

queer screen film fest

19-24 September
Event Cinemas George Street



Blue Mountains 6-8 October
Sydney Park 16 September



Welcome!

I'm ecstatic to be able to bring you a diverse range of LGBTIQ films from around the globe for my first festival as director. We have 20 films from four continents and although we have more films this year, we have maintained a balance between the lesbian focused films and films about gay men. This is something not many LGBTIQ Film Festivals can claim and I'm incredibly proud that Queer Screen champions the visibility of women in film and society.

Through our partnership with City of Sydney, QSFF will be presenting three free film events for the whole community. We've got an outdoor family screening of *Moana* at Sydney Park, a seniors (and friends) viewing of *The Lavender Scare* complete with afternoon tea, and a youth event featuring *Behind The Curtain: Todrick Hall*, a high energy doco following the titular YouTube and *Rupaul's Drag Race* sensation.

There's a tantalising array of films that cover a broad range of the LGBTIQ experience and there is sure to be something for everyone. Don't miss my pick of the bunch, our *Comedy Shorts* package, because the world could do with a lot more laughter. See you at the cinema!

Lisa Rose
Festival Director

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After Louie

TUE 19 SEP 7.00PM
SAT 7 OCT 6.00PM

OPENING NIGHT
EVENT GEORGE ST
BLUE MOUNTAINS

Directed by Vincent Gagliostro | USA | English
100 mins | 18+

Suffering from survivor guilt and perpetually grieving over the death of his lover decades earlier, Sam, played by the fiery Alan Cumming, is at a standstill with his life. This grief is manifested in his shrine to ACT UP and his activism from a past life. His art career has plateaued with his latest project being rejected by the local gallery owner, played by New York legend Justin Vivian Bond.

The only enjoyment he seems to get in life are his cigarettes, alcohol and rent boys. Meeting the passionate Braeden (Zachary Booth, *Keep the Lights On*, 2013 Mardi Gras Film Festival) challenges his preconceptions of the younger gay generation and reawakens his zeal for life and art.

Directed by longtime activist and ACT UP member Vincent Gagliostro, *After Louie* finds common ground between generations of gay men.

Film and Party tickets are also available for Sydney screening.



The Feels

SUN 24 SEP 6.30PM
FRI 6 OCT 8.00PM

CLOSING NIGHT
EVENT GEORGE ST
BLUE MOUNTAINS

Directed by Jenée LaMarque | USA | English
90 mins | 18+

Wine, women, song – and ecstasy – send a group of lesbians and their friends on a rollercoaster ride of emotions and discoveries during a joint bachelorette party over a weekend away. The brides-to-be Andi (Constance Wu) and Lu (Angela Trimbur) are delirious with their impending nuptials and their bang-on sex life. Until, high on life and a little bit of ecstasy, Lu admits she's never had an orgasm. This is news to Andi.

As Andi and Lu try to avoid the ticking time bomb of this revelation, their guests inadvertently mention the war, time and again. One secret leads to another as the stakes are raised and the motley group of lesbian and straight guests start to confess their own secrets to hilarious and dramatic effect.

This sweet and sexy romp questions all we know about sex, relationships, trust and intimacy – in the context of what we are told, who we really believe and how we learn for ourselves.

"Heartfelt and relatable, hilarious and moving, joyous and bawdy"
- TheLastthingisee.com

Enjoy the festival!

Please enjoy the many great stories about the LGBTI communities featured during this festival. In Parliament, I will continue to work with my colleagues to progress anti-discrimination protections, marriage equality, and trans and intersex reforms.

You can stay up to date on my work on behalf of the LGBTI community at www.alexgreenwich.com



facebook.com/alexgreenwich



[twitter/alexgreenwich](https://twitter.com/alexgreenwich)



Moana

SAT 16 SEP 12.00PM

SYDNEY PARK

FREE

Directed by John Musker, Ron Clements | USA
English | 107 mins | PG

A **FREE** outdoor screening of *Moana* at Sydney Park. With support from City of Sydney, Queer Screen want the LGBTIQ and wider community to join us for an afternoon of film, food, entertainment and family fun.

Three thousand years ago, the greatest sailors in the world voyaged across the vast Pacific, discovering the many islands of Oceania. But then, for a millennium, their voyages stopped – and no one today knows why.

From Walt Disney Animation Studios comes Academy Award nominated *Moana*, a sweeping, CG-animated adventure about a spirited teenager who sails out on a daring mission to prove herself a master wayfinder and fulfill her ancestors' unfinished quest. During her journey, Moana (voice of Auli'i Cravalho) meets the once-mighty demigod Maui (voice of Dwayne Johnson), and together, they traverse the open ocean on an action-packed voyage, encountering enormous fantastical creatures and coming up against impossible odds.

Don't miss this fun afternoon!



Seventeen

WED 20 SEP 7.00PM **EVENT GEORGE ST**

Directed by Monja Art | Austria | German with English Subtitles | 104 mins | 15+

Life seems idyllic though dull for this group of boarding school students in rural Austria. It's just about summer and they are just about done with school. Sexuality is fluid and nobody cares who is attracted to the opposite sex, or the same sex, or both. The world is full of possibility. Yet at 17, things can turn from carefree to a catastrophe in an instant. Especially love.

Paula, a bright girl who cares for her withdrawn father and unruly sister, is in love with Charlotte, who might just feel the same. Or does she? And what about Tim, who certainly does love her? Or Lilli, who outright says she does?

Director Monja Art's directorial debut is a smart and sharp coming-of-age film that epitomises the emotional rollercoaster ride that is being a teenager. It's beautiful – and slightly unsettling.

"Young director Monja Arts has made a compelling film." - i-D



Sisterhood

THU 21 SEP 6.30PM EVENT GEORGE ST

Directed by Tracy Choi | Hong Kong, Macau, Taiwan | Cantonese with English subtitles
97 mins | 15+

In this beautiful and genuine film (Winner of the Audience Award at *Inside Out* - Toronto's Gay and Lesbian Film Festival), we follow Cici as she returns from Taiwan to Macau to mourn a lost friend, Ling and reconnect with the past she has long left behind.

We are treated to a jagged retelling of her history as she drinks, argues and tries to mend old relationships. Through this, we see her making fast friends with her fellow masseurs as a young woman, but it is in her friendship with Ling that she truly discovers the meaning of love.

When Ling falls pregnant, Cici insists they keep the child and raise him together as a family. The two are in a culture in which public affection isn't common, especially among LGBTIQ couples, so it's no wonder they are unable to consummate their feelings, but the love between them is unmistakable, and the eventual heartbreak is devastating.

This film will carry you away on the wings of sisters, girlfriends and lost loves.



Screwed

THU 21 SEP 8.30PM EVENT GEORGE ST
SAT 7 OCT 3.30PM BLUE MOUNTAINS

Directed by Nils-Erik Ekblom | Finland | Finnish with English subtitles | 100 mins | 15+

It's summer, and poor Miku is forced to spend his holiday with his perpetually cranky mother and narcoleptic father in their cabin in the Finnish countryside.

Seeking escape from the torment of his parents, Miku is immediately drawn to the hot, confident Elias, who is staying nearby. The attraction is more than mutual, to Miku's hesitant joy, but Elias comes with baggage and Miku soon discovers he'll need to tread carefully if he wants to explore his growing attraction.

This quiet drama is a gentle exploration of burgeoning sexuality simmering among the wood-panelling of everyday Finland. There's a cute chemistry between the attractive young leads, and writer/director Nils-Erik Ekblom helms this low-budget outing with a delicate hand - delivering some offbeat comic touches and a knowing depiction of what it's like to be 17, and ready for that tantalising encounter which is going to set you on your way.

"[Screwed has] charm, wit and a real sweetness. Will leave you feeling warm." - Big Gay Picture Show



Tom of Finland

FRI 22 SEP 6.30PM EVENT GEORGE ST

Directed by Dome Karukoski | Finland | English, German and Finnish with English subtitles
115 mins | 18+

Leather, denim and elastic straining with swollen, hypersexualised musclemen undressing, groping, kissing and more. If you thought of Tom of Finland, you're not alone. His art has permeated gay fantasies in ways no other artist has before or since.

Based on his life, this film offers intriguing insights into the man behind the explicit illustrations, his loves and family as well as what inspired his work and iconic characters like Kake. Despite his upbringing in Finland, where homosexuality was viewed as an illegal act and a mental illness, Tom (or Touko) continued to be titillated by the authority figures around him and channeled his lust and pride into his art.

From his fledgling love to his indoctrination into the American dream and his subsequent reaction to the AIDS crisis of the early 80s, this film will excite, fascinate, arouse and inform you on one of the most recognisable gay icons in history.

Come dressed to impress and join us and a DJ in the Festival Bar after the screening.



The Lavender Scare

SAT 23 SEP 1.00PM EVENT GEORGE ST

Directed by Josh Howard | USA | English
78 mins | 15+

We often watch documentaries about the Stonewall riots and subsequent protests in the United States, however rarely do we see the lead-up to this iconic turning point. This FREE seniors screening of *The Lavender Scare* aims to fill in the blanks in an ambitious work that pins together stories from various survivors of the rampant, institutionalised discrimination in the United States from the 1930s all the way up to the 1970s.

The discussion of and implementation of the removal of homosexual people from government positions is devastating to see and bears a very real correlation to works of fiction like *A Handmaid's Tale*. This witch hunt was in many ways a precursor to McCarthyism and the hunt for 'commies' - in fact, it became one and the same later in the 1960s.

A fascinating insight to a time that should be better known and a chance to better understand part of the global history of the LGBTIQ culture.

Followed by a free afternoon tea in the Gold Class lounge

FREE



Chavela

SAT 23 SEP 4.00PM **EVENT GEORGE ST**

Directed by Catherine Gund, Daresha Kyi | USA
English and Spanish with English subtitles
90 mins | 18+

Winner of the audience award for Best Documentary at *Frameline Film Festival*, this film paints a captivating portrait of a cigar-smoking, tequila-downing rebel. Chavela Vargas revolutionised Mexico's musical landscape by smashing gender conventions by crooning traditionally male rancheras whilst seducing Mexico's elite.

Chavela sung as if she was "born with the wounds of life and death", and her performances were a dark yet cathartic journey for her audiences. This film chronicles her hard-drinking lifestyle, love affairs with Ava Gardner and Frida Kahlo, late-career collaborations with Pedro Almodóvar and ultimate heartbreak.

Filmmakers Catherine Gund and Daresha Kyi use never-before-seen footage of intimate conversations with Vargas alongside archival footage and interviews with those that knew her well. Much like the singer herself, this film has seduced audiences along the film festival circuit with its poetic tale of love and loss.



Dream Boat

SAT 23 SEP 6.30PM **EVENT GEORGE ST**

Directed by Tristan Ferland Milewski | Germany
English, German, French, Arabic with English subtitles | 92 mins | 18+

Welcome aboard an all-gay cruise ship for a week of fun, friendship, flirtation and festivities. This fly on the wall doco introduces us to a varied array of characters; from a young buff Polish man who wants to be loved for more than his body, to a recently-out man from India, a wheelchair-bound Frenchman who knows how to party, and a happy-go-lucky but ultimately monogamous couple, along with so many more.

While long nights on deck are spent in revelry, with themed evenings bringing out the best in fancy costume and over-the-top outfits, the conversations in the cabins are anything but skin deep. Director Ferland Milewski gives us an intimate look as these men bond over identity, body image and the seemingly endless search for sex and relationships.

Full of laughs and genuine moments of bonding between the characters, *Dream Boat* combines flashy fun with a lot of heart.

"Dream Boat is a really uplifting and thought-provoking film that restores your faith in cinema." - screenanarchy



Princess Cyd

SAT 23 SEP 7.00PM **EVENT GEORGE ST**
SUN 8 OCT 4:00PM **BLUE MOUNTAINS**

Directed by Stephen Cone | USA | English
96 mins | 15+

Seeking to escape life with her depressive father, Cyd moves to Chicago at 16 to live with her aunt Miranda for the summer. While there, she meets Katie, an androgynous barista with whom she shares an immediate attraction. As Cyd and Miranda try to navigate their awkward but well-meaning relationship, each grappling with sexuality and faith in different ways, Cyd begins to dip her toes in untested waters.

A subtle coming-of-age story, the two central women in this film are reflections of women we all know; both strong but flawed. As we watch Cyd revel in her undefined and open sexuality, Miranda seeks to revitalise a part of herself she's long deemed dead.

Writer-director Stephen Cone (*Henry Gamble's Birthday Party*) instils this heartwarming story with sparks of humour, tenderness and genuine affection, making it feel like you're watching friends and family as they grow, love and learn from one another.

"Anchored by complicated, smart, funny women, 'Princess Cyd' is a rare delight of a film" - Indiewire.com



Restless Love

SAT 23 SEP 9.00PM **EVENT GEORGE ST**

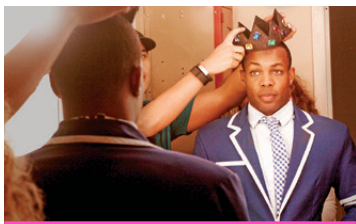
Directed by Vera Egito | Brazil | Portuguese with English subtitles | 95 mins | 15+

What's that saying? Relationships come and go, but friendships are forever. For the three protagonists in *Restless Love* this saying bodes very true.

Mica, Diego and Julia are friends in their early 30s who all live in the same apartment building in São Paulo, Brazil. Mica has been dating her closeted girlfriend Duda for a year, but still hasn't met her friends, Diego is a party boy with family troubles and a sweet boyfriend who he continually neglects and Julia, the straight one of the bunch, just got dumped by her boyfriend only to discover she's pregnant.

As the best friends try to navigate the trials and tribulations of life in modern day Brazil, they discover that sometimes the people who hurt you the most really are the ones you love. And that real friends are there to put you in your place when you need it and pick you back up when you stumble and fall.

"Rather enchanting Brazilian dramedy" - gaysonoma.com



Behind The Curtain: Todrick Hall

FREE

SUN 24 SEP 1.00PM EVENT GEORGE ST

Directed by Katherine Fairfax Wright | USA
English | 100 mins | 15+

Gay YouTube sensation Todrick Hall is nothing if not ambitious, and confident. He's planning a visual album as well as a concert tour for his album *Straight Outta Oz* – which cleverly mashes up his signature rap tunes with the iconic *Wizard of Oz* tale – and he's got about a month to pull it all together.

In this FREE youth screening, we follow the super-stylish, witty, and incredibly talented, Hall. It is clear that he takes his status as a role model for LGBTIQ youth seriously, using his music to open up about his life and sexuality. *Behind the Curtain* also shares Hall's story, including his occasionally rocky relationship with his mother.

Filled with plenty of Hall's music, and directed by Katherine Fairfax Wright, *Call Me Kuchu* (that screened at MGFF13), this is one hell of a ride. Click those ruby trainers and get set to head down Hall's very own yellow brick road of camp creativity.

"Breaking down stereotypes one performance at a time, one cannot help but become a Todrick Hall fan by the end of this wonderfully inspirational film." – Cinema Axis



The Death and Life of Marsha P. Johnson

SUN 24 SEP 3.30PM EVENT GEORGE ST

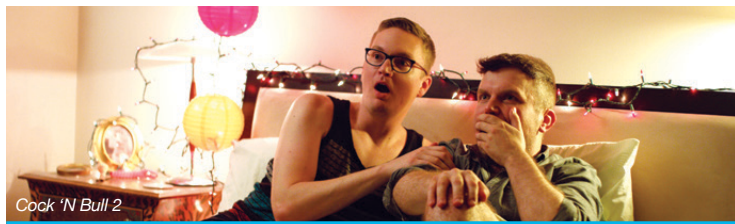
Directed by David France | USA | English | 105 mins | 15+

Many people will already be aware of Marsha P. Johnson and her fellow Stonewall veteran Sylvia Rivera. But even those who do will be captivated by this new examination of their lives and Marsha's untimely death in 1992.

The underlying current to this documentary is that transgender people and drag queens were and continue to be pioneers of the movement for LGBTIQ equality. They were, as this documentary states, the vanguard.

Both Marsha and Sylvia were present at the Stonewall riots in 1969. In her ruminations on the subject, Rivera muses that 'there was a lot of blood shed that night, and the movement started the next day'. Even now, decades later, the movement and the spirit of these two formidable, inspirational women continues.

This mixture of hardship and hope is a beautiful theme across this work, and there is a quirky authenticity to all those involved, from old friends of Marsha, to archival footage, home videos and interviews with Sylvia. It is a beautiful story told in a respectful, loving way that will inspire.



Comedy Shorts

English and German with English subtitles
80 mins | 18+

FRI 22 SEP 8.30PM

EVENT GEORGE ST

Prepare to give your stomach muscles a workout as we bring you Queer Screen Film Fest's inaugural collection of Comedy Shorts.

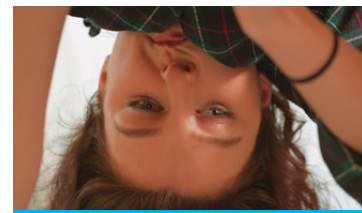


Cock 'N Bull 2

Wes and Chris see a couples therapist and decide to explore opening the relationship to spice up their sex life. Cue a revolving door of painfully awkward and hilarious hookup scenarios.

Etage X

An accidental meeting in an elevator at a department store sees two older women forced to improvise when their elevator becomes stuck.



Shebang

It all started when Bobby decided to masturbate with a ping pong ball...

Call Your Father

During Josh and Greg's first date, they quickly realize that the generational divide between them is the least of their worries in this cutting and insightful comedy.

Jeremy and Margot Make a Baby

Jeremy and his boyfriend Cruz want to have a baby. Their friend Margot, who may or may not be in love with Jeremy, is going to be their surrogate. What could possibly go wrong?

More Than God

A screwball comedy that deals with family, obligation and the rigidity of religion.



Calling all queer filmmakers!

Speed Networking for Queer Filmmakers

SAT 23 SEP 12:00PM

STAR BAR, 600 GEORGE STREET, SYDNEY

Queer Screen Film Fest Speed Networking event for filmmakers is on again. Mingle with your fellow filmmakers and hear from a special guest speaker. Complimentary canapes.

Head to queerscreen.org.au to sign up to the Filmmakers eNews to keep abreast of all the filmmaker opportunities available.

My Queer Career

Submissions are now being accepted for Queer Screen's prestigious My Queer Career award, which is Australia's largest LGBTIQ short film competition.

My Queer Career will celebrate its 25th year at Queer Screen's 25th Mardi Gras Film Festival.

Films accepted for My Queer Career will be eligible for prizes worth more than \$15,000 in cash and inkind production support. The winner of the Best Film Award is also automatically entered into the Iris Prize, the world's largest LGBTIQ short film competition with a £30,000 prize.

Visit queerscreen.org.au to enter your film.

Queer Screen Completion Fund

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

Queer Screen is providing 15k in funding for a project(s) in post production. Check out our website under filmmakers for details, as the third round of funding is opening soon.



Volunteer

Have you ever wanted to become more involved with Queer Screen, but have no idea of the volunteering opportunities available?

Come to our Volunteer **Open Day on Sat 26th Aug at 2pm** at the Oxford Hotel to find out more.

Our activities include: Admin & Technology, Governance, Volunteer Program, Membership, Finance, Strategy, Filmmakers, Marketing, Social Media, Fundraising, Sponsorship, Festival Ushering and Events. In most cases there is the flexibility to contribute as much or little time as you can spare for either ongoing projects or one off activities.

Queer Screen Volunteers benefit from the camaraderie of working with a great team, free ticket offers for ours and other film festivals, and the opportunity to learn many new skills. All of this and you get to have fun and give back to the LGBTIQ community as well.

Sign up as a volunteer at queerscreen.org.au/volunteer and we hope to see you at the Volunteer Open Day!

Queer Screen's Top 25 Films of All Time

In celebration of what will be the 25th jubilee for Queer Screen's Mardi Gras Film Festival in February 2018, we want to know what you the audience think is YOUR all time favourite LGBTIQ film.

You have the option of choosing up to three films as your favourite, because sometimes it's just too hard to choose just one!

Vote and then you can choose to go into the draw to win one of 3 x Flexi 10 Passes for Queer Screen's 25th Mardi Gras Film Festival (Feb 15-Mar 1, 2018)

Vote here: queerscreen.org.au/top-25

Schedule

Sydney Park, St Peters

SATURDAY 16 SEPTEMBER

12.00PM Moana **FREE**

Event Cinemas, George Street

TUESDAY 19 SEPTEMBER

7.00PM Opening Night: After Louie

WEDNESDAY 20 SEPTEMBER

7.00PM Seventeen

THURSDAY 21 SEPTEMBER

6.30PM Sisterhood

8.30PM Screwed

FRIDAY 22 SEPTEMBER

6.30PM Tom Of Finland

8.30PM Comedy Shorts

SATURDAY 23 SEPTEMBER

1.00PM The Lavender Scare **FREE**

4.00PM Chavela

6.30PM Dream Boat

7.00PM Princess Cyd

9.00PM Restless Love

SUNDAY 24 SEPTEMBER

1.00PM Behind The Curtain:

Todrick Hall **FREE**

3.30PM The Death and Life
of Marsha P. Johnson

6.30PM Closing Night: The Feels

Mount Vic Flicks, Blue Mountains

FRIDAY 6 OCTOBER

8:00PM The Feels

SATURDAY 7 OCTOBER

3:30PM Screwed

6:00PM After Louie

SUNDAY 8 OCTOBER

4:00PM Princess Cyd

Credits

Festival Director

Lisa Rose

Festival Operations Manager

Vicki Gutierrez

Head of Partnerships

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Matt Bartlett

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Finn O'Keefe, Giovanni Campolo-
Arcidiaco, Jeremy Smith, Michail
Mathioudakis, Raynen O'Keefe,
Sallie Colechin, Sevana Ohandjanian,
Tim Duncan

Designer

Missy Dempsey
fletcherstreetdesign.com

Festival Trailer

Lily Davis at The Editors

Youth Outreach Volunteer

Kyle Goldfinch

Interns and Key Volunteers

Adrik Kemp, Cameron Bayley,
Catherine Clare, Ge Castro, Giovanni
Campolo-Arcidiaco, José Torrealba,
Michail Mathioudakis, Molly Taufik,
Patti Friday, Ron McCullagh, Ross
Haywood, Sherwin Silva, Stuart
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Pricing

Opening Night Film + Party

\$30 Adult

\$27 Queer Screen Member

Film Only Sydney Screenings

\$19 Adult

\$17 Concession

\$16 Queer Screen Member

Blue Mountains Screenings

\$15 Adult

\$13 Concession

\$12 Queer Screen Member

Free Screenings

The Lavender Scare and *Behind The Curtain: Todrick Hall* are both free events, but space is limited. To avoid disappointment, book your tickets at queerscreen.org.au. *Moana* is not ticketed and open to the public.

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 at 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.

Go to queerscreen.org.au/membership for more information.

Presented by Queer Screen

queerscreen.org.au

admin@queerscreen.org.au

02 9280 1533

How to Book

Visit queerscreen.org.au to book tickets. Email admin@queerscreen.org.au 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

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

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

Terms and Conditions

Booking fees apply for all transactions.

Classification

Please check the classification of the screenings you are attending. Nobody under the approved ages will be permitted without a parent or guardian.

Companion Cards are accepted.
Email: ticketing@queerscreen.org.au
to arrange.