

 Queer Screen's 32nd

MARDI GRAS FILM FESTIVAL

13 - 27 Feb 2025 **In Cinema**
28 Feb - 10 Mar **On Demand**



Allianz 

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Festival Welcome

Queer Screen's 32nd Mardi Gras Film Festival will be my 8th and final year as Festival Director. It has been an absolute honour and privilege to curate these festivals for you, our wonderfully loyal audience. And, just like my days working in a video store, I don't spend all day simply watching films (if only!). My love for queer cinema and community first led me to volunteer with Queer Screen 13 years ago, and it feels truly fitting that this year's festival is all about celebrating and sharing our collective love of cinema.

For some, the magic of cinema lies in the craft – the artistry of cinematography, direction, acting and storytelling that sparks inspiration and devotion. For others, it's the emotional connection, the moments of escape, or the sense of belonging that comes when the lights dim and a room full of people experiences a story together. Whatever it is for you, we've curated a stellar program of over 140 films designed to reignite your passion and remind you of cinema's power.

In a world that could certainly use more love, this year's Opening and Closing Night films, *Young Hearts* and *Somewhere in Love*, deliver it in abundance. Both films beautifully explore the power of familial bonds and the journey of discovering love for yourself, making them the perfect bookends to a festival filled with heart and connection.



We're also thrilled to present a host of Australian and Sydney premieres from Cannes, Berlinale, Sundance, SXSW and Tribeca, alongside a diverse array of identities, cultures, genres, and stories for you to immerse yourself in.

So, please, come share your love of cinema with me.

Lisa Rose
Festival Director

Acknowledgement of Country

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.

Young Hearts

OPENING NIGHT GALA



SYDNEY PREMIERE

Directed by Anthony Schattelman | Belgium, Netherlands | Dutch, French, English Subtitles | 97 mins |
Unclassified 15+

In rural Belgium, 14-year-old Elias feels an immediate attraction towards his new neighbour, Alexander. Unsure how to navigate these burgeoning feelings, he pushes Alexander away. However, Alexander's confidence and self-assurance may just help Elias realise that being himself is a very powerful thing. Featuring a loving and supportive family, this crowd-pleasing debut sincerely captures the sort of youthful acceptance and first love so many of us craved - and one that the next generation deserves. **Opening Night Party tickets available.**

THU 13 FEB 7PM, Event George St
SUN 23 FEB 3:40PM, Event George St

Somewhere in Love

CLOSING NIGHT



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by Morgan Simon | France | French, English Subtitles | 97 mins | Unclassified 15+

In a tiny Parisian council flat, fifty-something single mother Nicole and teenage son Serge's relationship fractures as financial pressures mount before Christmas. While the distance grows between them, her own horizons are broadened in the form of the beguiling Nora. Will time apart repair their strained mother-son bond? *Somewhere in Love* is a touching and charming comedic drama about opening yourself to the world and showing up for the ones you love.

THU 27 FEB 7PM, Event George St

The Birdcage

SPECIAL EVENT



Directed by Mike Nichols | USA | English | 117 mins | Classified M

Robin Williams and Nathan Lane are at their farcical best in this camp comedy classic. Armand and Albert have built the perfect life, tending to their gaudy Miami nightclub where Albert performs in drag. But their pastel tranquility is shaken when their son announces he's getting married to an ultra-conservative senator's daughter - and he's coming for dinner. Can Armand and Albert transform themselves into Mr. (and Mrs.) Family Values in time? **Screens with Say Uncle (13 mins). Entry is free. Capacity is limited. Bookings open on 17 February and walk-ups are welcome if capacity allows.**

Imagine Me & You

SPECIAL EVENT



Directed by Ol Parker | UK, Germany | English | 94 mins | Classified M

Celebrate 20 years of this beloved, star-studded lesbian romantic comedy! Rachel (Piper Perabo) seems to have it all as she marries long-time boyfriend Heck (Matthew Goode). But when she locks eyes with Luce (Lena Headey) – the enchanting (and somehow single!?) florist – everything changes. Also featuring Sharon Horgan, Celia Imrie and Anthony Head, relive this witty, romantic classic under the stars. And don't forget to shout, "You're a wanker, number nine!"

Screens with *Queen Size* (19 mins). Entry is free. Capacity is limited. Bookings open on 10 February and walk-ups are welcome if capacity allows.

WED 19 FEB 6:30 PM, The Rocks Laneway Cinema

Sister Act

SPECIAL EVENT

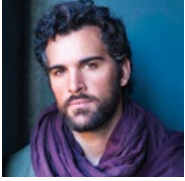


Directed by Emile Ardolino | USA | English | 100 mins | Classified PG

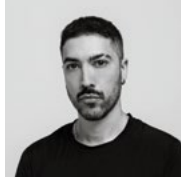
When a nightclub singer (Whoopi Goldberg) witnesses a mob murder, she's forced into witness protection in a San Francisco convent. Despite Mother Superior's (Maggie Smith) reservations, she turns the flagging convent choir into a soulful, Motown-singing chorus - until the choir's sudden celebrity jeopardises her identity. After the success of last year's sing-a-long, join us and the Order of Perpetual Indulgence for another nun-filled musical caper - costumes and singing highly encouraged! **Presented with The Sisters and Brothers of The Order of Perpetual Indulgence Sydney.**

International Guests

We're thrilled to be joined by over 10 international guests at this festival, who will be here to introduce their films, take part in post-screening Q&As and participate in panels, immersing themselves in the festival as we celebrate the love of queer cinema. Keep your eye on our website and socials for further guest announcements!



Juan Pablo Di Pace
Argentina
Writer, Director & Actor
Duino (p.19)



James Watson
UK
Producer
Sebastian (p.30)



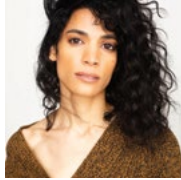
Tara Thorne
Canada
Writer & Director
Lakeview (p.24)



Mikko Mäkelä
Finland
Writer & Director
Sebastian (p.30)



Nicole Steeves
Canada
Actor & Producer
Lakeview (p.24)



Lauren Neal
USA
Actor & Technical Director
Under the Influencer (p.37)



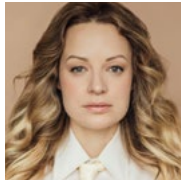
Kaye Adelaide
Canada
Director & Co-writer
The Rebrand (p.28)



Jill Bennett
USA
Producer
Under the Influencer (p.37)



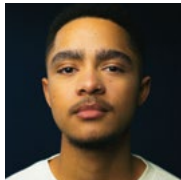
Jörg Fockele
Germany
Co-director & Producer
Sally! (p.44)



Karen Knox
Canada
Director
We Forgot to Break Up (p.37)



Ondine Rarey
USA
Co-director & Producer
Sally! (p.44)



Lane Webber
Canada
Actor
We Forgot to Break Up (p.37)

Cabaret

RETROSPECTIVES



Directed by Bob Fosse | USA | English | 124 mins | Classified M

In 1931 Berlin, American cabaret singer Sally Bowles (Liza Minnelli) works at the decadent Kit Kat Klub. When she meets British academic Brian Roberts (Michael York) they become lovers, despite Brian's attraction to men. But the arrival of wealthy playboy Maximilian von Heune complicates matters when both fall for his obvious charms. Winner of eight Oscars, this acclaimed musical tale of love and loss amidst the rise of far-right extremism remains as timely now as ever. Once you've watched *LIZA: A Truly Terrific Absolutely True Story* (p.43) you'll be itching to revisit her Academy Award-winning performance on the big screen.

Scarecrow in a Garden of Cucumbers

RETROSPECTIVES



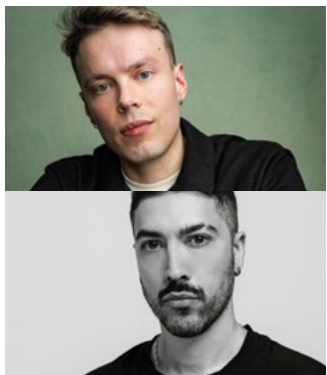
SYDNEY PREMIERE

Directed by Robert J. Kaplan | USA | English | 82 mins | Unclassified 15+

Eternal trans icon and Warhol superstar Holly Woodlawn is a total riot in this newly-rediscovered '70s sketch musical comedy, one of the first trans-led feature films. Lose yourself in small-town Kansas girl Eve Harrington's bonkers quest for stardom. Peppered with madcap musical numbers and Old Hollywood references (plus cameos from Bette Midler and Lily Tomlin), this fabulously camp romp is ready to claim the cult audience it's long deserved.

WED 26 FEB 6:30PM, Ritz Cinemas

Filmmaker Masterclass: From Script(ment) to Screen



Writer-director Mikko Mäkelä and producer James Watson have collaborated on two feature films, *A Moment in the Reeds* (MGFF18) and *Sebastian* (p.30). Using examples from their work, they'll explore how to craft a narrative and translate the script to the screen. Whether approaching a scene from a strictly scripted perspective or incorporating improvisation, what are essential elements to have on the page? And to what extent can things end up being re-written on set and/or in the edit?

SUN 23 FEB 2PM, Set Bar at Event George St

Panel: Intersectional Genre Filmmaking on a Microbudget



A look at the layered and expansive storytelling that's possible using genre mechanics, the strength of genre audience and the art of getting things made with whatever you can pull together. Moderated by Chair of the Gender Matters Taskforce Rosie Lourde, she'll be joined by filmmakers Kaye Adelaide (*The Rebrand* p.28), Alice Maio Mackay (*Carnage for Christmas* p.16) and Lauren Neal (*Under the Influencer* p.37). See website for full panel line-up. Entry is free, but bookings are essential. **Presented with the Gender Matters Taskforce.**

TUE 25 FEB 6PM, Set Bar at Event George St

Industry Networking



Stick around afterwards for Queer Screen's industry networking, a chance to connect with other LGBTIQ+ screen industry members and find collaborators 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. **Presented with the Gender Matters Taskforce.**

TUE 25 FEB 7PM, Set Bar at Event George St

Panel: Queering the Writer's Room



What's it like working in a writer's room as a LGBTIQ+ person? In an industry that's not always been very diverse we'll explore how things have changed, how queer characters do (and don't) get on screen and navigating representing an entire community. Moderated by writer and broadcaster Gen Fricker, she'll be joined by Anchuli Felicia King (*Deadloch*), Enoch Mailangi (*All My Friends Are Racist*), Greg Waters (*Riot*) and Thomas Wilson-White (*Heartbreak High*). Entry is free, but bookings are essential.

SAT 15 FEB 1PM, State Library of New South Wales, Library Auditorium

Panel: It Should've Been Queer



Starved of representation in our formative years, LGBTIQ+ people become experts in finding queer subtext even the original creators never intended. This light-hearted discussion will dive into some of the films and TV that made us feel seen even when we weren't on screen. Moderated by critic Michael Sun, he'll be joined by filmmaker and actor Juan Pablo Di Pace (*Duino*, p.19) and writer Rebecca Shaw (*Hard Quiz*). See website for full panel line-up. Entry is free, but bookings are essential.

SAT 15 FEB 2:30PM, State Library of New South Wales, Library Auditorium

Inqueersition: Queer Screen Trivia Night



Know your Akerman from your Almodóvar? Your Dolan from your Dunye? Join us for another fun night of Queer Screen trivia with Ce Benedict at The Bearded Tit! Whether you're someone who logged *I Saw the TV Glow* on Letterboxd the day it came out or you still haven't got around to seeing *Bottoms*, grab your friends and test your knowledge of queer film. Entry is free, but bookings are essential. **Presented with The Bearded Tit**

TUE 18 FEB 7PM, The Bearded Tit

Carnage for Christmas



Directed by Alice Maio Mackay | Australia | English | 70 mins | Unclassified 15+

Prolific low-budget filmmaker Alice Maio Mackay turns her singular eye to Christmas in this grisly neon slasher, edited by Vera Drew (*The People's Joker*, MGFF24). When true crime podcaster and sleuth Lola visits her hometown for the first time since transitioning, the vengeful ghost of a historic murderer (and urban legend) seemingly rises to kill again. In a town haunted by secrets, Lola must solve the case before her community is slaughtered. **Screens with *Chloe and Jame* (7 mins).** Filmmaker Alice Maio Mackay in attendance for Q&A. **Presented with Sydney Underground Film Festival.**

SAT 22 FEB 8:30PM, Dendy Newtown

Chuck Chuck Baby



Directed by Janis Pugh | UK | English | 101 mins | Classified MA

In a small Welsh town, Helen (Louise Brealey, *Sherlock*) spends her days working at the local chicken factory and caring for her ex-husband's mother. Life is hard and monotonous, but there are moments of joy to be found. When old classmate Joanne returns to town after two decades away, long dormant feelings resurface. Infused with toe-tapping musical numbers, *Chuck Chuck Baby* is a love letter to working-class women. *Content warning: see website.* **Presented with Allianz.**

SUN 16 FEB 6:30PM, Event George St
FRI 21 FEB 7PM, Event George St

Concerning My Daughter Crossing



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by Lee Mi-rang | South Korea | Korean, English Subtitles | 106 mins | Unclassified 15+

A widowed caregiver's regimented life is upended when her daughter Green moves home with her girlfriend, Rain. Unwilling to accept their relationship, she puts her energy into fighting her employer's bureaucratic heartlessness. When Green's university colleague is dismissed for being gay, she leads a protest that could derail her career. Caught in the middle, Rain becomes an unexpected bridge between mother and daughter, in this beautifully affecting intergenerational drama. **Presented with Allianz and The Bookshop Darlington.**

Directed by Levan Akin | Sweden, Denmark, France, Türkiye, Georgia | Georgian, Turkish, English, Russian, English Subtitles | 105 mins | Unclassified 15+

Levan Akin's (*And Then We Danced*, MGFF20) exquisite Berlinale Teddy Jury Award-winner explores the vibrant trans and queer community of Istanbul. Retired Georgian teacher Lia promised her dying sister she would find her runaway trans niece, Tekla. Boisterous neighbour Achi offers to accompany Lia to Türkiye to find Tekla, but their search seems in vain – until they meet trans lawyer Evrim, who introduces them to a whole other side of the city. **Presented with Advance Diversity Services.**

WED 19 FEB 7PM, Event George St

WED 19 FEB 7PM, Event Hurstville **OC**
THU 20 FEB 8:30PM, Event George St **OC**

Demons at Dawn



SYDNEY PREMIERE

Directed by Julián Hernández | Mexico | Spanish, English Subtitles | 136 mins | Unclassified 18+

Intertwined bodies become synchronised souls, when a fiery romance is sparked between go-go dancer Orlando and nursing student Marco. Orlando makes ends meet go-going as he dreams of becoming a professional dancer, while Marco is on track to graduate soon. But in a hostile, ever-changing world they'll need to come together to face their individual demons, in this erotic drama from Julián Hernández (*I Am Happiness on Earth*, MGFF15).

TUE 18 FEB 8:30PM, Event George St

Dreams Such As Ours



SYDNEY PREMIERE

Directed by Sridhar Rangayan, Saagar Gupta | India, Sweden | Hindi, English, English Subtitle | 105 mins | Unclassified 15+

Step into the vibrant world of *Dreams Such As Ours*, a poignant sequel to *Evening Shadows* (MGFF18) that's anything but ordinary. Follow Mumbai gay couple Kartik and Aman as they navigate love's ups and downs, while their families back home grapple with marital discord and long-hidden truths. Set to the rhythm of contemporary Indian pop music, this heartwarming and highly watchable melodrama redefines relationships and celebrates the liberating power of acceptance. *Content warning: see website.*

Presented with Allianz and Trikone Australia.

SUN 22 FEB 4:30PM, Event George St

Drive Back Home



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by Michael Clowater | Canada | English without Subtitles, French, English Subtitles | 100 mins | Unclassified 18+

When Perley (Alan Cumming) is arrested for having sex with a man in a park in 1970s Toronto, his estranged brother Weldon must bail him out. With only each other for company, Perley, his stoic brother and a taxidermied pug are trapped together as they drive cross country to return home. Inspired by a true story, this darkly funny film is about reckoning with the past and learning to forgive. *Content warning:* see [website](#). **Presented with Allianz and the Consulate General of Canada.**

THU 20 FEB 6:30PM, Event George St
FRI 28 FEB-MON 10 MAR, On Demand

Duino



SYDNEY PREMIERE

Directed by Juan Pablo Di Pace, Andres Pepe Estrada | USA | English without Subtitles, Spanish, English Subtitles | 108 mins | Unclassified 15+

Past yearnings intrude on the present in this beautiful Argentinian drama. Filmmaker Matias struggles to complete his latest project, a film capturing his time as a student, where he developed an attraction to a close friend. While editing, an opportunity to revisit those feelings arises. Examining how youthful infatuations can linger years later, *Duino* is wonderfully co-directed and co-written by lead Juan Pablo Di Pace, drawing on his own experiences. **Writer-director-actor Juan Pablo Di Pace in attendance at 16 February screening for Q&A. Presented with United Airlines.**

SUN 16 FEB 7PM, Event George St
SAT 22 FEB 6:45PM, Event George St

Give the Gift of Queer Film!



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Eat the Night



SYDNEY PREMIERE

Directed by Caroline Poggi, Jonathan Vinel | France | French, English Subtitles | 106 mins | Unclassified 18+

Young drug dealer Pablo and sister Apolline's world begins to crumble when they discover their favourite online video game, *Darknoon*, is shutting down at Christmas. While Apolline grows increasingly obsessed, Pablo falls into a secret relationship with sexy stranger Night as the pair are drawn into dangerous gang conflict. Contrasting the escapist nature of MMORPGs against its characters' gritty lives, *Eat the Night* explores the finite nature of life in this visually distinct, intense thriller. *Content warning: see website.*

Presented with Sydney Gaymers.

SAT 22 FEB 6:30PM, Dendy Newtown
WED 26 FEB 8:30PM, Event George St

Foreign Language



Directed by Claire Burger | France, Germany, Belgium | French, German, English Subtitles | 100 mins | Unclassified 15+

Withdrawn French teen Fanny goes on foreign exchange to stay with her larger-than-life German pen pal Lena and her single mother (Nina Hoss; *Tár*, MGFF23). Though Fanny understands German, the language difference proves a major barrier between the two. But Lena's confidence and outspoken political activism quickly enthalls the shy Lena, as the pair are drawn into a boundary testing friendship. A bittersweet coming-of-age romance from Camera d'Or winner Claire Burger.

MON 17 FEB 7PM, Event George St

Heart of the Man



Directed by David Cook | Australia | English | 85 mins | Unclassified 15+

Aspiring Aboriginal boxer Chris lives in the shadow of his father Sammy (Butchulla filmmaker David Cook), a one-time champ in the ring. Haunted by his wife's death, Sammy pushes Chris to pursue the boxing career he failed to achieve. But when Chris finally accepts his attraction to the handsome Jamie, and spends more time with theatre gays than at the gym, he realises he may be destined to walk another path entirely. *Content warning: see website.*

This film was a Queer Screen Goes to Cannes selection. Presented with BlaQ.

MON 17 FEB 8:30PM, Event George St
FRI 28 FEB-MON 10 MAR, On Demand

High Tide



SYDNEY PREMIERE

Directed by Marco Calvani | USA | English | 101 mins | Unclassified 18+

Lauded playwright Marco Calvani's debut feature is a sexy, poetic look at the cost of starting anew. Lourenço (Marco Pigossi) is an undocumented Brazilian immigrant, jilted by his boyfriend and having unsatisfying hook-ups in Provincetown. But when he meets nurse Maurice (James Bland), he is swept up in the heat of their attraction and connection. This delicate story also features Oscar-winner Marisa Tomei and Mya Taylor (*Tangerine*).

FRI 14 FEB 6:30PM, Event George St
WED 19 FEB 8:30M, Event George St

I'm Not a Nobody



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by Geraldine Ottier | Italy | Italian, English Subtitles | 122 mins | Unclassified 15+

Mariasilvia Spolato's life is changed forever when she becomes the first Italian woman to come out publicly in 1972. Facing discrimination and persecution, *I'm Not a Nobody* is a stirring story of resilience, determination and standing up for what you believe in no matter the cost. Spanning over thirty years, the film documents the joy and struggle of fighting for your right to exist, cementing Mariasilvia firmly in the history books. *Content warning: see website.*

In Ashes



WORLD PREMIERE

Directed by Ludvig C. Poulsen | Denmark | Danish, English Subtitles | 82 mins | Unclassified 18+

Following a break-up, awkward twenty-something Christian is struggling to get over the heartbreak of his first love. Using hook-up apps, he throws himself into a whirlwind of new sexual experiences as he tries to find something to fill the hole in his heart. Lust, passion and obsession collide on his chaotic quest to find new love - and himself. A raw, deeply personal feature debut from Danish filmmaker Ludvig C. Poulsen.

SAT 15 FEB 7PM, Event George St
FRI 28 FEB-MON 10 MAR, On Demand 

THU 20 FEB 9PM, Event George St

Lakeview



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by Tara Thorne | Canada | English | 100 mins | Unclassified 15+

A refreshing Sapphic dramedy where female friendships take centre stage with equal parts electric tension and biting wit. *Lakeview* follows the newly divorced Darcy, who has invited her dearest friends for a weekend of self-indulgent fun at her parents' lakeside house. However, none of them are prepared for the whirlwind arrival of the pathologically promiscuous Dax, whose unsolved baggage wreaks havoc upon the retreat. **Writer-director Tara Thorne and actor-producer Nicole Steeves in attendance for Q&A. Presented with the Consulate General of Canada.**

SAT 22 FEB 6:20PM, Event George St
FRI 28 FEB-MON 10 MAR, On Demand

Layla



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by Amrou Al-Kadhi | UK | English, Arabic, English Subtitles | 100 mins | Unclassified 18+

Bilal Hasna (*Extraordinary*) stars as Layla, a non-binary, British-Palestinian drag queen who falls for strait-laced marketing exec Max. But their passionate romance soon turns into a relationship of compromise and convention, shaking the very core of Layla's identity. Layla's desire for love is challenged as they reconcile the many facets of their authentic self, in Amrou Al-Kadhi's deeply personal, empowering feature debut that opened BFI Flare. **Content warning: see website. Screens with *One Day This Kid* (18 mins). Presented with Club Arak.**

TUE 25 FEB 6:20PM, Event George St

Lilies Not for Me



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by Will Seefried | USA, UK, France, South Africa | English | 99 mins | Unclassified 18+

In 1920s England, novelist Owen (Fionn O'Shea; *Handsome Devil*, MGFF17) is institutionalised for being gay. He forms an unlikely friendship with his psychiatric nurse as he recounts a passionate affair with a doctor named Phillip (Robert Aramayo, *The Rings of Power*). However, their forbidden romance spiralled out of control when Phillip became convinced he could "cure" their homosexuality. A lyrical and deeply defiant period romance inspired by true events. *Content warning: see website.*

SAT 15 FEB 6:30PM, Event George St
WED 26 FEB 6:30PM, Event George St

Love in the Big City



Directed by E.oni | South Korea | Korean, English Subtitles | 118 mins | Unclassified 15+

Heung-soo is a young gay man who is certain that he will never be able to be open about his sexuality. Least of all to the wild, unconventional Jae-hee. Yet when Jae-hee discovers his secret, she chooses to protect him rather than out him, sparking an intimate and life-long friendship. Together, the two friends navigate the highs and lows of college life, dating and society's prejudices, in this decade-spanning vibrant comedy-drama. *Content warning: see website. Presented with The Bookshop Darlinghurst.*

SAT 22 FEB 9PM, Event George St

National Anthem



Directed by Luke Gilford | USA | English | 99 mins |
Unclassified 18+

This exquisitely filmed, contemporary tale is about a young construction worker (Charlie Plummer) who works odd jobs to help support his younger brother and absent mother. When he falls in with a group of queer and trans rodeo riders against the backdrop of rural New Mexico, he discovers the chance to explore himself, his identity and find true freedom for the first time. A poetic celebration of found family.

Presented with Allianz.

FRI 21 FEB 8:30PM, Event George St

The Paradise of Thorns



Directed by Boss Kuno | Thailand | Thai, English
Subtitles | 131 mins | Classified M

Thai superstar Jeff Satur stars in the critically acclaimed *The Paradise of Thorns*, a gripping mix of romance, family melodrama and psychological suspense. After his partner's sudden death, a young Thai man faces losing their home and durian orchard due to unjust laws and scheming relatives. Featuring beautiful cinematography that showcases the beautiful landscape, this unforgettable tale of loss, resilience and defiance will keep you on the edge of your seat. *Content warning: see website. Presented with the Royal Thai Consulate-General, Sydney.*

MON 24 FEB 6:30PM, Event George St

Ponyboi



SYDNEY PREMIERE

Directed by Esteban Arango | USA | English without Subtitles, Spanish, English Subtitles | 103 mins | Unclassified 18+

Intersex runaway Ponyboi (writer River Gallo, in a star-making performance) works at a laundromat by day and as a sex worker by night, longing to escape his bleak New Jersey life. After a drug deal goes wrong, he flees from the mob with the help of a mysterious cowboy (Australia's Murray Bartlett). Blending surrealism with harsh reality, this Sundance hit offers a raw, tender exploration of queer identity, self-discovery and survival. *Content warning: see website.*

Support
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 **queer screen**

Queer Screen is more than just a film festival; it's sharing our stories and celebrating our identities.

Together, we help bring queer voices to the screen, and create transformative cinematic experiences.

Donate now.



FRI 14 FEB 8:30PM, Event George St

Queens of Drama



SYDNEY PREMIERE

Directed by Alexis Langlois | France, Belgium | French, English Subtitles | 115 mins | Unclassified 18+

Sparks fly when ingénue Mimi Madamour competes with out punk rocker Billie Kohler on an early 2000s reality TV singing competition. When Mimi achieves mainstream success but Billie doesn't, it ignites a decades-spanning romance turned rivalry – as told by a nostalgic gay vlogger in 2055. Drawing on tabloid fodder about icons like Madonna, Britney and Mariah, this satirical ode to pop divas (and the entitlement of their gay fans) is a camp cult classic in the making. *Content warning: see website.*

TUE 18 FEB 7PM, Dendy Newtown

The Rebrand



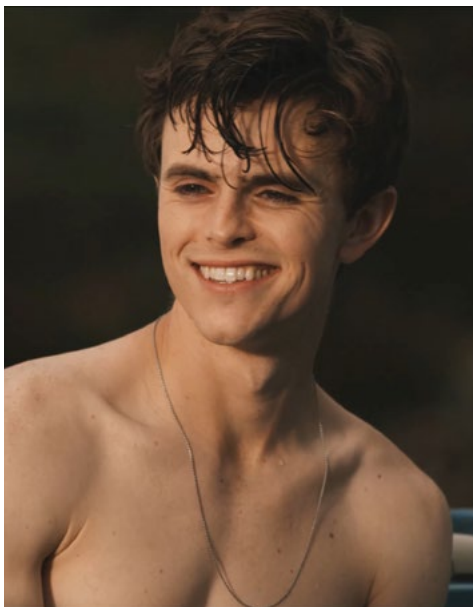
AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by Kaye Adelaide | Canada | English | 78 mins | Unclassified 15+

A wickedly funny satire about a lesbian influencer power couple. All is not what it seems in the meticulously curated lives of the fatally gorgeous Thistle and her besotted butch Blaire. Desperate to rebuild their reputation after being cancelled, they commission a documentary about themselves to rebrand their image. Enlisting the help of unassuming pregnant videographer Nicole, she soon discovers their picture-perfect aesthetic belies a hellish reality. **Writer-director Kaye Adelaide in attendance for Q&A. Presented with the Consulate General of Canada.**

SUN 23 FEB 6PM, Dendy Newtown  
FRI 28 FEB-MON 10 MAR, On Demand 

Riley



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by Benjamin Howard | USA | English | 93 mins | Unclassified 15+

This contemporary coming-of-age drama delves into the psyche of Dakota Riley, a repressed high school football star struggling to hide his secret sexual explorations. But as the façade of his own creation begins to slip, his girlfriend, family and teammates can see something's amiss. Capturing hypermasculine sports culture with stirring realism, director Benjamin Howard draws on his own experiences to deliver a fresh, personal take on an age-old theme. *Content warning: see website.*

Same, Again



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by Ruth Caudeli | Colombia | Spanish, English Subtitles | 120 mins | Unclassified 18+

Ruth Caudeli (*Eva and Candela*, MGFF19) masterfully unravels the complexities of abuse, identity and modern intimacy within a Colombian theatre troupe. As secrets emerge, a poignant narrative of solidarity and courage unfolds. With suspenseful storytelling and sensitive direction, this drama explores the ways we hurt and heal each other. A thought-provoking and unflinching look at the invisible chains that bind us and the courage it takes to break free. *Content warning: see website.*

FRI 21 FEB 6:30PM, Event George St
FRI 28 FEB-MON 10 MAR, On Demand 

TUE 25 FEB 7PM, Event George St

Sebastian



Directed by Mikko Mäkelä | UK, Finland, Belgium | English without Subtitles, French, English Subtitles | 110 mins | Unclassified 18+

Aspiring London author Max begins a double life as a sex worker, in Mikko Mäkelä's provocative follow-up to *A Moment in the Reeds* (MGFF18). Adopting the pseudonym "Sebastian", he uses his uninhibited sexual encounters with older men to research his debut novel. But as the lines between his two identities blur, Max must decide whether his loyalty is to his client's confidentiality or his career, in this sexually charged, empathetic drama.

Writer-director Mikko Mäkelä and producer James Watson in attendance for Q&A.

The Shameless



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by Konstantin Bojanov | Switzerland, Bulgaria, France, Taiwan, India | Hindi, English Subtitles | 115 mins | Unclassified 18+

Fleeing Delhi after stabbing a policeman, swaggering butch sex worker Renuka takes refuge in a northern Indian brothel. There she meets wannabe rapper Devika, their instant chemistry giving way to forbidden romance. When Devika reveals her own mother has promised her virginity and servitude to the highest bidder, Renuka works overtime to raise the funds to run away together. An extraordinary, haunting drama about two women rebelling against patriarchal expectations. *Content warning: see website.*

TUE 25 FEB 8:30PM, Event George St  

THU 20 FEB 7PM, Event George St

Streets of Glória



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by Felipe Sholl | Brazil | Spanish, Portuguese, English Subtitles | 109 mins | Unclassified 18+

When young teacher Gabriel moves to Rio he discovers The Glória, a neighborhood bar and cruising spot. There he forms a circle of friends, including magnetic trans owner Monica. When he meets sex worker Adriano, their explosive chemistry sparks a passionate and tumultuous love affair. But when Adriano disappears without a trace, Gabriel's investigation into what happened sends him down a destructive path of all-consuming obsession. A darkly sexy Brazilian drama. *Content warning: see website.*

SUN 23 FEB 8:15PM, Event George St

Three Kilometres to the End of the World



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by Emanuel Pârvu | Romania | Romanian, English Subtitles | 104 mins | Unclassified 15+









Three Kilometres to the End of the World is a haunting exploration of identity and injustice in rural Romania. After a homophobic attack, Adi's pursuit of accountability exposes a web of corruption and prejudice, leaving him to grapple with the true underbelly of those around him. With restrained tension, nuanced performances and stunning cinematography, this Queer Palm winner offers a vital queer story of resilience. *Content warning: see website.*

MON 17 FEB 6:30PM, Event George St

Date	Time	Venue	Film	Page
THU 13 Feb	7:00 PM	Event	Young Hearts	p.6
FRI 14 Feb	6:30 PM	Event	High Tide	p.22
	7:00 PM	Event	What a Feeling	p.38
	8:30 PM	Event	Ponyboi	p.27
	8:50 PM	Event	Gay Shorts	p.49
SAT 15 Feb	1:00 PM	State Library of NSW	Panel: Queering the Writer's Room	p.15
	2:30 PM	State Library of NSW	Panel: It Should've Been Queer	p.15
	4:00 PM	Event	The Last Taboo	p.42
	4:20 PM	Event	Sally!	p.44
	6:30 PM	Event	Lilies Not for Me	p.25
	7:00 PM	Event	I'm Not a Nobody	p.23
	8:45 PM	Event	Throuple	p.36
SUN 16 Feb	6:30 PM	Event	Chuck Chuck Baby	p.16
	7:00 PM	Event	Duino	p.19
MON 17 Feb	6:30 PM	Event	Three Kilometres to the End of the World	p.31
	6:30 PM	Dendy	Trans & Gender Diverse Shorts	p.52
	7:00 PM	Event	Foreign Language	p.21
	7:00 PM	Dendy	1-800-ON-HER-OWN	p.40
	8:30 PM	Event	Heart of the Man	p.22
TUE 18 Feb	6:20 PM	Event	Baldiga: Unlocked Heart	p.41
	6:30 PM	Dendy	Lesvia	p.43
	7:00 PM	The Bearded Tit	Inqueersition: Queer Screen Trivia Night	p.15
	7:00 PM	Event	We Forgot to Break Up	p.37
	7:00 PM	Dendy	Queens of Drama	p.28
	8:30 PM	Event	Demons at Dawn	p.18
WED 19 Feb	6:30 PM	Event	LIZA: A Truly Terrific Absolutely True Story	p.43
	6:30 PM	Laneway	Imagine Me & You	p.9
	7:00 PM	Event Hurstville	Crossing	p.17
	7:00 PM	Event	Concerning My Daughter	p.17
	8:30 PM	Event	High Tide	p.22

Date	Time	Venue	Film	Page
THU 20 Feb	6:20 PM	Ritz	Asia-Pacific Shorts	p.48
	6:30 PM	Event	Drive Back Home	p.19
	6:45 PM	Ritz	Cabaret	p.12
	7:00 PM	Bank Hotel	Light-Hearted Shorts	p.50
	7:00 PM	Event	The Shameless	p.30
	8:30 PM	Event	Crossing	p.17
	9:00 PM	Event	In Ashes	p.23
FRI 21 Feb	6:20 PM	Ritz	I'm Your Venus	p.42
	6:30 PM	Event	Riley	p.29
	7:00 PM	Event	Chuck Chuck Baby	p.16
	8:30 PM	Ritz	Sapphic Shorts	p.51
	8:30 PM	Event	National Anthem	p.26
	9:00 PM	Event	Hot Boys Shorts	p.49
SAT 22 Feb	3:45 PM	Dendy	What a Feeling	p.38
	4:00 PM	Event	Any Other Way: The Jackie Shane Story	p.40
	4:30 PM	Event	Dreams Such As Ours	p.18
	6:20 PM	Event	Lakeview	p.24
	6:30 PM	Dendy	Eat the Night	p.21
	6:45 PM	Event	Duino	p.19
	8:30 PM	Dendy	Carnage for Christmas	p.16
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	9:00 PM	Event	Love in the Big City	p.25
SUN 23 Feb	2:00 PM	Event	Filmmaker Masterclass: From Script(ment) to Screen	p.14
	3:40 PM	Event	Young Hearts	p.6
	4:00 PM	Dendy	Desire Lines	p.41
	6:00 PM	Event	To Live, to Die, to Live Again	p.36
	6:00 PM	Dendy	The Rebrand	p.28
	8:00 PM	Dendy	QueerScream Shorts	p.51
	8:15 PM	Event	Streets of Glória	p.31

Date	Time	Venue	Film	Page
MON 24 Feb	6:30 PM	Event	The Paradise of Thorns	p.26
	6:30 PM	Ritz	Unusually Normal	p.44
	7:00 PM	Event	My Queer Career	p.46
	7:00 PM	Ritz	T4T Shorts	p.52
	8:30 PM	Event	The Writer	p.38
TUE 25 Feb	6:00 PM	Event	Panel: Intersectional Genre Filmmaking on a Microbudget	p.14
	6:20 PM	Ritz	QueerDOC Shorts	p.50
	6:20 PM	Event	Layla	p.24
	7:00 PM	Ritz	Sister Act	p.10
	7:00 PM	Event	Industry Networking	p.14
	7:00 PM	Event	Same, Again	p.29
	8:30 PM	Event	Sebastian	p.30
WED 26 Feb	6:30 PM	Ritz	Scarecrow in a Garden of Cucumbers	p.13
	6:30 PM	Event	Lilies Not for Me	p.25
	6:30 PM	Laneway	The Birdcage	p.8
	7:00 PM	Ritz	Bi+ Shorts	p.48
	7:00 PM	Event	Under the Influencer	p.37
	8:30 PM	Event	Eat the Night	p.21
THU 27 Feb	7:00 PM	Event	Somewhere in Love	p.7

	Event George Street, Sydney
	Ritz Cinemas, Randwick
	Dendy, Newtown
	The Rocks Laneway Cinema
	State Library of NSW, Library Auditorium
	Event Hurstville
	The Bank Hotel, Newtown
	The Bearded Tit, Redfern

Films On Demand Australia-wide

28 FEB - 10 MAR

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- **Films with Closed Captions**
● **Films with Subtitles**

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Throuple



SYDNEY PREMIERE

Directed by Greyson Horst | USA | English | 90 mins |
Unclassified 18+

Terrified of pursuing his musical dreams and exploring romantic intimacy, Michael relies on his best friend and her girlfriend for support and affection. But when he meets a newly open married couple, the three men fall into a relationship that is more vulnerable than they expected. Set within New York's vibrant underground indie music scene, *Throuple* is a rom-com explosion of creative and sexual energy that's anything but traditional. **Presented with Frooty and Pride Business Association.**

To Live, to Die, to Live Again



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by Gaël Morel | France | French, English
Subtitles | 109 mins | Unclassified 15+

In 1990s Paris, married couple Sammy and Emma move into an apartment above reclusive HIV+ photographer Cyril. Celibate since his diagnosis, Cyril tries to resist the undeniable pull between him and Sammy. As they succumb to temptation, Emma simultaneously befriends Cyril and the three form an unconventional makeshift family. When Sammy's diagnosed with HIV, Emma must decide whether to look past their lies to support the man both she and Cyril love.

SAT 15 FEB 8:45PM, Event George St
FRI 28 FEB-MON 10 MAR, On Demand

SUN 23 FEB 6PM, Event George St

Under the Influencer



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

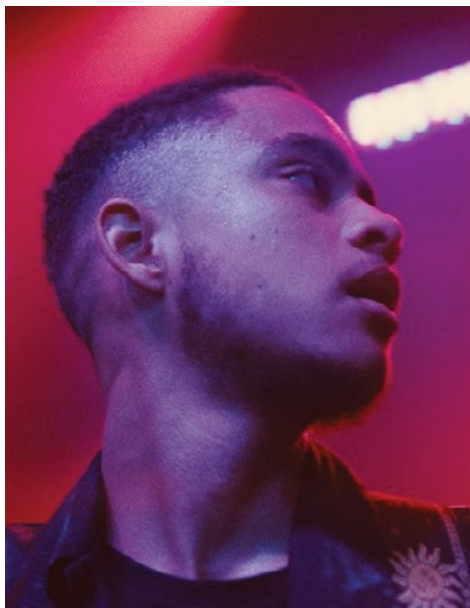
Directed by Bryn Woznicki, Lauren Neal | USA | English | 103 mins | Unclassified 15+

Digital artist Lex documents her struggle with anxiety through work that she posts anonymously online. Her pieces capture the attention of cunning curator Andrea, who offers mentorship in exchange for control of Lex's career. When Lex's mental health starts to spiral from the pressure, Andrea assumes ownership of her work – prompting Lex to plot a psychological showdown against the exploitative mentor who stole her art and nearly destroyed her mind.

Content warning: see website. This film was a Queer | Screen Goes to Cannes selection. Actor and technical director Lauren Neal and producer Jill Bennett in attendance for Q&A.

WED 26 FEB 7PM, Event George St

We Forgot to Break Up



SYDNEY PREMIERE

Directed by Karen Knox | Canada | English | 94 mins | Unclassified 18+

At the turn of the millennium, a group of friends and lovers form The New Normals, an indie rock band that transcends labels, showcasing the changing times. Led by ambitious trans man singer-songwriter Evan, the group soon finds success, pushing their already fragile relationships right to the edge. Exploring the toxic world of fame and the sacrifices made along the way, this exciting, music-filled film has a soundtrack oozing with nostalgia. *Content warning: see website. Director Karen Knox and actor Lane Webber in attendance for Q&A. Presented with United Airlines and the Consulate General of Canada.*

TUE 18 FEB 7PM, Event George St

What a Feeling



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by Kat Rohrer | Austria | German, Persian, English Subtitles, English without Subtitles | 110 mins | Unclassified 15+

Reinvention is the key to survival, in this heartfelt romantic comedy. Marie Therese is living out the perfect middle-class dream with a career, house, husband and kid - until she's not. When her husband leaves her life falls apart until she meets Fa, a free-spirited carpenter who cares for her elderly Iranian mother. The pair are drawn together by a desire to live their lives for themselves, in this warm, funny film about second chances.

The Writer



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by Romas Zabarauskas | Lithuania, Germany, USA | English | 86 mins | Unclassified 15+

When Lithuanian-American author Kostas publishes a book inspired by his separation from a former lover, Dima turns up out of the blue to correct some facts. Decades since Kostas left Dima behind in newly-independent Lithuania to study in New York, they'd fallen in love while serving in the Soviet army. Their reunion soon becomes a verbal sparring match as they confront their personal and political past, in this beautifully crafted two-hander.

Content warning: see website. Screens with [Anywhere the Wind Blows](#) (18 mins).

FRI 14 FEB 7PM, Event George St
SAT 22 FEB 3:45PM, Dendy Newtown

MON 24 FEB 8:30PM, Event George St
FRI 28 FEB-MON 10 MAR, On Demand

Community Screenings



Queer Screen is committed to removing barriers preventing people from attending the Mardi Gras Film Festival with these \$12 Community Screenings, supported by Allianz.



**19 Feb
7pm**

Event
Hurstville

Crossing
p.17



**22 Feb
4:30pm**

Event
George St

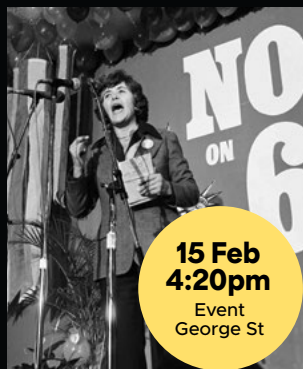
Dreams Such as Ours
p.18



**20 Feb
7:00pm**

Bank
Hotel

Light-Hearted Shorts
p.50



**15 Feb
4:20pm**

Event
George St

Sally!
p.44



**22 Feb
3:45pm**

Dendy
Newtown

What a Feeling
p.38

1-800-ON-HER-OWN



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by Dana Flor | USA | English | 77 mins | Unclassified 15+

A raw and revealing documentary about bisexual folk-rock legend Ani Di Franco. After bursting onto the '90s folk music scene with her shaved head and unapologetic feminist ideals front and centre, Ani became a beacon for young women around the world. Her vulnerability and openness as a 51 year-old introduces us to a new phase of her life as she looks for new ways to remain relevant in the modern world. *Content warning: see website. Screens with **Is Gay Marriage Next?** (16 mins).*

MON 17 FEB 7PM, Dendy Newtown

Any Other Way: The Jackie Shane Story



Directed by Michael Mabbott, Lucah Rosenberg-Lee | Canada | English | 99 mins | Unclassified 15+

Through the breakout single "Any Other Way", Jackie Shane challenged norms as one of the first Black trans musicians to rise to stardom in the 1960s. In this award winning documentary, join Jackie's family as they discover the remarkable story behind their famous relative. With a dazzling stylistic flair Jackie's story is recontextualised through stunning rotoscope reenactments and unheard phone recordings that honour her unique significance as a trailblazing trans icon. *Content warning: see website. Presented with the **Consulate General of Canada and Goovescooter.***

SAT 22 FEB 4PM, Event George St

Baldiga: Unlocked Heart Desire Lines



SYDNEY PREMIERE

Directed by Markus Stein | Germany | German,
English Subtitles | 92 mins | Unclassified 18+

"I wonder what kind of dick Caravaggio had?" *Baldiga: Unlocked Heart* captures the provocative life of Jürgen Baldiga. His daring photos and intimate writings chronicled West Berlin's 1980s radical queer scene under the shadow of the Berlin Wall, as well as their anguish and defiant resilience during the devastating AIDS crisis. This powerful documentary portrays both the vibrant joy and stark vulnerability of an artist and community during a tumultuous era. *Content warning: see website.*



SYDNEY PREMIERE

Directed by Jules Rosskam | USA | English | 83 mins |
Unclassified 18+

Join Ahmad, an Iranian trans man, on a unique journey through the archives as he unpacks the intersections between gender identity and desire. Jules Rosskam's hybrid documentary blends past and present with innovative ease, showcasing a diverse array of transmasculine perspectives across space and time. *Desire Lines* is a heartfelt tribute to transmasc visibility, documenting a variety of stories around sexual desire and expression. *Content warning: see website.*

TUE 18 FEB 6:20PM, Event George St

SUN 23 FEB 4PM, Dendy Newtown 
FRI 28 FEB-MON 10 MAR, On Demand 

I'm Your Venus



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by Kimberly Reed | USA | English | 80 mins | Unclassified 15+

Whilst filming legendary ballroom documentary *Paris Is Burning*, one of its iconic trans stars was murdered. Thirty-five years since Venus Xtravaganza's tragic death, her two families – biological and ballroom – unite to honour her legacy and seek justice. Old wounds are reopened as her case is reexamined, amidst a fight to posthumously amend her birth certificate. Overflowing with love, this cathartic documentary is a moving ode to Venus and the power of community. *Content warning: see website. Screens with Shade in the Sunshine State (14 mins). Presented with Inner City Legal Centre.*

FRI 21 FEB 6:20PM, Ritz Cinemas

The Last Taboo



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by Manfred Oldenburg | Germany | German, English Subtitles, English without Subtitles | 94 mins | Unclassified 15+

A fearless exploration of pervasive homophobia in men's professional soccer, revealing the courage and heartbreak of gay players navigating its toxic culture. Through heartfelt and powerful interviews, this insightful documentary lays bare the sport's deep flaws and urgent need for change. With only nine out players amongst 500,000 active male professionals, the film is a bold call to change the culture and allow players to be true to themselves. *Content warning: see website. Screens with Captains (15 mins). Presented with Sydney Rangers FC.*

SAT 15 FEB 4PM, Event George St
FRI 28 FEB-MON 10 MAR, On Demand

Lesvia



SYDNEY PREMIERE

Directed by Tzeli Hadjidimitriou | Greece | Greek, English, English Subtitles | 78 mins | Unclassified 15+

Lesvia captures the extraordinary 40-year transformation of a small Greek village into a lesbian utopia on the famous Greek island of Lesbos. Blending rare archival footage with heartfelt storytelling, the joys, tensions and evolution of a revolutionary queer community are celebrated. From Sappho's legacy to modern tribulations, this powerful documentary offers a moving and nuanced celebration of identity and belonging.

Screens with Old Lesbians (29 mins).

LIZA: A Truly Terrific Absolutely True Story



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

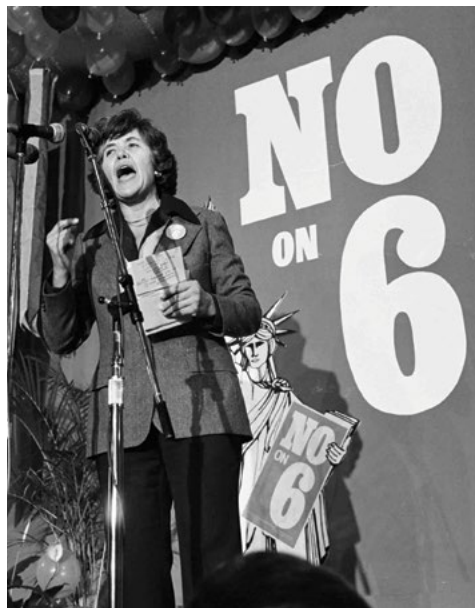
Directed by Bruce David Klein | USA | English | 104 mins | Unclassified 15+

Born in a red sequined dress and belting out a tune, Liza Minnelli takes centre stage in this dazzling profile of an enduring gay icon and Hollywood survivor. A rich tapestry of archival footage deftly charts her 1970s triumphs - winning a Tony, Emmy and Oscar - while honouring her legendary parents and mentors. Interviews with friends like Mia Farrow and Michael Feinstein highlight her talent, energy and grit - and skewer an ex-husband or two! *Content warning: see website.*

TUE 18 FEB 6:30PM, Dendy Newtown
FRI 28 FEB-MON 10 MAR, On Demand

WED 19 FEB 6:30PM, Event George St

Sally!



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by Deborah Craig | USA | English | 94 mins | Unclassified 15+

A flirt, a revolutionary, a lover and a fighter, Sally Gearhart was a trailblazing force to be reckoned with. Uncover her vibrant legacy as a radical activist and pioneering voice in the 1970's and '80s lesbian feminist movement. Gearhart's charisma and fierce spirit shine through rare archival footage and candid interviews. This film not only celebrates her often overlooked contributions, but also grapples with the complexities of revolutionary movements.

Co-directors and producers Jörg Fockele and Ondine Rarey in attendance for Q&A.

SAT 15 FEB 4:20PM, Event George St
FRI 28 FEB-MON 10 MAR, On Demand

Unusually Normal



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

Directed by Colette Johnson-Vosberg | Canada | English | 98 mins | Unclassified 15+

Seven women, three generations, one family – and countless secrets and lies. Meet Canada's Gayest Family, which includes Sydney expat Janice Moore. Through interviews, viral TikToks and archival footage (including remarkable footage from the 1960s Australian Gay Olympics), this extraordinary family shares their decades-spanning journey from hidden relationships to living proudly and openly, highlighting the similarities (and differences) between three generations of gay women. Presented with the Consulate General of Canada and Pride History Group.

MON 24 FEB 6:30PM, Ritz Cinemas
FRI 28 FEB-MON 10 MAR, On Demand

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My Queer Career

102 mins | Unclassified 15+
Content warning: see website.

MON 24 FEB 7PM, Event Cinemas George St **OC** **6+**
FRI 28 FEB-MON 10 MAR, On Demand **CC**

Ballad



Directed by Roe Bonnici | Produced by Laura Jane Turner | 10 mins

A lonely woman on the Australian frontier has a chance encounter with an injured bushranger. They find an unlikely connection and kinship, until the law comes knocking.

Bathers



Directed by Theresa Roberts | Produced by Theresa Roberts, Pia Husbands | 12 mins

Whilst grieving the loss of her father, Tess discovers herself amongst a community of female surfers.

Joan the Kid



Directed by Kat Silverosa, Grace Hackney | Produced by Joelle Snono | 13 mins

When her detention project comes to life, Jo is taken on a whirlwind trip through history by the not-so-saintly Saint, Joan of Arc.

Oi



Directed by Sophie Serisier | Produced by Monique Placko | 16 mins

When a turbulent teenage girl undergoes a traumatic experience, she must face her own violent bravado head-on.

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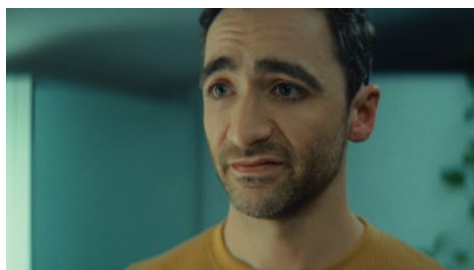


SPECTRUM
FILMS



Don't miss your chance to see the films competing in My Queer Career, Australia's richest LGBTIQ+ short film prize, with over \$16,000 worth of cash and support to be won.

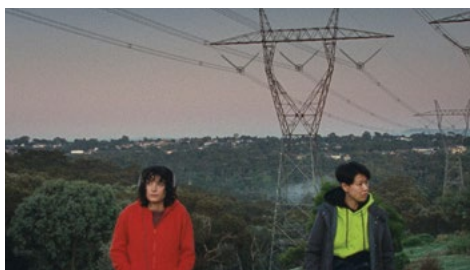
Die Bully Die



Directed by Nathan Lacey, Nick Lacey | Produced by Nathan Lacey, Nick Lacey, Nicole Thorn, Matthew Backer, Drew Weston | 16 mins

17 years since high school, Max catches up with his former bully in a fancy restaurant where Max's grudge against Adam begins to manifest in horrific ways.

Hold Still



Directed by Emily Dynes | Produced by Jasper Caverly, Kristen Auguard | 12 mins

A tradie and a dancer meet during a litting summer in a rural town, two young people on the edge of something big.

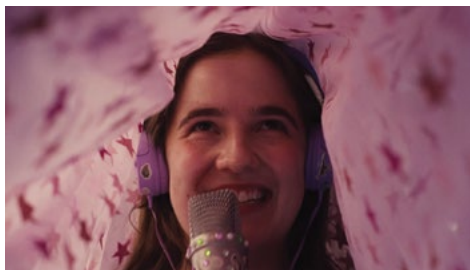
Pleasure



Directed by Jasper Caverly | Produced by Sarah Hegge-Taylor | 10 mins

Two teenage boys must split up on a sweaty summer night after they're caught graffitiing a train in Melbourne's inner-west, until a moment of unexpected intimacy brings them closer together.

With Love, Lottie



Directed by Lily Drummond | Produced by Sarah Moulton, Lily Drummond, Jeremy Lowrenčev, Amanda Browne, Ashlee Russell | 13 mins

When a disabled teenager fears she will never find love, she enlists her friends as mentors in the unpredictable world of dating – and discovers that love can come in many unexpected ways and forms.

Asia-Pacific Shorts



Guam, Hawaii, India, Malaysia, Singapore, South Korea, UK, USA | English without Subtitles, Bahasa Malaysia, Bengali, Singaporean English, English Subtitles | 98 mins | Unclassified 15+

A Malaysian man reflects on becoming the first to successfully claim asylum in the UK based on LGBTIQ+ identity. An Indian lesbian couple is torn apart by an arranged marriage. Memories of a historic Hawaiian nightclub that offered refuge to trans performers. A gay Singaporean man attempts to be discharged from the army. These films (and more) share a focus on defiance against societal pressure to conform across the Asia-Pacific. *Content warning: see website.*

THU 20 FEB 6:20PM, Ritz Cinemas
FRI 28 FEB-MON 10 MAR, On Demand

Bi+ Shorts



Canada, UK, USA | English without Subtitles, Mandarin, Shainghaiese, English Subtitles | 92 mins | Unclassified 15+

Bi, pan, fluid, queer – those attracted to more than one gender take centre stage in this inclusive package. Insecure about her bisexuality because she's never been with a woman, Stevie tries bluffing her way into a threesome. A recently single man enlists an attractive friend of a friend to explore his curiosity. And a woman's relationship with her polyamorous girlfriend is tested when they run into the out of town boyfriend.

Presented with BiCONIC.

WED 26 FEB 7PM, Ritz Cinemas
FRI 28 FEB-MON 10 MAR, On Demand

Gay Shorts



Estonia, France, Palestine, Spain, USA, UK | Arabic, Urdu, Russian, Spanish, English Subtitles, English without Subtitles | 101 mins | Unclassified 15

Featuring Ben Whishaw as someone struggling with sex addiction, together these films explore the highs and lows of gay life around the world. A Palestinian man faces blackmail by occupying forces. An altar boy attempts to draw attention away from his pious crush's devotion to Jesus. A closeted Russian man's brother sets him up with a female sex worker. From the funny to the emotional, they capture gay men's varied experiences. *Content warning: see website.*

FRI 14 FEB 8:50PM, Event George St
FRI 28 FEB–MON 10 MAR, On Demand

Hot Boys Shorts



Canada, Spain, Taiwan, UK, USA | English without Subtitles, Mandarin, Spanish, English Subtitles | 110 mins | Unclassified 18+

Things get hot and heavy in this collection of films centring the sex lives of men. A steamy car wash rendezvous makes two soccer players question their secretive relationship. A couple's hike is derailed when they run into an attractive naked stranger. A photographer for gay men's magazines unlocks his erotic archive. A cruising connection turns into something much more. Oh, and someone discovers he cums gold. Yes, actual gold. *Content warning: see website.*

FRI 21 FEB 9PM, Event George St
FRI 28 FEB–MON 10 MAR, On Demand

Light-Hearted Shorts



Canada, England, Germany, UK, USA | French, English Subtitles, English without Subtitles | 97 mins | Unclassified 15+

These fun and light-hearted shorts are bound to put a smile on your face. Megan Stalter (*Hacks*) can't help running her mouth while angling for a job interview. An Earth-bound angel is tasked with getting two ex-friends to admit their love. An Asian-American mother and adult child find common ground during driving lessons. And a non-binary throuple must face the greatest horror of all: a co-worker's baby gender reveal party.

THU 20 FEB 7PM, Bank Hotel
FRI 28 FEB-MON 10 MAR, On Demand

QueerDOC Shorts



Australia, Canada, Germany, India, Slovakia, UK, USA | Tamil, Slovak, English Subtitles, English without Subtitles | 97 mins | Unclassified 18+

From activists to artists and beyond, these documentaries put a face to remarkable true stories. Personal testimonies about the UK's oldest queer support line, the LGBT Switchboard. An Indian trans woman fights for her marriage to be recognised. The resilience of the Slovakian LGBTIQ+ community following a terrorist attack on a gay bar. A peek into NYC's diverse queer underground sex parties. Plus the World Premiere of *Empress*, profiling Sydney artist Dyan Tai. *Content warning: see website.*

TUE 25 FEB 6:20PM, Ritz Cinemas
FRI 28 FEB-MON 10 MAR, On Demand

QueerScream Shorts



Canada, UK, USA | English | 102 mins | Unclassified 18+

From the weird and wonderful, to the surreal and strange, to the genuinely frightening, this collection of queer genre films is a real scream. Featuring tales about campy transgender werewolves, overzealous pop star stans, creepy chanting hitchhikers, a doctor's creative revenge after catching his boyfriend cheating and even a body horror twist on the *Wet Ass Pussy*, this eclectic package is best enjoyed in the dark in a room full of strangers.

SUN 23 FEB 8PM, Dendy Newtown
FRI 28 FEB–MON 10 MAR, On Demand

Sapphic Shorts



Canada, Netherlands, UK, USA | English without Subtitles, Arabic, Dutch, English Subtitles | 98 mins | Unclassified 15+

This selection of Sapphic shorts is punctuated by tales of yearning, flirtation and love in its many forms. There's an unexpected spark between a queer woman and her housemate's sister during a blackout. Tara's long-time crush reveals she's dating someone else. Lesbian daughter Jona moves back home with her mum following a break-up. A couple attempt to complete a particularly weird bucket list. Plus, a tongue-in-cheek ode to the carabiner! *Content warning: see website.*

FRI 21 FEB 8:30PM, Ritz Cinemas
FRI 28 FEB–MON 10 MAR, On Demand

T4T Shorts



Canada, France, Greece, UK, USA | English without Subtitles, French, Greek, English Subtitles | 108 mins | Unclassified 15+

Spotlighting stories that centre relationships between trans people, these shorts explore the power of trans love, solidarity and resilience. Emmy-nominee Nava Mau (*Baby Reindeer*) plays a woman confronted with a volatile ex from her past. Romance blossoms between two trans men by the French seaside. Best friends Fay and Sandra face a farewell when Fay tires of police persecution in their Greek town. And performance artist Krishna Isthia and his partner search for a sperm donor. *Content warning: see website.*

MON 24 FEB 7PM, Ritz Cinemas
FRI 28 FEB–MON 10 MAR, On Demand


Trans & Gender Diverse Shorts



Australia, Brazil, India, Iran, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal, Spain, UK, USA | English without Subtitles, Hindi, Persian, Spanish, English Subtitles | 104 mins | Unclassified 15+

Featuring Ian McKellen as a mysterious fox who helps a child in their search for identity, this collection of shorts explores the many facets of trans and gender diverse lives. 92 year-old Patricia recounts her late in life coming out. A high schooler is torn when being treated as “one of the guys” means ignoring misogyny. And Lío Mehiel (*Mutt, MGFF24*) stars in the poetic, award-winning film *Skin*. *Content warning: see website.*

Presented with Allianz.

MON 17 FEB 6:30PM, Dendy Newtown
FRI 28 FEB–MON 10 MAR, On Demand 

Women Loving Women Shorts



Colombia, UK, USA | English, American Sign Language, French, Spanish, Urdu, English Subtitles | 100 mins | Unclassified 15+

Featuring everything from one night stands, forbidden romances and best friend crushes, these shorts showcase love between women. Georgie can't get into her apartment when she brings Alisha home from the club. Two women in a repressed religious community explore their secret feelings. A closeted teen stumbles across her supposedly straight mum's profile on a lesbian dating app. Plus the World Premiere of Australian animated short *Connection*, starring Aurelia St Clair and Lena Moon. *Content warning: see website.*

SAT 22 FEB 8:40PM, Event George St 
FRI 28 FEB-MON 10 MAR, On Demand 

Supportix Program

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



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

DELUXE MEMBER	\$375
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- All Standard Member benefits
- + access to a ticket to EVERY session at Mardi Gras Film Festival
- + VIP entry and access to our Deluxe waiting area at cinema events
- + Special recognition in program and onscreen
- + Invitation to launches and VIP events

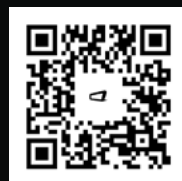
PREMIUM MEMBER	\$150
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- All Standard Member benefits
- + 2 tickets to Opening Night of Mardi Gras Film Festival
- + 2 tickets to My Queer Career
- + Invitation to launches and VIP events

SUPER DELUXE MEMBER	\$500
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- All Deluxe Member benefits
- + access to a ticket to every session at Queer Screen Film Fest and any out of festival screenings

Scan the QR Code or visit
queerscreen.org.au/support-us/membership/



Venues

Queer Screen's 32nd 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 35 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

The Rocks Laneway Cinema

The Rocks Square, Playfair St,
The Rocks NSW 2000

State Library of NSW, Library Auditorium

1 Shakespeare Pl, Sydney NSW 2000

Event Cinemas, Hurstville

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

The Bank Hotel, Waywards

Upstairs, 324 King Street,
Newtown NSW 2042

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 32nd Mardi Gras Film Festival. For venue-specific access information please visit queerscreen.org.au/accessibility.

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 32nd 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 a 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 Saturday 22 February screening of *What a Feeling* (p.38).

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

In Cinema

Open Captions & Auslan Interpreter for Introduction & Q&A

My Queer Career (p.46-47)

The Rebrand (p.28)

Sebastian (p.30)

Open Captions & Audio Description

Desire Lines (p.41)

Open Captions

Crossing (p.17)

Women Loving Women Shorts (p.53)

Relaxed Screening

What a Feeling (p.38),
SAT 22 FEB screening

On Demand

Closed Captions

I'm Not a Nobody (p.23)

My Queer Career (p.46-47)

The Rebrand (p.28)

Riley (p.29)

Trans & Gender Diverse Shorts (p.52)

Women Loving Women Shorts (p.53)

The Writer (p.38)

Films with Subtitles

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

DDN Tix

\$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.



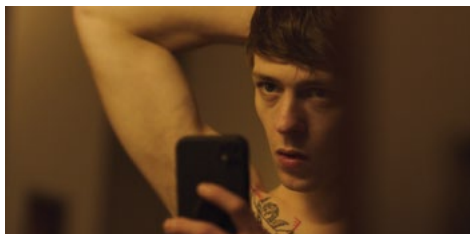
Desire Lines (p.41)

SUN 23 FEB 4:00PM, Dendy Newtown



The Rebrand (p.28)

SUN 23 FEB 6:00PM, Dendy Newtown



Sebastian (p.30)

TUE 25 FEB 8:30PM, Event George St

Festival Tickets

In Cinema

Want the early bird price? Book in January, as cinema prices will increase on 1 February.

	8-31 JAN	From 1 FEB
Full Price	\$22	\$24
Concession	\$19	\$21
Members	\$18	\$20

Accessible Tickets

DDN Tix (p.57)	\$12
Youth (15-25 year olds)*	\$12
Community (p.39)	\$12
Supportix (p.53)	FREE
The Rocks Laneway (p.8-9)	FREE

*Youth Tickets will be available to purchase online from 9am the day before a screening commences and from the Box Office on the day of the screening, for any non-sold out sessions. Proof of age required.

Opening Night Gala

Young Hearts (p.6)

Full Price	\$42
Concession	\$39
Queer Screen Members	\$38

Includes 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.

On Demand

Full Price	\$14
Queer Screen Members	\$12
Full Price Household Tickets	\$20
Member Household Tickets	\$17

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	\$79	\$99
Any 10 films	\$155	\$190

Festival flexi passes are valid for in cinema and On Demand sessions, excluding The Rocks Laneway Cinema.

ONLINE PASS	MEMBER	FULL
Any 5 On Demand films	\$55	\$65
On Demand All In	\$125	\$150

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

Where and how to buy your tickets!

Online

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

Queer Screen App

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

Over the Phone

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

In Person

During the festival tickets for all sessions are available from the Queer Screen Box Office at all venues unless sold out. The Box Office opens 45 minutes before the first session of the day at that venue. Unfortunately no in person bookings are possible before the festival.

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.

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 access to a ticket for EVERY session at the Mardi Gras Film Festival. Pretty incredible!

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

MGFF25 On Tour

The festival heads to the Blue Mountains in March and Canberra in April. Stay tuned for program and ticketing announcement. See our website and socials for details.

Who We Are

Festival Team

Festival Director Lisa Rose

Festival Producer Michael McCurdie

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

**Programming Assistant & Industry
Coordinator** Andrew Wilkie

Partnerships Coordinator Madeleine Doyle

Production & Volunteer Coordinator
Alexandra Green

Digital & Content Coordinator Kyle Goldfinch

Publicity Vanessa McQuarrie

Graphic Design & Illustration Luke Tribe

Web Design Design Logic

Festival Trailer Pablo Alfieri at The Editors,
Animation by Luke Tribe

Bookkeeper Adam Bold

Board of Directors

Co-Chairs Abs Osseiran, Angela Ruchin

Treasurer Michelle Mutchnik

Company Secretary (interim) Mike Whalley

Directors Finn O'Keefe, Ian Goshko, Jessica
Liley, Mike Whalley, Rosario Mugnaini, Ted Rose

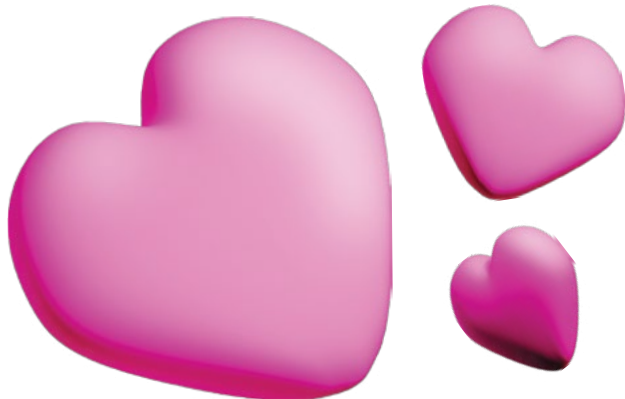
Associates Anthony Young, David Libter,
Michael Rolik, Mike Worsley

DIAP Advisory Group

Andi Egan, Cassy Best, Lana Zilla, Barbara
Karpinki, Liz Cooper, Stevie Fenech

Key Volunteers

Cameron Bayley, David Blanco, Jess Cheng,
Liv Campbell, Maya Veloso, Sanouk Peiper,
Sevana Ohandjanian, Susan McDonald,
Troy Byrnes, Will Dishon, and the entire
Programming Prescreener team.



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. Adrik Kemp, AJ Jenkins, Alexander Cochrane, Andrew Perkin, Annika Stagg, Benji Tamir, Berenger Playford, Bowie Stagg-Rose, Bradley Clark, Ce Benedict, Charlotte Griffiths, Dianna Graf, Dov Kornits, Felix Hubble, Frances Wallace, Greg Topalain, Jain Moralee, James Ballard, Jeremy Low and the team at Allens Linklaters, Jonathan Page, Josh Forward, Joy Ng, Katja Sinani, Kiliane Beunard, Kim Mills, Lara Sabbadin, Mark Cornelius, Mel Rumble, Michael Sabater, Prakash Prabhakaran, Q Programmers, Rebecca & Rodney and the team at JORR, Rob Raulings and the team from Ferve, Rory Stanway and the team from Bolster, Sarah Walker, Sharon Hickey, Sophia Zachariou, Spiro Economopoulos, Stephen Cummins Film Trust, Steeve Taylor, and the Canva Space team.

Our Donors

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

True Love

Andrew Blunt, Andrew Pickles, Caroline Birkett, Craig Roberts, David Laidley, David Libter, Dennis Berry, Geoff Annabel, Gregory Freckmann, Janel Carozza, Jodie Camden, Manivannan Gopalakrishnan, Mark Proffit, Martyn Thompson, Peter Grimison, Richard Harris, Roy Bishop, Trevor Parkin

Top 100

Abby Duruz, Andrew Narracott, Bruce Cameron, Chris Pycroft, Clive Miller, Craig Campbell, Diana Coffey, Giovanni Campolo-Arcidiaco, Ian Adrian, Ian Cull, John Robinson, John Tsioulos, Lisa Cantlon, Melissa Mcadam, Meredith Williams, Michael Rolik, Patrick Loughnan, Richard Cobden, Robert D'Arcy-Irvine, Robert Eidus, Sally Chik, Sandra Cook, Stephanie Sands, Stephen Bailey, Stephen Gates, Stephen Jovanovich, Su Goldfish, Susan Mcconaghy, Warwick Yee, Yvonne Korn

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, Adrian Peake, Benji Brown, David Libter, Evelyn Perusco, Ian Cull, Ian Foxtan, Lloyd Moorhouse, Manivannan Gopalakrishnan, Mark Mullin, Megan Mclachlan, Owen Evans, Peter Grimison, Richard Cobden, Roy Bishop

Deluxe Members

Brian Shanley, Craig Campbell, David Laidley, Meredith Williams, Olivia Roney, Peter James, Stephen Rossiter

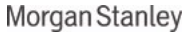
Major Partner



Sponsors



Signature Supporters



Venue Partners



Media Partners



My Queer Career



Supporters



Volunteer at the Mardi Gras Film Festival!

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

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

**Opportunities are available
in 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/





We care about everything that makes you, **you.**

A place where you **belong.**

LGBTQ+ Pride



Join us.
Let's care for
tomorrow.

→ [ALLIANZ.COM.AU/CAREERS](https://www.allianz.com.au/careers)

