



MELBOURNE  
QUEER  
FILM  
FESTIVAL

CELEBRATING 31 YEARS OF QUEER FILM

**WE'RE  
IN**

18–29  
NOVEMBER  
2021

MELBOURNE  
QUEER FILM  
FESTIVAL

**STORIES  
EVERY COLOUR**





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# WELCOME TO MQFF31



**SALLY CAPP**  
**LORD MAYOR  
OF MELBOURNE**

We are proud to support the 31st Melbourne Queer Film Festival through our Arts and Creative Investment Partnership Program.

At the City of Melbourne, we are passionate about ensuring everyone feels they belong in our city.

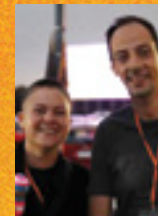
In creating inclusion, stories matter. Seeing yourself reflected in the stories that we tell matters even more. On behalf of the City of Melbourne, I congratulate this year's festival organisers for shining a light on culturally and linguistically-diverse narratives.

The Melbourne Queer Film Festival is always a highlight as our second largest film festival. This festival has a long history of bringing us together in celebration of Melbourne's thriving arts culture.

While COVID-19 has altered our lives and the city's rhythm, the tenacity of the team at the Melbourne Queer Film Festival to deliver this event despite the challenges show we remain the undisputed events and arts capital of Australia.

The City of Melbourne is thrilled to present the Award for Best Australian Short Film. The pandemic has inspired many artists and it is fantastic to see such a surge in emerging local filmmaking talent.

Featuring more than 120 feature films, short films, documentaries, retrospectives and panels there is something at this year's festival for everyone. So make a date and support our creative community and local cinemas.



**MOLLY WHELAN  
AND  
DAVID MICALLEF**  
**CO-PRESIDENTS, MELBOURNE  
QUEER FILM FESTIVAL**

Festivals are a time to come together, to celebrate and to take a break from our day-to-day — all the things that we haven't been able to do in the past little while.

That is why the team at Melbourne Queer Film Festival has worked tirelessly to bring you a program of content that speaks to our lives as LGBTIQ+ communities and explores our hopes, our struggles, our passions and importantly our pride.

Whilst how much we can come together in person is outside of our control, what we can promise, and will deliver on, is bringing you great content and the opportunity to engage with each other.

As we go into MQFF31 we want to thank the MQFF team, Spiro, Daniel, Helen, Patty, Daniela & Steven for their work through this ever-changing landscape. And a special shout out to Tony Lee for supporting us as our acting CEO, the efforts by Tony and the MQFF team are evident in the line-up of programming that await you.

Welcome to MQFF31.



**SPIRO  
ECONOMOPOULOS**  
**PROGRAM DIRECTOR**

I don't need to tell you how tough these last few years have been. COVID has hit us hard, separating us from our loved ones and robbing us from what we hold most cherished in our lives. Be it a Saturday night dinner with friends, a sweaty dance at a club or sitting in a dark cinema and being transported to another place and time.

MQFF has found ways to stay connected with you of course and our online portal MQFF+ is one of the small

bright spots that has come out of this whole mess. But I'd be lying to you if I said that was enough. I miss the cinema. I miss the shared experience of sitting in a dark room. And I miss being amongst that festival atmosphere and the joy we all feel when we come together to watch, talk, debate and laugh about the movie we just saw.

So, with great delight I am here to say We're Back! Programming MQFF31 was done with the hope we could do this again in person. It was the queer rainbow at the end of the tunnel. The struggles our global LGBTIQ+ community faced to stay connected during COVID highlighted how important cinema is and festivals like MQFF in bringing us together, sharing our stories and giving us a window to the world. With MQFF31 that world just got bigger again.



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PLEASE SCAN FOR THE LATEST SESSION TIMES. DUE TO THE CHANGING NATURE OF CAPACITY RESTRICTIONS, PLEASE CHECK THE WEBSITE FOR OUR LATEST SESSION TIMES [MQFF.COM.AU](http://MQFF.COM.AU)

Melbourne Queer Film Festival acknowledges the traditional custodians of the lands upon which we live, work and learn, and pays respect to Elders past, present and emerging. We acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' spirit, imagination and rich history of storytelling that is an inspiration to all Australians.

## TICKETS

Booking fees may apply. MQFF is a Registered Charity and donations over \$2 are tax deductible. Please support the future of the Festival by adding a donation to your ticket purchases.

### OPENING NIGHT

Full \$40 / Concession \$34 / Member \$32

### CLOSING NIGHT

Full \$32 / Concession \$28 / Member \$26

### CENTREPIECE

Full \$32/Concession \$28 / Member \$26

### SINGLE TICKETS

Full \$21.30/Concession \$18.30 / Member or Groups (10+) \$17.30

### MOFF+

(online screenings)  
\$12 Single / \$20 Household / \$10 Member

### ALL-IN PASS

\$335 Member (includes all screenings, events & MQFF+)

### PASSES

3 Film Pass  
\$59 Full / \$51 Concession / \$49 Member  
5 Film Pass  
\$95 Full / \$82 Concession / \$77 Member  
7 Film Pass  
\$130 Full / \$111 Concession / \$105 Member  
10 Film Pass  
\$177 Full / \$152 Concession / \$143 Member

### MOFF MEMBERSHIP

\$68 Full / \$58 Concession / \$47 Under 30

## HOW TO BUY TICKETS

### 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.



### BOOK ONLINE OR ON THE MOFF APP

We strongly encourage you to book online to avoid disappointment. The MQFF box office at Jam Factory, ACMI and Cinema Nova are open 1 hour prior to the session start time to the start of the last session of the day at the venue.

For more detailed access information and a full list of Open Caption and Subtitled screenings visit [mqff.com.au/access](http://mqff.com.au/access).

**MOFF MEMBERSHIP** – Membership is a great way to support queer cinema plus it offers a heap of benefits including discounted tickets, priority access to cinemas and free member screenings throughout the year. Visit [mqff.com.au/membership](http://mqff.com.au/membership) for more information.

## ADMISSION CONDITIONS

### COVID SAFETY

We wish to ensure a safe Festival for all of our patrons, staff and volunteers and work closely with our cinema and venue partners to ensure thorough cleaning is undertaken before each session. Here's some things you can do to help.

- Book your tickets ahead on the MQFF App or through our website
- Please wear a mask, in line with current government advice.
- Make regular use of hand sanitiser and or wash your hands
- On arrival, scan the QR code for contact tracing purposes
- Maintain at least 1.5m distance between yourself and others
- Observe and maintain all other conditions as stipulated by the current government health advice, noting that these may change quickly and at short notice
- Pay for items with a card instead of cash.

- Note, there may be delays. Please be patient and kind to staff and volunteers.
- If you are feeling unwell, please stay at home.

### 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 and seniors.

### 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. Visit [mqff.com.au](http://mqff.com.au) for full terms and conditions.

### ACCESS

MQFF is committed to increasing accessibility across the festival. All MQFF venues are wheelchair accessible and have accessible toilets. 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 needs please call 03 9662 4147 or email [info@mqff.com.au](mailto:info@mqff.com.au). Companion Card tickets and wheelchair spaces are currently unable to be booked online.

### CONTENT WARNINGS

We pride ourselves on showing the best and most innovative in contemporary queer cinema. We wish to advise that some of the films we screen may be challenging for viewers. While we endeavor to include appropriate content warnings with each film description, we understand that some content may be triggering or concerning. If you would like further information about the content of any film, and advice about whether it would be suitable for you or others, then please feel free to get in touch with us. We will happily provide information about content themes such as violence, drug use, explicit content, homophobic language, religious themes, suicide or anything else that you may find concerning. Contact [info@mqff.com.au](mailto:info@mqff.com.au)



# THE FESTIVAL COMES TO YOU WITH MQFF+



Now you can enjoy over 40 features, documentaries and shorts showing at MQFF31 from the comfort of your own home. Book your tickets early as sessions will sell out!

## HOW DO I PURCHASE TICKETS FOR FILMS STREAMING ON MQFF+?

Purchase tickets for MQFF+ sessions through our website or app.

1. Browse our program at [mqff.com.au/program](http://mqff.com.au/program).
2. Go to the page of the film you want to see and select your tickets.
3. Checkout and pay for your tickets. If you're using a pass, checkout and confirm the tickets to be redeemed on your pass.

## HOW DO I WATCH FILMS THROUGH MQFF+?

Once you've purchased your tickets through the MQFF website

1. Head to [mqff.com.au/account](http://mqff.com.au/account) to login to your account.
2. In your Account Dashboard, click the button located on the left hand side of the screen that says On Demand.
3. Click to select and watch the films that you've purchased tickets for.



**MQFF+**

FOR MORE INFORMATION [MQFF.COM.AU/MQFF+](http://MQFF.COM.AU/MQFF+)



## Let's look up again.

After a year without cinema, ME is delighted as proud sponsor to welcome you back to the MQFF.



[mebank.com.au/proudlyme](http://mebank.com.au/proudlyme)





# WE'RE UNMISSABLE

Headliners. Hot Tickets. Must see. Call them what you like but don't miss out because tickets are limited and these films will be the talking point of the festival.

**ANAÏS IN LOVE**  
MELBOURNE PREMIERE. PAGE 18

**THE SWIMMER**  
AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE. PAGE 24

**GREAT FREEDOM**  
MELBOURNE PREMIERE. PAGE 31

**FIREBIRD**  
AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE, PAGE 32

**TOVE**  
PAGE 37

WANT TO SEE ALL THESE FILMS? CRAB A FIVE FILM PASS AND SAVE.



# WE'RE PLAYFUL

Assemble your crew and book in for any one of these films for a night of laughs, cheers, romance and general good times! Don't forget to use #MQFF31 when you're taking those festival selfies.

**SWEETHEART**  
AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE. PAGE 23

**SWAN SONG**  
MELBOURNE PREMIERE. PAGE 26

**MA BELLE, MY BEAUTY**  
AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE, PAGE 34

**MASCARPONE**  
AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE. PAGE 40

**COMEDY SHORTS**  
SEE WEBSITE FOR DETAILS

WANT TO SEE ALL THESE FILMS? CRAB A FIVE FILM PASS AND SAVE.



# WE'RE ADVENTUROUS

These films test the boundaries of LGBTIQ+ storytelling. Visually stunning, thematically bold and provocative. You'll be talking about these films long after the festival has finished.

## FINLANDIA

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE, PAGE 28

## POTATO DREAMS OF AMERICA

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE, PAGE 39

## THE NOWHERE INN

PAGE 44

## THE RETREAT

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE, PAGE 48

## RAW! UNGUT! VIDEO!

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE, PAGE 59

WANT TO SEE ALL THESE FILMS? CRAB A FIVE FILM PASS AND SAVE.

# WE'RE THOUGHT PROVOKING

These films will challenge, inspire and move you and will leave you thinking about the issues facing LGBTIQ+ communities across the globe.

## MOFFIE

MELBOURNE PREMIERE. PAGE 33

## NICO

MELBOURNE PREMIERE. PAGE 43

## SOMEONE LIKE ME

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE. PAGE 55

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR SURVIVAL

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE PAGE 58

## SEYRAN ATEŞ: SEX, REVOLUTION AND ISLAM

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE. PAGE 60

WANT TO SEE ALL THESE FILMS? CRAB A FIVE FILM PASS AND SAVE.





# FREE

A FEAT OF HUMANISTIC FILMMAKING, THIS IS A MOVIE WE  
WILL BE CELEBRATING ALL THROUGH NEXT YEAR'S AWARDS  
SEASON AND TALKING ABOUT LONG AFTER.  
— HARPER'S BAZAAR

## MELBOURNE PREMIERE

**DIR** — Jonas Poher Rasmussen, Denmark/  
France/Sweden/Norway, 2021, 90 mins, M

**COURTESY** — Madman Entertainment

## SCREENS WITH PITCH PLEEZ WINNING SHORT WE'RE DOING WELL

**DIR** — Andrew Mills, 11 mins

## PROUDLY PRESENTED BY



Tamin Nawabi (a pseudonym), a 36-year-old high-achieving academic, grapples with a painful secret he has kept hidden for 20 years, one that threatens to derail the life he has built for himself and his soon to be husband. Recounted mostly through animation to director Jonas Poher Rasmussen — his close friend and high-school classmate — he tells for the first time the story of his extraordinary journey as a child refugee from Afghanistan.

Through heartfelt interviews between Jonas and Tamin, *Free* tells an unforgettable story of self-discovery. Showing how only by confronting the past is it possible to carve out a future, and the universal truth that only when you stop fleeing from who you are can you find the true meaning of home.





# SUMMERTIME

**A DEEPLY TOUCHING TAPESTRY THAT CELEBRATES THE DIVERSITY AND CULTURAL RICHNESS OF L.A. WHILE AT THE SAME TIME EXPLORING THE HOPES AND FEARS OF A GENERATION HEADING INTO AN UNCERTAIN ADULTHOOD.**  
— SCREEN INTERNATIONAL

## AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

**DIR** — Carlos López Estrada, USA, 2020, 95 mins

**COURTESY** — Good Deed Entertainment

Over the course of a hot summer day in Los Angeles, the lives of 25 young Angelenos intersect. A skating guitarist, a tagger, two wannabe rappers, an exasperated fast-food worker, a limo driver—they all weave in and out of each other's stories. Through poetry they express life, love, heartache, family, home, and fear.

Part contemporary musical, part sociological art, *Summertime* is a joyful celebration that explores themes of identity, community, and intersectionality through the unique perspectives of this diverse ensemble.



# FANNY: THE RIGHT TO ROCK

THOROUGHLY ENCACING THANKS TO THE DEMONSTRATABLE  
TALENT AND BRASSY FORTHRIGHTNESS OF ITS CENTRAL  
PERSONALITIES. — VARIETY

MELBOURNE PREMIERE

DIR — Bobbi Jo Hart, Canada, 2021, 96 mins

COURTESY — Bobbi Jo Hart, Adobe  
Productions International

IMAGE — Bobbi Jo Hart

WINNER AUDIENCE CHOICE AWARD

HOT DOGS 2021

PROUDLY PRESENTED BY



A breakthrough documentary chronicling the story of pioneering female rock band, *Fanny*. Essentially erased from the musical canon, the women of *Fanny* seek the recognition for their contribution to rock and roll and music history more broadly. Navigating the challenges of race, sexuality, gender as well as a new found barrier of ageism in a hostile music industry, *Fanny* reunites after nearly 45 years apart. Showcasing the women's lives, from touring to recording to their notorious queer studio and home, Fanny Hill.

Featuring archival footage and images from the mid-60s through to the late 70s and interviews from rock and roll heavy hitters including Bonnie Raitt, Kate Pierson (*The B52's*), Kathy Valentine (*The Go Go's*), Joe Elliot (*Def Leppard*) & Cherie Currie (*The Runaways*), *Fanny: The Right To Rock* is an unmissable insight into rock and roll's most underappreciated icons.





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## VICTORIAN PRIDE CENTRE



The Victorian Pride Centre is a place of  
belonging, support and pride for our  
diverse LGBTIQ+ communities.  
A place for community. A place for pride.

79-81 Fitzroy St,  
St Kilda, VIC 3182

# WE'RE OPEN

[pridecentre.org.au](http://pridecentre.org.au)



## WE'RE READY FOR OUR CLOSE-UP!

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[thorneharbour.org](http://thorneharbour.org)





# ANAÏS IN LOVE

**A WARM, SANDY ROMANCE HARKING BACK  
TO SIMPLER TIMES. — IN REVIEW**

**MELBOURNE PREMIERE**

**DIR** — Charline Bourgeois-Tacquet, France, 2021, 98 mins

**COURTESY** — Kismet

**FRENCH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES**

Anaïs (played exuberantly by Anaïs Demoustier) is thirty and broke. She has a lover, but she's not sure she loves him anymore. Then she meets Daniel, an older writer who she immediately falls for. That is until she meets Daniel's beguiling wife Emilie (Valeria Bruni Tedeschi) and Anaïs finds herself once again falling head over heels. This time the passion cuts deeper, the stakes are higher, and the feelings felt between the two women are more intense.

Directed with freewheeling energy by Charline Bourgeois-Tacquet and held together by the chemistry between the two female leads, *Anaïs in Love* is a joyful, warm and engaging story about a restless young woman passionately pursuing, life, love and liberty.



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## A DISTANT PLACE

### AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

**DIR** — Park Kun-Young, South Korea, 2020, 115 mins

**COURTESY** — M-Line distribution  
**KOREAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES**

Now and then we are fortunate to be gifted a film like *A Distant Place* where as viewers, we are welcomed into a world to quietly observe the minutiae of our characters' lives. Set in a farming province in rural Korea, Jin Woo lives a simple, uncomplicated existence raising four-year-old daughter Seol. Although occupied with ranch duties and being a sole parent, an unsettledness still lingers about him. After a surprise visit from Hyeon Min, a former acquaintance from college days, something stirs in Jin Woo.

They quickly discover that years of separation have done little to rob them of their desire to be together. Director Park Kun-Young beckons us to explore the complexity of Jin Woo's story as he attempts to balance his rural life and a relationship with Hyeon Min under the judgmental watch of a small-minded community. *A Distant Place* is a feast for the eyes, with stunning cinematography capturing the colours and raw intensity of seasonal change. A masterclass in subtle storytelling which compels you to sit back and appreciate every last detail.

**A REMARKABLY ACCOMPLISHED PIECE OF STORYTELLING. — EYE FOR FILM**

## BEYTO

### MELBOURNE PREMIERE

**DIR** — Gitta Gsell, Switzerland, 2020, 98 mins

**COURTESY** — Match Box Films  
**SWISS-GERMAN, TURKISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES**

Beyto is a terrific swimmer and everybody's best friend. But as the young Swiss man with Turkish roots begins to fall in love with his handsome coach Mike, his perfect world seems to fall apart. For Beyto's parents there is only one solution to maintain the tradition and honour of their family: He has to marry a woman as soon as possible! They lure their son into their Turkish home village and organize a wedding with Beyto's childhood friend Seher. All of a sudden, Beyto finds himself in the middle of a devastating love triangle: How can he stand by Mike without destroying Seher's future?

Based on a novel by the award-winning writer Yusuf Yesilöz, Swiss director Gitta Gsell tells a multicultural story of love and emancipation — full of empathy, sensuality and summer feelings. Alongside Swiss Movie Award winner Dimitri Stapfer, the two newcomers Burak Ates and Ecem Aydin shine in their first leading roles.

**TOUCHING PERFORMANCES FUEL THIS FRANK PORTRAIT THAT SHARES THE INTERSECTION OF QUEERNESS AND IMMIGRANT IDENTITIES. — THAT SHELF**



### SWEETHEART

**AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE**

**DIR** — Marley Morrison, UK, 2020, 103 mins

**COURTESY** — Film Collaborative

AJ (Nell Barlow), a sullen 17-year-old is dragged on vacation to a beachside holiday park with her close-knit family. Much to her devoted mother's (Jo Hartley) dismay, AJ spends the holiday reading and lamenting about the environment. AJ's introverted world however shifts when she falls for local lifeguard Isla (Ella Rae-Smith), a bubbly teenager who introduces her to a world of socializing and late-night partying. *Sweetheart*, in a similar vein to Greta Gerwig's *Ladybird* (2018), deals aptly with mother-daughter tensions amid AJ's insecurities regarding Isla's sexual orientation.

Winner of the Audience Award at Glasgow Film Festival, *Sweetheart* is a charming and quirky coming-of-age story set on the English coast with winning performances by its lead actors, especially by Jo Hartley as AJ's mother.

**SWEETHEART IS A SURE-FIRE CROWD PLEASER THAT SHOWCASES A YOUNG FILMMAKER AND CAST WITH REAL PROMISE. — CINEVUE**

### MY GIRLFRIEND IS THE REVOLUTION

**AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE**

**DIR** — Marcelino Islas Hernández, Mexico, 2021, 104 mins

**COURTESY** — Un Beso

**SPANISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES**

**SOME DRUG USE, SELF-HARM**

Sofia and her family have just moved to a boring new town. All Sofia's mother is interested in is getting her ready for her quinceañera, all Sofia wants is to escape the monotony of her everyday life. Enter a whirlwind in combat boots, Eva — an anarchist punk rocker with sticky fingers and a devil may care attitude. Eva turns Sofia's world upside down, as they break into houses and party deep into the night. The pair bulldoze through the sleepy town of Las Arboledas, all in the name of anarchy and revolution!

While her mother is preoccupied with her new business venture of selling American goods, Sofia and Eva take teenage rebellion to the next level. With the screams of punk rock in their ears, Eva and Sofia hatch a plan that will change the course of their relationship. But anarchy can't protect you from heartbreak, as Sofia realizes that Eva may not be who she says she is.

*My Girlfriend Is The Revolution* is a masterful and tender coming of age film that captures the beauty, the pain and the inevitability of growing up.





# THE SWIMMER

**WINNER BEST ACTOR AWARD (OMER PERELMAN STRIKS)**  
— JERUSALEM FILM FESTIVAL 2021

**AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE**

**DIR** — Adam Kalderon, Israel, 2020, 90 mins

**COURTESY** — M-Appeal

**HEBREW WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES**

Erez, a rising star in the Israeli swimming scene arrives at a godforsaken training camp held in a boarding school where the winning athlete gets a coveted ticket to the Olympics. There he meets the beautiful and talented Nevo, who awakens long repressed desires in him, throwing his Olympic chances (and libido) into turmoil. This attraction is complicated further by their stern swimming coach who does not believe in fraternizing between competitors and is warned to stay away or risk his Olympic dreams. Will Erez act upon his feelings for Nevo and risk losing everything he has strived for becomes the urgent question at the heart of this vibrant and engaging film.

Speedos, water, desire... *The Swimmer* is a winning romantic drama that will leave you cheering right up to the finish line.





## SWAN SONG

### MELBOURNE PREMIERE

**DIR** — Todd Stephens, USA, 2021, 104 mins, M  
**COURTESY** — Icon

Legendary actor Udo Kier gives a career best performance as retired hairdresser Pat Pitsenbarger, who escapes the confines of his nursing home when he is lured out of retirement by a former client (played by none other than Linda Evans of *Dynasty* fame) whose dying wish is for Pat to style her final hairdo. Soon Pat embarks on an odyssey to confront the ghosts of his past — and collect the beauty supplies necessary for the job. Along the way confronting old rivals (the wonderful Jennifer Coolidge), long forgotten lovers and taking the time to stop into all his favourite gay haunts.

Director Todd Stephens (*Another Gay Movie*) has referred to *Swan Song*, as a love letter to the rapidly disappearing gay culture of America and to that effect has crafted a comical and bittersweet journey about rediscovering one's sparkle, and looking gorgeous while doing so.

**SWAN SONG PAYS EXHILARATING AND MOVING TRIBUTE TO A QUEER TRAILBLAZER.** — SLANT MAGAZINE

PROUDLY PRESENTED BY

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## JUMP, DARLING

### AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

**DIR** — Philip J. Connell, Canada, 2020, 90 mins  
**COURTESY** — Eye on Films

In Phillip Connell's debut feature *Jump, Darling* perpetually morose Russell confronts the fact that his acting career hasn't catapulted him to 'Tobey Maguire levels' of stardom he thinks he deserves. But that's okay, he's still got Fishy Falter, his drag alter ego, despite Fishy's growing reputation for flakiness. Dumped by his boyfriend for refusing to give up the heels and wigs, Russell swaps city-life for countryside and re-connects with grandmother Margaret, (played by Hollywood screen legend Cloris Leachman) an octogenarian spit-fire, adamant not to be sent to a nursing home. As their personal journeys intertwine, grandson and grandmother must traverse equally rocky paths — not without a healthy dose of humour and some vicious shade thrown in for good measure. In the penultimate role before her death in 2021, a 94-year-old Leachman delivers a powerful, scene stealing performance at every turn tempered with wit and warmth.

*Jump, Darling* slays and pays its respects to Canada's vibrant drag scene with sickening performances from legendary queens Tynomi Banks (*Canada's Drag Race*), Flay Slift and Miss Fiercalicious. A heartwarming memorable film celebrating family bonds as well as queer artistic expression.

**VERY RARELY DOES A DEBUT FROM A RELATIVELY UNKNOWN DIRECTOR AND FILMMAKER MANAGE TO TUG AT THE HEARTSTRINGS AS MUCH AS JUMP, DARLING.** — LONDON EVENING STANDARD



## BLISS

### AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

**DIR** — Henrika Kull, Germany, 2021, 90 mins  
**COURTESY** — Reel Suspects  
**GERMAN, ITALIAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES**

Sascha has been working in the Berlin brothel *Queens* for many years. Into her work comes Maria. She is independent, maverick and queer. Sascha is immediately drawn to this otherness, Maria in turn is fascinated by Sascha's supreme ease. The attraction becomes a love that works differently than anything either has experienced before, this blossoming relationship bringing with it a promise of great happiness. But then their connection starts to tremble as each woman is faced with the fear of showing each other their true selves.

Anchored by two magnetic central performances, director Henrika Kull brings to her debut feature a raw honesty and tenderness in this judgment free depiction of sex work, giving a refreshing spin to a genre that often focuses on the female body as a commodity. Instead choosing to shift the focus onto a love story about attraction and self-determination.

**A WONDERFUL FILM; TRUE-TO-LIFE AND SWEET, WHILE ALSO COMPLETELY INTRINSIC AND UTTERLY BEAUTIFUL. A REAL FIND.** — THE HOLLYWOOD NEWS



## THE HILL WHERE LIONESSES ROAR

**DIR** — Luàna Bajrami, Kosovo, France, 2021, 83 mins

**COURTESY** — Loco Films

**ALBANIAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES**

*The Hill Where Lionesses Roar* is an exquisite directorial debut from Luàna Bajrami. Three friends Qe (Flaka Latifi), Jeta (Urate Shabani) and Li (Era Balaj) feel entrapped within their small Kosovan hometown and are determined to make something of their lives. On the cusp of adulthood, they spend their endless summer days throwing rocks at empty beer bottles and saving every dollar they can. When their ticket out of their small town falls through, they are forced to find more creative ways to escape their dead-end futures.

*The Hill Where Lionesses Roar* is an inspired take on female friendship. With sublime cinematography and a breathtaking performance by Latifi, this film creates an emotive and immersive world. Bajrami's directorial debut is a fierce and bold force that illustrates the strength of womanhood in hardship.

**BAJRAMI'S DIRECTORIAL VISION IS AS STRONG AND AS FEARLESS AS HER PROTAGONISTS THEMSELVES.** — ALLIANCE OF WOMEN FILM JOURNALISTS





# FINLANDIA

## AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

**DIR** — Horacio Alcalá, Spain, Mexico,  
2021, 90 mins

**COURTESY** — Coccinelle film

**SPANISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES**

## PROUDLY PRESENTED BY



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In a small town outside of Oaxaca lives a group of Muxes, transgender and non-binary people, who make a living sewing and looking after their elders. Parallel to this, fashion designers in Spain plot a plan to appropriate the traditional Zapotec dress that the Muxes create. *Finlandia* follows the highs and the lows of the Muxes, indulging in their intoxicating 'velas' and grieving their lost loves, all in the beautiful setting of rural Mexico. But there is a restlessness in the air of the town of Juchitán de Zaragoza, one that an elder Muxe, Delirio, feels deep in her soul. As tragedy strikes, the importance of kinship and chosen family is reverberated across the town.

An incredibly vibrant and poignant depiction of a story that deserves to be told. Truly one of the most beautiful films released this year.





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## GREAT FREEDOM

**MEISE'S FILM IS AN EXQUISITE  
MARRIAGE OF PERSONAL,  
POLITICAL AND SENSUAL  
STORYTELLING. – VARIETY**

In post-war Germany Hans is imprisoned again and again for being homosexual. Due to the notorious paragraph 175 his desire for freedom is systematically destroyed. The one steady relationship in his life becomes his long-time cellmate, Viktor, a convicted murderer. What starts as animosity develops over the years into something called love.

Director Sebastian Meise asks you to imagine a world where love is forbidden by law and punished with imprisonment. What sounds like a dystopia was a reality for gay men in Germany right up until the late 60s. Bolstered by a magnetic and soulful performance by Franz Rogowski as Hans and rightfully winning the Un Certain Regard Jury Prize at Cannes Film Festival this year, *Great Freedom* is a stunning drama that is destined to become a queer classic.

### MELBOURNE PREMIERE

**DIR** — Sebastian Meise, Austria, 2021, 116 mins

**COURTESY** — Madman Entertainment

**GERMAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES**





## FIREBIRD

### AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

**DIR** — Peeter Rebane, UK, Estonia, 2021, 107 mins

**COURTESY** — Film Collaborative

It's 1977 in Soviet-occupied Estonia where Sergey (Tom Prior), a young soldier and keen theatre enthusiast, spends his days dreaming of life beyond the military barracks. That is, until fighter pilot Roman (Oleg Zagorodnii) transfers to his base, sparking a passionate love affair, composed of intense romantic moments which must be savoured and kept hidden. Set in the Cold War, Sergey and Roman are not only at risk of losing their lives but also fear severe criminal punishment for their liaison. Their relationship becomes even more perilous when a KGB agent receives an anonymous tip.

*The Story of Roman*; *Firebird*, is a beautiful, affective and visually poetic love story that offers a rare account of homosexual life and love within the Russian military complex.

**THE TRUE STORY OF A FORBIDDEN GAY LOVE IN THE COLD WAR ERA IS TRANSFORMED INTO A SWEEPING MELODRAMA IN FIREBIRD. HANDSOMELY CRAFTED AND CAST, IT SHOULD FIND A WELCOME AT LGBT FESTIVALS AND AMONG AUDIENCES DRAWN TO OLD FASHIONED, FULL BLOWN ROMANTIC EPICS.** — SCREEN INTERNATIONAL



## SEE YOU THEN

### AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

**DIR** — Mari Walker, USA, 2021, 75 mins

**COURTESY** — Film Collaborative

**WINNER, GRAND JURY AWARD OFFEST 2021**

Former lovers, Kris (Pooya Ahadi), a transgender computer programmer and Naomi (Lynn Chen), a performance artist and teacher, reunite after a decade of enormous change and transformation. Set within the space of an evening, *See You Then* offers an elegant, sensitive and intimate portrait of the passage of time. As drinks flow and the night progresses, Naomi and Kris' deep conversations begin to reveal underlying tensions, secrets and a subterranean sub-text connected to a fraught relationship history. The two leads' incredibly strong chemistry builds a sense of familiarity precariously held together by nostalgia and memory.

Directed and written by award-winning transgender filmmaker Mari Walker, *See You Then* challenges the viewer to think through their own perceptions of the nuclear family, the gendered body and what it means to be trans in a cisnormative society.

**SEE YOU THEN IS THE NEXT CINEMATIC GAME-CHANGER IN TERMS OF TRANSCENDER REPRESENTATION BOTH ON SCREEN AND BEHIND THE CAMERA.** — SOLZY AT THE MOVIES



## TWO EYES

### AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

**DIR** — Travis Fine, USA, 2020, 95 mins

1868 Montana — a young British painter Dihlan McCarthy (Benjamin Rigby) leaves his wife and child behind and hires a Indigenous American guide named Jacy (Kiowa Gordon) in search of his "muse".

1979 California — small town loner Gabryal (Uly Schlesinger) is instantly mesmerized by new foreign student Alasen (Jessica Allain) and her completely carefree attitude.

2020 Wyoming — Jalin (Ryan Cassata), a trans man recovers from a suicide attempt after facing personal traumas. He's taken in by non-binary Andrea (Kate Bornstein) who gives him a new lease on life by looking into the past.

Director Travis Fine creates a sprawling queer tapestry, working as a brilliant reminder of the simple fact that queer lives have been and will always be here. Armed with a brilliant and diverse cast and featuring some truly stunning cinematography of the Montana wilderness, there is so much to love about this powerful and moving film. As the film progresses, the connective tissue begins to form leaving an emotional gut punch that you won't soon forget.

**AN AMBITIOUS, RICH CINEMATIC TAPESTRY WITH A TRIPTYCH OF NARRATIVES THAT EXPLORE AND CELEBRATE THE SPECTRUM OF QUEERNESS AND GENDER IDENTITY OVER MORE THAN A CENTURY.** — THE QUEER REVIEW



## MOFFIE

### MELBOURNE PREMIERE

**DIR** — Oliver Hermanus, South Africa, UK, 2019, 99 mins

**COURTESY** — Porto Bello Film Sales

Set in 1981 during Apartheid and amongst the hyper masculine, brutalizing world of the South African army, *Moffie* (which is a derogatory term Afrikaans use for gay) follows 18-year-old Nicholas, a recent conscript whose task to survive his compulsory military service is made all the more difficult when a connection is sparked between him and a fellow recruit. A perilous proposition when your growing desires are effectively illegal.

Based on André-Carl van der Merwe's iconic memoir, director Oliver Hermanus who made the brilliant Queer Palm winning *Beauty* follows up with a film equally as blistering, unflinching and powerful.

**SOUTH AFRICAN AUTEUR OLIVER HERMANUS MAKES HIS MASTERPIECE WITH THIS BRUTAL BUT RADIANT STORY OF YOUNG GAY DESIRE ON THE ANGOLAN WAR FRONT.** — VARIETY





# MA BELLE, MY BEAUTY

REMINISCENT OF THE SUN-KISSED FILMS OF ERIC ROHMER, "MA BELLE, MY BEAUTY" IS A MOVIE BEST APPRECIATED SIMPLY BY SINKING INTO ITS SENSUOUS PLEASURES. — WASHINGTON POST

Lane, Bertie and Fred once shared a polyamorous relationship in New Orleans. Lane loved Bertie, Fred loved Bertie, they had a balance that worked... until it didn't, and Lane vanished from their lives. Two years later, Bertie and Fred have gotten married and are living at Fred's family home in the countryside of southern France.

When Lane unexpectedly shows up in Bertie's seemingly idyllic new life, she finds her former lover much different than she remembers. Bertie is disillusioned in her jazz career and clearly alienated in this small, white, European town. However, their spark is quickly ignited and when Lane attempts to recreate their old, carefree dynamic, complications arise. This is compacted further by Lane's increasing flirtations with Noa, a sultry young artist and former soldier.

Winner of the audience award at Sundance Film Festival, Marion Hill's debut feature is a sensual, carefree delight.

## AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

**DIR** — Marion Hill, USA, France, 2021, 93 mins

**COURTESY** — WaZabi Films



# MONEYBOYS

MONEYBOYS IS STRIKING BECAUSE IT'S A RARE FILM THAT DEPICTS HOMOSEXUALITY IN CHINA, AND IT DOES SO WITH SENSITIVITY AND WARMTH FOR THE TURMOIL THAT BEING AN OUTSIDER CAN CAUSE SOMEONE. — CINEEUROPA

Fei makes a lucrative living in the big city working illegally as a hustler. The money he makes is funneled back to his family who are living in a small rural village. Through his relationship to the headstrong Long and the extravagant lifestyle he leads; Fei seems to have it all. But then he encounters Xiaolai, a lover from his past, who unlocks a well buried secret Fei would rather not confront. As his stable world begins to slip away Fei throws himself into the comfort of family but is met with animosity when he realizes his family, although happy to accept his money, are far less supportive of his homosexuality and the life he has chosen for himself.

Nominated for this year's Cannes prestigious Un Certain Regard award, director Yilin Bo Chen's formally beautiful debut feature brings into sharp focus the clash between big cities and rural villages in modern-day China.

## AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

**DIR** — Yilin Bo Chen, China, 2020, 120 mins

**COURTESY** — Totem Films

**MANDARIN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES**



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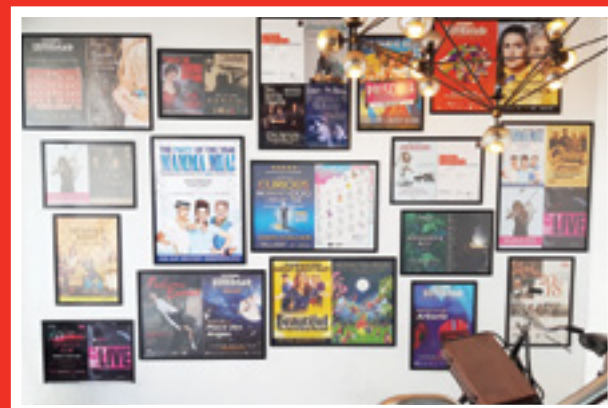


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## WALK WITH ME

**AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE**

**DIR** — Isabel del Rosal, USA, 2020, 112 mins

**COURTESY** — Isabel del Rosal

At the age of 30 and with a young daughter, Amber is forced to start over after she finally builds up enough courage to leave her husband and the secure life they have built together. As she begins to find her way, Logan walks into her life, a free-spirited musician who initially provides emotional support and a friendly ear for the recently separated Amber. What starts as a warm, supportive friendship however soon evolves into an unexpected romance and Amber must come to terms with this burgeoning identity and coming out amidst the messy complications of a divorce.

Isabel del Rosal's debut feature is a thoughtful and tender exploration of a woman coming to terms with a new found independence and sense of self.

**A STORY OF LOVE, FINDING YOURSELF, FINDING YOUR PERSON, BEING A PARENT, AND BEING VISIBLE. ALL IN ONE CAREFULLY CRAFTED MOVIE; THIS IS A MUST-SEE FILM FOR ANYONE AND EVERYONE! — LES FLICKS**

## TOVE

**DIR** — Zaida Bergroth, Finland, Sweden, 2020, 100 mins

**COURTESY** — Level K

**FINNISH AND ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES**

Helsinki, 1945. The end of the war brought a new sense of artistic and social freedom for painter Tove Jansson. Modern art, dizzying parties and an open relationship with a married politician. However, Tove's desire for liberty is put to the test when she meets theatre director Vivica Bandler. Her love for Vivica is electric and all-consuming but Tove begins to realize that the love she truly yearns has to be reciprocated.

In the midst of her artistic struggles and unconventional personal life, Tove Jansson finds worldwide success from an unexpected side project: the creation of the beloved children's books and comic strip world of the Moomins.

*Tove* is a captivating drama about the creative energy of an iconic talent and her turbulent search for identity, desire and freedom.

**ALMA PÖYSTI IS LUMINOUS AS JANSSON, BRINGING TO LIFE HER PLAYFUL, PLEASURE-SEEKING ARTIST'S SPIRIT. — THE GUARDIAN**



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## POTATO DREAMS OF AMERICA

### AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

**DIR** — Wes Hurley, USA, 2021, 96 mins

**COURTESY** — Film Sales Corp

Some people's real-life stories are so amazingly far-fetched that to *not* make a film about their lives would be a massive disservice to moviegoers. Thankfully director Wes Hurley gifts us with *Potato Dreams of America*, a uniquely comedic coming-of-age story based on Hurley's youth, immigrating to the USA from Soviet Russia, in search of the elusive American dream. Growing up in the 1980s in dreary Vladivostok isn't all that exciting for Potato. Widely obsessed with the pirated American movies they manage to procure, Potato dreams of a better life; fantasizing about a Hollywood happy ending far, far away from Soviet Russia. And when mum Lena decides to become a mail-order bride in the U.S of A, a new life full of unexpected twists soon awaits them.

Based on Hurley's short film, *Little Potato* (MQFF 2018) *Potato Dreams of America* is an unabashedly queer gem of a film, parodying traditionalist values, whilst revisioning the American dream into something far glitterier and more rainbow-like.

**IT TELLS ITS OFTEN SAD AND SCARY STORY THROUGH BIC SPARKLY BURSTS OF CREATIVE MOVIE-MAGIC — WHAT A GEM THIS LITTLE POTATO TURNS OUT TO BE. — AWARDS WATCH**

## DRAMARAMA

### AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

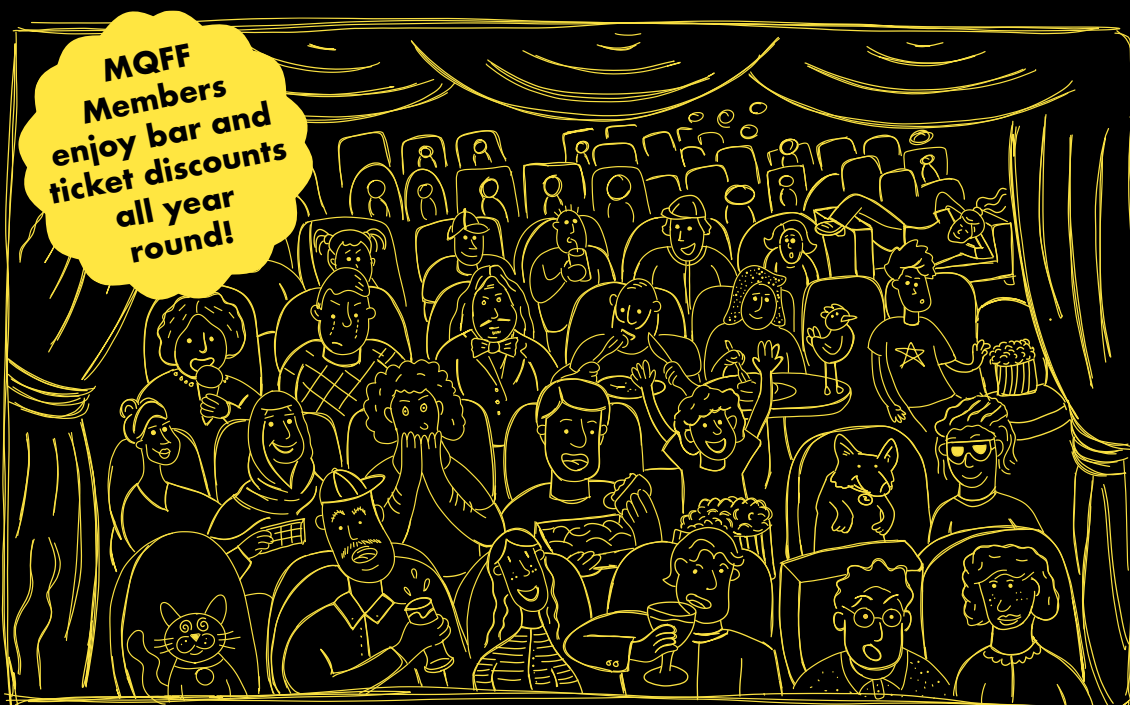
**DIR** — Jonathan Wysocki, USA, 2020, 91 mins

**COURTESY** — The Open Reel

Drama nerds rejoice, *Dramarama* sees you! Set in the early 90's, this endearing semi-autobiographical coming out comedy follows a group of teen theatre kids getting together for the last time as they all respectively head their separate ways to pursue their dreams of hitting the boards. Coming together for the last time for their annual murder mystery dress up party, the five friends experience a night of true confessions, bonding, unrequited romance and of course drama! Gene, our main protagonist has come to tell his friends that he is gay. Easier said than done when one of your best friends has her own secret crush on him, while Gene carries a torch for his best friend Oscar. To complicate things further the brooding rebel JD crashes the party throwing the five friends' emotions and hormones into turmoil.

Led by a fantastic group of young actors, Director Jonathan Wysocki's (*A Doll's Eyes*, MQFF 2017) debut feature is a warm, funny and tender tribute to theatre nerds everywhere. We guarantee you too will be playing the 'flashlight homosexual' game when you see this gem of a film.

**DRAMARAMA GIVES CLOSETED, QUEER LATE BLOOMERS A STORY OF THEIR OWN. — OUT**



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## MASCARPONE

### AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

**DIR** — Alessandro Guida, Matteo Pilati, Italy, 2021, 101 mins

**COURTESY** — Vision Distribution

**ITALIAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES**

Our 30-something protagonist Antonio's main drive in life is to make the perfect tiramisu and be an even more perfect househusband. But unbeknownst to Antonio, a crisis is lurking just around the corner. Without a moment's notice, he finds himself dumped, homeless and penniless- a disastrous trifecta! Co-dependency cold turkey hits Antonio hard, and he'll have to learn the tough way that building yourself up after your life takes a nosedive is far easier said than done.

Backed by a fabulously queer ensemble cast, *Mascarpone* is an often hilarious, unapologetically sexy, refreshingly relatable look at one man's personal journey as he stumbles along the road toward emotional recovery post break-up.



## THE GODDESS OF FORTUNE

**DIR** — Ferzan Ozpetek, Italy, 2019, 114 mins

**COURTESY** — Palace Films

**ITALIAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES.**

After having been together for 15 years, Arturo (Stefano Accorsi) and Alessandro (Edoardo Leo) are given the task of caring for Annamaria's children Martino and Sandro as she has some tests in hospital. Through the stress of caring for these two children, tensions boil between Arturo and Alessandro as old wounds come to the surface, and their 15-year relationship is put to the ultimate test. The two are forced to face past regrets, infidelity and love lost as they navigate parenthood in their strained relationship.

*The Goddess of Fortune* is a clever take on long-term relationships, exploring how love can shift and change over time. With gut-wrenchingly devastating explorations of love, loss and hardships, *The Goddess of Fortune* explores love from all angles. Romantic, platonic, paternal — there is no force of love that is left to be discovered within this dynamic film, and Accorsi and Leo's exquisite chemistry breathes life into an otherwise heart-aching story.

**IT'S AN AUTHENTIC, JOYFUL AND MOTLEY VERSION OF HUMANITY — A REAL TRIUMPH FOR DIVERSITY — WHICH THROWS ITS ARMS AROUND THE VIENER. — CINEUROPA**



## MY TENDER MATADOR

### AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

**DIR** — Rodrigo Sepúlveda Urzúa, Chile, Argentina, 2020, 90 mins

**COURTESY** — Grandave Capital

**SPANISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES**

Santiago, the late 80s. Chilean dictator Pinochet's despotic rule is waning. Amongst the bullets and bloodshed, lives 'Queen' (aka of the corner), an aging, worldly drag performer — a survivor, who's had to fight tooth and nail for her place in the world. One evening, Queen is forced to flee her local gay bar after a police raid, narrowly escaping bullets thanks to Carlos, a handsome Mexican guerrilla, who begins to pursue her. But she hasn't earned the name 'Queen of the Corner' for nothing — Queen knows men, what they want, and especially when they have an agenda. Chilean acting Legend, Alfred Castro, star of MQFF film favourite *The Prince*, turns in a career defining performance as Queen, creating a captivatingly tough diva, brimming with passion.

Adapted from the novel *Tengo Miedo Torrero* by Chilean writer and activist Pedro Lemebel, *My Tender Matador* seamlessly blends political tensions with romance to create a poignantly told story of two equally radical individuals, both fighting equally important battles against systems of oppression.

**AN INTIMATE AND CLASSICAL PORTRAIT OF TWO VASTLY DIFFERENT RADICALS. — HOLLYWOOD REPORTER**



## KAPANA

### AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

**DIR** — Philippe Talavera, Namibia, 2020, 60 mins

**COURTESY** — The Ombetja Yehinga Organisation

In Namibia's first ever LGBTQIA+ feature, everyone wants to eat some tasty kapana! George, a closeted, 20 something vendor earns a living behind a grill serving up kapana, spending evenings at bars downing beers, stealthily on the prowl for potential hookups. After a chance meeting with Simeon, an up-town openly gay city-boy, they embark on a covert relationship, against all odds and massively complicating their lives. As secrets begin to unravel, they struggle to navigate their own internalized fears in a country rife with homophobia where same sex relations are still punishable by law.

Director Philippe Talavera's second feature wears its heart on its sleeve; it is both a courageous and important piece of work, with both leads radiating the sort of chemistry a director can only hope for. *Kapana* is a heart-warming story of overcoming personal and societal prejudices in the pursuit of true love.

### SCREENS WITH HAKUUMACAATO

**DIR** — Kulan Farah, Australia, 2020, 17 mins

**ENGLISH AND SOMALI W/ENGLISH SUBTITLES**

**NAMIBIA IS A YOUNG COUNTRY JUST BEGINNING TO OPEN UP TO THE WIDER WORLD. KAPANA SHOWS US WHAT IT'S CAPABLE OF, IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE. — EYE FOR EYE FILM**





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## NICO

**MELBOURNE PREMIERE**

**DIR** — Eline Gehring, Germany, 2021, 75 mins

**COURTESY** — UCM.ONE

**PERSIAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES,  
AND ENGLISH**

**THIS FILM CONTAINS A DEPICTION  
OF XENOPHOBIC VIOLENCE**

Nico and her best friend Rosa are enjoying the fruits of a Berlin summer. Warm sunny days, carnivals, wine in the park! The joyous utopia that Nico finds herself within is suddenly disrupted by a racist attack from a gang of strangers. Reeling after the Islamophobic attack, Nico begins her journey of regaining her confidence and sense of self through the art of karate.

The darling of all her clients as an aged care nurse, Nico rebuilds her life from the foundations in order to combat the xenophobia that is ever present in her life. Nico fights back not only through learning self-defense but through building up her own sense of self. Her friendships are tested and new relationships strained by the complex odyssey Nico must undertake in order to feel like herself again.

This debut feature from Eline Gehring shows the road to building oneself back up after being knocked down is long and arduous, but the results are always worth it. With stunning performances all around, *Nico* is a victorious expression of empowerment in the face of adversity.



## FIRST BLUSH

**AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE**

**DIR** — Victor Neumark, USA, 2019, 107 mins

**COURTESY** — Lampshade Pictures

Easy-going and avoidant Drew (Ryan Caraway) and his anxious, controlling wife Nena (Rachel Alig) are content with their 'boring' but comfortable married life. That is, until Drew throws Nena an unwelcome surprise 30th birthday party where she meets the alluring former model, Olivia (Kate Beecroft). Nena and Olivia are immediately drawn to one another, and the three embark on a romantic relationship. As the triad develops, unresolved and neglected issues, insecurities and repressed conflicts begin to emerge.

Writer-director Victor Neumark's *First Blush* incorporates refreshing conversations about sex, fantasy and commitment. Each character is delicately portrayed and developed, with careful consideration of their psychological intricacies. Most importantly, this film neither demonises nor fetishizes polyamorous relationships, offering a tender portrait of volatile love.

**FIRST BLUSH WILL SNEAK UP ON YOU WITH  
HOW GOOD IT IS. — FILM THREAT**





## THE NOWHERE INN

**DIR** — Bill Benz, USA, 2019, 91 mins  
**COURTESY** — Visit Films

When Grammy award winning musician Annie Clark aka St. Vincent hires her friend Carrie Brownstein (Sleater-Kinney, Portlandia) to film a backstage documentary about her public persona, the project leads them both down a rabbit hole of warped identities and outrageous egos in this hilarious meta-fictional fever dream.

With a screenplay by real life friends Brownstein and Clark and featuring a playful cameo from Dakota Johnson (playing Clark's girlfriend) these two queer icons of the music scene join forces to bring you an entertaining hall of mirrors that constantly blurs the line between truth and fiction.

**THIS IS A FUNNY MOVIE. — NEW YORKER**



## TAKE ME HOME

**DIR** — Jay Han, South Korea, 2019, 99 mins  
**COURTESY** — Miro Vision & Studio Bonanza  
**KOREAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES**

Eun-soo and Ye-won are living together in a blissfully committed relationship, although the two women aren't out to most of their friends and peers. Tragedy strikes however when Eun-Soo's sister is killed in a car accident, leaving the two women as the unexpected ward of her young daughter. Challenging at first, the three quickly become a loving new family but can this peaceful union last forever?

Director Jay Han has crafted a touching and gentle film that explores the boundaries of what it means to be a family. Pointedly weaving in and out of the narrative is the raging debate on same sex marriage, with a sobering reminder that a landmark domestic partnership benefit bill, failed to pass as recently as 2020.



## ARE WE LOST FOREVER

**AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE**

**DIR** — David Färdmar, Sweden, 2020, 104 mins  
**COURTESY** — Film Boutiques  
**SWEDISH AND DANISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES**

It is not your average morning for soon to be wed couple, Adrian and Hampus. As they lay in bed still half asleep, Hampus drops a bombshell—he wants out. Despite living together for three years, and right at the precipice of marriage, they decide to end it all that very instant. And as both men struggle to process the emotional repercussions of separation, they learn that the roadmap to breaking-up is often filled with obstacles and the occasional unexpected U-turn.

*Are We Lost Forever* the feature debut film by writer/director David Färdmar is a solid break-up drama which deconstructs the tumultuous stages of moving on, post separation. With a minimal aesthetic and storyline, the film is a testament to the acting talent of its two compelling leads.

**AN EXCELLENT QUEER ROMANCE.**  
**— QUEER CURU**



## THE TEACHER

**MELBOURNE PREMIERE**

**DIR** — Ming-Lang Chen, Taiwan, 2019, 92 mins  
**COURTESY** — Swallow Wings  
**MANDARIN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES**

Set in the midst of the marriage equality campaign in Taiwan of late 2019, Ming Lang Chen's touching drama is certainly one that will linger with you. Civics teacher Kevin (Oscar Chiu) lives a relatively carefree life. He has a strong relationship with his mother and despite the small jabs from his students, he manages to coast by without any scrutiny as a gay man in a country that is slowly learning to accept queer lives as equals. He takes a risk by moving into his older boyfriend Gao's (Chin-Hao Chang) luxury apartment — unaware that he is still married and committed to presenting a false livelihood. As his private life and work life collide, the inevitable outing as a gay man and a HIV rumour threatens to destroy everything that Kevin has built for himself.

*The Teacher* is an excellent character study and time capsule of a country that has paved the way for Asian countries in the quest for marriage equality.





## BEAUTIFUL DREAMER

### MELBOURNE PREMIERE

**DIR** — Amy Glazer, USA, 2020, 94 mins

**COURTESY** — Kanbar Entertainment

Based on Patricia Cotter's play *The Surrogate*, *Beautiful Dreamer* is an upbeat exploration of long-term friendship and the intricacies of adult life. Settled in their long-term relationship Margaret (Erin Daniels, also known as Dana from *The L Word*), a creatively stifled writer, and her partner Jen (Kathryn Smith-McGlynn) decide to take things to the next level and get engaged. Simultaneously, Billy (Louis Ozawa), Margaret's life-long friend, moves from the bustling city of San Francisco to the outer suburbs as he and his wife Sarah (Jennifer Mudge) wait for their second child via surrogacy. After Margaret and Jen decline being asked to be the godparents of Billy and Sarah's children, and Sarah's disapproving mother Rita (Wendie Malick) visits unannounced, their relationships begin to strain, and their life-long friendship is put to the test.

*Beautiful Dreamer* is a heart-warming, wholesome portrayal of friendship. With important discussions surrounding independence and co-dependence, *Beautiful Dreamer* balances the complexities of adulthood with a sharp and at times brazen humour.

**BEAUTIFUL DREAMER IS A JOYFUL, HEARTFELT DRAMA ABOUT FAMILY, PARENTING, AND FRIENDSHIPS**  
— FILM THREAT



## LEADING LADIES

### AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

**DIR** — Ruth Caudeli, Colombia, 2021, 81 mins

**COURTESY** — The Open Reel

**SPANISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES**

Five women come together for a reunion dinner where tensions rise and secrets are unleashed. This unscripted, multi-perspective narrative showcases how one evening can be experienced in so many different ways. The improvised nature of the film creates a raw and intensified atmosphere. Romantic entanglements are explored, relationships are tested and the past is brought to the present. From a politician to a writer to a kindergarten teacher, these women are leading completely different lives but are united by secrecy and guilt. One by one, lies are uncovered and these women and their relationships will never be the same.

Director Ruth Caudeli's (*Eva & Candela*, MQFF 2019) *Leading Ladies* is an exploration of the lies we tell to preserve our image, even to our nearest and dearest. An unmissable drama that holds tension at a fever point.



## BOY MEETS BOY

### AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

**DIR** — Daniel Sánchez López, Germany, 2020, 70 mins

**COURTESY** — Match Box Films

Berlin. 48 hours of partying. The morning after. Harry and Johannes stumble out of a club after sharing a sweaty kiss on the dancefloor. It's Harry's first trip to Berlin but sadly, he has a plane to catch back home that evening. After Harry admits that he's done more drugs and dancing than sightseeing, Berliner Johannes agrees to take him on a tour of the city. As they spend the day wandering aimlessly, savouring the intimacy time allows them, they are forced to reflect on some of their own personal truths.

In the tradition of time anchored films, such as *Weekend* by Andrew Haigh, *Boy Meets Boy* plays out over the course of one afternoon, with strong and authentic performances delivered by both leads. A film which reminds us of the preciousness of being in the 'here and now' with someone special who just might mark you for the rest of your life.

**DANIEL SANCHEZ LOPEZ'S DEBUT FEATURE HAS OBVIOUS ANTECEDENTS IN RICHARD LINKLATER'S BEFORE SUNSET AND ANDREW HAIGH'S WEEKEND BUT HAS ENOUGH TENDER CHARM OF ITS OWN TO ATTRACT INCURABLE ROMANTICS.** — SCREEN DAILY



## LUZ

### MELBOURNE PREMIERE

**DIR** — Jon Garcia, USA, 2020, 118 mins

**COURTESY** — Dark Star Pictures

Just as Barry Jenkins' *Moonlight* explored gay representation of black lives, director Jon Garcia presents a unique look into the masculinity of another marginalized community; LatinX characters, in his touching and sprawling 'prison' drama. The film opens with Ruben (Ernesto Reyes) settling into his new housing with cellmate Carlos (Jesse Tayeh) who immediately establishes the dynamic of their relationship. As time passes, and emotions slowly simmer to the surface — the two begin a journey of understanding and a deeper sense of what their attraction means to each other. We learn through flashbacks just how Ruben ended up in prison and the baggage he carries with him in prison from his life on the outside; the relationships he has with his daughter and his criminal brother.

Featuring solid chemistry and some raunchy sex scenes from the two leads, *Luz* is a great addition to the gay cinema landscape — and surely a film to engage with.

**IT'S AN AMBITIOUS STORY TOLD WITH REMARKABLE SENSITIVITY.** — SHADOWS ON THE WALL



# FREAK OUT!

Horror film and queer coding. As any fan of the genre will tell you, it's always been there – you just haven't been looking hard enough! So this year MQFF is showcasing queer horror, sci-fi and fantasy like never before.

It includes the feature *The Retreat* (think lesbian slasher film meets *Get Out*) and a shorts package that promises to take you on a wild ride as it plays on storylines based around catfishing, post-pandemic dystopias (relatable much?) and a sexually confused married man on a knuckle-biting, drug-fueled night out! It will thrill you, trip you out and make you gasp.

## THE RETREAT

**AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE**

**DIR** – Pat Mills, Canada, 2021, 81 mins

**COURTESY** – Red Sea media

**CONTENT WARNING: STRONG VIOLENCE**

After being hesitant to take her relationship to the next level, Renee (Tommie-Amber Pirie) is pushed by her preppy girlfriend Valerie (Sarah Allen) to attend her friend's wedding party retreat. Upon finding the secluded cabin, the two groomsmen are nowhere to be found and their car has vanished. As they begin to wander the surrounding forest and confront their relationship troubles, Renee and Valerie are thrust into a literal manhunt where one wrong move could end it all.

Embedded with social commentary and balancing action with gore, *The Retreat* is a nail biting and ferociously tense film. With outstanding prosthetics and commendable performances by Pirie and Allen, this terrifying lesbian-slasher will get your heart racing.

**A CORY LESBIAN SLASHER. SUBVERSIVE IN MAYS YOU MIGHT NOT EXPECT. – INDIEWIRE**

**PROUDLY PRESENTED BY**



## FREAK OUT! SHORTS

**ESCAPING THE FRAGILE PLANET**

**DIR** – Thanasis Tsimpinis, Greece, 2020, 17 mins

**GREEK WITH ENGLISH SUBTILES**

**HOW TO DIE YOUNG IN MANILA**

**DIR** – Petersen Vargas, Philippines, 2020, 12 mins

**FILIPINO WITH ENGLISH SUBTILES**

**BEAU**

**DIR** – Constance Tsang, USA, 2020, 16 mins

**BABY BOY**

**DIR** – Greg Hall, UK, 2021, 17 mins

**THE OFFICE IS MINE**

**DIR** – Michael Varrati, USA, 2019, 14 mins

**CATFISH KILLER**

**DIR** – Gil Hizon, Seth Harrington, USA, 2020, 13 mins

Total runtime – 89 mins

**CHECK WEBSITE FOR SESSION DETAILS AND FOR YOUR OTHER FAVOURITE MOFF SHORTS PROGRAMS**

# A warm welcome from ME.

**For ME, the absence of cinema has been felt for most of 2021... and 2020. The trailers, surround sound, escapism and of course, the choc tops!**

But for LGBTI+ community, the absence of cinema means something more – the loss of collective experience, important representation and shared vision. It's always entertaining, but also educating and celebrating the diversity that makes Australia so colourful.

That's why ProudlyME, our internal LGBTI+ network, is so excited to welcome you back to the cinema this year.

ME's been a proud sponsor of the MQFF for 3 years and we can't wait to experience everything you love about the cinema – with ME.



[mebank.com.au/proudlyme](http://mebank.com.au/proudlyme)





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## BEAUTIFUL THING

**DIR** — Hettie Macdonald, UK, Ireland,  
1996, 90 mins, MA15+

**COURTESY** — Park Circus

Celebrating its 25th anniversary, this tender love story is set during one hot summer on a South-East London housing estate. Jamie, a relatively unpopular lad who wags school to avoid football, lives next door to Ste, a more popular and athletic teen who has to endure endless bullying and beatings from his hardened father and unsympathetic brother. In this bleak environment however the two boys find each other and begin to fall in love.

Based on Jonathan Harvey's seminal play (who also wrote the screenplay), *Beautiful Thing* is a joyful, beloved queer classic that portrays its working-class LGBT characters with remarkable sensitivity and nuance.

**BEAUTIFUL THING MIGHT BE THE MOST BELOVED OF ALL THE GAY-YOUTH MOVIES RELEASED IN THE LATE 90S.**  
— SLANT MAGAZINE

## THE INCREDIBLY TRUE ADVENTURES OF TWO GIRLS IN LOVE

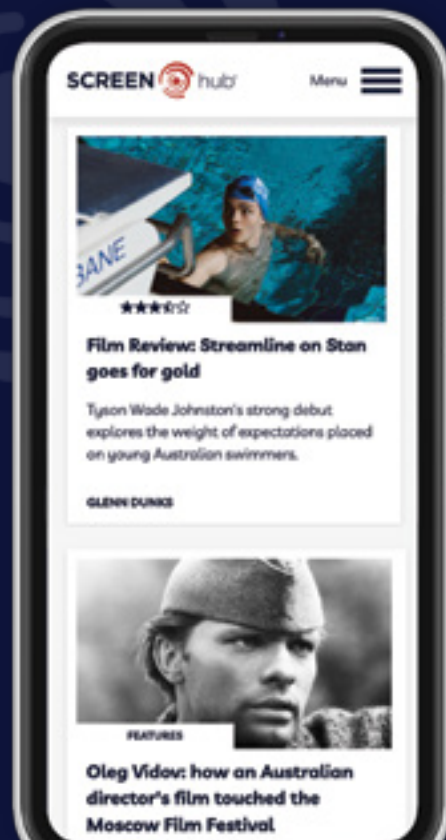
**DIR** — Maria Maggenti, USA, 1995, 94 mins, M  
**COURTESY** — Paramount/Dolly Hall

**PRESERVATION FUNDING PROVIDED BY THE SUNDANCE INSTITUTE**

The quintessential love story of opposites attract is given a queer twist in this seminal lesbian classic from the 90s. Evie who lives a privileged, sheltered 'uptown' life meets Randy (played by a very young Laurel Holloman from *The L Word*) a scruffy young dyke who lives with her lesbian aunt and her girlfriend.

The film's simple aim to focus on the blossoming romance between these two young women as they experience their first kiss, their first touch and their first PDA (public display of affection) might seem like low stakes but in context was an important step in representation.

MQFF is excited to present the recently restored presentation of this rich and tender portrayal of first-time love.



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# QUEER FIRST NATIONS



MOFF IS VERY PROUD TO PRESENT OUR INAUGURAL SPOTLIGHT ON INDIGENOUS STORIES FROM AROUND THE WORLD. TAKING IN FEATURES, ANIMATIONS, SHORTS AND DOCUMENTARIES, THIS COLLECTION SHINES THE LIGHT ON DIVERSITY WITHIN THESE FIRST NATIONS COMMUNITIES, OFFERING ENLIGHTENING, COMPLEX AND INTIMATE PERSPECTIVES ON WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE QUEER AND INDIGENOUS.

## SHORTS

### THE ROGERS

**DIR** — Dean Hamer and Joe Wilson, Samoa, USA, 2019, 16 mins

**ENGLISH, SAMOAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES**

### THE O SHOW

**DIR** — Sharad Khare, Canada, 2021, 20 mins

### SINLESS LAND

**DIR** — Marcelo Costa, Brazil, 2019, 20 mins

**PORTUGUESE WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES**

### KAPAEMAHU

**DIR** — Hinaleimoana Wong-Kalu, Dean Hamer, Joe Wilson, USA, 2020, 8 mins

### WOMAN DRESS

**DIR** — Thirza Cuthand, Canada, 2019, 6 mins

### THIS IS THE WAY WE RISE

**DIR** — Ciara Lacy, USA, 2020, 12 mins

Total runtime — 83 min

**CHECK WEBSITE FOR SESSION DETAILS AND OTHER MOFF FAVOURITE SHORTS PACKAGES**

**IMAGE LEFT: THE O SHOW**

**IMAGE TOP: QUERENCIA**

## QUERENCIA

### AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

**DIR** — Mary Galloway, Canada, 95 mins, 2021

**COURTESY** — Bright Shadow Productions

After Daka (Kaitlyn Yott), a traditional Indigenous woman, leaves her high-school boyfriend of 8 years and family to pursue her dreams of dancing in Toronto, she is faced with the harsh realities of unfulfilled expectations in a city that will eat her alive. In becoming acquainted with Toronto, her effervescent roommate Murry (Sydney Powers) sets up her online dating profile, where an accidental change to her gender preference settings matches her with Abe (Mary Galloway), an aspiring musician who has a fractured past with her Indigenous culture. From their first gathering the chemistry between the two is electric but as they get closer, Daka is forced to confront her queerness and Abe must reconcile with her past.

*Querencia* is a heart-warming series that grapples with the intricacies of identity. With an extraordinary performance by actor, writer and director Mary Galloway, the film is filled with passionate moments of conflict and tender portrayals of desire. *Querencia* is an Indigiqueer story about self-discovery, and the journey of connecting, and reconnecting with one's authentic self.





Schwartz

(Hosted by Osman Faruqi)

# The erutluC

A WEEKLY PODCAST FROM THE PUBLISHER OF THE MONTHLY AND THE SATURDAY PAPER



## SOMEONE LIKE ME

**SOMEONE LIKE ME IS AN  
ENGAGING EXAMINATION OF WHAT  
IT MEANS TO BE FREE AND A  
RIVETING REMINDER THAT NO  
ONE SHOULD HAVE TO HIDE THEIR  
TRUE SELF. — THAT SHELF**

In the later months of 2019, a Canadian based organization agree on re-settling Drake, a gay Ugandan in the city of Vancouver. The group, made up of queer strangers, decides to pursue the enormous task to help him through the network of Rainbow Refugee — whose sole mission is to assist LGBTQIA individuals seeking asylum. As the group's personal differences on the process and the massive cultural shift of Drake finding his feet begin to run parallel, the global pandemic starts to creep in causing more tension and drama than anyone could have anticipated.

This intimate and very personal documentary, directed by Steve J. Adams and Sean Horlor, is a moving and delicate look at the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on Queer lives — and the struggles that Drake faces being a new resident in a constantly changing cultural landscape.

### AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

**DIR** — Sean Horlor, Steve J. Adams, Canada, 2021, 80 mins

**COURTESY** — National Film Board of Canada

**ENGLISH & SNAHILI WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES**





## BEING BEBE

### AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

**DIR** — Emily Branham, USA, Cameroon, 2021, 90 mins

**COURTESY** — 13th Gen Films

It's hard to believe that way back in 2009 Nea Marshall Kudi Ngwa (better known to us as Bebe Zahara Benet) was crowned the first ever winner of RuPaul's Drag Race. Told through an incredible amount of personal archival footage, we see the highs and lows of Nea's journey bringing Bebe to life. The film's director, Emily Branham covers a lot of ground here — and it's clear she holds a great deal of respect for her subject — a lot of care handling the many facets of Bebe's existence — from his upbringing and struggles as a young man questioning his identity in his home country of Cameroon all the way to the present day of the Covid pandemic and the Black Lives Matter movement.

Shining a spotlight on one of Drag Race's more engaging and charismatic queens, *Being Bebe* is a Ru-vealing and entertaining look at one of the franchise's hardest-working and most endearing contestants.

**BEBE ZAHARA BENET, THE FIRST-EVER WINNER OF 'RUPAUL'S DRAC RACE,' GETS AN ADORING CLOSE-UP IN EMILY BRANHAM'S PORTRAIT, WHICH EXAMINES WHAT COMES NEXT AFTER TRIUMPHING ON A REALITY TV PLATFORM. — HOLLYWOOD REPORTER**



## BOULEVARD! A HOLLYWOOD STORY

### AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

**DIR** — Jeffrey Schwarz, USA, 2021, 82 mins

**COURTESY** — Film Collaborative

Billy Wilder's 1950 movie *Sunset Boulevard* sealed the deal as one of the best film noirs of all time. *Boulevard! A Hollywood Story* is a juicy look into the story of the ill-fated musical adaptation of the movie devised by the film's star, and gay icon, Gloria Swanson. Director, Jeffrey Schwarz (*I am Divine*, *The Fabulous Allan Carr: Tab Hunter Confidential*) speaks to a number of Swanson superfans, friends and associates, collecting fascinating insights into the star, who spent many years trying to distance herself from Norma's character.

At the heart of the documentary are the long-forgotten interview tapes of Richard Stapley and Dickson Hughes, the co-creators (and one-time lovers) of the musical. Their interviews, coupled with retro-animated re-enactments, charted how they and Swanson worked for four years together on an ultimately doomed project. Their journey culminated in a fateful 3-month retreat in Palm Springs, that derailed both the project and their relationship, while the lines between Gloria and Norma began to fatefully blur.



## NO STRAIGHT LINES – THE RISE OF QUEER COMICS

### AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

**DIR** — Vivian Kleiman, USA, 2021, 78 mins

**COURTESY** — Film Collaborative

Move over Archie, queer comics are here to stay! Exploring the history of queer comics, *No Straight Lines* provides a deeper look into the creative expression of the queer community from the 1970s until now.

The film grants us an insight into the journey of pioneering queer cartoonists, Howard Cruse, Alison Bechdel, Rupert Kinnard, Jennifer Camper and Mary Wings. Each artist lays their journey bare, through candid retellings of their lives not only as cartoonists but as members of the LGBT+ community. From the Stonewall riots to the AIDS crisis to personal heartbreaks, this film provides an earnest and honest insight into the queer comic community.

Whether you're a comic book aficionado or just dipping your toes into the waters of cross hatching and speech bubbles, *No Straight Lines* is a heartfelt and genuine tale of an underground community that is continually making its mark on queer history.

**A RICH, FASCINATING, AND AFFECTIONATE TRIBUTE TO QUEER COMIC BOOK ART AND ITS PIONEERS. — THE QUEER REVIEW**



## WOJNAROWICZ: FUCK YOU FAGGOT FUCKER

**DIR** — Chris McKim, USA, 2020, 105 mins

**COURTESY** — Cinetic Media

**CONTAINS SOME SEXUALLY EXPLICIT IMAGERY**

An incredibly powerful portrait of legendary artist, David Wojnarowicz, spoken in his own voice. Archival footage and recordings from Wojnarowicz's personal archive are collaged together along with friends, fellow artists and family, creating a spellbinding and fiery kaleidoscope showcasing the personal and public life of David Wojnarowicz.

Wojnarowicz's work became a weapon against the silence and neglect from the United States government during the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Bumping shoulders with artists such as Keith Haring, Jean-Michel Basquiat and Fran Lebowitz, just to name a few, Wojnarowicz created some of the most provocative and thrilling art of the late 1980s.

Whether you're familiar with his work, or simply curious about the incendiary figure, this film is a deeply moving portrait of a complex and masterful artist's existence.

**A MONDROUS, INTIMATE, AND OFTEN OUTRAGE-INSPIRING BIOGRAPHICAL PORTRAIT OF THE ARTIST AND HIS TIMES. — THE NEW YORKER**





## COLOURS OF TOBI

**DIR** — Alexa Bakony, Hungary, 2021, 81 mins

**COURTESY** — Eye on Films

**HUNGARIAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES**

With the climate in Hungary moving further towards archaic transphobic policies, *Colours of Tobi* showcases the life of a queer trans person and their family as they navigate their transition. The documentary explores all facets of transitioning and its impacts on Tobi and their family. Central to Tobi's journey are their parents, both supportive but with a steep learning curve in understanding Tobi's journey. Although there are teething pains along the way, ultimately love and acceptance wins amongst Tobi's family. From joy to loss to acceptance, this heartwarming documentary shows that the path to finding oneself is not a linear — or binary — journey

An exceptional film about love, belonging and family, *Colours of Tobi* embraces the challenges and the beauty of transitioning.

**THE KIND OF TRANS REPRESENTATION THAT IS DESPERATELY NEEDED FOR A WIDER AUDIENCE, BOTH TRANS AND CIS.**  
— SIGHT AND SOUND

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR SURVIVAL

**AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE**

**DIR** — Yana Ugrehelidze, Germany, 2021, 72 mins

**COURTESY** — Fortis Fem Film

**RUSSIAN, GEORGIAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES, AND ENGLISH**

**WINNER — TEDDY JURY AWARD BERLIN INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL 2021**

Alexander's identity as a transgender man in Georgia puts his life in constant danger. Alexander must live his life in the margins, rarely seeking medical help, obtaining hormones through an underground network and hoping every day that his identity is not revealed. While it is not illegal to be LGBT+ in Georgia, the sociopolitical and highly religious climate of the country makes it exceedingly dangerous to be out.

Living his life in secrecy, however, is not completely lonely for Alexander. He lives with his wife, Mari, and frequently visits his family, but still in a veil of shadows. *Instructions for Survival* clings on to the glimmers of hope that permeate Alexander and Mari's life as they attempt to leave Georgia and seek asylum in Belgium.

In a gorgeous feature film debut, Yana Ugrehelidze shows poise, beauty and restraint with her understated but poignant style of filmmaking. *Instructions for Survival* is a masterclass in emotional storytelling and shines a light on the struggle to seek asylum as a transgender person.

## RAW! UNGUT! VIDEO!

**AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE**

**DIR** — Ryan A. White and Alex Clausen, USA, 2021, 79 mins

**COURTESY** — Film Collaborative

**CONTAINS SEXUALLY EXPLICIT MATERIAL**

One fortuitous day in San Francisco 1979, two leather boys met at a party, fell in love and decided to revolutionize the same-sex porn industry. Jack Frischer, one time editor of the legendary leather mag *Drummer* and tech guru Mark Henry realized that by exploring the darkest recesses of fetishism, they could provide the safest sex possible during those perilous times: jerking off to your favourite niche fantasy! Using 'real men' as actors and real kinks as content, *Palm Drive Videos* was born. *Raw! Uncut! Video!* doesn't shy away from documenting the intriguing to the bizarre fetishes that graced *Palm Drive's* collection.

Through a series of interviews and (eye-popping) clips, director Ryan White manages to highlight the benefits of exploring erotic boundaries and "embracing non-normative sexualities". As one contributor put it: "If you can imagine a fetish, you know that somebody out there is actually doing it".

## EVERYTHING AT ONCE

**AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE**

**DIR** — Alberto Fuguet, Chile, Spain, 2021, 101 mins

**COURTESY** — The Open Reel

**SPANISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES.**

**CONTAINS SEXUALLY EXPLICIT MATERIAL**

The year is 1989, two youths, Paco and Manolo, meet at a party and begin dating. They spend their weekends scouring Barcelona's markets in search of collectible cards of nude men, unaware their cheeky hobby will unfold into a singular photographic career spanning more than 30 years with their work exhibited in galleries worldwide. Their notable publication *Kink* features an eclectic collection of Mediterranean men often in heightened states of sexual arousal where models lose touch of being observed, allowing their inherent sensuality to manifest.

Redirecting the lens onto the photographers themselves through a series of interviews and studio footage, *Everything at Once* is an erotic and intimate profile of two self-professed voyeurs who themselves admit, 'there are no photographers who aren't voyeurs!'





## UNAPOLOGETIC

### AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

**DIR** — Ashley O'Shay, USA, 2020, 86 mins

**COURTESY** — Kartemquin Films

Following the murder of Rekia Boyd by an off-duty police officer, activists gather to protest police brutality and demand that the officer be fired for his actions. *Unapologetic* centres around two activists, PhD student Janaé Bonsu and 'raptivist' Ambrell "Bella Bahhs" Gambrell, as they fight for Black women and queer Black people within the movement in Chicago.

Challenging the status quo narrative, the film champions the voices of young Black queer women and acts as a rallying cry to organize and fight the powers that be. Sharing moments from the brutality of front-line protests to joyous moments celebrating community, this film encompasses the highs and lows of activist life.

*Unapologetic* tenderly moves through activist spaces as a love letter to the Black women who fight for justice day in and out. With her debut feature film, Ashley O'Shay blasts onto the scene with this searing and timely documentary which, in every sense of the word, is unapologetic.

**AN UNAPOLOGETIC LOVE LETTER TO CHICAGO'S BLACK WOMEN ACTIVISTS.**

— CHICAGO READER



## SEYRAN ATEŞ: SEX, REVOLUTION AND ISLAM

### AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

**DIR** — Nefise Özkal Lorentzen, Norway, 2021, 82 mins

**COURTESY** — DR-Sales

*Seyran Ateş* is many things; she is a German-Turkish lawyer, a bisexual feminist, human rights activist, imam (Muslim leader) and author but most importantly, she's bloody fearless. Seyran receives constant death threats, has a fatwa against her and has been under constant police protection since 2006 for her outspoken criticism of traditional Islam. Since her realization as a young girl that her treatment for being female was akin to slavery, Seyran has been fighting for a world free from violent extremism, patriarchal oppression and gender discrimination. From founding a progressive mosque to discussing sexuality and Islam with queer Chinese minorities, *Sex, Revolution and Islam* documents Seyran's extraordinary life.

*Seyran Ateş: Sex, Revolution and Islam* is a remarkably tangible and poignant film which delves into the real-life consequences of religious extremism while exploring what it means to show up for what you believe in, no matter what.

**HANDLING RATHER THORNY SUBJECT MATTER WITH DELICATE EASE, SEYRAN ATEŞ: SEX, REVOLUTION AND ISLAM IS A BRILLIANT TALE OF RESILIENCE.** — POV MAGAZINE



## CAN YOU BRING IT: BILL T. JONES AND D-MAN

**CAN YOU BRING IT IS FULL OF VITALITY AND ENERGY, A TESTAMENT TO THE POWER OF ART IN THE FACE OF TRAGEDY.**  
— LOS ANGELES TIMES

*Can You Bring It* is a powerful documentary about dancer and choreographer Bill T. Jones' landmark work, *D-Man in the Waters*. Staged at the height of the AIDS crisis in New York, *D-Man in the Waters* premiered in 1989 shortly after the dance company's co-founder, Arnie Zane, died from AIDS. The high intensity dance incorporates a unique style of choreography where athleticism and action supersede traditional ballet technique. The legacy of *D-Man in the Waters* is traced in *Can You Bring It* through a group of college students from Loyola Marymount University, who are challenged with learning and performing the work many years later.

*Can You Bring It*, directed by former company member Rosalynde LeBlanc and multiple award-winning cinematographer Tom Hurwitz, is not only a documentation of an influential dance performance, but a stirring story of grief, death, memory and survival told through the body and dance.

### AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

**DIR** — Rosalynde LeBlanc, Tom Hurwitz, USA, 2020, 90 mins





# AUSTRALIAN SHORTS

The MQFF Australian Shorts has been one of our most prestigious and popular presentations for for many years while numerous entrants having gone on to do great things. This is your chance to get in on the ground floor as we showcase the best of Australia's emerging filmmaking talent — a timely reminder of the breadth of talent out there and why supporting Australian film is important now, more than ever.

MQFF and City of Melbourne are proud to present this selection of shorts and stick around after the screening for the announcement of our Jury Awards.

The winner of the City of Melbourne Award for Best Australian Short will also qualify as MQFF's official selection for the Iris Prize — the largest prize for LGBTIQ+ short film in the world.

## HER OWN MUSIC

**DIR** — Olivia Aleksoski, 2020, 20 mins

## PURRR

**DIR** — Jonty Knight & Arundati Thandur, 2021, 6 mins

## MARY

**DIR** — Simon Trevorrow, 2020, 9 mins

## ATOMIC LOVE

**DIR** — Imogen McCluskey, 2019, 10 mins

## BE CAREFUL WITH ME

**DIR** — Gilbert Kemp Attrill, 2021, 9 mins

## HAZE

**DIR** — Meg Duncan, 2021, 13 mins

## ALL THE COLOURS

**DIR** — Pippa Samaya, Tara Jade Samaya, 2020, 3 mins

## FIREWORKS

**DIR** — Sam McGowan, 2021, 15 mins

Total runtime — 83 mins

**CHECK WEBSITE FOR SESSION DETAILS AND FOR YOUR OTHER FAVOURITE MQFF SHORTS PROGRAMS.**

## YOUNG AND QUEER

So you've just finished watching *Young Royals*, or you've just read every one of Adam Silvera's books cover to cover and your heart is pining for more... Well, here is your remedy! From beleaguered prom kings to summer flings and perhaps something a little fishy thrown in the mix as well. *Young & Queer* has everything your heart desires, and more! A beautiful collection of stories about young queer life that will leave you with all the warm fuzzies.

### GIRLS SHOULDN'T WALK ALONE AT NIGHT

Katerine Martineau, Canada, 2020, 17 mins  
**FRENCH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES**

### FERVOR

José Manuel Vélez, Chile/USA, 2021, 14 mins

### META

Sydne Horton, USA, 2020, 9 mins

### MARLON BRANDO

Vincent Tilanus, Netherlands, 2020, 19 mins  
**DUTCH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES**

### FISH HEAD

Grace Tan, Australia, 2020, 10 mins

### KARAOKE

Axel Rezinovsky, Argentina, 2020, 16 mins  
**SPANISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES**

Total runtime — 85 min U15+

## QUEER LIVES IN ISOLATION

From social isolation, loneliness, and mental health concerns, to connecting online, romance in quarantine, and working from home, *Queer Lives in Isolation* short films tell the stories of our time apart to bring us closer together.

### ARE YOU STILL WATCHING?

Alex Cardy, Tali Polichtuk, Kitty Chrysta, 2021, 6 mins

### THE SPACE AROUND YOU

Rainer Kelly, 2021, 8 mins

### YOU ARE NEVER ALONE

Logan Mucha, 2021, 6 mins

### THE ODYSSEY

Emmanuelle Mattana, 2021, 7 mins

### 3057

Colin Dunn, Rosie Pavlovic, 2021, 10 mins

### INTIMATE PARTNER

Ari Tampubolon, 2021, 6 mins

### SPREADERS

Andrew Mills, 2021, 7 mins

**THIS IS A FREE EVENT. BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL.**

**QUEER LIVES IN ISOLATION WAS MADE POSSIBLE THROUGH CENEROUS SUPPORT FROM VICTORIA TOGETHER.**





# MQFF PANELS & EVENTS



**5.00PM – LATE 21 NOVEMBER**  
**ROOFTOP BAR LVL 7/252 SWANSTON ST**

Queer screen culture magazine Sissy Screens & MQFF are joining forces to celebrate Melbourne's dynamic and diverse queer screen scene.

Join Sissy Screens editor *Tali Polichtuk* and renowned LGBTQIA+ artists *Amrita Hapi* & *Atong Atem* for a lively discussion about creative collaborations and the role of moving image in their artistic practices.

As the sun sets on the rooftop, the festivities kick on with a live performance by queer Pasifika artist *JULY* and DJ's 'til late.

**CHECK WEBSITE FOR SESSION DETAILS**  
**AT [MQFF.COM.AU](http://MQFF.COM.AU) AND [SISSYSCREENS.COM](http://SISSYSCREENS.COM)**

**PROUDLY PRESENTED BY**



## INTERSECTIONS: LGBTIQ+ REFUGEE STORIES THROUGH A CINEMATIC LENS

**THIS IS A FREE EVENT AVAILABLE ON**  
**MQFF+ BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL.**

This year, MQFF31 is proud to showcase three feature films highlighting the stories of LGBTIQ+ forcibly displaced people as they overcome the odds to survive.

**FLEE** (pg 10)  
**SOMEONE LIKE ME** (pg 55)  
**INSTRUCTIONS FOR SURVIVAL** (pg 58)

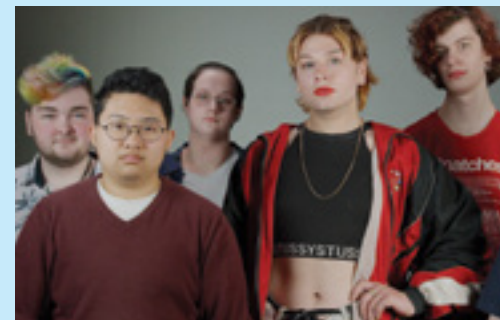
In this free online panel discussion, exclusive to MQFF+, we discuss the complexities of bringing LGBTIQ+ refugee stories to screen and the catalytic role of cinema in highlighting these issues to audiences around the world.

Join *Tony Lee* (Melbourne Queer Film Festival), *Renee Dixon* (Forcibly Displaced People Network) and *Giancarlo de Vera* (Australian Gay & Lesbian Multicultural Council) and guests as they deep-dive into the challenging and intersecting themes of being both LGBTIQ+ and forcibly displaced.

**PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY**



# MQFF PANELS & EVENTS



## ESCAPE VELOCITY

**ST MARTIN'S, MINUS18**  
**CHECK WEBSITE FOR SESSION DETAILS**  
**THIS IS A FREE EVENT. BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL**

Escape Velocity is a creative project of films and performances made by and with young trans and

gender non-conforming people in Melbourne as a response to the anxieties they faced in public spaces. Conceived in 2018 and concluding in 2021, eight diverse short films were produced in a partnership between St Martins, one of Australia's leading arts companies, working with children and teenagers, and Minus18 Australia's peak youth LGBTIQ+ advocacy body. The films were scripted, devised and realised by St Martins in collaboration with the cohort of youth from Minus18 and a team of professional trans and cis artists. In 2020 Escape Velocity was nominated for a GLOBE Community Award in the 'Outstanding Advocacy' category.

At this special one-off event, all eight short films will be screened followed by a panel discussion with some of the participants.

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## CRITICAL GAZE: WHAT IS QUEER FILM CRITICISM?

Despite common perceptions of film criticism as an objective form, critics' subjective experience of queerness can significantly affect their work. From queer readings and reinterpretations to creating a new queer canon; from challenging the boundaries of good and bad taste to highlighting

lesser-known queer works, the queer critic has a unique and significant position in the world of screen criticism.

Join *Ivana Brehas* and panelists *Tristen Harwood*, *Adolfo Aranjuez*, *Alistair Baldwin*, and *Tali Polichtuk* as they discuss all this and more through the lens of their experiences as queer critics.

- **TRISTEN HARWOOD** is a writer, cultural critic and researcher.
- **ADOLFO ARANJUEZ** is an editor, writer, speaker and dancer.
- **ALISTAIR BALDWIN** is a writer, comedian, thought leader, disabled ingenue and sometimes blonde based in Naarm / Melbourne.
- **TALI POLICHTUK** is a writer and programmer, and the editor and co-founder of Sissy Screens.

**THIS IS A FREE EVENT. BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL.**  
**CHECK WEBSITE FOR SESSION DETAILS**



# MOFF GIVES BACK

MOFF has proudly supported and fostered local queer filmmaking talent through its various awards and prizes, for over 31 years and it's all made possible by our awards sponsors and donors.

## AWARDS

**THE CITY OF MELBOURNE AWARD**  
Best Australian Short Film (\$5000)

**FILM VICTORIA AWARD**  
Best Director Australian Short Film (\$2500)

**SHAUN MILLER LAWYERS AWARD**  
Best Australian Documentary Short (\$1000)

**BLACKMAGIC DESIGN AWARD FOR TECHNICAL EXCELLENCE**  
DaVinci Resolve Studio — value \$469  
DaVinci Resolve Speed Editor — value \$1,569

**MOFF AWARD FOR BEST FIRST FEATURE**  
Narrative (\$2500)

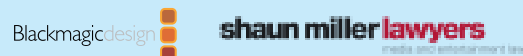
**MOFF AWARD FOR BEST FEATURE**  
Documentary (\$2500)

**MOFF AWARD FOR BEST INTERNATIONAL SHORT**  
Fiction or Documentary (\$1000)

**STEP RIGHT UP AUDIENCE CHOICE AWARD**  
Best short film (\$1000)

**VOTE FOR YOUR FAVOURITE FILM BY RATING FILMS ONLINE AT MOFF.COM.AU OR ON THE APP.**

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# MOFF VENUES

## VILLAGE CINEMAS

**THE JAM FACTORY**  
500 CHAPEL STREET, SOUTH YARRA VIC 3141

Village Cinemas will be screening MOFF in its Vpremium and Vmax theatres.

**TRAM** — Route 78 (stop 49 or 48), Route 72 (stop 31, 5 minute walk), Route 58 (stop 128, 5 minute walk).

**TRAIN** — South Yarra Station (5 minute walk), Hawksburn Station (5 minute walk).

**FESTIVAL LOUNGE** — Roc's Bar

## acmi

**FED SQUARE, MELBOURNE VIC 3000**

Centrally located in Melbourne's bustling arts and entertainment precinct. Make a day of it and check out the interactive museum.

**TRAIN** — Flinders Street Station  
**TRAM** — Any Swanston Street or St Kilda Road tram to stop 13. Trams 35, 70 or 75 to stop 6.

**FESTIVAL LOUNGE** — Hero Bar



**380 LYCON STREET, CARLTON VIC 3053**

Just a short tram ride or walk from Melbourne CBD. Look out for something uniquely MOFF in the Cinema Nova Bar & Kitchen.

**TRAM** — 1 or 6 to stop 112. Any Swanston Street tram to stop 1.

**FESTIVAL LOUNGE** — Cinema Nova Bar & Kitchen

# THANK YOU

WE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO SHARE THE BEST OF LGBTQ+ CINEMA WITH OUR AUDIENCES, AND VISITORS, WITHOUT THE SUPPORT OF OUR PARTNERS AND SPONSORS, MEMBERS, PRIVATE MEMBERS, PRIVATE DONORS, AND THE DEDICATION OF OVER ONE HUNDRED VOLUNTEERS WHO GENEROUSLY GIVE THEIR TIME EACH YEAR. PLEASE TAKE A BOW!

## MANAGEMENT

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David Micallef, Tony Lee.

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Spiro Economopoulos

**FINANCE MANAGER**  
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## PROGRAM GUIDE

**EDITORS**  
Tony Lee, Spiro Economopoulos, David Micallef, Patty Abalos, Jessica Seychelle.

**PROGRAM NOTES**  
Tony Lee, Spiro Economopoulos, Jessica Seychelle, Ben Chuah, Chelsea Large, Dean Cartwright, Tilly Parsons.

**PROGRAMMING INTERNS**  
Dean Cartwright, Chelsea Large.

## PANELS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

Sissy Screens, Ivana Brehas, Thomas Caldwell, Tony Lee.

**MOFF TRAILER**  
Hudson Sowada

## LIFE MEMBERS

*Our life members have devoted countless hours to ensure the longevity and success of MOFF over the Festival's colourful history. They are a much-loved and valued part of our community.*

Rowland Thomson, Crusader Hillis, Madeleine Swain, Suzie Goodman, missjan horstman, David McCarthy, Richard Watts, Suzy Green, Rowena Doo, Luke Gallagher, Alex Green, Paul Tonta, Leanne Sumpter, Colin Billing, Claire Jackson, Lisa Daniel, Paul Clifton, Roberta Armitage.

## FESTIVAL SWEETHEARTS

*Our private donors, MOFF Sweethearts, directly support the Festival's operations and programming, and by doing so help maintain our reputation for excellence in LGBTQ+ film presentation. The Festival warmly acknowledges our MOFF31 Sweethearts:*

**COLD** — Em Campbell-Pretty & Adrienne Wilson.

**SILVER** — Matthew Lee

**DIAMOND** — Samuel T Murray, Yvonne Shaffir, Richard Laslett & Colin Gunther.

**EMERALD** — Ayan Dasvarma, Gail Veal, Lan Wang, Serena Chow, James Houghton, Gin Masters.

**RUBY** — Deborah Storz, Laura Beckett, Stephen Masterman, David Imber, Matt Collins QC & Leonard Vary.

**SAPPHIRE** — Margaret Cannington, Maureen Reedy, David Micallef, Frazer Wilson, Lee Centra, missjan, Kristen Stone, Stephen Jovanovich, Chris Furneaux, Cindy Mason, David Cheshire, Yvette Karklins, Fiona Patten.



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#MOFF31



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