

 Queer Screen's 29th

Mardi Gras Film Festival

THE *Queer Frontier*
17 FEB - 3 MAR 2022

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Festival Welcome

Explore the queer frontier at Queer Screen's 29th Mardi Gras Film Festival. With over 110 films on offer we invite you, the audience, to explore new LGBTIQ+ stories and filmmakers.

I'm thrilled to be opening the festival with the Australian Premiere of *Wildhood*, a beautiful and captivating odyssey of a closeted First Nations youth in search of identity and belonging. Joining it in our Focus on First Nations Program Strand is the stunning Narrative Centrepiece from Mexico, *Finlandia*; our Documentary Centrepiece, *Pure Grit*, that charts three years in the life of a lesbian, Native American bareback horse racer and a fresh and groundbreaking Episodic Centrepiece in *Querencia*, following two Indigenous queer women in Canada.

We are also celebrating people who have carved out space for themselves and us, with our Program Strand, Rebels with a Cause, highlighting those who have forged a path through originality and living authentically so that we can all keep the good fight going for the entire rainbow community. Including

musicians and activists like Denise Ho, artists like Keith Haring and Alison Bechdel, activists like Peter Tatchell, the Rebel Dykes of 1980s London and more.

Closing out the festival is the hotly anticipated adaptation of the seminal 1994 novel from James Earl Hardy, *B-Boy Blues* – an unapologetic celebration of African-American gay men.

With over 59% of the program available online On Demand Australia-wide and over 60 programs and events in Sydney, there are so many ways you can experience #MGFF22. Whether in person in the cinema or on social media, I hope to see you there.

Enjoy the festival!
Lisa Rose
Festival Director

Wildhood

OPENING NIGHT GALA



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by Bretten Hannam | Canada | English, and Mi'kmaw with English subtitles | 100 mins | 15+

Set against the wild Nova Scotia landscape, *Wildhood* is the beautiful and captivating odyssey of a closeted First Nations youth in search of belonging. Under the watchful eye of his abusive white father, impulsive two-spirit Mi'kmaw teen Link spends his time taking care of younger half-brother, Travis. But when Link discovers his supposedly-dead mother may be alive, the pair set out to find her. Along the way they connect with pow wow dancer and drifter Pasmay. As Link reclaims his heritage and connection to the land, he and Pasmay find themselves irresistibly drawn to one another. *Content warning: see website.*

Presented with the Consulate General of Canada, Sydney

THUR 17 FEB 7PM, Event Cinemas
SAT 26 FEB 6:15PM, Event Cinemas

B-Boy Blues

CLOSING NIGHT GALA



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by Jussie Smollett | USA | English | 103 mins | 15+

Moonlight meets *Queer As Folk* in this adaptation of the novel *B-Boy Blues* from James Earl Hardy. Mitchell, a successful journalist, finds himself falling for the smoking hot Raheim, a courier and b-boy. Despite his friends' misgivings, Mitchell is enraptured, but the repercussions of their mutual obsession will affect his work, friendships and family. With so much eye candy you won't be able to look away as well as a story brimming with drama, romance, heart and charisma, *B-Boy Blues* will captivate you from start to glorious finish and leave you wanting more, more, more. *Content warning: see website.* Presented with AGL and The Bookshop Darlinghurst

THUR 3 MAR 7PM, Event Cinemas

Finlandia

NARRATIVE CENTREPIECE Focus on First Nations



SYDNEY PREMIERE

Directed by Horacio Alcalá | Spain, Mexico | Spanish and Zapotec with English subtitles | 97 min | 15+

In a small town outside Oaxaca a group of muxe – the indigenous Zapotec “third gender” – band together to survive and thrive in rural Mexico. Together they create beautiful traditional dresses, drawing the eye of a Spanish fashion house seeking native textiles to appropriate. Facing individual battles with grief, trauma and ignorance, an impending tragedy will send shockwaves through their tight-knit community and beyond. Exploring fashion’s dual role as a means of exploring and embracing one’s identity, and exploiting people’s culture, *Finlandia* is a poignant and vibrant magical realist drama about found family, spirituality and hope.

Content warning: see website. Presented with the Sydney Latin American Film Festival

Pure Grit

DOCUMENTARY CENTREPIECE Focus on First Nations



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by Kim Bartley | Ireland | English | 88 min | 18+

Native American life on the Wind River reservation is a life on the fringes. *Pure Grit* gently focuses its lens on reservation life through Sharmaine, a rising extreme bareback horse riding star in a world dominated by men. As one of the few lesbians on the reservation, Sharmaine is already something of an outlier and possesses a deep understanding of how she needs to heal, succeed, and foster the culture that keeps her alive. Framed by the stunning wilderness of Wyoming, *Pure Grit* is a groundbreaking, optimistic documentary that highlights the power of self determination and cultural connection. *Content warning: see website.*



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We're NSW's leading health promotion organisation specialising in community health, inclusion and HIV responses for people of diverse sexualities and genders.

During Mardi Gras, we're here to help locals and visitors stay safe in relation to HIV, sexual health, alcohol and other drugs, and street safety. You'll find us at lots of events right throughout the festival so come up and say hi.

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Querencia

EPISODIC CENTREPIECE Focus on First Nations



SYDNEY PREMIERE

Directed by Mary Galloway | Canada | English | 95 min | 15+

Fresh, groundbreaking and charming, this Canadian episodic follows two Indigenous queer women with vastly different backgrounds as they find one another and connect in the big city. Daka (Kaitlyn Yott) had a traditional, straight upbringing, dancing on the rez for her whole life. Meanwhile, in Vancouver, Abe (director Mary Galloway) maintains a life as a struggling musician with few ties to her Indigenous heritage. Through fate and an interfering housemate, the two women meet and hit it off. *Querencia* is a romantic coming-of-age, but most importantly, it's a story that has rarely been seen on screen before. **Presented with the Consulate General of Canada, Sydney**

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Bound

RETROSPECTIVE SCREENING



Directed by Lana Wachowski, Lilly Wachowski | USA | English | 109 mins | 18+

Femme fatales (and those butch dykes who love 'em) unite! It's time to revisit this 90s classic that opened the Mardi Gras Film Festival 25 years ago! Starring Jennifer Tilly and Gina Gershon as lovers caught up in a dastardly web, this seminal film noir has even more queer resonance now, having been directed by Lana and Lilly Wachowski. Cheer on Tilly's breathy double entendres, loudly support Gershon's tough-as-nails Corky, and boo all the bad guys. *Content warning: see website.*

Throw back to the 90s and **wear your toughest Corky cosplay**, or channel the **skimpiest, bustiest Violet** we've ever seen to celebrate Tilly, Gershon and the Wachowskis AND have a chance to **win a prize for best dressed!**

Celebrate with our Community Screenings

\$10



**24 Feb
7pm**
Event
Cinemas,
Hurstville

The First Girl I Loved
p. 24



**23 Feb
8pm**
Event Cinemas,
Westfield
Parramatta

Kapana
p. 26



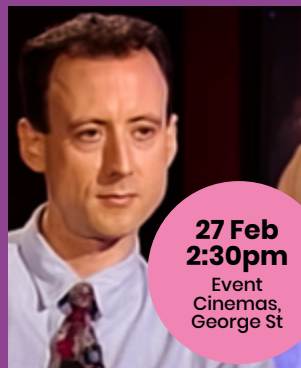
**23 Feb
6pm**
Event Cinemas,
Westfield
Parramatta

**Seyran Ateş: Sex,
Revolution and Islam**
p. 44



**26 Feb
11am**
Event
Cinemas,
George St

Hetero
p. 25



**27 Feb
2:30pm**
Event
Cinemas,
George St

Hating Peter Tatchell
p. 42

Panel: Queer First Nations Stories on Screen



More queer, First Nations stories need to be told on screen. This year, the Mardi Gras Film Festival has a program strand focusing on First Nations films, including *Wildhood* and *Querencia* (Canada), *Finlandia* (Mexico) and *Pure Grit* (United States). We've invited some key industry folk to discuss the importance of queer, Indigenous representation in films and have a look at what we want to see in the future of the Australian and global LGBTIQ+ screen industry.

Panelists and details coming soon, check queerscreen.org.au for more info.

Hetero Screening + Hangout



Calling all youths! Join us for a special youth screening of *Hetero* (pg 25) for only \$10... Trust us, despite its title, *Hetero* is the coolest queer content of 2021! After the movie and panel stick around for a laidback Q&A session with guests including creatives from all across the filmmaking space. You're welcome to hang with us and enjoy the chill vibes and even nab some cool giveaways. This event celebrates a film made about queer teenagers by queer teenagers, with youth panelists and organised by a young Queer Screen intern (Imao is 21 still young!?)

Tickets are only \$10! Hope to see you there.

Happy Mardi Gras 2022

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As We Like It



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by Chen Hung-i and Muni Wei | Taiwan | Mandarin and Min Nan with English subtitles | 107 mins | 15+

This Taiwanese adaptation of Shakespeare is a captivating feast for the eyes. With an all-female cast, beautifully nuanced performances from all and a strong and healthy dose of queer pride, *As We Like It* will keep you thoroughly enraptured from start to finish. Set in a futuristic but recognisable Taipei, we follow Rosalind, seeking her father, the Duke. She disguises herself as her twin brother, Roosevelt, and meets Orlando who starts to fall in love with her as a him. A rare and wildly entertaining treat.

Benedetta



Directed by Paul Verhoeven | France, Belgium, Netherlands | French and Latin with English subtitles | 132 mins | R18+

Directed by Paul Verhoeven (*Basic Instinct*, *Showgirls*, *Elle*), *Benedetta* is true to form, delivering a violent, sexual tale of a 17th century nun with visions of Jesus that propel her to seek pleasures of the flesh and punishment of those who oppose her. Whether *Benedetta* is a saint in the making or a liar covering her tracks doesn't matter once her actions start having serious consequences for the people around her. This titillating, shocking and fascinating portrait of a woman on the brink of madness, torn between lust, desire and sanctity, must be seen to be believed.

Content warning: see website.

Beyto



ENCORE SCREENING

Directed by Gitta Gsell | Switzerland | Swiss German and Turkish with English subtitles | 98 mins | 15+

The breakout hit from Queer Screen Film Fest 2021 is back, and on the big screen! *Beyto* is the critically acclaimed and thought-provoking drama that explores the complexities of being a gay immigrant from a conservative culture. The only son of Turkish immigrants in Switzerland, Beyto's increasing feelings for his swimming coach Mike become the centre of gossip in the tight knit Turkish community. To combat this, Beyto's parents decide that he must marry a woman of their choosing, leaving him at the centre of a turbulent love triangle. *Beyto* is a compelling and sensitively handled romantic drama not to be missed.

Presented with AGL

SAT 26 FEB 8:30PM, Event Cinemas

Bliss (Glück)



SYDNEY PREMIERE

Directed by Henrika Kull | Germany | German and Italian with English subtitles, and English | 90 mins | 18+

Bliss provides an authentic insight into sex work and the lives of the women within it. At its heart, *Bliss* is a love story between two sex workers – the experienced Sascha, and the youthful Maria. When Maria begins working at a Berlin brothel, there is an instant chemistry between her and Sascha. However, as the film progresses, the character's vulnerabilities begin to come to the forefront, impacting on their relationship. Filmed in a real-life brothel with actual sex workers and clients, *Bliss* is an authentic, judgement-free, and complex portrayal of sex work. *Content warning: see website.*

Presented with SBS and Sex Workers Outreach Project (SWOP)

FRI 25 FEB 8:30PM, Event Cinemas



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Boy Culture



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by Q. Allen Brocka | USA | English | 90 mins | 18+

We're thrilled to present this very sexy episodic, a continuation of Q. Allen Brocka's 2006 film of the same name. X (Derek Magyar) has now split up with boyfriend Andrew (Darryl Stephens), and returned to turning tricks. Luckily he's got young Chayce (Jason Caceres) to school him in the art of hustling in the social media era – when he's not eye-rolling at X's lack of savvy! Fun, raunchy and frank, *Boy Culture* is a real turn on and, like many of X's clients, you won't leave disappointed! *Content warning: see website.*

Boy Meets Boy



SYDNEY PREMIERE

Directed by Daniel Sánchez López | Germany | English, and German with English subtitles | 75 mins | 18+

An irresistible afternoon stroll of a film that will leave viewers longing for hot summers and passionate flings. Harry is a British doctor visiting Berlin for the weekend. After sharing a kiss on the dance floor with Johannes, a local dancer, he unexpectedly finds himself spending his last day exploring the city with him. Their chemistry is undeniable as they wander Berlin's streets and ponder questions about love, sex, and queer culture. This joyous romantic drama has been lauded by critics as a gay *Before Sunrise* and features sensitive and compelling performances from its attractive lead actors. Screens with *The Man of My Dreams* (6 mins)

FRI 25 FEB 6:30PM, Event Cinemas

SAT 19 FEB 8:30PM, Event Cinemas

Death and Bowling



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by Lyle Kash | USA | English | 64 mins | 15+

Two transgender men discover each other by chance at the funeral of the beloved matriarch of the Lavender League Lesbian Bowling Club. In vivid retro colours, this arthouse film mixes magical realism with John Waters surrealism and an (almost) all-trans cast and crew. A journey where grief and desire meet and a road-trip to the desert seals a bond for these two men surrounded by change and expectations. With trans actors playing trans and non-trans roles this film explores what it means to be seen in the world. *Content warning: see website.* Screens with *PURRR* (6 mins)

SUN 27 FEB 3PM, Event Cinemas

A Distant Place (정말 먼 곳)



SYDNEY PREMIERE

Directed by Park Kun-Young | South Korea | Korean with English subtitles | 119 mins | 15+

Evocative and firmly entrenched in place and character, this sweeping film from Korea has hints of a modern *Brokeback Mountain*. Jin Woo lives and works on a farm with his young daughter, Seol. They are treated as part of the family by the owner and his daughter. This bond is tested with the arrival of his lover, Hyun Min, a poet from Seoul. They are briefly happy until someone from Jin Woo's past appears and shatters the foundations of everything he has built. With flawed characters, stunning cinematography and two handsome leads, this is a feast for the eyes.

MON 21 FEB 6:30PM, Event Cinemas

The Divide (La Fracture)



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by Catherine Corsini | France | French with English
Subtitles | 98 mins | 15+

Amidst the backdrop of citywide demonstrations in Paris, *The Divide* plots the darkly comedic evening of two women on the verge of breaking up as they become entangled in a hospital ER with injured demonstrators. The ensuing crushing demand on an overstretched hospital leads to chaotic results. This film from out filmmaker, Catherine Corsini (*Summertime*, MGFF16 Opening Night) is fresh from winning the Queer Palm Award at Cannes, 2021. *The Divide* skilfully depicts what unfolds when a workplace becomes a war zone and how the most vulnerable are left to deal with the fallout of administration failures and social pressures. *Content warning: see website.*

Presented with AGL and Alliance Française de Sydney

SUN 27 FEB 5PM, Hayden Orpheum
WED 23 FEB 7PM, Event Cinemas

Firebird



SYDNEY PREMIERE

Directed by Peeter Rebane | UK, Estonia | English |
107 mins | 15+

Firebird is an epic and compelling true love story set against the repressive background of a Soviet Air Force base during the Cold War. Tom Prior (*Kingsman*, 2014) stars as troubled young private, Sergey, whose life is turned upside down when Roman, a handsome, daring fighter pilot, arrives at the base. Sergey and Roman embark on a dangerous and forbidden romance that is soon threatened by an escalating KGB investigation. Amid this, an intense love triangle forms between them and the Base Commander's secretary Luisa, who also happens to be Sergey's best friend. *Content warning: see website.*

SAT 19 FEB 6PM, Event Cinemas
WED 23 FEB 6PM, Event Cinemas

A woman with short dark hair, smiling and looking off to the side, wearing a textured yellow sweater. The background is a soft-focus landscape at sunset or sunrise.

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The First Girl I Loved (喜歡妳是妳)



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by Candy Ng and Chiu Hoi Yeung | Hong Kong | Cantonese with English Subtitles | 93 mins | 15+

Hedwig Tam and Sz-Wing Yeung shine in this dreamy and nostalgic Hong Kong-set romance. Ming Lee has spent years pining after the girl she fell in love with during high school. When Sylvia contacts Ming Lee before her wedding to be her maid of honour, the feelings she long thought she had worked through resurface as they reflect on their past friendship and relationship. *The First Girl I Loved* is a tender and affecting tale of first love, companionship, and heartbreak, and is a beautiful piece of Hong Kong cinema.

Presented with Advance Diversity Services

Great Freedom (Große Freiheit)



Directed by Sebastian Meise | Germany, Austria | German with English subtitles, and English | 116 mins | 18+

An unflinching yet tender film, *Great Freedom* follows Hans Hoffmann in post-war Germany, a man repeatedly imprisoned for homosexuality, and the unlikely relationship he slowly forms with his cellmate Viktor, a convicted murderer. With incredible performances, *Great Freedom* is a moving, unsentimental portrait of a man going through life as truthfully as he can, yearning for love and freedom in the shadows of incarceration and a changing world. Winner of the Un Certain Regard Jury Prize at the 2021 Cannes Film Festival, this is an immersive, powerful film not to be missed! *Content warning: see website.*

THU 24 FEB 7PM, Event Cinemas Hurstville
\$10 Community Screening

SUN 27 FEB 7PM, Hayden Orpheum
MON 28 FEB 6:30PM, Event Cinemas

Hetero



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by KJ Kieras and Bentley Eldridge | USA | English | 80 mins | 15+

Despite its title, *Hetero* is the coolest queer content of 2021. Channeling the cinematography, colour palette and costuming of *Euphoria*, and the ensemble, high-school drama of *Sex Education*, this episodic captures the evolving queer teen American high school experience. Five queer high schoolers must recruit straights to their Gay-Straight Alliance in order to save the club from disbandment. Filled with impeccably accurate youth vernacular and more one-liners than there are feathers in a feather boa, *Hetero* will have you cackling from the opening scene. And the best part? Everyone's gay + no one dies <3. **Presented with Twenty10**

SAT 26 FEB 11AM, Event Cinemas
\$10 Community Screening

Jump Darling



SYDNEY PREMIERE

Directed by Phil Connell | Canada | English | 90 mins | 15+

Jump, Darling is the perfect swansong for screen icon Cloris Leachman. Russell (Thomas Duplessie), an aspiring young actor and part-time drag queen escapes the city to stay at his grandmother's house in the country. He soon finds that she isn't the free spirit he remembers, and has become more forgetful than she'd like to admit. Russell's planned short stay is extended as family secrets are revealed, and Russell contemplates a new path sans stilettos. You're sure to fall in love with this heartfelt, moving, and funny family drama that overflows with warmth and wit. *Content warning: see website.* Screens with *The Beauty of Being Deaf* (3 mins). **Presented with the Consulate General of Canada, Sydney**

Open Caption Screening

WED 2 MAR 6:30PM, Event Cinemas

Kapana



SYDNEY PREMIERE

Directed by Philippe Talavera | Namibia | English, and Afrikaans, Oshiwambo with English subtitles | 61 mins | 15+

In the first gay love story on film from Namibia, George, a middle-class insurance broker is openly gay and accepted by his family. His new boyfriend Simeon, a working-class food vendor is closeted and bound by traditional ideas of masculinity and the need to fit in with his peers. In a country where same-sex relationships are still criminalized, the two men begin a romance that challenges them to break free from what is expected of them. Although they come from different backgrounds and face societal pressures, George and Simeon know that their love is worth fighting for. *Content warning: see website.* Screens with *Îfé* (36 mins)

Leading Ladies



SYDNEY PREMIERE

Directed by Ruth Caudeli | Colombia | Spanish with English subtitles | 81 mins | 18+

One of the most prolific queer female directors working today, Ruth Caudeli (*Eva and Candela*, MGFF19) returns with her third feature. *Leading Ladies* takes place around a dinner table at a rambling old house in Argentina. This intimate setting makes for a compelling drama, as the five women in attendance reveal betrayals, secrets and more. Handheld cinematography and improvised dialogue take the viewer on a journey through each woman's point of view, and a greater, more intricate story is revealed. Sexy, surprising and innovative, Caudeli delivers a film that is anything but conventional. Screens with *How to Be Queer* (9 mins)

WED 23 FEB 8PM
Event Cinemas, Westfield Parramatta
\$10 Community Screening

SUN 27 FEB 6:15PM, Event Cinemas

Ma Belle, My Beauty



SYDNEY PREMIERE

Directed by Marion Hill | France, USA | English, and French
with English subtitles | 95 mins | 18+

Previously part of a polyamorous relationship, now husband and wife, Bertie and Fred feel that something is missing. Despite the success of their musical careers, and their seemingly idyllic married life in the South of France, Bertie and Fred are not content. When their former lover, Lane, arrives seemingly unexpectedly at their doorstep, simmering passions are reignited, and old feelings are stirred. But, as Lane reintroduces herself into the relationship, they are left to wonder whether it was her who was missing from their lives, or whether it was something else entirely? Screens with *Untie* (7 mins)

Presented with AGL

FRI 18 FEB 6:15PM, Event Cinemas

Mascarpone (Maschile Singolare)



SYDNEY PREMIERE

Directed by Alessandro Guida and Matteo Pilati | Italy | Italian
with English subtitles | 101 mins | 15+

It's hard to beat the Italians for adding the sexy to some self-discovery! Poor Antonio (Giancarlo Commare) has his 'happily ever after' thrown in his face when his husband proclaims their marriage over. However, in a journey to establish a life of his own, he discovers some new friends, and some new friends with benefits! He also finds that his passion for baking could actually give him a fresh purpose. With a rather delicious cast, *Mascarpone* not only provides some eye candy, but a satisfying story about perfecting the recipe for personal happiness.

FRI 18 FEB 8:45PM, Event Cinemas
THU 24 FEB 7PM, Event Cinemas

SYDNEY THEATRE CO

LET'S HAVE A BIG NIGHT OUT TOGETHER

Let's feel something together with Glace Chase's *Triple X* – a hilarious and tender love story tracing the relationship between a trans drag performer and a Wall Street Banker.

Let's laugh together as Courtney Act makes her STC debut alongside a cast of comedy legends – Matt Day, Nancy Denis, Bessie Holland, Tracy Mann, Megan Wilding, and Brigid Zengeni – in Noël Coward's wicked and witty *Blithe Spirit*.

Let's experience magic together with a breathtaking reimagining of Oscar Wilde's *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, brought to life through cutting-edge contemporary theatre design and lush period drama, and an unforgettable performance from Eryn Jean Norvill.

Let's get together for something extraordinary.



TRIPLE X

BY GLACE CHASE
DIRECTED BY PAIGE RATTRAY

8 JAN – 26 FEB

NOËL COWARD'S BLITHE SPIRIT

DIRECTED BY PAIGE RATTRAY

21 MAR – 14 MAY



THE PICTURE OF DORIAN GRAY

BY OSCAR WILDE
ADAPTED AND DIRECTED BY
KIP WILLIAMS

28 MAR – 7 MAY

Mayfly (Efímera)



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by Luis Mariano García | Mexico | Spanish with English subtitles | 87 mins | 15+

Mayfly is a classic coming-of-age, tinged with Latin American magical realism that sets this charming, heartfelt film apart. Teenager Emilia has the ability to see those close to death shine. She throws herself into her studies with the school librarian as her only friend. But after a school mate passes away she is confronted by the reality of her gift. At the funeral she meets the carefree Renata, who steadfastly commits to living in the moment. Their attraction grows into sweet first love, but as the countdown to Emilia's perfectly curated future ticks closer, Renata and Emilia face the question of what's next? Screens with *Mint* (11 mins).

Presented with the Sydney Latin American Film Festival

Moffie



Directed by Oliver Hermanus | South Africa, UK | English, and Afrikaans with English subtitles | 99 mins | 18+

Since premiering at the Venice Film Festival, acclaimed gay director Oliver Hermanus' *Moffie* has been praised internationally. This compelling story of wartime romance is set in South Africa in 1981, as wide-eyed Nicholas Van der Swart – a closeted 18-year-old – is set to embark on his compulsory military service. This training sees Nicholas thrown headlong into a gruelling atmosphere of toxic masculinity and homophobia. In this punishing environment, he forms a bond with a fellow gay conscript, but a simple moment of connection between them sparks devastating consequences that will change their lives forever. *Content warning: see website.*

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THU 17 Feb	7:00 PM	Event	Wildhood	p.6
FRI 18 Feb	6:15 PM	Event	Ma Belle My Beauty	p.27
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	5:30 PM	Event	Rebel Dykes	p.44
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	8:30 PM	Event	Boy Meets Boy	p.20
SUN 20 Feb	5:00 PM	Event	Boulevard! A Hollywood Story	p.46
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	6:30 PM	Event	As We Like It	p.17
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MON 21 Feb	6:30 PM	Event	A Distant Place	p.21
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	7:00 PM	Event	Romp	p.38
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WED 23 Feb	6:00 PM	Parramatta	Seyran Ateş: Sex, Revolution and Islam	p.44
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	7:00 PM	Hurstville	The First Girl I Loved	p.24
	8:30 PM	Event	Gay+ Shorts	p.54
FRI 25 Feb	6:15 PM	Event	Querencia	p.11
	6:30 PM	Event	Boy Culture	p.20
	8:30 PM	Event	Bliss (Glück)	p.18
	8:40 PM	Event	Moffie	p.29

Date	Time	Venue	Film	Page
SAT 26 Feb	11:00 AM	Event	Hetero	p.25
	1:30 PM	Event	Mayfly	p.29
	3:45 PM	Event	Trans & Gender Diverse Shorts	p.55
	4:00 PM	Event	Pure Grit	p.9
	6:00 PM	Event	Lesbian+ Shorts	p.55
	6:15 PM	Event	Wildhood	p.6
	8:00 PM	Event	The Nowhere Inn	p.35
	8:30 PM	Event	Beyto	p.18
SUN 27 Feb	2:30 PM	Event	Hating Peter Tatchell	p.42
	3:00 PM	Event	Death and Bowling	p.21
	4:00 PM	Event	Summertime	p.41
	5:00 PM	Event	Oz Doc Shorts	p.53
	5:00 PM	Orpheum	The Divide	p.22
	6:15 PM	Event	Leading Ladies	p.26
	6:45 PM	Event	Moneyboys	p.34
	7:00 PM	Orpheum	Great Freedom	p.24
MON 28 Feb	6:30 PM	Event	Great Freedom	p.24
	7:00 PM	Event	My Queer Career	p.50-51
TUE 1 Mar	6:30 PM	Event	Manscaping	p.48
	7:00 PM	Event	Sweetheart	p.41
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WED 2 Mar	6:30 PM	Event	Jump, Darling	p.25
	6:45 PM	Event	Benedetta	p.17
	8:30 PM	Event	Guy on Guy Shorts	p.54
THU 3 Mar	7:00 PM	Event	B-Boy Blues	p.7

 Event Cinemas, George St

 Event Cinemas, Hurstville

 Event Cinemas, Parramatta

 Hayden Orpheum

Please see pages 56 and 57 for accessibility information

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With 30 feature films and over 30 shorts to enjoy online, from the comfort of your own home.

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Films with Subtitles



Films with Closed Captions



Film with Audio Description

*

Available On Demand in NSW only

Closed Caption and Audio
Description On Demand Only

On Demand Online Screenings

What you need to know

Do I have to watch an online screening at a particular time or date?

Because these are On Demand, once you've purchased a ticket, you will have access to the film for the duration of the festival, and can choose a time between 7.00pm AEDT Feb 17th 2022 until 11:59pm AEDT Mar 3rd 2022 to watch.

Can I stop and start while screening?

From the moment you press play, a film will be available for 72 hours or if there are less than 72 hours remaining in the festival period, until 11:59pm AEDT on Thursday 3rd Mar 2022. You can rewind, forward through, pause or exit and restart the film within that time frame.

Can I watch online screenings from anywhere?

Films are available to watch online from within Australia only. *Jump, Darling* cannot be watched outside of NSW.

If I have purchased an On Demand Pass or Festival Pass, am I guaranteed an online ticket to every film?

You will still need to book a ticket to each film you want to see with your pass on our website at queerscreen.org.au

Can online screenings sell out?

Some films have a limited streaming capacity due to arrangements with filmmakers, sales agents and distributors and the classification board, so book your tickets fast to avoid missing out.



Moneyboys (金錢男孩)



Directed by C.B. Yi | Taiwan, Austria, France, Belgium |
Mandarin with English subtitles | 120 mins | 18+

A deeply engrossing insight into gay life in modern China through the eyes of a hustler or 'moneyboy'. This Taiwanese production tells the mesmerising tale of Fei's journey from a small village to a life as a moneyboy in the big city. We discover why he left his village, see the transitory friendships of his fellow hustlers around him and find out why he grapples with falling in love again after a shameful past closes him up. Captivating and heartbreaking, *Moneyboys* is a superb and beautiful film experience with breathtaking cinematography that is not to be missed. *Content warning: see website. Presented with Taiwan Film Festival*

The Novice



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by Lauren Hadaway | USA | English | 94 mins | 18+

Alex Dall is a queer student who begins her first year at university by joining the college rowing team. Determined to become the team's best rower, and working harder than her coach advises, Alex's obsession with victory causes her to push everything to the sidelines, including her emerging relationship with a teacher's aide Dani. *The Novice* is an intense character study with incredible cinematography, editing and sound design as well as a stunning, committed performance from Isabelle Fuhrmann as the driven Alex. It will hold you in its grip from start to finish. *Content warning: see website. Presented with FilmInk*

SUN 27 FEB 6:45PM, Event Cinemas

MON 21 FEB 7PM, Event Cinemas

The Nowhere Inn



SYDNEY PREMIERE

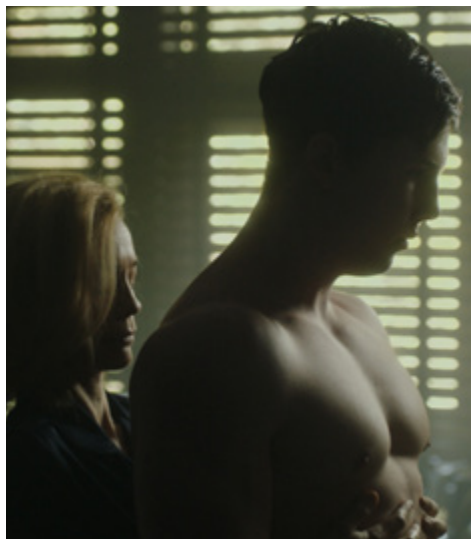
Directed by Bill Benz | USA | English | 91 mins | 15+

In this unique and surreal mockumentary, Annie Clark (aka musician St. Vincent) enlists the help of friend Carrie Brownstein (Sleater-Kinney, *Portlandia*) to make a music documentary about her. When Carrie wants Annie to channel more of her 'St. Vincent' persona to make the footage more compelling, the film takes the audience on a surprising and bizarre journey into a psycho-horror dreamscape. Premiering at Sundance in 2020, *The Nowhere Inn* is a curious and clever look at fame and authenticity that is sure to be one of the most unique films you will see this year! *Content warning: see website.*

Presented with AGL

SAT 26 FEB 8PM, Event Cinemas

The Perfect David



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by Felipe Gomez Aparicio | Uruguay, Argentina | Spanish with English subtitles | 75 mins | 18+

David is a teenager obsessed with sculpting himself into a perfect body. His controlling mother allows him few freedoms, sending him spiralling into the dark side of bodybuilding and his pursuit of perfection. As his social life and sexuality compete for attention, David finds himself at a brink he cannot back away from. With atmospheric cinematography and a pulsating electro score, this compelling character-driven drama delivers a chilling insight into a body and mind pushed beyond its limits. Screens with *A Team of Two* (11 mins).

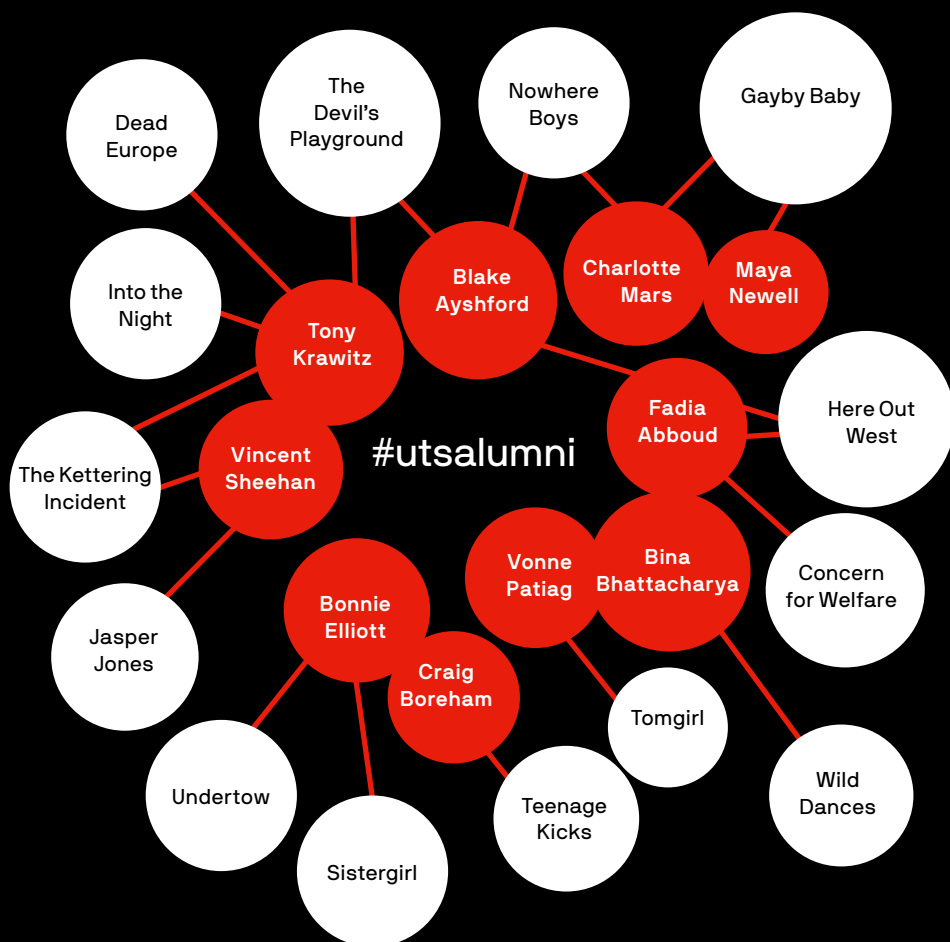
Presented with The Star Observer

WED 23 FEB 8:30PM, Event Cinemas

Ever wonder where they started?



Behind every great story is a great network.
Behind every great network is a great story.



Poppy Field (Câmp de Maci)



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by Eugen Jebeleanu | Romania | Romanian, French, Arabic with English subtitles, and English | 82 mins | 15+

In Eugen Jebeleanu's directorial debut, Cristi (Conrad Mericoffer) is a young Romanian police officer struggling to reconcile his sexuality with working in a hypermasculine environment, where sharing one's feelings is a sign of weakness. While his long-distance French boyfriend, Hadi, is visiting him, Cristi and his colleagues are called to a movie theatre, where an ultra-nationalist, homophobic group has interrupted the screening of a queer film – an event based on a real protest that interrupted a Romanian screening of *The Kids Are Alright*. Whilst there, someone recognises him, which causes his two worlds to collide. *Content warning: see website.*

TUE 22 FEB 8:15PM, Event Cinemas

Potato Dreams of America



SYDNEY PREMIERE

Directed by Wes Hurley | USA | English | 96 mins | 15+

In turns camp, stylised and moving, this film – which expands the short film *Little Potato* that won the Audience Award at MGFF18 – will stay with you! Semi-autobiographical, it follows young Potato who leaves an oppressive USSR with his mother to find a better life in the US. Upon arrival, things look up, but Potato lives in fear as his sexuality is discovered. With a cast including Lea DeLaria (*Orange is the New Black*), Dan Lauria (*The Wonder Years*), and *Mean Girls'* Jonathan Bennett as a fey Jesus, this unforgettable film is full of quirky flourishes and loads of charm.

Presented with IVF Australia

FRI 18 FEB 6:30PM, Event Cinemas

The Retreat

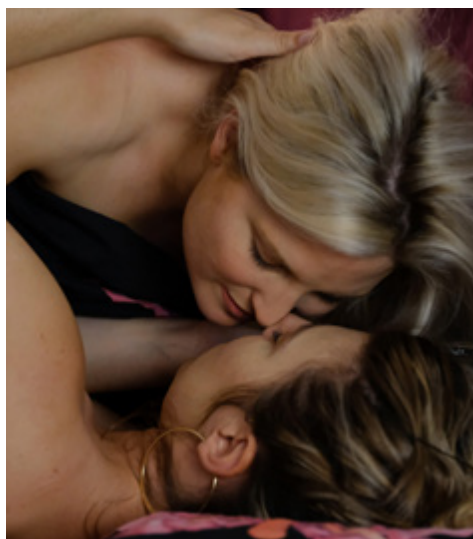


SYDNEY PREMIERE

Directed by Pat Mills | Canada | English | 82 mins | 18+

When new couple, Val and Renee embark on a trip to a secluded retreat to help Val's friends plan their gay wedding, they meet all the archetypes of a 'cabin in the woods' horror film. And when they arrive, the doubts continue to pile up until they find themselves fighting for their lives. From changing a tyre to using a gun and a couple of particularly creative and gory weapon choices, you will be rallying behind these women to overcome the sadistic homophobes they find themselves pitted against. *Content warning: see website.* Screens with *The Cruise* (8 mins). Presented with the Consulate General of Canada, Sydney

Romp



WORLD PREMIERE


Directed by Tonnette Stanford | Australia | English | 86 mins | 15+

Set in Sydney's very own Newtown, *Romp* is a punchy episodic follow-up to the record-breaking *Love Bytes*. We now follow three queer housemates, Michael, Jade and Stacey on the search for love. Now in their thirties, the dating scene has changed and is harder than ever, but they throw themselves at it with gusto. From seductions of ex-lovers, fake dates with colleagues, an encounter with Gretel Killeen, toy boys, a date with guest star Olympian Matthew Mitcham and secret lives in the adult entertainment industry, *Romp* is a wild, fun, chaotic and entertaining ride.

FRI 18 FEB 8:30PM, Event Cinemas

TUE 22 FEB 7PM, Event Cinemas

THE PINNACLE FOUNDATION



Pinnacle enables young LGBTIQ+ Australians to realise their full potential, overcome challenges arising from their identity, become self-reliant, maintain their dignity and give back themselves.

www.thepinnaclefoundation.org



The Sixth Reel



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by Carl Andress, Charles Busch | USA | English | 94 mins | 15+

New York theater icon Charles Busch's *The Sixth Reel* features an all star cast including Julie Halston, Margaret Cho, and Tim Daly. This screwball caper comedy set in contemporary Greenwich Village stars Busch as Jimmy, a movie-obsessed New Yorker who finds a long-lost film from the Golden Ages of Hollywood. As Jimmy tries to deliver the precious film into the right hands, he meets a host of film collectors, each more eccentric than the last! An outrageous homage to 1930s madcap comedies, *The Sixth Reel* delivers the laughs and warm nostalgia of classic Hollywood.

See You Then



SYDNEY PREMIERE

Directed by Mari Walker | USA | English | 74 mins | 15+

From trans director Mari Walker, *See You Then* charts the heartbreaking and revelatory reconnection of two college sweethearts after a decade apart. Since their separation, Kris has transitioned and Naomi (Lynn Chen, *Saving Face*) is now meeting her as a woman for the first time. They reflect on the past and envision their futures through rich discussions that contemplate questions of privilege, identity and motherhood. But old wounds and new revelations threaten to unravel their reconciliation, stoking the embers of their fiery reunion in this intersectional drama that highlights the power of cathartic radical honesty. Screens with *Night Ride* (15 mins). **Presented with AGL and Trans Pride Australia**

Open Caption Screening

SUN 20 FEB 7PM, Event Cinemas

SUN 20 FEB 6PM, Event Cinemas

Summertime



SYDNEY PREMIERE

Directed by Carlos López Estrada | USA | English | 95 mins
| 15+

The lives of a group of young poets in Los Angeles intersect throughout one summer day. Vibrant spoken word performances are weaved together artfully by director Carlos López Estrada, creating a punchy and deeply personal contemporary narrative that brings the city of Los Angeles to life. Both a celebration and searing social commentary, *Summertime* is compellingly told through a rich tapestry of diverse voices, showcasing some of the best emerging spoken word artists in America. These stories of community and identity form the heart of this compelling and thought-provoking film.

Sweetheart



SYDNEY PREMIERE

Directed by Marley Morrison | UK | English | 103 mins | 15+

With her shaggy haircut, oversized bucket hat and tinted orange glasses, AJ is the archetypal awkward teenage lesbian. There's nothing worse for this unimpressed youth than spending the holidays with her family in an old-fashioned holiday park in the UK. That is until she glimpses the beautiful and charismatic Isla, a lifeguard at the park. Instantly captivated, AJ abandons her family to spend a lot more time with Isla. Genuine and relatable, *Sweetheart* is a classic coming-of-age tale in a summer romance. Screens with *The Beauty of Being Deaf* (3 mins)

Open Caption Screening

SUN 27 FEB 4PM, Event Cinemas

TUE 1 MAR 7PM, Event Cinemas

Denise Ho: Becoming the Song



SYDNEY PREMIERE

Directed by Sue Williams | USA | English, and Cantonese with English subtitles | 83 mins | 15+

With huge fan bases in China and around the world, Cantopop singer Denise Ho instantly became a queer Asian icon when she came out. Years later, she is now one of the most recognisable faces in the pro-democracy movement in Hong Kong, putting her career at risk to fight for the rights of her home. Filmed over several years, director Sue Williams weaves an insightful and topical documentary of a singer turned human rights activist, as we see how political shifts influenced the trajectory of her career. A compelling film not to be missed. *Content warning: see website.*

Hating Peter Tatchell



Directed by Christopher Amos | Australia | English | 92 | MA15+

Whether you have heard of Peter Tatchell or not, this documentary will transfix, move and inspire you with his ongoing legacy. Peter has been there throughout it all, a divisive proponent of 'angry' protest, present at countless demonstrations and pride events, co-creator of OutRage! in the UK, known for his ability to performatively demonstrate in a way that grabs the attention of the media and the world. Produced by Elton John, featuring Stephen Fry and Ian McKellen, interviewing Peter himself, this is a captivating and well put together portrait of a man and a movement. *Content warning: see website.*

Followed by Q&A

SAT 19 FEB 2:30PM, Event Cinemas

SUN 27 FEB 2:30PM, Event Cinemas
\$10 Community Screening

Keith Haring: Street Art Boy



Directed by Ben Anthony | UK, USA | English | 52 mins | 15+

Keith Haring's art can be seen around the globe, on walls, T-shirts, pins and more. This fascinating portrait of the artist Keith Haring has never-before-seen interviews, as well as a definitive biography of his success in the art world of New York in the 80s. From his humble beginnings in small town America, to discovering himself on the dangerous streets of NYC in the late 70s and hobnobbing with the stars in the 80s, *Street Art Boy* is inspiring and provocative, gritty and wholesome, a perfect mirror to the person and legacy of Keith Haring. **Presented with Charles Sturt University**

Exclusive to On Demand

No Straight Lines: The Rise of Queer Comics



SYDNEY PREMIERE

Directed by Vivian Kleiman | USA | English | 74 mins | 18+

This hugely entertaining documentary celebrates the hidden history of queer comics, focusing on five pillars of the group, including Alison Bechdel, Rupert Kinnard and Howard Cruse. As comic creators addressed current events such as the Stonewall riots, the AIDS crisis and censorship, their proud, unashamed and wall-breaking comics inspired and served as a record of our community. Featuring fascinating interviews with mainstays and up-and-coming queer comic creators interspersed with gorgeous visuals, this joyous work will inspire you to seek out and indulge in queer comics long after the credits roll. Screens with *The Beauty of Being Deaf* (3 mins)

Screens with Open Captions

TUE 22 FEB 6:30PM, Event Cinemas



SYDNEY PREMIERE

Directed by Siân Williams and Harri Shanahan | UK | English
| 91 mins | 18+

Before there were Riot Grrrls there were the 'Rebel Dykes', a punk-squad of young lesbians wrestling sexual freedoms from the iron grip of Thatcher-choked 80s Britain. They were genderqueer, trans-friendly, leather-clad feminist anarchists who forged an inclusive family of loud, proud, radical lesbians in their own squatting commune. This eye-opening documentary captures the unbelievable stories from the Rebel Dykes themselves – lesbians who carved spaces to explore their artistic visions and carnal fantasies with punk parties and fetish clubs; rebelling at a time when rebelling wasn't just desired, it was required. **Presented with Dykes on Bikes and Groovescooter**

SAT 19 FEB 5:30PM, Event Cinemas



SYDNEY PREMIERE

Directed by Nefise Özkal Lorentzen | Norway | Chinese, German, Norwegian and Turkish with English subtitles, English | 81 mins | 15+

Seyran Ateş, an openly bisexual woman, is leading a sexual revolution within Islam. Despite receiving death threats and even being shot at, this Turkish-German lawyer and female Imam seeks to create a world where sexuality and the Islamic faith can coexist without conflict. Through interviews with her gay nephew, sex workers in Germany, queer Uyghurs in China and the survivors of an extremist terror attack in Norway, we find out why this brave woman has taken on this fight for a more inclusive Islam. This documentary highlights the immense courage it takes to stand up for what you believe in. *Content warning: see website.* Screens with *Unity Mosque* (7 mins) **Presented with Sydney Queer Muslims**

WED 23 FEB 6PM

Event Cinemas, Westfield Parramatta
\$10 Community Screening



This has been supported by funding from the Commonwealth Department of Social Services.

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to say it out loud

Speaking out for healthy relationships:
sayitoutloud.org.au



Being Bebe



SYDNEY PREMIERE

Directed by Emily Branham | USA | English, and French with English subtitles | 93 mins | 15+

Shot over more than ten years, *Being BeBe* is at once a look beneath the wig of drag queen BeBe Zahara Benet before and after winning the first season of the global phenomenon of *Rupaul's Drag Race*, as well as an insight into the persecution faced by LGBTIQ+ people in her motherland, Cameroon and the complexities of coming from a large, disparate family. Come for the journey and never-before-seen footage, and stay for the insight into the perils of fame, expectations and ambition. *Content warning: see website.*

Boulevard! A Hollywood Story



SYDNEY PREMIERE

Directed by Jeffrey Schwarz | USA | English | 83 mins | 15+

From the dark alleys of LA to the posh New York theater world, *Boulevard! A Hollywood Story* tells the tale of Gloria Swanson's attempt at taking back the spotlight after years in obscurity. From prolific documentary filmmaker, Jeffrey Schwarz (*Tab Hunter Confidential*, *QSFF15*, *I Am Divine*), this doco finds Gloria recruiting Dickson and Richard, two young songwriters and lovers to shack up in a Hollywood mansion and try to write a musical version of *Sunset Boulevard*. Delving deep into this unknown part of Hollywood history, this has so many plot twists you'll find yourself constantly on the edge of your seat.

Exclusive to On Demand

SUN 20 FEB 5PM, Event Cinemas



ONLINE
EXCLUSIVE

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by Gyuri Byun | South Korea | Korean with English subtitles | 93 mins | 15+

Coming to You follows two mothers on their journey to understanding and fighting for LGBTIQ+ rights in Korea. When Nabi's child Hankyeol comes out as a trans, non-binary, and asexual polyamorist, she seeks to understand the challenges they will now face. When Vivian's son Yejoon comes out as gay, she struggles to understand how this will impact his life in Korea. From attending PFLAG meetings, to representing parents of queer children at Pride events, this is a powerful and moving documentary of family and acceptance, and the continual journey for LGBTIQ+ rights in Korea. *Content warning: see website.*



SYDNEY PREMIERE

Directed by Yana Ugrehelidze | Germany | Georgian and Russian with English subtitles | 72 mins | 15+

A real-life love story about trans man Alexander and his cis partner Mari. Forced to live a secret life in the former Soviet republic of Georgia, this award-winning documentary follows Alexander as he navigates the complexities of not being able to change the gender on his passport, self-medicating his own hormones, and the constant fear of being outed. With poverty at their heels Mari takes on a surrogacy that aims to free them from the shackles of their life in Georgia to migrate to Switzerland. A heart-breaking and overwhelmingly beautiful journey as this couple bravely battles adversity. *Content warning: see website.*

Invisible: Gay Women in Country Music



SYDNEY PREMIERE

Directed by T.J Parsell | USA | English | 107 mins | 15+

In an industry known for its sexism and homophobia, even today, these people were and continue to be pioneers and trailblazers in a male-dominated world. Featuring music icons including Linda Ronstadt, Emmylou Harris and Chely Wright as well as out singer/songwriter, Dianne Davidson, whose career is resurging in her golden years, and trans performer Cidney Bullens, who restarted his career from scratch after transitioning, this is a fascinating and charming documentary. It may even inspire you to pick up a pen and start writing your own lyrics. *Content warning: see website.*

Manscaping



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by Broderick Fox | USA | English | 62 mins | 18+

What do a Black American visual artist, a transgender Canadian barber and Sydney-based fetish groomer, The Naked Barber, have in common? A shared resolve in detoxifying the masculinity of barber shops. Drawn from his own emotions around barbershops, director Broderick Fox has identified a thread of kinship amongst queer folks and their feelings of being othered in these traditionally masculinist spaces. Watch as these individuals build safe spaces for queer folks to bare their souls (and bodies!) to live their best lives through art, kink-play and open conversations. **Followed by Q&A**



SYDNEY PREMIERE

Directed by Ryan A White, Alex Clausen | USA | English | 79 mins | 18+

"A camera can make you immortal. Would you like a little bit of video immortality?" In the late 70s, Jack Fritscher and Mark Hemry created Palm Drive Video, a leather-focused, fetishistic and sex-positive video production studio. This documentary combines raw, titillating footage from the studio, behind the scenes content and interviews with Fritscher, Hemry and some of their most notable models. From firefighters to gas masks, cowboys, tradies, bodybuilders and the guy next door, these men demonstrate the diversity of kink and sexuality in gay culture and create a controversial and arousing legacy through the humble VHS tape. *Content warning: see website.*



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

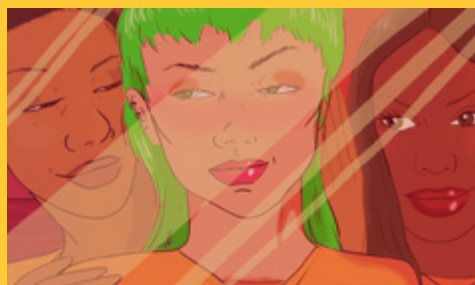
Directed by Adrián Silvestre | Spain | Spanish with English subtitles | 89 mins | 18+

Sediments is a narrative documentary following six Spanish transgender women as they come together in a small town to celebrate a birthday. Though these women are strong and powerful, showing great strength and resilience, this doesn't shy away from showing all facets of their personalities, including their struggles and issues with the world, their identities and sometimes one another. A thought-provoking, moving and inspiring piece that showcases the experiences of these women in a raw, unfiltered and ultimately hopeful light. *Content warning: see website. Presented with Antenna Film Festival*

My Queer Career

MY QUEER CAREER

Are You Still Watching?



Directed by Alex Cardy, Tali Polichtuk, Kitty Chrystal |
Produced by Alex Cardy, Alexandra George, Tali Polichtuk

Are You Still Watching? explores the emancipatory power of the queer imagination, combining erotic fan fiction tropes, magical realism and a firm camp sensibility.

Beautiful They



Directed by Cloudy Rhodes | Produced by Ella Millard

Violet and Blue's youth collide in an early morning toke that leads to the ocean where connection stirs. What results is a tender, uplifting, queer surf-romance.

A Big Life



Directed by Anna Brownfield | Produced by Anna Brownfield

Told through the tales of Bobbie Nugent, *A Big Life* is a story of butches and femmes, gangsters, sex workers, travelling sideshows and early Australian transgender history.

Dwarf Planet



Directed by Adrian Chiarella | Produced by Katie Amos, Bec Janek

An awkward teenager spends the last of his birthday money on a male sex worker. It's an uneasy encounter involving secrets, desires and a lesson in astronomy.

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My Queer Career is Australia's richest queer short film prize with over \$16,000 worth of cash and support to be won.

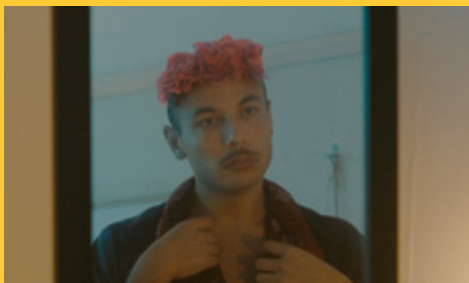
Illustrating Sam Newtown



Directed by Lily Drummond | Produced by Payton Hogan

An outgoing New York City art student falls for an introverted photographer who happens to be deaf – and living on the other side of the world. *Content warning: see website.*

Nelson



Directed by Sara West | Produced by Duncan Ragg, Katherine Shearer

Looking out from the safety of his bedroom, Nelson craves a genuine connection with a stranger – to see and be seen.

Sunburn



Directed by Jaslyn Mairs | Produced by Ben Bauchet, Lev Jutsen

Jaslyn Mairs' debut offers a naturalistic depiction of a layered friendship filled with desire and longing in the context of grief.

We're Doing Well



Directed by Andrew Mills | Produced by Andrew Mills

When Laura and Johnathan's housemate can't go on a pre-booked weekend away, both Laura and Jonathan feel they deserve the free weekend more than the other.

Asia Pacific Shorts



India, China, South Korea, Pakistan, Taiwan | 95 mins | 15+

Bringing together some of the best LGBTQ+ short films from our Asia Pacific neighbours, this diverse collection features *And We Collide*, about a fragile romance between a wannabe astronaut and a village farm boy; *Kiran*, from Pakistan, about a henna artist searching for a space for herself; *Mother-in-law* sees Min-jin entertaining her girlfriend's mother after a surprise visit; *My Mother's Girlfriend* follows two working-class women in love as they enjoy a day out; *Sunday*, the 2020 KASHISH Mumbai International Queer Film Festival Jury Award winner; and *Undercurrent*, set on a winter's night in 1979 Taiwan, explores budding desire. *Content warning: see website.* Presented with Charles Sturt University

Queer Doc Shorts



USA, UK, Italy, Norway | 88 mins | 15+

From Italy, Tanzania, the US and the UK, these *Queer Doc Shorts* will give you insight into the LGBTQ+ experience around the world. Ten young queer Tanzanians meet to share stories of violence and harassment, but also of dreams and hopes in *Not in Tanzania*; in *Senior Prom*, a group of queer elders attend a prom at their convalescent home; *Trans Happiness is Real* follows a trans activist as they chronicle their street art activism with unwavering but not untested hope; and *In the Image of God* follows the struggles and transitions of intersex Jewish Rabbi, Levi. *Content warning: see website.*

Presented with Charles Sturt University

Oz Doc Shorts



Australia | 98 mins | 15+

The inaugural *Oz Doc Shorts* features compelling Australian documentary short films together for the first time. In *Star Man*, the history of LGBTIQ+ media pioneer the *Star Observer*, and its controversial founder is delved into like never before; *The Space Around You* follows queer couple Sarah and Bec pre and post-pandemic; *Deafying Gravity* is the unique story of Katia Schwartz, a deaf and queer professional aerial performer; *Past Continuous* covers one inspiring couple who manage to stay together against all odds; and *Acts For The Invisible*, in which a philosophical fashion designer changes his world view after a devastating loss.

Content warning: see website. **Followed by Q&A. Presented with The Star Observer**

**Open Caption Screening
with Auslan Interpreter**

SUN 27 FEB 5PM, Event Cinemas

Shorts About Family Ties



USA, Austria, Palestine, UK | 90 mins | 15+

These *Shorts About Family Ties* show that family means something different to everyone, especially in the LGBTIQ+ community. In *Boom and Bloom*, a father and son try to bond on a hike in the Austrian Alps; an interracial lesbian couple use straight talk and a little bit of cannabis to ease tensions in *Blunt*; a breakdown on the way to the airport in *Borekas* provides a father and son with an opportunity to reconnect; after moving to Los Angeles, Esi discovers a new community in *Sunday's Child*; and in *Baba*, we follow a Libyan teen as he attempts to escape to the pulsing queer world of Manchester.

SHORT FILMS

SAT 19 FEB 3:30PM, Event Cinemas

Gay+ Shorts



Belgium, USA, Ireland, New Zealand, Sweden | 92 mins | 18+

This selection of short films showcases the breadth of gay (plus more) narratives on screen. From the gorgeous animation *Flora Borealis*, composed of 17,000 hand-drawn frames; an energetic tale of *Habib & The Thief*; *Firsts* from New Zealand about a closeted Chinese international student; *Headlock* where an introverted high school wrestler searches for acceptance; *On My Way* where three men find themselves taking a direction they didn't expect; and *Operator*, a quirky Irish comedy about a self-obsessed call centre worker dealing with a personal heartbreak. *Content warning: see website.*

Guy on Guy Shorts



France, Australia, Spain, Belgium, USA, Sweden | 92 mins | 18+

Get ready to get hot and heavy with these steamy, sexy guy-on-guy short films. Featuring *Chasin'*, about a summer's day hook up; in *Eden*, a restless young man roves in the gay hotspots of an unnamed city at night; *The Night Train*, where Oskar finds a like-minded companion on a train; *Trade*, exploring gay hookup app culture; *Limits*, showcasing two men and a challenging game; *BONHOMME*, featuring an eye-opening dare on a rugby player's night out; *Mountain Lodge*, an intriguing experimental film; and *Stephen & James: Best Girlfriends*, a lovely homage to 90s sexual liberation.

Lesbian+ Shorts



USA, Germany, Canada, Egypt, Germany, UK | 100 mins | 18+

This set of shorts will bring on the wanderlust for excitement and adventure of first love, getting to know you, and the feelings of discovery with someone you thought you knew so well. Selected highlights include *Blue Moon* which follows two women in sundrenched Los Angeles; *Dragged Up*, with a shy non-binary teenager who uses drag to find the confidence they need to show their family who they truly are; and *All the Colours*, in which creative duo The Samaya Wives capture a snapshot of love and life in the pandemic world.

Trans and Gender Diverse Shorts



India, USA, Australia, Spain, Croatia, Portugal, South Korea | 111 mins | 15+

Assembling films that put trans and gender diverse stories front and centre, this package includes the multi award-winning *God's Daughter Dancing* from South Korea; Croatian animation *All These Sensations in My Belly* which follows Matia as she seeks a genuine connection; *Almost A Year* in which the overlapping routines of three New Yorkers changes unexpectedly as the pandemic takes hold; *Haze*, that shows what happens when Haze's private recordings of their body end up in front of their mother; and *Shedding Skin* which finds Alicia connecting with her neighbour and starting to find comfort in her own skin. *Content warning: see website.*

Venues

Queer Screen's 29th Mardi Gras Film Festival will be screening at different venues across Sydney. Please make sure to check the location when making a booking to confirm it is one convenient for you.

There will also be selected films showing online On Demand. These are accessible from all over Australia. Please see queerscreen.org.au for more details.

Our in-person sessions do not have assigned seating, so please prepare for some queuing ahead of the session. We ask for patience and kindness to our staff and volunteers, who will be happy to answer any questions.

Stop the spread of COVID-19. If you are feeling unwell, please stay at home. In this event, please contact ticketing@queerscreen.org.au for exchange options.

Event Cinemas, George St

505/525 George St, Sydney NSW 2000

Event Cinemas, Hurstville

(\$10 Community Screening of
The First Girl I Loved pg 24)
Rooftop Westfield Shopping Centre Cnr Park
Road &, Cross St,
Hurstville NSW 2220

Event Cinemas, Parramatta

(\$10 Community Screenings of
Kapana pg 26 and *Seyran Ateş* pg 44)
Westfield Parramatta,
159-175 Church St,
Parramatta, NSW 2150

Hayden Orpheum, Cremorne

380 Military Rd, Cremorne NSW 2090

MGFF22 on Tour

Join us as we take the *best of the festival* to cinemas in Canberra and the Blue Mountains!

Mount Vic Flicks, Blue Mountains

11 - 13 March
2A Harley Ave,
Mount Victoria NSW 2786

Dendy Cinemas, Canberra

18 - 20 March
Canberra Centre, 148 Bunda St,
Canberra ACT 2601

Accessibility

Queer Screen welcomes all visitors to screenings and events, and endeavours to increase the accessibility of the Mardi Gras Film Festival 2022. For venue-specific access information please visit www.queerscreen.org.au

Access Enquiries

For all access enquiries, please email ticketing@queerscreen.org.au You can now notify us of your needs when you book your ticket so we can make your visit as enjoyable as possible! Whether it's wheelchair access, or first access to the cinema, we are here to help. You can also sign up to be notified of access information as it is updated.

Companion Cards

Queer Screen proudly accepts Companion Cards to all sessions. For guests who require assistance of a companion or carer, a second ticket is issued at no cost to the Companion Card holder.

Quiet Area

We know not everyone can stand in a queue, and so we have set up a Quiet Space away from the crowds at our venues for people unable to stand for long periods, or who have specific sensory needs for a variety of reasons. Please see a volunteer if you would like to use this area and they will guide you and ensure you are escorted to your screening on time.

Wheelchair Spaces

Queer Screen's 29th Mardi Gras Film Festival venues have a limited number of wheelchair spaces available for every session. Please sign up to accessibility updates when you book your tickets for more information.

Accessible Screenings

Screening with Open Captions and Auslan Interpreter for introduction, awards ceremony, and Q&A

My Queer Career (pg 50 - 51)
Oz Doc Shorts (pg 53)

Screening with Open Captions (In Cinema)

Jump Darling (pg 25)
See You Then (pg 40)
No Straight Lines (pg 43)
Sweetheart (pg 41)

Screening with Closed Captions and Audio Description (On Demand)

Sweetheart (pg 41)

Screening with Closed Captions (On Demand)

Jump Darling (pg 25)
See You Then (pg 40)
No Straight Lines (pg 43)
Potato Dreams of America (pg 37)
Firebird (pg 22)

Membership

Membership: A Friendship with Benefits

Queer Screen members save 15% on ticket prices (even more if you purchase a multi-film Festival Pass), gain priority entry to our festival screenings and more. And, your support helps us do what we do best: keep the big screens queer and provide much needed support for queer filmmakers.

Membership has four tiers to choose from, from Basic to Super Deluxe, and the perks get better and better. The top two levels even come with a ticket for EVERY session at the Mardi Gras Film Festival. Pretty incredible!

queerscreen.org.au/support-us/membership/

Tickets

In Cinema

Queer Screen Members	\$17.50
Full Price	\$21.00
Concession	\$18.50
Youth (15-25 years old)*	\$10.00

On Demand

Queer Screen Members	\$10.00
Member Household Tickets	\$15.00
Full Price	\$12.00
Full Price Household Tickets	\$18.00

Festival Passes

Festival Passes are the best way to experience the Mardi Gras Film Festival—see more films and save money. And with a Queer Screen membership, the savings are even greater!

Heading to the cinema?

Want the flexibility to also watch online On Demand? Grab a Festival Flexi Pass!

FESTIVAL FLEXI PASS	MEMBER	FULL
Any 5 films	\$75	\$95
Any 10 films	\$145	\$180

Festival flexi passes are valid for cinema or On Demand and can be used for sessions at tour venues.

ONLINE PASS	MEMBER	FULL
Any 5 On Demand films	\$45	\$54
Any 10 On Demand films	\$90	\$108
On Demand All In	\$149	\$175

On Demand passes are only available for online On Demand sessions.

Or, become a **Deluxe Queer Screen Member** for \$375 and get a ticket to EVERY film, access to parties, the Deluxe Waiting Area and so much more.

Get your passes and membership at queerscreen.org.au

*** Youth Tickets will be available to purchase from the Mardi Gras Film Festival Box Office the day of the screening for any non sold out session.**

MGFF22 Tour Pricing Info

Festival Passes can be redeemed for on tour screenings

Canberra

Queer Screen Members	\$16.90
Full Price	\$19.90
Concession	\$17.90

Blue Mountains

Queer Screen Members	\$12.00
Full Price	\$15.00
Concession	\$13.00

Note About the Festival Schedule

The festival schedule is subject to change. Please check the website for the most up-to-date listings. We will keep ticket holders updated with any changes to their bookings.

Where and how to buy your tickets!

Online & Over the Phone Bookings

Visit www.queerscreen.org.au to book tickets via our website.

To download the Queer Screen app visit Google Play for Android or the App Store for Apple.

Phone 02 9280 1533 for telephone bookings between 10am - 6pm weekdays.

In Person Bookings - By Appointment Only

Queer Screen Office

Powerhouse Museum

500 Harris St, Sydney

10am - 6pm weekdays

Please call 02 9280 1533 to arrange a time.

Due to COVID-19 we will not be accepting walk-ins without a prior arrangement.

Please note, Powerhouse policy at time of print is all visitors to the museum must be double vaccinated.

In Person Bookings - During the Festival

Tickets for all sessions are available from the Queer Screen desk at all venues unless sold out. The box office opens one hour before the first session of the day.

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.

At Queer Screen, we are proud to present queer cinema from all over the world as part of our festivals. We understand that people have differing limits, but we've worked hard to provide appropriate content warnings for applicable films. That said, triggering themes are varied and can change from person to person, so if you need further information about the content of any of the films, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us and we'll be happy to answer your questions.

Please visit queerscreen.org.au for full terms and conditions.

Who We Are

Festival Director Lisa Rose

Festival Operations Manager

Vicki Gutierrez

Head of Partnerships Paul Kennedy

paul.kennedy@queerscreen.org.au

Digital Strategist Zen Boray

at Kindigo Interactive

Digital Marketing Executive Adrik Kemp

Partnerships Coordinator TJ Narula

Production Assistant Javiera del Rio

Publicity Vanessa McQuarrie

Design & Illustration Luke Tribe

Web Design Design Logic

Festival Trailer Chay MacTavish at The Editors,

Animation by Luke Tribe

Bookkeeper Adam Bold

Mardi Gras Film Festival Intern

Kena Mallender

Key Volunteers Boden Evans, David Blanco, Jean Kearney, Jess Cheng, Josh Tandong, Sanouk Peiper, Sujay Abhilash, and the entire Queer Screen Programming Prescreener Team.

Board of Directors

Co-Chairs Cheryl Kavanagh, Abs Osseiran

Treasurer Abs Osseiran

Company Secretary Angela Ruchin

Directors Cameron Bayley (Website and Branding), Finn O'Keefe (Digital Engagement), Ian Goshko (Volunteers), Roger Gatchalian (Marketing and Members), Rosario Mugnaini (Funding)

Associates Brodie Pyke, David Libter, Erika Felton, Mike Worsley

Thanks

Queer Screen would like to thank

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Member Thanks

A huge shout out to the Queer Screen members who contribute to keeping the screens queer! And a very special thanks to our **Super Deluxe Members**: Steven Abbott, Brian Abel, Roy Bishop, Brad Booth, Richard Cobden, Joseph Duggan, Rex Ellison, Owen Evans, Ian Foxton, Manivannan Gopalakrishnan, Raymond Janz, David Libter, Megan McLachlan, Dominic Moawad, Allison Smith, Sam Turner, Umesh Deshpande (Jait) **(Deluxe Members)** Michele Adair, Mike Beaman, Benji Brown, Craig Campbell, Ian Cull, Jason Glanville, David Laidley, Meredith Williams, James Woolley, Danny Wright, David Wright.

Donor Thanks

Donate at queerscreen.org.au/support-us/donate/ to be added to the program and support us in bringing you queer cinema at our festivals.

(True Love) Andrew Pickles, Brian Abel, Cheryl Kavanagh, David Buchanan, David Libter, Geoff Annabel, Janel Carozza, Jodie Camden, John Cork, Joseph Duggan, Kelley & Grant Drury-Green, Manivannan Gopalakrishnan, Mark Proffit, Nicholas Hatzigeorgiou, Peter Grimison, Raymond Janz, Richard Harris, Robert D'Arcy-Irvine, Roy Bishop, Trevor Parkin.

(Top 100) Aaron Sue, Abby Duruz, Alessandra Muntoni, Anthony Lam, Benedict Brook, Chris Peat, Chris Pycroft, Clive Miller, CP Lim, Craig Kneebone, David Hoffman, David Laidley, Dennis Berry, Diana Coffey, Giovanni Campolo-Arcidiaco, Ian Adrian, Ian Cull, John M Robinson, John Tsioulos, Justin Burford, Leila Shunnar, Matthew McDonell, Meredith Williams, Michael Beckett, Michael L, Nick Saunders, Patrick Loughnan, Patrick McIntyre, Philip O'Donnell, Raymond Janz, Richard Cobden, Richard Does, Richard Harris, Robert Eidus, Ronald Govers, Sally Chik, Sandra Cook, Sanouk Peiper, Steph Sands, Stephen Bailey, Steven Francis, Su Goldfish, Sue Crawford, Terry Batterham, Tim Smyth, Tsachi Pilossof, Viv Rosman, Yianni Faros.

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My Queer Career



Supporters



Volunteer at the Mardi Gras Film Festival!

Queer Screen is powered by volunteers at every level from the Board to cinema ushers, and has always enjoyed tremendous support from our community.

Our emphasis is on having fun and making new friends, as much as working hard for all our events!



**Opportunities are
available in these areas:**

- **Marketing**
- **Social Media**
- **Content Writing**
- **Funding**
- **Production**
- **Photography**
- **Video Production**
- **Events and more!**

**If you are interested
in joining us, please visit
[queerscreen.org.au/
volunteer](https://queerscreen.org.au/volunteer)**

The energy within Mardi Gras Film Festival

Queer Screen's Mardi Gras Film Festival recognises LGBTQ+ filmmakers past, present and future. It's an important place to come together and celebrate the creative talents of our queer community. That's why AGL has been a proud partner since 2016. #AGLPride

agl.com.au/pride

