

# queer screen film fest



**15 September**

Sydney Park

**18 - 22 September**

Event Cinemas George St

**4 - 6 October**

Blue Mountains

# Welcome!

With our theme of “Light Your Fire” we are asking you the audience to engage your hearts and minds and join us in witnessing passion on screen in a variety of circumstances. From sexy and intense romances, to passionate causes, strength in adversity, fanatical obsessions with camp classics and the incredible desire to create a family.

We have a diverse array of 29 LGBTIQ films from 12 countries, including 22 Sydney Premieres to set your heart and soul aflame.

Use the festival to embrace your passion for film and our community and ignite some passions of your own.

See you in the cinema.

Lisa Rose, Festival Director



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OPENING  
NIGHT

## Portrait of a Lady on Fire

**WEDNESDAY 18 SEPTEMBER 7:00PM**

**FRIDAY 4 OCTOBER 8:00PM**

**EVENT GEORGE ST  
BLUE MOUNTAINS**

Directed by Céline Sciamma | France | French with English subtitles | 119 mins | 15+

Our opening night film is a tour de force 18th-century lesbian romance that celebrates the female gaze like few before it.

Marianne (Noémie Merlant), a young painter, has been commissioned to do the wedding portrait of Héloïse (French star Adèle Haenel), a reluctant soon-to-be bride who refuses to sit for her portrait – and must be studied in secret. As they stroll along the cliff tops of Brittany an intimacy and attraction swiftly develops between the two women that can not be denied, even as circumstances conspire to keep them apart.

*Portrait of a Lady on Fire* is a lush and romantic masterpiece from acclaimed French director Céline Sciamma (*Water Lilies* MGFF09, *Tomboy*, *Girlhood*) that will engross you from the opening moments to the final breathtaking sequence, and leave you floored. **Opening Night Party tickets are available**



CLOSING  
NIGHT

SYDNEY PREMIERE

## Benjamin

**SUNDAY 22 SEPTEMBER 7:00PM**

**SATURDAY 5 OCTOBER 8:00PM**

Directed by Simon Amstell | UK | English | 85 mins | 15+

EVENT GEORGE ST  
BLUE MOUNTAINS

An instant attraction is fab, but what do you do next? That's the dilemma facing our socially awkward hero in this wry comedy drama.

Benjamin (Colin Morgan) is a young indie director who has just completed a new film when he falls for sweet musician Noah (Phénix Brossard) and pursues a relationship. But all is not easy, especially when he's surrounded by a somewhat clueless publicist, and a writing partner who just may be on the edge of a breakdown.

British actor, comedian and TV host Simon Amstell (*Never Mind the Buzzcocks*) writes and directs, and you just know he's observed a few things navigating the London cool-kid circuit. This, his second feature, balances plenty of self-deprecating English wit with surprising moments of humanity and tenderness. *Benjamin* is a cinematic balm for these cynical times.



DOUBLE  
FEATURE

SYDNEY PREMIERE

## You Don't Nomi

**SATURDAY 21 SEPTEMBER 6:30PM**

EVENT GEORGE ST

Directed by Jeffrey McHale | USA | English | 94 mins | 18+

It's time to put on your finest "Versayce" as we celebrate camp classic *Showgirls*! *You Don't Nomi* canvasses everyone from film boffins and critics to drag performers to give their two cents on this spectacular failure of a movie. This surprisingly thoughtful, and very funny evaluation of this trash masterpiece will make you love (and loathe) it even more as it delves into why it's become so beloved.

## Showgirls

**SATURDAY 21 SEPTEMBER 8:45PM**

EVENT GEORGE ST

Directed by Paul Verhoeven | USA | English  
128 mins | R18+

Then stick around as we present a 4K digital restoration of the film itself! Come with us to the Stardust Hotel and relive all the horrific dialogue and scream at the hilariously bad sex scenes in this infamous tale of a Las Vegas dancer's erotic rise to fame. BYO Doggie Chow. **Single or double feature tickets available.** Visit the [website](#) for more information!





**FREE OUTDOOR FAMILY SCREENING**

## **The Little Mermaid**

**SUNDAY 15 SEPTEMBER 12:00PM**

**SYDNEY PARK, ST PETERS**

Directed by Ron Clements, John Musker | USA

English | 83 mins | G

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

With a 30th anniversary screening of beloved classic *The Little Mermaid*, along with a BBQ and face painting in the heart of the inner west, this is a guaranteed fun day out for all the family!



## **Pain and Glory**

**THURSDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 6:30PM**

**EVENT GEORGE ST**

Directed by Pedro Almodóvar | Spain | Spanish with English subtitles | 115 mins | 18+

The acclaimed Pedro Almodóvar directs Antonio Banderas and Penélope Cruz in *Pain and Glory*, a vibrant, wistful meditation on sexuality, mortality, and family. Depressed filmmaker Salvador is unable to work due to chronic pain. Turning to self-medication, he immerses himself in memories of his childhood, blossoming desires, and first love in hopes of rediscovering his passion for the glory of life.



**AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE**

## **A Luv Tale: The Series**

**THURSDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 7:00PM**

**EVENT GEORGE ST**

Directed by Kay Oyegun | USA | English | 77 mins | 15+

A sexy episodic love letter to queer women of colour, and a stylish celebration of modern day Harlem: its history, art, culture, and music. After breaking up with her cheating girlfriend, struggling artist Taylor picks up a beautiful older woman, Candice, at a bar and takes her home for a steamy one-night stand. Friendships are tested and family ties are strained as their illicit affair heats up.



**AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE**

## **Nevrland**

**THURSDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 8:45PM**

**EVENT GEORGE ST**

Directed by Gregor Schmidinger | Austria | German with English subtitles | 90 mins | 18+

While mindlessly scrolling through porn sites, Jakob accidentally stumbles upon 26-year-old artist Kristjan in a cam-chat sex site. As he explores this connection, feelings of anxiety increasingly take control. Director Gregor Schmidinger's film is unsettling, where desire and horror viscerally blend. As Jakob pursues this connection with Kristjan, the lines between fantasy and reality begin to blur. **Trigger warnings, see website.**





**SYDNEY PREMIERE**

## **End of the Century**

**FRIDAY 20 SEPTEMBER 6:30PM**

**EVENT GEORGE ST**

Directed by Lucio Castro | Argentina | Spanish with English subtitles | 84 mins | 18+

Ocho, an Argentinian poet from New York, and Javi, a Spanish filmmaker from Berlin, meet by chance while in Barcelona. Initially intended to be a brief hook-up, the two men realise that they had previously met twenty years earlier. This serendipitous relationship unfolds in a non-linear fashion in three parts. Lucio Castro's sensual film explores the role of fate and chance in our sexual encounters. Is this just a summer fling or are they meant for each?



**AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE**

## **Same But Different: A True New Zealand Love Story**

**FRIDAY 20 SEPTEMBER 7:00PM**

**EVENT GEORGE ST**

Directed by Nikki Si'ulepa | New Zealand | English | 95 mins | 15+

When bumbling single mum Rachel meets stunning Kiwi-Samoan filmmaker Nikki it's love at first sight – at least for Rachel. After a hilariously awkward beginning, true love beckons for this sexy odd couple. Then a spiteful ex throws a spanner in the works, making Nikki question how serious Rachel is about their relationship. A modern, cross-cultural romantic comedy about being your true self. **Festival Guests in attendance for a Q&A**



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## Gay Shorts

**FRIDAY 20 SEPTEMBER 8:30PM**

**SATURDAY 5 OCTOBER 6:00PM**

**EVENT GEORGE ST**

**BLUE MOUNTAINS**

Norwegian, Greek, French, Dutch and Portuguese with English subtitles, English | Norway, Greece, France, The Netherlands, Brazil, Spain, USA | 95 mins | 18+

*Gay Shorts* promises laughter along with tales of romance, steamy one night encounters and some very deep feels. Highlights include Peter Gallagher's very funny performance in *Stepdaddy* and Cannes Queer Palm Winner *The Distance Between Us and Sky*. **Trigger warnings, see website.**



**AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE**

## Killing Patient Zero

**SATURDAY 21 SEPTEMBER 4:30PM**

**EVENT GEORGE ST**

Directed by Laurie Lynd | Canada | English | 100min | 15+

*Killing Patient Zero* is the fascinating story of Gaëtan Dugas, a French-Canadian flight attendant, who offered to help with early scientific research into the origins of the AIDS virus. An unfortunate series of events followed, and he would be later unfairly maligned as 'Patient Zero', the man who introduced AIDS to North America. Compelling documentary filmmaking and must-see viewing. **Festival Guest in attendance for a Q&A**



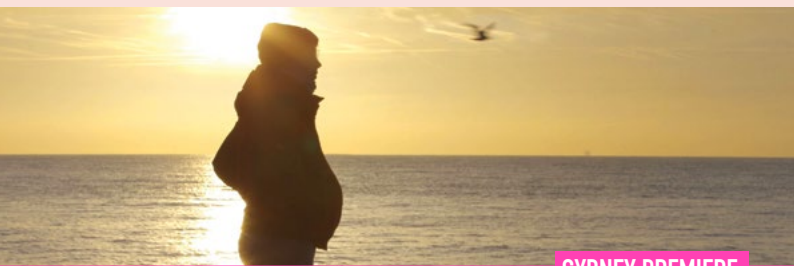
## Vita & Virginia

**SATURDAY 21 SEPTEMBER 7:00PM**

EVENT GEORGE ST

Directed by Chanya Button | UK | English | 110 mins | M15+

In Chanya Button's *Vita & Virginia*, Elizabeth Debicki takes on the iconic role of literary juggernaut Virginia Woolf in an electric performance alongside Gemma Arterton as Vita Sackville-West. Based on the stage play by Eileen Atkins, the passionate relationship between Vita and Virginia is given an intriguingly surreal cinematic adaptation, like no historical period drama you will have seen before!



**SYDNEY PREMIERE**

## Seahorse

**SUNDAY 22 SEPTEMBER 4:30PM**

EVENT GEORGE ST

Directed by Jeanie Finlay | UK | English | 89 mins | 18+

Freddy has long wanted to be a father, but for him this ordinary desire comes with unique challenges. He is a gay transgender man. At first he views pregnancy as a practical option, but it soon prompts an unexpected reckoning with his relationship to masculinity and gender. This is a moving and insightful documentary about one trans man's pioneering quest to birth his own child. **Open Captioned Screening**



## Lesbian Shorts

**SUNDAY 22 SEPTEMBER 5:00PM**

**SUNDAY 6 OCTOBER 4:00PM**

**EVENT GEORGE ST**

**BLUE MOUNTAINS**

English and Spanish and Dutch with English subtitles | Spain, USA, UK, Netherlands | 86 mins | 15+

Stories of love at all costs, fantastical role play and finding your truth make up this year's ever popular *Lesbian Shorts* session. Highlights include the endearing *Shelby's Vacation*, Kyra Sedgwick's *Girls Weekend*, and Tracie Tomas' hilarious performance as a mother facing a dilemma in *Are We Good Parents?*



**SUNDAY 22 SEPTEMBER 2:30PM**

**EVENT GEORGE ST SET BAR**

Queer Screen is thrilled for the return of *Pitch Off!* It's your chance to watch six filmmakers spruik their film proposal to a panel of expert assessors, competing for a chance to win \$10,000 to produce their short film. *Queer Screen Pitch Off* is another example of our ongoing commitment in supporting emerging filmmakers making diverse LGBTIQ screen stories. Visit [queerscreen.org.au](http://queerscreen.org.au) for info, tickets and how to enter your film idea!



## Queer Screen Completion Fund

Need help getting your big idea to the big screen? Queer Screen's Completion Fund may be the ticket. Round 5 will open in September 2019, offering \$20,000 in funding for projects from independent filmmakers telling stories that reflect the uniqueness and diversity of LGBTIQ lives and community. We can support you to bring your story to life, offering financial assistance to help complete LGBTIQ screen projects, including feature films, documentaries and web series.

**Check out our website under Filmmakers for more details!**



## 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 cash prizes 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.

DATE	Schedule	TIME
Sun 15 Sep	The Little Mermaid (Sydney Park)	12:00 PM
Wed 18 Sep	Portrait of a Lady on Fire	7:00 PM
Thu 19 Sep	Pain and Glory	6:30 PM
Thu 19 Sep	A Luv Tale: The Series	7:00 PM
Thu 19 Sep	Nevrland	8:45 PM
Fri 20 Sep	End of the Century	6:30 PM
Fri 20 Sep	Same But Different: A True New Zealand Love Story	7:00 PM
Fri 20 Sep	Gay Shorts	8:30 PM
Sat 21 Sep	Killing Patient Zero	4:30 PM
Sat 21 Sep	You Don't Nomi	6:30 PM
Sat 21 Sep	Vita & Virginia	7:00 PM
Sat 21 Sep	Showgirls	8:45 PM
Sun 22 Sep	Seahorse	4:30 PM
Sun 22 Sep	Lesbian Shorts	5:00 PM
Sun 22 Sep	Benjamin	7:00 PM

DATE	Blue Mountains	TIME
Fri 4 Oct	Portrait of a Lady on Fire	8:00 PM
Sat 5 Oct	Gay Shorts	6:00 PM
Sat 5 Oct	Benjamin	8:00 PM
Sun 6 Oct	Lesbian Shorts	4:00 PM

# Credits

## Festival Director

Lisa Rose

## Festival Operations Manager

Vicki Gutierrez

## Head of Partnerships

Paul Kennedy

paul.kennedy@queerscreen.org.au

## Programing Team

A huge thanks to all members of the team, with a shout out to Aaron Sue, Andrew Wilkie, David Blanco, David Harper, Diana King, Jonathan Solomon, Rolmar Baldonado, Sanouk Peiper and Terence Priester for the sheer volume!

## Design & Illustration

@missydempsey

fletcherstreetdesign.com

## Festival Trailer

Lily Davis, Grace O'Connell  
at The Editors

## Key Volunteers

Kristi Barrow, Kyle Goldfinch,  
Madeleine Doyle, Ron McCullagh,  
Stuart Richards, Thomas Hamilton

## Board of Directors

### Co-chairs

Cheryl Kavanagh, Joe Duggan

### Treasurer

Vicki Harding

### Company Secretary

Evelyn Perusco (Funding)

## Directors

Cameron Bayley (Website and Branding), Finn O'Keefe (Digital Engagement), Leah Pellinkhof (Filmmakers), Matt Janssen (Membership), Tony Burns (Volunteers)

## Associates

Brodie Pyke, David Libter, Eloise Brook, Manjusha Merrymaker, Mike Worsley, Paolo Polimeni

## Queer Screen would like to thank

All of our major sponsors, media partners, community partners, venue partners, sales agents & distributors, filmmakers, volunteers, members and advertisers. Alex Honson, Anthony Kierann, Berenger Playford, Bradley Clark, Callie Hughs, Chris Keely, Kat Alchin, Lawrence Gibbons, Louise Nealon, Lush Cosmetics, Michael O'Donnell, Paul Struthers, Pip Ditzell, Reg Domingo, Shandy Whitaker, Sharon Hickey, Silke K Bader, Spiro Economopoulos.



# Ticketing & Venue Information

## Festival Tickets (Film Only)

\$19.90 Full

\$17.90 Concession

\$16.90 Queer Screen Member

## Opening Night Film + Party

\$32 Full

\$30 Concession

\$29 Queer Screen Member

## You Don't Nomi + Showgirls

\$30 Full

\$27 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)

\$90 Full

\$75 Queer Screen Member

## Youth Tix (25 and Under)

\$10 tickets on the door!

See website for full details

## 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](https://queerscreen.org.au/membership) for more information.

## How to Book

Visit [queerscreen.org.au](https://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 11am and 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. Nobody under the age of 18 will be allowed into 18+ sessions.

## Accessibility

All cinema venues are accessible for a person using a wheelchair, and Companion Cards are accepted. Please email [ticketing@queerscreen.org.au](mailto:ticketing@queerscreen.org.au) to arrange. Open captions will be available for *Seahorse* (pg 11)