



## MEDIA RELEASE

### Best of Mardi Gras Film Festival Returning to Parramatta!

*Screening at Riverside Theatres 31 March – 2 April 2017*

**01 March 2017:** Riverside Theatres will host five of the best films of the 24<sup>th</sup> Mardi Gras Film Festival presented by Queer Screen, from 21 Mar – 2 April 2017. Tickets are on sale now at [queerscreen.org.au](http://queerscreen.org.au) and [riversideparramatta.com.au](http://riversideparramatta.com.au) or through the Mardi Gras Film Festival app.

This year's Best of the Festival screenings include a range of engaging feature films that will make audiences laugh, cry, hum along – and possibly think about their own mortality.

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 31 March, 7pm.*

**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 1 April, 6pm.*

**SOMETHING LIKE SUMMER** – Adapted from a successful young adult novel and peppered with musical numbers, *Something Like Summer* traces the doomed pairing of out schoolboy Ben and his closeted boyfriend Tim, a popular jock. Years later they meet again. *Saturday 1 April, 8pm.*

**OUT RUN** – Bemz Benedito dreams of becoming the first transgender person in the Philippine Congress, representing the LGBTIQ party Ladlad. This uplifting documentary gives an insight into the inspiring sense of camaraderie within the Filipino queer community. *Sunday 2 April, 5pm.*

**SUICIDE KALE** – Made on a shoestring budget, this is a delicious serve of black comedy. Two couples meet for lunch, but the discovery of a suicide note adds a hefty portion of awkwardness. *Sunday 2 April, 7pm.*

The 2017 Mardi Gras Film Festival showcased the broad spectrum of queer life and the Best of the Festival at Riverside Parramatta reflects Queer Screen's mission to be truly representative of the LGBTIQ community.

"While we feature this year's best coming-of-age movies, we are screening stories about the young and old in our community and everyone in between," explains Festival Director Paul Struthers. "We have also strived to include more people of colour and multicultural faces."

"*Mardi Gras Film Festival is a significant feature on the cinematic and cultural calendar of Sydney,*" said Elizabeth L Kleinberg, cinema programmer for Riverside



Theatres in Parramatta. *“Riverside is proud to have the festival returning to us in 2017 for its ninth year in a row.*

*Western Sydney has a population that is as diverse and nuanced as that of any sophisticated major city in the world. Festivals at Riverside allow residents in Western Sydney to access a diverse array of cinematic experiences in their own backyard.”*

**-ENDS-**

**Note to Editors:**

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

**Media Enquiries:**

Louise Nealon, CallidusPR

T: + 61 403 569 177

E: [louise@calliduspr.com](mailto:louise@calliduspr.com)