



queer screen film fest

18-23 September

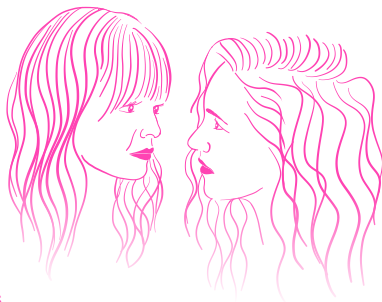
Event Cinemas George Street

Blue Mountains 5-7 October
Sydney Park 16 September



Welcome!

The 6th edition of Queer Screen Film Fest is our biggest yet, with 29 films from 12 countries covering a diverse range of the LGBTIQ experience. I'm thrilled that Queer Screen continues to champion the work of female filmmakers, with 55% of the program being directed or co-directed by women, which is a figure not many film festivals can claim. We open the festival with one such film in *And Breathe Normally*, a remarkably assured film from Iceland that took years to make, but is incredibly of the now. Don't miss it.



Immerse yourself in 6 days of the best new LGBTIQ films and see you at the cinema.

Lisa Rose, Festival Director

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SYDNEY PREMIERE

And Breathe Normally

TUESDAY 18 SEPTEMBER 7:00PM

EVENT GEORGE ST

Directed by Ísöld Uggadóttir | Iceland, Sweden, Belgium | Icelandic and English with English subtitles
95 mins | 15+

In the wake of an economic crisis, single mother Lára strives to start a new life with her son. As an officer for border security, she encounters Adja (Babetida Sadjo), a refugee from Guinea-Bissau who is traveling on a forged passport. The Icelandic woman and persecuted refugee forge an unlikely bond, highlighting empathy as the antidote to apathy.

Set amidst the sweeping vistas of an inhospitable Icelandic winter, *And Breathe Normally* offers an affecting tale of two lives intersecting in this poignant and vital film which has wowed audiences from Sundance to Frameline (the world's largest LGBTIQ Film Festival). An Opening Night not to be missed. [Opening Night Party tickets are available](#)



SYDNEY PREMIERE

A Kid Like Jake

SUNDAY 23 SEPTEMBER 7:00PM

EVENT GEORGE ST

Directed by Silas Howard | USA | English | 92 mins | 15+

5 year old Jake likes dresses, and everything princess related, especially Cinderella. Directed by trans filmmaker Silas Howard (*Transparent*, *By Hook or by Crook*), *A Kid Like Jake* explores the journey two parents go through in order to really see their child.

Alex (Claire Danes) and Greg (Jim Parsons) are navigating the exhausting selection process of New York's private school system. Their preschool manager Judy (Octavia Spencer) advises Alex to emphasise Jake's "gender-variant play" in their application letters to make Jake a distinctive candidate. This sets off a bout of self-questioning about one's responsibility as a parent.

With fantastic performances from an impressive cast that also features Priyanka Chopra, Ann Dowd and Amy Landecker, *A Kid Like Jake* is a perfect of the now film to close out the festival.



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Nothing to Lose

FRIDAY 21 SEPTEMBER 7:00PM

EVENT GEORGE ST

Directed by Kelli Jean Drinkwater | Australia | English | 66 mins | 15+

Chubby. Curvy. Big-boned. Unhealthy. Voluptuous. Rubenesque. Abundant. Fat. When you have a larger body, everyone has an opinion about who you are, what you can do, and where you should be seen.

Turning the tables on the audience, *Nothing To Lose* shatters preconceptions about femininity and masculinity, beauty, and desirability in the dance world and beyond.

Queer fat activist and artist Kelli Jean Drinkwater's intimate, thought-provoking documentary *Nothing To Lose* chronicles the making of Force Majeure's hit dance production from open auditions to a triumphant performance at the 2015 Sydney Festival. [Join us for an extended Q&A. Tickets are available for the Australian Showcase After Party.](#) *Nothing To Lose* is a Queer Screen Completion Fund Recipient



How to Train Your Dragon 2

SUNDAY 16 SEPTEMBER 12:00PM
SYDNEY PARK, ST PETERS

Directed by Dean DeBlois | USA | English
 98 mins | PG

Join us for this FREE fun filled special event for the entire family at Sydney Park.

With a screening of favourite *How to Train Your Dragon 2* (wherein Hiccup and Toothless find themselves at the center of a battle to protect the peace), a BBQ and face painting in the heart of the inner west, it is a great way to celebrate the return of spring with the whole family.

FREE OUTDOOR FAMILY SCREENING



I Used to Be Normal: A Boyband Fangirl Story

WEDNESDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 6:30PM

EVENT GEORGE ST

Directed by Jessica Leski | Australia | English | 92 mins | PG **Closed Captions & Audio Description Available**

If you've ever screamed your heart out at a pop star, then you need to see this Australian doco. Four women recount their absolute adoration for some of the biggest boybands of all time – the Beatles, Take That, the Backstreet Boys and One Direction. And for one, her obsession was directly linked to her coming out! [Join us for a special Q&A after the film.](#)
[To book CC or AD devices email ticketing@queerscreen.org.au](#)



Bixa Travesty

WEDNESDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 7:00PM

EVENT GEORGE ST

Directed by Claudia Priscilla, Kiko Goifman | Brazil | Portuguese with English Subtitles | 75 mins | 18+

Taking out the *Teddy Award for Best Documentary* at the 2018 Berlin International Film Festival, *Bixa Travesty* is an intoxicating, politicised and deeply humbling documentary focusing on the performance work of Brazilian queer black transwoman and self-proclaimed 'tranny fag', Linn da Quebrada. This extraordinary film is an inspiring exploration of identity, friendship and queer solidarity. [Screens with Do I Have Boobs Now? \(12 min\)](#)



White Rabbit

THURSDAY 20 SEPTEMBER 6:30PM

EVENT GEORGE ST

Directed by Daryl Wein | USA | English | 71 mins | 15+

Vivian Bang and Nana Ghana explore themes of love and creativity in a quirky comedy-drama, *White Rabbit*. When Sophia, a Korean-American performance artist whose work dissects race relations, meets the alluring Victoria, a photographer from Ghana, she finds herself challenged and inspired by their persistent chance encounters. But will her lack of tact and intensity ruin a good thing? [Screens with The Morning After \(18 min\)](#) 7



SYDNEY PREMIERE

George Michael Freedom: The Director's Cut

THURSDAY 20 SEPTEMBER 7:00PM

EVENT GEORGE ST

Directed by George Michael & David Austin | UK | English | 109 mins | 15+

It's wall to wall music in the iconic gay pop star's final project. Michael narrates this visually stylish and exhilarating documentary, which charts his early days as half of *Wham!*, through to stardom as a hugely successful solo artist. The film is a joyous celebration of Michael's stellar career and provides insight into the sensitive artist behind the classic music which remains as his legacy.



SYDNEY PREMIERE

Just Friends

FRIDAY 21 SEPTEMBER 6:30PM

EVENT GEORGE ST

Directed by Ellen Smit | The Netherlands | Dutch with English subtitles | 78 mins | 15+

A modern gay romance about two young men in the Netherlands, at turning points in their lives, who find themselves inescapably smitten. When model-hot Joris and just-as-fetching Yad meet, there's an instant attraction, but both men are figuring out what they want from life, and whether that includes a boyfriend. The fact that neither of their mothers seems to support the relationship doesn't help matters. [Screens with Turn It Around \(10 mins\)](#)

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Gay Shorts

FRIDAY 21 SEPTEMBER 8:30PM

SATURDAY 6 OCTOBER 8:00PM

English, Arabic, Hebrew and Dutch with English subtitles 85 mins | 18+

Our popular gay shorts package is back with 8 superb films. Highlights include the hilarious *Matt & Dan: Sex Notes* (pictured); *The Things You Think I'm Thinking* about an amputee burn survivor's move into the dating world and the bond between a Muslim father and son is tested in *Ablution*.

[Contains violence and sexually explicit scenes.](#)

EVENT GEORGE ST
BLUE MOUNTAINS



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Mario

SATURDAY 22 SEPTEMBER 6:30PM

EVENT GEORGE ST

Directed by Marcel Gisler | Switzerland | Swiss German and German with English subtitles | 119 mins | 18+

This smart and sexy film from Switzerland tells the story of Mario and Leon, two soccer players aspiring to the A-league. As their work and homelife collide, their chemistry on and off the field awakens in Mario a lust and desire for Leon that cannot be denied. Mario is a powerful story that sensitively examines love under pressure, and what we are willing to compromise for the heart.



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Life in the Doghouse

SATURDAY 22 SEPTEMBER 4:00PM

SATURDAY 6 OCTOBER 6:00PM

Directed by Ron Davis | USA | English | 84 mins | 15+

Calling all dog lovers! Danny and Ron are a gay couple who have turned their entire house over to rescue pooches. They estimate they've facilitated the adoption of around 10,000 abandoned dogs so far, and their devotion to helping dogs – particularly those which others would turn a blind eye to – is truly inspiring. Bring some tissues, and prepare to go “awww” way too much.

EVENT GEORGE ST
BLUE MOUNTAINS



SYDNEY PREMIERE

Becks

SATURDAY 22 SEPTEMBER 7:00PM

SUNDAY 7 OCTOBER 4:00PM

Directed by Elizabeth Rohrbach, Daniel Powell | USA | English | 92 mins | 15+

Broke and broken hearted Becks (Lena Hall, Tony Award Winner for *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*) returns to small-town life, and quickly realises lying on her very Catholic mother's sofa pining for her ex (Hayley Kiyoko) won't get her back to New York. Elyse (Mena Suvari), signs up for Beck's guitar lessons, and something between the two stirs an unlikely closeness.

EVENT GEORGE ST
BLUE MOUNTAINS



Abu: Father

SUNDAY 23 SEPTEMBER 4:30PM

Directed by Arshad Khan | Canada, Japan, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Thailand | English and Urdu with English subtitles | 80 mins | 18+

ARSHAD KHAN IS A GUEST OF THE FESTIVAL

EVENT GEORGE ST

Direct from acclaimed screenings at various international LGBTIQ film festivals, Arshad Khan's personal documentary is a powerful exploration of a Pakistani son's struggle to affirm his gay identity and his quest for approval from his religiously conservative Father. [Contains discussion of trauma and sexual abuse](#) | Presented with the Consulate-General of Canada, Sydney



Lesbian Shorts

SUNDAY 23 SEPTEMBER 5:00PM

FRIDAY 5 OCTOBER 8:00PM

English, Spanish, French and Farsi with English subtitles | 96 mins | 18+

EVENT GEORGE ST

BLUE MOUNTAINS

We showcase six of the best international lesbian shorts for Australian premieres. Highlights include Frameline Audience Award Winner, *Masks* (pictured), *Marguerite* sees an aging woman make peace with her past; *Instinct* throws a psychosexual thriller into the mix and *Dyke Bars Never Last* bemoans what we all know, to a very catchy tune. [Contains homophobic violence](#)



Queer Screen Pitch Off!

SUNDAY 23 SEPTEMBER 2:30PM

EVENT GEORGE ST BAR

Come and see filmmakers pitch their ideas for a film to our panel of industry professionals.

With a \$10,000 production fund up for grabs, you won't want to miss hearing our talented filmmakers ideas. To be followed by drinks and networking. More info available on Pitch Off on our website. Proudly Supported by St.George Bank



My Queer Career

Submissions are now open for Queer Screen's prestigious My Queer Career award, Australia's largest LGBTIQ short film competition. Film's accepted for My Queer Career are eligible for prizes worth more than \$12,000 in cash and in kind production support. The winner of the Best Film Award is also automatically entered into the Iris Prize, the world's largest LGBTIQ short film competition with a £30,000 prize. [Visit queerscreen.org.au](http://queerscreen.org.au) to enter your film.

Queer Screen Completion Fund

Round 4 of the Queer Screen Completion Fund is open soon, providing independent LGBTIQ filmmakers with support to tell stories that reflect the uniqueness and diversity of LGBTIQ lives and community.

Queer Screen is providing \$20,000 in funding for projects in post production. Check out our website under Filmmakers for details!

DATE	Schedule	TIME
Sun 16 Sep	How to Train Your Dragon 2 (Sydney Park)	12:00 PM
Tue 18 Sep	And Breathe Normally	7:00 PM
Wed 19 Sep	I Used to Be Normal	6:30 PM
Wed 19 Sep	Bixa Travesty	7:00 PM
Thu 20 Sep	White Rabbit	6:30 PM
Thu 20 Sep	George Michael Freedom: The Director's Cut	7:00 PM
Fri 21 Sep	Just Friends	6:30 PM
Fri 21 Sep	Nothing To Lose	7:00 PM
Fri 21 Sep	Gay Shorts	8:30 PM
Sat 22 Sep	Life in the Doghouse	4:00 PM
Sat 22 Sep	Mario	6:30 PM
Sat 22 Sep	Becks	7:00 PM
Sun 23 Sep	Abu: Father	4:30 PM
Sun 23 Sep	Lesbian Shorts	5:00 PM
Sun 23 Sep	A Kid Like Jake	7:00 PM

Date	Blue Mountains	Time
Fri 5 Oct	Lesbian Shorts	8:00 PM
Sat 6 Oct	Life in the Doghouse	6:00 PM
Sat 6 Oct	Gay Shorts	8:00 PM
Sun 7 Oct	Becks	4:00 PM

Credits

Festival Director

Lisa Rose

Festival Operations Manager

Vicki Gutierrez

Head of Partnerships

Paul Kennedy

paul.kennedy@queerscreen.org.au

Festival Assistant & Youth Outreach (Volunteer)

Kyle Goldfinch

Programing Assistants

A huge thanks to all 35 members of the team, including many helping Queer Screen in other areas and with a shout out to Aaron Sue, Craig Boreham, David Blanco, David Harper, Erin Riley, Gail Hewison, Giovanni Campolo-Arcidiaco, Kaya Wilson, Paolo Polimeni, Sammy Petric, Sanouk Peiper, Sevana Ohandjanian & Will Sullivan for the sheer volume!

Designer

Missy Dempsey

fletcherstreetdesign.com

Festival Trailer

Lily Davis at The Editors

Interns and Key Volunteers

Adrik Kemp, Dan Metelkin, Genesi Castro, Jonathan Solomon, Madeleine Doyle, Ron McCullagh, Ross Haywood

Board of Directors

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Company Secretary

Sharlene Wiebenga

Directors

Brad Booth (Membership), Tony Burns (Events), Vicki Harding (Website and Branding), Finn O'Keefe (Digital Engagement), Leah Pellinkhof (Filmmakers), Evelyn Perusco (Funding), Shandy Whitaker (Volunteers)

Associates

Cameron Bayley, Matt Janssen, David Libter, Brodie Pyke, Mike Worsley

Queer Screen would like to thank

All of our major sponsors, media partners, community partners, venue partners, sales agents & distributors, filmmakers and advertisers, Andrew Parker, Anthony Kierann, Berenger Playford, Bradley Clarke, Callie Hughan, Chris Keely, Gemma Livingston, James Woolley, Karl Urrich, Kat Alchin, Luke Turley, Michael O'Donnell, Paul Struthers, Reg Domingo, Rob McMaster, Sam Turner, Sebastian Rice, Sharon Hickey, Sharon Pinney, Silke K Bader, Ted Rose.

Ticketing & Venue Information

Festival Tickets (Film Only)

\$19 Full

\$17 Concession

\$16 Queer Screen Member

Opening Night Film + Party: Australian Showcase + Party:

\$32 Full

\$30 Concession

\$29 Queer Screen Member

Blue Mountains Tickets

\$15 Full

\$13 Concession

\$12 Queer Screen Member

Flexi 5

A Flexi-5 is a great way to see lots of films – and save money! Get 5 tickets to redeem at the festival, (maximum of 2 tickets can be used to each film on a pass).

\$85 Full

\$70 Queer Screen Member

Become a Member

Queer Screen members save money on tickets and gain priority entry to our festival screenings. They're also very good looking. Go to queerscreen.org.au/membership for more information.

How to Book

Visit queerscreen.org.au to book tickets or download the Queer Screen App in the Google Play or App Store. Phone 02 9280 1533 for telephone bookings between 10am-5pm weekdays. **Please note** no in person bookings are

available at the Queer Screen office. If not sold out, tickets will be available at the venue from 1 hour before the film's start time.

Venues

Event Cinemas George Street
505 – 525 George Street,
Sydney, NSW, 2000

Sydney Park
Sydney Park Rd,
St Peters, NSW, 2044

Mount Vic Flicks
2A Harley Ave
Mount Victoria, NSW, 2786

Terms and Conditions

Booking fees apply for all transactions. Classification – Please check the classification of the screenings you are attending. Anyone under the age of 18 will not be allowed into 18+ sessions. Anyone under the age of 15 will not be allowed into 15+ sessions unless accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Accessibility

All cinema venues are accessible for a person using a wheelchair, and companion Cards are accepted. Closed Captions and Audio Description is available for *I Used to be Normal: A Boyband Fangirl Story*. Please email ticketing@queerscreen.org.au to arrange.