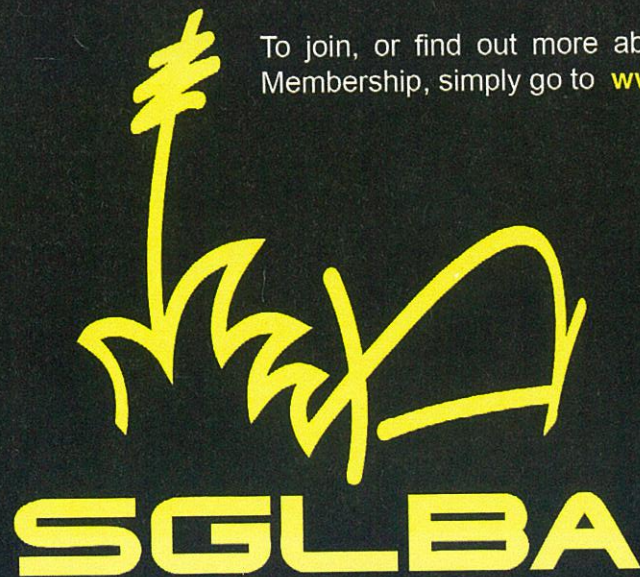
# BECOME A MEMBER OF SGLBA

Founded in 1981, the SGLBA is an organisation formed to provide opportunities for the GLBT community to develop and promote their business interests and grow networks both within corporate environments and as individual business persons.

We do this through a variety of events including our monthly Fruits in Suits and Lemons with a Twist social/networking events, business seminars, special member-only cocktail functions, dinners with thought leaders and other VIP speakers as well as our breakfast network series, with four groups located throughout the inner city.

As a volunteer organisation we are continually looking for supporters passionate about giving something back to the community. Being not-for-profit, moneys raised through our activities are regularly disbursed to worthy community groups and charities who service the GLBT community.

To join, or find out more about the benefits of Membership, simply go to [www.sglba.com.au](http://www.sglba.com.au).

A full-page advertisement for the Sydney Opera House featuring a flamenco dancer named Eva Yerbabuena. She is wearing a long, flowing red dress covered in large, detailed roses. She is holding a black fan in her right hand and has her left hand on her hip. The background is white.

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