

MEDIA RELEASE

Queer Screen's Mardi Gras Film Festival on Tour

Sydney Winners Announced

14 March 2016: Queer Screen's 23rd Mardi Gras Film Festival is now on tour showcasing the best of the festival in the Blue Mountains and Parramatta.

After a very successful run in Sydney with 16,500 attendees visiting eight venues and seeing an additional 25 sessions, Queer Screen was delighted to sell out 24 sessions this year and present an additional five events for local LGBTIQ film makers.

"We really stretched ourselves this year to present 75 screenings, create a large number of community and industry events, host 10 international guests and showcase a lot more lesbian and transgender films," explained Paul Struthers, Queer Screen's Mardi Gras Film Festival Director.

"This would not have been possible without the incredible hard work and passion of our volunteers, Board, partners and sponsors and my Festival Manager James Woolley and I cannot thank everyone enough for all of their time and commitment."

Giovanni Campolo-Arcidiaco, Queer Screen President thanked Paul for delivering a hugely successful 23rd Festival. "Queer Screen is dedicated to engaging individuals and communities through queer storytelling through film. I feel this year that Paul and the team have absolutely delivered on our mission by showcasing the whole spectrum of queer life and the rainbow of characters within that.

"On behalf of the Board I would like to say a massive thank you and congratulation to every single person who was involved in making this year such a great success," he added.

Queer Screen would like to congratulate the winners of My Queer Career, the Queer Screen Completion Fund and the hotly contested audience awards!

My Queer Career – Australia's biggest LGBTIQ film prize

Winner Best Film

THE SUMMER OF ABC BURNS

Dannika Horvat produced by Stephanie Westwood

This film won \$3,000 cash from the Stephen Cummins Film Trust, \$2,000 in support from JP Media Law, and an automatic entry into the world renowned Iris Prize.

Winner Emerging Filmmaker Award

OASIS

Directed by Joshua Longhurst and produced by Annmaree J Bell and Craig Boreham

This film won \$3,300 worth of courses at Sydney Film School

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Winner Best Screenplay Award

FOLLOWERS

Directed by Tim Marshall and produced by Christina Radburn
Winning \$2,000 cash from Event Cinemas

Winner Audience Award

LITTLE BOY BLUE

Directed by Nathan Keene and produced by Will Faulkner and Joy Baines
Prize: \$3500 worth of support from Spectrum Films

Queer Screen Completion Fund – assisting LGBTIQ screen projects

The recipient of \$7500 was a documentary (currently under embargo) by an Australian director, shining a light onto the LGBTI community in the Middle East that is so often forgotten.

\$2500 was awarded to TEENAGE KICKS, the feature film debut from Craig Boreham and produced by Annmaree J Bell. It follows 17-year-old Miklós Varga after the accidental death of his older brother. Only Mik knows the events that led to this tragedy and as far as he can see there is only one person to blame, himself. He is suddenly torn between his desire to head north and start a new life with his best friend Dan and the obligation to his broken family.

TEENAGE KICKS is a journey through the minefield of adolescence as Mik searches for a way to navigate through his guilt and explosive sexuality to find the man he can be.

Queer Screen Mardi Gras Film Festival 2016 Audience Awards

Audience Award for Best Narrative Film

Winner: **Starting From...Now!**

In one of the highlights of the festival, we screened the World Premiere of the 4th season of **Starting From... Now!** the hit online Australian drama that follows the tangled and increasingly complicated lives of four inner-city Sydney lesbians.

Runners Up:

- (2) **Lady In The Van**
- (3) **Front Cover**
- (4) **Paris 05:59**
- (5) **The Firefly**

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Audience Award for Best Documentary Film

Winner: *Remembering The Man*

There was not a dry eye in the house as we screened the Sydney Premiere of the bittersweet documentary *Remembering The Man*, telling the tragic tale of star-crossed love during the AIDS epidemic between Tim Conigrave and long-term partner John Caleo. Their relationship and love has been displayed first as a book, then a play, a narrative feature film and now this award winning documentary.

Runners Up:

- (2) *The Same Difference*
- (3) *Back On Board: Greg Louganis*
- (4) *Scrum*
- (5) *Hockney*

-ENDS-

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