



# queer screen film fest

# 2014

Event Cinemas George Street  
and Dendy Newtown  
17-21 September [queerscreen.org.au](http://queerscreen.org.au)

**Wednesday 17 September**  
7.00pm Opening Night: The Way He Looks

**Thursday 18 September**  
7.00pm Appropriate Behavior

**Friday 19 September**  
6.30pm Soongava:  
Dance of the Orchids  
8.30pm Mixed Shorts

**Saturday 20 September**  
3.00pm Songs for Alexis + MyMy  
6.30pm To be Takei  
8.30pm The Last Match

**Sunday 21 September**  
3.00pm Matterhorn  
6.30pm The Abominable Crime  
+ Veil of Silence  
8.30pm Closing Night: Pride





## pricing

Opening Night Film + Party  
\$30 Adult  
\$26 Queer Screen Member

Film Only – All Screenings  
\$19 Adult  
\$16 Queer Screen Member

## flexi-5

A Flexi-5 is a great way to see lots of films – and save money. A Flexi-5 gives you 5 tickets to redeem to the festival. A maximum of 2 tickets can be used to each film on a pass. \$85 Adult  
\$70 Queer Screen Member

## become a member

Queer Screen members save money on tickets and gain priority entry to our festival screenings. They're also very good looking. Visit [queerscreen.org.au/membership](http://queerscreen.org.au/membership) for more information.

Presented by Queer Screen  
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## thank you

Queer Screen Festival  
Director: Paul Struthers  
Queer Screen Shorts  
Programmer: James Woolley  
Queer Screen Board: Giovanni Campolo-Arcidiaco, Lisa Rose, Cheryl Kavanagh, David Lambert, James Woolley, Paul Kennedy, Shandy Whitaker, Robert Beetson

## how to book

Visit [queerscreen.org.au](http://queerscreen.org.au) to book tickets. Email [ticketing@queerscreen.org.au](mailto:ticketing@queerscreen.org.au) or call 8220 6616 to request in-person bookings. If not sold out, tickets will be available at the venue from 1 hour before the film's start time.

## venues

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

Dendy Newtown  
261-263 King Street,  
Newtown, NSW, 2042

## terms & conditions

Booking fees apply for all transactions. Classification - Due to Australian classification regulations, no one under 18 (including babies) can be admitted to QSFF screenings, except for *The Way He Looks* and *Songs for Alexis + MyMy* which are 15+

Companion Cards are accepted. Please call 8220 6616 or email [ticketing@queerscreen.org.au](mailto:ticketing@queerscreen.org.au) to arrange.

Queer Screen Associates and Key Volunteers: Andrew Barnard, Chris Davies, Jose Torrealba, Kevin Ryan, Marguerite Pain, Matt Barrlett, Robert Page, Susie Griffin, Warren Smith, Will Faulkner

Design: Elliott Bryce Foulkes and Missy Dempsey



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## opening night

### The Way He Looks

Directed by Daniel Ribeiro | Brazil  
Portuguese with English subtitles  
95 mins | Ages 15+

WINNER: BEST FILM,  
TEDDY AWARD BERLIN FILM FESTIVAL  
WINNER: AUDIENCE AWARD,  
FRAMELINE SAN FRANCISCO  
WINNER: AUDIENCE AWARD,  
OUTFEST LOS ANGELES

We've found the feel-good film of the year and brought it to Sydney for our Opening Night. This delightful film is the feature version of one of the great gay short films, *I Don't Want to Go Back Alone*, and is the winner of the Teddy Award for Best Feature Film at Berlin Film Festival 2014

### Wednesday 17 Sept, 7.00pm Event Cinemas George St

and the Audience Award winner at Frameline in San Francisco, Outfest in Los Angeles, and Newfest in New York.

Leonardo, a blind teenager living in Brazil, is trying to break away from his protective parents and live independently. His best friend Giovana guides him home from school every day, but soon finds herself replaced by the new boy at school, Gabriel. Leonardo falls completely in love with this new boy, Gabriel, but isn't sure how to tell him. Positive and affirming, this is a destined to be a much-loved classic.

Film and Party tickets are also available.

## closing night

### Pride

Directed by Matthew Warchus | UK  
English | 120 mins | Unclassified 18+

WINNER: QUEER PALM AWARD,  
CANNES FILM FESTIVAL

Queer Screen Film Fest closes with the excellent new film *Pride*, winner of the Queer Palm at Cannes Film Festival 2014, (previous winners include *Kaboom*, *Laurence Anyways* and *Stranger by the Lake*).

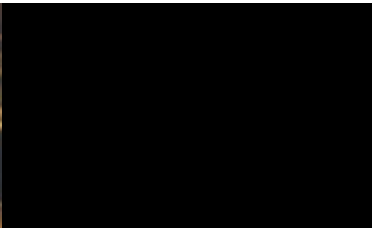
It's the summer of 1984 - Margaret Thatcher is in power and the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) is on strike. At the Gay Pride March in London, a group of gay and lesbian activists decides to raise money to support the families of the striking miners. The problem is, the Union seems embarrassed to receive their support.

### Sunday 21 Sept, 8.30pm Event Cinemas George St

Undeterred, the activists decide to ignore the Union and go direct to the miners. They identify a mining village in deepest Wales and set off in a mini bus to make their donation in person. And so begins the extraordinary story of two seemingly alien communities who form a surprising and ultimately triumphant partnership.

“★★★★★ A terrific British film that is set to be the next *The Full Monty*” THE TIMES UK

“★★★★ It is warm and witty, with terrific performances; Stephen Beresford's script is fast and funny and there's a rousing musical score from Chris Nightingale” THE GUARDIAN UK



### Appropriate Behaviour

Thursday 18 Sept, 7.00pm  
Event Cinemas George St

Directed by Desiree Akhavan | USA | English  
86 mins | Unclassified 18+

Meet Shirin. Bisexual Brooklynite, wannabe hipster, closeted to her Iranian-American family and recently broken up with her girlfriend Maxine.

We follow Shirin's journey of self-discovery as she heads back into the dating scene, stumbling from one disastrous encounter to the next, all the while trying to figure out who she is; how to come out to her Iranian family and either make Maxine jealous or successfully win her back. Featuring flashbacks of her relationship with Maxine and drawing comparisons to Annie Hall, debut writer/director/star Desiree Akhavan (web-series *The Slope*), who's soon to be seen in Lena Dunham's *Girls*, brings an excitingly frank and fresh new voice to queer cinema.

Witty, awkward, honest and laugh out loud funny. The film that has wowed audiences at Sundance, Frameline, Outfest and three sold out sessions at the Sydney Film Festival, is one queer comedy you won't want to miss.

### Soongava: Dance of the Orchids

Friday 19 Sept, 6.30pm  
Event Cinemas George St

Directed by Subarna Thapa | Nepal, France  
In Nepali and English with English subtitles  
85 mins | Unclassified 18+

As Diya's father arranges her marriage to a man she does not love, she is forced to face her truth. Diya longs for her independence to fulfil her dream of becoming a traditional Nepalese dancer. As her friendship with Kiran, a fellow dancer deepens and develops into a love affair, she is faced with life changing decisions.

Will she stand up against her cultural upbringing and defy the traditions and morality of Nepali society to follow her heart? Unrelentlessly the couple pursue their relationship flying in the face of tradition, the love they share is unyielding however nothing can prepare them for the events that unfold. This is a heartbreaking and realistic film that depicts the conservative Nepali society in a very subtle and beautiful way.

Nepali law has implemented some of Asia's most gay-friendly legislation since 2007, however same sex relationships are continually stigmatised. This is the first Nepali film to highlight LGBTI issues.

This debut feature by Subarea THAPA was selected as Nepal's

### Mixed Shorts

Friday 19 Sept, 8.30pm  
Event Cinemas George St

85 mins

*Mixed Shorts*, our popular collection of international short films returns for another round of outrageous comedies, quality drama, and entertaining documentaries. The collection contains the best of gay, lesbian and trans\* shorts selected from over 100 submissions.

In *Ordinary Family* a South Korean couple has their vacation cancelled when Su-young's father is admitted to hospital. Su-young travels to her hometown and discovers her dad is fine, but the incident has made him reassess his life: he wants to divorce his wife and move in with his daughter, who he thinks is still single.

In *Summer Vacation* a happily married man is confronted by his ex-lover, and his new toy-boy, on his annual family vacation. Overcome with fear and desire, Yuval attempts to sabotage the vacation, but his wife becomes closer and closer to his biggest secret. This is a very sexy and sun-drenched drama.

In *Gender Games* a 51-year-old trans-woman returns to college basketball after a 30 year absence. While she is more than twice their age, and almost twice their height, these college players are determined to make Gabrielle Ludwig feel part of

### Songs For Alexis

Saturday 20 Sept, 3.00pm  
Dendy Newtown

Directed by Elvira Lind | USA, Denmark | English  
75 mins | Ages 15+

Ryan is an 18 year old musician who loves one thing more than his acoustic guitar: his girlfriend Alexis, whom many of his songs are written about. Alexis and Ryan met as teens at summer camp and fell in love soon after. Ryan had already begun his gender transition. Living in separate cities, they meet up as much as possible, and connect online when apart. When a TV performance catapults Ryan into an LGBT star he is able to tour his music across the US, including to Alexis' home state of California. Soon Alexis's parents become unhappy with the relationship and she feels forced to leave Ryan.

A love story for any generation, *Songs for Alexis* reminds us about the joys of teenage infatuation, and how family support or rejection shape these relationships. Ryan's mother is front-and-centre in his life, and is a wonderful example of how great and understanding a LGBTI parent can be.

### To Be Takei

Saturday 20 Sept, 6.30pm  
Event Cinemas George St

Directed by Jennifer M. Kroot | USA | English  
93 mins | Unclassified 18+

This stellar documentary reveals the exceptional life of George Takei – the *Star Trek* legend and outspoken marriage-equality advocate. From his roots in a Japanese-American internment camp during the Second World War, the actor-turned-activist reveals the ways racism affected him well into his acting career. Now 76, nine years after formally coming out, Takei and his manager-husband of 25 years, Brad Takei, have become the poster couple for marriage equality.

This film follows Takei and Brad as they prepare for Takei's dream project, *Allegiance*, a musical based on his harrowing childhood experiences inside the Japanese-American internment camp. Filmmakers Jennifer Kroot and Bill Weber expertly navigate this day-to-day look at how this remarkable couple create a balance between work and play, their lives as private and public figures, and Takei's personal and career history. From his rise to fame as Lieutenant (and later Captain) Sulu in *Star Trek* to his advocacy for marriage equality and civil rights, from his role as William Shatner's nemesis to gay sex symbol, this portrait does more than just dish, it endorses living life without limits.

### The Last Match

Saturday 20 Sept, 8.30pm  
Event Cinemas George St

Directed by Antonio Hens | Cuba, Spain  
Spanish and Italian with English subtitles  
94 mins | Unclassified 18+

Set in Havana, *The Last Match* chronicles the life of Rey and Yosvani, two young men who will do anything to survive. Yosvani makes ends meet working with his fiancée's father selling goods on the black market. Rey is a rent boy and makes money from tourists looking for a holiday romance. The boys forget about their troubles on the football field, playing for their local team. One evening, at the local cruising ground, they stumble into each other unexpectedly and a full-blown love affair takes hold. As things start looking up for Rey, he meets a handsome Spanish tourist and is scouted for possible football stardom, Yosvani feels left behind.

Featuring natural performances by the two leading men, this is a glimpse into a tough life on a beautiful island where survival is the only choice. Undoubtedly the sexiest film at Queer Screen Film Fest!

### Matterhorn

Sunday 21 Sept, 3.00pm  
Dendy Newtown

Directed by Diederik Ebbinge | The Netherlands  
Dutch with English subtitles | 87 mins | Unclassified 18+

Winner of countless Audience Awards, from Rotterdam to Moscow, *Matterhorn* is another superb feel-good treat for Queer Screen Film Fest.

Fred, 54 and retired, lives alone after the death of his wife and departure of his son. To fend off his grief Fred lives a very structured life: he religiously takes the bus to town, attends church, and at 6pm sharp eats the same bland meal. When a homeless man, Theo, abruptly enters Fred's world his order becomes soon becomes lost. Fred takes Theo in, and attempts to re-educate him in the ways of the world. Soon Theo reveals a special talent, and Fred's grief and loneliness abates, revealing a passion for travel and an escape from the jail he had created.

This is a film where the ending is so uplifting you'll leave smiling from ear to ear. Matterhorn is another example of brilliant Dutch cinema and is the directorial debut of famous comedian Diederik Ebbinge, who also wrote the script.

### The Abminable Crime

Sunday 21 Sept, 6.30pm  
Event Cinemas George St

Directed by Micah Fink | Jamaica, Canada, The Netherlands, USA | English | 65 mins  
Unclassified 18+

This documentary exposes the culture of homophobia in modern day Jamaica, as told through the stories of locals whose lives have been changed forever.

Simone, a young single mother, and lesbian, narrowly escapes death by surviving a homophobic shooting. Her life is at a cross-road: should she remain in Jamaica with her daughter, or seek asylum without her.

Maurice, a man who has dedicated his life to human rights activism, is publicly outed. He had just filed a lawsuit which would challenge anti-sodomy laws in Jamaica and death threats become a daily reality. He flees to Canada, but returns to Jamaica to continue to fight for gay rights, putting his life at risk.

*The Abominable Crime* reminds us how for some, being gay comes at a cost. Despite this, Simone and Maurice continue to live their lives, out and proud, and are an example to us all. This powerful documentary should not be missed!