



MEDIA RELEASE

Mardi Gras Film Festival Returning to the Blue Mountains!

Best of the Festival Screening at the Mount Vic Flicks: 10 – 12 March 2017

01 March 2017: Queer Screen returns to the Blue Mountains to present the best five films of the 24th Mardi Gras Film Festival at Mount Vic Flicks, in partnership with local organisation Pink Mountains. Tickets for the 10–12 March 2017 screenings are on sale now at queerscreen.org.au and mountvicflicks.com.au or via the Mardi Gras Film Festival app.

“We are delighted to be bringing the Mardi Gras Film Festival to the Blue Mountains again,” said Festival Director Paul Struthers. “It’s very exciting to bring the best festival films on tour to such a supportive community.”

Jonathan Llewellyn, co-convenor of Pink Mountains, said events like Queer Screen's Mardi Gras Film Festival are important to the LGBTQI community in the Blue Mountains.

“Seeing a story or character you identify with on screen is reaffirming; it builds confidence and pride,” he said. “Same-sex attracted people live everywhere, not just in cities. We work in all sorts of jobs, are family members, friends and colleagues. We contribute to society in all sorts of ways.”

"This festival celebrates our community, our lives and our stories and puts them on screen for everyone to share and enjoy."

The screenings include:

PUSHING DEAD – Quirky and comical, *Pushing Dead* takes a fresh look at what living with HIV/AIDS means in the modern day, and features great performances from an all-star cast including Danny Glover. *Friday 10 March, 8pm.*

Tickets for the opening night party following the PUSHING DEAD screening are also on sale now.

A MILLION HAPPY NOWS – A bittersweet drama exploring how a diagnosis of early-onset Alzheimer's Disease changes the dynamics of a long-term relationship as a loving lesbian couple prepare to face an unexpected future. *Saturday 11 March, 6pm.*

1:54 – A heart-breaking story that will resonate with Australians, Antoine-Oliver Pilon from Xavier Dolan's MOMMY stars in this tragic tale about school bullying. A painfully realistic film, it is fearless in its portraying of the toll that extreme emotional stress can have on a young life. *Saturday 11 March, 8pm.*

REAL BOY – The crux of this poignant documentary is Bennett's gender transition as an adolescent. It also follows the difficult and unusual journey his mother takes during Bennett's transition. Their story is real and honest and overflowing with



emotional intensity; the audience will be longing for their relationship mended.
Sunday 12 March, 2pm.

POLITICAL ANIMALS – Acclaimed filmmaker Jonah Markowitz co-directed this remarkable true story of four pioneering women who were elected to the California State Assembly. They went to incredible lengths to ensure the passage of anti-discrimination laws and paved the way for other US states to follow. *Sunday 12 March, 4pm.*

-ENDS-

Note to Editors:

- Festival Director Paul Struthers and Queer Screen President Lisa Rose are available for interview

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