Queer Screen's 31st Mardi Gras Film Festival 15-29 February 2024 In Cinema

1-11 March 2024 On Demand

OPTUS

AMERICAN EXPRESS



JOHNNIE Å WALKER



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Festival Welcome

Welcome to a bumper year for LGBTIQ+ cinema.

Every person views films through different personal experiences, perspectives, and reasons, leaving each with their own reactions, feelings, and interpretations. Film can be provocative, emotive, moving, funny, visceral, thrilling, devastating, uplifting, frustrating, joyous, and more.

This year's festival theme revolves around conversation, focusing on films that spark debates, ignite conversations, and get tongues wagging. Our opening night film, *Femme*, perfectly embodies this theme—our programming team couldn't stop talking about it, and everyone universally loved it. I can't wait to kick off the festival with a bang.

Conversation is also prevalent in our closing night film, Goran Stolevski's new film *Housekeeping for Beginners*. The film, filled with witty and naturalistic dialogue, explores the true meaning of chosen family. Our Narrative Centrepiece, *The Missing*, approaches conversation in a unique way, as the lead character doesn't have a mouth. This plot point is fascinatingly realised in this stunning animated feature.

Don't miss the two panels exploring films that sparked our queer awakenings and discussing whether we should tell stories about queer trauma and tropes on screen.



We return to Westpac OpenAir for a special screening of *All of Us Strangers* and have added the Sydney Opera House as a new venue, taking over the Playhouse for one incredible night of performance and film.

We continue our hybrid festival with a twist this year—an on-demand encore will take place after the cinema season. With over 155 films and events spread across 65 unique programs, there's so much for you to sink your teeth into.

Let's talk about all things cinema at Queer Screen's 31st Mardi Gras Film Festival.

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.

Femme



SYDNEY PREMIERE

Directed by Sam H. Freeman, Ng Choon Ping | UK | English | 99 mins | Unclassified 18+

Jules' life falls apart after he's the victim of a violent gay bashing whilst in drag. Months later, a vulnerable Jules spots his attacker at a gay sauna. When the deeply-closeted Preston doesn't recognise him out of drag, Jules decides to pursue him, setting in motion a tense game of cat and mouse. As he dives into Preston's world of power plays and performative masculinity, how far will Jules go to get revenge? Nathan Stewart-Jarrett (*Benjamin*) and George MacKay (*Pride*) are phenomenal in this acclaimed neo-noir thriller about internalised homophobia and queer resilience. *Content warning: see website.* Opening Night Party tickets available.

Housekeeping for Beginners



SYDNEY PREMIERE

Directed by Goran Stolevski | North Macedonia, Poland, Croatia, Serbia, Kosovo | Macedonian, English Subtitles | 107 mins | Unclassified 15+

Though Dita has no interest in being a mother, she nonetheless becomes the de facto matriarch of a household of queers with nowhere else to go. But when circumstances leave her girlfriend unable to care for her two daughters, Dita has no choice but to raise them as her own – and somehow keep her entire brood of misfits safe. Filled with acclaimed Australian filmmaker Goran Stolevski's signature fast-paced, witty dialogue, this sensitive domestic drama finds joy in the chaos of found family. *Content warning: see website.* Closing Night Party tickets available. **Presented with Optus.**

The Missing



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by Carl Joseph E. Papa | Philippines | Tagalog, Ilocano, English Subtitles | 90 mins | Unclassified 15+

Eric seems to have a good life: he's close to his mum, lives alone and even has a crush on his coworker Carlos. The only problem - he doesn't have a mouth. The reason becomes clear when he finds his uncle dead, triggering repressed memories that manifest as an alien abduction. The Philippines' entry for Best International Feature at the Oscars, is a stunning allegory for trauma, abuse and survival that reveals the power in confronting the past. *Content warning: see website.* Writer-director Carl Joseph E. Papa will be in attendance for a Q&A. Presented with Optus.

Queendom



Directed by Agniia Galdanova | France, USA | Russian, English Subtitles | 98 mins | Unclassified 15+

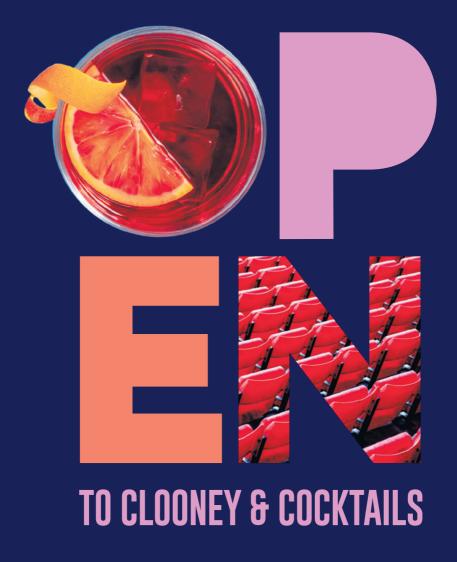
Radical non-binary artist Gena Marvin (she/her) is celebrated in this exhilarating documentary following her incredible story of art and defiance in Putin's Russia, amidst the invasion of Ukraine. Filmed over four years, queer director Agniia Galdanova captures the vulnerability and fearless bravery of Gena as she stages breathtaking performances in otherworldly costumes on the streets of Moscow. These performances become a new form of art and activism aiming to raise awareness of LGBTIQ+ people in oppressive and often hostile environments. Content warning: see website. Presented with Johnnie Walker.

All of Us Strangers



Directed by Andrew Haigh | UK | English | 105 mins | MA

Paul Mescal and Andrew Scott reveal extraordinary intimacy in this beautiful, heart-wrenching film from director Andrew Haigh (*Weekend*). One night in his near-empty London tower block, Adam has a chance encounter with a mysterious neighbour Harry, puncturing the rhythm of his everyday loneliness. As a relationship develops, Adam is preoccupied with memories of the past. He's drawn back to his childhood home where his parents (Claire Foy and Jamie Bell) appear to be living, despite having died 30 years before. *Content warning: see website.*



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SCAN ME

Music from Queer Film: Performed by the Sydney Cello Quartet



Cellists: Annika Stagg, Caroline Otto, Eleanor Betts, Ezmi Pepper | 45 mins

Embark on a journey through music from classic queer films performed with passion, power and elegance by the Sydney Cello Quartet. Experience the lyrical Sufjan Stevens' 'Visions of Gideon' from *Call Me By Your Name*, the haunting sounds of the *Moonlight* score, the disco beats of 'I Will Survive' from *The Adventures of Priscilla*, *Queen of the Desert*, an acapella track from *Portrait of a Lady on Fire* and so much more, in the beautiful Playhouse Theatre at the iconic Sydney Opera House.

Concert and Film Multipack tickets available.

Days of Happiness

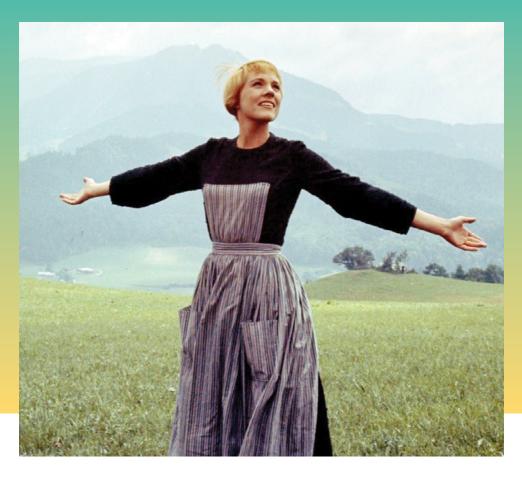


AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by Chloé Robichaud | Canada | French, English Subtitles | 118 mins | Unclassified 15+

A rising star on Montreal's classical scene, young conductor Emma is torn between chasing her career or committing to love, in this emotionally captivating drama. While her overbearing father micromanages her career, Emma falls for single mother and cellist Naëlle. Caught between two worlds she must look deep within herself to choose whether she will follow the status quo or finally live by her own terms. Content warning: see website. Concert and Film Multipack tickets available.

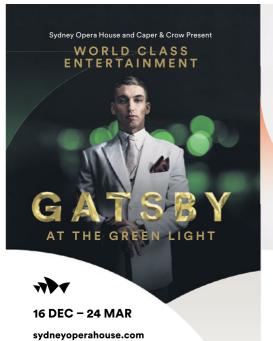
Sing-a-long: The Sound of Music



Directed by Robert Wise | USA | English | 172 mins | G

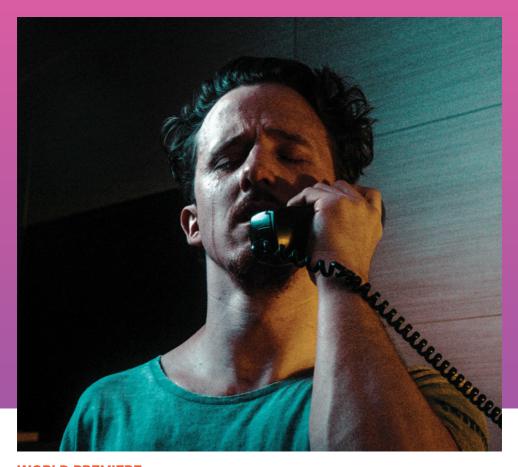
Calling all naughty nuns, cool captains and bratty children – it's time to sing-a-long with The Sound of Music! Join us, the Order of Perpetual Indulgence and the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Choir as we dive deep into this classic musical to belt out all the songs we know and love. We promise a raucous night where we transport ourselves to Salzburg and try to solve a problem like Maria. Find your best curtains to wear and be there! Presented with The Sisters and Brothers of The Order of Perpetual Indulgence Sydney and the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Choir.







In the Room Where He Waits



WORLD PREMIERE

Directed by Timothy Despina Marshall | Australia | English | 82 mins | Unclassified 15+

When theatre actor Tobin returns to Australia in the lead up to his father's funeral, he must isolate in a hotel room for seven days. Merging this recognisable pandemicera backdrop with a pinch of the supernatural, *In the Room Where He Waits* is an intimate, claustrophobic tale of grief and abandonment while in lockdown. This chilling psychological thriller marks an exciting feature debut for up-and-coming Australian director Timothy Desphina Marshall.

A Queer Screen Completion Fund recipient and a Queer Screen Goes to Cannes selection. Filmmaker Timothy Despina Marshall and producer Bec Dakin in attendance for Q&A. Australian Showcase Party tickets available.

A Portrait of Love



WORLD PREMIERE

Directed by Molly Reynolds | Australia | English | 90 mins | Unclassified 15+

A joyful celebration of the life and loss of Archibald award-winning artist Craig Ruddy, told through the eyes of his loving partner of twenty years, Roberto Meza Mont. Directed by Molly Reynolds (*My Name is Gulpilil*), utilising footage captured by Roberto, this moving documentary goes behind the scenes of their life together to capture the spirit of the man and artist. An incredible portrait of a creative powerhouse and an exuberant celebration of love. *Content warning: see website*. Director Molly Renolds and Roberto Meza Mont in attendance for Q&A.

Australian Showcase Party tickets available. Presented with Johnnie Walker.



Directed by Raghuvir Joshi | Australia | Hindi, English Subtitles, English without Subtitles | 93 mins | Unclassified 15+

As second-generation Indian-Australians in Western Sydney, Vir and Nitya were achieving everything that was expected of them – professional careers, marriage and a down payment for a home. But as Vir inches closer to fulfilling his parents' dreams, he realises he can no longer ignore his own desires. A moving film about self-discovery and identity, *Sahela* beautifully captures a gay man and his wife's connection with each other, tethered by their shared experiences. *Content warning: see website*. Producer Tayyab Madni in attendance for Q&A. Australian Showcase Party tickets available. Presented with Optus and Trikone.

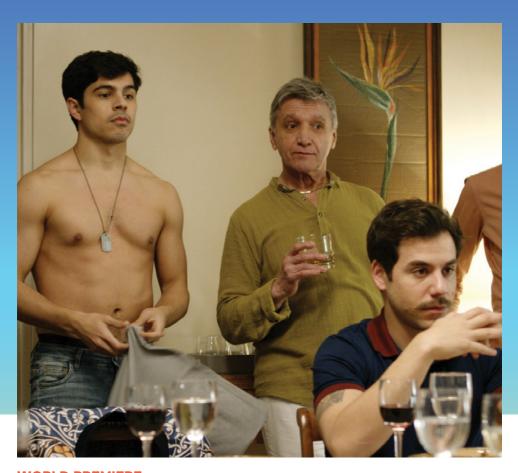
Sunflower



Directed by Gabriel Carrubba | Australia | English | 82 mins | Unclassified 15+

Australian director Gabriel Carrubba's impressive first feature follows Leo, a 17-year-old growing up in working-class Melbourne, who plays sport, goofs off with his best mate, and fends off attention from his female classmates. However, he is also questioning his sexuality, and is terrified of what might happen if anyone discovers his secret. This tender film is an atmospheric and touching exploration of a time in our lives when everything – anger, love, shame – feels overwhelming. *Content warning: see website.* A Queer Screen Completion Fund recipient and Queer Screen Goes to Cannes selection. Filmmaker Gabriel Carrubba and producer Zane Borg in attendance for Q&A. Australian Showcase Party tickets available. **Presented with Allianz.**

Blue Lights



WORLD PREMIERE

Directed by Lucas Santa Ana | Argentina | Spanish, English Subtitles | 100 mins | Unclassified 15+

Explore the intricate dynamics of love, friendship and secrets in this captivating ensemble dramedy from director Lucas Santa Ana. *Blue Lights* delves into the complex relationships of seven close friends and family members that have gathered to celebrate Alejandro's 70th birthday. Over the course of the evening, secrets are revealed, tensions surface and enduring bonds are formed. A sophisticated exploration of love, loss, friendship and forgiveness. *Director Lucas Santa Ana in attendance for Q&A*.





Another Country



40TH ANNIVERSARY

Directed by Marek Kanievska | UK | English | 90 mins | M

Celebrating its 40th anniversary, this groundbreaking gay classic features starmaking (and swoon-worthy) performances from Rupert Everett, Colin Firth and Cary Elwes. Inspired by true events, *Another Country* explores the impact 1930s British boarding school life had on Guy Bennett, and his decision to become a Soviet spy. With its thought-provoking screenplay and sublime performances, the film unforgettably captures the dreamy idealism of youth and first love. *Content warning: see website.* Presented with Optus and Cinema Reborn.

Female Trouble



50TH ANNIVERSARY

Directed by John Waters | USA | English | 89 mins | R

Glamour has never been more grotesque than in *Female Trouble*, which injects Hollywood melodrama into anarchic decadence. Divine, director John Waters' iconic muse, engulfs the screen with charisma as Dawn Davenport. The living embodiment of the film's lurid mantra "crime is beauty", she progresses from a teenage nightmare hell-bent on getting cha-cha heels for Christmas to egomaniacal fame monster. Shot in Waters' native Baltimore on 16mm, it offers up perverse pleasures that never fail to satisfy. *Content warning: see website*. **Presented with Ritz Cinemas**.

When Night is Falling



4K RESTORATION

Directed by Patricia Rozema | Canada | English | 94 mins | MA

Get swept away by the stunning 4K restoration of one of the most erotic Sapphic romances to ever grace our screens. When Night is Falling tells the story of Camille (Pascale Bussières), a professor at a Protestant college in Toronto who's engaged to fellow professor Martin (Henry Czerny). After a chance meeting Camille is inexplicably drawn to Petra (Rachael Crawford), a flamboyant performer in a Felliniesque circus troupe, throwing her whole conservative life into disarray. Presented with Optus.

See more for less with a Festival Pass



Plus, save even more as a Queer Screen member!

Festival Flexi Passes

Any **FIVE** films - \$95 or \$75 for members

Any **TEN** films - \$180 or \$145 for members (that's less than \$15 a film for members)

Festival passes are valid for cinema or On Demand sessions.

On Demand Passes (online only)

Any **FIVE** films - \$54 or \$45 for members

Watch every online film for \$140 or \$115 for members (that's less than \$5 a film for members!)

On Demand passes are only available for online On Demand sessions

Get your passes at queerscreen.org.au/festival-passes-on-sale/

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

Inqueersition: Queer Screen Trivia Night



Do you know your Araki from your
Wachowski? Your Happy Together from your
Happiest Season? Can you quote But I'm a
Cheerleader, and belt out every song from
Hedwig and the Angry Inch? It's far from a
requirement, but it will probably help answer
a question or two at Queer Film Trivia with
Ce Benedict at The Bearded Tit! Entry is
free, but bookings are essential. Presented
with The Bearded Tit.

TUE 27 FEB 7PM, The Bearded Tit

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, but bookings are essential.

WED 28 FEB 6PM, Johnnie Walker Festival Bar at Event George St

Johnnie Walker Festival Bar



Come on down to the Johnnie Walker Festival Bar at Event George St before or after a screening to discuss the latest films you've seen, and get to know your fellow festival goers! Keep an eye on our website and socials for other events.



Panel: Queer tropes and trauma on screen – should we tell these stories?

Is portraying queer characters undergoing trauma automatically negative? What about tropes in queer cinema? This panel will explore the nuances of depicting LGBTIQ+ characters facing adversity and using common tropes. It will examine how filmmakers' identities impact the acceptance of these elements and touch on how queer festivals handle the demand for 'feel-good films'. Join us for a captivating conversation on the nuanced use of trauma and tropes in LGBTIQ+ cinema. Entry is free, but bookings are essential.

SAT 17 FEB 1PM, State Library of NSW, Library Auditorium

Panel: Queer awakenings - the films that made you feel seen

What's your coming out film? Join our fun interactive panel discussion on the LGBTIQ+ movies that ignited your 'aha' moments of queer realisation or made you feel truly seen on screen. From Festival Director Lisa Rose's personal *When Night is Falling* (p.24) tale to recent heart-fluttering favourites, our panellists will explore groundbreaking classics to contemporary gems. This enlightening conversation promises to celebrate what screen stories have sparked self-discovery, empowerment, and a sense of belonging. Entry is free, but bookings are essential.

SAT 17 FEB 2:30PM, State Library of NSW, Library Auditorium

Post Screening Panel after the film Shape

Stick around after the screening for a panel that will open up the conversation to other members of the LGBTIQ+ community and expand on the important topics around body image raised in the film. Tix include the film and panel. (p.60)

Community Screenings

Queer Screen is committed to removing barriers preventing people from attending the Mardi Gras Film Festival with these \$10 Community Screenings, supported by Allianz.



The Harvest p. 36



Isla's Way p. 57



The Queen of My Dreams p. 49



Summer Qamp p. 60



Summer Solstice p. 52



Queer Screen Membership A friend with benefits!

STANDARD MEMBER TIER	PRICE
Concession Card Holder	\$10
Youth (15-25 yo)	\$20
Senior (60+)	\$20
Standard	\$50

- Exclusive access to pre-sale tickets before the general public for Mardi Gras Film Festival
- Discounted ticket price for single tickets and festival passes
- Priority queueing at events
- + more

- All Standard Member benefits
- + access to a ticket to ANY session at Mardi Gras Film Festival
- + VIP entry and access to our Deluxe Member Waiting Area at cinema events
- + Special recognition in program and onscreen
- + Invitation to launches and VIP events

PREMIUM MEMBER

\$150

SUPER DELUXE MEMBER

\$500

- All Standard Member benefits listed above
- + 2 tickets to Opening Night of Mardi Gras Film Festival
- + 2 tickets to My Queer Career
- + Invitation to launches and VIP events

- All Deluxe Member benefits listed above
- + access to a ticket to any session at Queer Screen Film Fest and any out of festival screenings



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



All the Colours of the All the Silence World Are Between Black and White



SYDNEY PREMIERE

Directed by Babatunde Apalowo | Nigeria | English, Igbo, Nigerian Pidgin, English Subtitles | 92 mins | Unclassified 15+

Bambino has resigned himself to a solitary life, until he meets the charming Bawa. Drawn into his attempts to win a photography competition, Bambino joins Bawa on his explorations of Lagos in search of the perfect shot, as model and muse. But as Nigeria's anti-gay laws loom, both struggle to acknowledge the growing affection between them. Winner of the Teddy Award for best queer film at Berlinale, this slow-burn love story is told with tenderness and restraint. Content warning: see website. Presented with Optus and Africa Film Fest Australia.



SYDNEY PREMIERE

Directed by Diego Del Río | Mexico | Spanish, English Subtitles | 83 mins | Unclassified 15+

In this subtle drama that uses innovative sound design to immerse us in the story, we follow Miriam, who teaches Mexican Sign Language, As a CODA (a Child of d/Deaf Adult), and living with her deaf girlfriend who doesn't sign, her hearing is an important part of her identity. When she finds out she's losing her hearing, she struggles to accept it and through her journey we contemplate what it is to hear, see and speak. Screens with The Device That Turned Me Into a Cyborg Was Born the Same Year I Was (3 mins). Presented with Deaf Rainbow NSW.

Along Came Love



SYDNEY PREMIERE

Directed by Katell Quillévéré | France | French, English Subtitles | 123 mins | Unclassified 18+

This sumptuously shot film explores the story of a couple who save one another through keeping each other's secrets, spanning the decades post-WW2. Single mother Madeleine and writer Francois meet in homophobic 1950s France – a time when being gay is still illegal. They marry quickly, and soon after Madeleine comes to realise her husband's hidden desires. What follows is a sweeping story of unconventional love that rises above the norms of a judgemental society. *Content warning: see website.*

Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe



SYDNEY PREMIERE

Directed by Aitch Alberto | USA | Spanish, English Subtitles, English without Subtitles | 96 mins | Unclassified 15+

Based on Benjamin Alire Sáenz's critically acclaimed young adult novel, this evocative coming of age tale shines with warmth and compassion. In late 1980s Texas, lonely Mexican-American teen Aristotle meets polar opposite Dante by chance at a local swimming pool, where they immediately bond. What follows is a heart-warming story of friendship and self-discovery, carried beautifully by the natural chemistry between its two leads. *Content warning: see website.* Presented with American Express and The Bookshop Darlinghurst.

The Chambermaid

Cora Bora





SYDNEY PREMIERE

Directed by Mariana Čengel Solčanská | Slovakia, Czechia | Czech, German, Slovakian, Hungarian, English Subtitles | 100 mins | Unclassified 15+

When Anka leaves her small town to become a maid for a powerful Austrian family, she is confronted with a world vastly different from anything she has experienced. After a rocky start with the family's daughter, their animosity soon becomes companionship and an escape from societal expectations. Fingersmith meets Ammonite in this passionate historical drama about love across opposite ends of the social ladder. Content warning: see website

Directed by Hannah Pearl Utt | USA | English | 92 mins | Unclassified 15+

This bittersweet comedy is the perfect showcase for the very funny internet comedian turned Hacks scene-stealer Meg Stalter. As Cora, a struggling LA musician who returns to her Portland hometown only to find her long-distance girlfriend has moved on. Stalter delivers a hilarious performance that is also touching. Cora is optimistic, prickly and slightly awkward and doesn't always know the right way to fix the wrongs she's created. In Stalter's hands, Cora leaps off the screen. Presented with Allianz.

Down Low



Directed by Rightor Doyle | USA| English | 90 mins | MA

Repressed Gary (Zachary Quinto) hires sex worker Cameron (Lukas Gage) for a simple rub-and-tug. But when Cameron learns it's Gary's first time he's determined to show him the full gay hook-up app experience – until their prospective third falls out a window. With a stranger's body in the garden and a nosy neighbour snooping around, their night quickly spirals from Weekend to Weekend at Bernie's in this hysterical, surprisingly heartfelt pitch-black farce about finally embracing who you are. Content warning: see website.

Egoist



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by Daishi Matsunaga | Japan | Japanese, English Subtitles | 120 mins | Unclassified 18+

When successful fashion editor Kosuke hires Ryuta to be his personal trainer, there's an immediate attraction. Ryuta lives with his ill mother and works multiple jobs to support her. Kosuke, having lost his mother when he was young, is welcomed into their family – a bond he had long missed. Told with warmth and tenderness, this adaptation of Makoto Takayama's autobiographical novel *Egoist* is a gut-wrenching character drama boasting vulnerable and assured lead performances. *Content warning: see website.* Presented with Star Observer.

F.L.Y.



INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE

Directed by Rafael Albarran, Trent Kendrick | USA | English | 105 mins | Unclassified 15+

Ready to head to an all-too-familiar past? Joint writer-directors Trent Kendrick and Rafael Albarran play exes re-establishing a connection in LA when the pandemic hits, forcing them to live under the one roof for better or worse! They'll both face up to some hard realities and also learn more about each other than they did before. A film that celebrates living your truth, and trusting where it takes you. Content warning: see website. Writer-director-actor Rafael Albarran will be in attendance for Q&A. Presented with Q News.

Fireworks



SYDNEY PREMIERE

Directed by Giuseppe Fiorello | Italy | Italian, English Subtitles | 114 mins | Unclassified 15+

It's summer in 1980s Sicily and life spills outside for swimming, Vespa rides, outdoor family dinners and crowding around analogue TVs for raucous football celebrations. But under the sweaty veneer of another hot summer, simmers the dark reality of conservative society. When shy, handsome Gianni meets carefree Nino, their lives change forever. As the two fall in love, the moral rumblings from their families and townsfolk rise in this intimate drama. Content warning: see website. Presented with Optus.

Festival Merchandise



Queer Screen is proud to work with Rainbow Roo for the sale of our merchandise.

Rainbow Roo champions, celebrates and advocates for the whole LGBTIQ+ community,

designing quintessential apparel for everyone's wardrobe.

Girls Don't Cry



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by Andrea Zuliani | Italy | Italian, English Subtitles | 105 mins | Unclassified 15+

Two teenage girls embark on a roadtrip through the Italian countryside - one fleeing home, the other desperate to return to her own. As they navigate a host of dangerous characters, the pair are pulled closer together and retreat into the safety of each other's arms. Equal parts gritty and sweet, Girls Don't Cry is a sensitive, delicate film about Mia and Ele's whirlwind journey towards adulthood as they face the realities of life. Presented with Optus.

The Harvest



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by Caylee So | USA | Hmong, English Subtitles, English without Subtitles | 110 mins | Unclassified 15+

A man returns home to care for his Hmong-American family after his father falls ill. Writer Doua Moua (Mulan) stars as the prodigal son who takes on the patriarchal role in his father's stead, while masking a secret of his own that he fears being exposed. A thoughtful, meditative film on the friction between tradition and change, it's a bittersweet drama filled with heartwarming moments. Presented with Johnnie Walker.

Hilma



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by Lasse Hallström | Sweden | English | 120 mins | Unclassified 15+

The enigmatic life of painter Hilma af Klint is explored in this lush, engrossing biopic. One of the first abstract painters, Hilma fights through a male-dominated art world to gain recognition for her unique work. Along the way she finds support through female friendship and her artist girlfriend. *Hilma* is a moving portrayal of a woman fighting for her right to create in a world trying to force her out. **Presented with the Embassy of Sweden in Canberra and Johnnie Walker.**

I Am What I Am

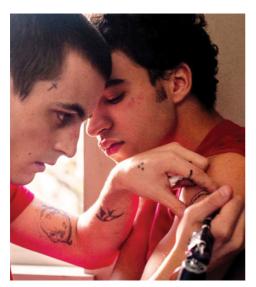


AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by Shinya Tamada | Japan | Japanese, English Subtitles | 105 mins | Unclassified 15+

30 year-old asexual Kasumi faces pressure to conform to traditional expectations of romance and marriage in Japan. Despite her mother's persistent matchmaking efforts, Kasumi remains uninterested in love or physical intimacy. A chance encounter on a blind date introduces her to a like-minded soul. Award-winning actress Toko Miura shines in this anti-rom-com that playfully defies genre conventions, as Kasumi grapples with the tension between her family's expectations and her quest for true independence. Presented with Johnnie Walker and Australian Asexuals.

The Lost Boys



SYDNEY PREMIERE

Directed by Zeno Graton | Belgium, France | French, English Subtitles | 85 mins | Unclassified 15+

In this emotionally-charged debut, 17-year-old Joe is preparing to return to society after being in juvenile detention. Just before his release William enters the facility, and the attraction between them is immediate. Before long, the two boys find the passion and affection they had been yearning for, as Joe begins to question what kind of freedom he truly desires. The leads are electric as a couple trapped in an environment designed to keep them apart. Screens with Leopard (12 mins).

Love & Revolution



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by Alejandro Marín | Spain | Spanish, English Subtitles | 106 mins | Unclassified 15+

In 1977 Andalusia, Miguel's ambitions to become a professional singer are brought to a halt when he is arrested for being gay. This injustice forces Reme, Miguel's mother, to finally confront her own traditional views. Together, mother and son join a motley crew of gay, lesbian and trans activists in the fight for homosexuality to finally be decriminalised, in this moving tribute to the activists who paved the way for Spain's LGBTIQ+ rights movement. *Content warning: see website*. Presented with Johnnie Walker.

Queer Screen Curatorial Services

Did you know that Queer Screen can curate, license and deliver audience favourite LGBTIQA+ feature or short film packages for your event?

Join other organisations like Albany Pride, Charles Sturt University, Coastal Twist Festival, Cygnet Arts Council, Headspace & Newcastle Pride in bringing films to your community.



Scan the QR Code for details or visit

queerscreen.org.au/about-us/curatorial-services/

Celebrating Queerness during Mardi Gras Film Festival

Proudly supporting the LGBTQIA+SB communities.

Date	Time	Venue	Film	Page
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FRI 16 Feb	6:30 PM	Event	Cora Bora	p.32
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	9:00 PM	Event	Old Narcissus	p.46
SAT 17 Feb	1:00 PM	State Library	Panel: Queer tropes and trauma on screen	p.27
		of NSW		
	2:00 PM	Event	Asia-Pacific Shorts	p.64
	2:30 PM	State Library	Panel: Queer Awakenings	p.27
	3:00 PM	of NSW	Mad About the Poy The Neël Coward Story	
		Event	Mad About the Boy: The Noël Coward Story	p.58
	4:30 PM	Event	Who'll Stop the Rain Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets	p.53
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SUN 18 Feb	6:00 PM	Event	All the Colours of the World Are Between Black and White	p.30
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	8:15 PM	Event	Love & Revolution	p.38
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	7:00 PM	Event	Silver Haze	p.50
	8:30 PM	Dendy	Non-Binary and Gender Diverse Shorts	p.66
	8:30 PM	Event	Solo	p.50
TUE 20 Feb	6:15 PM	Sydney Opera House	Music from Queer Film: Performed by the Sydney Cello Quartet	p.12
	6:20 PM	Event	The Lost Boys	p.38
	6:30 PM	Dendy	Mutt	p.45
	7:00 PM	Event	Girls Don't Cry	p.36
	8:15 PM	Sydney Opera House	Days of Happiness	p.13
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	8:30 PM	Event	Egoist	p.33
WED 21 Feb	6:20 PM	Event	Along Came Love	p.31
	6:30 PM	Cremorne	Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe	p.31
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	9:00 PM	Event	Down Low	p.33
FRI 23 Feb	6:30 PM	Event	Split	p.51
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SAT 24 Feb	2:00 PM	Event	Isla's Way	p.57
	2:30 PM	Dendy	Mel	p.59
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	4:30 PM	Event	Another Country (40th Anniversary)	p.22
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	6:30 PM	Dendy	Cora Bora	p.32
	7:00 PM	Event	Sunflower	p.19
	8:40 PM	Event	Comedy Shorts	p.65
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SUN 25 Feb	1:45 PM	Dendy	The Harvest (Relaxed Screening)	p.36
	3:30 PM	Event	Shape	p.60
	4:00 PM	Dendy	Kokomo City	p.57
	6:00 PM	Event	In the Room Where He Waits	p.16
	6:00 PM	Dendy	Transgender Shorts	p.68
	6:30 PM	Event	I Am What I Am	p.37
	7:00 PM	Dendy	Split	p.51
	7:00 PM	Event	Fireworks	p.34
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MON 26 Feb	6:15 PM	Event	Our Son	p.47
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	7:00 PM	Event	Hilma	p.37
	7:00 PM	Ritz	Monica	p.44
	8:30 PM	Event	The Summer with Carmen	p.52
	8:30 PM	Ritz	The Harvest	p.36
WED 28 Feb	1:30 PM	Event	Norwegian Dream	p.45
	4:00 PM	Event	Blue Lights	p.20
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	6:30 PM	Event	All of Us Strangers	p.10
	7:00 PM	Ritz	The Chambermaid	p.32
	7:30 PM	Event	Suprise Late Announce Film	
	8:30 PM	Event	Bi+ Shorts	p.64
	8:40 PM	Ritz	Hot Boys Shorts	p.66
THU 29 Feb	7:00 PM	Event	Housekeeping for Beginners	p.7



Films On Demand Australia-wide 1-11 March

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All the Silence	p.30
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- Films with Closed Captions
- Films with Subtitles

Scan QR Code for FAQ and to book



The Mattachine **Family**



SYDNEY PREMIERE

Directed by Andy Vallentine | USA | English | 99 mins | Unclassified 15+

Thomas (Nico Tortorella, Younger) is a great photographer, but getting his priorities in focus is another matter in this tender and funny film. After the foster son he was raising with his husband returns to his birth mother. Thomas is thrown for six. Also starring a brilliantly droll Emily Hampshire (Schitt's Creek), The Mattachine Family uses humour and pathos to tease questions about the path, and the people, we choose in life. Presented with Macquarie Bank and Rainbow Families NSW.

Monica



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by Andrea Pallaoro | USA, Italy | English | 113 mins | Unclassified 15+

When Monica (Trace Lysette, *Transparent*) receives a call from her sister-in-law (Emily Browning), it's the first contact she's had with her family in twenty years. Her mother (Patricia Clarkson) who disowned her is dying. Caught between the pain of rejection and desire for closure, she agrees to become her carer. But following her transition, does the woman who has caused her so much pain even recognise her? Powerful performances anchor this intimate and complex exploration of family and forgiveness. Content warning: see website.

Mutt



Norwegian Dream



SYDNEY PREMIERE

Directed by Vuk Lungulov-Klotz | USA | English | 87 mins | Unclassified 15+

Starring non-binary heartthrob Lio Mehiel, a Special Jury Award-winner at Sundance for their performance, Mutt follows an eventful 24 hours in the life of twenty-something trans man Feña. Navigating life posttransition, Feña is thrown into a frenetic day in New York City where he reconnects with his ex-boyfriend, sister, and father for the first time since coming out. Writer-director Lungulov-Klotz deftly captures these complex relationships and queer identity with a knowing rawness that is authentic and real. Content warning: see website.

Directed by Leiv Igor Devold | Norway, Poland, Germany Polish, Norwegian, English Subtitles, English without Subtitles | 97 mins | Unclassified 15+

This heart-rending romantic drama is the story of Robert, a 19-year-old Polish immigrant who works in a fish processing factory in Norway. After falling for Ivar, the factory owner's son, Robert must choose to either join Ivar and his co-workers in a strike for better working conditions or keep working to pay off his family's debts. An affecting portrait of a young man struggling to find his place in the world. Content warning: see website.

Old Narcissus



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by Tsuyoshi Shôji | Japan | Japanese, English Subtitles | 110 mins | Unclassified 18+

This distinctly raw, erotically-charged drama delivers a powerfully melancholic portrait of ageing in Japan. Yamazaki, a 74 year-old children's author, has a fondness for sadomasochism. He's faced with a painful reminder of his lost youth and shattered relationships when he forms a uniquely intimate connection with Leo, a hired sex worker. Yet they both face a shared loneliness as they search for self-acceptance as gay men in a conservative society. Content warning: see website.

Screens with *State of Mind* (4 mins). **Presented with The Hide.**

Opponent



Directed by Milad Alami | Sweden, Norway | Swedish, Farsi, English Subtitles | 108 mins | Unclassified 15+

Iman, an Iranian refugee, reignites his wrestling career in the hope that competing for Sweden will support his young family's application for permanent asylum residence. A newfound friendship with Thomas, a handsome young teammate, forces Iman to confront his long-hidden desires – and the reasons he and his family fled from their homeland. A powerful exploration of masculinity, sexuality, and refugee life. Content warning: see website. Presented with Club Arak.

Our Son



The People's Joker



SYDNEY PREMIERE

Directed by Bill Oliver | USA | English | 104 mins | Unclassified 15+

Directed by Vera Drew | USA | English | 92 mins | Unclassified 15+

Boasting the power couple pairing of Billy Porter and Luke Evans, *Our Son* is a sensitive, nuanced take on the breakdown of a long-term marriage. As they slowly disentangle their lives from each other, the two find their own ways of healing and navigating their identities as newly single gay men and fathers. From custody battles in the courtroom to rediscovering themselves on the dancefloor, the film offers a beautiful take on the beginning of an end. Presented with Optus.

What if Joker was actually about a trans woman coming out? That's the premise of The People's Joker, a surreal, handmade coming-of-age superhero parody which mixes live-action and animation to create a dystopian Gotham where comedy is illegal (unless sanctioned by Lorne Michaels). Drawing on writer-director-star Vera Drew's own coming out, she's crafted a funny yet achingly personal film about finding oneself in a world that has rejected you, that's truly one of a kind. Content warning: see website.

Polarized



SYDNEY PREMIERE

Directed by Shamim Sarif | Canada | Arabic, English Subtitles, English without Subtitles | 104 mins | Unclassified 15+

Opposites attract in this subtle and beautifully composed Sapphic romance from writer-director Shamim Sarif (I Can't Think Straight). After her conservative Christian family lose their small farm, Lisa begins working at the innovative new "agrifarm" owned and operated by Dalia and her Palestinian Muslim family. While racial, religious and cultural tensions simmer, Lisa and Dalia nevertheless form an attraction that prompts both of them to consider what might be worth sacrificing in the journey to be themselves. Presented with Consulate General of Canada, Sydney and Club Arak.

Power Alley

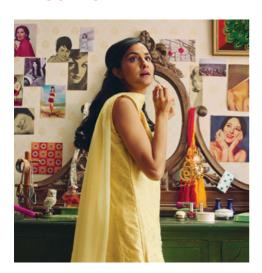


AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by Lillah Halla | Brazil, France, Uruguay | Portuguese, Spanish, English Subtitles | 92 mins | Unclassified 18+

A captivating debut showcasing the depth and beauty of queer sisterhood, this film follows 17-year-old volleyball player Sofia as she seeks out an abortion in conservative Brazil, where it is a crime. Supported by her new girlfriend and her teammates, she must confront the witchhunt perpetrated by her local community, while determinedly seeking a solution. A gripping film about women's bodily autonomy that has never felt more relevant.

The Queen of My Dreams



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by Fawzia Mirza | Canada, Pakistan | Urdu, English Subtitles, English without Subtitles | 97 mins | Unclassified 15+

When queer Muslim student Azra travels from Canada to Pakistan following the death of her father, she struggles to navigate her relationship with her mother Mariam. But in 1960s Karachi, we discover a young Mariam went through her own journey of self-discovery. In their feature directorial debut, Fawzia Mirza seamlessly weaves these two tales together, in this moving exploration of grief and cultural identity that celebrates classic Bollywood cinema. *Content warning: see website*. This film was a Queer Screen Goes to Cannes selection. Presented with Advance Diversity Services and Trikone.

OPTUS

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

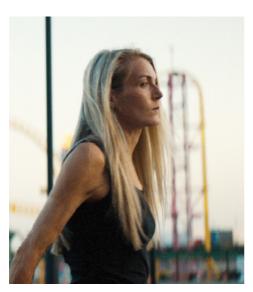
Audience Award for Best Short

\$500

What films will you choose? Keep an eye out for how to vote in cinema post-screening.

WED 21 FEB 7PM, Event George St THU 22 FEB 7PM, Event Hurstville

Silver Haze



Directed by Sacha Polak | Netherlands, UK | English | 102 mins | Unclassified 15+

It's been fifteen years since Franky, a working-class nurse, was scarred in a fire. She's spent her days since yearning for revenge, but when she meets the impulsive and beautiful Florence, a patient, her life is changed forever. Through their families, their friends and the pressures of their socio-economic standing, Florence and Franky unpack the ways that they deal with trauma and discover what lines they'll draw in the sand to finally heal. *Content warning: see website.*

Solo



SYDNEY PREMIERE

Directed by Sophie Dupuis | Canada | French, English Subtitles | 101 mins | Unclassified 18+

This stylish and vibrant film follows Simon (Théodore Pellerin), an up-and-coming star in the Montreal drag scene, when he meets new performer Olivier (Felix Maritaud, Sauvage). Instant attraction leads to an all-consuming but toxic relationship, slowly leading to Simon losing his sense of self. This love story parallels Simon's estranged relationship with his absent mother, who has returned to Canada after a 15 year absence. Will Simon find the love he craves?. Content warning: see website. Presented with the Consulate General of Canada, Sydney.

Split



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by Iris Brey | France | French, English Subtitles | 94 mins | Unclassified 18+

When stuntwoman Anna meets the magnetic famous actress she's doubling for while shooting a film, she unlocks a part of her she'd always kept hidden. What starts as an innocent exchange of glances soon ignites into a turbulent, sensual love affair. Directed by a French feminist author and filmed with an 80% female crew, *Split* is a daring, innovative and genre-bending unpacking of power and trauma through a queer feminist lens. *Content warning: see website*.



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FRI 23 FEB 6:30PM, Event George St SUN 25 FEB 7PM, Dendy Newtown

Summer Solstice



The Summer with Carmen



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by Noah Schamus | USA | English | 81 mins | Unclassified 15+

Aspiring actor Leo struggles to find roles with the limited options offered to trans masc actors. His personal life is no better, as he searches for more than just average sex and non-committal relationships. When he reconnects with his old friend Eleanor, who only knew him pre-transition. they head off on an impromptu road trip. Along the way they uncover old secrets and new challenges, in this touching and amusing exploration of friendship through change. Screens with The Dalles (12 mins). Presented with Allianz.

Directed by Zacharias Mavroeidis | Greece | Greek, English Subtitles | 106 mins | Unclassified 18+

Intriguing, sexy and unique – Zacharias Mavroeidis's film will get under your skin, in the best way. As gay best mates Demosthenes and Nikitas chill out on one of Athens' cruising beaches, they reflect on the life-changing period when Demosthenes broke up with his partner, in the hope of finding inspiration for a film script. A funny, poignant look at relationships, friendships, intimacy and pet ownership, set against a steamy Greek summer. Screens with Nothing Special (14 mins).

When Time Got Louder



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by Connie Cocchia | Canada | English | 114 mins | Unclassified 15+

Lesbian teenager Abbie understands her brother Kayden like no one else does. He's talented, kind, artistic and so much more – yet many just see his non-verbal autism. But when Abbie leaves for college, it becomes clear that Kayden's future might look very different from hers. While Abbie is studying illustration, making new friends and flirting with the alluring Karly, Kayden struggles to cope with the change. *Content warning: see website.* Screens with *Neuromance* (13 mins). Writer-director Connie Cocchia and actor Piper Curda in attendance for Q&A. Presented with Optus.

Who'll Stop the Rain



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by I-Hsuan Su | Taiwan | Mandarin, English Subtitles | 114 mins | Unclassified 15+

Evocative and romantic, Who'll Stop the Rain is a powerful story of two girls who fall in love while protesting for creative freedom in post-martial law Taipei. In 1994, art student Chi-wei joins a student protest group where she meets and develops feelings for one of the leaders, Ching. During this changing political time in Taiwan, the two girls find love and camaraderie while fighting for creative expression.

Content warning: see website. Writer-director I-Hsuan Su in attendance for Q&A.

Presented with the Cultural Division, Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Sydney.





Every Body



Directed by Julie Cohen | USA | English | 92 mins | M

What would you do if you found out a secret that had been hidden from you since birth? What if the secret is about your own body? This is the reality for many intersex people, and the subjects of this riveting documentary are speaking out against the traditions of sensationalism, silence, secrecy and shame. River Gallo, Alicia Roth Weigel and Sean Saifa Wall celebrate their authentic selves, existing as confident, empowered intersex people in the public eye. *Content warning: see website.*

Presented with Intersex Human Rights Australia.

Happy Clothes: A Film About Patricia Field



SYDNEY PREMIERE

Directed by Michael Selditch | USA | English | 100 mins | Unclassified 15+

One woman connects Sex and the City, The Devil Wears Prada and Emily in Paris: fashion stylist extraordinaire Pat Field. In this doco, the openly gay Field recalls her rock-star life, mingling with the cool kids at her New York City boutique, before moving into film and television. Featuring interviews with some of the A-list stars she's worked with, including Sarah Jessica Parker, Lily Collins and Kim Cattrall, Happy Clothes is simply fabulous. Presented with American Express.

Isla's Way



Kokomo City



Directed by Marion Pilowsky Australia | English | 84 mins | Unclassified 15+

Follow Isla, a sharp-shooting and hilarious octogenarian with a love for horse driving carriages, in this quirky documentary. Isla lives with her girlfriend on a farm in regional South Australia - though she still calls herself a widow, having raised four children with a man. In this heartwarming and humorous portrait, we watch resilient and rebellious Isla living her life to the fullest, and refusing to be boxed in by any societal expectations. \$10 Community tickets plus anyone 65 or older free. Director Marion Pilowsky in attendance for Q&A. Presented with Allianz and ACON's The LOVE Project.

Directed by D. Smith | USA | English | 73 mins | Unclassified 18+

Trans director D. Smith's Sundance-winning documentary opens with a bang and never lets its foot off the gas as it boldly explores the lives of four Black trans sex workers and the men who love them. Livah, Daniella, Dominique and the late Koko Da Doll recount hilarious anecdotes, talk politics and hold their own community accountable while a Greek chorus of lovers, clients and potential suitors provide frank commentary. Content warning: see website. Screens with Thriving: A Dissociated Reverie (10 mins). **Presented with Antenna Documentary Film** Festival.

The Last Year of Darkness



Mad About the Boy: The Noël Coward Story



Directed by Benjamin Mullinkosson | China, USA | Mandarin, English Subtitles , English without Subtitles | 95 mins | Unclassified 18+

This pumping, neon-coloured portrait of alternative Chinese youth is centred on the raucous underground nightclub, Funky Town – a vibrant space that exists on borrowed time. It's the last bastion of queer underground partying in Chengdu, earmarked for demolition to make way for a metro. The documentary is a radiant portrait of the free-spirited, alternative youth subculture of DJs, drag artists, lovers and ravers that call Funky Town home from dusk 'til dawn. *Content warning: see website.*

Directed by Barnaby Thompson | UK | English | 91 mins | Unclassified 15+

Debonair, witty, talented – Noël Coward was all this and more. This fascinating documentary, narrated by Alan Cumming and Rupert Everett, tells the remarkable story of the urbane multihyphenate – prolific playwright, songwriter, actor – who became one of the biggest stars of his time all while keeping his sexuality a secret. This is a brilliant portrait of a gay legend, the likes of which the entertainment industry may never see again. Presented with American Express.

Mel



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by Inna Sahakyan, Paul Cohen | Armenia, Netherlands | Armenian, English Subtitles | 75 mins | Unclassified 15+

Armenian weightlifter Mel Daluzyan was a beloved national champion who won medals and broke world records - before his transition. But for Mel every victory was laced with sadness, as the world did not see him as the man he knew he was. Hoping to come out privately and eventually compete as a man, his life is turned upside down when he is publicly outed and antitrans protests sweep the nation. Content warning: see website.

Playland



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by Georden West | USA | English | 72 mins | Unclassified 18+

An eclectic ensemble of queer performers star in this experimental documentarynarrative hybrid queer collage, focusing on a temporal night at the Playland Café, Boston's oldest gay bar. Following the staff and patrons that haunt the space, it weaves together a tapestry of personal and community anecdotes from across the renowned venue's existence. An uncanny and inventive film, it reminds us that though certain pioneering queer spaces may be gone, their memories cannot be erased. Content warning: see website. Screens with I Can See The Sun but I Can't Feel It Yet (20 mins).

Shape



SYDNEY PREMIERE

Directed by Roger Ungers | Australia | English | 90 mins | Unclassified 15+

An important Australian documentary exploring how social media, advertising, hook-up apps and the clubbing scene can foster an unhealthy pressure to have a "hot" body in the gay community. Featuring interviews with a diverse range of subjects, Shape explores many of the defining factors that influence gay men to obsess over their looks and the negative repercussions when body image is inextricably linked to toxic masculinity, racism, ageism and femmephobia. Content warning: see website. Screens with FA(C)TS (8 mins). Followed by a panel discussion expanding the conversation to include other members of the LGBTIQ+ community. Presented with Optus.

Summer Qamp



SYDNEY PREMIERE

Directed by Jen Markowitz | Canada | English | 80 mins | Unclassified 15+

LGBTIQ+ youth travel from across Canada for a blissful summer retreat, in one of the year's most joyous and affirming documentaries. At Camp fYrefly, queer teens get the space to escape from the personal hardships and simply be themselves in an environment of likeminded people. At a time when LGBTIQ+ youths' very existence is under public debate, director Jen Markowitz captures the powerful impact that establishing supportive spaces can have. Content warning: see website. Screens with BLUSH - An Extraordinary Voyage (15 mins). Presented with Allianz and Twenty10.



Queer Screen Filmmaker Initiatives

Held each year during Queer Screen Film Fest (August), Pitch Off see's six Australian LGBTIQ+

filmmakers spruik their project to a panel of expert assessors, competing for a chance to win \$10,000 to produce their short film. Since 2018 Pitch Off has awarded \$60,000 to six projects by emerging Australian talent.

Queer Screen Completion Fund

The fund was established to provide support to Australian LGBTIQ+ filmmakers and storytellers whose work is consistent with the vision and mission of Queer Screen. It brings much needed financial assistance to worthy LGBTIQ+ screen projects. Since 2016 the fund has awarded \$142,000 to 25 projects and will award a further \$20,000 in 2024. In the Room Where He Waits (p.16) and Sunflower (p.19) are both past Completion Fund recipients and feature in MGFF24.

Queer Screen Goes to Cannes

In 2023 Queer Screen was the first ever LGBTQIA+ and Australian film festival involved in the Goes To Cannes program, which is held during the Marché du Film at the prestigious Cannes Film Festival. Each year the Marché du Film offers five renowned festivals the chance to showcase their selection of original work-in-progress titles looking for sales agents, distributors or festival selection. In the Room Where He Waits (p.16), Sunflower (p.19) and The Queen of My Dreams (p.49) were part of this year's selection.

My Queer Career

MON 26 FEB 6:30PM, Event George St FRI 1-SUN 11 MAR, On Demand

109 mins | Unclassified 15+

Cold Water



Directed by Jay Perry, Shaun Perry | Produced by Brayden Alden | 20 mins

In St Kilda, an elderly woman's peaceful retirement is interrupted when her husband takes up a bizarre new hobby. *Content warning: see website.*

Cusp



Directed by Erika Felton | Produced by Alex Martin, Erika Felton | 10 mins

As the dust settles on her goodbye party, Nora must face her best friend Maude and come to terms with what it means to leave her other half behind.

Hyperconnect



Directed by Jim Muntisov | Produced by Jim Muntisov, Imogen Archer | 15 mins

Remy is confronted with the realities of post-lockdown life when communication with their online best friend begins to break down. *Content warning: see website.*

Marungka Tjalatjunu (Dipped in Black)



Directed by Matthew Thorne, Derik Lynch | Produced by Matthew Thorne, Patrick Graham | 24 mins

Yankunytjatjara man Derik Lynch sets out on a roadtrip from life in Adelaide, back home to his remote Anangu Community, as memories from his childhood return. Content warning: see website.

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

CUT

Good Times and That's Okay



Directed by Samuel Lucas Allen | Produced by Richard James Allen, Martin Thorne, Samuel Lucas Allen | 19 mins

Teenager Daniel struggles to juggle his different identities, between his relationship with his Orthodox Jewish father, his secret lover Isaac and his edgelord classmates with burgeoning neo-Nazi sympathies. Content warning: see website.



Directed by Amanda Kaye | Produced by David Gim, Amanda Kaye | 13 mins

A 70 year-old closeted woman has to confront her faith as she learns what true love is from a sex worker named Destiny.

The Pansy of Pickadee



Directed by Gus George, Paddy Morahan | Produced by Nick Jaquinot | 8 mins

A bittersweet line-drawn animation that celebrates a brave queer hero who saves a small Victorian Town on the brink of disaster while indulging the love of saucy rhyming couplets.

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Asia-Pacific Shorts



China, India, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, USA | Hindi, Indonesian, Japanese, Korean, Mandarin, English Subtitles | 89 mins | Unclassified 15+

As a member of the Asia-Pacific Queer Film Festival Alliance, Queer Screen is committed to promoting Asia-Pacific voices in queer cinema. These shorts represent just some of those voices, amongst them a quirky Chinese comedy about a gay man and lesbian in a sham marriage, the beautifully animated story of a Native Hawaiian warrior and his lover and the coming-of-age tale of a young Indian girl's growing affection for a girl in her class. *Content warning: see website.*

Bi+ Shorts



Argentina, Australia, UK, USA | Spanish, English Subtitles, English without Subtitles | 91 mins | Unclassified 15+

Revelations abound when two wives open their marriage. A man's inability to stop overthinking proves a hurdle to asking someone out. A non-monogamous couple grapples with a pregnancy scare after the transmasc partner's Grindr hook-up. A woman's curiosity about her crush's new girlfriend becomes an unexpected meet cute. From those exploring newfound curiosities to out and proud bisexuals, these shorts depict a whole range of multi-faceted stories about those whose sexuality falls outside the binary. Content warning: see website. Presented with BICONIC.

Comedy Shorts

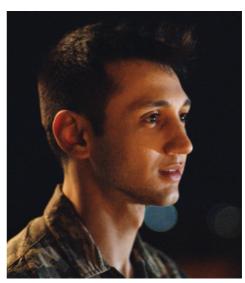


Australia, Canada, Germany, USA | German, English Subtitles, English without Subtitles | 104 mins | Unclassified 15+

Estranged friends reunite when one asks the other to be their sperm donor. A gay man realises the doctor doing his STI tests is someone he's ghosted. A lesbian's shocked to discover her soulmate is the same doctor who accidentally sent her to the afterlife. This collection of lighthearted films finds humour in both the ridiculous and mundane, and is sure to leave you with a smile on your face. Content warning: see website.

Presented with The Sydney Gay & Lesbian Business Association.

Gay Shorts



China, Cyprus, France, UK, USA | Cantonese, Greek, Mandarin, English Subtitles, English without Subtitles | 90 mins | Unclassified 15+

Tales of romance, self-discovery, break-ups and acceptance punctuate this wide-ranging shorts package that explores the lives of gay men. Featuring films about a couple recapturing their first meeting with a hitchhiking role play, an older man embracing his sexuality after falling for a younger dance instructor, two men navigating a hook-up when one catches feelings for the other who's in an open relationship and a surprising twist on the conflict between two soldiers across enemy lines. *Content warning: see website.*Presented with Allianz.

Hot Boys Shorts



Australia, Brazil, Germany, Mexico, Switzerland, USA | German, Portuguese, Spanish, English Subtitles, English without Subtitles| 91 mins | Unclassified 18+

Filled with sexually frank stories, steamy reveries and titillating tales, don't miss out on seeing what these *Hot Boys Shorts* are packing. Dwelling on the steamier side of gay life – from spontaneous toilet stall hookups to a man's attempt to step outside of his comfort zone, through to secret forest trysts and long-held fantasies about an older brother's friend – these shorts explore how sex can offer insights into who someone really is beneath the surface. *Content warning: see website.*

Non-Binary & Gender Diverse Shorts



Canada, Italy, UK, USA | Italian, Spanish, English Subtitles, English without Subtitles | 99 mins | Unclassified 15+

Featuring non-binary actor Emma D'Arcy (House of the Dragon) as an overlooked assistant dreaming of the spotlight, these short films collectively capture a whole spectrum of gender identity and expression. Including the heartfelt tale of a queer aunt giving a child space to wear dresses, a documentary about non-binary performers within a ballroom scene that prizes gender "realness", the story of an old car haunted by its queerdo owner's judgemental dead grandmother and much more. Content warning: see website.

QueerDOC Shorts



Colombia, UK, USA | Spanish, English Subtitles, English without Subtitles | 99 mins | Unclassified 15+

With a shared focus on activism, these shorts explore the stories of a diverse group of LGBTIQ+ people who have brought attention to inequality. This includes profiles of contributors to the AIDS Memorial Quilt, outspoken Indian-American immigrant and lesbian activist Urvashi Vaid, the first openly transgender woman to compete in the Iditarod dog mushing race and gay Black British civil rights crusader Ted Brown's campaign to combat homophobic elder abuse in aged care *Content warning: see website*.

QueerScream Shorts



Australia, Russia, Spain, USA | Russian, Spanish, English Subtitles, English without Subtitles | 94 mins | Unclassified 18+

A Russian man haunted by an abusive boyfriend. A lesbian artist whose obsession with a sex doll she found on a beach goes too far. A charismatic gay serial killer who relies on hook-up apps to find his next victim. An interdimensional quest for the perfect pizza. Featuring Zachary Quinto at his uncomfortably hot and creepy best, these wonderfully weird and unique genre films will leave you screaming – with laughter and fear. Content warning: see website.

Sapphic Shorts



Australia, Poland, UK, USA | Cantonese, Polish, Spanish, English Subtitles, English without Subtitles | 99 mins | Unclassified 15+

Featuring the touching reunion of former lovers after 50 years apart, an idyllic date following a chance cinema encounter and a woman's attempts to shake off the ghost of a long-dead 1950s lesbian pulp novelist, these films run the gamut in both subject matter and genre. Throw in a sci-fi body swap tale, an accidental kidnapping and the origin story of LOTL (Lesbians on the Loose) magazine, and this eclectic collection is not to be missed. *Content warning: see website.*

Transgender Shorts



Austria, Canada, Denmark, France, UK, USA | Danish, French, German, Portuguese, English Subtitles, English without Subtitles | 97 mins | Unclassified 18+

Continuing the trend of trans filmmakers pushing the bounds of how stories are told on screen, this excellent selection of films puts trans voices front and centre. Covering the length and breadth of genres, these must-see films explore a whole host of topics, from unexpected meet cutes and self-discovery through artmaking, through to the mysterious preparations for a heist and the pressures for trans people to present in a certain way. *Content warning:* see website.

Women Loving Women Shorts



Australia, China, Croatia, France, Poland, USA | French, Mandarin, Polish, English Subtitles, English without Subtitles | 95 mins | Unclassified 18+

Love takes many forms – the overwhelming preoccupation of a high schooler's crush, a reignited flame upon reuniting with a former lover, and even a stranger's willingness to help move a mattress across town. Add in the awkwardness of having to see an ex at work after a break up (at a brothel, no less) and this selection of shorts delivers a winning mix of romance, humour, joy and pathos. *Content warning: see website.*

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.

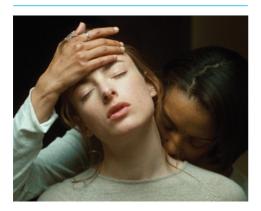
Supportix look and act like regular film tix, and requesting Supportix is done using a simple form. For more info or to apply scan the QR Code or email ticketing@queerscreen.org.au



AMERICAN EXPRESS

MGFF24 On Tour

Blue MountainsMount Vic Flicks



When Night is Falling FRI 22 MAR. 8PM

Best of MGFF24 Shorts SAT 23 MAR. 6PM

TBA (see website) SAT 23 MAR, 8:30PM

Isla's Way SUN 24 MAR, 4PM

Canberra National Film and Sound Archive of Australia



TBA (See website)
WED 3 APR, 7PM

Kokomo City THU 4 APR, 6:30PM

Best of Gay Shorts THU 4 APR, 8:30PM

Best of Sapphic Shorts FRI 5 APR, 6:30PM

Sunflower FRI 5 APR, 8:30PM

Best of Trans & Non-Binary Shorts

SAT 6 APR, 6:30PM

Days of Happiness SAT 6 APR, 8:30PM

MGFF24 on Tour

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

Mount Vic Flicks, Blue Mountains

National Film and Sound Archive of Australia, Canberra

Venues

Queer Screen's 31st 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 convenient for you.

There will also be select films showing online On Demand. These are accessible from all over Australia. Please see page 43 for more details.

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

Stop the spread of COVID-19. If you are feeling unwell, please stay at home. In this event, please contact access@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

Sydney Opera House Playhouse

Bennelong Point, Sydney NSW 2000

Westpac OpenAir Sydney

Mrs Macquaries Point Royal Botanic Garden, Sydney NSW 2000

State Library of NSW, Library Auditorium

1 Shakespeare PI, Sydney NSW 2000

Hayden Orpheum, Cremorne

380 Military Rd, Cremorne NSW 2090

Event Cinemas, Hurstville

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

The Bearded Tit

183 Regent St, Redfern NSW 2016

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

Accessibility

Queer Screen welcomes all visitors to our screenings and events, and endeavours to increase the accessibility of the 31st Mardi Gras Film Festival. For venue-specific access information please visit queerscreen.org.au/venues.

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.

Quiet Space

We know not everyone can wait in a long queue, and so we have set up a Quiet Space at our venues to wait for cinema doors to open away from the crowds for people unable to stand for long periods, or who have sensory needs. Please inform a volunteer if you would like to use this area and they will guide you.

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. Email a copy of your companion card to ticketing@queerscreen.org.au to enable companion ticketing on your account.

Wheelchair Spaces

Queer Screen's 31st 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.

Relaxed Screening

Queer Screen is proud to present our first Relaxed Screening, a session where the environment has been adapted to be more welcoming and accessible to people with additional needs, such as sensory sensitivities. We will leave lights on during the film and lower the sound volume – and customers are encouraged to get up and move around, or speak or make noise if they want to/feel the need to. This will be the Sunday 25 February screening of *The Harvest* (p.36).

Content Warnings

Queer Screen is 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 can vary from person to person. 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.

Hidden Disabilities Sunflower

Queer Screen is a member of the global Sunflower network. Our staff and volunteers have been trained to help those who may need extra support or more time.

Accessible Screenings

Open Captions & Auslan Interpreter for Introduction & Q&A

F.L.Y. (p.34) Isla's Way (p.57)

Open Captions (In Cinema)

All the Silence (p.30)

Cora Bora (p.32)

The Mattachine Family (p.44)

Mutt (p.45)

Playland (p.59)

Polarized (p.48)

Summer Qamp (p.60)

Summer Solstice (p.52)

Films with Audio Description (In Cinema)

Isla's Way (p.57)

Films with Relaxed Screenings

The Harvest (p.36) Sun 25 Feb screening

Films with Closed Captions (On Demand)

All the Silence (p.30)

F.L.Y. (p.34)

The Mattachine Family (p.44)

Mutt (p.45)

Polarized (p.48)

Films with Subtitles

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

Screenability Films

\$12 DDN Tix are available at the following screenings, to anyone who identifies as d/Deaf, Disabled or Neurodivergent, as part of Queer Screen's commitment to accessibility.



All the Silence (p.30) SAT 17 FEB 7:30PM, Event George St



In the Room Where He Waits (p.16) SUN 25 FEB 6PM, Event George St



When Time Got Louder (p.53)
FRI 16 FEB 8:30PM, Event George St

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 screen 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!

Please visit

queerscreen.org.au/support-us/membership

Gala Events

Opening Night Gala: Femme (p.6)

Closing Night Gala: Housekeeping for

Beginners (p.7)

Australian Showcase Film + Parties (p.16-19)

Full Price	\$40.00
Concession	\$37.00
Queer Screen Member	\$36.00

Gala events include an after party. 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

All of Us Strangers (p.10) – from \$38.00 (Westpac OpenAir only)

Music from Queer Film Concert (p.12) - from \$39.00

Days of Happiness (p.13) - from \$21.00

Festival Tickets

In Cinema

Full Price	\$22.00
Concession	\$19.00
Queer Screen Members	\$18.00
DDN Tix (p.73)	\$12.00
Youth (15-25 year-olds)*	\$10.00
Community (p.28)	\$10.00
Supportix (p.69)	Free

*Youth Tickets will be available to purchase from the Box Office on the day of the screening, for any non-sold out sessions, excluding at Westpac OpenAir Cinema and the Sydney Opera House Playhouse.

Weekday Matinee

Full Price	\$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

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 in cinema and On Demand sessions, excluding at Westpac OpenAir Cinema and the Sydney Opera House Playhouse.

ONLINE PASS	MEMBER	FULL
Any 5 On Demand films	\$45	\$54
On Demand All In	\$115	\$140

Get your passes and membership at queerscreen.org.au.

Tour Pricing

Festival Passes can be redeemed for MGFF24 On Tour screenings.

Canberra

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

Blue Mountains

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

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 visit Google Play or the App Store.

Phone 02 9280 1533 for telephone bookings, between 10am - 5pm weekdays.

In Person Bookings

Before the Festival

By appointment only, we cannot accept walkins. Please call 02 9280 1533 to arrange a time between 10am - 5pm weekdays.

Queer Screen Office Powerhouse Museum 500 Harris St, Sydney

During the Festival

Tickets for all sessions are available from the Queer Screen Box Office at all venues unless sold out, excluding Westpac Open Air Cinema and Sydney Opera House Playhouse. The Box Office opens one hour before the first session of the day at that venue.

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.

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 Specialist: Ash Gray

Partnerships Coordinator: Madeleine Doyle

Programming Assistant & Industry

Coordinator: Andrew Wilkie

Production & Volunteer Coordinator:

Zeynep Smith

Digital & Content Coordinator:

Shayne De Groot

Ticketing & Customer Service Coordinator: Caitlin Goldfinch Publicity: Kyle Goldfinch

Graphic Design & Illustration: Luke Tribe

Web Design: Design Logic

Festival Trailer: Benjamin Beauman at The Editors, Animation by Luke Tribe Junior Graphic Designer: Peak Distapan

Bookkeeper: Adam Bold

Production Intern: Alex Mcleay

Marketing Intern: Peter Andrew

DIAP Advisory Group: Andi Egan,

Barbara Karpinsky, Dallas Currie, Lana

Zilla, Liz Cooper, Sam Martin

Key Volunteers: Boden Evans, Bryan Geoghegan, Cameron Bayley, David Blanco, HollyMae Steane Price, Jess Cheng, Sanouk Peiper, Sevana Ohandjanian, Susan McDonald, Troy Byrnes, Vanessa McQuarrie, Will Dishon, and the entire Programming Prescreener team.

Board of Directors

Co-Chairs: Abs Osseiran, Angela Ruchin

Treasurer: Abs Osseiran

Company Secretary: Lara Sabbadin

Directors: Finn O'Keefe (Digital

Engagement), lan Goshko (Members & Volunteers), Rosario Mugnaini (Funding)

Associate Treasurer: Michelle Mutchnik

Associates: Anthony Young, David Libter, Erika Felton, Jessica Liley, Michael Rolik, Mike Whalley, Mike Worsley, Ted Rose

Thanks

Queer Screen would like to thank...

All our sponsors, venue partners, media partners, community partners, sales agents & distributors, filmmakers, volunteers, members, donors and advertisers. Adam & Kirsten from Mount Vic Flicks, Adrik Kemp, AJ Jenkins, Alexander Thatcher, Alex Temesvari, Allens Linklaters, Annika Stagg, Benji Tamir, Berenger Playford, Bradley Clark, Brooke Walker, Ce Benedict, Danielle Rapley, Dianna Graf, Dominique and the team at Silvertrak, Dov Kornits, Genie Stuart, Greg Topalain, Jasmin Raad, Jess Ashworth, Jessica Mesa, Josh De Matteo, Joy Ng, Julie Kalceff, Kate Murphy, Katja Sinani, Kiliane Beunard, Kylie Gladwell, Lawrence Gibbons, Luke O'Connor, Mal Moody, Manuel Mota Correa, Mark Cornelius, Matt Kennewell, Maxine Zanoni, Mel Rumble, Michael Sabater, Mook Phanpinit, Prakash Prabhakharan, Q Programmers, Rebecca & Rodney and the team at JORR, Rob Bryant, Rob Raulings, Sammie Hewitt and the Canva Space team, Sharon Hickey, Silke K Bader, Spiro Economopoulos, Stephen Cummins Film Trust, Stuart Buchanan, Tania Chambers. Tom Hennessey, Vicki Gutierrez.

Our Donors

Donate at queerscreen.org.au/supportus/donate to be added to the program and support us in bringing you queer cinema at our festivals, like these amazing people:

True Love

Andrew Pickles, Brian Abel, Andrew 'Fuzz' Purchas & Clayton Noble, Craig Roberts, David Laidley, David Libter, Dennis Berry, Geoff Annabel, Ian Foxton, Ian Goshko, Janel Carozza, Jodie Camden, Kristi Barrow, Manivannan Gopalakrishnan, Mark Proffit, Martyn Thompson, Peter Grimison, Richard Cobden, Richard Harris, Roy Bishop

Top 100

Abby Duruz, Alice Wheeler, Amelia Sparke, Bruce Cameron, Chris Pycroft, Christine Maibom, Clive Miller, David Gillard, David Hoffman, Diana Coffey, Digby Duncan, Evelyn Perusco, Finn O'Keefe, Giovanni Campolo-Arcidiaco, Ian Adrian, John Tsioulos, Julia Beatty, MahVeen Shahraki, Melissa Mcadam, Meredith Williams, Michael Facey, Mike Whalley, Philip O'Donnell, Robert D'Arcylrvine, Robert Eidus, Ronald Govers, Sally Chik, Sandra Cook, Sara Amorosi, Steph Sands, Stephen Bailey, Stephen Gates, Su Goldfish, Sylvain Goumand

Our Members

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, Andrew Browne, Brad Booth, David Libter, Hannah Barnes, Ian Cull, Ian Foxton, Jina Mitchell, Kris Walter, Manivannan Gopalakrishnan, Megan McIachlan, Nola Moran, Owen Evans, Peter Grimison, Richard Cobden, Roy Bishop, Valda Mitchell

Deluxe Members

Benji Brown, Craig Campbell, Emma Dengate, David Laidley, James Woolley, Jason Masters, Lloyd Moorhouse, Meredith Williams, Olivia Roney



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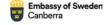






















Volunteer at the Mardi Gras Film Festival!

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 the following areas:

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

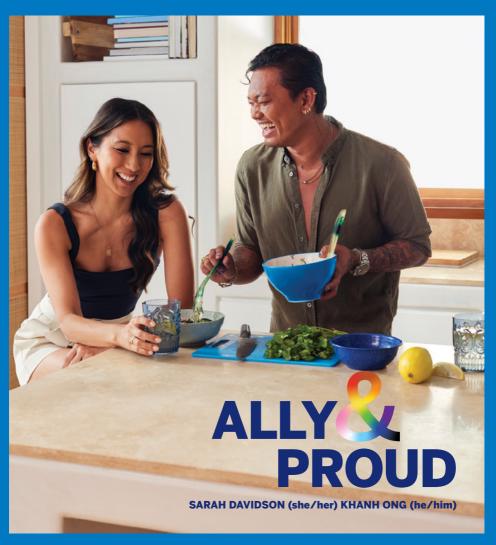


If you want to help scan the QR Code or visit

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

AMERICAN EXPRESS

Mardi Gras Film Festival



express yourself

We proudly back those who express themselves in every way.

That's why we're proud to support Queer Screen's Mardi Gras Film Festival.