

WELCOME TO MQFF 2018



Australia's biggest queer film festival returns to Melbourne to celebrate its 28th year with a blockbuster program set to delight, surprise and challenge audiences.

Film buffs can take their pick from some of the best queer cinema from across the country and around the world, including more than 120 feature films, short films and documentaries. Festival-goers can also join the conversation at a range of enthralling panel and Q&A sessions.

As a long term principal partner, the City of Melbourne is proud to support the festival and our queer filmmaking community. So peruse the program, grab the popcorn and get ready as we raise the curtain on one of our city's premiere cultural events.

The stage is set for another bumper year; congratulations to the Melbourne Queer Film Festival team!

Arron Wood

Deputy Lord Mayor of Melbourne



Maxwell Gratton
Executive Director

For nearly three decades the Melbourne Queer Film Festival (MQFF) has engaged the community with a curated program of the best LGBTIQ content that aims to educate, entertain and celebrate diversity. I am honored to be leading my first Festival as Executive Director.

Having crossed to the Entertainment and Arts industry from Sport, where I was most recently the Chief Executive Officer of Football Federation Victoria, what has been most evident is the affection the community has for MQFF. In that light, I will do my best to lead a Festival that is innovative and relevant whilst underpinning the contribution of those before me that has made MQFF so great.

This year we present a program of over 120 features and shorts, panels, questions and answer sessions, workshops, parties and many other ways to celebrate LGBTIQ culture through film and the moving image.

A special thanks goes to all of those who have made the Festival possible. From the Board of Directors, led by Scott Herron and Cathy Anderson, to our generous sponsors, partners, donors and Sweethearts, volunteers, MQFF Members, you the audience, and everyone and anyone who has contributed. It is all greatly appreciated.

I trust that you will have a fabulous time as we strive to educate, entertain and celebrate diversity.



Spiro Economopoulos
Program Manager

2017 was an incredible year for queer cinema. It was bookended with two films that are sure to be future classics, *Moonlight* and *Call Me By Your Name*.

In between that we saw theatrical releases of *God's Own Country*, *Battle of the Sexes*, *Professor Marston and the Wonder Woman*, *Handsome Devil* (MQFF 2017) and *Tom of Finland*.

What we are seeing isn't so much the mainstreaming of queer cinema but the very exciting prospect that more diverse queer stories are getting told and it's having a very exciting trickle down effect that is reflected in MQFF's bountiful 2018 program.

We continue to showcase and celebrate the best in LGBTIQ cinema from around the world and it's really heartening to be featuring two Australian feature debuts with *So Long* and *The Five Provocations*. These will be playing alongside headliners such as *My Days of Mercy*, *BPM (Beats Per Minute)*, *Signature Move*, *After Louie*, *The Feels* and *Love, Simon* (our centrepiece presentation), just to name a few.

But don't take my word for it: dive in and explore, you'll be queerer for it.

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SINGLE TICKETS

Full \$20.50

Concession \$17.50

Member / Group (10+) \$16.50

ALL-IN PASSES

ALL-IN PASS

\$349 Member

MQFF MEMBERSHIP

\$65 Full / \$55 Conc / \$45 Under 30

PASSES

3 FILM PASS

\$57 Full / \$49 Conc / \$46 Member

5 FILM PASS

\$92 Full / \$79 Conc / \$74 Member

7 FILM PASS

\$127 Full / \$108 Conc / \$102 Member

Booking fees range from \$2.50 to \$5, depending on booking total.



HOW TO BUY TICKETS

1. Download the App

Browse and purchase tickets on the official MQFF iPhone or Android app.

No printing required - bring your smartphone to be scanned at the door.

2. Online at mqff.com.au

3. At the Box Office

15-26 March: Open 10am – late. Located at ACMI Cinemas, Tickets & Information Desk.

Kino Cinema & Cinema Nova: Open 1 hour prior to the session start time to the start of the last session of the day at the venue.

MQFF MEMBERSHIP

Membership is a great way to support queer cinema plus it offers a heap of year-round benefits including discounted tickets, priority access to cinemas and free member screenings. Visit mqff.com.au/membership for more info.

ADMISSION CONDITIONS

Classification

The Classification Board grants MQFF special customs and censorship clearances that mean all audience members must be 18 years or over except where indicated.

Concession tickets

Full-time students, pensioners, unwaged, seniors, MIFF, ACMI & Palace Cinema

members are entitled to concession prices with a valid concession or membership card.

Refunds Policy

All purchases are non-refundable, except in some instances when a session is cancelled.

Exchanges can be made up to 2 hours before a session commences and incur fees (\$1.50 online / \$3 at box office per ticket). Visit mqff.com.au for full terms and conditions.

Access

MQFF is committed to increasing accessibility across the festival. This year we are providing a number of Open Caption screenings including our Centrepiece Gala. Look out for the .

All MQFF venues are wheelchair accessible and have accessible toilets. All MQFF cinemas have assistive listening via an audio loop through the t-switch on a hearing aid, or audio headset.

MQFF supports and accepts the Companion Card. To book tickets using your Companion Card, to book a wheelchair space, or to advise us of your access needs please call **03 9662 4147**. Companion Card tickets and wheelchair spaces are currently unable to be booked online.

For more detailed access information and a full list of Open Caption and Subtitled screenings visit mqff.com.au/access

Contact: **03 9662 4147** or info@mqff.com.au

OPENING NIGHT



Celebrate the opening of the 28th Melbourne Queer Film Festival and join us for drinks, canapés and dancing at our **OPENING NIGHT PARTY** following the screening.

FREAK SHOW

Melbourne Premiere

'Heir to the John Hughes teen-outsider fantasy legacy, dressed up in glitter drag.'
– Hollywood Reporter

Based on the award winning cult novel by legendary club kid James St. James (who also wrote *Party Monster*) *Freak Show* is a wonderfully queer fish out of water comedy that is part *Clueless* and all fabulous. Born to be fierce and fashion forward, young Billy (played by the excellent Alex Lawther, *Departure* MQFF 2016) is sent off to stay with his well-to-do dad after his party loving mother (Bette Midler at

her boozy best) checks in for a stint in rehab. His flamboyant style doesn't go down too well at his new school and he quickly makes an enemy out of the self-appointed mean girl (Abigail Breslin) when he decides to go up against her for the crown of homecoming queen. Featuring memorable cameos from Laverne Cox and John McEnroe, this defiant coming of age tale is a rally cry for letting your 'freak flag' fly.

Director: Trudie Styler, USA 2017, 91 mins, Courtesy: The Works Film Group

Followed by our Opening Night Party with tunes by The Outpost's Mr Weir.

Opening Night Film & Party \$82 Full / \$70 Concession / \$66 MQFF Member

SESSION	DATE	TIME	VENUE
7000	Thursday 15 March	7.30PM	ACMI

CLOSING NIGHT

Winner Best Film - Los Angeles Film Festival 2017

BECKS

Australia Premiere

Dir: Daniel Powell & Elizabeth Rohrbaugh, USA, 2017, 91 mins,
Courtesy: Lightning Entertainment

Followed by Closing Night celebrations at ACMI with tunes by DJ Emoceans.

Closing Night Film & Festivities

\$36 Full / \$31 Concession /
\$29 MQFF Member

Brooklyn singer-songwriter Becks (Tony award winner Lena Hall) is broke and broken hearted. After moving her entire life to LA to be with her girlfriend, she devastatingly discovers that she has been replaced by someone younger and hotter. Following this crushing breakup, she moves back home to the Midwest to live with her mother (Christine Lahti). While figuring what to do with her life and singing for tips at her ex-boyfriend's local bar, she forms an unexpected connection with restless housewife Elyse (Mena Suvari), who is unfortunately married to Becks' high school tormenter. The film is inspired by events in the life of singer Alyssa Robbins, who collaborated on the film's score and is elevated by the charismatic Hall whose vulnerability, wryness and immense likability make this an enjoyable night out.

SESSION	DATE	TIME	VENUE
9000	Saturday 25 March	8.00PM	ACMI

BE OUR SWEETHEART

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HEARTS**

Take a starring role in MQFF -
Join our **Sweethearts private giving program!**

Festival Sweethearts belong to a unique group of engaged film enthusiasts with insider access to the Festival, whose donations directly support Festival operations and programming.

Find out more: mqff.com.au



CENTREPIECE PRESENTATION



LOVE, SIMON

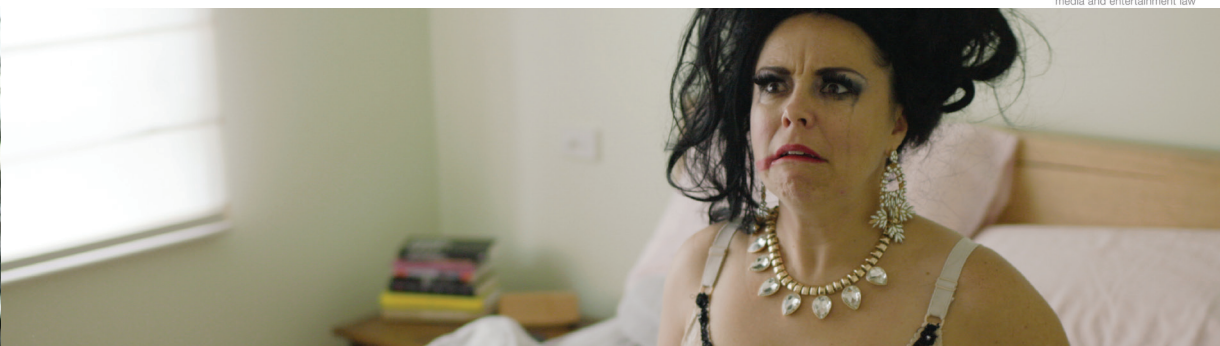
Everyone deserves a great love story. But for seventeen-year old Simon Spier it's a little more complicated: he's yet to tell his family or friends he's gay and he doesn't actually know the identity of the anonymous classmate he's fallen for online. Resolving both issues proves hilarious, terrifying and life-changing. Directed by Greg Berlanti

(TV's *Dawson's Creek*, *Brothers & Sisters*), written by Isaac Aptaker & Elizabeth Berger (TV's *This is Us*), and based on Becky Albertalli's acclaimed novel, *Love, Simon* is a funny and heartfelt coming-of-age story about the thrilling ride of finding yourself and falling in love.

Dir: Greg Berlanti, USA,
2018, 109 mins,
Courtesy: 20th Century Fox, CTC

Cinema 1 will be screened with open captions 

SESSION	DATE	TIME	VENUE
8000	Thursday 22 March	8.15PM	ACMI
2176	Saturday 25 March	11.15AM	ACMI



THE FIVE PROVOCATIONS

World Premiere

The lives of four very different people intertwine in this daring, original Australian ensemble drama. Marlena is secretly dealing with the loss of her married lover, Rosie. Rosie's husband Paul is also going through his own grief.

Meanwhile Marlena takes on a housemate, the timid and a little bit aimless, Bridget. Handyman Clinton grapples with parenting a teenage daughter and his own developing gender identity. Throughout the film these people will fall apart, but also come together and change each other's lives.

Dir: Angie Black, Australia, 2018, 94 mins, Courtesy: Black Eye Films

Please join the filmmakers for a Q&A after the screening

SESSION	DATE	TIME	VENUE
2183	Sunday 25 March	3.30PM	ACMI



SO LONG

World Premiere

Lesbian mumblecore drama *So Long* follows two women as they grapple with their post-breakup lives. Kicking off at the point of relationship meltdown, we follow 20-somethings Emily (Kimberley Lisle) and Ray (Eva Seymour) as they traverse the uncomfortable world of the newly single. From weird new housemates to a disastrous one-night stand, terrible jobs and creepier dudes, filmmakers Caitlin Farrugia and Michael Jones utilise naturalism and improvisation to explore a relatable slice of life. Shot in Melbourne, this study of fresh singledom captures the grinding pain and quiet triumph of rediscovering who you are outside of a relationship.

Dir: Caitlin Farrugia and Michael Jones, Australia, 2017, 70 mins, Courtesy: Blazing Arrow Media

Please join the filmmakers for a Q&A after the screening

SESSION	DATE	TIME	VENUE
2162	Sunday 18 March	4.45PM	ACMI



THE FEELS

In this racy, hilarious ensemble comedy, a group of friends gather for a weekend away to celebrate the impending wedding of Andy and Lu. On the first drunken night the ecstasy pills come out and Lu confesses that she's never had an orgasm, much to Andy's dismay. As the weekend goes on Lu's admission isn't the only thing that transpires, as marriages unravel and sexual tensions boil over.

Interspersed amongst all the mayhem are direct-to-camera addresses from the cast recounting their first orgasm (the story from Ever Mainard, who plays Helen in the film, is worth the price of admission alone). Thanks to a wonderful cast who seamlessly swing from wild comedy to pointed pathos, *The Feels* is a delight from start to finish.

INTERNATIONAL FEATURES



Melbourne Premiere

Dir: Jenée LaMarque, USA, 2017, 88 mins, Courtesy: Film Collaborative

SESSION	DATE	TIME	VENUE
3151	Friday 16 March	6.15PM	ACMI
2167	Tuesday 20 March	8.00PM	ACMI

INTERNATIONAL FEATURES



AL BERTO

Melbourne Premiere

The mysterious and handsome poet Al Berto arrives at the sleepy fishing village of Sine in Portugal at the height of the decadent disco era of the 1970's. Suffice to say, Sine hasn't caught up but Al Berto is about to change all that.

Very quickly he sets up house in a ramshackle mansion with a crew of young bohemians and misfits, while falling for the aspiring writer

João. But changing the world comes with a cost and Al Berto and his merry crew of outcasts soon find themselves clashing with the conservative elements of the town. Brimming with energy, passion and a revolutionary spirit (not to mention disco), *Al Berto* is a much needed rallying call to arms.

Dir: Vicente Alves do Ó, Portugal, 2017, 109 mins, Courtesy: The Open Reel

Portuguese with English subtitles

SESSION	DATE	TIME	VENUE
5174	Friday 23 March	8.00PM	KINO CINEMAS

INTERNATIONAL FEATURES



Proudly presented by



A MILLION HAPPY NOWS

Melbourne Premiere

'In no uncertain terms, this is a fantastic movie.' — After Ellen

Dir: Albert Alarr, USA,
2017, 80 mins,
Courtesy: Shoreline Entertainment

Lainey Allen is a soap opera star at the height of her career, with a devoted partner and a luxurious Hollywood lifestyle. When Lainey begins to forget her lines, a shock diagnosis of early onset Alzheimer's is revealed and Lainey is forced into early retirement. If this is sounding like the plot of a, well, daytime soap opera you'll find this is one of the films many surprises. This, however, doesn't detract from the compassion and sincerity that *A Million Happy Nows* brings to its subject matter and is wonderfully acted by the two leads who have often portrayed on screen couples in well known soaps such as *The Guiding Light*.

SESSION	DATE	TIME	VENUE
2157	Saturday 17 March	5.30PM	ACMI
2179	Saturday 24 March	5.30PM	ACMI



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INTERNATIONAL FEATURES



MAYBE TOMORROW

Melbourne Premiere

'A fresh new voice in queer Asian cinema.' — Outfest

Dir: Samantha Lee,
Philippines, 2016, 84 mins,
Courtesy: Cinema One Originals

Tagalog & English with English subtitles

In *Maybe Tomorrow*, the age-old story about finding love with your 'straight' best friend is given new life by an energetic ensemble cast of Filipino millennials addicted to their Instagram feeds, dating and FaceTime sex. Alex is a young writer-director-social media manager trying to pitch a show about a gay girl seeking love in Manila. She's out of the closet to everyone except her best friend Jess, an up-and-coming actress and serial monogamist. Everyone knows that Alex is in love with Jess – except Jess. Meanwhile Alex's colleagues Julo and David, also best friends, engage in their own flirtation. A bittersweet, sunny and refreshing take on the trials and tribulations of love in the digital age.

SESSION	DATE	TIME	VENUE
2163	Sunday 18 March	6.45PM	ACMI



SEVENTEEN

Melbourne Premiere

'Brilliantly illustrates the kind of unfulfilled and hopelessly romantic love you can never quite shake off you.' — Vice

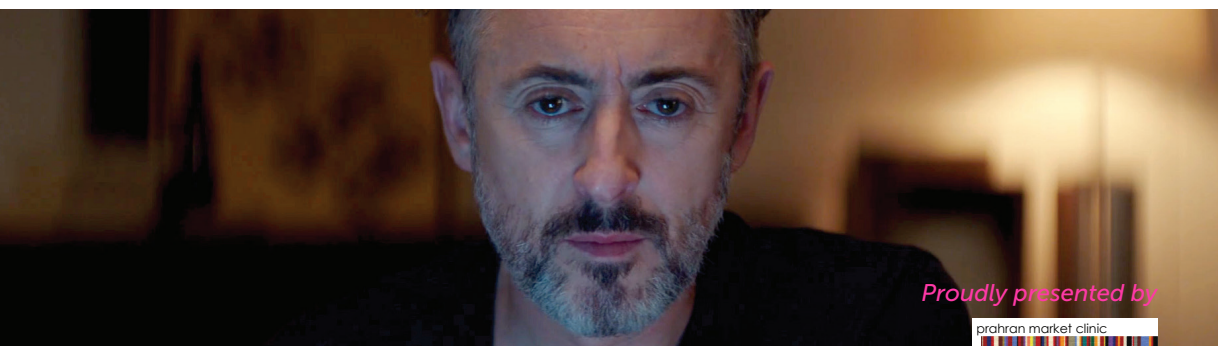
Dir: Monja Art, Austria, 2017,
105 mins, Courtesy: Edition Salzgeber

German & French with English subtitles

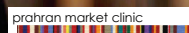
It's the last sweltering weeks of the school term, and Paula can't stop thinking about Charlotte. Charlotte might be interested, but is dating Michael. To try and get over Charlotte, Paula hooks up with classmate Tim. When seductress Lilli throws herself into the mix, things only get more complicated. Set in a small rural Austrian town where there is nothing to do but wait for a bus that probably won't show up, *Seventeen* is a dreamy and gorgeously shot coming-of-age film that soaks you up in the heartaches and friendships of adolescence.

SESSION	DATE	TIME	VENUE
5166	Tuesday 20 March	6.15PM	KINO CINEMAS

INTERNATIONAL FEATURES



Proudly presented by



AFTER LOUIE

Melbourne Premiere

Dir: Vincent Gagliostro,
USA, 2017, 100 mins,
Courtesy: Film Collaborative

Racked with survivor's guilt and grieving the death of his partner during the AIDS crisis, Sam's (Alan Cumming) art career is going nowhere. When not engrossed in his memorial to ACT UP, he expends all his energy into his vices — cigarettes, alcohol and rent boys. It's here that he meets Braeden (Zachary Booth, *Keep the Lights On*), a young man with whom sex soon turns to intense conversations about politics and the generational divide. *After Louie* is firmly rooted in New York's queer cultural space and is passionately directed by longtime activist and ACT UP member Vincent Gagliostro. This multi-generational story explores what it means to reconcile one's past and present.

SESSION	DATE	TIME	VENUE
2151	Friday 16 March	6.00PM	ACMI
3163	Sunday 18 March	7.15PM	ACMI



Proudly presented by



THE CAKEMAKER

'A moving, broadly accessible blend of old-school melodrama, contemporary identity politics and buttery gastroporn.'
— Variety

Dir: Ofir Raul Graizer, Israel,
Germany, 2017, 104 mins,
Courtesy: JIFF Distribution

Tomas is an expert pastry chef with a successful business in Berlin. Into his life walks married Israeli businessman, Oren. The two begin a passionate affair and, for a time, are blissfully happy. When Oren fails to show up for one of their scheduled visits, Tomas learns that he was killed back home. Consumed by grief he closes shop and sets off to Jerusalem where he tracks down Oren's widow, Anat. Elevated by commanding performances from the two leads, *The Cakemaker* is a sensual and intriguing look at the surprising and mysterious ways grief can manifest.

English, Hebrew & German with English subtitles

SESSION	DATE	TIME	VENUE
3166	Tuesday 20 March	6.00PM	ACMI
6182	Sunday 25 March	2.00PM	CINEMA NOVA



SATURDAY CHURCH

Melbourne Premiere

'Moonlight meets La La Land.' – Variety

Ulysses is a gender non-conforming New York teen who is grieving the loss of their father. Ostracised at school, Ulysses is taken in by a group of trans youth and is introduced to the Saturday Church, a drop-in centre for at-risk queer teens.

The safe house is run by the street smart Joan (played by the irrepressible Kate Bornstein) and also hosts regular voguing dance-offs. Drawn to this vibrant ballroom scene, Ulysses

begins to find a voice and even romance. Drawing from a diverse cast of trans and gender non-conforming teens who themselves attend the program the film is based on, *Saturday Church* seamlessly blends musical numbers and fantasy alongside the harsh realities this group of young people face every day. Ultimately, this is an inspiring and hopeful cinematic experience.

Proudly presented by

Dir: Damon Cardasis, USA, 2017, 81 mins,
Courtesy: WestEnd Films, U15+



SESSION	DATE	TIME	VENUE
2160	Sunday 18 March	12.45PM	ACMI
3179	Saturday 24 March	5.00PM	ACMI

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In 2018, Deakin is proud to offer Gender and sexuality studies as a major study area equipping students with the skills to positively contribute to society.

Find out more
deakin.edu.au/create

Deakin is proud to be the inaugural education partner of the Melbourne Queer Film Festival.

Deakin University CRICOS Provider Code: 00113B

INTERNATIONAL FEATURES



THE RING THING

Melbourne Premiere

'Immensely engaging and always believable.'

— The Hollywood Reporter

Dir: William Sullivan,
USA, 2018, 105 mins,
Courtesy: TRT Film LLC

When Kristen (Nicole Pursell) misinterprets a ring Sarah (Sarah Wharton) shows her as the beginning of a marriage proposal, it reveals a couple in vastly different places in their relationship. Suddenly, deep-rooted insecurities about marriage and the fear of divorce flood to the surface, threatening to alter their connection forever. Hoping to understand her own ambivalence about marriage, documentary filmmaker Sarah sets out to interview same-sex couples about their relationships. From the creative team of *That's Not Us* (MQFF 2016) *The Ring Thing* is an ambitious exploration of the nature of commitment and how the prospect of marriage can turn a loving relationship into a minefield.

SESSION	DATE	TIME	VENUE
2165	Monday 19 March	8.00PM	ACMI
3170	Thursday 22 March	6.00PM	ACMI



SENSITIVITY TRAINING

Melbourne Premiere

Dir: Melissa Finell,
USA, 2016, 87 mins,
Courtesy: Good Bacteria LLC

Australian actress Anna Lise Phillips (*Animal Kingdom*) stars as Dr Serena Wolf, a smart, capable, and well-respected microbiologist. She is also extremely rude, abrasive and incapable of taking other people's feelings into consideration. After an unforgivable exchange at work, Serena is sent off to sensitivity training. There she is guided by the perennially chipper Caroline, who inducts her in an intensive program of politeness. When her colleagues begin seeing the softer side of Serena, they sense that something else might be going on between them. *Sensitivity Training* is a sweet and smart comedy that will have you grinning and gasping in equal amounts, right until the unexpected conclusion.

SESSION	DATE	TIME	VENUE
2264	Sunday 18 March	8.45PM	ACMI
2180	Saturday 24 March	7.30PM	ACMI

INTERNATIONAL FEATURES



PATHS

Australian Premiere

'Nothing less than utterly striking due to its gorgeous aesthetics and commendable lead performances.'
– Gay Essential

Dir: Chris Miera, Germany,
2017, 107 mins. Courtesy: Loco Films
German with English subtitles

An authentic and sensitive relationship drama meditating on the intricacies of love, what makes relationships endure and what can break them apart. *Paths* is the portrait of the long-term relationship between Martin and Andreas, from their meeting at a rock gig to years later when their teenage son has flown the nest. It focuses on the intimate life of the couple with a thoughtful, truthful and sensual eye, documenting the relationship ups and downs: the moments of passion, the quiet times, the secrecy and conflicts. Elevated by stellar performances from the two male leads, *Paths* beautifully captures the ebbs and flows of being in love.

SESSION	DATE	TIME	VENUE
2161	Sunday 18 March	2.30PM	ACMI
3173	Friday 23 March	6.00PM	ACMI



RIFT

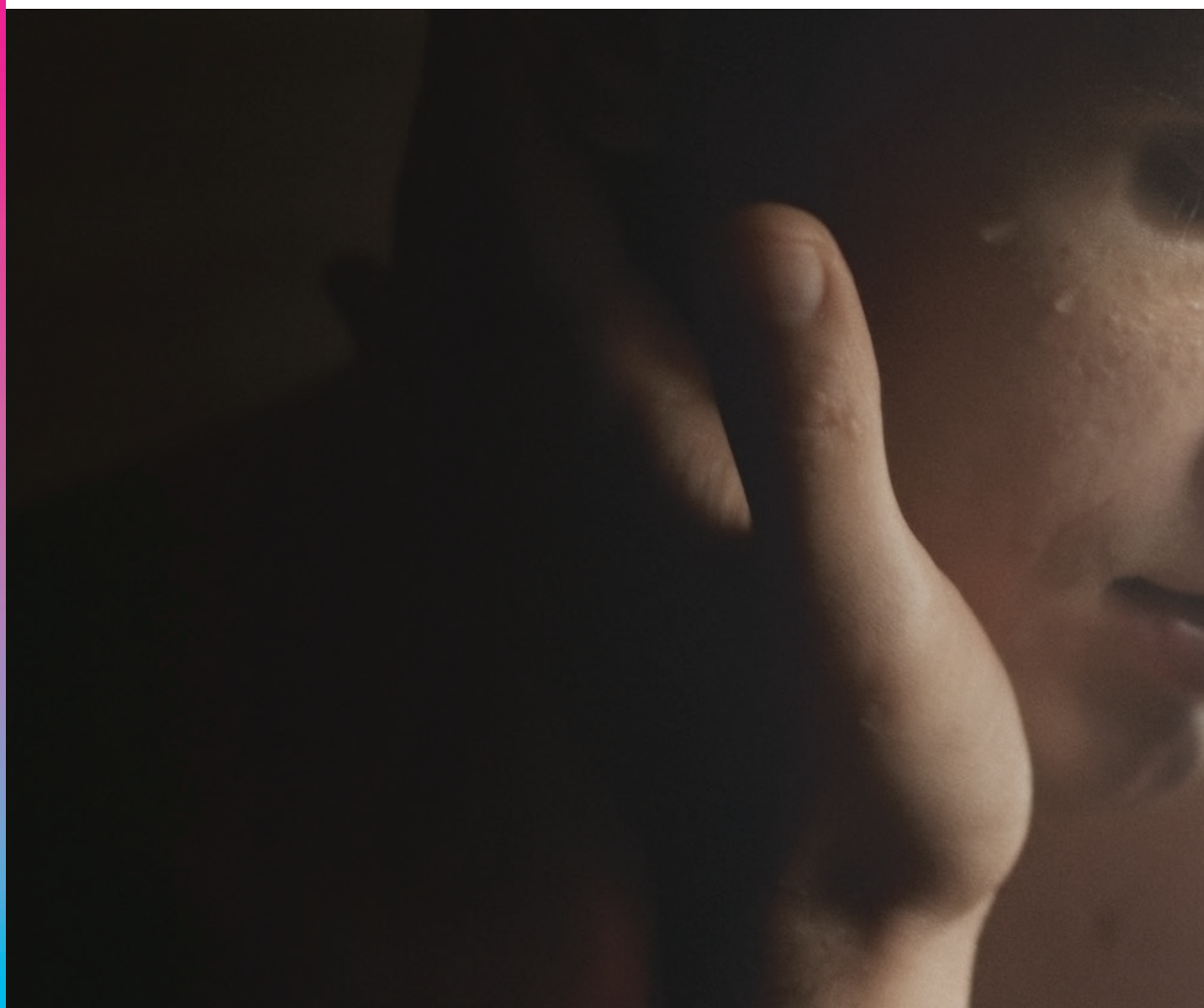
Melbourne Premiere

'An ambiguous, creepy study of conflicting desires and haunting pasts.'
– Sight & Sound

Dir: Erlingur Thoroddsen,
Iceland, 2017, 111 mins,
Courtesy: Blue Fox Entertainment
Icelandic with English subtitles

Rift is the queer Scandi-noir we've all been waiting for. Gunnar receives a mysterious phone call in the middle of the night. It leads him to a solitary house in a remote part of Iceland, the location of Gunnar's final summer holiday with now ex-boyfriend Einar. When Gunnar locates an unsettled Einar nearby, the two attempt to reconcile. But every move they make, a threatening presence seems to haunt them. With shades of the classic thriller *Don't Look Now*, *Rift* is a truly chilling Icelandic drama, as the startlingly desolate landscapes become a fitting location for the dark drama that unfolds. You'll want someone's hand to hold for this one!

SESSION	DATE	TIME	VENUE
3159	Saturday 17 March	9.30PM	ACMI



A MOMENT IN THE REEDS

'One of the most moving gay romance stories of recent years...'
– FilmInquiry.com

Mikko Makela's stunning romantic drama explores the relationship between two men, set against an idyllic Finnish summer. Whilst visiting his estranged father, Leevi meets Tareq, a handsome Syrian immigrant employed to restore the family lake house. Leevi's father departs for the city, leaving the two men alone in the beautiful remote countryside and enabling them to slowly forge a deep connection. Far removed from their everyday lives, the only immediate threat to

the men's relationship is the eventual return of Leevi's father. But there's also Tareq's complex relationship with his family back in Syria. Makela sensitively explores the perspectives of both men, who long for some human connection, acceptance and a place to call home. With marginalised characters at the forefront of the story, Makela's film is a very welcome and refreshingly frank portrait of contemporary Finnish society.

INTERNATIONAL FEATURES



Melbourne Premiere

Dir: Mikko Makela, Finland, 2017, 107 mins, Courtesy: Film Collaborative

English & Finnish with English subtitles

SESSION	DATE	TIME	VENUE
6157	Saturday 17 March	7.30PM	CINEMA NOVA
3181	Saturday 24 March	9.45PM	ACMI

INTERNATIONAL FEATURES



SISTERHOOD

Melbourne Premiere

'Tracy Choi's feature debut gently breaks new ground.'

— The Hollywood Reporter

Dir: Tracy Choi,
Hong Kong, 2017, 96 mins,
Courtesy: One Cool Pictures

Cantonese & Mandarin
with English subtitles

Winner of the Audience Award at the 2017 Inside Out Toronto LGBT Film Festival, *Sisterhood* explores the fine line between friendship and romantic love through Sei as she returns from Taiwan to Macau to mourn Ling's death and understand their relationship. Sei begins to recall the past, beginning when she started work as a teenager in a seedy massage parlour and is quickly taken under the wing of the older, charismatic Ling. When Ling discovers she's pregnant, they raise the boy together as a family. However tensions begin to mount in their relationship with gossiping neighbours bringing things to a dramatic head. Stunning performances from the two young leads, Jennifer Yu and Fish Liew bring this subtle portrait of lesbian love, loss and longing to life.

SESSION	DATE	TIME	VENUE
2169	Wednesday 21 March	8.00PM	ACMI



PORCUPINE LAKE

Australian Premiere

'A moving, entertaining journey into the struggles of youth.' — The Playlist

Dir: Ingrid Veninger,
Canada, 2017, 84 mins,
Courtesy: Outplay Films, U15+

Sometimes coming out of one's shell is just as hard as coming out, but having someone to come out with makes both a bit easier. When timid Torontonion Bea (Charlotte Salisbury), falls in with knockout Kate (Australian actress Lucinda Armstrong Hall), she finds the best friend she needs to get through her family's testy new existence as roadside diner owners in northern Ontario. On her side of the tracks, Kate faces an even spikier existence, with an absent mother and a violent brother. Director Ingrid Veninger's (*He Hated Pigeons*, MQFF 2016) wistful and tender *Porcupine Lake* is a complex look at how friendships can shape both our lives and our dreams.

SESSION	DATE	TIME	VENUE
3160	Sunday 18 March	1.15PM	ACMI

INTERNATIONAL FEATURES



WEIRDOS

'A lovely, low-key memory piece, vibrant with the awkward grace of adolescence.'

— The Hollywood Reporter

Dir: Bruce McDonald,
Canada, 2016, 84 mins, B&W,
Courtesy: Double Dutch International

Set in Nova Scotia in 1976, Kit who lives with his amiable but absent dad decides to run away so he can live with his glamorous mother (Molly Parker in fine form), a one-time party girl from the Warhol factory scene. Along for the ride is his devoted girlfriend Alice who has her own troubles at home. Aided by his spirit animal Andy Warhol who appears to him intermittently, Kit goes on a journey of self-discovery and sexual awakening. Shot in luscious black and white, Canadian auteur Bruce McDonald has created a sweet and charming road movie about finding your place in the world, while leaving the wisest words for Warhol himself: "We're all weirdos. That's what makes us beautiful."

SESSION	DATE	TIME	VENUE
5168	Wednesday 21 March	6.15PM	KINO CINEMAS



THE REVIVAL

Australian Premiere

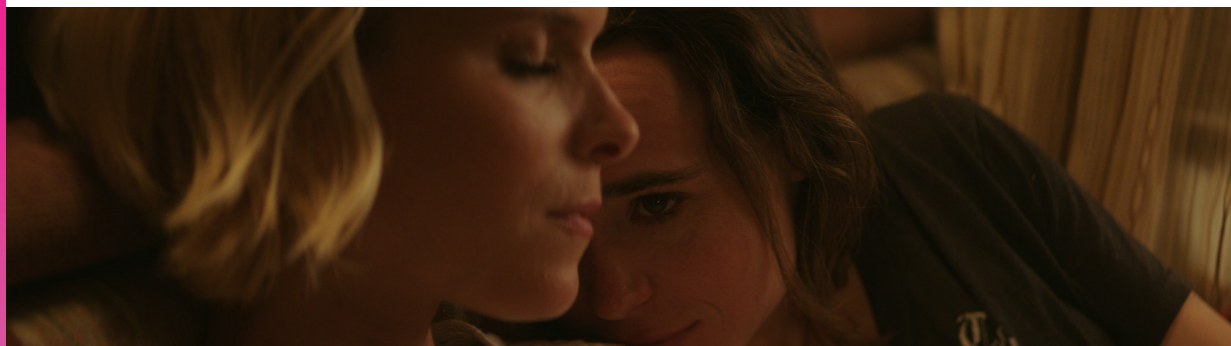
'With an attention-grabbing hook and two riveting central performances, Jennifer Gerber's feature directorial debut The Revival holds you in its grip.' — The Hollywood Reporter

Dir: Jennifer Gerber,
USA 2017, 84 mins,
Courtesy: Breaking Glass Pictures.

Returning to his hometown with his pregnant wife, Eli (David Rysdahl) begins preaching at his late father's old Baptist church. He's desperate to open the minds of the traditional fire-and-brimstone congregation, whilst competing with the new mega church. His plans are quickly derailed when he finds himself drawn to rugged drifter Daniel (Zachary Booth, *Louie*, MQFF 2018), offering him far more than just food and shelter. This darkly funny American drama examines the excruciating inner debate between Eli's homosexuality and his devotion to god, set amongst a world of potluck dinners, gossipy church ladies and repressed emotions.

SESSION	DATE	TIME	VENUE
3264	Sunday 18 March	9.30PM	ACMI

INTERNATIONAL FEATURES



MY DAYS OF MERCY

Australian Premiere

'A very powerful, emotional and universal story.' — Variety

Dir: Tali Shalom-Ezer,
USA, 2017, 107 mins,
Courtesy: Great Point Media

Ellen Page and Kate Mara play star-crossed lovers on opposing sides of the death penalty debate in this powerful and thought provoking drama.

Lucy (Page) travels across America with her sister and little brother protesting against impending executions. Their stakes in the matter are personal, with a father (Elias Koteas) on death row, accused of murdering their mother. When Lucy locks eyes with Mercy (Mara) at one of the rallies, an instant attraction is formed, despite being on opposite sides of the battle.

My Days of Mercy brings an intelligence and compassion to a controversial topic, while Ellen Page delivers a career-best performance.

SESSION	DATE	TIME	VENUE
5170	Thursday 22 March	8.15PM	KINO CINEMAS
2181	Saturday 24 March	9.30PM	ACMI



POSTCARDS FROM LONDON

Australian Premiere

Dir: Steve McLean,
UK, 2017, 87 mins,
Courtesy: The Bureau

Jim (played by *Beach Rats* star Harris Dickinson) is a young, fit lad looking to make his big break in London. Landing in the Soho district broke and jobless, he innocently falls in with a group of rent boys who educate him in the ways of male escorting. Jim quickly becomes the star attraction for many of Soho's top clientele and artists, who find his ethereal beauty a perfect canvas on which to project their fantasies.

With more than a passing nod to Fassbinder's *Querelle* and the work of Derek Jarman, *Postcards from London* is a hyper-stylised, fever dream celebrating the symbiotic bond between the artist and their muse.

SESSION	DATE	TIME	VENUE
3175	Friday 23 March	10.15PM	ACMI



ACMI Cinemas

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Image: *I Am Not Your Negro*, Dir Raoul Peck, USA, 2016. Courtesy Madman Entertainment



Teddy Audience Award
– Berlin International
Film Festival 2016

THE MISANDRISTS

Melbourne Premiere

'Cinema's doyenne of unapologetic gay sex wraps this twisted fantasy in such a pretty package, anyone who ever dreamed of joining a dissident lesbian cult has no choice but to accept.' – Indiewire

Cult queer director Bruce La Bruce (*Gerontophilia*, MQFF 2014) puts his own stamp on *The Beguiled*, turning it up a notch - of course. Set in an alternate history in Ger(wo)many in 1999, two young women, Hilde and Isolde, come across a wounded revolutionary who is running from the police and is seeking sanctuary. They reluctantly take him in despite the fact they are part of a feminist terrorist cell plotting on

toppling the patriarchy. Run by the austere Big Mother (a hilarious turn by Susanne Sachsse), the cult is encouraged to make love frequently and survive financially by making pornography. Featuring an array of diverse and fierce women, *The Misandrists* is a deliriously entertaining radical feminist manifesto. Stay for the rousing end credits that feature a collage of famous feminists through the ages.

Dir: Bruce La Bruce, Germany, 2017, 91 mins, Courtesy: M-Appeal

Contains sexually explicit material.

SESSION	DATE	TIME	VENUE
2159	Saturday 17 March	9.00PM	ACMI

INTERNATIONAL FEATURES



IDEAL HOME

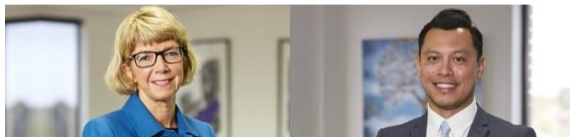
Melbourne Premiere

Dir: Andrew Fleming,
USA, 2017, 91 mins,
Courtesy: Icon Film Distribution

Steve Coogan and Paul Rudd star as Erasmus and Paul, two long term lovers whose bickering is as epic as their fabulous parties. When the grandson Erasmus never knew he had shows up at their doorstep one night the pair are plunged unpreparedly into parenthood. This hilarious comedy is a bawdy and surprisingly touching look at the many shapes and forms that families come in. Coogan and Rudd are wonderful as two men trying to figure out how to fit a child into their already complicated and full life. Despite *Ideal Home*'s outrageous take on family values, its tribute to real life LGBTIQ families during the closing credits is genuinely heartwarming.

SESSION	DATE	TIME	VENUE
3152	Friday 16 March	8.30	ACMI
6161	Sunday 18 March	4.45PM	CINEMA NOVA

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NOBODY'S WATCHING

Melbourne Premiere

'Sensitive writing, a sharp understanding of milieu and a superb performance by Guillermo Pfening expertly capture the struggles of an Argentine actor trying to find his place in New York.' — Variety

Gorgeous Nico (Guillermo Pfening - Best Actor, Tribeca 2017), is a 30-something actor who leaves a successful TV soap career in Argentina after a romantic breakup with his married producer. He pursues his dream of a film career in New York, but soon finds himself playing alternative roles of babysitter, bartender and shoplifter as an illegal immigrant on the lowest rung of the

American economic ladder. Surprise visits from his former co-star and ex-lover force him to face the real reasons he left Argentina, and the reality of his dreams. Director Julia Solomonoff's moving feature presents a portrait of immigrant solitude imbued with warmth and humour, bringing out the subtle boundaries that define class, race and opportunity in contemporary America.

Dir: Julia Solomonoff, Argentina, USA, 2017, 102 mins, Courtesy: FiGa Films
English & Spanish with English subtitles

SESSION	DATE	TIME	VENUE
3157	Saturday 17 March	5.15PM	ACMI
6178	Saturday 24 March	4.30PM	CINEMA NOVA



Winner Grand Jury
Prize Cannes Film
Festival 2017

VAC 
WORKING TOGETHER

Winner Grand Jury
Prize Cannes Film
Festival 2017

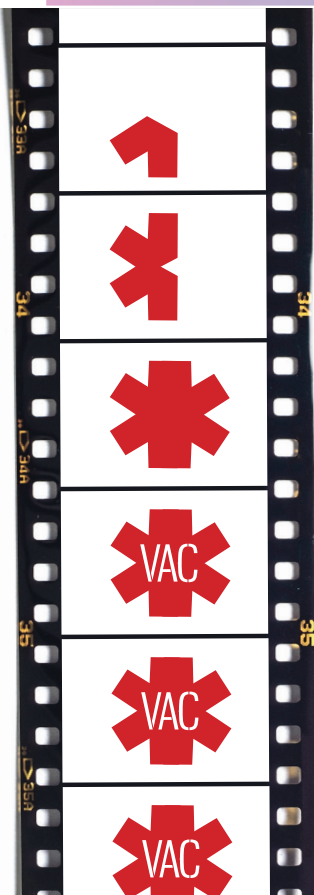
'Robin Campillo's outstanding AIDS activist drama melds the personal, the political and the erotic to heart-bursting effect.' — Variety

Dir: Robin Campillo,
France, 2017, 140,
Courtesy: Madman Entertainment

French with English subtitles

Taking out both the Grand Jury Prize and Queer Palm at Cannes last year, director Robin Campillo (*Eastern Boys*) draws on his own experience as an ACT UP member in Paris in the early '90s. Driven by a pulsating house music score by composer Arnaud Rebotini, this passionate, moving and urgent call to arms delves deep into the politics and commitment of this group of people who were literally fighting for their lives. At the centre of the film is a heartbreaking love story but the wonder and power of *BPM* is that it doesn't forget that amongst the fighting and the political debate, there is love, there is fucking and there is dancing.

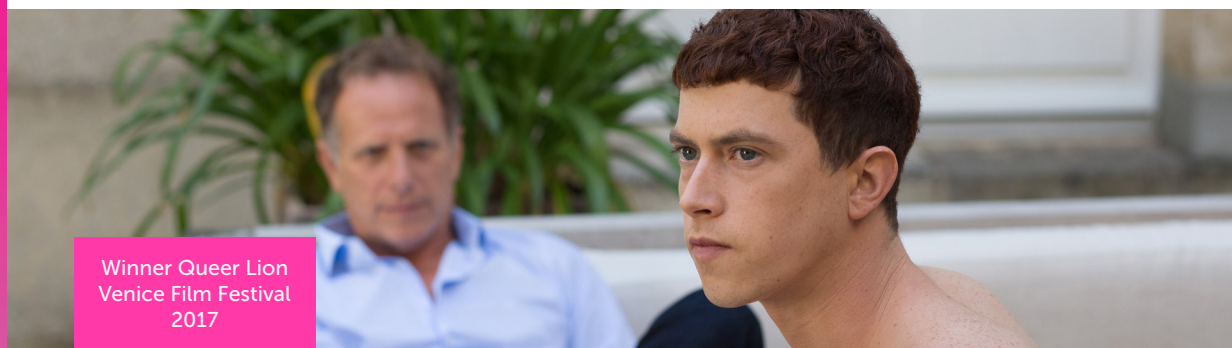
SESSION	DATE	TIME	VENUE
6156	Saturday 17 March	4.45PM	CINEMA NOVA
3180	Saturday 24 March	7.00PM	ACMI



“We’re proud to play our role in celebrating another year of queer film.”



INTERNATIONAL FEATURES



Winner Queer Lion
Venice Film Festival
2017

REINVENTING MARVIN

Dir: Anne Fontaine,
France, 2017, 115 mins,
Courtesy: TF1 Studio

French with English subtitles

Marvin Clement (played with steely determination by Finnegan Oldfield) is the darling of the Paris stage. His autobiographical show that he stars in with Isabelle Huppert tells the story of his life. Moving back and forth in time we learn that Marvin came from a rural working class background and suffered under the brutish rule of his stepfather and his classmates who mercilessly bullied him for being gay. *Reinventing Marvin* is a jubilant ode to reinvention and turning your pain into triumph.

SESSION	DATE	TIME	VENUE
5169	Wednesday 21 March	8.15PM	KINO CINEMAS
6177	Saturday 24 March	2.00PM	CINEMA NOVA



Winner Teddy Jury Award
Berlin International Film
Festival 2017

CLOSE-KNIT

Dir: Naoko Ogigami,
Japan, 2017, 127 mins,
Courtesy: Nikkatsu Corporation

Japanese with English subtitles

Fifth grader Tomo sits alone in her apartment, surrounded by empty food cans and rubbish. Her mother has left her to fend for herself while she pursues her latest love interest. Unable to look after herself, Tomo moves in with her uncle Maiko and his new transgender girlfriend, Rinko (played by Japanese heartthrob Toma Ikuta). Initially uncertain of the arrangement, Rinko's attentive and gentle ways soon win Tomo over and the three eventually form a loving, unconventional family. Driven by the lack of visibility of the transgender community her country, director Naoko Ogigami has created a touching and understated drama that breaks new ground with a story that is rarely seen in Japanese cinema.

SESSION	DATE	TIME	VENUE
3182	Sunday 25 March	1.00PM	ACMI



SIGNATURE MOVE

Melbourne Premiere

'(A) heartfelt and cleverly constructed multicultural queer romance.'
— Sight & Sound

As a Pakistani Muslim lesbian living in Chicago, Zaynab (played by Fawzia Mirza) is out and proud — to everyone except her newly-moved-in mother. When artfully dodging her mother's attempts to find her a husband becomes too much, Zaynab copes by taking up Lucha-style wrestling. Her life climbs the turnbuckle when she meets Alma,

a Latina bookstore owner, and the two fall head over heels into bed and relationship drama. With the spirit and spunk of '90's New Queer Cinema, *Signature Move* revitalises the classic lesbian rom-com by crossing cultures and body slamming its way into your heart.

Dir: Jennifer Reeder,
USA, 2017, 80 mins,
Courtesy: Film Collaborative

SESSION	DATE	TIME	VENUE
2152	Friday 16 March	8.15PM	ACMI
3164	Monday 19 March	6.15PM	ACMI

INTERNATIONAL FEATURES



TORREY PINES

Australian Premiere

'Every frame of Torrey Pines is pure joy to behold.' — [Huffington Post](#)

Dir: Clyde Petersen,
USA, 2016, 60 mins,
Courtesy: Do it for the Girls Productions

This extraordinary, highly original animation tells the autobiographical story of its creator, trans animator Clyde Petersen, as a queer, *Star Trek* obsessed adolescent in the '90s. When a young, pigtailed Petersen is kidnapped by his mentally unstable mother, they embark on a whimsical and occasionally psychedelic journey across the USA, all rendered in a glorious hand-drawn style. Even in its darkest moments, *Torrey Pines* is an absolute delight, each frame created unmistakably with loving care. Scattered with witty pop culture references, from *Crocodile Dundee* to the TV version of *Beauty and the Beast* and featuring a superb score by Petersen's band along with Kimya Dawson (*Juno*), which is the icing on the cake in this original cinematic odyssey.

SESSION	DATE	TIME	VENUE
5167	Tuesday 20 March	8.30PM	KINO

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INTERNATIONAL FEATURES



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THE CITY OF THE FUTURE

Australian Premiere

In Serra do Ramalho, Brazil, young teacher Milla finds herself pregnant by her colleague Gilmar. Gilmar is in a relationship with Igor, but Milla asserts that the baby will belong to all three of them. Despite some initial conflict between the three, and in defiance to their community's reaction, they form an unconventional but remarkably uncomplicated family.

Billed as the 'city of the future', Serra do Ramalho was constructed in the 1970s in order to rehouse thousands of citizens that had been forcefully relocated. The location forms an important backdrop for this elegant, gentle film which is full of hope for a new generation building their own family of the future.

Dir: Cláudio Marques and Marília Hughes Guerreiro,
Brazil, 2016, 75 mins, Courtesy: Coisa de Cinema.

Portuguese with English subtitles

SESSION	DATE	TIME	VENUE
2158	Saturday 17 March	7.15PM	ACMI

INTERNATIONAL FEATURES



ALASKA IS A DRAG

Australian Premiere

Dir: Shaz Bennett, USA,
2017, 83 mins,

Courtesy: Shaz Bennett

*Contains scenes of
homophobic violence.*

For Leo, Alaska is a real drag. His sister has cancer, his job at a fish cannery is far from glamorous, and there's only one sad little gay bar within 100 miles. He survives by daydreaming about his future as a drag superstar and planning his escape. The drudgery is interrupted by the arrival of handsome wanderer Declan and by the discovery of his natural aptitude for boxing. When Leo is invited to compete in Miss Drag America, he finally sees his opportunity for escape. Essentially an expansion of her 2012 short of the same name (MQFF 2013), director Shaz Bennett has created a beautiful celebration of finding the humour and magic in the everyday. Featuring music from *Perfume Genius*, *Magnetic Fields* and a spikey cameo from comedian Margaret Cho.

SESSION	DATE	TIME	VENUE
2155	Saturday 17 March	1.30PM	ACMI
5170	Thursday 22 March	6.15PM	KINO CINEMAS

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BODY ELECTRIC

Melbourne Premiere

'A satisfying, warmhearted film whose understated charms leave a pleasant glow.' — *Variety*

23-year-old Elias works hard in a garment factory in São Paulo. His nights are spent aimlessly cruising the city's gay bars looking for a connection or a quick sexual encounter. *Body Electric* is a vibrant, sensual portrait of working life in Brazil that celebrates the small joys in life, be it the camaraderie of the workplace, the rhythmic beat of a dance club or the unabashed joys of picking up and making love.

Dir: Marcelo Caetano, Brazil, 2017, 94 mins, Courtesy: M-Appeal

Portuguese with English subtitles

SESSION	DATE	TIME	VENUE
3162	Sunday 18 March	5.15PM	ACMI



I DREAM IN ANOTHER LANGUAGE

Winning the World Cinema Audience Award at the 2017 Sundance Film Festival, *I Dream in Another Language* is a poetic reflection on life and long lost love. After the death of elderly village matriarch Jacinta, only two speakers of a Mexican indigenous language remain. Visiting linguistic researcher Martín is tasked with documenting this language to save it from extinction. Catch is the two remaining speakers of this dying language, Evaristo and Isauro, haven't spoken in over 50 years. To ensure the survival of their language and honour Jacinta's memory, the two men must revisit painful memories that tore them apart. In this rumination on love, director Ernesto Contreras offers us an utterly immersive cinematic experience on the importance of language and communication.

Dir: Ernesto Contreras, Mexico, 2017, 103 mins, Courtesy: Mundail

Spanish with English subtitles

SESSION	DATE	TIME	VENUE
3177	Saturday 24 March	1.00PM	ACMI



DESERT HEARTS

'A new 4k restoration brings new life to Deitch's gem.' – Indiewire

Groundbreaking at the time for its explicit depiction of attraction between women, *Desert Hearts* recently celebrated its 30th anniversary. Set in the 1950s and adapted by the book *Desert of the Heart* by Jane Rule, the film follows University professor Vivian Bell (Helen Shaver) as she uproots her life to move to Nevada while waiting for a divorce. At a local ranch Vivian meets free-

spirited Cay (Patricia Charbonneau). She is simultaneously shocked and enthralled by Cay's brashness and openness about her sexuality. What follows is a sensual romance playing out against a vivid desert landscape. *Desert Hearts* will reach in and put a string of lights around even the most hardened heart. A true lesbian classic not to be missed on the big screen!

Dir: Donna Deitch, USA, 1986, 96 mins, Courtesy: Janus Films

SESSION	DATE	TIME	VENUE
2168	Wednesday 21 March	6.00PM	ACMI

BRING IT BACK

Newly restored classics of queer cinema.



PRICK UP YOUR EARS

'A perfect storm of talent collides to create one of cinema's great doomed love dramas.' — The Times, UK

Thirty years after its first release, Stephen Frears' biopic of the life and untimely death of playwright Joe Orton finds its way back to the big screen. Gary Oldman is magnetic in one of his earliest film performances, exuding exactly the kind of charisma that would have had the men flocking to Orton's doorstep, while Alfred Molina is unforgettably prickly

as his one-time creative partner and tortured lover, Kenneth Halliwell. Working from John Lahr's biography, Alan Bennett's screenplay keeps everything very British, but there's enough sauciness to evoke Orton's boundary pushing satires and to throw a still-contemporary light on the '60s.

Dir: Stephen Frears, UK, 1987, 110 mins, Courtesy: Park Circus, M

SESSION	DATE	TIME	VENUE
2182	Sunday 25 March	1.15PM	ACMI

PROUD AND LOUD

Celebrating the queer musicians and tastemakers who have shaped and influenced the music we love.



QUEERCORE: HOW TO PUNK A REVOLUTION

'Queercore: How to Punk a Revolution is a feature-length snapshot into the music and magazines that gave voice to LGBTQ outsiders.' — NBC OUT

In the mid-1980s, Bruce LaBruce and GB Jones were searching for a scene that would accept both their punk aesthetic and their radical queer activism. When they couldn't find one, they invented a revolution called homocore (later known as queercore) and pretended it was already happening. Through zines, music, films, performance and activism, the idea grew into a real-life

rebellious international movement. Director Yony Leyser (*Desire Will Set You Free*, MQFF 2016) has created a highly entertaining documentary for fans and the uninitiated. Interviews with Bruce LaBruce, John Waters, Beth Ditto, Kathleen Hanna, Peaches and more take you on a must-see journey from the onset of queercore to the next generation making it their own.

Dir: Yony Leyser, USA, 2017, 83 mins, Courtesy: Cat & Docs

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SESSION	DATE	TIME	VENUE
2154	Friday 16 March	10.15PM	ACMI

PROUD AND LOUD

Celebrating the queer musicians and tastemakers who have shaped and influenced the music we love.



CHAVELA

'An eye-opening primer on an intoxicating performer about whom too little is known.' — Austin Chronicle

Dir: Daresha Kyi & Catherine Gund,
USA, 2017, 90 mins,
Courtesy: Latido Films

Audience award winner for Best Documentary at the 2017 Frameline Film Festival, this rousing film tells the story of a cigar-smoking, tequila-downing rebel. Chavela Vargas shook up Mexico's music industry by working against traditional gender codes and singing like a man. Wearing pants and ponchos and singing male rancheras, her performances were melancholic and cathartic. Documentarians Catherine Gund and Daresha Kyi use unseen footage of unguarded conversations with Vargas before her death in 2012, archival footage and recent interviews to chronicle her lifestyle, love affairs with Ava Gardner and Frida Kahlo, late-career collaborations with Pedro Almodóvar and heartbreak.

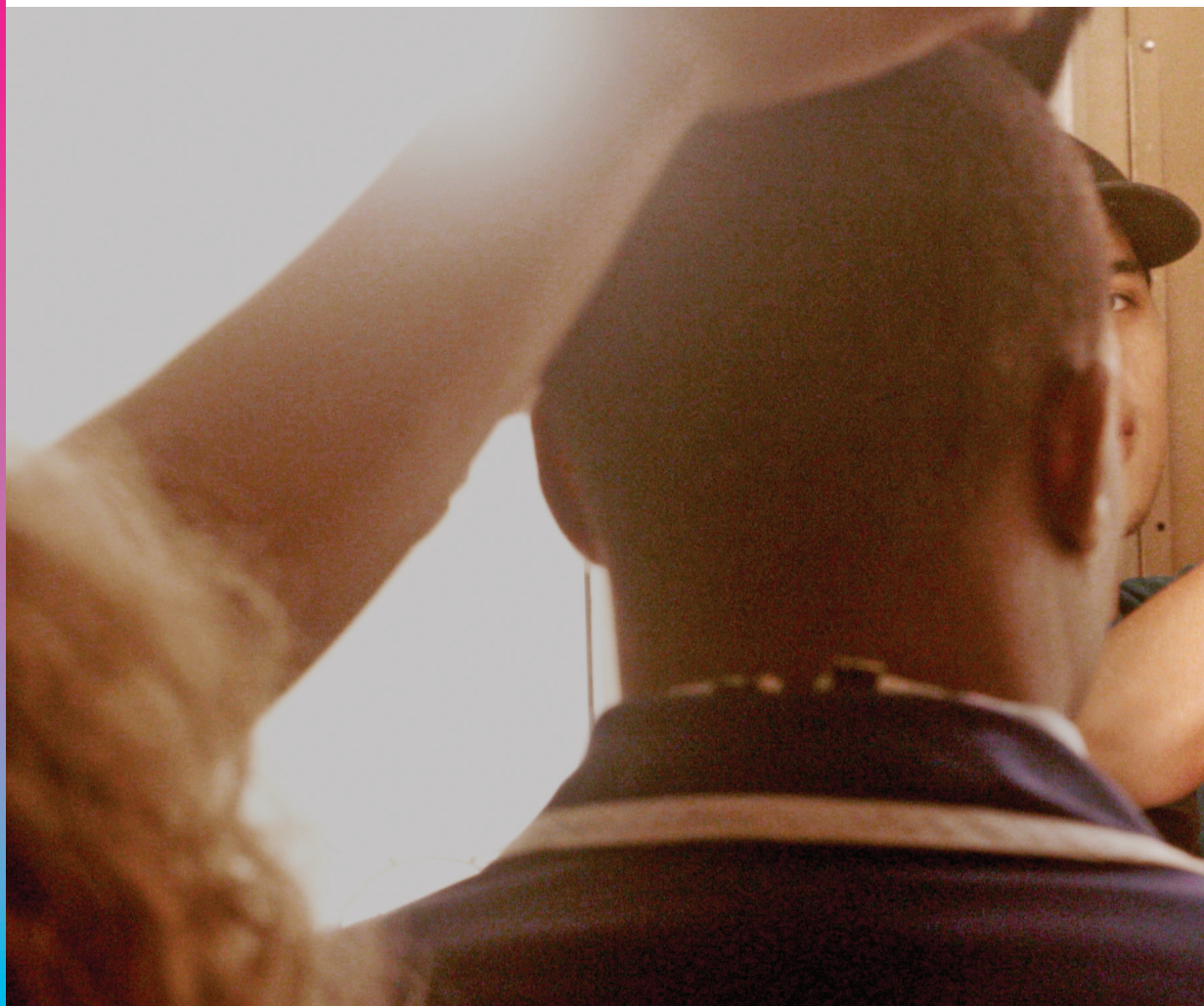
SESSION	DATE	TIME	VENUE
3158	Saturday 17 March	7.30PM	ACMI



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BEHIND THE CURTAIN:

Melbourne Premiere

'Behind the Curtain: Todrick Hall seamlessly weaves personal, universal, creative threads into dazzling narrative.' — Daily Californian

Described as “if Willy Wonka and Pee-wee Herman had a black child”, Todrick Hall is a YouTube celebrity, recording artist, songwriter, Broadway actor, activist and much, much more. This frenetic documentary follows charismatic Todrick as he launches his most ambitious project yet: the original musical, *Straight Outta Oz*. Writing and recording songs by night and shooting music videos by day, while simultaneously preparing to take the show on the road on a tiny budget, the film showcases a passionate man and his talented team on a mission. Through the songs and videos he creates, Todrick entertains while tackling issues such as gun violence, police brutality and sharing personal concerns that include a difficult relationship with his mother and struggles with his identity as a gay black man. Director



TODRICK HALL

Katherine Fairfax (*Call Me Kuchu*) captures Todrick's energy and humour to create an inspiring film about perseverance and the redemptive power of art.

Dir: Katherine Fairfax Wright, USA, 2017, 100 mins,
Courtesy: Film Collaborative, U15+

Proudly
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SESSION	DATE	TIME	VENUE
3161	Sunday 18 March	3.00PM	ACMI



THE FABULOUS ALLAN CARR

Australian Premiere

'Garishly colorful, packed with stars, legendary parties, and a wide streak of pathos, it's a singular life story entertainingly recounted.' — Variety

Notorious for his debauchorous parties that were filled to the brim with drugs, sex and stars from both old and new Hollywood, Allan Carr ruled the social scene. The extravagant kaftan-wearing manager-turned-producer was a larger than life personality. A marketing genius, he built his bombastic reputation against the success of hit musical *Grease* and Broadway triumph *La Cage Aux Folles*. This all came to devastating crash after he produced the infamous 1989 Academy Awards. Prolific documentarian Jeffrey Schwarz, who brought us *Vito* (MQFF 2012), *I am Divine* (MQFF 2014) and *Tab Hunter Confidential* (MQFF 2016), details Carr's rise up the Hollywood ladder through out-and-out grit and fandom featuring interviews with those that knew him dearly, including Bruce Vilanch, Lorna Luft, Marlo Thomas and Steve Guttenberg.

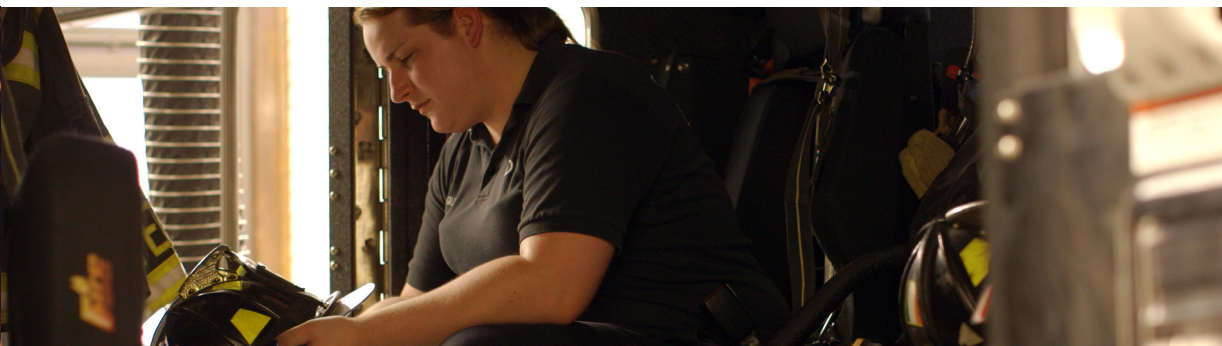
Dir: Jeffrey Schwarz, USA, 2017, 90 mins, Courtesy: Film Collaborative

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HERBERT
SMITH
FREEHILLS

SESSION	DATE	TIME	VENUE
3167	Tuesday 20 March	8.15PM	ACMI



WOMAN ON FIRE

'Woman on Fire's subject Brooke Guinan is "a superhero for the 21st century".' — Salon

Brooke Guinan is a true American hero. She is the first openly transgender firefighter in New York City and is a third generation firefighter: both her father and grandfather served in the New York Fire department. Julie Sokolow's gentle and inspiring documentary chronicles Brooke's journey from initially coming out as gay man in an aggressively macho profession to coming out as transgender in a workforce that still struggles to accept women, let alone transgender women.

Dir: Julie Sokolow, USA, 2017, 83 mins, Courtesy: FilmRise

SESSION	DATE	TIME	VENUE
3155	Saturday 17 March	1.15PM	ACMI



McKELLEN: PLAYING THE PART

Melbourne Premiere

Built upon a 14-hour interview, *McKellen: Playing the Part* is a unique journey through the key landmarks of McKellen's life, from early childhood into a demanding career that placed him in the public eye for the best part of his lifetime. McKellen's candid thoughts on his own coming out experience are poignantly played out against the backdrop of the encroaching AIDS epidemic and the loss of his lover. Using an abundance of photography from McKellen's private albums and featuring clips from some of his most famous roles, a raw talent shines through in the intensity, variety and devotion to that moment in the light.

Dir: Joe Stephenson, UK, 2017, 96 mins, U 15+, Courtesy: Icon Film Distribution

SESSION	DATE	TIME	VENUE
3183	Sunday 25 March	3.45PM	ACMI



SUSANNE BARTSCH: ON TOP

Melbourne Premiere

'Behind the gay nightlife queen who picked up where Warhol left off.' — Indiewire

A star-studded, behind-the-curtains look at underground NYC club promoter Susanne Bartsch who, along with her club kids entourage, hosted some of the hottest parties in New York City to rightly claim the title 'Queen of the Night'. Over four decades, Bartsch has lived out her unique existence and dragged the world's queers along for the ride. But don't let the big names fool you: RuPaul, Amanda Lepore and Kenny Kenny are only nightwear. This documentary gets fascinatingly domestic (or as domestic as you can get in the legendary Chelsea Hotel), proving fabulousness isn't something you can take off.

Dir: Anthony Caronna and Alexander Smith,
USA, 2017, 85 mins,
Courtesy: Cinetic Media

SESSION	DATE	TIME	VENUE
6163	Sunday 18 March	6.45PM	CINEMA NOVA
2184	Sunday 25 March	6.00PM	ACMI



THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ANDRÉ

Melbourne Premiere

'A loving and absorbing documentary tribute to fashion tastemaker Andre Leon Talley.' — Variety

Dir: Kate Novack, USA, 2017, 94 mins,
Courtesy: Madman Entertainment

Fashion is fleeting, but style is timeless — this is the gospel according to André Leon Tully, the operatic style icon and fashion industry trailblazer. Chronicling Tully's rise and rise from segregated North Carolina to the highest echelons of the fashion world, Kate Novack's fashion documentary is a heartwarming story of influence, success and the fearless determination to remain true to oneself. Tom Ford, Diane von Furstenberg, Marc Jacobs, Manolo Blahnik, Valentino and Anna Wintour all appear to discuss Tully's immense impact on the industry in this poignant, inspiring and often hilarious portrait.

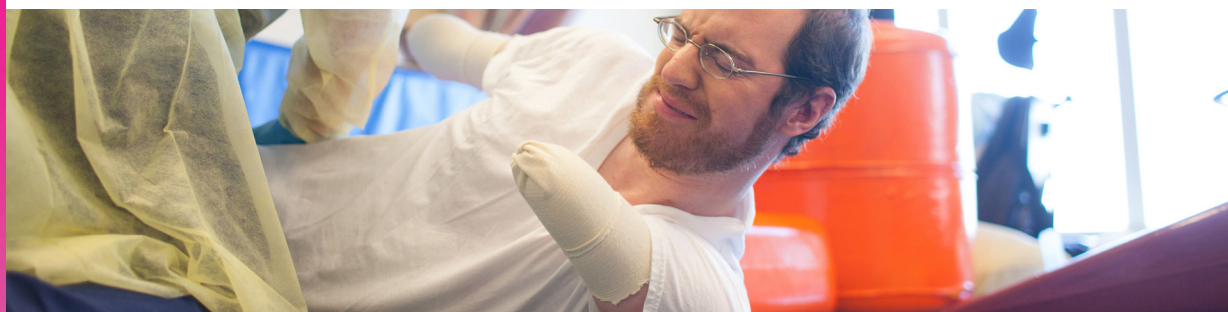
SESSION	DATE	TIME	VENUE
2164	Monday 19 March	6.00PM	ACMI
6183	Sunday 25 March	4.15PM	CINEMA NOVA

MELBOURNE'S YEAR-ROUND HOME OF QUEER CINEMA

MOONLIGHT Emo The Musical HANDSOME DEVIL
God's Own Country Battle Of The Sexes FIRST GIRL I LOVED
TOM OF FINLAND Professor Marston And The Wonder Women
The Ornithologist CALL ME BY YOUR NAME
A Fantastic Woman THE DANISH GIRL THE WOUND
B.P.M. Beats Per Minute CAROL The Handmaiden
Remembering The Man CHEMSEX Downriver
LA BELLE SAISON The Queen Of Ireland HOLDING THE MAN
WOMEN HE'S UNDERESSED Gayby Baby CUT SNAKE Tangerine
54: The Director's Cut Love Is Strange EASTERN BOYS
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STUMPED

Melbourne Premiere

'Inspiring, heartbreaking and... hilarious.' — The Boston Globe

Dir: Robin Berghaus, USA, 2017, 72 mins,
Courtesy: Berghaus Productions

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A loving new relationship, a promising career in a dream job teaching film at Montana State University, all tragically come undone for Will Lautzenheiser when he contracts a life-threatening bacterial infection that leads to the amputation of his arms and legs.

Supported by a loving partner (the aptly named Angel) and the hope of radical new surgery on the horizon, Will begins to piece his life back together but it is in the form of his new creative outlet of stand-up comedy that he really begins to heal. This inspiring documentary is a moving testament to resilience, courage in the face of adversity and the healing power of laughter.

SESSION	DATE	TIME	VENUE
2166	Tuesday 20 March	6.15PM	ACMI

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100 MEN

'Thoughtful, absorbing and frequently funny.' — New Zealand Herald

Have you ever wanted to open up that little black book of yours and go back and visit your most notable shags? Kiwi filmmaker Paul Oremland (*Like It Is*, MQFF 1999) has done just that. And since he's been going at it long and hard, his sometimes titillating, sometimes heartbreaking tour through his

conquests doubles as an extraordinarily relatable lesson in queer history. *100 Men* is not only testament to how far we've come but also to how progressive we've always been. With a warm heart and little inhibition, Oremland's sex positive life journey is endlessly entertaining.

Dir: Paul Oremland,
New Zealand, 2017, 94 mins,
Courtesy: MPI Media Group

SESSION	DATE	TIME	VENUE
3156	Saturday 17 March	3.15PM	ACMI



MR GAY SYRIA

'A moving case for visibility in the face of hatred and violence.' — Screen Daily

A timely documentary that explores the plight of two Syrian gay refugees involved in the underground pageant Mr Gay Syria. Whilst living in exile, young barber Husein struggles with his double life. With a wife and baby daughter in the country and his gay life in the city of Istanbul, he finds acceptance and his identity by competing in the pageant. Given asylum in Berlin, refugee Mahmoud organises Mr Gay Syria to offer the winner a chance to travel to Mr Gay World, trying to bring international attention to the life-threatening situations faced by LGBTIQ Syrians. Turkish filmmaker Ayse Toprak's inspiring documentary shows a side of the refugee crisis rarely portrayed in cinemas, offering visibility as a vital weapon in the face of oppression, and a powerful look at those risking it all to be themselves.

Dir: Ayse Toprak, Germany, France,
Turkey, 2017, 85 mins, Courtesy: Taskovski Films

Arabic with English subtitles

SESSION	DATE	TIME	VENUE
2170	Thursday 22 March	6.15PM	ACMI

DOCUMENTARIES



ABU

Australian Premiere

'One of the best documentaries of the year.' — POV Magazine

Dir: Arshad Khan,
Canada, 2017, 80 mins,
Courtesy: Gray Matter Productions

This compelling documentary offers an intimate insight into a Pakistani immigrant exploring his sexuality while ruminating on his complex relationship with his father. Director Arshad Khan bravely puts himself front and centre as he documents his family's move from Pakistan to Toronto. Although quite liberal in their attitudes back home, Khan's parents go through a conservative conversion of sorts when they migrate to Canada, which clashes with Khan's own personal awakening. Using an inventive blend of animation, home movies and clips from old Bollywood movies, Khan has crafted a powerful look at the toll of migration and a distinctive portrait of liberation and acceptance.

SESSION	DATE	TIME	VENUE
2178	Saturday 24 March	3.30PM	ACMI



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QUEERAMA

Australian Premiere

'A heartening celebration of progress and a cautionary reminder of all the broken lives and lonely hearts trampled along the way.' — Screen Daily

Created from a deep dive into the BFI National Archive, this engrossing essay film charts a century of incredible change in British LGBTIQ life. Film, television, documentary and newsreel footage explore the relationships, desires, fears and expressions of gay men and women from 1919 to the current day. *Queerama* features landmark moments from films such as *Victim*, *The Killing of Sister George*, *Orlando*, *Beautiful Thing* and *Young Soul Rebels* and is coupled with a dynamic soundtrack that includes John Grant, Goldfrapp and Hercules & Love Affair. Director Daisy Asquith traverses persecution, injustice, forbidden encounters, sexual liberation and pride to create an intimate and unflinching portrait of what it was to be British and queer in the 20th Century.

Dir: Daisy Asquith, UK, 2017, 70 mins, Courtesy: ieie productions

SESSION	DATE	TIME	VENUE
5173	Friday 23 March	6.15PM	KINO CINEMAS



MANSFIELD 66/67

Australian Premiere

'(The) gossipy documentary *Mansfield 66/67* is a rip-roaring good ride.' — *Vanity Fair*

If you like your queer mondo kitsch with a touch of the satanic, this uproarious look at the surely-this-can't-be-true life story of the final years of Hollywood starlet Jayne Mansfield won't just tickle your fancy, it'll sacrifice it on the altar of interpretive dance. She was the 'king-sized' Marilyn Monroe, he was the founder of the Church of Satan (with a flair for the preposterous); their affair was ripped from the pages of *Hollywood Babylon* – and Kenneth Anger is on hand to confirm it. Featuring hilarious and insightful interviews with John Waters, Peaches Christ and Tippi Hedren, *Mansfield 66/67* is a doco so drenched in camp that you may need to come up for air half way through.

Dir: P. David Ebersole and Todd Hughes, USA, 2017, 84 mins, Courtesy: Stray Dogs

SESSION	DATE	TIME	VENUE
2174	Friday 23 March	8.30PM	ACMI



CINEMANIACS PRESENT "ALL OF THEM WITCHES": THE DEVIL IN 60S & 70S CINEMA

Jayne Mansfield wasn't the only one lured by the Devil's charms, all of Hollywood seemed to be under his spell during the 1960s and '70s. Hosted by Hande Noyan, this panel featuring film historians Lee Gambin, Emma Westwood and Sally Christie, will take you on a journey through Satan's cinematic incarnations. From celebrated classics, *Rosemary's Baby* and *The Exorcist* to John Travolta's film debut and even hardcore porn, the Devil's clutches were inescapable. This sidebar event to MQFF's special screening of *Mansfield 66/67* is a definite must see for all fans of cult cinema!

\$11 Full / \$9 Concession / \$7 MQFF Member

This panel is proudly
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SESSION	DATE	TIME	VENUE
7800	Saturday 24 March	3.00PM	ACMI STUDIO



Dani Boi | The Coming Back out Ball | Wicked Women

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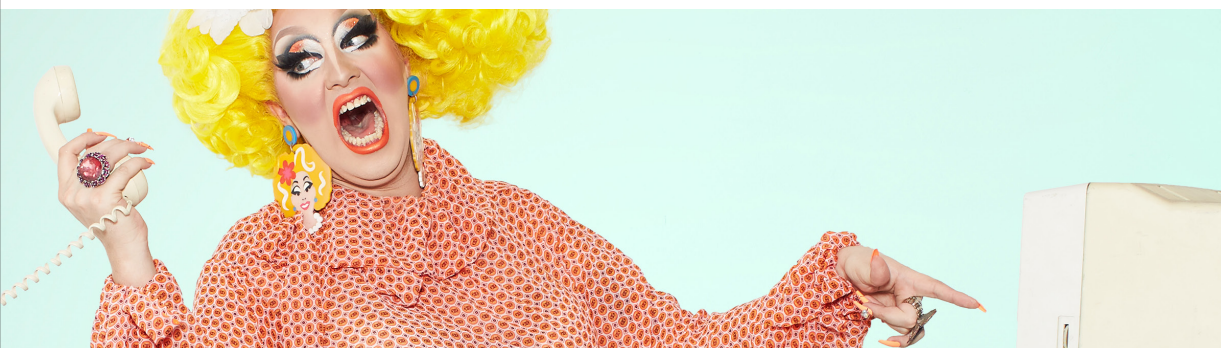
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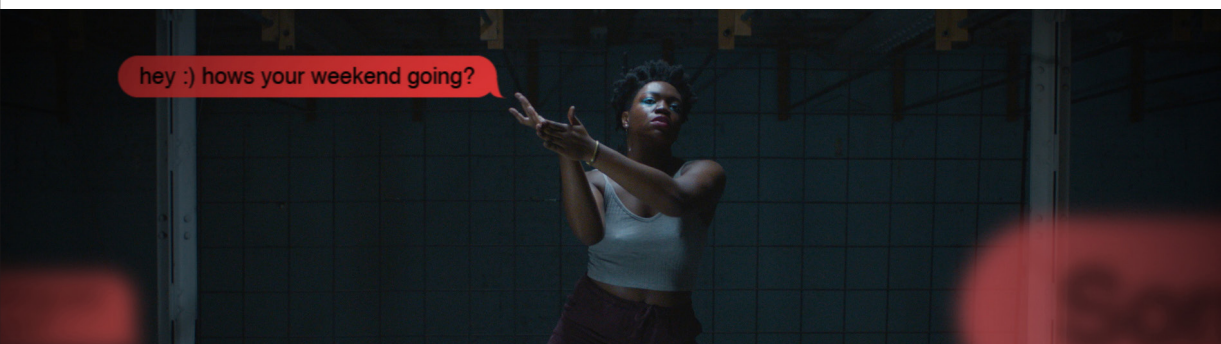


MOVIE MATCHMAKING

This year we are pleased to bring back match-making extraordinaire, Melbourne's very own queen-of-corporate Karen From Finance as your host and entertainer for the MQFF *Match Making* extravaganza. Removing all the things you hate about match-making and adding in all the things you didn't know you love, Karen is here to take you on a hilarious journey through performance and queer film - you might even just make some new film-going mates! Flying solo, happily married or polyamorous - all film-loving queers and allies are welcome.

\$20 Full / \$18 Concession / \$16 MQFF Member

SESSION	DATE	TIME	VENUE
7400	Monday 19 March	7.00PM	ACMI STUDIO



LOVE BITES

To commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras, the ABC and Screen Australia commissioned 10 five-minute documentary shorts from LGBTIQ filmmakers across Australia. *Love Bites* is a celebration and insight into the lives of the LGBTIQ community and a showcase of great queer filmmaking talent. MQFF is excited to be screening the four Victorian entrants. The screening will be followed by a panel discussion with the filmmakers.

Dirs: Zena Bartlett (*Dani Boi*), Stephanie Westwood (*Dances*), Christina Radburn (*Desperately Seeking Shavers*), Anna Brownfield (*Wicked Women*),
Australia, 2018, 20 mins

This is a free event

SESSION	DATE	TIME	VENUE
7900	Sunday 25 March	2.30PM	ACMI STUDIO

MQFF GIVES BACK

EMPOWERING QUEER FILMMAKERS THROUGH INNOVATIVE WORKSHOPS & FESTIVAL PRIZES

QUEER FILMMAKING WORKSHOP

The Queer Filmmaking Workshop provides an opportunity to amplify the voices of the LGBTIQ+ community by empowering real people to share their stories. Presented with The University of Melbourne's Victorian College of the Arts (VCA), this workshop will provide the opportunity to learn fundamental filmmaking techniques.

The workshop is designed for budding filmmakers. This will be a very practical and collaborative workshop for a small group of people to write, direct, shoot and edit a two-minute film together.

Workshop 10.00am to 4.00pm

- Write a short script
- Draw storyboards
- Shoot the film
- Edit the film

Workshop coordinator, Kate Lefoe is a filmmaker and recent graduate from the VCA with a Masters of Film and Television (Narrative). Kate's short films include *Under Pressure* (MQFF 2011), *Plunge* (MQFF 2015) and co-directing a documentary with David Muir *It's Who We Are* (MQFF 2014).

Lauren Anderson is a freelance filmmaker with a Masters of Narrative Direction and a Masters of Screenwriting from the Victorian College of the Arts, and was the winner of the 2016 Australian Writers Guild New Writers' Script Competition, TV and Web series category. Lauren's short films include *Vigilant! Healthy! Wholesome!* (MQFF 2011) and *Love & Other Red Spot Specials* (MQFF 2010, Best Australian Short Queer Film).

Workshop:

\$30 full / \$20 concession & MQFF members.

Note: Limited capacity. Book early to avoid disappointment.

**Proudly
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WORKSHOP	DATE	TIME	VENUE
7300	Saturday 17 March	10.00AM – 4.00PM	ACMI STUDIO

SUPPORTING QUEER EMERGING TALENT

MQFF is proud to support local emerging filmmaking talent. Proudly supported by Film Victoria, Australian filmmakers selected for the 2017 program, are invited to participate in an exclusive film lab.

This support for local and international filmmaking talent is made possible by our awards sponsors and donors.

MQFF & JURY AWARDS

- City of Melbourne Award for the Best Australian Short Film (\$3,000)*
- Film Victoria Award for Best Director – Australian Short Film (\$1,000)
- Shaun Miller Lawyers Award for Emerging Filmmaker – Australian Short Film (\$500)
- David McCarthy Award for Best Feature Documentary (\$2,500)
- Award for Best First Feature Narrative (\$2500)

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*Recipients of the Best Australian Short Film award are automatically qualified to be nominated for The Iris Prize – the largest prize for LGBTIQ+ short film in the world.

AUDIENCE CHOICE AWARDS

- Step Right Up Audience Choice Award for Best Short Film (\$500)
 - Audience Choice Award for Best Feature – Narrative or Documentary (\$1,000)
- Vote for your favourite film by rating films online at mqff.com.au or on the app.

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Image credit: Still from *Lights*, 2016. Directed by Emma Mackenzie.



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AUSTRALIAN SHORTS & AWARDS

A diverse showcase of queer stories and a celebration of local filmmaking talent. We are proud to present nine new shorts that will transport you inside the Australian Sharpie scene of the 1970s, the grunt and sweat of the Australian Women's Football League, the inner life of a Melbourne bear, a transgender kid's first day at school, the alien abduction of a drug addicted drag queen and the rush of getting high and doing crime with your girlfriend.

MQFF, with the City of Melbourne, is proud to present this selection and all films are eligible for the following jury awards, which will be presented on the night:

The City of Melbourne Award for the Best Australian Short Film (\$3,000)

Film Victoria Award for Best Director – Australian Short Film (\$1,000)

Shaun Miller Lawyers Award for Emerging Australian Filmmaker (\$500)

Allergies Dir: Kirrilee Bailey, 2017, 5 mins

Infidels Dir: Luke Marsden, 2017, 6 mins

Nangs Dir: Sam Rogers, 2017, 9 mins

Stardust Dir: Oliver Levi-Malouf, 2017, 5 mins

Sharps Dir: Clayton Waddell, 2017, 8 mins

Round One Dir: Ella Sowinska, 2017, 4 mins

Mrs McCutcheon Dir: John Sheedy, 2017, 16 mins

Bear in the bedroom Dir: Albert Koomen, 2017, 7 mins

Nina Dir: Olivia Costa, 2017, 12 mins

Total Run time: 72 mins

Check mqff.com.au for further details

Proudly presented by
 **CITY OF MELBOURNE**

SESSION	DATE	TIME	VENUE
3184	Sunday 25 March	5.45PM	ACMI



COMEDY SHORTS

A shorts package that finds the funny side in the queerest of situations. From two women stuck in a lift with nothing to do but explore. A toxic bro-off between two gay men desperately trying to prove who's the straightest of them all. A celebration of all things camp and all things Eurovision and the romantic complications of a recently single Brooklyn lesbian looking for love at all the wrong house parties.

Men Don't Whisper Dir: Jordan Firstman, 2017, USA, 22 mins

Wild Dances Dir: Bina Bhattacharya, 2017, Australia, 14 mins

The Gay and Wondrous life of Caleb Gallo - Ep 4 Dir: Brian Jordan Alvarez, 2016, USA, 17 mins

Etage X Dir: Francy Fabritz, 2017, Germany, 14 mins

Lesbehonest: I'll be all right Dir: Jana Heaton, 2017, USA, 19 mins

Total run time: 86 mins

Check mqff.com.au for further details.

Proudly presented by **Australian Unity** 

SESSION	DATE	TIME	VENUE
3174	Friday 23 March	8.15PM	ACMI



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TRANSFORMATIONS

This collection of essential shorts explores the lives, loves and achievements of a group of extraordinary and ordinary transgender and gender non-conforming individuals. Spanning the globe, *Transformations* will take you from the catwalks of the New York ballroom scene, to the sticky carpets of the Australian queer punk movement, into the indigenous communities around Oaxaca, Mexico and the harsh intolerance of England in the 1950s.

Umbrella Dir: Rhys Ernst, 2017, USA, 15 mins

Walk for me Dir: Elegance Bratton, 2016, USA 12 mins

Dusk Dir: Jake Graf, 2017, UK, 15 mins

Transcend Dir: Otto Ivor, 2017, Australia, 8 mins

Muxes Dir: Ivan Olita, 2016, USA, Mexico, 10 mins

Pre-Drink Dir: Marc-Antoine Lemire, 2017, Canada 23 mins

Total run time: 83 mins

Check mqff.com.au for further details.

SESSION	DATE	TIME	VENUE
2173	Friday 23 March	6.15PM	ACMI

SHORTS



DOCUMENTARY SHORTS

Six slices of queer life that will surprise, enlighten and move you. These revealing true tales explore a gay boy growing up in the Soviet Union with his awesome mail order bride mum, a remarkable interracial and intergenerational love story set amongst America's civil rights movement, the art and craft of a third generation boot maker, the sleight of hand of a transgender magician and the creative and romantic life of two Australian street artists.

Bayard & Me Dir: Matt Wolf, 2017, USA, 17 mins

The Streets are Ours: Two lives Cross in Karachi
Dir: Michelle Fiordaliso, 2017, USA, 16 mins

Little Potato Dir: Wes Hurley & Nathan M. Miller, 2017, USA, 14 mins

Fay Presto, Queen of the Close Up
Dir: Hanna Aqvilin, 2017, UK, 17 mins

Two minds are better than one
Dir: Felix Guerra, 2017, Australia, 10 mins

Bootwmn Dir: Paige Gratland & Sam McWilliams, 2015, USA, 11 mins

Total run time: 85 mins

Check mqff.com.au for further details.

SESSION	DATE	TIME	VENUE
2156	Saturday 17 March	3.30PM	ACMI

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GUY ON GUY SHORTS

This collection of revealing and engrossing award-winning international shorts cover the pitfalls and swoon of falling in love for the first time, the rush of hooking up, the complications of family, awkward first crushes and messy breakups.

Total Run time: 83 mins

Check mqff.com.au for further details

The Mess He Made Dir: Matthew Puccini, 2017, USA 11 mins

1992 Dir: Anthony Donckue, 2016, France, 25 mins

Alex and the Handyman Dir: Nicholas Colia, 2017, USA, 14 mins

Heavy Weight Dir: Jonny Ruff, 2016, UK, 13 mins

Pedro Dir: André Santos & Marco Leão, 2016, Portugal 20 mins

SESSION	DATE	TIME	VENUE
3165	Monday 19 March	8.15PM	ACMI



GIRL ON GIRL SHORTS

Featuring the 2017 Berlin Film Festival Teddy Award Winner, *My Gay Sister*, these six humorous, thought-provoking and intimate must-see films will surprise and delight. *Girl on Girl* shorts are coming to you from all corners of the globe this year, including a bedroom farce like no other from Ireland, a gentle custody battle over a cat from South Korea and a romantic and professional clash on the football fields of Australia.

Total Run time: 73 mins

Check mqff.com.au for further details

More than God Dir: Kev Cahill, 2015, Ireland, 9 mins

Apart from Everything Dir: Ben Lewis, 2017, Canada, 19 mins

Pillow Talk Dir: Louise Marie Cooke, 2017, UK, 8 mins

Momo Dir: Yun Joo Chang, 2016, South Korea, 16 mins

Snap Dir: Brianna Frekleton, 2017, Australia, 6 mins

My Gay Sister Dir: Lia Hietala, 2017, Sweden, 15 mins

SESSION	DATE	TIME	VENUE
3178	Saturday 24 March	3.15PM	ACMI



HOOKING UP

Getting on and getting off, this collection of shorts explore the way we connect and turn each other on. These six films take you ringside into an awkward and hilarious hook up between a millennial and a man old enough to be his father, a shy young man exploring online dating for the first time, the unexpected erotic charge of grief and a casual hook-up that just might have some legs.

Total Run time: 96 mins

Check mqff.com.au for further details

Contains sexually explicit material

Call Your Father Dir: Jordan Firstman
2016, USA, 20 mins

Herculanum Dir: Arthur Cahn,
2016, France, 21 mins

Jamie Dir: Christopher Manning,
2016, UK, 9 mins

Just past noon on a Tuesday Dir: Travis
Mathews 2018, Brazil, 22 mins

Thirst Dir: Eoin Maher, 2017, UK, 8 mins

TommyTeen18 Dir: Vincent Fitz-Jim, 2017,
Netherlands, 16 mins

SESSION	DATE	TIME	VENUE
3154	Friday 16 March	10.30PM	ACMI



ANIMATION SHORTS

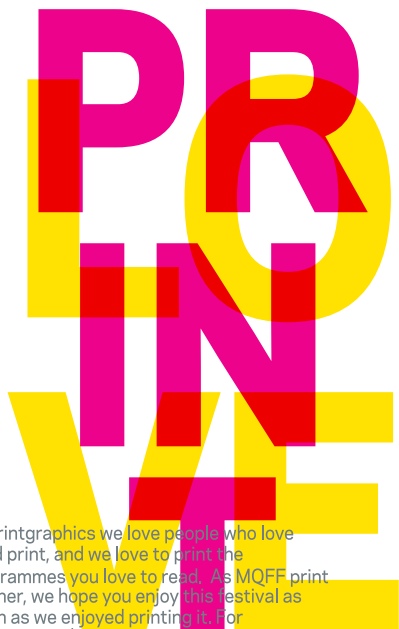
A diverse and inventive collection of award-winning shorts from across the globe. Animated for your viewing pleasure is the charming tale of a childhood romance between two girls, a young Indian man comes out to his parents while cooking their favourite dish, a butch lesbian tells her life story with the help of the Aztec goddess Coyolxauhqui and a superhero finally comes out as their true self.

- Open Recess** Dir: Amy Xu, 2016, USA, 3mins
Chromosome Sweetheart Dir: Honami Yano, 2017, Japan, 5 mins
Hi, It's Your Mother Dir: Daniel Sterlin-Altman, 2016, Canada, 5 mins
I Like Girls Dir: Diane Obomsawin, 2016, Canada, 8 mins
The Fish Curry Dir: Abhishek Verma, 2017, India, 12 mins
Spark Dir: Aharonit Elior, 2017, USA, 5 mins
#pride Dir: Louisa Bertman, 2016, USA, 5 mins
Tits Dir: Louisa Bertman, 2015, USA, 5 mins
Butch Coyolxauhqui Dir: Karleen Pendleton Jiménez, 2017, Canada, 5 mins
Venus - Filly The Lesbian Little Fairy Dir: Sávio Leite, 2017, Brazil, 6 mins
Steps to balance 1-5 Dir: Molly Garrett, 2017, USA, 3 mins
Supersperson Dir: Philip Watts, 2017, Australia, 2 mins

Total run time: 64 mins

Check mqff.com.au for further details.

SESSION	DATE	TIME	VENUE
2175	Friday 23 March	10.30PM	ACMI



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OUR QUEER NEIGHBOURS: ASIA PACIFIC QUEER FILM FESTIVAL ALLIANCE

MQFF is proud to continue our alliance with festivals from across the Asia Pacific region. The Asia Pacific Queer Film Festival Alliance (APQFFA) promotes communication amongst festivals, stimulates production and enhances the visibility of queer cinema. The five shorts in this program have been pulled together from a shared pool of films that represent the best of the region.

Lady Eva Dir: Dean Hamer, Joe Wilson, 2017, Tonga 11 mins

Cocoon Dir: Liying Mei, 2017, China, 26 mins

After Erection Dir: Leung Man Kei Maggie, 2017, Hong Kong, 20 mins

Devi Dir: Karishma Dube, 2017, India, 13 mins

Sisak Dir: Faraz Ansari, 2017, India, 15 mins

Total Run time: 85 mins

Check mqff.com.au for further details

SESSION	DATE	TIME	VENUE
2177	Saturday 24 March	1.30PM	ACMI

YOUNG AND QUEER

A selection of award winning features and shorts exploring gender and sexuality.
This program will enlighten, entertain and stimulate discussion.



YOUTH SHORTS

Total run time: 84 mins

MQFF recommends 15+

Check mqff.com.au for further details.

From two skater boys enjoying the last days of summer together, to a poignant, defiant letter to a father, a lesbian teen and a put-upon boy joining forces to battle the school bullies, an Iris Prize winner about a mother and son at loggerheads and a young girl getting up the courage to ask out her crush, this entertaining shorts package examines what it means to be young and queer.

Melon Grab Dir: Andrew Lee,
2016, Australia, 10 mins

Superheroes Dir: Volker Petters,
2017, Germany, 16 mins

Turn it around Dir: Niels Bourgonje,
2017, Netherlands, 9 mins

Rink Dir: Gail Hackston, 2016, UK, 10 mins

Mother Knows Best Dir: Mikael Bundsen,
2016, Sweden, 13 mins

First Day Dir: Julie Kalceff, 2017, Australia, 18 mins

Imago Dir: Liz Cardenas Franke, 2017, USA, 10 mins

SESSION	DATE	TIME	VENUE
2153	Saturday 17 March	11.30AM	ACMI



LOVE, SIMON

Based on the acclaimed young adult novel
Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda by
Becky Albertalli.

See page 6 for details.

MQFF recommends 15+

SESSION	DATE	TIME	VENUE
2176	Saturday 24 March	11.15AM	ACMI

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