# 2009 Mardi Gras Film Festival

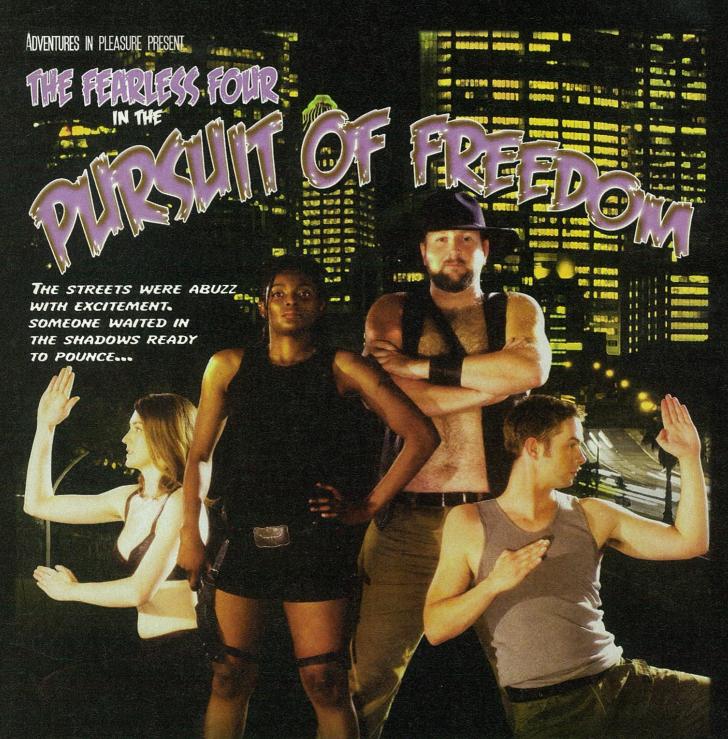
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13 Feb-5 March

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www.queerscreen.com.au



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### From Queer Screen

Once upon a time there were no gay movies, and lesbians didn't even exist. Once upon a time queer ideas were delivered secretly. like dead letters, through veiled and coded messages known as

In 2008, gay and lesbian Australians experienced the most significant, liberating legislation changes since the decriminalisation of homosexuality. The elusive idea of 'equality' seems now almost

While we need and welcome law reform, it is the appreciation of diversity, individuality and personal freedom in our cultural values and national identity that really matters the most. Laws don't change the way people treat each other, people change the way they treat each other.

It is our ideas about ourselves and each other that will ultimately bring us equality. And only by sharing those ideas do we begin to see social change.

More than just law reform, we need folklore reform.

We need to see representations of ourselves, our community, our families. Most importantly, we need others to see them too. We need to continue to throw a queer light on the archetypal characters and themes that populate our storytelling. Let's see some fairies in our fairytales!

The Mardi Gras Film Festival is a collection of stories from around the world that offer a queer view on universal themes - our dreams, our destiny. These are just some of our legends, our mythology, our folklore.

Our thanks goes to the companies, government agencies, and community groups that invest in Queer Screen and the idea of sharing queer stories. Our thanks to the filmmakers who continue to write and rewrite our tales; and to the people, our folk, in their thousands, who join us in the making of lore.

Lex Lindsay, Festival Director on behalf of the Queer Screen Team From Sydney's Lord Mayor

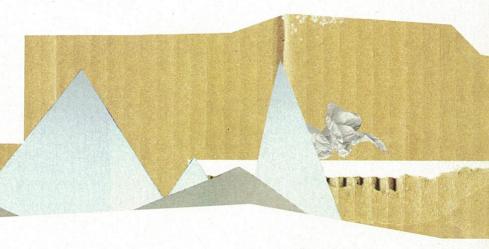
Celebrating our love affair with the cinema, the annual Mardi Gras Film Festival is a dynamic presentation of local and international queer screen culture and independent film making.

Always a highlight of Sydney's festival calendar, I am proud of the City of Sydney's association with Queer Screen and the Mardi Gras Film Festival.

I am particularly excited about the My Queer Career short film competition. The centrepiece and opening night gala of the Mardi Gras Film Festival, My Queer Career is a cinematic journey through the lives, loves and imaginations of some of Australia's most talented and creative independent filmmakers.

I am sure you will enjoy this celebration of the gay, lesbian, transgender and bisexual experience on the big screen, and wish the Mardi Gras Film Festival every success.

**Clover Moore MP Lord Mayor of Sydney** 



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Festival Partners

















My Queer Career Partners

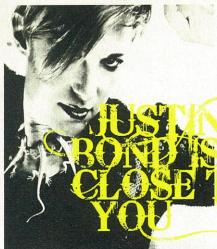












#### JUSTIN BOND IS CLOSE TO YOU 26 FEBRUARY – 6 MARCH \$45/\$35

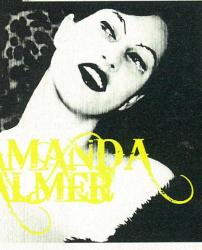
Performing alongside
Emmy Award-winning
pianist Lance Horne, Justin
Bond will perform the entire
classic early Carpenters
album Close To You in its
original order.

With much of his career performed in drag, this is Justin as himself: his husky voice adding an unheard of nuance to The Carpenters' songs.

#### AMANDA PALMER AND THE DANGER ENSEMBLE 25 - 27 FEBRUARY \$35/\$25

Amanda Palmer is best known for her role as front woman and keyboardist for internationally acclaimed punk cabaret band The Dresden Dolls.

For this tour Amanda will be showcasing her new album in collaboration with the gonzo Australian performance art troupe The Danger Ensemble.



#### THE WET SPOTS: A MIDSUMMER'S WET DREAM 5 & 6 MARCH \$39/\$29

Sophisticated musical sex comedy. From Canada.

Picture a husband and wife team from the golden age of comedy, singing sweetly about threesomes and spankings. Expect a lively blend of risqué-yet-elegant songs, audience interaction and singalongs to create a world where the libido is celebrated and satirized.





DATES

19th February -6 March 2009 VENUE

The Studio

TICKETS

\$25-\$85\*\*BOOKING FEES APPLY

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# Out West

### Mardi Gras Film Festival at Riverside Theatres, Parramatta

#### WHAT'S ON

We're delighted to return to Riverside in 2009 for another fantastic program of queer cinema in Western Sydney.

FRI FEB 27 7:30PM WERE THE WORLD

SAT FEB 28 11:30AM SORDID LIVES

SAT FEB 28 2:00PM

QUEER SCREEN KIDS

SAT FEB 28 3:00PM I CAN'T THINK

STRAIGHT

**SAT FEB 28 5:30PM FASHION VICTIMS** 

SAT FEB 28 7:30PM BOYSTOWN

SUN FEB 29 3:00PM THE SECRETS

SUN FEB 29 5:30PM THE NEW WORLD

SUN FEB 29 7:30PM READY? OK!

# QUEER SCREEN CRÈCHE

Queer parents, forget about organising a babysitter, we've got it sorted. Professional child care workers will entertain your kids while you take in some flicks. Ticket holders for the 11:30 and 3:30pm sessions can use the crèche service, join us for a bbq at 1pm and watch some children's programs with your kids.

Register your kids for the FREE Crèche by sending an email to: creche@queerscreen.com.au and let us know which session you are attending.

# Centrepiece Screenings



#### Were The World Mine

Tom Gustafson, USA, 2008, 96min If Shakespeare had written a gay musical this would be its modern day remake. Timothy is the gay guy in an all-boys high school, taunted by the football team, yet mysteriously defended by the hunky class jock, Jonathan. He escapes the classroom into a musical fantasy world where lessons become chorus lines, and bullies become ballet dancers. When A Midsummer Night's Dream is chosen as the school play, he easily lands the role of Puck, and with the help of his mischievous drama teacher, begins to truly embody the enchanted role. Discovering how to make Puck's magic love potion, Timothy sets out to turn the whole town gay and Jonathan into his adoring boyfriend.

CENTREPIECE TUES FEB 17, 7:30PM AND SAT FEB 28, 7:30PM PALACE ACADEMY TWIN FRI FEB 27, 7:30PM RIVERSIDE PARRAMATTA



Boystown (Chueca Town)
Juan Flahn, Spain, 2008, 100min Spanish with English subtitles Gay men have a reputation world-over for moving into run-down areas and transforming them into real estate paradise, and Madrid's Chueca district is their latest target. The only problem is, Chueca is populated by little old ladies who refuse to sell up and move on. Mysterious and sexy real estate agent Victor takes matters into his own hands, systematically killing off the grannies and instating queer couples in their place. When adorable bear couple Rey and Leo inherit their neighbour's flat, they unwittingly move Rey's mum into the neighbourhood and right in the firing line. Equal parts hysterical, thrilling and sexy, this murder romp should not be missed.

**CENTREPIECE TUES FEB 24, 7:30PM** AND FRI FEB 20, 9:30PM PALACE ACADEMY TWIN **SAT FEB 28, 7:30PM RIVERSIDE PARRAMATTA** 



#### Affinity

Tim Fywell, UK, 2008, 94min Sarah Waters' novel Affinity is elegantly captured in this accomplished adaptation, giving voice to a love affair in a women's prison, back in the Victorian days when lesbians, apparently, didn't exist. Upper-class Margaret, wanting to get in touch with the real world, volunteers as a 'lady visitor' at Milbank Prison. Here she becomes entwined in the bewitching plight of Selina, a celebrity medium convicted of assaulting a young girl. Selina's insights and spirit companions draw Margaret ever further in, until she agrees to help stage a mystical prison break.

CENTREPIECE TUES MARCH 3, 7:30PM PALACE ACADEMY TWIN

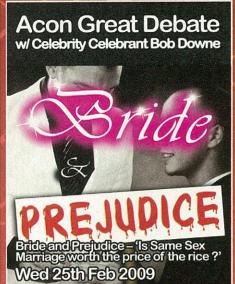


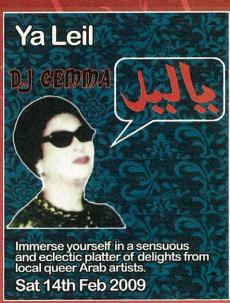
## The Secrets (Ha-Sodot)

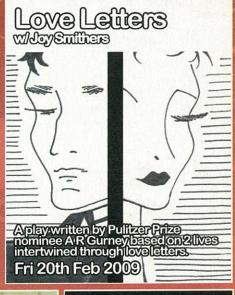
Avi Nesher, Israel, 2008, 115min Hebrew and French with English subtitles In a Jewish women's seminary, Naomi, the devout daughter of a rabbi, meets her secular roommate Michelle and the pair are instantly drawn together. When a troubled foreigner (the spellbinding Fanny Ardent) turns to them for help, they learn and practice the Secrets, forbidden, mystical Kabbalistic rituals, to cleanse and save. But they do so at a price. A superb and beautiful cast make magic of this haunting, lyrical drama. A must-see of the festival. CENTREPIECE THUR FEB 19, 7:30PM AND MON MARCH 2, 6:30PM PALACE ACADEMY TWIN SUN MARCH 1, 3:00PM RIVERSIDE PARRAMATTA

# MARDI GRAS @ THE FACTORY

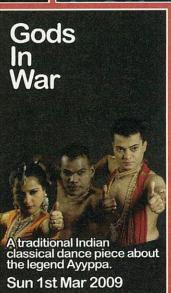
A season of plays, parties, dance and more...



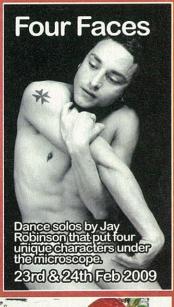


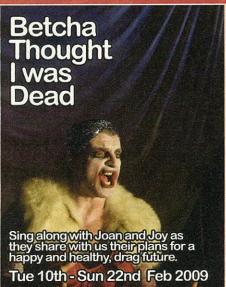


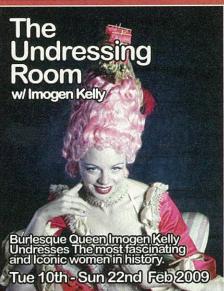


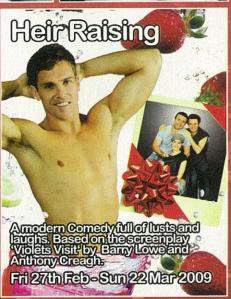












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Morten Hartz Kaplers, Denmark, 2007, 85min Danish and English with English subtitles This controversial mockumentary uses Ihis controversial mockumentary uses archival footage, doctored interviews and cunning recreations to tell the fictional story of Denmark's Prime Minister, Anders Fogh Rassmussen, being murdered by his secret gay lover. Slammed as being juvenile, sensationalist and in bad taste before it was even released, this clever construction artfully delivers its argument hout the propriet of the media to distant the truth. about the capacity of the media to distort the truth. A timely reflection as we are farewelling the last of the 'coalition of the willing' leaders.

MON FEB 23, 7:30PM PALACE ACADEMY TWIN



All My Life

Maher Sabry, Egypt, 2008, 130min
Arabic and English, English subtitled
Issuing fatwas upon the producers of queer films seems
to be a growing trend, and All My Life is the latest film to
be bestowed the unpleasant honour. Maher Sabry's film
is an evocative chronicle of the life of gay men in Egypt. set in 2001 against the backdrop of the Cairo 52 arrests. Ambitious in scope and epic in length, the various gay characters represent true stories reported to Sabry over recent years, as well as a fun, and daringly explicit look at the underground gay community that thrives in Cairo despite the odds.

FRI FEB 27, 9:30PM PALACE ACADEMY TWIN



Yair Hochner, Israel, 2007, IIomin
Hebrew and English with English subtitles
In a scenario reminiscent of *Friends*, set against the
cosmopolitan backdrop of Tel Aviv, Shirley dreams of running to Antarctica with the woman she loves. Meanwhile her brother Omer and his rag-tag group of gay friends twist and turn through lovers, friends and countless sexual conquests, weaving an ever more tangled web. This wacky comedy purposely ignores the politics of the region, instead focusing on the sometimes trivial domestic and romantic lives of its characters.

SUN FEB 22, 7:30PM PALACE ACADEMY TWIN SUN MARCH 1, 5:00PM **DENDY NEWTOWN** 



## The Art of Being Straight

Jesse Rosen, USA, 2008, 77min Not at all your average tale of self-discovery. John is a cute, cocky, rising star who's always had a way with a cute, cocky, rising star wilds a laways flad a way with the ladies, but a bad break-up sends him home to LA for a fresh start. In walks ex-girlfriend Maddie, now a commitment-phobic lesbian struggling to escape dyke co-dependency who helps John to open his mind a little. Before we know it, John's in bed with his gay boss. He has no idea how it happened but he wants to try it some

TUES FEB 24, 9:30PM PALACE ACADEMY TWIN TUES MARCH 3, 7:00PM **DENDY NEWTOWN** 



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## The Baby Formula

Alison Reid, Canada, 2008, 98min In Jury Competition

Two down-to-earth dykes are thinking it's time they had a baby, but who wants a guy involved? They take a chance on an experimental scientific procedure which will create sperm from their own stem cells. allowing them to share a biological child, and become the subject of media attention. This outrageous comedy is unlike the glut of lesbian parenting films we have seen in recent years, as it gives two no-nonsense comediennes free rein to pull apart romantic notions of motherhood and play in a father-free world

THUR FEB 26, 6:30PM PALACE ACADEMY TWIN MON MARCH 2, 7:00PM **DENDY NEWTOWN** 



# Between Love and Goodbye

Casper Andreas, USA, 2008, 94min The prolific writer/director Casper Andreas (Slutty Summer, A Four Letter Word) turns to more dramatic subject matter in his latest, Between Love and Goodbye. It's love at first sight when aspiring musician Kyle meets Frenchman-in-New York Marcel. Their affair moves fast from infatuation to co-dependence and within a year Marcel is marrying their lesbian friend to secure a green card. But when Kyle's deliciously wicked, scheming sister moves in, the relationship is tested and blood proves thicker than water. When love turns into resentment and hate, the parting partners wreak havoc on each others' lives.

THUR FEB 26, 7:30PM & MON MARCH 2, 9:30PM PALACE ACADEMY TWIN



# Blood on the Flat Track

L. Bagwell & L. Leavitt, USA, 2007, 95min Roller derby has certainly made a come back and it seems to be winning over lesbians world-wide. This doco with attitude focuses on Seattle's Rat City Rollergirls from the early days of reclaiming the sport, to their present success of sell-out seasons. Gone are the days of lycra and big hair, it's now about fish-nets and mini-skirts and ultimately – the body count. The women we meet offer an eclectic mix of competitive aggression, wild exhibitionism and f\*ck-you-all philosophies. Utterly addictive.

MON FEB 23, 7:00PM **DENDY NEWTWON** 



## Between Something and Nothing

Todd Verow, USA, 2008, 105min
Prolific indie filmmaker Todd Verow (Frisk, Anonymous, Vacationland) frequently uses his personal experience as the subject of his films. Here he revisits his tutor-ing at the Rhode Island School of Design, a time of adolescent awakenings and an induction into taking drugs, stealing wallets, free love, being paid for sex, and of course, making art. Freshman 'Joe' characterises this journey from fresh-faced and wide-eyed innocent to punk-fashioned street hustler and petty criminal, led along the way by classmate Jennifer, and the mysterious rent-boy Ramon, who, each in their own way, teach him the tricks of the trade.

THUR FEB 26, 9:30PM PALACE ACADEMY TWIN



# Candy Rain

Hung-i Chen, Taiwan, 2008, 108min Taiwanese with English subtitles

What with the director's background in music videos and the gorgeous cast, it is too tempting to rename this fea-ture 'Eye-Candy' Rain! Young, cute, hip girls negotiate their on and off love lives as four romances unfold in the same Taipei apartment building. This fast-paced film is shot with youthful energy, mixing comedy and drama in a pleasingly lesbian take on a *Melrose Place*-like genre. Calorie-free indulgence.

TUES FEB 24, 7:00PM **DENDY NEWTOWN SAT FEB 28, 6:30PM** PALACE ACADEMY TWIN



# Chris and Don: A Love Story

Guido Santi & Tina Mascara, USA, 2008

In Jury Competition

A documentary looking into the 30 year partnership of writer Christopher Isherwood (author of the Berlin Stories that spawned the musical Cabaret) and artist Don Bachardy. Despite a 31 year age difference, Chris and Don were an openly gay couple in 1950s Hollywood, and led a very public life filled with celebrity friends, during a period when many careers were ruined because of homo-speculation. This documentary mixes diary extracts and interviews with superb private home movie footage shot in the '50s. Amongst the many gems is a dinner party for Igor Stravinsky, and a visit with Tennessee Williams.

SUN FEB 22, 5:20PM PALACE ACADEMY TWIN



# Ciao

Yen Tan, USA, 2008, 100min
This sophisticated romantic drama kicks off with a fatal car accident. Cleaning up the loose ends after the death of his best friend, Jeff (Adam Neal Smith) discovers his mate had been indulging in a long distance online romance with a hunky Italian (Allesandro Calza, Dante's Cove). On a whim, Jeff takes over the online relationship, and strikes up an incredibly inti-mate connection. When the two meet they discover the poignant double meaning of 'Ciao', Italian for both goodbye and hello.

A beautifully made and much praised film.

MON FEB 23, 9:30PM PALACE ACADEMY TWIN SAT FEB 28, 5:00PM **DENDY NEWTOWN** 



# Citizen Nawi

Nissim Mossek, Israel, 2007, 80min Ezra Nawi is a Sephardic Jew and a passionate Ezra Nawi is a sephartic Jew and a passionate activist living in Israel. He engages in daily disputes with the Israeli Defense Force over the rights of Arab villagers and works tirelessly in the aid of destitute Palestinians denied health care, education and housing. We first met Ezra in queerDOC'06 film Zero Degrees of Separation, in which he fought against the imprisonment of his Palestinian lover.

This doco picks up the story 18 months on and we discover that relationship has ended, however Nawi is now illegally housing a new Palestinian boyfriend.

MON FEB 23, 6:30PM PALACE ACADEMY TWIN



## Clandestinos

Antonio Hens, Spain, 2007, 80min Spanish with English Subtitles In Jury Competition.

In Jury competition.

A sexy Spanish thriller. Trigger-happy Xabi (Israel Rodriguez) is looking for trouble, he's well hung (and happy to flaunt it) and rules the roost in juvenile detention.

Staging a daring prison escape with two cute but clueless fellow inmates, Xabi sets out in search of his older lover and idol, a terrorist with the Basque separatist group ETA.

On the run from police in Madrid, Xabi quickly becomes mixed up in a dangerous game of revolution, but does he do it for the cause or the attention of the man he loves?

WED FEB 25, 9:00PM **DENDY NEWTOWN** SUN MARCH 1, 9:30PM PALACE ACADEMY TWIN



Damaged Goods Greg Howard, Australia, 2009, 96min In this indie, Aussie romantic comedy, two twentysomethings with dark pasts find a kindred spirit in each other. Delk was removed from his birth family and raised by a gay foster couple, and Josh had a childhood tainted by death, but both are survivors and looking for love. Their romance is threatened by mutual awkwardness and a dangerous game of 'my demons are bigger than your demons', but a colourful cast of wacky friends and family is determined not to let them screw up this chance at happiness.

**SAT FEB 28, 2:00PM** PALACE ACADEMY TWIN



**Drifting Flowers** 

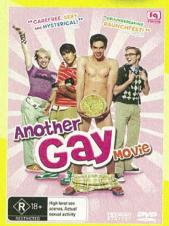
Zero Chou, Taiwan, 2007, 97min Taiwanese with English Subtitles In Jury Competition

In Jury competition
A film that will charm and delight. From the director of Spider Lilies, this wonderful film artfully weaves together three tales of romance, self-discovery, and loss. The first tale is one of jealousy and abandonment, with a young girl struggling to understand why her life suit he tree part when her older sister falls in love. must be torn apart when her older sister falls in love. The second focuses on the frailty and preciousness of friendships, as age and poor health crush Lily, a lesbian with Alzheimer's. The final tale explores the emotions brought on by puberty, and the path to discovering love.

WED FEB 25, 6:30PM PALACE ACADEMY TWIN SAT FEB 28, 5:00PM **DENDY NEWTOWN** 



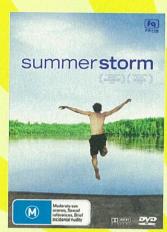
# Another The cream of FQ films for UNDER \$20



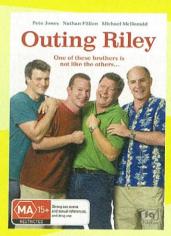
**ANOTHER GAY MOVIE** 



**BOY CULTURE** 



SUMMER STORM



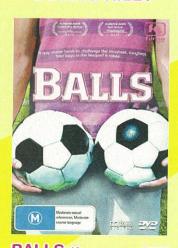
**OUTING RILEY** 



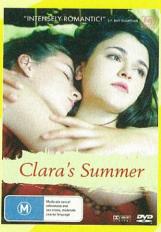
ADAM AND STEVE



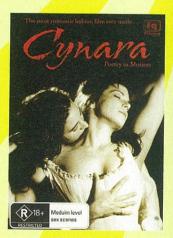
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# COMING TO DVD IN 2009

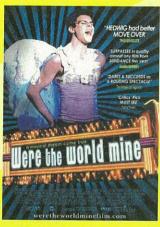
AUSTRALIA'S LEADING QUEER CINEMA LABEL



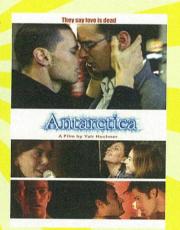
BREAKFAST WITH SCOT



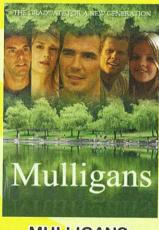
**CHEF'S SPECIAL** 



WERE THE WORLD MINE



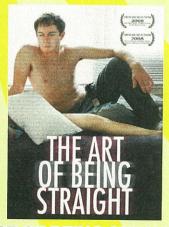
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ART OF BEING STRAIGHT



THE CHO SHOW



**BIG GAY SKETCH SHOW** 





















# Fashion Vicims (Reine Geschmacksache)

Ingo Rasper, Germany, 2007, IoImin German with English subtitles Unlike its bumbling characters, this quick-witted comedy of errors doesn't put a foot wrong. Young Karsten's plans for a summer in Spain come unhinged when his father, Wolfgang, a travelling ladies' fashion salesmen, loses his licence and needs a driver. Karsten is mortified by this turn of events, until he crosses paths with the older, attractive Steven - summer suddenly looks more interesting. Unfortunately Karsten soon discovers that Steven is his Dad's chief rival on the retail fashion scene. As Steven schemes to beat Wolfgang to each meeting at each boutique, how will Karsten keep his father from discovering he's sleeping with the enemy?

gaydestination

SAT FEB 21, 9:30PM PALACE ACADEMY TWIN SAT FEB 28, 5:30PM RIVERSIDE PARRAMATTA



# For My Wife

David Rothmiller, USA, 2008, 80min When Charlene Strong's partner Kate drowned in a torrential rainstorm in Seattle, Charlene was denied access to her dying 'wife' by a hospital social worker. This humiliation and discrimination set Charlene on a journey that soon saw her testify before Washington legislature, facilitating the passage of the historic Domestic Partnership Bill. This powerful documentary not only humanises the unquestionable need for full marital equality, but chronicles the making of an activist through a brave and inspiring transformation of character.

SUN MARCH 1, 6:30PM PALACE ACADEMY TWIN

News. Events. Lifestyle. Reviews.

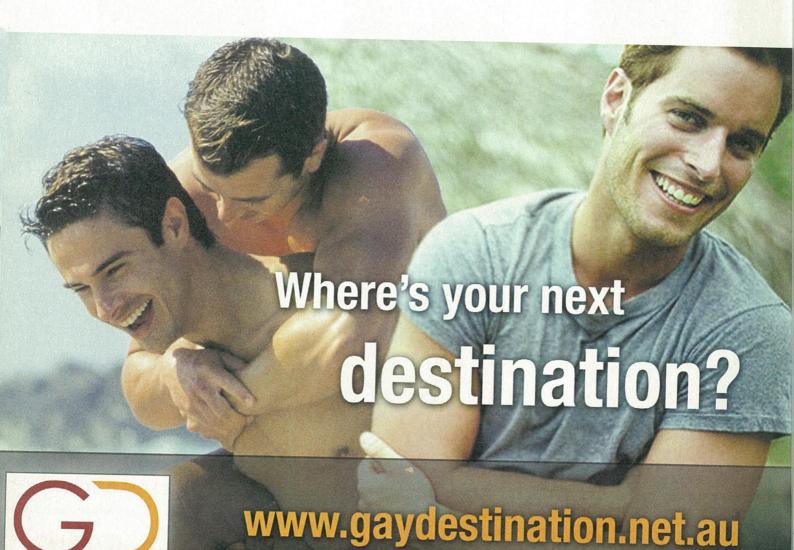


# Fucking Different Tel A

Various, Israel, 2009, 951.

The Fucking Different project brings together 7 of filmmakers and 7 lesbian filmmakers, asking the tocreate a short work that responds to the quest what do gay men think about lesbian sexuality, a what do lesbians think about gay sexuality?" Toriginal Berlin project in 2005, was followed by the New York project in 2007. This year it is Tel Aviturn, a city developing a growing reputation a modern queer capital.

SAT FEB 28, 9:30P PALACE ACADEMY TW





# Half Life

Jennifer Phang, USA, 2008, 106min In Jury Competition

Set in the not-so-distant future, when oceans have swallowed cities and solar flares disrupt our power supply, Half Life is a stunning feature debut that blends animation with live action to create a vivid and fragile modern world. An eternal sense of impending doom has heightened our human interactions, some turn even further to religion, some give up in a fatalist depression, while others become savagely desperate. All the same, people are struggling with familiar human battles, finding love, understanding betrayal and coming out to their parents...

WED FEB 25, 7:30PM PALACE ACADEMY TWIN



# I Can't Think Straight

Shamim Sarif, UK, 2008, 80min In Jury Competition

The team that brought us *World Unseen* last year is back with the same sexy leading women in this charming romance that pits star-crossed lovers against cross-cultural confusion. When London-based Jordanian, Tala, meets British Indian, Leyla, it's love at first sight. Apart from neither of the women having had a same-sex relationship before, there are traditional Indian parents and a Palestinian wedding for the couple to contend with, and they soon fall apart. All is not lost, however, as their friends hatch a plot to get them back together.

SUN FEB 22, 6:30PM
PALACE ACADEMY TWIN
FRI FEB 27, 7:00PM
DENDY NEWTOWN
SAT FEB 28, 3:00PM
RIVERSIDE PARRAMATTA
OUER SCRIFN CRECHE AVAILABLE



# I Dreamt Under the Water

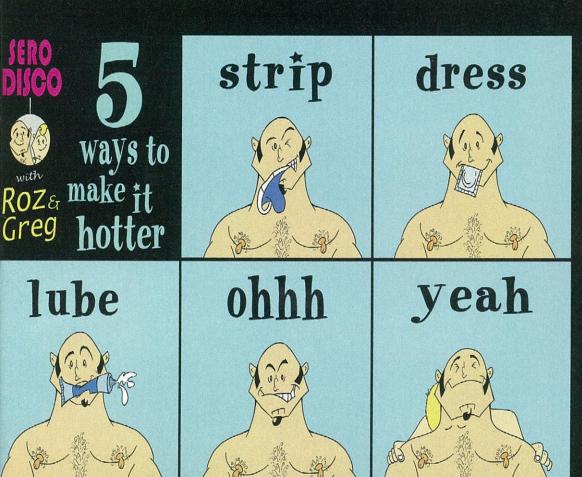
Hormoz, France, 2008, 99min

In Jury Competition

A lusciously captured, gritty French drama, bolstered with stunning, intense performances. Our attractive bisexual lead is in love with his best friend who overdoses on heroin. In despair and identity confusion he begins a long dark journey through sex clubs, beats, drugs and prostitution.

His path crosses with a quirky woman who he falls for and decides to get clean. This romantic fantasy may not be what it seems, however, and a different underworld awaits him, even in this relationship. Ultimately he must choose not between men and women, but rather between the light and the dark.

WED FEB 25, 9:30PM PALACE ACADEMY TWIN



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Andrew Georgios





Written by Mark Ravenhill

- Shopping and F\*\*king and pool (no water)

**Directed by Lee Lewis** 

One of his very best plays. Ravenhill captures excellently the insecurity of adolescence as well as the infinite curiosity. Guardian, UK

Ravenhill's **Citizenship** is a brilliantly funny story of 16 year old Tom, and his search for identity. Initially, Tom's search begins by discussing adolescent issues with his friends and over worked teacher, visiting a fortune teller and kissing both boys and girls. Ravenhill then cleverly widens the lens as Tom realises that he is searching for who he is as a human being, rather than just his sexual identity. At the conclusion of the play Tom is forced to grow up very quickly and discovers that life holds no easy answers.

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# **TICKET OFFER**

When booking tickets please quote "Sydney Star Observer deal" to receive \$10 tickets to any performance of **Citizenship**. Only pre-booked tickets will receive this fantastic deal.

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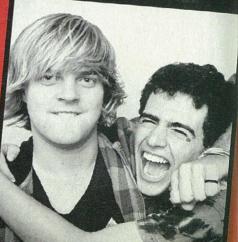














### Japan Japan

Lior Shamriz, Israel, 2007, 70min Imri, 19 years old, good looking, with no particular direction, moves to Tel Aviv looking for excitement. Instead he ends up with an insane housemate with imaginary friends and his best mate leaves for New York. Imri finds himself with a boring job, unsatisfying one-night stands, a growing obsession with internet porn and too much time on his hands. He begins to fantasise about a new life, living in Japan.

The mostly improvised script is shot guerrilla style, mixed up with YouTube flicks, porn, Japanese kitsch and wacky fantasies, which merge in an original,

enjoyable Gen Y experiment. SUN FEB 22, 9:30PM PALACE ACADEMY TWIN



Charlie David, USA, 2008, 92min
Oh for a second chance at life and love. In Mulligans,
Chase (writer/director Charlie David, Dante's Cove and
last year's A Four Letter Word) is invited on a summer
suffigure action with his boot fixed Tale of a silkness. golfing vacation with his best friend Tyler's family. Tyler is pretty cool when Chase seizes this opportunity to come out to him, but he won't react quite as well when he realises his best friend is having an affair with his sexy, sporty Dad. A scenic setting and impressive cast, with recognisable faces from Queer As Folk and Dante's Cove, make Mulligans a joy to watch. SAT FEB 21, 5:20PM & MON MARCH 2, 7:30PM PALACE ACADEMY TWIN



Mom, I Didn't Kill Your Daughter

Orna Ben Dor, Israel, 2007, 50min A remarkably tender and charming documentary charting an often overlooked aspect of the F to M experience - the grieving mother. With his supportive partner at his side, Lior is finally taking the steps to transition to a male identity. We share the boyish joy of his first crew-cut and shaving lesson, right through to the painful yet rewarding 'top surgery'. The experience of transition is so positive for Lior, he can't understand why his over-sensitive Jewish mother is having such a hard time letting go of the daughter she once knew. *Mom, I Didn't Kill Your Daughter* has captured this delicate relationship while remaining as funny and uplifting as it is poignant and moving.

TUE FEB 24, 6:30PM PALACE ACADEMY TWIN



## The New World

Etienne Dhaene, France, 2007, 98min French with English Subtitles

In Jury Competition

Lucie and Marion live fast-paced Parisian lives. Deeply in love, they start to delve into the complicated terri-tory of starting a family together. It seems everyone has an opinion on how they should go about babymaking, and soon the pressure of choice begins to rock their romance. This warm and witty exploration of a modern family's origins may uncover more questions than answers, but will certainly strike a chord with any same-sex couple who have themselves taken the plunge into the New World.

WED FEB 25, 7:00PM **DENDY NEWTOWN SUN MARCH 01, 5:30PM** RIVERSIDE PARRAMATTA





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# Patrik, age 1.5

Ella Lemhagen, Sweden, 2008, Ioomin In Jury Competition
A spirited romantic comedy about the ups and downs of adoption. Swedish gay couple Sven and Goran are happily married, and dream of adopting a child and moving to a perfect home in the suburbs. There is just one problem — an unfortunate typo at the adoption agency puts a comma in the wrong place and instead of a baby boy aged 1.5, they are sent a homophobic 15 year old street kid. Exceptionally well put together, this is a smart and very funny film.

SAT FEB 21, 7:30PM
PALACE ACADEMY TWIN
WED MARCH 04, 7:00PM
DENDY NEWTOWN



## Passion and Power Wendy Slick & Emiko Omori,

USA, 2008, 75min
Did you know that in Texas you can own and sell
as many guns as you like, but can be jailed under
indecency laws for owning more than five vibrators?
Quite simply put, Passion and Power is the history of
the vibrator and its relationship to the female orgasm.
Notable feminists and historians take us on a guided
tour from the early days of wooden, coal-fuelled
devices (yes, that's right...) used for relieving Victorian
women of 'hysteria' to the nifty little gadgets we know
and love today. Enjoy this fabulously entertaining, and

at times unnerving, education.

MON MARCH 2, 9:00PM

DENDY NEWTOWN



# Porn with Pals: Champion

Shine-Louise Houston, USA, 2008, 90min Set in the seedy world of wrestling with a cast of ultra-sexy tough girls, this is infamous erotica director Shine-Louise Houston's latest sex-with-a-story offering. These girls enjoy some rough-and-tumble in the ring, before moving it into the bedroom. Jessie (Syd Blakovich) is a hotshot wrestler, who just can't seem to help jumping into bed with every girl she meets. It all starts to fall apart for her when she is blackmailed to throw an important fight, and then falls in love with her toughest opponent.

MON FEB 23, 9:00PM DENDY NEWTOWN



#### Save Me

Robert Cary, USA, 2008, 95min Mark (Chad Allen, TVs gay detective Donald Strachey) is a drug-dependent sex addict heading for self-destruction, sent by his family to a Christian conversion camp that seeks to cure him of his 'homosexual affliction.' There he meets Scott (Ben from Queer As Folk), the seemingly golden boy of the mission, who turns out to be rebellious at heart. No prizes for guessing a love affair ensues, much to the chagrin on the mission's matriarch (played by Judith Light of Who's The Boss). A charming romantic drama that pushes all the right buttons.

FRI FEB 20, 7:30PM PALACE ACADEMY TWIN





#### Queer Screen Kids

Various

A FREE SCREENING as part of our Queer Screen Crèche program. Bring your kids into the cinema for an hour of children's programs made by gay and lesbian parents. In Buddy G: My Two Moms and Me, Dottie's Magic Pockets and Playkool, your kids will be taken on fun adventures with a host of characters representing sexual and ethnic diversity. And like all good kids' TV, there's plenty of word play and double meanings to ensure the parents get as much of a laugh out of it as the kids do..

SAT FEB 28, 2:00PM RIVERSIDE PARRAMATTA QUEER SCREEN CRÈCHE IS A FREE CHILD MINDING SERVICE AVAILABLE FOR THE 11:30 AND 3PM SESSIONS AT RIVER-SIDE ON SAT

FFB 28 ...



Rubbings from a Live Man

Florian Habicht, New Zealand, 2009, 70min Raw, irreverent and unnervingly original, this blurring of reality and construction is described as 'a documentary performed by Warwick Broadhead'. Broadhead, a veteran performer of arch, cracked "theatricals", has been performing on stages as big as the Botanic Gardens and at intimate private parties for years, but he's never allowed his work to be recorded. Here, director Florian Habicht (Woodenhead) has convinced him to re-enact some of the key moments in his far from ordinary life.

THUR FEB 19, 9:30PM PALACE ACADEMY TWIN



## Ready? OK!

James Vasquez, USA, 2008, 93min In a town called Normal Heights we meet Andrea, a single mum juggling a stressful career, a deadbeat twin brother and a precocious, most probably gay, nine year old son. Young Joshua plays with dolls, designs clothes and is determined to become a cheerleader, which is causing quite a stir at his Catholic junior school. With a little encouragement from the gay guy next door (Michael Emerson, of TV's Lost), Joshua throws his heart and mind into raising funds to attend the Summer Cheer Camp, where a loophole in the rule book says boys are allowed.

THURS FEB 19, 6:30PM
PALACE ACADEMY TWIN
SUN MARCH 1, 7:30PM
RIVERSIDE PARRAMATTA



#### Sordid Lives

Del Shores, USA, 2000, Homin

Relive Olivia Newton-John's most low-brow role in this retrospective of a modern camp classic. Described as a black comedy about white trash, Sordid Lives follows three generations of a Texan family coming together over the rather clandestine and controversial death of the family's matriarch. With wayward siblings, nosey neighbours, the son who has spent 23 years dressed as Tammy Wynette, and Olivia crooning country style, it's no wonder this cult hit has recently been made into a television series. Check out the original before the TV show hits our screens.

SAT FEB 28, 11:30AM
RIVERSIDE PARRAMATTA
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#### Steam

Kyle Schickner, USA, 2008, 117min In Jury Competition A satisfying character drama focusing on the changing lives of three women. In the steam room at their gym, these three share the details of their day to day lives, discovering a common experience of personal alienation. Each explores her own path, looking for an escape and new friendships, sometimes wisely, sometimes in the wrong places. Starring Ally Sheedy, Kate Siegel, and Ruby Dee (a trio of female diversity that puts Sex and the City to shame) this moving story explores unexpected friend-

ships, and changing identities... FRI FEB 20, 6:30PM PALACE ACADEMY TWIN THURS FEB 26, 7:00PM **DENDY NEWTOWN** 



# Three Day Weekend

Rob Williams, USA, 2008, 85min In the tradition of Boys in the Band with a deliberate nod to Love, Valor, and Compassion, this film places a diverse bunch of gay guys together, in a remote location for three days. Couple Simon and Jason with mate Cooper and his boy-toy spend every long weekend together in a mountain retreat. This year they've decided to spice things up, each one must invite a single gay friend

to join them Obviously over the next 72 hours, this group will hop beds, break hearts, spill secrets, throw tantrums and even practice tantric. FRI FEB 27, 7:30PM

PALACE ACADEMY TWIN



# Tango with a Twist

Dominique Pile, Australia, 2008, 55min In Jury Competition A touching, feel-good documentary about how learning the Argentine tango transforms the lives of four Sydney gay and lesbian amateur dancers. Throwing caution to the wind, they travel to Buenos Aires on a whirlwind tango tour. Forget Rudolf Valentino or Dancing with the Stars, this highly personal film takes you to the heart of the dance and the soul of its rather unconventional amateur dancers. Funny, poignant and inspiring, Tango with a Twist explores the dance from a same sex perspective and illustrates how learning the steps can transform your life. The film will be accompanied by a sizzling same-sex tango demonstration to get you in the mood!

SAT FEB 21, 6:30PM PALACE ACADEMY TWIN



# The Universe of Keith Haring

Christina Clausen, Italy/France/USA, 2007, 90min You have surely seen the work of artist/social activist Keith Haring, whose bold, cartoon-like art has appeared on T-shirts, posters, and murals around the world. Tracing Haring's life from a small town in Pennsylvania to the centre of the New York art scene, including a stop-over in Melbourne, Universe is a thorough and intimate exploration of one of the most significant gay artists of the 20th century. Featuring appearances from his many friends including Grace Jones, Yoko Ono, and Andy Warhol, this doco is a perfect companion to our closing night, with its reflections on Madonna in her early New York homo-boho days.

SAT FEB 28, 3:00PM PALACE ACADEMY TWIN

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# Water Lilies (Naissance des pieuvres)

Céline Sciamma, France, 2007, 85 min In an outer suburb of Paris, three teenage girls connect through the local synchronised swimming team. Their charming, naïve adolescence becomes achingly complicated as the throes of burgeoning adult sexuality, the crushes and casual cruelty, take over their relationships. A flawless young cast captures the kitsch value of 'synchro' without ridicule in a deeply perceptive, insightful and thoroughly enjoyable film.

FRI FEB 27, 6:30PM
PALACE ACADEMY TWIN
SUN MARCH 1, 5:00PM
DENDY NEWTOWN



# The Way I See Things

Brian Pera, USA, 2008, 85min
After the death of his boyfriend, Otto becomes deeply
depressed and isolates himself from the world. His
friend Rob stages an intervention, gets him to a counsellor, and forces him to take a reviving, cross-country
road trip. Along the way he escapes Rob's smothering
grip and hitchhikes to a small town where he ends up
entwined in a new-age cult whose equally damaged
residents are in search of their 'authentic self'. A
refreshing and impressive indie thought piece with a
keen eye and a subtle, sharp wit.

WED MARCH 3, 9:00PM DENDY NEWTOWN



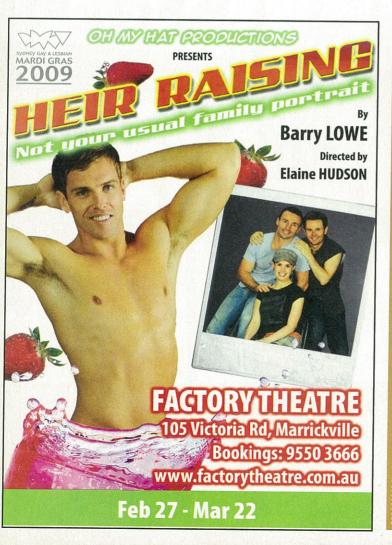
# What Love Means (Sa Raison D'Etre)

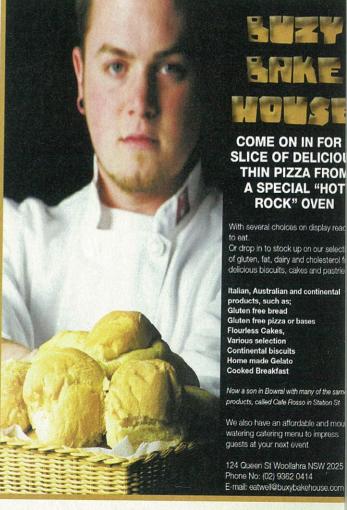
Renaud Bertrand, France, 2008, 200min French with English Subtitles Hailed as the French version of *Angels in America* for the text generation, Bertrand's star-studded television epic will have you engrossed for the whole four hours.

In 1980, Nicolas meets his sister's beau, Bruno, and falls into a deep dedicated love for him, kicking off a saga that will span the next two decades. During this tumultuous time an unusual family will weather class barriers, racism, homophobia, the rise of HIV, contaminated blood scandals, terrorism and successive narrow-minded governments. Whether for the potted history lesson, or the grand scale serial drama, this special presentation will make for a tremendously satisfying afternoon in the cinema.

SPECIAL TICKET PRICE: \$25 / \$20 QS MEMBERS

SUN MARCH 1, 5:20PM PALACE ACADEMY TWIN







# With Gilbert and George Julian Cole, UK, 2008

Filmmaker Julian Cole first met Gilbert and George when he modelled for them in 1986. His intimate and been banned, they've been panned, they've made murals from their own excretra, no matter what you think of the work, after meeting the men you will undoubtedly fall for Gilbert and George.

**SUN MARCH 01, 2:00PM** PALACE ACADEMY TWIN



Wrangler: Anatomy of an Icon Jeffrey Schwarz, USA, 2008, 90min When Jack Wrangler burst into the world of gay porn in the early '70s, he was noticeably different from his peers - a buff, masculine, self-confident stud. He his peers - a buff, masculine, self-confident stud. He redefined the image and ideal of a gay star. Out and proud and comfortable in his own skin, Jack became an instant icon and role model. Hence the surprise when he successfully transitioned into straight porn mid-career and then established himself as a serious director of legitimate theatre, not to mention the addition of, ah um, a wife. A riddle wrapped in a mystery presented in a smokin' hot package meet mystery presented in a smokin' hot package, meet Jack Wrangler through the eyes of his admirers in this celebrated bio-doc.

**SAT FEB 28, 5:20PM** PALACE ACADEMY TWIN



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# **Shorts Programs**



# Dyke-O-Dramas

A mix of comedy, romance and real-life in these compelling lesbian shorts. In Let's Roll a couple gear up for a romantic beach getaway - if only they could leave the driveway, The ever-popular Skyler Cooper searches for one night's rest in The Insomniacs, Easy Tiger sees a woman on a mission leave everything behind, a romance arrives with perfect timing in 510 Metres Over the Sea, and we meet the fag-hag's cultural counterpart the Lesbro.

SUN FEB 22, 3:00PM PALACE ACADEMY TWIN

LET'S ROLL, Kat-I, USA, 5min; THE INSOMNIACS, Kami Chisholm, USA, 11min; ALPHA, Dana Goldberg, Israel, 12min, EASY TIGER, Laura Zimmermann, Switzerland, 11min; HELLO, MY NAME IS HERIMAN, Karine Silverwoman, Canada, 10min; 510 METER UBER DEM MEER, Kerstin Polte & Amina Gmur, Sweden, 16:30min; LESBRO, Brynn Gelbard, USA, 12min



## Fairy Tales

Rick and Steve are the happiest gay couple in the world, and they are joined by some fun, sexy and sensual shorts in this selection for the boys. Two Latino men on a construction site work through some machismo issues in Bramadero. Two refugees find it hard to shake the feeling that Somebody is Watching Us. The Window offers a great endorsement for spying on your neighbours.

SAT FEB 21, 3:00PM PALACE ACADEMY TWIN

RICK AND STEVE, Q Allan Brocka, USA, 25min; BRAMADERO, Julian Hernandez, Mexico, 20min; SOMEBODY IS WATCHING US, Maxime Desmons, 12min, THE WINDOW, P Gosselin and R Regina, USA, 6min.



#### Best of Iris

Every year, the world's best queer short films compete for the Iris Prize. In 2008 our own David Pearce was on the jury and he has brought home this selection from the finalists, including the winner, *Cowboy*, and *James*, recently invited to Sundance and winner of the Best British queer film prize. After a relationship ends, a guy joins a cuddle group in *Centre of the Universe*, two Icelandic men with a passion for *Wrestling* find that close contact leads to a more intimate relationship. A young guy chases after an HIV positive man in *The Young & Evil.* 

SUN MARCH 01, 3:00PM PALACE ACADEMY TWIN

CENTRE OF THE UNIVERSE, Jarrah Gurrie, US/Australia, 14min; COWBOY, Till Kleinert, Germany, 35min; JAMES, Conor Clements, Ireland, 21min; WRESTLING, Grimur Hakonarson, Iceland, 20min; THE YOUNG & EVIL, Julian Breece, USA, 15min.

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Kogarah, Randwick, Rockdale, Shellharbour, Shoalhaven, Sutherland, City of Sydney (part of),
Waverley, Wollongong and Woollahra.

# Open/Closing night films

# **OPENING NIGHT** My Queer Career 2009

My Queer Career is Australia's most prestigious queer short film competition. and it kicks off the Festival each year. Nine of the very best of locally made queer shorts have been selected by our judges - Tony Ayres, Richard Brunskill and Victoria Treole.

The finalists are:

Gluteus Maximus, Brendan Cook and Mick

Couple's Therapy, Adam Lemmey Talk Derby To Me, Aimee Knight Spokes, Peter Ireland

The Vicious and the Delicious, Tonnette Stanford

If The Shoe Fits, Chris Scherer Drvce Od Kibrit (Matchstick), Tony Radevski

My Dad Susan, Teagan McCarthy Every Other Weekend, Tim Slade An award ceremony follows the screening in the beautiful City Recital Hall, which transforms into our opening night party over three levels. Put your superstitions aside and throw caution to the wind - this Friday the 13th will be lucky for some.

FRIDAY FEB 13, 7:30PM CITY RECITAL HALL ANGEL PLACE





# **CLOSING NIGHT** Filth and Wisdom

Madonna, UK, 2008, 85min
The reviews of Madonna's writer/director debut will tell you in no uncertain terms, you'll either love it or hate it, but isn't that a delicious challenge to be offered?

The Material Girl appears to have returned to her bohemian roots in this tale of three rag-tag Londonites surviving their oddball lives together. Madonna has said each character represents a personality she herself could have been (had she not become THE Madonna). Narrator A.K is a Ukrainian immigrant who heads up a Gypsy punk band, financing his dreams of rock glory by moonlighting as a cross-dressing dominatrix for married straight men. He lives with Holly, a professional ballet dancer turned stripper and pole dancer, and Juliette, a self-medicating pharmacy assistant who longs to feed the starving children of Africa.

With the help of a cameo by Richard E. Grant, these three eventually learn in order to gain wisdom, you gotta get a little filthy.

THURSDAY MARCH 5, 7:30PM RITZ CINEMA RANDWICK

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# Ticket prices and info

# Bookings

Online: www.queerscreen.com.au Phone: 1300 306 776 In person at the box office of the venue in which the session screens

#### Tickets

Opening Night \$30 Full / \$25 Queer Screen Member No concessions.

Centrepieces \$20 all tickets (includes a drink at the festival bar and donation to local GLBT charity)

Standard Sessions \$16 Full \$14 Concession \$12 Queer Screen Members

#### Passes

5 Film Pass \$70 Full \$60 Concession \$50 Queer Screen Members

10 Film Pass \$90 Queer Screen Members only

Pink Pass \$300 — open pass to all sessions + reserved seating Available through Queer Screen office only.

Unless otherwise stated, customs and classification laws require that admittance to all sessions is restricted to adults 18 years and older.

**Booking Fees** 

Booking fee for all session tickets (except Opening Night) purchased via internet or phone is \$1.50 per ticket (including GST). No booking fees apply to tickets purchased directly from the box office of Festival venues (excluding Opening Night).

# Valid Concessions

Full-time students, pensioners, NSW seniors, Healthcare cardholders, Palace Movie Club, Dendy Club and AFI members. One concession ticket per cardholder on presentation of a valid card.

**Booking Information** 

Tickets available for purchase from noon Jan 22.

Tickets are available through our agency MCA Tix, or the box office at the venue where the session plays.
Online and phone orders close at noon

on the day of that session if it is on a weekday, noon on Friday if the session is on the weekend. All tickets purchased more than a week before the first session will be mailed out. Tickets purchased less than a week before the first session will be held for collection at the relevant cinema. Pre-purchased tickets should be collected no later than 30 minutes prior to the session – photo identification may be requested. Please direct all telephone enquiries regarding phone and internet ticketing to MCA Tix only. Cinema venues do not have access to MCA Tix information and cannot exchange or refund tickets purchased through MCA Tix. Festival tickets, once acquaired, are non-refundable and non-exchangeable. Lost or stolen tickets will not be replaced or refunded. Refunds will be issued only in the case of cancellation.



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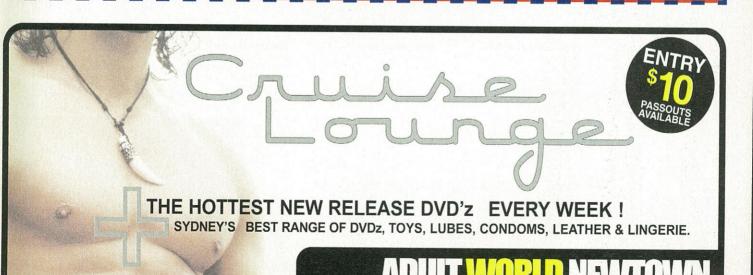
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Festival Imagery and Graphics: Jeremy "Bearemy" Stewart Festival Trailer: Milko Productions

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Tony Ayres Richard Brunskill Victoria Treole

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#### With Thanks

Rob Judd, Su Goldfish, Jane Becker, missing you already. Harry Richardson, Ria Ford and Denise Hannon for your ongoing

For 'the power of three' – Lisa Daniel, Mel-bourne Queer Film Fest; Sarah Neal, Brisbane Queer Film Fest.

Simone Ubaldi and Anthony McCarthy for being FQing fabulous.
Jude Troy @ Hopscotch, Paul Tonta @ Madman, Tony Zrna @ Palace Films. Karen Peaston and all at MCA tix. Jonathan Llwelyn and Pene Bloch for keeping watch in the west.

Scott (and Scott) and the team at SSO.
Sydney Gay and Lesbian Business Association, Darlinghurst Business Partnership,
Newtown Entertainment Precinct Association. Our inspiring and generous volunteers and our members, your support is invaluable.

# Venues

# City Recital Hall (CRH) Angel Place, Sydney

Box office hours: 9am-5pm Mon-Fri Wheelchair access provided

# Palace Academy Twin 3a Oxford St, Paddington

Box office hours: 12pm-9pm daily Wheelchair access not available

# **Dendy Newtown**

261 King St, Newtown Box office hours: 11am-9pm daily Wheelchair access provided

## **Riverside Theatre**

Corner Church and Market Streets, Parramatta Box office hours: 9am-5pm Mon-Fri Wheelchair access provided

# Randwick Ritz

39-47 St Pauls St, Randwick Box office hours: 10am-10pm daily Wheelchair access provided



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