

MELBOURNE QUEEN FILM FESTIVAL

<<REWIND
TO FAST
FORWARD>>

9-19
NOVEMBER
2023

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REWIND TO FAST FORWARD

THIS FESTIVAL WE REWIND TO FAST FORWARD - SHOWCASING THE INDISPUTABLE EXISTENCE OF LGBTQIA+ PEOPLES THROUGHOUT HISTORY - CAPTURED THROUGH FILM'S IMMORTALISING LENS - AN EXHIBITION OF ALL HISTORIES - PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE, INFORMING THE NOW - HISTORY SHAPING THE FUTURE AS A MEANS OF EVOLUTION - THE VAST PLURALISM OF IDENTITY - AND OUR LIBERATION THROUGH INFINITE INTERSECTIONALITY - QUEER PEOPLE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN PART OF HUMANITY - AND WE ALWAYS WILL.

ONLY CITY

HIDDEN BARS

MURMUR PIANO BAR
Warburton Ln

MOULIN ROUGE
THE MUSICAL

STAGE STARS



Scan to see
What's On



CITY OF MELBOURNE

WELCOME TO MQFF33

MELBOURNE QUEER FILM FESTIVAL ACKNOWLEDGES THE TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS OF THE LANDS UPON WHICH WE LIVE, WORK AND LEARN, AND PAYS RESPECT TO ELDERS PAST AND PRESENT. WE ACKNOWLEDGE THE ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PEOPLES' SPIRIT, IMAGINATION AND RICH HISTORY OF STORYTELLING THAT IS AN INSPIRATION TO ALL AUSTRALIANS.

SALLY GAPP

LORD MAYOR OF MELBOURNE



Diversity is our strength at the City of Melbourne, and we are proud to support the vibrant mix of people, and stories celebrated throughout the Melbourne Queer Film Festival (MQFF).

For 33 years this festival and its films have elevated the experiences of our queer community, empowering audiences to show up as their true selves – both on screen and on our streets.

Across 11 days, immerse yourself in more than 100 Australian and international features and short films plus expand your mind with an array of inspiring public forums and discussions. The City of Melbourne is proud to once again present the Award for Best Australian Short Film and shine a light on our local filmmaking talent.

As the biggest and oldest queer film festival in Australia, the MQFF is always a highlight in Melbourne's lively events calendar. Congratulations to the creatives, organisers and volunteers for cementing our reputation as the nation's undisputed events and arts capital.

Thank you for reflecting the beauty of our community's diversity on-screen and inspiring us with powerful stories that foster inclusivity and respect.

DAVID MARTIN HARRIS

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



This year's festival feels truly special – serendipity, support, passion, humour, and love abound throughout its creation.

MQFF wouldn't happen without our dedicated and intelligent staff: Nathan Boadle, Jack Martin, Steven Trosti, and I am overjoyed to welcome our incredible new Program Director, Cerise Howard, who joins us for her inaugural season. Special thanks also go to a few exceptional volunteers who have played an integral role in our journey this year: Timothy Lorin-Winning, Aimee Traficante, Ella Clarke, and Richard Laslett.

We are fortunate to be guided by the members of the MQFF Board, led by Gail Veal and David Micallef, whom we affectionately consider the guardian angels of MQFF.

The community that comes together to create MQFF is vast and diverse, from our film selection panel members and beloved Sweethearts donors to our incredible volunteers and the proud pride networks of our sponsors. Additionally, we extend plentiful gratitude to our government partners and venue partners, as well as the hundreds of filmmakers

and artists who all share a belief in the power of queer film to change lives. We deeply appreciate your contributions to Australia's largest and oldest queer film festival.

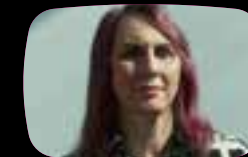
This dedication has once again culminated in the creation of a monumental and intersectional offering of LGBTQIA+ stories drawn from both the heart of Australia to the global stage, presented here in Melbourne.

The 33rd annual MQFF has been crafted to provide the LGBTQIA+ community with spaces of joy, connection, and reflection – spaces that are both needed and deserved.

Welcome to MQFF33 – we look forward to seeing you at the Festival!

CERISE HOWARD

PROGRAM DIRECTOR



Hello, Melbourne – all aboard! I'm Cerise Howard and I'll be your Program Director for this year's 33rd MQFF. We'll be taking in any number of fabulous destinations as we criss-cross the globe and flit to and fro across decades, in

a scintillating survey of the queer film space-time continuum, in all its pan-dimensionality. And how!

With a robust sense of purpose aforethought, that's how. A key mission of this year's program is to offer a wealth of narratives at once wildly diverse yet unified in amplifying one particular message: queer people have walked the length and breadth of this earth ever since humanity took its first tentative steps out of the primordial soup. And, moreover, we always will.

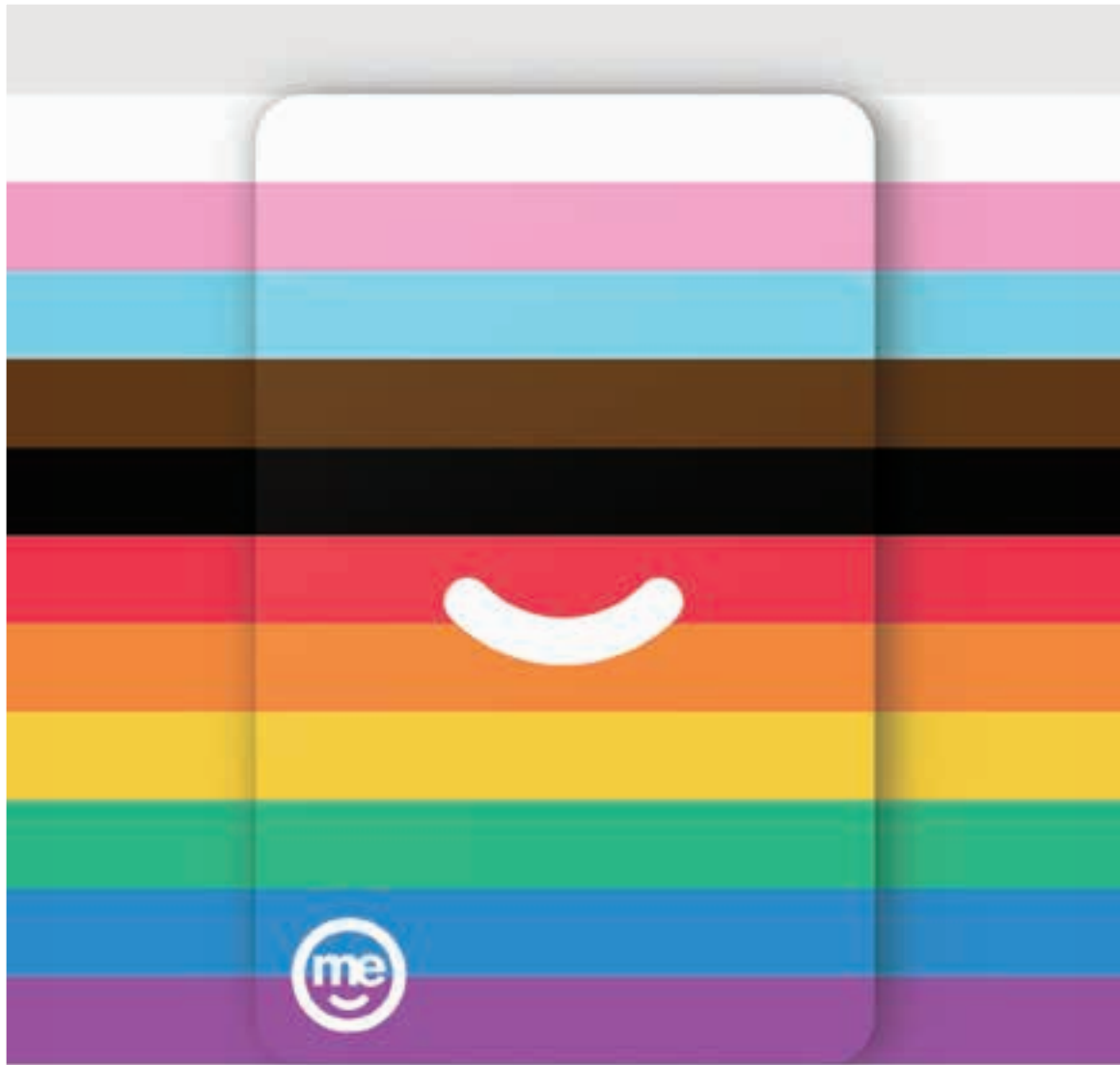
I am sooo excited to share my first program with you and encourage you all to dive deep. Sure, swim in your own lane a few laps, but don't shy away from exploring how your fellow queers live, laugh and love – you'll only be the richer for the experience, and our rainbow community the stronger for it, too.

I am hugely indebted to the MQFF team of David Martin Harris, Nathan Boadle, Jack Martin and Steven Trosti, whose abundant wisdom and welcoming ways have made my first time at this particular rodeo a thrill-a-minute joy.

I am similarly indebted to Bianca Suparto, Finley Stapleton-Hamilton, Jess Pacella, Jessica Seychell, Kim Munro, Maddox Gifford, Matthew Howship-Burness, Penny Jelly, Sonja Hammer, Stephen Russell and Stuart Richards, selection panellists extraordinaire! Many of whom have also gamely penned and proofed the purple prose of program notes aplenty.

And thank you too, Spiro Economopoulos and Lisa Daniel, my two most immediate predecessors whose programs I relished over 25 years as an attendee prior to assuming this role.

Okay, folks – don't be strangers, now – I look forward to meeting you all at the movies!



We put our money where our mouth is.

ME proudly supports the LGBTQIA+ community through our partnerships, people and products. Our new rainbow SpendME¹ card donates to Minus18 with every digital tap – and the donations are on ME.



¹ Terms, conditions, fees and charges apply. This is general information only and you should consider if the product is right for you. ME Bank – a division of Bank of Queensland Limited ABN 32 009 656 740 AFSL and Australian Credit Licence Number 244616.

TICKETS

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.



Please scan for the latest session times. In rare instances, some session times may change. Please check the website for our latest session times – MQFF.COM.AU

FILM PASSES – IN CINEMA

10 FILM PASS (BUDDY PASS – 2 X TICKETS PER FILM)	Full	\$202.00
	Concession	\$166.00
	Member	\$165.00
7 FILM PASS (1 x TICKET PER FILM)	Full	\$149.00
	Concession	\$122.00
	Member	\$122.00
5 FILM PASS (1 x TICKET PER FILM)	Full	\$109.00
	Concession	\$89.50
	Member	\$89.00
3 FILM PASS (1 x TICKET PER FILM)	Full	\$67.00
	Concession	\$55.00
	Member	\$54.00

MQFF MEMBERSHIP

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

MQFF MEMBERSHIP	Full	\$68.00
	Concession	\$58.00
	Under 30	\$47.00

SINGLE TICKETS – BOOKING FEES MAY APPLY

PRIME TIME (THU/FRI AFTER 5PM & SAT/SUN ALL DAY)	Full	\$24.50
	Concession	\$20.50
	Member or Groups (10+)	\$20.50
NON PRIME TIME	Full	\$23.00
	Concession	\$19.00
	Member or Groups (10+)	\$19.00
ALL MQFF KEYSTONE EVENTS	Full	\$24.50
	Concession	\$20.50
	Member or Groups (10+)	\$20.50
ROOFTOP CINEMA GENERAL SEATING	Full	\$24.50
	Concession	\$20.50
	Member or Groups (10+)	\$20.50
ROOFTOP CINEMA BEAN BAG SEATING	Full	\$49.00
	Concession	\$43.00
	Member	\$41.00
ALL-IN-PASS (MUST BE AN MQFF MEMBER TO PURCHASE)	Member (includes all screenings, events & MQFF+)	\$320.00

MQFF+ – ONLINE

SINGLE TICKET	Full	\$15.40
	Concession	\$12.50
	Member	\$13.20
	Household	\$22.00
3 FILM PASS	Full	\$36.30
	Concession	\$28.10
	Member	\$29.70
	Household	\$62.70
5 FILM PASS	Full	\$55.00
	Concession	\$41.60
	Member	\$44.00
	Household	\$99.00

ALLOCATED SEATING NEW

The Capitol, Kino, Cinema Nova and Village Jam Factory venues will now include allocated seating with all ticket purchases. No more lining up to get the best seats – simply select your preferred seats from the interactive seating map.

HOW TO BUY TICKETS

DOWNLOAD THE APP
Browse and purchase tickets on the official MQFF iPhone or Android app. No printing is required, bring your phone to be scanned at the door.

BOOK ONLINE OR ON THE MQFF APP
MQFF tickets can be purchased online via our mobile app or website – ticket sales are unavailable in cinemas. We strongly encourage you to book online to avoid disappointment. For detailed information and a complete list of Open Caption and Subtitled screenings, visit mqff.com.au/access.

CINEMA BOX OFFICE
Visit our cinema venues during cinema hours and speak to one of our friendly staff members who will be able to assist with your ticket purchases. Please note: a credit or debit card is required for all box office purchases.

CLASSIFICATION

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

CONCESSION TICKETS

Concession tickets are available to people with valid concession cards at time of entry to the cinema, this includes full-time students, pensioners, unwaged, seniors and valid health care card holders.

CONCESSION EARLY BIRD

\$12.50 tickets will be available from October 11 – 17. Tickets are subject to availability, and ticket buyers must have a valid concession card to book. Failure to present a valid concession card upon entry will result in needing to purchase a full-price ticket.

BLAKTIX

\$10.50 tickets for First Nations people. Available for all sessions and subject to availability.

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. Customers may exchange their own tickets via their MQFF account online.

For outdoor screenings at the Victorian Pride Centre, sessions are subject to relocation inside the Pride Centre building in instances of poor weather conditions – ticket holders will be notified ahead of relocation. Visit mqff.com.au for full terms and conditions.

ACCESS

Open Captions All MQFF venues are wheelchair accessible and have accessible toilets. MQFF supports and accepts the Companion Card. Wheelchair bookings can be made online by selecting the accessible wheelchair seating from the seating map. To book tickets using your Companion Card, please forward your ticket confirmation email to info@mqff.com.au and request an additional Companion Card seat.

CONTENT ADVICE

Detailed content advice warnings are located on the accessibility page of the MQFF website: mqff.com.au/accessibility Films are tagged with 'Content Advice' throughout this program where potentially triggering content may be featured in a film. Whilst we try to include as much detail as possible in content advice, we encourage audience members to conduct their own research on films as sensitivities vary from person to person. Further information about content and age-appropriateness for specific films can be found on CommonSenseMedia.org, IMDb.com and DoesTheDogDie.com as well as through general internet searches.



OPENING NIGHT

I LOVE YOU, BEKSMAN

MAHAL KITA, BEKSMAN

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE, 2022, PHILIPPINES, 106 MINS, U15+

Tagalog and Filipino with English subtitles



"INTALAN DELIVERS A FILM THAT SIMULTANEOUSLY WORKS AS A CAMP, BUTLERIAN READ OF GENDER PERFORMATIVITY AND A HEARTFELT, EXPANSIVE LOVE STORY FOR THE TIMES."

- MADELEINE COLLIER, SENSES OF CINEMA

DIR: Perci M. Intalan

COURTESY: Alemberg Ang

SESSIONS: Thu 9 Nov, at 7:30pm, The Astor

Screens with short film *Pineapple*
(DIR: Sophie Saville, Australia)

The coming-out story gets a fabulous, Filipinx makeover in Perci M. Intalan's hilarious, high-camp and heartfelt inverted rom-com. Twenty-something Dali (the wonderful Christian Bables) is a flamboyant make-up artist and fashion designer who astonishes his gloriously queer family and colleagues by coming out as... straight? Yes, it seems he's fallen for Angel (Iana Bernardez), a beauty pageant queen. But such is everyone's astonishment that no one - Angel included - believes him. And so begins a quest for this most fabulous of purported straight men - think Barbie's Ken, but more so - to become a convincing, straight-acting, straight man - for that is surely the way to a woman's heart, no?

Any number of received wisdoms surrounding gender and its relationship to sexuality get roundly skewered in this delightful film that will have you itching to hit the dance floor as soon as the closing credits roll.



CENTREPIECE PRESENTATION

MARINETTE

VICTORIAN PREMIERE, 2023, FRANCE, 95 MINS, U18+

French and English, with English subtitles



"A FASCINATING FILM, PAYING FULLY DESERVED TRIBUTE TO AN EXCEPTIONAL WOMAN AND A PIONEER IN MANY RESPECTS."

- FABIENT LEMERCIER, CINEUROPA

DIR: Virginie Verrier

COURTESY: Pulsar Content

SESSIONS: Thu 16 Nov, at 7:00pm,
Village Cinemas Jam Factory

Followed by the post-film
celebrations at Roc's Bar & Kitchen,
Village Cinemas Jam Factory

Marinette Pichon is one of the most influential women's players of "the beautiful game" and a French lesbian icon, to boot. In this compelling rags-to-riches biopic, we follow her from a hardscrabble childhood in a troubled home to her stop-start rise to prominence as one of the greatest players ever to grace a soccer pitch, whether in France, where she has long been agitating for greater conditions for women footballers, or in the United States, where there is something more akin to a level playing field for men and women.

Played by different actors to mark the various stages of her life, she is embodied as an adult by the brilliant Garance Marillier, breakout star of Julia Ducournau's *Raw*. Thrilling footballing sequences and a fleet-footed narrative will have you barracking from the terraces.

Content Advice

See page 5 or the film page on the MQFF website.



CLOSING NIGHT SOLO

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE, 2023, CANADA, 103 MINS, U15+

French with English subtitles



“A CAPTIVATING CINEMATIC EXPERIENCE THAT EXPLORES THE INTRICATE FACETS OF IDENTITY, LOVE, AND THE PERFORMANCE OF SELF IN A WORLD THAT OFTEN DEMANDS CONFORMITY.”

- RODRIGO COKTING. LAYERED BUTTER

DIR: Sophie Dupuis

COURTESY: SND Films

SESSIONS: Sun 19 Nov, at 7:30pm, The Astor

Simon (rising star Théodore Pellerin) is a skilled make-up artist who, by night, is a mainstay of Montreal's exuberant drag scene. His performances are elevated upon hooking up with the charismatic Olivier (Félix Maritaud), a French drag artiste who becomes his partner on and off stage. Their chemistry is electric... yet might not Olivier be a touch... manipulative - nay, domineering? When word reaches Simon that his long-absent opera diva mother, Claire (Anne-Marie Cadieux) will be passing through town, Simon struggles with validation issues. Are either capable of affording him the respect he so yearns for?

This wonderful character study from writer-director Sophie Dupuis (*Underground*) is brimming over with authenticity, emotion and - of course - fabulous drag performances!



AUSTRALIAN SHORTS & AWARDS

VOTE FOR YOUR FAVOURITES BY RATING FILMS ONLINE AT MQFF.COM.AU OR ON THE APP.

112 mins, U18+

SESSION

SAT 18 NOV AT 1.30PM, THE CAPITOL

Join us to celebrate the brightest and best Australian queer filmmakers. MQFF's Australian Shorts & Awards highlight the richness of storytelling and the breadth of original talent working in Australia today.

MQFF and the City of Melbourne are proud to present this selection of short films. Following the screening, we will announce the winners 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 queer short films worldwide.

FEATURING:

A Former Lover Bakes Themselves Into a Pie (DIR: Matt Jenner)

Cut (DIR: Samuel Lucas Allen)

Hedgehog (DIR: Jasper Caverly)

House of Whoreship (DIR: Holly Laura Bates)

Jia (DIR: Vee Shi)

Teach Me How to Fly (DIR: Samantha Harris)

The Pansy of Pickadee (DIR: Gus George, Paddy Morahan)

Weedling (DIR: Angie Black)

THE CITY OF MELBOURNE AWARD

Best Australian Short Film - \$5,000

VICSCREEN AWARD

Best Director of an Australian Short Film - \$2,500

SHAUN MILLER AWARD

Best Australian Documentary Short - \$1,000

MQFF AWARD FOR BEST FIRST FEATURE

Narrative - \$2,500

MQFF AWARD FOR BEST FIRST FEATURE

Documentary - \$2,500

MQFF AWARD FOR BEST INTERNATIONAL SHORT

Fiction or Documentary - \$1,000

MQFF AUDIENCE CHOICE AWARD

Best Short Film - \$1,000

VICSCREEN

PROUDLY SUPPORTING
AUSTRALIA'S LARGEST
QUEER FILM FESTIVAL



Triple Oh! by Poppy Stockell, made in Melbourne with support from VicScreen. Photo Poppy Stockell.



vicscreen.vic.gov.au

VENUE CINEMA NOVA

380 LYGON STREET, CARLTON VIC 3053

Just a short tram ride or walk from Melbourne CBD. Stop by the Cinema Nova Bar & Kitchen for all your pre-show drinks and snacks.

Cinema Nova will be screening MQFF in Cinemas 1, 8, 9 and 10.

TRAM - Any Swanston Street tram to stop 1 or route 1 or route 6 to stop 112



FRIDAY 10TH NOV 2023

06:30PM	Cora Bora
06:45PM	Before I Change My Mind
08:45PM	Femme
09:00PM	Silver Haze

SATURDAY 11TH NOV 2023

01:00PM	Orlando, My Political Biography
01:15PM	Kokomo City
03:30PM	Golden Delicious
03:45PM	Beyond the Binary Shorts
05:45PM	T-Blockers
06:00PM	Birder
08:15PM	Swallowed
08:30PM	The People's Joker

SUNDAY 12TH NOV 2023

01:00PM	Young & Queer Shorts
01:15PM	East Palace, West Palace
03:30PM	Glitter & Doom
03:45PM	Real Life Shorts
05:45PM	It's Only Life After All
06:00PM	A Song Sung Blue
08:15PM	Lesbians at Large Shorts
08:30PM	All of Us Strangers

TUESDAY 14TH NOV 2023

06:30PM	Fireworks
06:45PM	American Parent
08:45PM	In the Meantime
09:00PM	Orlando, My Political Biography

WEDNESDAY 15TH NOV 2023

06:30PM	Chasing Chasing Amy
06:45PM	Narrow Path to Happiness
08:45PM	Smoke Sauna Sisterhood
09:00PM	All the Colours of the World are Between Black and White

THURSDAY 16TH NOV 2023

06:30PM	Rosie
08:45PM	It is Not the Homosexual Who is Perverse, But the Society in Which He Lives

FRIDAY 17TH NOV 2023

06:30PM	The Chambermaid
06:45PM	Single, Out: Season 2
08:45PM	Satranic Panic
09:00PM	Cross Dreamers

SATURDAY 18TH NOV 2023

01:30PM	Summer Qamp - Proudly presented by Minus18
06:30PM	Monster
06:45PM	Glen or Glenda
08:45PM	Housekeeping for Beginners
09:00PM	T-Blockers

VENUE VILLAGE JAM FACTORY

500 CHAPEL STREET, STH YARRA VIC 3141

Village Cinemas will be screening MQFF in Cinemas 5, 8 and Vmax 10.

TRAIN - South Yarra Station (5 minute walk), Hawksburn Station (5 minute walk)
TRAM - Route 78 (stop 49 or 48), Route 72 (stop 31, 5 minute walk), Route 58 (stop 128, 5 minute walk)

SATURDAY 11TH NOV 2023

06:15PM	There's a Star
06:30PM	Who's Queen? Shorts
08:45PM	Gays Will Be Gays Shorts
09:00PM	Runs in the Family

SUNDAY 12TH NOV 2023

06:15PM	Healed
06:30PM	L-Word Shorts
08:45PM	Chasing Chasing Amy
09:00PM	Silver Haze

MONDAY 13TH NOV 2023

06:15PM	Shape
06:30PM	Frightfully Queer Shorts
08:45PM	Swallowed
09:00PM	Out-There Shorts

THURSDAY 16TH NOV 2023

07:00PM	Centrepiece - Marinette
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PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY



City of
STONNINGTON

FRIDAY 17TH NOV 2023

06:15PM	The Judgment
06:30PM	Birder
08:45PM	Drifter
09:00PM	All the Colours of the World are Between Black and White

SATURDAY 18TH NOV 2023

01:15PM	Passages
01:30PM	Fireworks
03:45PM	The Lost Boys
04:15PM	Since The Last Time We Met

VENUE KINO CINEMA

45 COLLINS ST, MELBOURNE VIC 3000

Situated at the Paris end of Melbourne's Collins Street. Grab a bite and drink from the fully licensed bar and cafe before the show. And take advantage of limited Premium Seating inside the cinema.

TRAIN - Parliament Station
TRAM - Tram routes 11, 12, 48 or 109 to stop number 8

FRIDAY 10TH NOV 2023

06:00PM	Cruising
09:15PM	Captain Faggotron Saves the Universe

SATURDAY 11TH NOV 2023

01:30PM	Summer Qamp (Rainbow Families Screening)
04:15PM	Prejudice & Pride: Swedish Film Queer
06:30PM	Nina's Heavenly Delights

MONDAY 13TH NOV 2023

06:30PM	Who I Am Not
09:00PM	Fancy Dance

TUESDAY 14TH NOV 2023

06:30PM	Kokomo City
09:00PM	Head On

WEDNESDAY 15TH NOV 2023

06:30PM	All the Silence Proudly sponsored by Carer Gateway
08:45PM	Slow

THURSDAY 16TH NOV 2023

08:00PM	Sunflower
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FRIDAY 17TH NOV 2023

06:30PM	1946: The Mistranslation That Shifted Culture
09:00PM	Commitment to Life

SATURDAY 18TH NOV 2023

06:30PM	Isla's Way
09:00PM	L-Word Shorts

SUNDAY 19TH NOV 2023

02:00PM	L'immensità
04:15PM	La Cage aux Folles



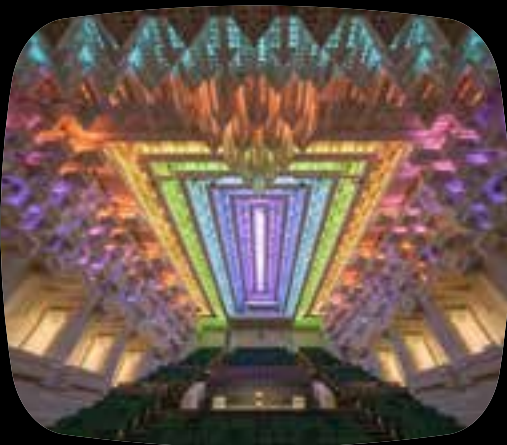
VENUE THE CAPITOL

113 SWANSTON ST, MELBOURNE VIC 3000

Centrally located on Melbourne's bustling Swanston Street. The Capitol Theatre is one Melbourne's most spectacular theatres, complete with an ornate ceiling and stunning art deco architecture.

TRAIN - Flinders Street Station - short walk up Swanston Street

TRAM - Any Swanston St or St Kilda Rd tram to stop 11



PRESENTED IN
PARTNERSHIP WITH



SATURDAY 11TH NOV 2023

08:30PM Housekeeping
for Beginners

10:30PM Drifter

SUNDAY 12TH NOV 2023

01:30PM How to Tell a Secret
*Proudly sponsored by
Thorne Harbour Health*

04:30PM Commitment to Life

07:00PM L'immensità

09:30PM Chocolate Babies

MONDAY 13TH NOV 2023

06:00PM Monster

08:45PM Passages

WEDNESDAY 15TH NOV 2023

06:15PM Runs in the Family
*Proudly presented
by ME Bank*

08:45PM The Mattachine Family

THURSDAY 16TH NOV 2023

08:00PM Gays Will Be
Gays Shorts

FRIDAY 17TH NOV 2023

06:45PM Laugh-Out-Proud Shorts
*Proudly sponsored by
Herbert Smith Freehills*

09:15PM Femme

SATURDAY 18TH NOV 2023

01:30PM Australian Shorts
& Awards

04:00PM All of Us Strangers

06:45PM The Chambermaid

09:15PM Cora Bora

SUNDAY 19TH NOV 2023

11:30AM Our Son

02:00PM Equal the Contest

04:30PM Offside

VENUE ROOFTOP CINEMA

VICTORIAN PRIDE CENTRE, 79-81
FITZROY STREET, ST KILDA VIC 3182

Located in vibrant St Kilda and accessible by tram from the CBD, the Victorian Pride Centre is the first of its kind in Australia. Come early for a BBQ at the rooftop bar and watch the sunset before the film. Don't forget your picnic rug and cushion for your tushy!

TRAM - Route 16 or Route 96 to stop 134



CO-PRODUCED AND
PRESENTED IN
PARTNERSHIP WITH



VICTORIAN
PRIDE
CENTRE

PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY CITY
OF PORT PHILLIP CULTURAL
DEVELOPMENT FUND



PLEASE NOTE:

- Film screenings will begin at sundown - approximately 8:30pm.
- In the event of wet weather, screenings will be moved inside the Victoria Pride Centre theatriette. Ticket exchange is available for other Rooftop Cinema screenings only.
- Limited chair seating available for patrons who cannot floor sit. Attendees are encouraged to bring rugs and blankets and to sit on the rooftop lawn.
- Bean bag seating is available for purchase when booking your ticket.

FRIDAY 10TH NOV 2023

07:30PM La Cage aux Folles

SATURDAY 11TH NOV 2023

07:30PM Laugh-Out-Proud Shorts

SUNDAY 12TH NOV 2023

07:30PM The Mattachine Family

WEDNESDAY 15TH NOV 2023

07:30PM Isla's Way

THURSDAY 16TH NOV 2023

07:30PM Before I Change My Mind

FRIDAY 17TH NOV 2023

07:30PM Who's Queen? Shorts

SATURDAY 18TH NOV 2023

07:30PM Sunflower

SUNDAY 19TH NOV 2023

07:30PM Summer Qamp



VICTORIAN PREMIERE

GOLDEN DELICIOUS

2022, CANADA 120 MINS, U15+

DIR: Jason Karmann

COURTESY: The Film Collaborative

SESSIONS: Sat 11 Nov at 3:30pm, Cinema Nova



Jake is just trying to survive high school. His father is pressuring him to try out for the basketball team and his girlfriend is ready to take their relationship to the next level. Feeling pulled in every direction, he finds himself drawn to the new "boy next door", Aleks, which soon puts everything into perspective as his love for basketball and being openly gay fuels Jake to get closer and closer. In his daze and confusion, he is forced to confront the question, is it friendship, sportsmanship or something more that he is lured to?



THE CHAMBERMAID

SLUŽKA

2022, SLOVAKIA, CZECH REPUBLIC, 110 MINS, U15+

Czech, Slovak, German, Hungarian
with English subtitles

DIR: Mariana Čengel Solčanská

COURTESY: Picture Tree International

SESSIONS: Fri 17 Nov at 6:30pm, Cinema Nova
Sat 18 Nov at 6:45pm, The Capitol



"THE PERIOD-DRAMA JEWEL OF THE FESTIVAL THAT GIVES GIRL WITH A PEARL EARRING A RUN FOR ITS MONEY."

- DAVID MARTIN HARRIS, MQFF CEO

The Chambermaid is based on the real-life story of writer, Hana Lasicová's, childhood nanny - who was born at the end of the 19th century and lived 90 years. This period-masterpiece which exhibits a narrative complexity that can only come from real-life experience, is set just prior to World War I. 15-year old Anka leaves her poverty-stricken Slovak hometown for Prague to work as a maid for a wealthy family amidst the breakdown of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Anika is to serve Resi, the family's slightly sadistic daughter, who is betrothed to marry well. At polar opposite ends of the class ladder, the women slowly grow very close. A sapphic drama set in an age when unconventional relations are all that could exist, Director Mariana Čengel Solčanská does not allow this film to shy away from any brutal reality bestowed upon the film's lovers.



LA CAGE AUX FOLLES

1978, FRANCE, ITALY, 91 MINS, M

French with English subtitles

DIR: Édouard Molinaro

COURTESY: Park Circus

SESSIONS: Fri 10 Nov at 7:30pm,
Victorian Pride Centre Rooftop
Sun 19 Nov at 4:15pm, Kino



You've all seen the late, great Robin Williams and *Only Murders in the Building* star Nathan Lane as a gay couple attempting to play it straight to impress the conservative family of their son's fiancée in the 1996 classic *The Birdcage*. But have you seen the Saint-Tropez-set, French-language original? Adapted by director Édouard Molinaro from Jean Poirret's play of the same name, he casts Cesar-winner Michel Serrault in the role of Zaza the drag star and Italian actor Michel Galabru as his slightly butcher partner Renato, who owns a cabaret club. What could possibly go wrong when Zaza decides it would be easier to pass as Renato's wife? Quite a lot, as it turns out, in a gloriously goofy romp that was not only a huge hit at home, but also scooped a Golden Globe and three Oscar noms.



VICTORIAN PREMIERE

CAPTAIN FAGGOTRON SAVES THE UNIVERSE

2023, GERMANY, 72 MINS, U18+

English and German with English subtitles

DIR: Harvey Rabbit

COURTESY: Salzgeber & Co

SESSIONS: Fri 10 Nov at 9:15pm, Kino

Screens with short films *Discoteque*
(DIR: Masashi Yamamoto, USA) and *Bold Eagle*
(DIR: Whammy Alcazare, Philippines)



"The power of Christ compels you"... not to smoke the devil's cabbage, thereby getting the munchies and scoffing all the church's blessed wafers like a very naughty boy. *The Exorcist*, this is not. Instead, it's free-loving German filmmaker Harvey Rabbit's deliriously unhinged, partly animated and often fully undressed interstellar misadventure in which a probing alien force, the ex of a closeted priest, attempts to flood the Earth with rampaging homosexuals. Can Captain Faggotron save the day? Should he? Can he explain what's going on in this outré omnisexual delirium pulsing with synth beats? Who knows? But you should totally go.

Content Advice

See page 5 or the film page on the MQFF website.



ROSIE

2022, CANADA, 91 MINS, U15+

English, French and Cree with English subtitle

DIR: Gail Maurice

COURTESY: TVCO

SESSIONS: Thu 16 Nov at 6:30pm, Cinema Nova

Screens with short film *Aikâne*
(DIR: Daniel Sousa, Dean Hamer, Joe Wilson, USA)



In the Summer of '84, a band of misfits take on Montreal. After the passing of her mother, English-speaking, Indigenous Rosie is left in the guardianship of her mother's tough, French speaking sister Fred (Mélanie Bray). As Rosie is under her guardianship she is opened to a world of new experiences and challenges as she navigates the isolation of being an Indigenous person within a newfound caucasian family. But as the colourful and exuberant family of Rosie and her friends emerge, a newfound family begins to form.



MONSTER

KAIBUTSU

2023, JAPAN, 126 MINS, U15+

Japanese with English subtitles

DIR: Hirokazu Koreeda

COURTESY: Madman Entertainment

SESSIONS: Mon 13 Nov at 6:00pm, The Capitol
Sat 18 Nov at 6:30pm, Cinema Nova



When tween-aged Minato starts to behave strangely, his mother, Saori, suspects the school has something to do with it. Upon questioning, Minato confesses his teacher, Hori, is the source of his troubles. Saori begins a relentless campaign to expose Hori's problematic teaching practices and the school that appears to be covering it up. But Minato and his newest friend have a different tale to tell. Yet as the story unfolds through the eyes of various characters, nothing is as it seems. Acclaimed director Hirokazu Koreeda tenderly brings to life Yuji Sakamoto's layered screenplay and features legendary composer Ryuichi Sakamoto's final screen work before his death. With its Cannes debut this year, the film was awarded Best Screenplay and the Queer Palm.



OFFSIDE

2006, IRAN, 93 MINS, PG

Persian with English subtitles

DIR: Jafar Panahi

COURTESY: Celluloid Dreams, National Film and Sound Archive

SESSIONS: Sun 19 Nov at 4:30pm, The Capitol



Iranian women soccer fans travel to a World Cup qualifier match in Tehran despite it being illegal for them to be spectators by disguising themselves as boys. Will they be able to fool the guards? Jafar Panahi's *Offside* is one of the most charming and poignant sports films ever made. Even at a time when many of us are glowing over the women's game, after a successful World Cup right on our doorstep, it's a telling reminder of the power of sport to connect us. As transgressive as it is powerfully humanistic, the film took home the Silver Bear Grand Jury Prize from the 2006 Berlinale. Footnote: last year marked the first time women were permitted to attend a World Cup qualifying match (the men's), while the recently released from prison Panahi's creative freedom remains severely restricted by the Iranian regime.




AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

CORA BORA

2023, USA, 92 MINS, U18+

DIR: Hannah Pearl Utt

COURTESY: Magnolia International

SESSIONS: Fri 10 Nov at 6:30pm, Cinema Nova 
Sat 18 Nov at 9:15pm, The Capitol



You know her as the world's most wildly negligent (and hysterically funny) PA in *Hacks*, or perhaps from her side-splitting skits on the social media platform formerly known as Twitter. Now Megan Stalter's stepping into the spotlight as the star of *Ingrid Goes West* actor and *Disengaged* director Hannah Pearl Utt's screwball comedy about a bisexual musician trying to make it big in LA. When her girlfriend moves on, she has second thoughts, though not before sleeping with a flat earther: "He doesn't believe in science, but he's got that big dick." PS look out for MQFF favourite Margaret Cho.

Screens with short film *Breakup Text*
(DIR: Elizabeth Baudouin, USA)




AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

BEFORE I CHANGE MY MIND

2022, CANADA, 89 MINS, U15+

DIR: Trevor Anderson

COURTESY: The Film Collaborative

SESSIONS: Fri 10 Nov at 6:45pm, Cinema Nova 
Thu 16 Nov at 7:30pm,
Victorian Pride Centre Rooftop

Screens with short film *Fairyocious*
(DIR: Fabien Ara, France)



Robin, an androgynous newcomer at school, defies the binary norms of a single-sex sports team just as *Before I Change My Mind* breaks the usual tropes of gender on film. This well-crafted, exciting story chooses to explore themes of personal growth and motivations for defiance, rather than treading a well-worn path of brutish bullying. Robin befriends the boys, develops feelings for the rebellious troublemaker Carter, and takes the audience on a voyage of high school drama, high emotion, 1980's flair, and thought provoking comedy. Director Trevor Anderson also shines with over the top exuberance as a local am-dram maestro, corralling the teens into appearing in a hilarious synth-pop musical called 'Mary Magdalene: Video Star,' a playful pastiche of *Jesus Christ Superstar*.



Polestar 2



WLTP: 14.8-17.2 kWh/100 km and CO₂: 0 g/km. Specifications may vary depending on configuration. All figures are preliminary and subject to final certification.



VICTORIAN PREMIERE

A SONG SUNG BLUE

2023, CHINA, 92 MINS, U15+

Chinese with English subtitles

DIR:	Zihan Geng
COURTESY:	Totem Films
SESSIONS:	Sun 12 Nov at 6:00pm, Cinema Nova



Premiering at the Cannes Film Festival, where it was nominated for both the Queer Palm and the Caméra d'Or for best first feature film, Zihan Geng's directorial feature debut is an aching summer love story. Hung on an incandescent central turn by Zhou Meijun (*Angels Wear White*), she plays shy 15-year-old Liu Xian, who is sent to live with her father when her mother takes a job in Africa to be with another doctor. A tumultuous world of emotion and identity is opened when she meets his slightly older, free-spirited stepdaughter Jin Mingmei (Huang Ziqi) and a new way of being presents itself.



FEMME

2023, UK, 99 MINS, U18+

DIR:	Ng Choon Ping and Sam H. Freeman
COURTESY:	Anton Corp
SESSIONS:	Fri 10 Nov at 8:45pm, Cinema Nova Fri 17 Nov at 9:15pm, The Capitol



Misfits star Nathan Stewart-Jarrett slays as Jules, a dazzling London drag artist who sashays across the stage in full-Ballroom mode as mighty alter ego Aphrodite. But a homophobic hate crime post-show one terrible night leaves them licking wounds both physical and psychological, unable to perform. However, this is no victim narrative, far from it. Directorial duo Sam H. Freeman and Ng Choon Ping's crackling feature debut, which bowed at Berlinale, is a fierce reclamation of power, spinning a gripping Hitchcockian cat and mouse game. Jules – minus his high heels – spies closeted attacker, chavvy drug dealer Preston (*Pride* star George MacKay), in a gay sauna and decides to seduce him, all the better to strike vengeance with cold-hearted precision. A devastating neo-noir spun out on the rain-lashed streets of south London, its erotic spiral will leave you shaken and stirred.

Content Advice
See page 5 or the film page on the MQFF website.



25 YEAR ANNIVERSARY SCREENING

HEAD ON

1998, AUSTRALIA 104 MINS, R18+

English and Greek with English subtitles

DIR:	Ana Kokkinos
COURTESY:	Umbrella Entertainment
SESSIONS:	Tue 14 Nov at 9:00pm, Kino

“AN EXHILARATING PIECE OF FILMMAKING.”
- MARGARET POMERANZ, SBS MOVIES



Graduating from *Heartbreak High* with distinction, Alex Dimitriadis burned up the screen as a small-time drug dealer and big-time hot mess Ari in Ana Kokkinos' seminal Melbourne story. A high-spirited adaptation of *The Slap* author Christos Tsiolkas' free-wheeling debut novel *Loaded*, it depicts the Greek Australian teen pushing back against parental expectation, class boundaries and ethnic stereotypes in a self-destructive, sure, but take no prisoners break for freedom. All James Dean smoulder, as he traverses the city in search of a good time, it's an irresistible performance matched toe-to-toe by living legend Paul Capsis as his fearless drag queen buddy Toulia. Let it all hang loose as they spin from the late, great 3 Faces nightclub to a confronting police lock-up scene. All the while, Kokkinos burns an indelible mark on the Australian cinematic landscape.

Content Advice
See page 5 or the film page on the MQFF website.



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

AMERICAN PARENT

2023, USA, 68 MINS, U15+

DIR:	Emily Railsback,
COURTESY:	Wright Bros. Photoplay
SESSIONS:	Tue 14 Nov at 6:45pm, Cinema Nova

Screens with short film *Expecting*
(DIR: Alice Douard, France)



Is it too soon to talk about lockdown(s)? Leave your PTSD at the door and surrender to Emily Railsback's largely improvised, immensely generous portrait of loving lesbian mums trying to keep their shit together while raising a toddler during the upheaval of the pandemic. Bette is itching to get back to her theatre gig now that everything's reopening, but then gets made redundant. Elsie is going great guns as an adjunct professor who teaches her classes on Zoom, but their landlord's selling their apartment building from underneath them. Do they have time to sort it out, raise their kid and maybe squish in sex once in a while? You'll certainly be rooting for them.



NINA'S HEAVENLY DELIGHTS

2006, UK, 94 MINS, PG

DIR: Pratibha Parmar

COURTESY: Wildstar Sales

SESSIONS: Sat 11 Nov at 6.30pm, Kino



Curry isn't the only dish getting spicy in this GLAAD Award-nominated 2006 lesbian rom-com from filmmaker Pratibha Parmar (*Khush*). Set in Glasgow, a vibrant city that has proudly embraced its much-loved Scottish-Indian community. It casts *Bridgerton's* Shelley Conn as Nina, a prodigal daughter who returns home from London on learning about her father's death only to discover he lost half the family restaurant in a bet with Lisa (Lar Fraser, *A Knight's Tale*). Joining forces to fulfil his dying wish of securing a historic third win in the Best of The West Curry Competition, pretty soon, the heat's rising between them in the kitchen.



SILVER HAZE

2023, NETHERLANDS, UK, 103 MINS, U15+

DIR: Sacha Polak

COURTESY: New Europe Film Sales

SESSIONS: Fri 10 Nov at 9:00pm, Cinema Nova
Sun 12 Nov at 9:00pm, Village Jam Factory

Content Advice

See page 5 or the film page on the MQFF website.



"PARTLY BASED ON KNIGHT'S OWN EXPERIENCES, [IT] CAPTURES THE HUMOUR, TONE AND RHYTHMS OF WORKING-CLASS LIFE WITHOUT CONDESCENSION OR DARDENNESQUE DOURNESS."

- JOHN BLEASDALE, SIGHT AND SOUND

The incredible Vicky Knight once again delivers a powerhouse performance in this working-class British slice of social realism that reconnects her with *Dirty God* writer/director Sacha Polak. Knight picked up a Jury Prize at this year's Teddy Awards for her turn as Franky, a nurse trying to turn her life around, but carrying a lot of anger over the scars her body holds following an unexplained fire that razed the pub she grew up in. But will dumping her boyfriend and falling in with *Hanna* star Esme Creed-Miles' in-patient Florence offer the way out she desires?



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

HEALED

2023, USA, 92 MINS, U15+

DIR: Meghan Weinstein

SESSIONS: Sun 12 Nov at 6:15pm,
Village Jam Factory

Screens with short film *Forever Flowers*
(DIR: Joe Solomon, UK)



In Meghan Weinstein's 2023 thriller *HEALED*, a former popstar and her pregnant wife are unsuspecting subjects in a shady medical experiment, undergoing bizarre treatments under the guise of an unconventional holistic retreat. Promised a technology-free, meditative, and isolated getaway, the couple's relationship is tested as the line between reality and nightmare begins to blur under the influence of their host, Georgia (Guinevere Turner). The sceptic Jazz (Shantell Yasmine Abeydeera) becomes anxious and doubtful as the eccentric therapies cause old memories to resurface, and her wife Olivia (Emily Goss) grows increasingly distant and dazed with each passing day. The lovers have to unravel the conspiracy behind the wellness retreat before the healing is irreversible in this captivating psychological drama.

Content Advice

See page 5 or the film page on the MQFF website.



SINCE THE LAST TIME WE MET

DESDE LA ÚLTIMA VEZ QUE NOS VIMOS

2023, ARGENTINA, 81 MINS, U15+

Spanish with English subtitles

DIR: Matias De Leis Correa

COURTESY: Wildstar Sales

SESSIONS: Sat 18 Nov at 4:15pm, Village Jam Factory



Bumping into the love of his life on the streets of Buenos Aires should feel joyous for Victor (Argentinian singer-songwriter and actor Patricio Arellano). But David (Uruguayan actor Esteban Recagno), his first and only love, broke his heart when he ghosted him 15 years ago, a cruelty exacerbated by Victor's honourable decision not to speak about their secret relationship, leaving him to grieve in silence with no shoulder to lean on.

David's now married to a woman, but thinks nothing of falling back in with his former lover on the down-low which Victor, despite his reservations, cannot resist. And nor will you be able to refuse writer/director Matias De Leis Correa's deeply sensual, 'it's complicated' two-hander about the binds we can't undo and the consequences, short and long-term alike, of our more impulsive actions and decisions...



GLEN OR GLENDA

1953, USA, 65 MINS, M

DIR: Ed Wood

COURTESY: American Genre Film Archive

SESSIONS: Sat 18 Nov at 6:45pm, Cinema Nova

Screens with short films *Kitchen Sink Fantasy* (DIR: Heath Virgoe, UK) and *Plastic Touch* (DIR: Aitana Ahrens, Spain)



This landmark exploitation film (aka *I Changed My Sex!* and *I Led Two Lives!*) was conceived by producer George Weiss to cash in on the sensation surrounding Christine Jorgensen, an American G.I. who had a "sex change" operation in Denmark and returned to America "a blonde beauty". Supposed to dramatise her story, it famously became more a plea for acceptance of director Edward D. Wood Jr.'s own angora-philic gender non-conformity.

The name Ed Wood is a byword for campy ineptitude in filmmaking, yet it's clear the derision dished out to his directorial feature film debut, and to his reputation overall, was always superciliously transphobic. *Glen or Glenda* is sincere and tremendously entertaining - not least for its intermittent, gnomonic pronouncements from an addled Bela Lugosi and a nightmare sequence with charming, primitive special effects that would have done Georges Méliès proud.



VICTORIAN PREMIERE

HOUSEKEEPING FOR BEGINNERS

DOMAKINSTVO ZA POCETNICI

2023, NORTH MACEDONIA, SWEDEN, KOSOVO, POLAND, SERBIA, CROATIA, 107 MINS, U15+

Macedonian, Romany and Albanian with English subtitles

DIR: Goran Stolevski

COURTESY: Park Circus, Universal

SESSIONS: Sat 11 Nov at 8:30pm, The Capitol
Screening followed by Q&A with Director Goran Stolevski

Sat 18 Nov at 8:45pm, Cinema Nova



This year's Queer Lion winner at Venice and North Macedonia's Oscar candidate is none other than the third feature from outstanding Melbourne-based filmmaker, Goran Stolevski, director of 2022's *Of an Age* and *You Won't Be Alone*. We're a long way from *Of an Age*'s late-'90s Melbourne suburbia here, though, in this boisterous, cinéma vérité-style dramedy set in a makeshift queer household in Skopje, subject to constant, farcical comings and goings of queer and Romani folk galore.

Anamaria Marinca anchors the film as Dita, a woman who had never sought to be a mother but has to raise her Romani girlfriend's two troublemaking daughters, hopefully with assistance from housemate Toni (Vladimir Tintor), whose young, new Romani boyfriend seems to have taken up residence too. Chaos, amidst a probing of Balkan social mores, ensues.

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VICTORIAN PREMIERE

DRIFTER

2023, GERMANY, 79 MINS, U18+

German and English with English subtitles

DIR:	Hannes Hirsch
COURTESY:	Matchbox Films
SESSIONS:	Sat 11 Nov at 10:30pm, The Capitol Fri 17 Nov at 8:45pm, Village Jam Factory



“THE SEX HERE ISN’T TO SHOCK, OR EVEN TO TITILLATE, BUT TO EXPAND MORITZ’S WORLDVIEW.”

- CHAD ARMSTRONG, THEQUEERREVIEW.COM

Twenty-something Berliner Moritz (Lorenz Hochhuth) wants to settle down and go for bike rides with his boyfriend, but it’s this attempt at emotional connection that precipitates him getting dumped in a city that’s all about letting it all hang loose. And so he surrenders, drifting into the darkest corners of techno-booming clubs where anything goes sexually, and both moral hectoring and the gender binary are hurled through blacked-out windows. With a hint of *Paris 05:59: Théo & Hugo*, writer/director Hannes Hirsch’s sex-positive dance wears its kinks as a badge of honour in this charged portrait of Berlin club life.

Content Advice
See page 5 or the film page on the MQFF website.



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

OUR SON

2023, USA, 104 MINS, U15+

DIR:	Bill Oliver
COURTESY:	The Film Collaborative
SESSIONS:	Sun 19 Nov at 11:30am, The Capitol



Red carpet queen Billy Porter knows how to strike a Pose, and *Dracula Untold* baddie Luke Evans can sink his teeth into any project. Which is why it’s fab to see them bounce off each other *Kramer vs. Kramer*-style as divorcing dads drawn into an acrimonious custody battle, with their eight-year-old son stuck in the middle. Debuting at this year’s Tribeca Film Festival, it went on to pick up Best Director for Bill Oliver at FilmOut San Diego for its deft handling of a difficult situation and the vagaries of middle age.



VICTORIAN PREMIERE

FANCY DANCE

2023, USA, 90 MINS, U15+

DIR:	Erica Tremblay
COURTESY:	Cercamon
SESSIONS:	Mon 13 Nov at 9:00pm, Kino

Screens with short film *Aikāne* (DIR: Daniel Sousa, Dean Hamer, Joe Wilson, USA)



Premiering at Sundance earlier this year, *Fancy Dance*, the feature film directorial debut of Indigenous filmmaker Erica Tremblay, shares a window of insight on being queer and First Nations. *Certain Women* star Lily Gladstone plays Jax, a queer Aunty searching for her missing sister Tawi. Also finding herself as an unlikely guardian to her 13-year-old niece Roki (Isabel Deroy-Olson), Jax has to step up and get her niece to a powwow. By weaving a story about identity, intergenerational and uniquely Indigenous love, keeping the levity and warmth, rather than focusing on the trauma of life as a colonised people, Tremblay communicates a universal understanding of survival. As Lily Gladstone has remarked in an interview, “We’re doing healing work, making these stories.”



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

THE MATTACHINE FAMILY

2023, USA 98 MINS, U15

DIR: Andy Vallentine

COURTESY: Andy Vallentine

SESSIONS: Sun 12 Nov at 7:30pm,
Victorian Pride Centre Rooftop
Wed 15 Nov at 8:45pm, The Capitol



"A SENSITIVE PORTRAIT OF QUEER MILLENNIALS IN THE MESSY THROES OF FAMILY PLANNING."

- LI LAI, MEDIADIVERSITY REVIEWS

If you're hankering for a feel-good fix that packs in a fabulous cast, look no further than this cosy hug of a queer film from writer/director Andy Vallentine. Produced by Zach Braff, it features *Younger* heartthrob Nico Tortorella and *Fuller House* actor Juan Pablo Di Pace as a gay couple, Thomas and Oscar, whose dreams of making a life together unravel when their foster baby is reclaimed by his mother. Unleashing a spiral of complicated feelings, neither man knows exactly what they want anymore. *Schitt's Creek* fave Emily Hampshire, *Hacks* lead Carl Clemons-Hopkins and *Single Parents* actor Jake Choi all show up as part of their logical family.



PASSAGES

2023, FRANCE, GERMANY, 91 MINS, U18+

English and French with English subtitles

DIR: Ira Sachs

COURTESY: SBS Productions

SESSIONS: Mon 13 Nov at 8:45pm, The Capitol
Sat 18 Nov at 1:15pm, Village Jam Factory

Content Advice

See page 5 or the film page on the MQFF website.



"SACHS DELIVERS AN ACHINGLY BEAUTIFUL FILM THAT'S SEXY, SAD AND SO VERY FRENCH."

- STEPHEN A RUSSELL, TIME OUT

Love is Strange director Ira Sachs turns his attention from his native New York to a very French affair set in gay Paree in this Teddy Award-nominated whirlwind of tempestuous relationships. MQFF fave Franz Rogowski (*Great Freedom*) plays Tomas, a wildly unpredictable German filmmaker who ditches his sweet-natured English artist hubby Martin (*Bond* star Ben Whishaw) in favour of new passions with Agathe, a schoolteacher played by *Blue is the Warmest Colour* lead Adèle Exarchopoulos. Emotional mayhem ensues when he then ricochets back and forth between them in a real bad boyfriend take on polyamory that pushes all the right/wrong buttons. Just try stopping yourself from shrieking at the screen when he misbehaves, and yet Tomas remains a fascinatingly mercurial character in a satisfyingly adult film that, for all its mischief, swirls into the sublime.



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IT IS NOT THE HOMOSEXUAL WHO IS PERVERSE, BUT THE SOCIETY IN WHICH HE LIVES

NICHT DER HOMOSEXUELLE IST PERVERS, SONDERN DIE SITUATION, IN DER ER LEBT

1971, WEST GERMANY, 67 MINS, U18+

German with English subtitles

DIR:	Rosa von Praunheim,
COURTESY:	missingFILMS
SESSIONS:	Thu 16 Nov at 8:45pm, Cinema Nova



Prolific activist-filmmaker and controversy-magnet Rosa von Praunheim's epochal docudrama concerns a closeted young provincial man introduced to a series of manifestations of gay subculture in early 70's Berlin. The director, one of the leading figures of what was termed the "New German Cinema" (along with Rainer Werner Fassbinder, Ulrike Ottinger, Wim Wenders, et al), provides commentary throughout in a mordantly hilarious voice-over. Made in the immediate wake of the legalisation of male homosexuality in West Germany, *It Is Not the Homosexual...* has long been deemed instrumental to establishing the German gay liberation movement and many similar globally. Yet, being piercingly critical of assimilationist gays who ape bourgeois heteronormativity, it not only incurred the predictable wrath of some straight viewers, but was found inflammatory by conservative gay audiences too...

Screens with short film *Stonewall Postal Action Network* (DIR: Sarah Elizabeth Drummond, UK)



VICTORIAN PREMIERE
SWALLOWED

2022, USA, 95 MINS, U18+

DIR:	Carter Smith
COURTESY:	Blue Finch Film Releasing
SESSIONS:	Sat 11 Nov at 8:15pm, Cinema Nova Mon 13 Nov at 8:45pm, Village Jam Factory



"A MASTERCLASS ON HOW TO CREATE A VISCERALLY TERRIFYING BODY HORROR."

- ALISHA MUGHAL, FILM DAZE

It's Ben's last night in a small town in Maine before heading to Los Angeles to pursue his porn career, so his best friend Dom arranges a going-away present. The present? A drug run. Dom wishes to send Ben off with cash to keep himself afloat in LA by simply having the two deliver a package across the border. But things take a turn and spill out of control when the package appears to be far more dangerous than they thought. The two friends must fight to survive a night filled with drugs, bugs and chaos. This indie body horror flick is one for the Cronenberg fans and will have you squirming in your seat.

Content Advice
See page 5 or the film page on the MQFF website.



RUNS IN THE FAMILY

2023, SOUTH AFRICA, 107 MINS, U15+

DIR:	Ian Gabriel
COURTESY:	Ian Gabriel
SESSIONS:	Sat 11 Nov at 9:00pm, Village Jam Factory Wed 15 Nov at 6:15pm, The Capitol Session proudly presented by ME Bank



River has a once-in-a-lifetime chance to compete in a drag competition and win the funds to finally pay for top surgery, and nothing is going to get in his way – but his plans are upended when his father, grifter-turned-tailor Varun, gets a call from Monica, his long-lost ex-girlfriend... and the mother River never knew.

Just when you thought the road trip tale had been done to death, this surprising South African film will delight you with the intimacy and freshness of its father-son dynamic. As River and Varun venture across country to rescue Monica from rehab, they break laws, social norms, and sometimes each other's hearts – but the film always returns to the tenderness at its core.

Directed by Ian Gabriel, and written by and starring his own son Gabe Gabriel, this father-son film is not one to miss!



SUNFLOWER

2023, AUSTRALIA, 84 MINS, U15+

DIR:	Gabriel Carrubba
COURTESY:	Pancake Originals
SESSIONS:	Thu 16 Nov at 8:00pm, Kino Screening followed by Q&A with director Gabriel Carruba & producer Zane Borg Sat 18 Nov at 7:30pm, Victorian Pride Centre Rooftop



"PAINTS A BEAUTIFUL PORTRAIT OF A YOUNG MAN EDGING PAST ADVERSITY TOWARDS HOPE."

- STEPHEN A RUSSELL, TIME OUT

Coming out isn't always easy, even in a big city like Melbourne. Writer/director Gabriel Carrubba's semi-autobiographical debut feature explores the challenges at play in a working-class suburb on the outer edges of the train line. *Nowhere Boys* alum Liam Mollica plays 17-year-old Greek-Italian highschooler Leo, crushing on his best mate Boof (an equally impressive Luke J. Morgan) but unable to tell him how he really feels in this delicate coming-of-ager that doesn't shy away from the harsher realities still too often at play. Look out for show-stopping *Of an Age* star Elias Anton playing the bad guy as Boof's abusive older brother and impressive newcomer Daniel Halmarick as Tom, a space cadet of the cutest kind whose kind eyes are trained on the stars, possibly offering the chance of brighter days ahead. One for the *Heartstopper* fans.



VICTORIAN PREMIERE

ALL OF US STRANGERS

2023, UK, USA, 105 MINS, U18+

DIR:	Andrew Haigh
COURTESY:	The Walt Disney Company
SESSIONS:	Sun 12 Nov at 8:30pm, Cinema Nova Sat 18 Nov at 4:00pm, The Capitol



Boasting a stacked-star-studded cast, *All of Us Strangers* tales Adam, a listless screenwriter (Andrew Scott, *Fleabag*'s "hot priest") and Harry (*Aftersun*'s Paul Mescal) seem to be the only tenants of a Ballardian London high-rise. A burgeoning relationship between them lifts Adam's spirits; when not with Harry, he takes to visiting his childhood home where his parents (Claire Foy and Jamie Bell) are there to greet him, surely not a day older than when they died tragically in Adam's youth, in the mid-'80s.

Andrew "*Weekend*" Haigh has returned to queer cinema – and how! – with this sublimely devastating adaptation of Taichi Yamada's Japanese novel, *Strangers*. Premiering at this year's Telluride Film Festival, its fusion of gothic romance and magic realism, and superb performances across the board, immediately garnered huge Oscars buzz. It was also memorably described by IndieWire's David Ehrlich as a "nuclear-grade tearjerker". Bring tissues. Bring a lot of tissues.



WORLD PREMIERE

SINGLE, OUT: SEASON 2

2023, AUSTRALIA, 60 MINS, U15+

DIR:	Lee Galea
COURTESY:	Wildstar Sales
SESSIONS:	Fri 17 Nov at 6:45pm, Cinema Nova Screening followed by Q&A with director Lee Galea



Festival fave director Lee Galea first made a mark on MQFF with his 2002 short *Karmarama* before debuting his award-winning feature *Monster Pies* in 2013. Last year, we were lucky enough to showcase the first season of his episodic show *Single, Out* – starring Will Hutchins as Adam, a young lad diving headlong into the dating world, having just come out to his family and hooked up for the first time. As with all great TV shows, we were left wanting more after a final episode that saw a flourishing Adam pull off a successful art show, ticking another first off the list. Well, the wait's over, because you can binge the first three eps of season two in great company. Expect eye candy, finger-snapping comedy and plenty of emotional drama as we go west once more.



RESTORATION AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

CHOCOLATE BABIES

1996, USA, 83 MINS, U15+

DIR:	Stephen Winter
COURTESY:	Frameline Distribution
SESSIONS:	Sun 12 Nov at 9:30pm, The Capitol

"CHOCOLATE BABIES UNLEASHES A WORLD OF ANARCHIC CAMP AND UNAPOLOGETIC BLACK QUEER POWER IN ONE OF THE HIDDEN GEMS OF NEW QUEER CINEMA."

- FRAMELINE



It's 1996, and in the wake of the AIDS crisis, an unruly gang of "black faggots with a political agenda" take to the streets of New York. A radio blares that this "gang of self-proclaimed raging atheist, meat-eating, HIV-positive, coloured terrorists" ambushed closeted councilman Melvin Freeman, holding him hostage while demanding a free needle exchange and an AIDS hospice. Stephen Winter's long-overlooked film is cinematic activism, furiously exuberant with the unsheathed tongue of Dudley Findlay as the fabulous Larva and Lady Marmalade a "warrior and a queen" in an era where politicians are "deadlier than the virus". A cuckoo of the 90's and how the epidemic left Gen X orphaned and adrift in a society that couldn't care less, this 4K restoration of *Chocolate Babies* is ready to be embraced in a new age of conservatism.

Screens with short film *Doppelgänger* (DIR: Don Bapst, Canada)



VICTORIAN PREMIERE

SATRANIC PANIC

2023, AUSTRALIA, 81 MINS, U15+

DIR:	Alice Maio Mackay
COURTESY:	Alice Maio Mackay
SESSIONS:	Fri 17 Nov at 8:45pm, Cinema Nova Screening followed by Q&A with director Alice Maio Mackay

Content Advice
See page 5 or the film page on the MQFF website.



Fresh off the success of three show-stopping queer horror films in quick succession – the most recent, *T-Blockers*, was released earlier this year, earning Outfest's emerging talent award – young trans auteur Alice Maio Mackay delivers another gory delight.

Satranic Panic blends road trip quest with horror, satanic tropes with the more typical threats posed by transphobia, and demons with drag. It follows trans drag queen Aria and artist Jay, as they set off in search of the secret satanic cabal behind the death of Max – the love of Jay's life, and Aria's found brother.

Mackay is well on her way to cult status in the underground horror scene, and any queer horror buffs familiar with her films will be keen to see this new addition to the thriving queer horror canon. If you're yet to experience her brilliance... what are you waiting for?



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

T-BLOCKERS

2023, AUSTRALIA, 74 MINS, U15+

DIR:	Alice Maio Mackay
COURTESY:	Umbrella Entertainment
SESSIONS:	Sat 11 Nov at 5:45pm, Cinema Nova (CC) Screening followed by Q&A with director Alice Maio Mackay Sat 18 Nov at 9:00pm, Cinema Nova

Content Advice
See page 5 or the film page on the MQFF website.



T-Blockers is Alice Maio Mackay's third feature, made when she was seventeen. As with all her work to date – at the time of printing, she's already at work on a fifth feature and in cahoots with *The People's Joker*'s Vera Drew – it's an avowedly "transgender and queer film", shot with a predominantly queer, non-binary and trans cast and crew.

Its *Invasion of the Body Snatchers*-esque premise could hardly be more relevant in 2023: a parasitic infection turns fearful people into alt-right transphobes, hellbent on committing hate crimes. Throw in a found-footage mystery – said footage features a campy film host (*Drag Race Down Under* alumna Etcetera Etcetera) – and snappy, authentic dialogue between its young leads, trans filmmaker Sophie (Lauren Last) and Spencer (Lewi Dawson), and the future of Australian horror is clear – and it could scarcely be any more queer!



CRUISING

1980, USA, WEST GERMANY, 102 MINS, R18+

DIR:	William Friedkin
COURTESY:	Roadshow
SESSIONS:	Fri 10 Nov at 6:00pm, Kino includes a presentation before the screening by film historian Lee Gambin

"ALL AT ONCE PRESCIENT AND UTTERLY EQUIVOCAL ABOUT ITS CENTRAL CHARACTER AND SUBJECT MATTER... THIS IS EXACTLY WHAT SHOULD BE EXPECTED OF A GIALLO-ESQUE NOIR... IN QUEERING THE CONVENTIONS OF THOSE GENRES, FRIEDKIN ALSO REVITALISES THEM."
- ANTON BITEL, LITTLE WHITE LIES



Arguably Al Pacino's hottest role, his depiction of undercover cop Steve Burns getting his leather on to catch a serial killer stalking gay men in New York's S&M scene would also prove to be one of his most controversial. Loosely adapted by *The Exorcist* writer/director William Friedkin from the Gerald Walker novel of the same name, it was the target of protest by the queer community before it debuted in 1980, with many fearing it would demonise them and kink-positivity. Also coolly received by critics, it has been re-evaluated in recent years as the much more nuanced and boundary-pushing provocation that it is. Come for the true crime kicks, giallo vibes and Pacino rocking the sleekly alluring Tom of Finland style. Stay for the whip-smart social commentary, pushing back against prejudice and police brutality with an open mind.

Content Advice
See page 5 or the film page on the MQFF website.



VICTORIAN PREMIERE

THE PEOPLE'S JOKER

2022, USA, 92 MINS, U15+

DIR:	Vera Drew
COURTESY:	Static Vision
SESSIONS:	Sat 11 Nov at 8:30pm, Cinema Nova



"UNDERNEATH THE SATIRICAL MADNESS LIES A GENUINELY MOVING STORY OF SELF-ACCEPTANCE, SELF-LOVE, AND THE INSPIRING ACT OF AN ARTIST STEPPING INTO HER POWER. ALL JOKES ASIDE, THE PEOPLE DESERVE TO SEE IT."

- JUDE DRY, INDIEWIRE

This is the trans coming of age Joker origin story DC Comics and Warner Brothers don't want you to see. Vera Drew directs, writes and stars in this subversive, hilarious and explicitly queer reimagining of your favourite DC characters. Drew plays an aspiring clown who grapples with her gender identity and fights fascistic foes in this absurd and visually bold film. Featuring comedians Scott Aukerman, Tim Heidecker, Maria Bamford and Bob Odenkirk – this part-parody movie and part-memoir ultimately conveys a moving message of self-love.



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

FIREWORKS

STRANIZZA D'AMURI

2023, ITALY, 134 MINS, U15+

Italian with English subtitles

DIR:	Giuseppe Fiorello
COURTESY:	Matchbox Films
SESSIONS:	Tue 14 Nov at 6:30pm, Cinema Nova Sat 18 Nov at 1:30pm, Village Jam Factory



Prolific Italian screenwriter and actor Giuseppe Fiorello has landed his first directorial role with *Fireworks* (*Stranizza d'amuri*). 1982 in a sun soaked Sicilian coastal town at the beginning of summer. Two young boys form a friendship that, to them, can move mountains. Gianni (Samuele Segreto) and Nino (Gabriele Pizzurro) attempt to navigate their growing love for each other without shame in the conservative town. When they both start working for Nino's father, shooting fireworks, suspicions are afoot and their families step in. Wonderfully shot in cinemascope to soften this partly factual story, that birthed Italy's Arcigay organisation. Fiorello's debut feature earned him a Silver Ribbon (Nastro d'argento) for Best New Director.



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

THE LOST BOYS

LE PARADIS

2023, BELGIUM, FRANCE, 88 MINS, U15+

French with English subtitles

DIR:	Zeno Graton
COURTESY:	Indie Sales
SESSIONS:	Sat 18 Nov at 3:45pm, Village Jam Factory



Inside a Belgian youth correctional facility, seventeen-year-old Joe anxiously waits for the judge's approval of his release. Both excited and apprehensive about his return to society, Joe's thoughts of freedom are quickly derailed by new neighbouring inmate William. The prison's strict no-touch policy and general oppressive conditions become an unexpected site of intense passion and romance for the two detainees. But as Joe's release date approaches, he must decide between love and liberty. Director Zeno Graton's first coming-of-age feature perfectly captures the twists and turns of a young relationship in this sensuous yet sensitive drama.



VICTORIAN PREMIERE

L'IMMENSITÀ

2022, ITALY, FRANCE, 98 MINS, U15+

Italian with English subtitles

DIR:	Emanuele Crialese
COURTESY:	The Festival Agency
SESSIONS:	Sun 12 Nov at 7:00pm, The Capitol Sun 19 Nov at 2:00pm, Kino



"A LOVE LETTER TO THE LONELY."
- LENA WILSON, THE WRAP

Penelope Cruz pulling off spectacular moves while wearing fabulous '70s fashion should be all you need to know to snap up tickets to this technicolour marvel. But newcomer Luana Giuliani is the real star of the show, magnificently depicting young trans teenager Adri, confidently asserting himself in a world that does not fully understand. For all his loving mother's attempts to support him, it's only when Adri meets Sara in a traveller's camp beyond the reeds at the edge of his architecturally impressive suburban home that he truly feels seen in this lilting love song to finding your people. It's also a heartfelt ode to Italian director Emanuele Crialese's personal history, having announced that he is a trans man at last year's Venice Film Festival, where this luminous film was nominated for both the Queer and the Golden Lion.



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

ALL THE SILENCE

TODO EL SILENCIO

2023, MEXICO, 78 MINS, U15+

Spanish with English subtitles

DIR:	Diego del Rio
COURTESY:	Independent Distribution Agency
SESSIONS:	Wed 15 Nov at 6:30pm, Kino Session proudly sponsored by Carer Gateway



People with hearing loss, deafness and those who are hard-of-hearing are a part of our queer community underrepresented on screen. In director Diego del Rio's film, we meet Miriam, who is a CODA (a hearing child of deaf adult(s), here being her mum and aunty). Miriam is an actor and a sign language teacher in a relationship with a deaf girlfriend who doesn't sign, which is fine... until Miriam begins to experience her own hearing deteriorating rapidly.

Renowned stage and opera director del Rio was declared one of the "fifty Mexican leaders who are changing Mexico" in 2016 by the news portal Expansión. His film uniquely considers the variance and nuance of different types of communication abilities, and the experience of hearing loss through a queer lens, while gifting us a rare insight into the challenges the Deaf community faced during the height of the pandemic.



VICTORIAN PREMIERE

SLOW

TU MAN NIEKO NEPRIMENI

2023, LITHUANIA, SPAIN, SWEDEN, 108 MINS, U18+

English and Lithuanian with English subtitles

DIR:	Marija Kavtaradze
COURTESY:	Totem Films
SESSIONS:	Wed 15 Nov at 8:45pm, Kino @C



Maria Kavtaradze's beautifully warm and sensitively directed sophomore feature, gloriously shot on 16mm, breathes new life to a rarely portrayed corner of the library. Dancer Elena (Greta Grinevičiūtė) and sign language interpreter Dovydas (Kęstutis Cicėnas) meet and immediately connect. A natural bond ensues and gradually transforms into a tender relationship. Elena is faced with personal insecurities when Dovydas reveals he is asexual. They must navigate how to build their own kind of intimacy. Winner of a directing award at Sundance this year, Kavtaradze (*Summer Survivors*) is quietly becoming a director to watch.



Help for those who might never ask

Do you look after a friend, family member or partner with age, disability, mental health, chronic health or alcohol and other drug issues? If it's impacting on your wellbeing or putting a strain on your ability to work, study or socialise, contact Carer Gateway.

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AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

GLITTER & DOOM

2023, USA, MEXICO, 116 MINS, U15+

DIR: Tom Gustafson,

COURTESY: Tom Gustafson

SESSIONS: Sun 12 Nov at 3:30pm, Cinema Nova

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When serious musician Doom (Alan Cammish), and the free-spirited aspiring circus clown Glitter (Alex Diaz) meet on the dance floor of a sweaty night club, this summer romance musical is on. Doom aspires to play on the stage at his favourite queer bar; Glitter has recently graduated from an Ivy League but is desperate to get into clown college. Sparkly and whimsical chaos ensues as their romance is tested by the pursuit of their respective dreams. Set to an iconic soundtrack of Indigo Girls hits, some lush filming locations to boot, and a huge queer supporting cast (Lea Delaria, Tig Notaro, Kate Pierson of The B-52s, Drag Race alum Peppermint, and even the Indigo Girls themselves) this is a film that doesn't take itself too seriously, and is a heck of a lot of fun.



ALL THE COLOURS OF THE WORLD ARE BETWEEN BLACK AND WHITE

2023, NIGERIA, 93 MINS, U18+

English, Igbo and Nigerian with English subtitles

DIR: Babatunde Apalowo

COURTESY: Coccinelle Film Sales

SESSIONS: Wed 15 Nov at 9:00pm, Cinema Nova
Fri 17 Nov at 9:00pm, Village Jam Factory

BT BRING TISSUES D R A M A

ROMANCE

“[A] HAUNTINGLY BEAUTIFUL AND DEEPLY MEANINGFUL ELEGY TO THE QUEER COMMUNITY.”
- MATTHEW JOSEPH JENNER.
INTERNATIONAL CINEPHILE SOCIETY

Amidst the hustle and bustle of vast Nigerian city Lagos, motorbike-riding courier Bambino finds himself increasingly drawn into the gentle orbit of handsome photographer Bawa. But in a country where homosexuality is punishable by death, the first blushes of what may well be a budding romance must, by necessity, be closely guarded within a veil of halting secrecy. A flicker of hands resting too close on a restaurant table, a stolen glance. Filmmaker Babatunde Apalowo shockingly witnessed a close friend lynched for living his truth, and that terrible shadow informs this beautifully lensed, achingly delicate dance which won the Teddy Award for Best Feature at this year's Berlinale.

Content Advice
See page 5 or the film page on the MQFF website.



WORLD PREMIERE

IN THE MEANTIME

2023, AUSTRALIA, 94 MINS, U15+

DIR: Nicholas Anthony

COURTESY: Nicholas Anthony

SESSIONS: Tues 14 Nov at 8:45pm, Cinema Nova
Screening followed by Q&A with director Nicholas Anthony

Screens with short film *How To Dress Like Me* (DIR: Juanita Ebbs, Aaron Alvarez, Australia) and *Visibly Queer* (DIR: Ruby Edwards, Australia).

BT BRING TISSUES D R A M A

HA COMEDY



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

BIRDER

2023, USA, 90 MINS, U18+

DIR: Nate Dushku

COURTESY: Nate Dushku

SESSIONS: Sat 11 Nov at 6:00pm, Cinema Nova
Fri 17 Nov at 6:30pm, Village Jam Factory CC

“CONSENT HAS NEVER BEEN MORE DEADLY.”
- THE AV CLUB

AH! HORROR

Kristian Brooks is a drifter of a different kind, a 'birder' from Vermont who ingratiates himself with fellow campers at a queer nudist camp called Lotus Lake in New Hampshire - a sex positive retreat in the woods. It's a verdant escapist fantasy where psychologists, wellness coaches, body workers, thriples, bisexual couples and drag artists can feel free to free range, sexually. With couple couplings, fetish and campfire hookups and a spot of fishing thrown in the mix, love amongst the trees turns dark and pretty twisted when Kristian the birdwatcher is around. In this erotic thriller serial killing satire on consensual politics, it's not the bears in the woods you need to worry about. Director Nate Dushku's previous film work includes *Maplethorpe* as producer, and for horror fans he is the sibling of *Scream Queen* Eliza Dushku.



EAST PALACE, WEST PALACE

1996, CHINA, 94 MINS, M

Chinese with English subtitles

DIR: Zhang Yuan

COURTESY: Wildstar Sales

SESSIONS: Sun 12 Nov at 1:15pm, Cinema Nova

"ZHANG MINGLES POWERFUL DRAMA
AND COURAGEOUS POLITICS."

- LAWRENCE VAN GELDER, THE NEW YORK TIMES



Cheekily borrowing its English-language title from two public toilets in Beijing that sit on either side of the Forbidden City and are infamous beats, this daring, erotically charged and emotionally nuanced film from director Zhang Yuan was the first from mainland China to address homosexuality explicitly. Indeed, the director's cut was smuggled out of town and on to France for post-production lest it raise hackles at home. Adapted from the short story by Xiaobo Wang, it features Si Han as a young man so enamoured with a cop (Jun Hu) who busts him after dark one night that he basically engineers getting arrested. What follows is an almost noir-like, at times sadomasochistic, interrogation during which the power balance is in constant flux. Just who is the cat here and who is the mouse?



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

THE JUDGMENT

2023, EGYPT, LEBANON, US, 111 MINS, U15+

DIR: Marwan Mokbel

COURTESY: The Film Collaborative

SESSIONS: Fri 17 Nov at 6:15pm, Village Jam Factory



In writer/director Marwan Mokbel's second feature, a gay Egyptian couple return from America for a family emergency. In this unstable environment, their relationship, unbeknownst to their families, threatens to unravel under anxiety, unease, and suspicion. Is someone using witchcraft to send them back? Convinced that a family member knows about their more-than-just-friends relationship, self-proclaimed atheist Mo (Junes Zahdi), is thrust into a spiral of terror and shame born out of the superstitions prevalent throughout his formerly held religion and culture. A domestic thriller, with universal terrors that feel vital to be portrayed on screen at present.

Content Advice

See page 5 or the film page on the MQFF website.

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QUEER FILM TRIVIA

SUNDAY 12 NOVEMBER, 6:00PM – 7:30PM
VICTORIAN PRIDE CENTRE, ST KILDA

Are you a cinephile overflowing with queer film and TV knowledge? This is the event for you. Grab a group of your favourite mates for MQFF's Film Trivia – hosted by Melbourne drag icon, Frodo Hudson, as internationally infamous queen and John Waters cinematic superstar, Divine. With fabulous prizes you don't want to miss out. Followed by The Mattachine Family at the Rooftop Cinema.

Limited capacity. [Registration Required*](#).

IT'S A GIRL THING

SATURDAY 18 NOVEMBER, 6:30PM TILL LATE

It's A Girl Thing is a celebration of all queer women. A night of fascinating film in Melbourne CBD across The Capitol Theatre and The Kino. Join us in The Capitol lounge for a few cheeky surprises throughout the night. Enjoy a fabulous evening of women on film, including Australian outback documentary, *Isla's Way*, and hysterical new comedy, *Cora Bora* and more!

SPEED DATING

SATURDAY 11 NOVEMBER, 6:00PM
VICTORIAN PRIDE CENTRE, ST KILDA

MQFF speed dating returns to help introduce you to that special someone or just as important, your new BFF (best-film-friend). Dust off your Friday night fanciest, get your small talk on, and be ready to date! Speed dating is an all LGBTQIA+ inclusive event. Followed by Laugh-Out-Proud Shorts screening at the Rooftop Cinema.

"A SUCCESS RATE GREATER THAN TINDER"
PAST MQFF SPEED DATING PUNTER

Limited capacity. [Registration Required*](#).

HOMAGE TO DRAG

FRIDAY 17 NOVEMBER, 6:00PM
VICTORIAN PRIDE CENTRE, ST KILDA

In conjunction with our screening of *Who's Queen? Shorts*, MQFF takes over the Victorian Pride Centre Rooftop for an afternoon of all things drag. Dressing in drag isn't just encouraged, it's practically mandatory! With live performances, a rooftop bar and an old fashioned BBQ, Homage to Drag is our celebration of Melbourne's fabulous queens and kings.

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Throughout the festival will host a range of guest speakers, panel discussions, and other public programs. To view the full list please see the Public Programs page on the MQFF website.



INDUSTRY DAY

SATURDAY 11 NOVEMBER, 1:00PM - 5:00PM



THIS YEAR MELBOURNE QUEER FILM FESTIVAL, IN COLLABORATION WITH QUEER FILMMAKERS TIMOTHY DESPINA MARSHALL AND STEPH PARSONS, IS EXCITED TO PRESENT AN INDUSTRY DAY OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!

We'll have a Q&A panel discussing queer storytelling today and offering invaluable career advice for queer screen creatives. Our line-up includes showrunner, screenwriter and director **Tony Ayres**, trans horror filmmaker **Alice Maio Mackay**, Production Executive, First Peoples at VicScreen and writer/producer **Davey Thompson**, and Mardi Gras Film Festival Director **Lisa Rose**.

The Q&A will be followed by networking drinks open to all LGBTQIA+ screen creatives/professionals and their allies. We're excited to provide a space for queer creatives to mix and mingle, and maybe even form collaborations for the future!

*To register your interest, visit:
mqff.com.au/industryday



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MELBOURNE PREMIERE

EQUAL THE CONTEST

2023, AUSTRALIA, 77 MINS, U15+

DIR:	Mitch Nivalis
COURTESY:	Mitch Nivalis
SESSIONS:	Sun 19 Nov at 2:00pm, The Capitol Intro from director Mitch Nivalis



At a time when sports governing bodies, from grassroots to elite level, have been falling over themselves to deny access to participation to trans and gender-diverse people, here's non-binary filmmaker Mitch Nivalis sounding a countermanding clarion call, per their film's logline: "When the rules exclude you, rewrite them."

Equal the Contest follows Nivalis' experience learning to play AFL with the Mount Alexander Falcons, an Australian rules football club in Castlemaine created in 2021 by and for women and gender-diverse people, and their quest to be allowed to play in the Central Victoria Football League. In this gentle and personal agitprop film arguing for the universal right to participate in sport, Nivalis attaches cameras to their body in a filmmaking masterstroke, the better that we feel, as viewers, that we're participating too.



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

1946: THE MISTRANSLATION THAT SHIFTED CULTURE

2022, USA, 92 MINS, U15+

DIR:	Sharon "Rocky" Roggio
COURTESY:	The Film Collaborative
SESSIONS:	Fri 17 Nov at 6:30pm, Kino Screening followed by Q&A with director Sharon "Rocky" Roggio and producer Jena Serbu



What happens when conservative academics mistranslate a text? Utilising never-before-seen footage from Yale University, this challenging and investigative unveiling examines a single word - "Homosexual" - and asks if it actually even appears in the Bible or is it an unfortunate mistranslation, which has been leapt upon by conservative movements worldwide? Tackling ideology head-on and reaching across the aisle, it unravels a potentially massive mistake that has fuelled and fired Biblical Literalism for decades, flirting with the question - is the Bible prejudiced against LGBTQIA+ communities, or has it just been mistranslated?



SMOKE SAUNA SISTERHOOD

SAVVUSANNA SÕSARAD

2023, ESTONIA, 89 MINS, M

Estonian with English subtitles

DIR:	Anna Hints
COURTESY:	Madman Entertainment
SESSIONS:	Wed 15 Nov at 8:45pm, Cinema Nova

"ANNA HINTS' RESTORATIVE, EARTHY YET ETHEREAL FEATURE-LENGTH DOC DEBUT FINDS THE FEMININE SUBLIME IN A TRADITIONAL ESTONIAN SAUNA."
- JESSICA KIANG, VARIETY



This filmic tableau of truth, trauma, and trust is queer in more ways than one. Its events occur almost entirely within the walls of an isolated Estonian smoke sauna which is exclusively occupied by a close community of Võro women - diverse in body, identity, and experience. *Smoke Sauna Sisterhood* explores the bonds between these women through the physical rituals and raw, powerful storytelling they tenderly share with one another - and with us.

This quietly radical documentary is nothing short of spellbinding in its style and subject matter, earning director Anna Hints the well-deserved World Cinema Documentary Directing Award at Sundance. Don't miss the chance to experience the gorgeous intimacy that plays across its smoke-filled screen.

Content Advice

See page 5 or the film page on the MQFF website.



VICTORIAN PREMIERE

ISLA'S WAY

2023, AUSTRALIA, 84 MINS, U15+

DIR:	Marion Pilowsky
COURTESY:	Marion Pilowsky
SESSIONS:	Wed 15 Nov at 7:30pm, Victorian Pride Centre Rooftop Screening followed by Q&A with director Marion Pilowsky and producer Georgia Humphreys Sat 18 Nov at 6:30pm, Kino Screens with short film <i>The Love of My Life</i> (DIR: Francesca Rizzoli, Trevor John Graham, Australia)



"AN ANTIDOTE TO THE INVISIBILITY TO OLDER WOMEN."

- ANNETTE BASILE, FILMINK

Isla is a feisty, stubborn and resilient octogenarian who lives with Susan, who is a lesbian. But Isla won't be pigeonholed, instead calling herself "a widow", having been married previously to a man with whom she raised four children on her farm in country South Australia. Refusing to relinquish her passion for horse driving carriages, Isla remains active in her community no matter her age, even as the naysayers insist her time to slow down has come. A quirky new Aussie documentary feature screening fresh from its world premiere at this year's Adelaide Film Festival, Isla's Way observes an indomitable woman, community elder and miniature horse lover.



VICTORIAN IN-CINEMA PREMIERE

HOW TO TELL A SECRET

2022, IRELAND, 99 MINS, U15+

DIR: Shaun Dunne, Anna Rodgers

COURTESY: Invisible Thread

SESSIONS: Sun 12 Nov at 1:30pm, The Capitol
Session proudly sponsored by
Thorne Harbour Health



How to Tell a Secret is a ground-breaking documentary exploring stigma, silence and the struggles of coming out as HIV positive in contemporary Ireland. Although protease inhibitors revolutionised treatment since 1997, many (far too many) young men continue to endure ignorance perpetuated by a conservative Irish society. A true hybrid of documentary fusing theatre and film, it weaves real-life narratives with a powerful call to action for the compelling (U=U) campaign: "Undetectable = Untransmittable," HIV transmission can be halted.

Examining trauma, ignorance and the pain of coming out as HIV positive with tenderness, it spearheads a cultural shift, serving as a powerful catalyst for change. In turn challenging global health architecture and confronting inherent racism, the film's a testament to the transformative power of sharing secrets and the resilience of those who refuse to be silenced.



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

COMMITMENT TO LIFE

2023, USA, 115 MINS, U15+

DIR: Jeffrey Schwarz

COURTESY: The Film Collaborative

SESSIONS: Sun 12 Nov at 4:30pm, The Capitol
Fri 17 Nov at 9:00pm, Kino



Los Angeles in the 1980's. The world is about to change as a young doctor discovers the first warning sign of the HIV/AIDS epidemic. While the virus and history unfolded as we know it, *Commitment to Life* examines Hollywood's fight for LGBTQIA+ justice. The invaluable activist work of some of Tinseltown's biggest stars - including Elizabeth Taylor, Rock Hudson and David Geffen - is brought into the spotlight using archival footage and first-person interviews. From individual determination to the collective might of ACT UP and The AIDS Project Los Angeles, this documentary tribute looks at a city that helped support, advocate for, and strengthen a community.



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AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

CROSS DREAMERS

2022, ARGENTINA, 115 MINS, U15+

Spanish with English subtitles

DIR:	Soledad Velasco,
COURTESY:	Wildstar Sales
SESSIONS:	Fri 17 Nov at 9:00pm, Cinema Nova



Nominated for Best Latin American Film at this year's San Sebastián International Film Festival, Argentinian director Soledad Velasco presents a delicate exploration of Ornella, Mabel, Mirna and Paula's journey towards acceptance of their emerging identity. All four concealed their experimentation with cross-dressing from their families for decades until finding their people in the corners of the internet. Connecting individuals to communities they never even knew existed and flourishing there. Now 50-plus, they share their story with pride in this beautiful exploration of gender, acceptance and solidarity.



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

KOKOMO CITY

2022, USA, 73 MINS, U18+

DIR:	D. Smith
COURTESY:	Magnolia International
SESSIONS:	Sat 11 Nov at 1:15pm, Cinema Nova Tue 14 Nov at 6:30pm, Kino



This raw and edgy debut film, screened in official selection at Sundance and Berlinale 2023, explores the dialect between four black and transgender sex workers in Atlanta and New York City. Daring to strip away pageantries and constraints of transgender representation, Smith hands over the mic and lets the women do the rest. Sharing their truths through first-hand experience, these indomitable women relay their untampered stories, demonstrating the vital importance of self-representation. From friendship and freedom to violence and vitriol, they unveil the everchanging mosaic of what it means to be a black transgender woman.

Content Advice

See page 5 or the film page on the MQFF website.



WORLD PREMIERE

SHAPE

2023, AUSTRALIA, 90 MINS, U15+

DIR:	Roger Ungers
COURTESY:	Abacus Media Rights
SESSIONS:	Mon 13 Nov at 6:15pm, Village Jam Factory Screening followed by Q&A with director Roger Ungers and producer Shaun Miller



"The gay community celebrates equality? That is the biggest load of bullshit." Roger Ungers' insightful documentary explodes the harmful, high-on impossible body image standards gay men are bombarded with in glossy magazines, on social media and hook-up apps. Eviscerating a hierarchy favouring white over people of colour, perfectly sculpted abs over more common figures and looking down on those who embrace femme identities or are older, it also speaks to one gymgoer who looks the part but battles body dysmorphia doubts. Shape asks if there's a way the gay community can become more truly inclusive.



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

THERE'S A STAR

Y'A UNE ÉTOILE

2023, CANADA, 92 MINS, U15+

French with English subtitles

DIR: Julien Cadieux

COURTESY: Julien Cadieux

SESSIONS: Sat 11 Nov at 6:15pm, Village Jam Factory

Samuel LeBlanc, a young transgender musician, undertook an artistic approach to find a queer community in his native Acadia, nestled in the far northeastern corner of North America. During his wanderings, he discovers, behind the heteronormative rural landscapes, people determined to live their differences without having to leave their hometown or deny their cultural identity to get there. Documentary filmmaker Julien Cadieux shares these stories of beauty and community acceptance in this musical documentary that glistens with pride and delivers insight into a landscape uncharted, with universal threads.

Screens with short film *Into the Next Tide*
(DIR: Yaya Xi-lin Wang, UK)

"Y'A UNE ÉTOILE IS ENDLESSLY CHARMING."
- COURTNEY SMALL, POINT OF VIEW MAGAZINE



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ORLANDO, MY POLITICAL BIOGRAPHY

ORLANDO, MA BIOGRAPHIE POLITIQUE

2023, FRANCE, 98 MINS, U15+

French with English subtitles

DIR: Paul B. Preciado

COURTESY: The Party Film Sales

SESSIONS: Sat 11 Nov at 1:00pm, Cinema Nova
Tue 14 Nov at 9:00pm, Cinema Nova

"A JOYOUS CELEBRATION OF LIFE AND ART."

- BRIAN TALLERICO, ROGEREBERT.COM

Dedicated to her lover and fellow writer Vita Sackville-West, Virginia Woolf's exhilarating novel *Orlando: A Biography*, published in 1928, depicts with satirical wit the life of an English aristocrat who falls into a deep, fairy-tale-like slumber for days only to awaken as a woman who goes on to live for hundreds of years. This remarkable transition (depicted by Tilda Swinton in Sally Potter's film adaptation) inspires filmmaker Paul B. Preciado's gender euphoric, Teddy Award-winning cinematic essay. Preciado springboards off of Woolf's unbridled imagination, feminist fire and rigorous writing process to gift us with an immensely generous love letter to not only their own transition, but also that of many fabulous Orlandos who inhabit Woolf's creative spirit through their own stories with gleeful joie de vivre.



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AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

CHASING CHASING AMY

2023, USA, 95 MINS, U15+

DIR:	Sav Rodgers
COURTESY:	The Film Collaborative
SESSIONS:	Sun 12 Nov at 8:45pm, Village Jam Factory Wed 15 Nov at 6:30pm, Cinema Nova



Kevin Smith’s hugely successful 1997 rom-com *Chasing Amy* saved trans filmmaker Sav Rodgers’ life, he says, notwithstanding that, by his own reckoning, it “holds a complicated and controversial history in [the] queer film canon.” In the wonderful *Chasing Chasing Amy*, Rogers documents his coming-of-age and gender transition offset against his evolving relationship with Smith’s film, whose influence had been so profound that it had been the stuff of daily viewing as a tween and, in 2018, a TED Talk. Leaning into nuanced discussions around the complexity of sexual identity and fluidity in *Chasing Amy*, Rogers speaks to Smith and Joey Lauren Adams (Amy herself), queer icon Guinevere Turner and others, de-romanticising and yet enriching his relationship to the film and its makers – and potentially ours, too.



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

NARROW PATH TO HAPPINESS

KESKENY ÚT A BOLDOGSÁG FELÉ

2023, HUNGARY, 83 MINS, U15+

Hungarian with English subtitles

DIR:	Kate Olah
COURTESY:	13th Gen
SESSIONS:	Wed 15 Nov at 6:45pm, Cinema Nova



“A FILM THAT IS SMALL IN SCOPE BUT HAS A HEARTFELT INTIMACY.”

- AMBER WILKINSON. SCREEN INTERNATIONAL

Prepare to fall head over heels for Gergo and Lénárd, an adorable young couple who are proud to fly the pride flag even though it makes life difficult for them in their Romani community, a subculture that already positions them as outsiders in Hungary, a country with an antagonistically anti-LGBTIQ+ government. No barrier will ground their sky-high dreams of creating a smash hit musical based on their big-hearted romance. Packing up their lives, leaving their village behind and heading for the bright lights of Budapest, they promptly locate a student filmmaker to be their dramaturg, with Gergo promising, “Funky music, lots of dancing with a pinch of racism.” Delivering all that and more, director Kata Oláh’s abundantly generous documentation of their journey is a joyous ode to believing in yourself and your loved ones.



IT’S ONLY LIFE AFTER ALL

2023, USA, 123 MINS, U15+

DIR:	Alexandria Bombach
COURTESY:	Multitude Films
SESSIONS:	Sun 12 Nov at 5:45pm, Cinema Nova



Lifelong friends and fire-in-their-belly activists Amy Ray and Emily Saliers – AKA The Indigo Girls – never expected to become the international folk rockstars they are. Legit pioneers in terms of being so loudly out and proud early on in their careers, while their hopeful lyrics became a beacon for scores of LGBTQAI+ people when there weren’t many heroes to go around, you bet your bottom dollar they got the cold shoulder from many so-called luminaries of the industry along the way. Laying it all bare, warts and all, in *On Her Shoulders* director Alexandria Bombach’s detailed documentary – stacked with incredible archival footage and photography, you’ll get a true sense of how much this wild trip has meant to them both. And if you find yourself shimmying in your seat, it’s only the good life after all.



AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

SUMMER QAMP

2023, CANADA, 80 MINS, UNCLASSIFIED (ALL AGES)

DIR:	Jennifer Markowitz
COURTESY:	The Film Collaborative
SESSIONS:	Sat 11 Nov at 1:30pm, Kino Rainbow Families Screening Sat 18 Nov at 1:30pm, Cinema Nova Special screening in partnership with Minus18 for LGBTQIA+ youth: ages 12-19 Tickets: minus18-summerqamp.eventbrite.com.au Sun 19 Nov at 7:30pm, Victorian Pride Centre Rooftop

A queer summer camp for kids would be the easy way to describe Canadian filmmaker Jen Markowitz’s latest feature documentary, but it’s so much more than this. Using mostly fly-on-the-wall cinematography *Summer Qamp* provides a sincere lens into the lives, hardships, successes, highs and lows of a group of queer campers, many of whom are trans, non-binary or just trying to figure themselves out. Seeing a new generation of kids grapple with and talk about pronouns, coming out, having crushes, the complexity of transitioning, gender expression, clothing and more amidst the backdrop of a summer camp setting shouldn’t feel like such a revelation, but it is. It’s the summer camp queer-kid dreams are made of, and seeing young queer joy on screen still feels truly radical in 2023.

Screens with short film *SHAN SHAN* (DIR: Shen Gao, UK) and *A Spot for Frog* (DIR: Evan Bode, USA)





AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

PREJUDICE & PRIDE: SWEDISH FILM QUEER

FÖRDOM OCH STOLTHET - EN QUEER
FILMHISTORIA

2022, SWEDEN, 100 MINS, U15+

Swedish with English subtitles

DIR: Eva Elisabeth Beling

COURTESY: Eva Elisabeth Beling

SESSIONS: Sat 11 Nov at 4:15pm, Kino



Step into the world of *Fördom och Stolthet* - an queer filmhistoria and be whisked away by a documentary that delights in a dazzling array of queer Swedish cinema - from the enchanting 1916 portrayal of the world's inaugural gay romance by Mauritz Stiller, to the exhilarating and captivating Scandinavian transgender movies from Sweden's avant-garde. *Prejudice & Pride* unveils the hidden truths of Ingmar Bergman in the glorious 70's, where camp and sensuality intertwine. It's a true kaleidoscope of queer lives, replete with drag kings and queens who ignite the screen, reminiscent of the timeless allure of Greta Garbo. This vibrant doco embraces the triumphs, trials and tribulations of a century-long quest for queer liberation through Scandinavia's new wave transgender films.



WHO I AM NOT

2023, SOUTH AFRICA, 103 MINS, U15+

DIR: Tunde Skovran

COURTESY: CAT&Docs

SESSIONS: Mon 13 Nov at 6:30pm, Kino



Content Advice

See page 5 or the film page on the MQFF website.

Romanian actor Tunde Skovran makes her directorial debut with an intimate documentary portrait of two intersex South Africans - honing in on the challenges they face, in negotiating a world in which the roughly 2% of the population they represent are viewed routinely as anomalies and, often, problems to be fixed, for their innate transgressions against binary societal constructs of sex and gender.

Executive produced by Patricia Arquette, this deeply affecting, taboo-dismantling and celebratory film profiles two people accustomed to the public eye, Miss South Africa finalist Sharon-Rose Khumalo and intersex rights activist Dimakatso Sebidi representing over four years of their collaboration with the director, whose aim, superbly accomplished, was to "Shine a light on the 'I' in LGBTQIA+, reminding everyone that intersex isn't just a concept but a beautiful biological reality."



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LESBIANS AT LARGE

106 mins, U18+

SESSIONS: Sun 12 Nov at 8:15pm, Cinema Nova

Content Advice

See page 5 or the film page on the MQFF website.



Lesbians go large with this small but perfectly formed collection.

FEATURING:

Héroïnes (DIR: River, France)

Oranges in the Winter Sun
(DIR: Anureet Watta, India)

Roses (DIR: Coral Knights, UK)

Seagulls Cut Through the Sky (DIR: Mariana Bartolo,
Guillermo Garcia López, Portugal, France)

When There Were Trees (DIR: Shahin Gorgani, Iran)



OUT-THERE

110 mins, U18+

SESSIONS: Mon 13 Nov at 9:00pm,
Village Jam Factory

Content Advice

See page 5 or the film page on the MQFF website.



Delve into a world of boundary-pushing shorts that'll make you think.

FEATURING:

Drag You (DIR: Nadia Koro, Hadrien Daigneault-Roy,
Sascha Cowan, Canada)

I Seek Your Help to Bury a Man
(DIR: Anderson Bardot, Brazil)

Monochrome (DIR: Dan Nieders, Switzerland)

Survivor Manifesto - The Art of Making Kin
(DIR: Dan Dansen, Germany)

The Cave of Dr Cayla (DIR: Sofia Chapman, Australia)

The Ephemeral (DIR: Jorge Muriel, Spain)

The Year Long Boulder (DIR: Brielle LeBlanc, Canada)



REAL LIFE

102 mins, U18+

SESSIONS: Sun 12 Nov at 3.45pm, Cinema Nova

Content Advice

See page 5 or the film page on the MQFF website.



These short docos shine a light on real-life queer stories.

FEATURING:

Digging Deeper: Ben McKeown
(DIR: Mark Street, Australia)

House of Tulip (DIR: Cydney Tucker, USA)

Rebel Queers: Ukraine's Queer Resistance
(DIR: Angelika Ustymenko, Alex King, Ukraine)

The Pride Liar (DIR: Andres Lübbert, Belgium)

Unnamed (DIR: Iranmehr Salimi, Iran)



GAYS WILL BE GAYS

115 mins, U18+

SESSIONS: Sat 11 Nov at 8:45pm, Village Jam Factory
Thu 16 Nov at 8.00pm, The Capitol

Content Advice

See page 5 or the film page on the MQFF website.



This collection highlights some of the finest big gay shorts around.

FEATURING:

A Place to Dive (DIR: Jonatan Villar, Colombia)

Come Clean (DIR: Sal Bardo, USA)

Dublin is Kinky (DIR: Greg Smyth Bernes, Ireland)

FBOY (DIR: Liz Uys, USA)

Shoes Off (DIR: Everton Melo, USA)

Toe Tag (DIR: Richard Finn Gregory, USA)

Their Universe (DIR: Han Jeong-Gil, South Korea)

Wet Hair (DIR: Julian Dieterich, Germany)



LAUGH-OUT-PROUD

122 mins, U18+

SESSIONS: Sat 11 Nov at 7:30pm, Victorian Pride Centre Rooftop

Fri 17 Nov at 6:45pm, The Capitol
Session proudly sponsored by Herbert Smith Freehills

Content Advice

See page 5 or the film page on the MQFF website.



Need a little LOL in your life? We've got you sorted with these laugh-out-loud shorts.

FEATURING:

A Bed for Three or The Extraordinary and Surprising Complexity of Bedroom Furniture
(DIR: Jan-Peter Horstmann, Germany)

Bear (DIR: Jimi Vall Peterson, Sweden)

Life in Canada (DIR: Frédéric Rosset, France)

Queerfully Departed (DIR: Trent Nakamura, USA)

Say No to Craft (DIR: David Lawrence, Australia)

Triple Oh! (DIR: Poppy Stockell, Australia)



FRIGHTFULLY QUEER

118 mins, U18+

SESSIONS: Mon 13 Nov at 6:30pm, Village Jam Factory

Content Advice

See page 5 or the film page on the MQFF website.



Get ready to watch through your fingers with these nightmarish shorts.

FEATURING:

IMOAN (DIR: Catherine Kelleher, Australia)

Requiem (DIR: Emma Gilbertson, UK)

Sweet Water (DIR: Antonio Miano, Brazil)

We are Animals (DIR: Thijs Bouman, Netherlands)



L-WORD

107 mins, U18+

SESSIONS: Sun 12 Nov at 6:30pm, Village Jam Factory
Sat 18 Nov at 9:00pm, Kino

SHORTS

This shorts collection goes out to all the women-identifying and loving fans.

FEATURING:

Cups (DIR: Andrew Gillingham, Canada)
Dead Lesbians (DIR: Eva Justine Torkkola, Australia)
Empress ClawScream (DIR: Stephen T Lally, UK)
Good Times and That's Okay (DIR: Amanda Kaye, Australia)
Périphérie (DIR: Thibault Bru, France)
Sifter (DIR: Shalini Bathina, USA)
The Tree (DIR: Ida Hansen Eldøen, Norway)



WHO'S QUEEN?

111 mins, U18+

SESSIONS: Sat 11 Nov at 6:30pm, Village Jam Factory
Fri 17 Nov at 7:30pm, Victorian Pride Centre Rooftop

Content Advice

See page 5 or the film page on the MQFF website.

SHORTS

MQFF stands with our drag queen superstars in celebrating their art through these fabulous short films.

FEATURING:

Anarriê (DIR: Neto Astério, Brazil)
Fanny Scat Investigate (DIR: Tony Radevski, Australia)
For Queen and Country (DIR: Alejandro Alberola, UK)
Get Free (DIR: Ray de Mesa, USA)
Making Up (Ryan Paige, UK)



BEYOND THE BINARY

113 mins, U18+

SESSIONS: Sat 11 Nov at 3:45pm, Cinema Nova

Content Advice

See page 5 or the film page on the MQFF website.

SHORTS

Embrace a brighter world with these celebratory trans and gender-diverse shorts.

FEATURING:

"I Identify as Me" (DIR: Tina Colleen, Monick Monell, USA)
Aban (DIR: Abbas Taheri, Mahdie Toosi, Iran)
DIP (DIR: Luciano Perochena, Peru)
Dusk (DIR: Jake Graf, UK)
Femme Rage (DIR: Sarah Tabora, Aima Paule, USA)
Patricia in the Dark (DIR: Laura Hartley, UK)
Sage (DIR: Skylar Piela, USA)
Seahorse Parents (DIR: Miriam Guttmann, Netherlands)
That Dark Day (DIR: Daniel Guarda, Brazil)



YOUNG & QUEER

108 mins, U18+

SESSIONS: Sun 12 Nov at 1.00pm, Cinema Nova

Content Advice

See page 5 or the film page on the MQFF website.

SHORTS

From kids to teens, we salute our LGBTQIA+ youth with these hopeful shorts.

FEATURING:

Adjustment (DIR: Mehdiad Hasani, Iran)
Before You Go (DIR: Vicente del Rio, Hans von Marées, Chile)
CCTV (DIR: Samira Karimi, Iran)
Chickenshit (DIR: Ellie Rogers, UK)
Even the Dinosaurs Were Young (DIR: Ivy Crago, Meg Taranto, Australia)
The Fur Closet (DIR: Rachel Giles, Australia)
The Left Hand (DIR: Maxime Robin, Canada)
Tuĩ Ná (DIR: William Duan, Australia)
When the Beat Drops (DIR: Amy Janna, Netherlands)



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ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD OF THE MELBOURNE QUEER FILM FESTIVAL, IT IS WITH IMMENSE GRATITUDE, EXCITEMENT AND PRIDE THAT WE WELCOME YOU TO MQFF 2023.

This year, more than ever, we are thrilled to celebrate the power of queer cinema and the incredible community that has made MQFF a cherished part of Melbourne's cultural fabric.

This festival would not be possible without the names that you will find on this page, and we encourage you to extend your thanks to those that you know or recognise. Like our incredible volunteers, which includes our board, who are the backbone of this festival and give their time, energy and expertise.

We want to extend our thanks to our staff, led by David Martin Harris, who go above and beyond because they believe in the impact that LGBTQIA+ stories have on our community. To our much-loved Sweethearts and sponsors - your belief in our mission allows us to share stories that matter, inspire and empower.

And of course, our Life Members and our valued MQFF members, who help us create a community who you want to spend 10 days in a cinema with.

In the spirit of this year's theme, Rewind to Fast Forward, we also want to extend our heartfelt gratitude to all of the people who have given their time to MQFF in our 33 years. It is your work and dedication that have made this festival what it is today.

Thank you for being a part of the MQFF family - we look forward to sharing popcorn, a few wines, laughs and probably a few tears at this year's Festival.

With love and pride

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

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