

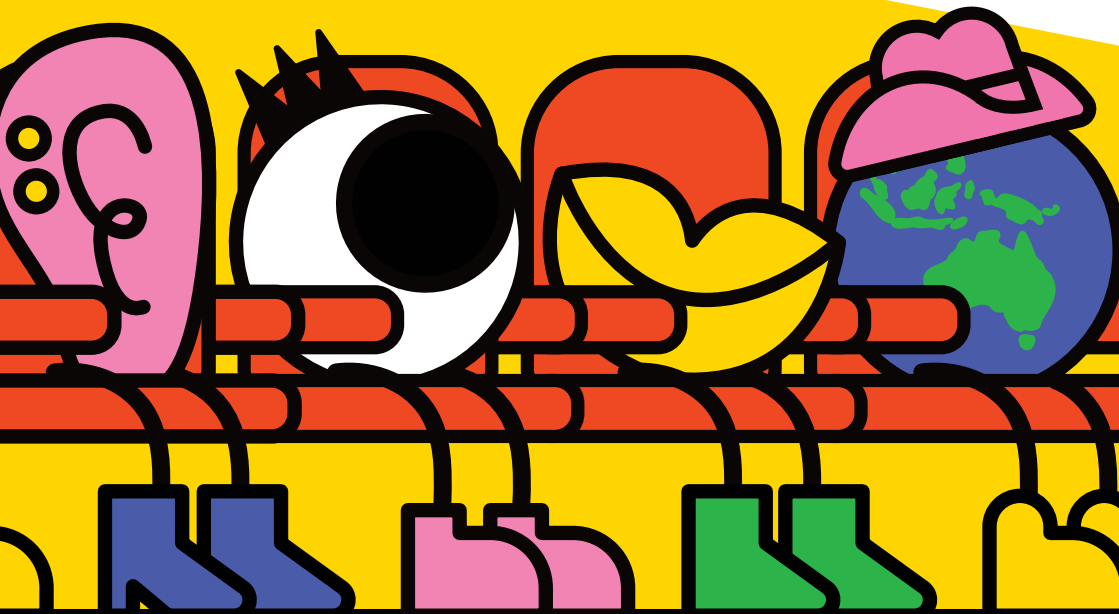
 Queer Screen's 30th

Mardi Gras Film Festival

15 February - 2 March 2023

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Queer Screen's 30th

**Mardi Gras
Film Festival**
15 February - 2 March 2023



Get ready to enjoy every moment

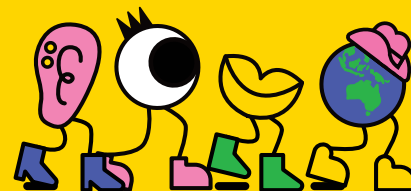
Whether it's standing side-by-side at Allianz Stadium, supporting our athletes competing at the Olympics and Paralympics, or by supporting the LGBTQI+ community.

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Festival Welcome



2023 marks the significant milestone of being Queer Screen's 30th edition of the Mardi Gras Film Festival. Formed in 1993 by a group of queer filmmakers and curators to affect positive change in film culture in Australia, we at Queer Screen are incredibly proud of the impact that our organisation has had. From screening thousands of queer films to audiences all over Australia, to championing emerging filmmakers, lobbying for better representation, hosting visiting queer film auteurs, investing over \$170,000 in Australian LGBTQI+ productions, awarding 30 years of our country's most significant queer film prize, *My Queer Career*, working with countless community members, partners and volunteers, Queer Screen has survived, thrived and helped to shape the history of queer film in Australia.

Our 30th edition sees our largest festival in over a decade with 167 films across 100+ sessions in cinema, outdoors and on-demand at home. As the world comes to Sydney for WorldPride, it is significant that we can open with one of the best Australian queer films ever made in Goran Stolevski's soon to be classic, *Of an Age*. The festival honours those who have come before, with seven retrospective screenings, including highlighting one of Queer Screen's founders, Stephen Cummins at a retrospective gala in partnership with the National Film



and Sound Archive of Australia, and a day of community outdoor screenings including films from every decade of Queer Screen's existence.

Celebrating the festival on the global stage we have an incredibly diverse line up including program strands focusing on the Asia-Pacific and Canada along with a huge selection of Australian films. Don't miss our special events, such as watching *T&R* against the backdrop of the Harbour Bridge and Opera House. My hot tip, if you're looking to be wowed beyond words don't miss our Narrative Centerpiece *My Emptiness and I* and our Documentary Centerpiece *All the Beauty and the Bloodshed*.

It's time to let the best in queer cinema awaken your senses.

Lisa Rose
Festival Director

Queer Screen feels honoured to work, create and contribute to the community on the land of the traditional custodians. We acknowledge their wisdom and resilience in the face of injustices. We pay our respect to their Elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Of an Age

OPENING NIGHT GALA



SYDNEY PREMIERE

Directed by Goran Stolevski | Australia | English | 100 mins | Unclassified 15+

A closeted Serbian-Australian teenager develops intense feelings for his best friend's older brother in this phenomenal coming of age romance starring Thom Green (*Dance Academy*) and Elias Anton (*Barracuda*). Drawing on his experience as a gay child of migrants in Melbourne, writer-director Goran Stolevski imbues this story of first love with deep authenticity, where every word and touch feels seismic. Winner of the Best Film Prize at CinefestOZ, this film is destined to sit alongside the likes of *Weekend* and *Moonlight* in the modern queer film canon. **Opening Night Party tickets available. Presented with Optus.**

The Venus Effect

CLOSING NIGHT GALA



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by Anna Emma Haudal | Denmark | Danish, English Subtitles | 104 mins | Unclassified 15+

20-something Liv thinks she has everything figured out, until she's swept off her feet by spontaneous free spirit Andrea in this feel good, award-winning Danish romantic dramedy. Liv works in a garden centre with her father (Lars Mikkelsen) and her overly-invested mother (Sofie Gråbøl, *The Killing*), she's close with her gay brother, and has a sweet but unexciting boyfriend. Everything shifts when a pink-haired, vulva dress-wearing, Sapphic goddess comes crashing into her life. Andrea is everything Liv isn't, and she's completely infatuated. As the two women grow closer, their different lifestyles begin to clash, and Liv discovers that relationships, love and family can come in many forms. **Closing Night Party tickets available.**

My Emptiness and I

NARRATIVE CENTREPIECE



SYDNEY PREMIERE

Directed by Adrián Silvestre | Spain | Spanish, French, English Subtitles | 98 mins | Unclassified 18+

Raphaëlle Perez delivers a star-making performance as a young, sassy woman at the start of her transition journey, in the latest film from acclaimed filmmaker Adrián Silvestre (*Sediments*). French woman Raphi wants nothing more than for others to see her the way she sees herself. Working in a call centre in Barcelona, she's searching for love, community and her place in the world – as she navigates the scary world of dating apps as a newly out trans woman. This powerful and nuanced portrayal of self-discovery, co-written by its phenomenal lead, is told with authenticity, humour and tenderness.

Content warning: see website.

All the Beauty and the Bloodshed

DOCUMENTARY CENTREPIECE



SYDNEY PREMIERE

Directed by Laura Poitras | USA | English | 113 mins | Unclassified 18+

Winner of the Venice Golden Lion, this extraordinary documentary is an electrifying portrait of the life and career of bisexual artist Nan Goldin and her fight against the billionaire Sackler family. Fleeing a dysfunctional childhood, Goldin forged her career photographing her friends, family and LGBTIQ+ subcultures. After struggling with addiction, Goldin set her sights on the pharmaceutical titans responsible for the opioid crisis, leading an ACT UP inspired movement to challenge art institutions to refuse their donations. Featuring hundreds of Goldin's photographs, *All the Beauty and the Bloodshed* weaves multiple narratives to create a bold and ultimately inspiring film as Goldin puts her career on the line to take down those who profit from pain. *Content warning: see website.*

Number 96: TV's First LGBT Show

SPECIAL EVENT



Australia | English | 68 mins | Unclassified 15+

Actor Joe Hasham and TV historian Andrew Mercado discuss how in 1972, *Number 96* became the first TV show in the world to feature a full range of LGBT characters. Including heroic gay lawyer Don Finalyson (Joe Hasham), bisexual Dudley Butterfield (Chard Hayward) and transgender showgirl Robin Ross (trans actress Carlotta), *Number 96* was a landmark in on-screen queer representation. A special camptastic episode of *Number 96* will screen along with a brand new documentary featuring Shane "Courtney Act" Jenek, author Benjamin Law and scriptwriter Sarah Lambert that will reveal how Australian TV was truly *Outrageous!*

Actor Joe Hasham and TV historian Andrew Mercado in attendance for in-depth discussion. Screens with *Outrageous: The Queer History of Australian TV* (23 min). Presented with Optus.

THU 16 FEB 6:30PM, Event George St

Queer Comedy Specials

SPECIAL EVENT



WORLD PREMIERE

Australia | English | 137 mins | Unclassified 15+

Two brand new stand-up specials starring Australian queer comedy royalty Joel Creasey (Australian Amazon Original *LOL: Last One Laughing Australia*) and Rhys Nicholson (*RuPaul's Drag Race Down Under*). Filmed in front of a live audience at the 2022 Broken Heel Festival, *Joel Creasey: Queen of the Outback* features a live, all-new stand-up performance from Joel, plus all the glitter and glamour of Australia's largest regional drag celebration. Recorded at Sydney's magnificent Enmore Theatre, *Rhys Nicholson's Big Queer Comedy Concert* features a cast of award-winning LGBTIQ+ comedy superstars, including Urzila Carlson, Geraldine Hickey, Cassie Workman and Chris Parker. Screening for FREE with a drink on arrival and an introduction from Joel and Rhys. Available to stream on 24 February on Prime Video. Presented with Prime Video.

THU 16 FEB 7PM, Event George St



Directed by Todd Field | USA | German, French, English Subtitles, English without Subtitles | 158 mins | M

Cate Blanchett delivers a ferocious, career-best performance in this acclaimed, award-winning portrait of an intimidating lesbian maestro. Lydia Tár is a prominent figure in the classical music sphere and the first woman chief conductor of the Berlin Philharmonic. Surrounded by devoted confidants, including wife and first-chair violinist Sharon (Nina Hoss) and doting personal assistant Francesca (Noémie Merlant, *Portrait of a Lady on Fire*), she's ensconced in a bubble of her own making. But when murmurs of impropriety with a former protégé begin to surface, will her power and influence finally be called into question? Don't miss your chance to see this surprising and timely film with a largely queer audience, against the backdrop of the stunning Sydney Harbour. *Content warning: see website.*



Directed by Stephen Cummins | Australia | English | 100 mins | Unclassified 15+

Stephen Cummins (1960–1994) was an Australian filmmaker, curator, artist and co-founder of Queer Screen who left an indelible mark on queer cinema. Celebrate Stephen Cummins' influential career with a retrospective gala presentation of his complete works, presented in partnership with the National Film and Sound Archive (NFSA) and Simon Hunt, Stephen's estate executor. Featuring all nine short films that have been digitised, restored and remastered by the NFSA and Simon, including the award-winning *Resonance*, *Elevation* and *Le Corps Image*. Stephen died of HIV-related lymphoma in 1994, but his legacy continues to be felt to this day, not least through the support of the Stephen Cummins Film Trust. *Content warning: see website. Key creatives and collaborators in attendance for panel discussion. Australian Showcase Party tickets available. Presented with Stephen Cummins Film Trust and the National Film and Sound Archive of Australia.*

Afternoon Delight with The LOVE Project



SYDNEY PREMIERE

Directed by Jacquie Lawrence | UK | English | 89 mins | Unclassified 15+

Afternoon Delight is a movie matinee, afternoon tea and fun social gathering for the older lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTIQ+) community, friends and allies. Enjoy the short films *Jazmin* and *Rhiw Goch: On the Red Hill* followed by the documentary *Gateways Grind* about London's longest surviving lesbian club, and a Q&A with the filmmakers. Delicious treats, drag celebrities, networking and access to local health information available after the screening. **Director Jacquie Lawrence and producer Fizz Milton in attendance for Q&A. Presented by ACON's The LOVE Project and funded by NSW Seniors Festival.**

MON 27 FEB 1:30PM, Event George St

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HUBRIS & HUMILIATION

BY LEWIS TRESTON
DIRECTED BY DEAN BRYANT

ON STAGE FROM 20 JAN



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rom-com set in
fabulous queer
Sydney



A ruthless, jaw-
dropping and
provocative dark
comedy

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DIRECTED BY MITCHELL BUTEL

ON STAGE FROM 2 MAR



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portrait of family
life in 1950s
Pittsburgh

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DIRECTED BY SHARI SEBBENS

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Vegas in Space

SPECIAL EVENT



Directed by Phillip R. Ford | USA | English | 85 mins | PG

A celebratory screening of 1991 lo-fi cult classic *Vegas in Space*, a loving homage to science fiction B-movies starring an all-drag cast. The universe is in danger, and the only ones who can save it are Captain Dan Tracy and his fierce space crew! But when their mission takes them to the "babes only" pleasure planet Clitoris, they must go undercover as Earth showgirls and dance to save us all. Written by, co-produced and starring Australian drag star Doris Fish, *Vegas in Space* is a fabulously camp musical odyssey that needs to be seen to be believed.

Don't miss this once-in-a-lifetime screening preceded by live performances and director Phillip R. Ford, co-stars Miss X and Silvana Nova, and musical director Timmy Spence will be in attendance for a Q&A moderated by Jay Katz. After Party tickets available.

TUE 28 FEB 7PM, Ritz Cinemas

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Mardi Gras Film Festival

15 February - 2 March 2023

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Lonesome

AUSTRALIAN SHOWCASE



Directed by Craig Boreham | Australia | English | 94 mins | CTC

A solitary cowboy dives headfirst into a grungy world of lust and love on the streets of Sydney, in Craig Boreham's *(Teenage Kicks)* frank and sometimes confronting *Lonesome*. Country boy Casey (a perpetually shirtless Josh Lavery) fled farm life for the big smoke following an unexpected tragedy. A Grindr threesome introduces him to Tib (the stunning Daniel Gabriel), a self-reliant local, and there's clearly a connection beyond a one-off hookup. Drawn into Tib's life on the fringes, filled with uninhibited sex, drugs, and odd jobs for cash, have these two lone wolves finally found someone else they can rely on? *Content warning: see website.*

Lonesome is a Queer Screen Completion Fund Recipient. Director Craig Boreham and cast and crew in attendance for Q&A. Australian Showcase Party tickets available.

The Winner Takes It All

AUSTRALIAN SHOWCASE



WORLD PREMIERE

Directed by James Demitri | Australia | English | 95 mins | Unclassified 18+

Sydney drag icon and *RuPaul's Drag Race Down Under* alum Maxi Shield stars in a farcical comedy that brings to mind the works of John Waters. Wealthy socialite Kiki confides in her best friend Maxine that her husband is cheating on her, and is in danger of losing her rather large fortune. The two women make a deal to uncover the truth, but not all is as it seems. Throw in a gigolo, a pornstar and lashings of camp and you are in for the funniest, stupidest ride of your life. *The Winner Takes it All* is bound to become an instant cult classic!

Director James Demitri, actor Maxi Shield and others in attendance for Q&A. Australian Showcase Party tickets available.

prime video

CINDERELLA

PO MY POLICEMAN

EVERYBODY'S TALKING ABOUT
JAMIE

Trans Women Trailblazers

AUSTRALIAN SHOWCASE



Directed by Lachlan Bradbury, Tracey Spring | Australia | English | 72 mins | Unclassified 15+

Two documentaries about trailblazing Australian trans women: *Trans Glamoré* about DJ Victoria Anthony, founder of the Sydney institution; and *The Accidental Archivist* about Julie Peters, the first trans woman to run for Australian parliament. In its World Premiere, trans performers and prominent figures like Peta Friend, founder of Trans Pride Australia, reflect on the importance of community events like Trans Glamoré. It's joined by *The Accidental Archivist*, about Julie Peters, her extensive collection of trans-related media she's compiled since her early 20s, and her courageous story of transitioning while working at the ABC in the 1990s. **Content warning: see website.** *Trans Glamoré* is a Queer Screen Completion Fund recipient. Festival guests in attendance for panel discussion. Australian Showcase Party tickets available.

MON 20 FEB 7:00PM, Event George St

The Giants

AUSTRALIAN SHOWCASE



SYDNEY PREMIERE

Directed by Laurence Billiet, Rachael Antony | Australia | English | 110 mins | Unclassified 15+

This exhilarating and unforgettable documentary chronicles the extraordinary life of Dr Bob Brown, Australia's first openly gay member of parliament. Told in Dr Bob Brown's own words, this uplifting and inspiring story covers 50 years of environmental and human rights activism. His courageous leadership of the landmark protests that successfully thwarted the damming of Tasmania's Franklin River transformed him into a formidable political force and the leader of the Australian Greens Party. This film skilfully interweaves Dr Brown's story with stunning footage of the life cycles of majestic native trees, bringing together the giants of both Australia's natural and political landscapes. *Content warning: see website.* **Dr. Bob Brown and filmmaker guests in attendance for Q&A. Australian Showcase Party tickets available.**

The Longest Weekend

AUSTRALIAN SHOWCASE



Directed by Molly Haddon | Australia | English | 78 mins | Unclassified 15+

Lou, Avery and Rio's lives are falling apart, but adultery and binge drinking are just the tip of the iceberg, in this Inner West Sydney-based drama. When their mother (Tammy MacIntosh, *Wentworth*) goes away for the weekend, three struggling siblings are serendipitously reunited as they return to their childhood home, unaware of their similar intentions. Old tensions and secrets emerge when they discover Rio has been in contact with their estranged father. Forcing each other to confront their shared past – as only siblings can – new light (and new hope) is shed on their present. *Content warning: see website.* ***The Longest Weekend* is a Queer Screen Completion Fund recipient. Cast and crew in attendance for Q&A. Australian Showcase Party tickets available. Presented with Prime Video.**

Queer Screen on the Green

Join us for Queer Screen on the Green: a special, all-day outdoor community event celebrating Queer Screen's 30th Mardi Gras Film Festival!

Kicking off with a Rainbow Families animated screening, followed by three retrospective, feel-good queer classics, Queer Screen on the Green will represent every decade of the festival's existence (the 2020s, 2010s, 2000s and 1990s). Whether you come for one or watch all four, there will be food stalls, a bar and other fun activities to keep you entertained between films. So grab your friends, dust off the post-Parade cobwebs and come on down to the UTS Alumni Green, just a short walk from Central Station.

Tickets \$10 or FREE. Bookings are essential due to capacity limitations.

Raya and the Last Dragon



Join us for a special Rainbow Families screening of *Raya and the Last Dragon*: an exciting, epic journey into the fantasy world of Kumandra. Long ago, humans and dragons lived together in harmony, until an evil force saw dragons sacrifice themselves to save humanity. Now, 500 years later, that same evil has returned. It's up to lone warrior Raya to track down the legendary last dragon, so they can work together to save the world. Notable in the Disney canon for featuring two independent princesses without male suitors, it features the voices of Kelly Marie Tran (*Star Wars: The Last Jedi*), Gemma Chan (*Crazy Rich Asians*) and Sandra Oh (*Killing Eve*). **Presented with Rainbow Families.**

Directed by Don Hall, Carlos López Estrada | 2021 | USA | English | 107m | PG

SUN 26 FEB 11AM, UTS Alumni Green

Pride



Directed by Matthew Warchus | 2014 | UK | English | 120 mins | Rated M

Featuring an all-star cast including Bill Nighy and Imelda Staunton, this British crowd-pleaser joyfully puts the protest back into pride. A hilarious clash of personalities between London gay and lesbian activists, and striking Welsh miners, as both sides come together in solidarity for their respective causes.

SUN 26 FEB 2PM, UTS Alumni Green

Saving Face



Directed by Alice Wu | 2004 | USA | Mandarin, Shanghaiese, English Subtitles, English without Subtitles | 97 mins | Rated M

A fixture of "best in lesbian film" lists, this light-hearted romance between two Chinese-American women was Alice Wu's 2004 directorial debut. Overworked medical resident Wil falls for beautiful dancer Vivian, as she tries to keep her romantic life a secret from her mother (Joan Chen) and traditional Chinese family.

SUN 26 FEB 5PM, UTS Alumni Green

Beautiful Thing

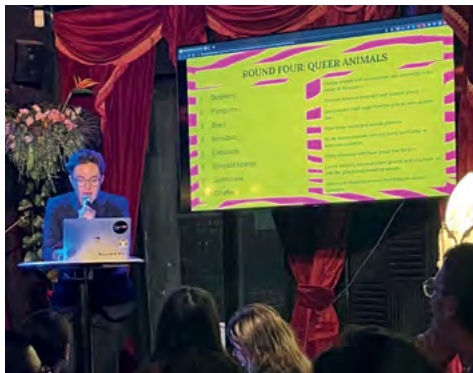


Directed by Hettie Macdonald | 1996 | UK | English | 90 mins | Rated MA

A seminal gay classic, this tender love story between two working-class teenage boys living on a council estate is full of heart and laughs. Amidst this grey, oppressive environment, but surrounded by colourful characters, the two youths discover their intense growing feelings for each other.

SUN 26 FEB 7:30PM, UTS Alumni Green

Inqueersition: Queer Screen Trivia Night



The word is out! Grab your GBF and head on down to The Bearded Tit, the ideal home for a Mardi Gras Film Festival edition of Inqueersition. It doesn't matter if you're booksmart or had a bad education, team up with some other people and do your personal best at queer film trivia night. If you caught all 8 film titles in this blurb you just might win some fun prizes. **Presented with The Bearded Tit.**

TUE 21 FEB 7PM, The Bearded Tit

Smartphone Filmmaking Workshop



This smartphone filmmaking workshop will put the power to tell your stories your way into the palm of your hand, using your very own phone. Facilitated by Angela Blake, co-founder of SmartFone Flick Fest, this innovative class offers an introduction to the process of smartphone filmmaking, breaking down the barriers to putting authentic queer stories on screen. Bookings essential. **Presented with SF3 SmartFone Flick Fest and Optus.**

WED 22 FEB 6:30PM, Canva Space

Industry Networking



Queer Screen's industry networking is a chance to connect with other LGBTIQ+ screen industry members and find a collaborator for your next project! Regardless of your role in the industry, we encourage artists from every discipline, at whatever level they are at in their career to attend, so we can work together to advance queer film. Entry is FREE.

TUE 28 FEB 6PM, El Jimador Tequila Festival Bar at Event George St

Guests & Panels

We're thrilled to be joined by an array of festival guests from Australia and across the globe, participating in events throughout the festival.

International guests, listed to the right, will be in attendance to participate in Q&As, with more to be announced.

Locally, *Number 96: TV's First LGBT Show* (p. 10) will be followed by an in conversation between actor Joe Hasham and TV historian Andrew Mercado. The *Stephen Cummins Retrospective Gala* (p. 13) will be paired with a panel discussion featuring Cummins' key creatives and collaborators. *In Her Words: 20th Century Lesbian Fiction* (p. 62) will be followed by a panel discussion offering an Australian perspective on the subject. While a panel discussion between some of the inspiring Australian trans women featured in *Trans Women Trailblazers* (p. 21) will come after the screening.

All Australian features will be followed by a Q&A, including *Lonesome* (p. 18) with director Craig Boreham, and members of the cast and crew, *The Giants* (p. 22) with the subject of the film Dr. Bob Brown and filmmaker guests, *The Winner Takes it All* (p. 19) with director James Demitri, actor Maxi Shield and others, and *The Longest Weekend* (p. 23) with members of the cast and crew.

Keep an eye on our website, socials and eNews for announcements of additional guests and events.



Jun Robles Lana
Philippines
Director, *About Us But Not About Us* (p. 31)



Perci Intalan
Philippines
Producer, *About Us But Not About Us* (p. 31)



Jacquie Lawrence
United Kingdom
Director, *Gateways Grind* (p. 14)



Fizz Milton
United Kingdom
Producer, *Gateways Grind* (p. 14)



Jason Karman
Canada
Director, *Golden Delicious* (p. 38)



Aino Suni
Finland
Director, *Heartbeast* (p. 44)



Robbie Lawlor
Ireland
Subject, *How to Tell a Secret* (p. 61)



Enda McGrattan
Ireland
Subject, *How to Tell a Secret* (p. 61)

Celebrate with our Community Screenings

\$10



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

El Houb – The Love
p. 35



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

Youth Shorts
p. 70



**18 Feb
8pm**
Casula
Powerhouse

The Blue Caftan
p. 31



**26 Feb
1pm**
Dendy
Newtown

Framing Agnes
p. 60



**27 Feb
1:30pm**
Event
Cinemas,
George St

Afternoon Delight
p. 14



**28 Feb
6:20pm**
Ritz
Cinemas

Sleep with Me
p. 49

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#LookAtMe



Asia-Pacific Focus

SYDNEY PREMIERE

Directed by Ken Kwek | Singapore | English, Malay, English Subtitles | 108 mins | Unclassified 18+

Banned in its local country Singapore, this fast-paced and gripping take on free speech, privacy and gay rights is a must-see. Director Ken Kwek melds family drama, prison grittiness and real-life politics in this English-language Singaporean film. We follow idealistic but stubborn YouTuber Sean Marzuki, as his life takes complicated turns amidst his passionate journey for equality for his gay twin brother, Ricky (both played by actor yao, in a remarkable performance). When Sean posts an inflammatory response to an anti-gay sermon the pair inadvertently attend, they become retaliatory targets of the evangelical megachurch and their lives threaten to crumble around them. *Content warning: see website.*

MON 20 FEB 8:30PM, Event George St **OC**
THU 23 FEB 8:40PM, Ritz Cinemas **OC**

8 Years



ONLINE & CINEMA

SYDNEY PREMIERE

Directed by JD Alcázar | Spain | Spanish, English Subtitles | 100 mins | Unclassified 18+

A love letter to breaking up, *8 Years* is a sexy, stunning and poignant Spanish film set against the backdrop of the striking Canary Islands. José and David have recently separated after seven years together, but for their would-be eighth anniversary, they return to La Palma to try and rekindle their love. Through their adventures across the island and a revolving cast of vibrant local characters, we see their relationship for all its beauty and all its flaws. With spectacular visuals, this superb and moving film will enthrall you, grabbing you by the heartstrings when you least expect it. *Content warning: see website.*

SAT 18 FEB 8:30PM, Event George St
TUE 28 FEB 6:20PM, Event George St

About Us But Not About Us



Asia-Pacific Focus

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by Jun Robles Lana | Philippines | English, Tagalog, English Subtitles | 91 mins | Unclassified 18+

Intrigue is on the menu in this masterfully constructed Filipino mystery from the director of *Die Beautiful*. *About Us But Not About Us* is guaranteed to keep audiences guessing until the credits roll. In downtown Manila, post-COVID-19 lockdown, restaurant sittings are restricted to 90 minutes. This is the setting for this engrossing two-hander in which Eric, a gay university professor grieving the loss of his long-term partner, meets Lance, an ambitious young literature student. Over the course of their meal, the men's pleasant conversation becomes a dangerous game of cat and mouse in which startling revelations are made. *Content warning: see website. Writer-Director Jun Robles Lana and Producer Perci Intalan will be in attendance for a Q&A.*

FRI 24 FEB 7PM, Event George St
MON 27 FEB 4PM, Event George St

The Blue Caftan



Directed by Maryam Touzani | France, Morocco, Belgium, Denmark | Arabic, English Subtitles | 112 mins | CTC

A woman's love for her husband is unwavering, even as he falls for another man, in this achingly beautiful, award-winning Moroccan drama. Halim and his wife Mina run a small caftan-making business, but handmade garments grow increasingly rare as few train in the traditional craft. Halim is impressed by his handsome apprentice's enthusiasm and commitment, though Mina is keenly aware of the searing chemistry that burns between them. When Mina falls ill and their future together is put in doubt, she makes a proposal that will alter all of their lives forever. Featuring impeccable performances, *The Blue Caftan* is a profound and nuanced portrait of a marriage built on a love and understanding that transcends sexuality and societal expectations. **Presented with Prime Video.**

SAT 18 FEB 8PM, Casula Powerhouse
SUN 19 FEB 6:30PM, Event George St

Breaking the Ice



SYDNEY PREMIERE

Directed by Clara Stern | Austria | Austrian, English Subtitles, English without Subtitles | 101 mins | Unclassified 15+

Opposites attract when an icy 20-something hockey player has instant chemistry with her fiery new teammate in this sincere romantic drama. Mira seems stuck. Waiting. On the ice she's powerful, passionate and in control. Off of the ice, Mira's life is unsettled and stifling. She's disciplined, closed off and keeping everyone at a distance, whilst struggling with family dramas. But when spontaneous Theresa joins the hockey team she shakes up Mira's ordered world, and she begins to rethink her place in both her team and her family. Will Theresa help Mira to reveal her true self? **Presented with Allianz and Harbour Lights Ice Hockey Club.**

THU 23 FEB 8:30PM, Event George St
SUN 26 FEB 5PM, Dendy Newtown

Chrissy Judy



SYDNEY PREMIERE

Directed by Todd Flaherty | USA | English | 96 mins | Unclassified 18+

Like an exceptionally dry martini, this witty film about the importance of queer friendship (and drag) is something to savour. Gay BFFs Chrissy and Judy are living the life in New York City, hoping their drag act will take off. When Chrissy decides to leave town, Judy is forced to confront not only the true meaning of their friendship, but also the path he wants to take. Filmed in stunning black and white, Flaherty's film analyses the joy and necessity of having a ride-or-die amidst the fluctuating fun and friction of gay life. Bittersweet, sexy, tender and funny – like a gay *Beaches* as told by Noah Baumbach.

SUN 19 FEB 6PM, Event George St
FRI 24 FEB 9PM, Event George St **OC**

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acon.org.au

Photo: Steve Christo

Compulsus



Directed by Tara Thorne | Canada | English | 81 mins |
Unclassified 15+

Upending the power dynamic between men and the rest of society, this provocative feminist revenge fantasy pulls no punches against the patriarchy! Wally, a queer spoken word poet finds herself discussing the countless stories of men who have abused women without consequence. That is until she decides to take matters into her own hands and embarks on a vigilante crime spree against abusive men. No more finger threaded keys, no more texts to friends when arriving home safely. Wally is the threat. But when she falls for the practical and law-abiding Lou, Wally must come to terms with what lines she is willing to cross for justice. *Content warning: see website. Screens with Starfuckers (14 mins). Presented with the Consulate General of Canada in Sydney.*

THU 16 FEB 8:30PM, Event George St **OC**
FRI 24 FEB 6:40PM, Ritz Cinemas

Cop Secret



SYDNEY PREMIERE

Directed by Hannes Þór Halldórsson | Iceland | Icelandic, English
Subtitles, English without Subtitles | 98 mins | Unclassified 15+

Ready for an Icelandic buddy cop action spoof with a gay flex? We thought so! In this send-up of that ultra macho genre, the gruff Bússi is Reykjavik's baddest badass law enforcer. But when a crime syndicate pulling off a series of bank heists proves elusive, even he is stumped. When he gets partnered with his nemesis, the chiselled pansexual Hörður, Bússi thinks life can't get any worse. Throw in some sexual tension, a hilariously evil baddie and some bumbling henchmen, and you've got one queer crime caper you won't forget! *Content warning: see website. Presented with Prime Video.*

FRI 17 FEB 6:20PM, Ritz Cinemas

Eismayer



SYDNEY PREMIERE

Directed by David Wagner | Austria | German, English
Subtitles | 87 mins | Unclassified 15+

A hard-as-nails drill sergeant's journey from serving in silence to true love is explored in this compelling character study based on a true story. Charles Eismayer is a notoriously strict training officer in the Austrian Armed Forces. On the surface a family man with a wife and young son, he leads a secret life of anonymous hookups with men on the side. When he butts heads with the handsome Falak, an openly gay recruit, Eismayer faces some life changing choices and some unexpected feelings. Will he make the decision to be true to himself or maintain his long-held facade of military-style hypermasculinity? *Content warning: see website. Presented with the Embassy of Austria in Canberra.*

SAT 18 FEB 6PM, Event George St
WED 1 MAR 11:15AM, Event George St

El Houb - The Love



SYDNEY PREMIERE

Directed by Shariff Nasr | Netherlands | Arabic, Dutch,
English, English Subtitles | 102 mins | Unclassified 15+

A quiet, ambitious and commanding exploration of a Moroccan-Dutch man's life at a crossroads when his conservative Muslim family discovers he's gay. When Karim is caught in the act by his father, he decides to face up to it rather than sweep it under the rug. Unfortunately his family isn't so accommodating, so he barricades himself in a closet to necessitate the conversation. Throughout this, we see Karim's childhood and his faltering first steps with Ghanaian boyfriend Kofi, while his family and community fractures around him. With honesty and subtle humour, this beautiful film explores the power of finally being seen. *Content warning: see website. Presented with Advance Diversity Services.*

THU 16 FEB 7PM, Event Hurstville
THU 23 FEB 6:20PM, Ritz Cinemas

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Elephant



SYDNEY PREMIERE

Directed by Kamil Krawczyk | Poland | Polish, English Subtitles | 94 mins | Unclassified 15+

The Five Devils



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by Léa Mysius | France | French, English Subtitles | 95 mins | Unclassified 15+

A tender romance develops between a young man and the outsider who shakes up his reality in this astutely observed Polish drama. Bartek runs a small family farm under the watchful eye of his mother. When circumstances bring a neighbour's son back home, Bartek is immediately attracted to this man who broke free of the confines of their conservative rural town. When sexy, carefree Dawid offers Bartek newfound intimacy and a glimpse of escape, he's torn about his future. In the vein of audience favourites *God's Own Country* and *Los Fuertes*, *Elephant* is about the lessons and complexities the heart can bring. *Content warning: see website.*

Presented with Prime Video.

Love, mystery and time travel collide in this compelling drama about a lonely girl with a special gift, starring a mesmerising Adèle Exarchopoulos (*Blue is the Warmest Colour*). Vicky is a young girl with a hypersensitive sense of smell, who can even recreate scents she likes. Closely attached to her mother Joanne (Exarchopoulos), her small town life is upended by the arrival of her father's sister Julia, whose scent somehow transports Vicky into her family's mysterious past. As feelings rekindle between Joanne and Julia, the secrets that Vicky resurfaces have a seismic effect on all, in this compelling, genre-bending, magical realist film. *Content warning: see website.*

Presented with Optus.

MON 20 FEB 6:30PM, Event George St
WED 1 MAR 6:30PM, Event George St

WED 22 FEB 6:30PM, Hayden Orpheum
FRI 24 FEB 8:30PM Event George St
WED 1 MAR 1:30PM Event George St

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the summer
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Follow the Protocol



SYDNEY PREMIERE

Directed by Fábio Leal | Brazil | Portuguese, English Subtitles
| 75 mins | Unclassified 18+

It's a question that's all too familiar to many: what do you do when you're horny and single during a global pandemic? That dilemma is front of mind for poor health-conscious bear Francisco, who finds himself freshly dumped (via video call!) in the early days of COVID-19. In this wry film, we follow the nervous Francisco as he navigates the various possibilities of getting his end away without catching the virus. Equal parts funny, erotic and thoughtful, writer-director-star Fábio Leal takes precautions to the extreme with a fresh look at safe sex – and the sex that makes us feel safe. *Content warning: see website.*
Screens with Cardiff (25 mins). Presented with Harbour City Bears.

THU 16 FEB 8:45PM, Ritz Cinemas

Golden Delicious



Spotlight on Canada

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by Jason Karman | Canada | English | 120 mins
Unclassified 15+

A Chinese-Canadian teen realises basketball is way more fun when he has a hottie neighbour to practise with in this coming of age drama. Jake is being pulled in every direction but his own. Pressured by his father to make the school basketball team, and by his girlfriend to take their relationship to the next level, Jake is never quite sure what he wants for himself. But when openly gay Aleks moves in across the street, is it his basketball skills or hunky good looks that catches Jake's eye, as he begins to think about what – and who – he really wants. *Content warning: see website.*
Director Jason Karman will be in attendance for Q&A. Presented with the Consulate General of Canada in Sydney and Allianz.

SUN 26 FEB 7:30PM, Dendy Newtown **AD**
WED 1 MAR 4PM, Event George St **OC AD**

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Date	Time	Venue	Film	Page
WED 15 Feb	7:00 PM	Event	Of an Age	p.6
THU 16 Feb	6:20 PM	Ritz	Sublime	p.52
	6:30 PM	Event	Number 96: TV's First LGBT Show	p.10
	6:40 PM	Ritz	Mars One	p.46
	7:00 PM	Hurstville	El Houb – The Love	p.35
	7:00 PM	Event	Queer Comedy Specials	p.11
	8:30 PM	Event	Compulsus	p.34
	8:45 PM	Ritz	Follow the Protocol	p.38
	9:00 PM	Event	Punch	p.48
FRI 17 Feb	6:20 PM	Ritz	Cop Secret	p.34
	6:30 PM	Event	Lonesome	p.18
	6:40 PM	Ritz	Wet Sand	p.55
	7:00 PM	Event	So Damn Easy Going	p.50
	8:30 PM	Event	Three Tidy Tigers Tied a Tie Tighter	p.53
	8:45 PM	Ritz	Bi+ Shorts	p.66
	9:00 PM	Event	Wandering Heart	p.54
SAT 18 Feb	11:00 AM	Event	Youth Shorts	p.70
	1:00 PM	Event	Asia-Pacific Queer Film Festival Award	p.66
	1:45 PM	Ritz	QueerDoc Shorts	p.68
	2:00 PM	Event	In Her Words: 20th Century Lesbian Fiction	p.62
	3:30 PM	Ritz	Blitzed!	p.59
	4:00 PM	Ritz	Lotus Sports Club	p.62
	5:00 PM	Event	Women Loving Women Shorts	p.70
	5:30 PM	Ritz	Wandering Heart	p.45
	6:00 PM	Event	Eismayer	p.35
	6:00 PM	Ritz	This Place	p.52
	6:30 PM	Event	The Winner Takes It All	p.19
	7:30 PM	Event	All the Beauty and the Bloodshed	p.9
	8:00 PM	Ritz	In from the Side	p.45
	8:00 PM	Casula	The Blue Caftan	p.31
	8:30 PM	Event	8 Years	p.30
	9:00 PM	Event	QueerScream Shorts	p.69
SUN 19 Feb	6:00 PM	Event	Chrissy Judy	p.32
	6:30 PM	Dendy	Petit Mal	p.47
	6:30 PM	Event	The Blue Caftan	p.31
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Date	Time	Venue	Film	Page
SUN 19 Feb	8:30 PM	OpenAir	TÁR	p.12
MON 20 Feb	6:30 PM	Event	Elephant	p.37
	6:30 PM	Dendy	Uýra: The Rising Forest	p.63
	7:00 PM	Event	Trans Women Trailblazers	p.21
	7:00 PM	Dendy	How to Tell a Secret	p.61
	8:30 PM	Event	#LookAtMe	p.30
TUE 21 Feb	6:30 PM	Event	Stephen Cummins Retrospective Gala	p.13
	6:30 PM	Dendy	Youtopia	p.56
	7:00 PM	Bearded Tit	Inqueersition: Queer Screen Trivia Night	p.26
	7:00 PM	Event	Finding Her Beat	p.60
	7:00 PM	Dendy	Trans and Gender Diverse Shorts	p.69
WED 22 Feb	8:30 PM	Event	Shall I Compare You to a Summer's Day?	p.49
	6:30 PM	Event	The Giants	p.22
	6:30 PM	Cremorne	The Five Devils	p.37
	6:30 PM	CanvaSpace	Smartphone Filmmaking Workshop	p.26
	7:00 PM	Event	My Emptiness and I	p.8
	7:00 PM	Cremorne	In from the Side	p.45
	8:30 PM	Event	Horseplay	p.44
THU 23 Feb	6:20 PM	Ritz	El Houb – The Love	p.35
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FRI 24 Feb	6:20 PM	Ritz	Punch	p.48
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	7:00 PM	Event	About Us But Not About Us	p.31
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	8:45 PM	Ritz	Horseplay	p.44
	9:00 PM	Event	Chrissy Judy	p.32
SAT 25 Feb	12:00 PM	Dendy	All Man: The International Male Story	p.58
	2:00 PM	Dendy	BLACK AS U R	p.58
	4:15 PM	Dendy	This Place	p.52
	6:30 PM	Dendy	Where Butterflies Don't Fly	p.55

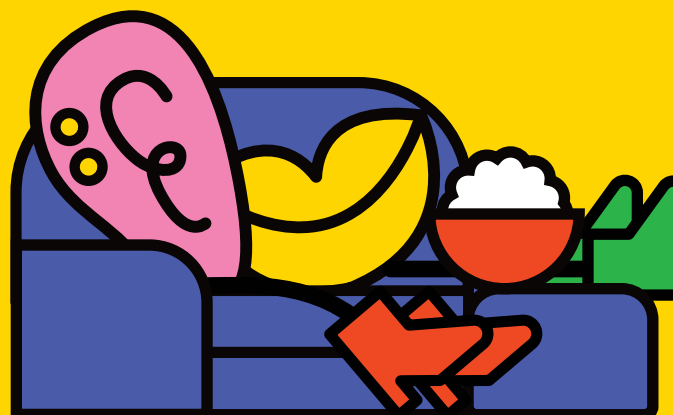
Date	Time	Venue	Film	Page
SUN 26 Feb	11:00 AM	UTS	Raya and the Last Dragon	p.24
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	2:00 PM	UTS	Pride	p.25
	3:00 PM	Dendy	Gateways Grind	p.61
	5:00 PM	UTS	Saving Face	p.25
	5:00 PM	Dendy	Breaking the Ice	p.32
	7:30 PM	UTS	Beautiful Thing	p.25
	7:30 PM	Dendy	Golden Delicious	p.38
MON 27 Feb	11:00 AM	Event	All Man: The International Male Story	p.58
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	4:00 PM	Event	About Us But Not About Us	p.31
	6:20 PM	Ritz	A Place of Our Own	p.48
	6:30 PM	Event	The Inspection	p.45
	6:40 PM	Ritz	The Origin of Evil	p.47
	7:00 PM	Event	My Queer Career	p.64
	8:30 PM	Event	Where Butterflies Don't Fly	p.55
TUE 28 Feb	11:30 AM	Event	Blitzed!	p.59
	1:30 PM	Event	Three Nights a Week	p.53
	4:00 PM	Event	Heartbeast	p.44
	6:00 PM	Event	Industry Networking	p.26
	6:20 PM	Ritz	Sleep with Me	p.49
	6:20 PM	Event	8 Years	p.30
	7:00 PM	Ritz	Vegas in Space	p.16
	7:30 PM	Event	Soft	p.50
	8:30 PM	Ritz	So Damn Easy Going	p.50
	8:40 PM	Event	Gay Shorts	p.67
WED 1 Mar	11:15 AM	Event	Eismayer	p.35
	1:30 PM	Event	The Five Devils	p.37
	4:00 PM	Event	Golden Delicious	p.38
	6:20 PM	Ritz	Lesbian Shorts	p.68
	6:30 PM	Event	Elephant	p.37
	6:50 PM	Ritz	Casa Susanna	p.59
	7:00 PM	Event	Heartbeast	p.44
	8:30 PM	Ritz	You Can Live Forever	p.56
	8:30 PM	Event	In from the Side	p.45
THU 2 Mar	7:00 PM	Event	The Venus Effect	p.7

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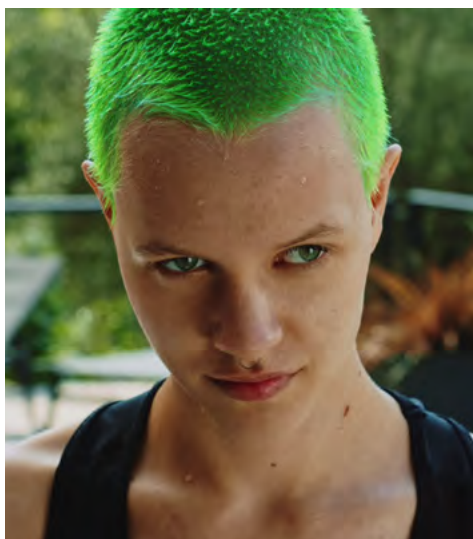
8 Years ●	p.30	In Her Words: 20th Century Lesbian Fiction ●	p.62
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Horseplay ●	p.44		

- Films with Subtitles
- Films with Closed Captions
- Film with Audio Description



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Heartbeast



SYDNEY PREMIERE

Directed by Aino Suni | France, Finland, Germany | French, Finnish, German, English Subtitles, English without Subtitles | 102 mins | Unclassified 18+

A harmless crush becomes an all-encompassing obsession, in this technicolour psychological thriller that thrums with excitement and danger. 17 year-old wannabe rapper Elina is forced to move from Helsinki to the French Riviera when her mum gets a new boyfriend. Things don't seem so bad though when she meets her new roommate, the not-so-innocent ballerina Sofia. Immediately infatuated, Elina is drawn into Sofia's secret double life of partying, drugs and lies. Whilst Elina's attempts to ensnare Sofia's heart become increasingly reckless she crosses a line that's impossible to take back. *Content warning: see website. Writer-director Aino Suni will be in attendance for Q&A. Presented with the Embassy of Finland in Canberra.*

TUE 28 FEB 4:00PM, Event George St
WED 1 MAR 7PM, Event George St

Horseplay



SYDNEY PREMIERE

Directed by Marco Berger | Argentina | Spanish, English Subtitles | 101 mins | Unclassified 18+

The line between the homoerotic and homophobic blur when a group of 20-something men spend a summer together, in the latest offering from prolific gay filmmaker Marco Berger. Ten immature, supposedly straight friends have a villa to themselves for Christmas and New Year. Fans of taking "homo photos" – snaps of their friends in nude or compromising positions – no one is safe from constant gay jibes. Amidst the throng of half-naked men is closeted Poli, equal parts turned on and put off by their shenanigans. But a poor grasp of boundaries and masculine bravado are a toxic mix, when tensions mount and mob mentality rules. *Content warning: see website.*

WED 22 FEB 8:30PM, Event George St
FRI 24 FEB 8:45PM, Ritz Cinemas

In from the Side



Directed by Matt Carter | UK | English | 134 mins | Unclassified 18+

In from the Side is a captivating drama exploring an illicit affair between two partnered members of a South London gay rugby club. During a drunken encounter, newbie Stags rugby player Mark sleeps with the seasoned A-squad hottie Warren, whilst Warren's boyfriend is also on the team. What follows is a passionate concealed love affair that takes them from the locker room to the bedroom, testing the emotional resolve of both men. This sizzling crowd-pleaser from rugby player and coach turned filmmaker Matt Carter and Australian co-writer/producer Adam Silver faithfully captures the jealousies, camaraderie and team spirit within a local gay rugby club. *Content warning: see website. Presented with Allianz and Sydney Convicts Rugby Club.*

SAT 18 FEB 8PM, Ritz Cinemas
WED 22 FEB 7PM, Hayden Orpheum
WED 1 MAR 8:30PM, Event George St

The Inspection



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by Elegance Bratton | USA | English | 95 mins | Unclassified 18+

Inspired by writer-director Elegance Bratton's experience as a gay Black man in the US marines, *The Inspection* is a raw, emotive drama. Living on the streets with few prospects, Ellis (Jeremy Pope, *Hollywood*) enlists in the marines as a last resort. Unable to hide his sexuality, at bootcamp he's terrorised by fellow recruits and instructors alike, except for the patient and handsome Rosales (Raúl Castillo, *Looking*). But is Rosales' kindness out of sympathy, or mutual attraction? Featuring Gabrielle Union (*Bring It On*) as Ellis' tough, distant mother, the cast's layered performances bring humanity to this sometimes harsh but nuanced portrayal. *Content warning: see website.*

MON 27 FEB 6:30PM, Event George St

Joyland



Asia-Pacific Focus

Directed by Saim Sadiq | Pakistan | Urdu, Punjabi, English
Subtitles | 126 mins | Unclassified 18+

Winner of Cannes' Un Certain Regard Jury Prize, this romantic drama about a trans woman falling in love with a married man is a watershed moment for queer Pakistani cinema. Haider and his wife Mumtaz buck patriarchal expectations, as Mumtaz acts as the sole breadwinner. When Haider's father demands she quit her job to have a child, Haider takes up a job as a backup dancer for trans performer Biba (rising star Alina Khan). As Haider and Biba are drawn into a secret affair, Mumtaz must adjust to life as a stay-at-home wife, in this phenomenal film about rejecting the traditional gender expectations dictated by society. *Content warning: see website.*

THU 23 FEB 6:40PM, Ritz Cinemas

Mars One



SYDNEY PREMIERE

Directed by Gabriel Martins | Brazil | Portuguese, English
Subtitles | 115 mins | Unclassified 15+

A tender and authentic story of family, love and hope in working-class Brazil, *Mars One* follows the everyday challenges of a tight-knit family of dreamers. Law student Nina is in love, but is she ready to reveal she has a girlfriend when her family's lives are already so complicated? Mum's starting to believe she's cursed, while her dad's pinned all his hopes on his son's soccer prowess. But her brother's real passion lies amongst the stars, not on the field. This rich and multi-faceted film is more than a coming out story, it's an immersive and captivating drama about embracing people for who they are. *Content warning: see website.*

Presented with Sydney Latin American Film Festival.

THU 16 FEB 6:40PM, Ritz Cinemas

The Origin of Evil



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by Sébastien Marnier | France, Canada | French,
English Subtitles | 125 mins | Unclassified 18+

In this wickedly funny French thriller, shady relatives scheme for family fortunes through a succession of ingenious twists. Stéphane's volatile lover is halfway through her prison sentence while she's stuck working in a fish cannery. One day Stéphane boldly decides to reach out to her wealthy, estranged father. Stéphane discovers the dysfunctional family around him to be a vipers' nest, all angling for the old man's inheritance and suspicious of the new interloper. Soon enough, she finds herself embroiled in devious hidden agendas during a ruthless fight for the family empire. Who's the predator and who's the prey?

MON 27 FEB 6:40PM, Ritz Cinemas

Petit Mal



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by Ruth Caudeli | Colombia | Spanish, English
Subtitles | 89 mins | Unclassified 18+

An endearing film about a queer throuple, inspired by director Ruth Caudeli's (*Eva and Candela*) own real-life polyamorous experiences. Laia lives in Colombia with girlfriends Martina and Anto (Silvia Varón and Ana María Otálora, *Leading Ladies*), and their five dogs. Their relationship is playful, colourful and full of inside jokes. But when Laia's latest film project takes her away from home, the trio must navigate the evolving intimate dynamics of their relationship. As tensions build and the throuple's axis shifts, we'll learn whether "three's company" or "three's a crowd".

SUN 19 FEB 6:30PM, Dendy Newtown

A Place of Our Own



Asia-Pacific Focus

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by Ektara Collective | India | Hindi, English Subtitles
| 90 mins | Unclassified 15+

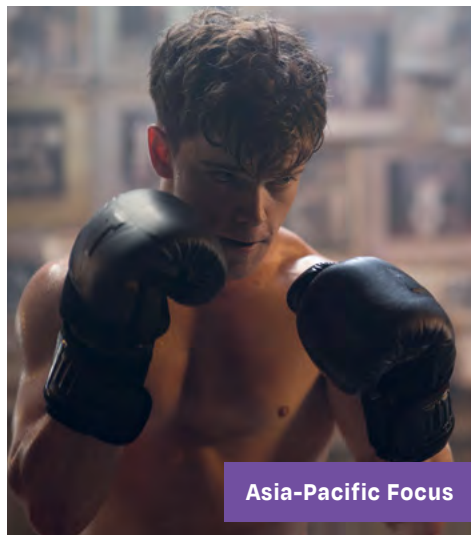
Two trans friends work together to overcome the prejudice that overshadows every facet of their daily lives, in this surprisingly empowering and hopeful Indian drama. On the streets of Bhopal, transgender women Laila and Roshni search for a place to call home after being abruptly evicted by their landlord. Faced with harassment and discrimination due to their gender, together they must navigate these unnecessary complexities to find moments of strength and joy in shared queer kinship. Featuring a cast composed almost entirely of newcomers, and written in consultation with its leads, the film offers a fresh perspective rarely seen on screen.

Content warning: see website.

Presented with Trikone.

MON 27 FEB 6:20PM, Ritz Cinemas

Punch



Asia-Pacific Focus

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by Welby Ings | New Zealand | English | 98 mins
Unclassified 18+

Coached by his demanding father (Tim Roth), a teenager prepares for his first professional boxing match while grappling with his sexuality, in this hard-hitting New Zealand drama. In a small New Zealand town, 17 year-old Jim has little prospects and a future that rests on his promising boxing career. Under his alcoholic father's guidance he's able to blend in with the hypermasculine culture, at least from the outside. Whetu, who's targeted by the community for being proudly takatāpui (queer) and Māori, isn't so lucky. When the two young men forge a hopeful connection, Jim must confront the cost of fitting in, in a world hostile to difference.

Content warning: see website.

Presented with Allianz and World Gay

THU 16 FEB 9PM, Event George St
FRI 24 FEB 6:20PM, Ritz Cinemas

Shall I Compare You to a Summer's Day?



SYDNEY PREMIERE

Directed by Mohammad Shawky Hassan | Egypt, Lebanon, Germany | Arabic, English Subtitles, English without Subtitles
| 66 mins | Unclassified 18+

Arabic pop songs, polyamorous gay confessionals and romance swirl together in this evocative experimental film exploring the love lives of gay Arab men. This arthouse take on Shakespeare's sonnet fuses genres to capture stories of love, longing and loss. Men ask their lovers about threesomes, Grindr hookups and dating, in this chorus of stories about unexpected encounters and inevitable endings. This mixed media experience is an engrossing look into Arab queerness – with its joys and pitfalls – while playing with sound, dramaturgy and music.

Screens with Warsha (15 mins). Presented with Club Arak.

TUE 21 FEB 8:30PM, Event George St

Sleep with Me



Asia-Pacific Focus

SYDNEY PREMIERE

Directed by Samantha Lee | Philippines | English, Filipino, English Subtitles | 62 mins | Unclassified 15+

"Are you a tower? Because Eiffel for you." So goes the cheesy pickup line that catalyses this sweet Filipino rom-com, from the director of *Billie and Emma* (MGFF20). Harry is a charming radio DJ whose program 'Sleep with Me' offers a sympathetic ear to hopeless romantics awake at midnight. When avid listener Luna bumps into her (literally), sparks instantly fly. Isolated by her chronic sleeping disorder, Luna struggles to open up, whereas Harry – a wheelchair user – refuses to let people's prejudices close her off from the world. Can they overcome their different outlooks on life to be together?

Screens with Veils (19 mins).

TUE 28 FEB 6:20PM, Ritz Cinemas **OC**

So Damn Easy Going



Directed by Christoffer Sandler | Sweden, Norway | Swedish, English Subtitles | 91 mins | Unclassified 15+

Perfectly capturing the charm and chaos of first love, *So Damn Easy Going* is a captivating adaptation of the critically-acclaimed Swedish young adult novel. As if being a teenager wasn't hard enough, Joanna is dealing with the recent loss of her mother, her father's depression, and her own ADHD. But her meds have run out and so has her money, so she's left navigating flashes of sensory overload. And the timing couldn't be worse when Joanna falls for her gentle and astute new classmate, Audrey. This darkly comedic film impressively balances the highs and lows of a burgeoning high school sapphic romance amidst the mounting anxieties of an adolescence magnified by neurodiversity.

Presented with Optus.

FRI 17 FEB 7PM, Event George St
TUE 28 FEB 8:30PM, Ritz Cinemas

Soft



Spotlight on Canada

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by Joseph Amenta | Canada | English | 87 mins | Unclassified 15+

Direct from TIFF, *Soft* is a tender-hearted coming of age gem about friendship and resilience, from genderqueer Canadian director Joseph Amenta. Teen runaway Julien has been taken in by Dawn, a trans woman, who guides him through the challenges of carving out space for himself in the world. He and his fellow queer friends are revelling in the freedom of summer break from school in the underbelly of Toronto. That is, until a missing persons investigation snaps them back into reality. *Soft* celebrates the beauty of being different, whilst honouring how those differences can also make us vulnerable.

Presented with the Consulate General of Canada in Sydney.

TUE 28 FEB 7:30PM, Event George St

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Sublime



SYDNEY PREMIERE

Directed by Mariano Biasin | Argentina | Spanish, English Subtitles | 100 mins | Unclassified 15+

Teen rockers Manu and Felipe have their friendship tested when one develops an unexpected crush, in this refreshing coming of age tale. In their small coastal town, lifelong best friends Manuel and Felipe spend their days practising with their rock band and transforming a banged-up van into a cosy hideaway to impress their girlfriends. When Manu starts having romantic dreams about Felipe, simmering desires suddenly begin to emerge. But are these newfound feelings really so new? Boasting authentic and charismatic performances, this highly relatable film truly lives up to its name. Content warning: see website. **Presented with Optus.**

THU 16 FEB 6:20PM, Ritz Cinemas

This Place



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by V. T. Nayani | Canada | French, Mohawk, Persian, Tamil, English Subtitles, English without Subtitles | 87 mins | Unclassified 15+

Fates collide in a Toronto laundromat when a chance encounter sees love blossom between a young Tamil woman and a Mohawk-Iranian woman. When they first meet, Malai and Kawenniióhstha (Kawennáhere Devery Jacobs, *Reservation Dogs*) couldn't have seemed more different. But as they grow closer, they discover it's more than just attraction they have in common. Both attempt to heal the wounds left by the sacrifices their immigrant families were forced to make, as they figure out who they are as individuals and as a couple. This heartwarming story beautifully navigates burgeoning romance, cultural heritage and complicated family histories. **Presented with the Consulate General of Canada in Sydney.**

SAT 18 FEB 6PM, Ritz Cinemas
SAT 25 FEB 4:15PM, Dendy Newtown

Three Nights a Week



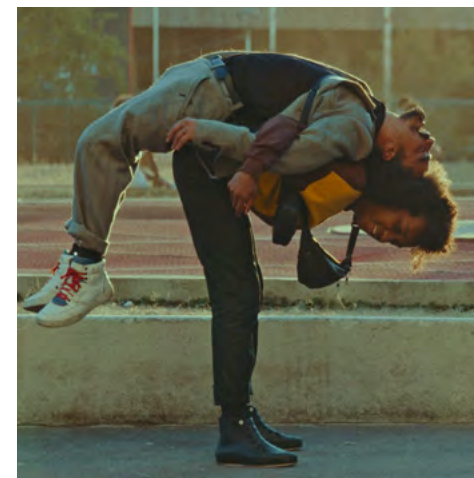
AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by Florent Gouëlou | France | French, English Subtitles | 103 mins | Unclassified 15+

A straight man falls in love with a drag queen in this crowd-pleasing French dramedy that questions the rigid confines of gender presentation and sexual labels. Handsome photographer Baptiste visits his long-term girlfriend's work at a late night sexual health clinic. There he meets Cookie Kuntz, a drag queen, and he's instantly transfixed by her beauty and poise. As they spend more time together taking photographs, his attraction only intensifies, even as he gets to know the man behind the queen. But is he ready to be a part of this newfound world of foundation, frocks and found family, or is he just a passing tourist? Content warning: see website. **Presented with El Jimador Tequila**

SUN 19 FEB 8:30PM, Event George St
THU 23 FEB 7PM, Event George St
TUE 28 FEB 1:30PM, Event George St

Three Tidy Tigers Tied a Tie Tighter



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by Gustavo Vinagre | Brazil | Portuguese, English Subtitles | 86 mins | Unclassified 18+

In the unconventional, award-winning *Three Tidy Tigers Tied a Tie Tighter*, three queer youths embark on a surreal, dystopian adventure. Isabella, Pedro and Jonata explore the streets of São Paulo in the wake of an unusual memory-affecting virus, sharing stories and meeting vibrant characters along the way. They reflect on their lives and past lovers, finding joy amongst the chaos, even as they struggle to survive in a challenging, forever-changed world. Director Gustavo Vinagre's bold and whimsical debut won the Teddy Award at Berlinale 2022 and marks him as a fascinating, provocative filmmaker to watch. Content warning: see website. **Screens with A Wild Patience Has Taken Me Here (26 mins).**

FRI 17 FEB 8:30PM, Event George St

Unidentified Objects



SYDNEY PREMIERE

Directed by Juan Felipe Zuleta | USA | English | 100 mins |
Unclassified 15+

Winner of the Audience Award for Best Narrative Feature at Outfest LA, *Unidentified Objects* takes us to the heart of what it means to truly be ourselves, in a sci-fi roadtrip odyssey. Set during the COVID-19 pandemic, we follow two neighbours on an unlikely journey into the Canadian wilderness. Peter, an uptight gay man with dwarfism, has made a point of avoiding contact with others. But when his bubbly sex worker neighbour Winona convinces him to accompany her on a roadtrip, he quickly learns that her outlook is even more alien than he expected. *Content warning: see website.*

SUN 19 FEB 7PM, Dendy Newtown **OC**

Wandering Heart



SYDNEY PREMIERE

Directed by Leonardo Brzezicki | Argentina, Brazil, Spain, Chile, Netherlands | Spanish, Portuguese, English Subtitles |
112 mins | Unclassified 18+

The powerful and erotically charged story of Santiago, a middle-aged gay man who loses his way during an eventful summer in Buenos Aires and Rio de Janeiro. Following a recent bitter breakup, single father Santiago's life is further complicated when his teenage daughter with whom he shares a very close bond, decides to move out. Santiago's fear of loneliness and craving for intimacy lead him to act out in increasingly self-destructive ways. Boasting a critically acclaimed performance from Argentinian star Leonardo Sbaraglia (*Pain and Glory*), *Wandering Heart* is a must-see film that sensitively and courageously explores what lies beneath Santiago's apparent emotional detachment. *Content warning: see website*

FRI 17 FEB 9PM, Event George St
SAT 18 FEB 5:30PM, Ritz Cinemas

Wet Sand



SYDNEY PREMIERE

Directed by Elene Naveriani | Switzerland, Georgia | Georgian, English Subtitles | 115 mins | Unclassified 15+

A young lesbian forms an unexpected bond with her late-grandfather's secret gay lover, in this mysterious, beautifully affecting Georgian drama. In a sleepy fishing village by the Black Sea, social outcast Eliko is found dead. Few locals mourn the loss of their haughty neighbour except for Amnon, the owner of the Wet Sand café. When Eliko's granddaughter Moe arrives to arrange his funeral, Eliko's closeted twenty-two year romance with Amnon is revealed, sending ripples through the community. As sparks fly between Moe and a local waitress, will a new generation finally love openly and without fear? *Content warning: see website. Presented with the Consulate General of Switzerland in Sydney.*

FRI 17 FEB 6:40PM, Ritz Cinemas

Where Butterflies Don't Fly



SYDNEY PREMIERE

Directed by Roman Némec | Czech Republic | Czech, English Subtitles | 126 mins | Unclassified 15+

This well-made claustrophobic thriller is both a gripping tale and an absorbing character drama – a real stand-out in the festival line-up. *Where Butterflies Don't Fly* follows Daniel, a high school student, and one of his teachers, Adam, who are thrown together in a precarious situation. Daniel is an outsider among his classmates, while Adam keeps his gay relationship a secret from his workplace. Heading off on a weekend school excursion, they find themselves trapped in a vast cave system and must navigate through their personal issues – and a way out. An engrossing and rewarding cinematic experience from the Czech Republic. *Content warning: see website.*

SAT 25 FEB 6:30PM, Dendy Newtown
MON 27 FEB 8:30PM, Event George St

You Can Live Forever



SYDNEY PREMIERE

Directed by Mark Slutsky, Sarah Watts | Canada | English | 96 mins | Unclassified 15+

Where one must choose between love and duty, identity and faith, *You Can Live Forever* asks the question: what do we sacrifice for paradise? In the early '90s, queer teenager Jaime is reluctantly sent to live with her Jehovah's Witness aunt and uncle after her father's death. When she encounters Marike, a devout follower of the faith, the two girls form an instant connection. Despite their different beliefs, the bond between Jaime and Marike is enduring and undeniable, forcing them both to confront their own ideas about community, belief, and love. **Presented with the Consulate General of Canada in Sydney and Optus.**

FRI 24 FEB 6:30PM, Event George St
WED 1 MAR 8:30PM, Ritz Cinemas **OC**

Youtopia



SYDNEY PREMIERE

Directed by Scout Durwood | USA | English | 91 mins | Unclassified 15+

Comedian Scout Durwood directs and stars in this hilariously savvy delight – a camp-tastic escapade and musical for the TikTok generation! Fresh from a breakup with her girlfriend, Durwood's on-screen alter ego endeavours to create her own perfect world. Alas, she finds that there are plenty of perils on the way to establishing 'Scout-opia': navigating a bi-curious fling, inappropriate ukulele songs, and even celebrating the one true beautiful thing on the planet: inflatable sky dancers outside car dealerships. With a hysterical cast leading the charge, *Youtopia* is a fresh comedy full of catchy tunes and wry observations about modern life. **Screens with F^ck 'Em R!ght B@ck (12 mins).**

TUE 21 FEB 6:30PM, Dendy Newtown

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Celebrity **X** Cruises
JOURNEY WONDERFULL

All Man: The International Male Story



SYDNEY PREMIERE

Directed by Bryan Darling, Jesse Finley Reed | USA | English | 83 mins | Unclassified 15+

How did a seemingly innocuous menswear catalogue become a homoerotic handbook? We're glad you asked! In America during the '70s and '80s the *International Male* mail-order catalogue not only evolved the idea of what men's fashion could be (to hilarious extremes), but the often risqué photography gave men all over the country something to ogle, as well as aspire to. Narrated by Matt Bomer, this fun doco examines the rise of this glitzy, glam and very gay publication. Featuring interviews with those who created it, as well as celebrity fans such as Carson Kressley and Jake Shears.

SAT 25 FEB 12PM, Dendy Newtown 
 MON 27 FEB 11AM, Event George St

BLACK AS U R



SYDNEY PREMIERE

Directed by Micheal Rice | USA | English | 84 mins | Unclassified 18+

As people around the world chant "Black Lives Matter," *BLACK AS U R* asks why voices raised against racial injustice often don't speak up when victims are also queer. Reflecting on his own upbringing as a gay Black man from the Southern United States, director Micheal Rice brings together a diverse collection of Black LGBTIQ+ voices to share their experiences at the intersection of racial injustice and queerness. This essential, eye-opening documentary explores the prevalence of homophobia and transphobia within Black communities, whilst broaching a vital discussion around their increased marginalisation within LGBTIQ+ spaces. *Content warning: see website.*

SAT 25 FEB 2PM, Dendy Newtown

Blitzed!



SYDNEY PREMIERE

Directed by Bruce Ashley, Michael Donald | UK | English | 89 mins | Unclassified 15+

Hit the dancefloor with the Blitz Kids! Boy George, Marilyn, Princess Julia, Gary Kemp and more recount the rise of the legendary London nightclub that launched the New Romantic movement. Inspired by the glam stylings of David Bowie and the can-do ethos of punk, in the late 1970s a ragtag group of working class teenagers and art students in bleak post-war London formed their own vibrant, inclusive community centred around Tuesday nights at the Blitz club in Soho. A parade of fabulous interviewees bring to life the music, the fashion, the friendships and the rivalries in this warm, nostalgic, and sometimes catty documentary. **Presented with Optus and Groovescooter.**

SAT 18 FEB 3:30PM, Ritz Cinemas
 TUE 28 FEB 11:30AM, Event George St

Casa Susanna



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by Sebastien Lifshitz | France, USA | English | 97 mins | Unclassified 15+

An essential chapter in emerging trans identities, *Casa Susanna* was a place where transgender women and cross-dressing men found refuge together in the '50s and '60s. Deep in the American countryside, Casa Susanna provided a safe haven for guests to live for a few days as they had always dreamed. This powerful doco is told through the memories of those whose visits changed their lives – including Australian trans trailblazer and icon Katherine Cummings. This documentary provides a moving look back at a secret world where many found freedom, acceptance, and often the courage to express their true selves outside the shadows. *Content warning: see website.*

WED 1 MAR 6:50PM, Ritz Cinemas

Finding Her Beat



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by Dawn Mikkelsen, Keri Pickett | USA | English | 89 mins | Unclassified 15+

A group of women and non-binary drummers gather to create a historic and groundbreaking Taiko performance – an artform usually dominated by men. The ancient art of Taiko is brought vividly to life in *Finding Her Beat*, a captivating doco showcasing some of the world's best and most dynamic women and non-binary performers. Artists from Japan, Canada and the USA gather to share their powerful stories of resilience and strength in this deeply personal and compelling film. From the moment the beat of the Taiko drums pulses into your bones, you'll be left inspired and in awe of these powerful musicians. **Content warning: see website. Presented with Optus and Taikoz.**

TUE 21 FEB 7PM, Event George St

Framing Agnes



SYDNEY PREMIERE

Directed by Chase Joynt | Canada, USA | English | 75 mins | Unclassified 15+

Framing Agnes is a powerful love letter to the transgender individuals whose stories were buried within the case files of a 1950s gender clinic. A star-studded lineup of all-trans performers, including Jen Richards (*Tales of the City*), Angelica Ross (*Pose*) and Silas Howard (*By Hook or By Crook*), breathe life into never-before-seen transcripts of research participant interviews. Contrasting these stories with the now-infamous Agnes, who researchers centred their published research on, director Chase Joynt (*No Ordinary Man*) uses the talk show format to interrogate who has ownership over this history, and to reframe how we think about our forgotten trans elders. **Content warning: see website. Screens with *The Actress* (8 mins). Presented with the Consulate General of Canada in Sydney and Optus.**

SUN 26 FEB 1PM, Dendy Newtown  

Gateways Grind



SYDNEY PREMIERE

Directed by Jacquie Lawrence | UK | English | 76 mins | Unclassified 15+

Winner of the Audience Award at Toronto's Inside Out festival, *Gateways Grind* dives into the history of London's longest-running lesbian club. Friendship, romance and a good place to boogie – The Gateways club was all that and more for London lesbians from the moment it opened its doors in the 1930s. This charming documentary, delightfully narrated by Sandi Toksvig, takes us on a journey through the scandals and stories from those who frequented the establishment, and those who grew up within its walls. *Gateways Grind* will leave you feeling nostalgic and wistful all at once. **Director Jacquie Lawrence and producer Fizz Milton in attendance for Q&A.**

SUN 26 FEB 3PM, Dendy Newtown
Also screening in Afternoon Delight (p.14)

How to Tell a Secret



Directed by Anna Rodgers, Shaun Dunne | Ireland | English | 101 mins | Unclassified 15+

A powerfully moving hybrid documentary tackling the stigma people living with HIV face when disclosing their status in present-day Ireland. Winner of Best Documentary Film at the Irish Film Festival London, this experimental feature allows its subjects to discuss their experiences living with HIV and come out on screen, some for the very first time. With accounts from queer people, activists, drag performers and migrant women, as well as a stellar cast of actors portraying people who wished to remain anonymous, this unconventional film uses genre-blurring storytelling techniques to give a voice to a community so often overlooked. **Cast members Robbie Lawlor and Enda McGrattan in attendance for Q&A. Presented with Atomo, the Consulate General of Ireland in Sydney, and Sydney Queer Irish.**

MON 20 FEB 7PM, Dendy Newtown

In Her Words: 20th Century Lesbian Fiction



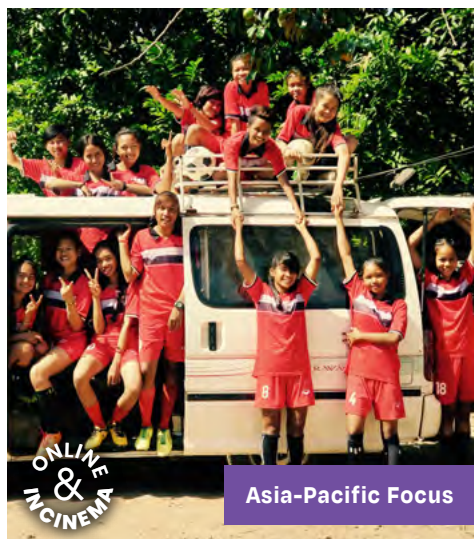
AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by Lisa Marie Evans, Marianne K. Martin | USA | English | 100 mins | Unclassified 15+

Revisit (and discover!) your 20th century lesbian literary favourites – and celebrate the trailblazing authors that created them – in this jubilant doco. It traces the journey of Sapphic writing throughout the last century, from *The Well of Loneliness*, pulp novels, children's books, horror fiction and everything in between. *In Her Words: 20th Century Lesbian Fiction* leaves few stones unturned in its celebration of a sprawling cast of lesbian literary behemoths. With remarkable archival footage and a host of illuminating interviews, this captivating documentary charts the events that shaped their craft and raises a glass to their triumphs. *Content warning: see website.* Followed by a panel discussion offering an Australian perspective. Presented with EnQueer and The Bookshop Darlinghurst.

SAT 18 FEB 2PM, Event George St

Lotus Sports Club



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by Vanna Hem, Tommaso Colognese | Cambodia, Netherlands | Khmer, English Subtitles | 71 mins | Unclassified 15+

The incredible true story of the Lotus Sports Club is an eye-opening snapshot of queer resilience in the face of prejudice within Cambodia. Shot over five years, this heartwarming documentary showcases a soccer club that became a welcoming safe haven for vulnerable LGBTIQ+ teenagers, many of whom struggle with homelessness and discrimination. *Lotus Sports Club* centres on the turbulent coming of age of Leak, a teenage trans boy taking his first steps away from this refuge and into the outside world. What evolves is a deeply euphoric film about the formation of identity, family and acceptance. *Content warning: see website.* Screens with *First Down* (12 mins). Presented with Allianz and The Flying Bats.

SAT 18 FEB 4PM, Ritz Cinemas

Uýra: The Rising Forest



SYDNEY PREMIERE

Directed by Juliana Curi | Brazil, USA | Portuguese, English Subtitles | 73 mins | Unclassified 15+

Come with us on a breathtaking meditative journey through the Amazon with Uýra, an indigenous non-binary performance artist treated as an outsider on their own land. *Uýra: The Rising Forest* is an inspiring documentary about self-expression and education through art, in defiance of a deeply repressive political regime within Brazil. Resisting against their marginalisation, Uýra travels across the Amazon to conduct workshops, educating locals around environmental preservation and promoting LGBTIQ+ rights with creative modes of expression. Poetically presented with lush, vibrant cinematography, *Uýra* allows us to experience this unique form of activism first-hand. Screens with *This is the Way We Rise* (12 mins).

MON 20 FEB 6:30PM, Dendy Newtown

Audience Award

Thanks to Optus we have the following cash prizes for this year's festival!

Audience Award for Best Narrative Feature
\$2000

Audience Award for Best Documentary Feature
\$1000

Audience Award for Best Short
\$500

What films will you choose? Keep an eye out for how to vote in cinema post screening, or ask a Queer Screen volunteer for more information.

OPTUS

My Queer Career

MON 27 FEB, 7PM
Event George St
99 mins | Unclassified 15+

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

MY QUEER CAREER

MY QUEER CAREER

Blackfellas Who Can't Dance



Directed by Enoch Mailangi | Produced by Majhid Heath

Two men dance around their desire for each other at the gym, as they discover they're fundamentally different people in this comedy-drama.

Dykes on Bikes: An Origin Story



Directed by Tilly Robba, Steph Jowett, Kate Cornish | Produced by Steph Jowett

From protectors in the streets to Sydney Mardi Gras icons, this is a love letter to Australia's longest-running LGBTIQ+ community group.

Ghosted



Directed by Nathan Lacey, Nick Lacey | Produced by Nicole Thorn

A weekend retreat with his put-upon boyfriend turns sinister for a social media influencer when he's pursued by a persistent online stalker.

Pause



Directed by Jacquelyn Auger | Produced by Kate Boylan-Ascione

After two years abroad, with less than 12 hours in her rural hometown, Rosie attempts to mend the broken heart of her childhood sweetheart.

Right Here



Directed by Claudia Bailey | Produced by Brenna Harding, Claudia Bailey

After coming out as non-binary to their parents, Grace meets their future self and realises who they want to be was inside them all along.

Single



Directed by Tilly Robba, Steph Jowett | Produced by Steph Jowett

Housemates Tilly, Luke and Bridie bamboozle their way through a kaleidoscope of psychedelic romantic encounters in Sydney's inner-west.

Sparkles



Directed by Jacqueline Pelczar | Produced by Cody Greenwood

A 30-something year-old woman with Down syndrome flees her small country town for the big city, befriending a drag queen along the way. *Content warning: see website.*

Tuĩ Ná



Directed by William Duan | Produced by Mimo Mukii

A 17 year-old struggles to reconcile his burgeoning queerness with his filial duties and expectations from his Chinese immigrant mother.

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Asia-Pacific Queer Film Festival Award



Asia-Pacific Focus

Australia, China, India, Japan, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, USA | Hindi, Japanese, Mandarin, Sinhala, Urdu, English Subtitles, English without Subtitles | 97 mins | Unclassified 15+

Secret love affairs, rom-com-obsessed teens and pop culture-filled sexual fantasies are the subjects of some of the best LGBTIQ+ short films across the Asia-Pacific region. Nominated by members of the Asia-Pacific Queer Film Festival Alliance (APQFFA), these films from China, Hawai'i, India, Japan, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Taiwan and Australia are all in the running for the annual APQFFA short film award with a \$1,000 USD cash prize. Founded in 2015, the APQFFA is a regional collective of LGBTIQ+ film festivals and organisations created to foster and promote the visibility of Asia-Pacific voices in queer cinema. *Content warning: see website.*

Bi+ Shorts



Australia, USA | Mandarin, English Subtitles, English without Subtitles | 96 mins | Unclassified 18+

Queer, bisexual, pansexual, fluid and other non-monosexual people take centre stage in this hilarious, touching and sexy shorts package. A bi man's inner-angel and demon fight over whether he should come out. A poly throuple tries to prove to film censors their relationship isn't R-rated. A woman reunites with her piano duet partner and former flame. A unicorn's threesome with a married couple takes an unexpected turn. A woman's dance teacher crush is hiding a kinky secret. These are just some of the films making up this light-hearted program of films about people whose sexuality falls outside of the binary.

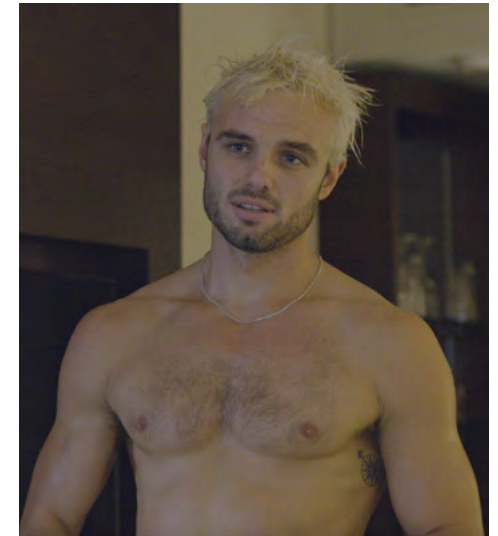
Gay Shorts



Canada, China, UK, USA | Cornish, French, Mandarin, Polari, English Subtitles, English without Subtitles | 98 mins | Unclassified 18+

Featuring Emmy award-winning actor Colman Domingo (*Euphoria*), this collection of heartfelt shorts focuses on gay men from all walks of life. A rancher becomes the full-time carer for his husband following a stroke. A young man bonds with his florist boss when they visit the garden of Derek Jarman. A Cornish rugby player struggles to keep his boyfriend a secret. A uni student meets a man he met online for an illicit rendezvous. An autistic man befriends a gay sex worker and they spend a night on the town. From light-hearted to affecting, these films offer a window into the diversity of gay existence. *Content warning: see website.*

Guy on Guy Shorts



Belgium, France, New Zealand, Spain, UK, USA | Catalan, French, English Subtitles, English without Subtitles | 102 mins | Unclassified 18+

There's only one thing on everyone's minds in this sexy selection of shorts about hot guys flirting, dating and hooking up with other men. A recently dumped French man dives headfirst into a Grindr hookup with a rough and ready American visitor. A Brooklyn couple becomes overly invested in the relationships of the man next door who keeps having loud, athletic sex. A New Zealand sex worker gives his older client a weekend-long boyfriend experience. One half of a couple discloses his sexual escapades while away in Amsterdam. These *Guy on Guy Shorts* are packing a whole lot of sex, romance and laughs.

Lesbian Shorts



Belgium, Ireland, Nigeria, Norway, UK, USA | Arabic, French, Yoruba, English Subtitles, English without Subtitles | 91 mins | Unclassified 15+

From Africa and Europe, through to the USA, this diverse collection of shorts brings together the experiences of lesbians from across the globe. A Belgian woman's Egyptian girlfriend goes missing after her family finds out about their relationship. A lonely Irish farmer has a novel response to her daughter's dating prospects. A Pakistani-American woman introduces her new partner to the loving chaos of family game night. A Nigerian-British woman reconnects with a childhood crush when she returns home following a loss. A Norwegian woman longs for a love like she's seen on screen. From the dramatic to amusing, these Lesbian Shorts will have you covered. *Content warning: see website.*

QueerDoc Shorts



Brazil, Finland, Lebanon, Sweden, UK, USA | Lebanese, Portuguese, Swedish, English Subtitles, English without Subtitles | 98 mins | Unclassified 18+

Be transported into the lives of diverse queer people from around the world in this insightful, inspiring selection of documentary shorts. A riveting profile of the fallout after a lesbian Egyptian activist is arrested for raising a rainbow flag at a Mashrou' Leila concert. An artist living with a disability uses his body as his canvas. Barbara Hammer's widow offers an incredibly personal peek into the life and work of the acclaimed lesbian filmmaker. A group of young trans and non-binary people muse on the nature of gender and space. Together these films probe the inner lives of fascinating and inspiring LGBTIQ+ people. *Content warning: see website.*

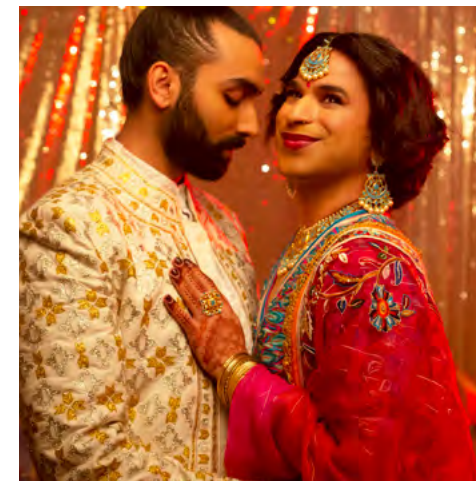
QueerScream Shorts



Australia, Canada, France, UK, USA | French, English Subtitles, English without Subtitles | 91 mins | Unclassified 18+

Inner demons, horrifying faceless torsos and sexy tentacled monsters will have you screaming in fear (and laughter!) in this exciting and thrilling package. A trans woman dumps her ungrateful boyfriend for a surprising alternative. A lesbian, schlocky horror-loving filmmaker struggles to write a mainstream script to attract investors. A gay man spirals out of control when he decides his boyfriend is too perfect. Featuring *Hideous* from acclaimed filmmaker Yann Gonzalez (*Knife + Heart*), and with performances from pop stars Oliver Sim and Jimmy Somerville, Bimini (*RuPaul's Drag Race UK*), and César Vicente (*Pain and Glory*), these QueerScream Shorts are truly to die for. *Content warning:*

Trans & Gender Diverse Shorts



Australia, Spain, UK, USA | Cantonese, Hindi, Spanish, English Subtitles, English without Subtitles | 99 mins | Unclassified 15+

Transgender men, women and people outside the gender binary take centre stage in this assemblage of funny and powerful short films. A trans woman provides a hilarious guide to how she navigates the dating scene. A Chinese-Australian woman attends her family's Lunar New Year celebration as her true self for the first time. An Indian-British non-binary person discovers an unexpected connection to their trans elders on the day of their wedding. An opinionated mother wants "an old lady pass" on the whole pronoun thing with her adult child. From the serious to the playful, this package has a pleasing throughline of trans joy. *Content warning:*

Women Loving Women Shorts



Australia, Canada, Greenland, Taiwan, USA | Mandarin, Kalaallisut, English Subtitles, English without Subtitles | 95 mins | Unclassified 15+

Romance, flirting and sexual tension are in the air in this short film package that's all about women who love women, regardless of label. An older butch lesbian runs into the one who got away 30 years before. Two longtime friends discuss whether they should hook up or not when one returns from college. A Kalaallit (indigenous Greenlandic) couple finally take their relationship to the next level. Plus, the world premiere of hilarious Australian web-series *Me & Her(pes)*, about two women who reconnect following a herpes diagnosis. This must-see collection is linked by a focus on intense romantic connection of women loving women. *Content warning: see website.* **Presented with Prime Video.**

Youth Shorts



Australia, Netherlands, UK, USA | English | 87 mins | Unclassified 15+

This fun and affirming package of short films about LGBTQ+ youths is perfect for younger viewers – and those who remain young at heart. An autistic, trans teen learns to be himself with the help of his supportive mother. Two Chinese-American teenage girls bond in a restaurant bathroom while avoiding awkward family dinners. A young lesbian drag king reconnects with her Orthodox Jewish parents. An Indian-American teen explores their relationship to gender identity through traditional dance. An asexual student discovers their roommate has made them a dating profile. Together these relatable films represent a whole spectrum of the queer youth experience. *Content warning: see website.* **Presented with Optus and Twenty10.**

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Venues

The 30th 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. If this occurs please contact ticketing@queerscreen.org.au for exchange options.

Event Cinemas, George St

505/525 George St, Sydney NSW 2000

Ritz Cinemas, Randwick

45 St Pauls St, Randwick NSW 2031

Dendy Cinemas, Newtown

261-263 King St, Newtown NSW 2042

Westpac OpenAir Sydney

Mrs Macquaries Point Royal Botanic Garden,
Sydney NSW 2000

Hayden Orpheum, Cremorne

380 Military Rd, Cremorne NSW 2090

For full information on venue access and travel tips please visit queerscreen.org.au/venues/

MGFF23 on Tour

Join us as we take the festival to cinemas in Canberra and the Blue Mountains in March!

Mount Vic Flicks, Blue Mountains

2A Harley Ave, Mount Victoria NSW 2786

Event Cinemas, Hurstville

Rooftop Westfield Shopping Centre Cnr
Park Road &, Cross St, Hurstville NSW 2220

Casula Powerhouse

Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre,
1 Powerhouse Road, Casula NSW 2170

Queer Screen on the Green

UTS Alumni Green, Jones St,
Ultimo NSW 2007

Canva Space

110 Kippax St, Surry Hills NSW 2010

The Bearded Tit

183 Regent St, Redfern NSW 2016

National Film and Sound Archive of Australia, Canberra

McCoy Cct, Acton ACT 2601

Accessibility

Queer Screen welcomes all visitors to screenings and events, and endeavours to increase the accessibility of the Mardi Gras Film Festival 2023. For venue-specific access information please visit queerscreen.org.au

Access Enquiries

For all access enquiries, please email access@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 Space 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 30th 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

Open Captions & Auslan Interpreter for Introduction & Q&A

Golden Delicious (p.38), 1 Mar screening

Open Captions (In Cinema)

#LookAtMe (p.30)

All Man: The International Male Story (p.58),
25 Feb screening

Chrissy Judy (p.32), 24 Feb screening

Compulsus (p.34), 16 Feb screening

Framing Agnes (p.60)

QueerDoc Shorts (p.68)

Sleep with Me (p.49)

Unidentified Objects (p.54)

You Can Live Forever (p.56), 1 Mar screening

Audio Description (In Cinema)

Framing Agnes (p.60)

Golden Delicious (p.38)

Closed Captions (On Demand)

All Man: The International Male Story (p.58)

Chrissy Judy (p.32)

Compulsus (p.34)

Finding Her Beat (p.60)

Framing Agnes (p.60)

In Her Words: 20th Century Lesbian Fiction (p.62)

Unidentified Objects (p.54)

You Can Live Forever (p.56)

Yutopia (p.56)

Subtitled Screenings

All foreign language in films is subtitled in English unless otherwise noted. This does not include full open captions.

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 Standard 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/

Gala Events

- Opening Night Gala: *Of an Age* (p.6)
- Closing Night Gala: *The Venus Effect* (p.7)
- Stephen Cummins Retrospective Gala (p.13)
- Australian Showcase Film + Parties (p.18-23)

Full Price	\$36.00
Concession	\$33.50
Queer Screen Member	\$32.50

Gala events include afterparty. Film Only tickets are also available. Festival Passes can be used to redeem Film Only tickets; "Party Add-On" tickets are available at an additional charge.

Special Events

- Vegas in Space** - From \$25 and applicable for 15% member discount.
- T&R** - From \$36 and applicable for 15% member discount.
- Queer Comedy Specials** - Free
- Queer Screen on the Green** - Free or \$10

Festival Tickets

In Cinema

Full	\$21.00
Concession	\$18.50
Queer Screen Members	\$17.50
Youth*	\$10.00
Community (pg 28)	\$10.00

Weekday Matinee

Full	\$15.00
Concession	\$14.00
Queer Screen Members	\$13.00

On Demand

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

The MGFF23 Supportix Program supported by American Express.

Queer Screen recognises that there are many barriers our community faces when it comes to attending our events, so we have created the Supportix program. Supportix is intended for those who are facing social or economic barriers to accessing film festival tickets and enables Queer Screen to give 2 free tickets to those unable to buy their own. Supportix looks and acts like regular film tix, and requesting Supportix is super simple. Terms and conditions apply. To access email ticketing@queerscreen.org.au

***\$10 Youth Tickets (15 - 25 years old)**

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, excluding T&R.

Tour Pricing

Canberra

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

Blue Mountains

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

Festival Passes

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, excluding T&R.

ONLINE PASS	MEMBER	FULL
Any 5 On Demand films	\$45	\$54
On Demand All In	\$85	\$99

Where and how to buy your tickets!

Online & Over the Phone Bookings

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

Download the Queer Screen app via Google Play or the App Store.

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, Ultimo
10am - 6pm weekdays

Please call 02 9280 1533 to arrange a time. We will not be accepting walk-ins without a prior arrangement.

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 Producer: Michael McCurdie

Head of Partnerships: Paul Kennedy
paul.kennedy@queerscreen.org.au

Marketing Manager: Becky Gallehawk

Partnerships Coordinator: Madeleine Doyle

Programming Assistant & Industry Coordinator:
Andrew Wilkie

Production & Volunteer Coordinator: Javiera del Rio
& Flavia Aliverti

Digital Marketing & Content Coordinator: Dani Leever

Front of House: Anthony Yeo

Publicity: Louise Nealon

Graphic Design & Illustration: Luke Tribe

Web Design: Design Logic

Festival Trailer: Harry Learoyd at The Editors,
Animation by Luke Tribe

Festival Trailer Music: Carl De Villa
'Just Another Love Song'

Junior Graphic Designer: Chiara Gabrielli

Bookkeeper: Adam Bold

Marketing Intern: Zoe Lam

Production Intern: Gracie Heinius

Key Volunteers: Adrik Kemp, Boden Evans, Cameron Bayley, David Blanco, Jean Kearney, Jess Cheng, Sanouk Peiper, Vanessa McQuarrie and the entire Programming Prescreeener team.

Board of Directors

Co-Chairs: Abs Osseiran, Angela Ruchin

Treasurer: Abs Osseiran

Company Secretary: Angela Ruchin

Directors: Finn O'Keefe (Digital Engagement), Ian Goshko (Volunteers), Roger Gatchalian (Marketing & Members), Rosario Mugnaini (Funding)

Associates: David Libter, Erika Felton, Mike Worsley, Nic Brennan

Thanks

Queer Screen would like to thank

All our sponsors, media partners, community partners, venue partners, sales agents & distributors, filmmakers, volunteers, members, donors and advertisers. Adrian Tourle, Alex Temesvari, Alexander Thatcher, Allens Linklaters, Anna Heponiemi, Annika Stagg, Ash Chin, Barbara Karpinski, Benji Tamir, Berenger Playford, Billal Bawab, Bradley Clark, Cassy Best, Cheryl Kavanagh, Craig Donarski, Dan Graham, Danielle Rapley, David Perram, Delphine Lambert, Dov Kornits, Gavin Vance, Herbert Smith Freehills, Howard Duggan, James Ballard, Jordan Bradley, Kiliane Beunard, Kristie McCarthy, Kyle Goldfinch, Kylie Washington, Lawrence Gibbons, Liz Martin, Lizzie Cooper, Matt Kennewell, Maxine Zaroni, Mel Rumble, Mook Phanpinit, Morgan Flanagan, Murray Keir, Paul Rankins, Paul Tonta, Peter Moo, Prakash Prabhakaran, Q Programmers, Rob Bryant, Reg Domingo, Richard Bakker, Sharon Hickey, Silke K Bader, Spiro Economopoulos, Stephen Cummins Film Trust, Sue Maslin, Thossaporn Phanpinit, Tom Hennessey, Troy Byrnes, Vicki Gutierrez

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, Craig Roberts, David Buchanan, David Libter, Evelyn Perusco, Geoff Annabel, Janel Carozza, Jodie Camden, Kelley & Grant Drury-Green, Manivannan Gopalakrishnan, Mark Proffit, Peter Grimison, Peter James ACS, Richard Cobden, Roy Bishop, Trevor Parkin

Top 100

Aaron Sue, Allan David Buckley, Andrew Narracott, Andy Haslem, Anonymous x2, Cat Fay, Chris Pycroft, Clive Miller, Craig Kneebone, David Laidley, Dennis Berry, Giovanni Campolo-Arcidiaco, Ian Adrian, Ian Goshko, Jane Radford, Jean Duruz, John Tsioulos, K Thorne, Ken Finlayson, Marguerite Pain, Mark Allen, Melissa Mcadam, Meredith Williams, Michael Narciso, Patrick McIntyre, Philip O'Donnell, Richard Weiss, Robert Eidus, Robin Carter, Sally Chik, Sandra Cook, Sandra Serra, Sanouk Peiper, Stephen Bailey, Stephen Gates, Su Goldfish, Sylvain Goumand, Tony Radevski, Terry Batterham, Vicki Harding

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

Abs Osseiran, Brad Booth, Brian Abel, David Libter, Evelyn Perusco, Ian Foxton, Manivannan Gopalakrishnan, Megan McLachlan, Owen Evans, Richard Cobden, Roy Bishop

Deluxe Members

Benji Brown, Craig Campbell, David Laidley, David Wright, Ian Cull, Jason Glanville, Meredith Williams, Michele Adair, Prakash Wadhwa, Robert Beetson, Segar Suppiah



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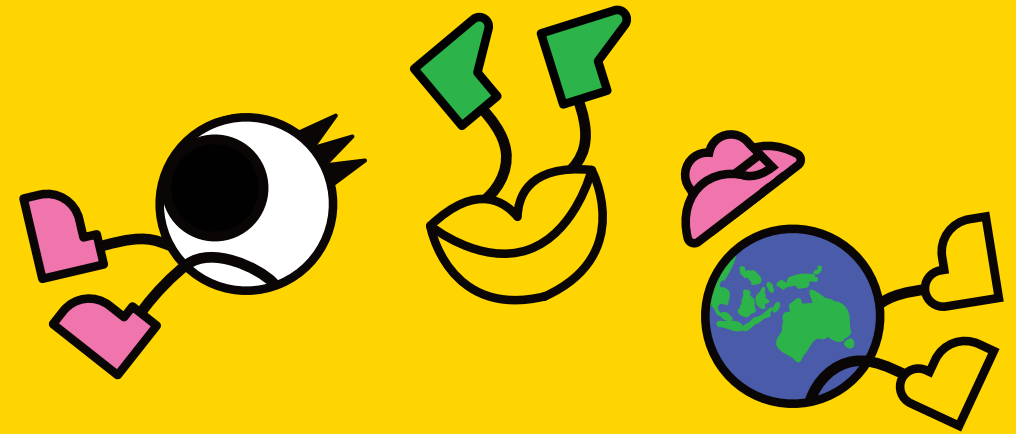
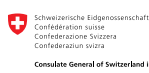
the Editors



Allens & Linklaters



SYDNEY
FILM FESTIVAL



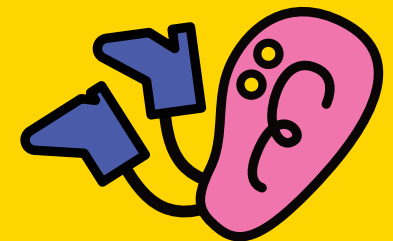
Volunteer at the Mardi Gras Film Festival!

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
[timecounts.org/
queerscreen-vollies](http://timecounts.org/queerscreen-vollies)



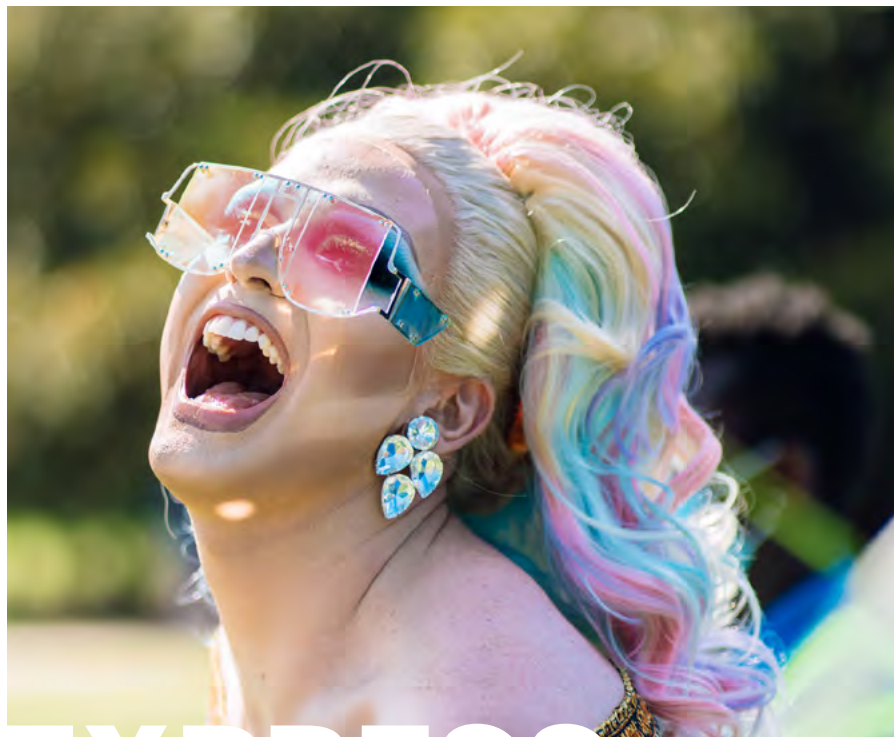
**SYDNEY
WORLDPRIDE
2023**



Sydney Gay and Lesbian
MARDI GRAS

Queer Screen's 30th

**Mardi Gras
Film Festival**



EXPRESS YOURSELF

**DOMINIQUE TOPP (SHE/HER)
DRAG QUEEN & HOST EXTRAORDINAIRE**

AMERICAN EXPRESS

We proudly back those who express themselves in every way.

That's why we're a proud Major Partner of Queer Screen's Mardi Gras Film Festival, Principal Partner of Queer: Stories from the NGV Collection, Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras, and Sydney WorldPride 2023.