

Bendigo Queer Film Festival 2009

Bendigo
Queer
Film
Festival

APRIL 3, 4, 5, 2009



in association with the
Melbourne Queer Film Festival



and with **Womens Health Loddon Mallee**
Responding to Women's Needs

making a difference... together...

www.bendigoqueerfilmfestival.com.au

Welcome to the Emerald City for our 6th Bendigo Queer Film Festival.

This year the colour green is the signature of the festival, the last of the colours of the rainbow flag. Green is life. It is abundant in nature, signifies growth, renewal, health and the environment. It is fitting that this is the choice for this year given our current climate. Our rural communities have been hit hard by the drought, fires and ensuing economic turmoil. For us green is a colour of hope: for a better life, good health, greener pastures, prosperity, a cleaner planet, sustainability, and equality for all.

This year is abundant with changes. We're excited to be able to welcome you to our new home, La Trobe University Visual Arts Centre. We trust you'll be comfortable in this modern venue. We also have a new logo proudly on display at the festival. I'm confident the praises of the festival will be on everyone's lips by its conclusion.

Again we are proud to present a program of high quality films with the curatorial assistance of the Melbourne Queer Film Festival. We acknowledge the input of MQFF to continually obtain world class films for our audience.

Queer Country is an outstanding selection of visual art displayed in Gallery B, another change for the festival this year. A viewing of the exhibition undoubtedly will impress.

I wish to recognise the wonderful support which the Macquarie Group Foundation gives its employees. The Macquarie Group Foundation offers grants to community groups in which their employees are involved on a voluntary basis. These grants are in recognition of the employee's active contribution to the community.

Friends Alike of Bendigo, our local LGBTI social support group, is once again hosting the infamous BQFF After Party at the Icon on Saturday night.

BQFF relies heavily on the support of local businesses. We commend the businesses which sponsor and advertise with us. Please support those whom support us.

The Board of the BQFF is a wonderful team of people dedicated to bringing to you a festival of quality events. They give of their time freely, tirelessly working to coordinate the various facets which make up the festival.

In keeping with the colour of the festival we are purchasing renewable energy to counteract the greenhouse gases emitted over the weekend of the festival and our printing is on recycled paper.

Come, relax in the oasis we have created for this weekend and enjoy the array of film and visual art on offer. Sample the sweet treats and fruity local wines in the many cafes and bars. This is our Emerald City – be wicked!

Julian Regan
BQFF Director

Contents



Principal Associates	4	
Principal Sponsors	5	
Venues	6	
Map	6	
Festival Information, Ticketing and Accommodation	7	
'Queer Country' Art Exhibition	8	
Film Features		
Session 1	Opening Night	
	Were the World Mine	9
Session 2	Boys' Shorts	10
Session 3	Girls' Shorts	11
Session 4	Were the World Mine	9
Session 5	OZ Shorts	12
Session 6	Ciao	13
Session 7	I Can't Think Straight	14
Session 8	Ciao	13
Session 9	I Can't Think Straight	14
Session 10	Girls' Shorts	11
FABulous After Party	15	
Auction	16	
Credits	18	



Melbourne Queer Film Festival

The Melbourne Queer Film Festival (MQFF) is proud to co-present and curate the 6th annual Bendigo Queer Film Festival.

We hope you enjoy this year's package of queer cinema from Australia and around the world. It's been a tough start to 2009, so we hope you're able to sit back and be entertained and enlightened by this year's selections. The 2009 Australian shorts package is an excellent selection of the latest in Australian queer filmmaking, while the boy's and girls short's packages are bound to be popular. Don't miss the international festival favourite and our opening night feature *Were the World Mine*, fabulous boy's feature *Ciao* and the much loved lesbian feature film *I Can't Think Straight* – both of these sessions will sell out quickly, so book early.

So keep supporting your festival Bendigo, thank the volunteers when you see them, and we look forward to delivering more outstanding festivals in future years.

Enjoy the films!

Lisa Daniel

Curator: Bendigo Queer Film Festival

Director: Melbourne Queer Film Festival

Level 8, 225 Bourke St,
Melbourne VIC Australia
Phone: (03) 9662 4147
Fax: (03) 9660 3950
www.mqff.com.au



Funded through the Community Grants Program and Major Events Unit

City Of Greater Bendigo

Welcome From the Mayor

I would like to welcome everyone to Bendigo for the Fifth Bendigo Queer Film Festival.

The City of Greater Bendigo is pleased to support this annual festival because it offers opportunities for a group which is often marginalised, to come together and share a positive and strengthening experience.

One of the aims of the festival is to provide the BI, Lesbian, Gay, Transsexual and Intersexual community with an opportunity to celebrate their diversity of experiences through a shared social event in a public arena and although this event is very specific in its film content the general public is also very welcome to enjoy the occasion.

The City of Greater Bendigo celebrates cultural diversity because that's what helps us to make our city a strong, vibrant and supportive community and we are delighted to host this important festival which has become an exciting and much anticipated event on our annual calendar of events.

The Bendigo Queer Film Festival fits in well with our aim to continue to develop Greater Bendigo as a major regional arts, cultural and events centre.

I hope that that everyone enjoys our city's hospitality and all that this year's festival has to offer.

Cr Kevin Gibbins - Mayor

Community & Cultural Development
City of Greater Bendigo
259 Hargreaves Street Bendigo
Phone: (03) 5434 6464
Fax: (03) 5434 6473
www.bendigo.vic.gov.au



Responding to Women's Needs

Women's Health Loddon Mallee

Women's Health Loddon Mallee is a non-government, not for profit organisation providing health services, information and support for all women living in the Loddon Mallee Region. Our inclusive approach to health services ensures that we celebrate diversity and promote acceptance, belonging and participation.

We recognise women's different needs and the inequities in women's level of power and our control over resources. We work to redress the balance by acting as agents for social change, and working to overcome deprivation, isolation and disadvantage experienced by some women.

We work in partnership with women, the community and health service providers. Our focus and commitment are to improve the health and wellbeing of rural women; and to strengthen our communities as we adapt to the challenges of climate change.

All women are welcome to use our free library, where you will find information on Lesbian Health and Wellbeing.

We are open Monday to Friday,
9am – 5pm.

47 Myers Street Bendigo Vic 3550.
Phone: (03) 5443 0233
and 1800 350 233
www.whlm.org.au

Films

La Trobe University Visual Arts Centre,
121 View Street, Bendigo

Queer Country Art Exhibition

Gallery B, Chapel Street, Bendigo

FABulous After Party

ICON, Howard Place, Bendigo

Disability Supports

Gallery 121 and Gallery B are wheelchair accessible. Please note - the Companion Card is recognised for film sessions only.



Friday 3rd April

6:30 pm **Official Opening 'Queer Country' Art Exhibition** at Gallery B

8.00 pm **Opening Film Sessions WERE THE WORLD MINE** at La Trobe University Visual Arts Centre.

Saturday 4th April

11.30am Session 2 Boys' Shorts
1.15pm Session 3 Girls' Shorts
3.00pm Session 4 Were the World Mine
5.00pm Session 5 OZ Shorts
6.45 pm Session 6 Ciao
9.00pm Session 7 I Can't Think Straight

Sunday 5th April

11.00 am Session 8 Ciao
12.45pm Session 9 I Can't Think Straight
2.25pm Session 10 Girls' Shorts

Ticketing

**SAGE
PASS**

1 Session
\$15 full, \$12 conc

**JADE
PASS**

4 Sessions
\$50 full, \$45 conc

EMERALD

All Sessions
\$80 full

BUYING TICKETS

Patrons are advised to pre-purchase tickets to avoid disappointment! All tickets can be booked via our website at:

www.bendigoqueerfilmfestival.com.au
or www.bendigotourism.com

It's quick and easy, totally secure and available 24 hours using **Visa/Mastercard**.

Tickets can also be purchased in person, at the Visitor Centre (1800 813 153), Pall Mall, Bendigo. Ticketing will close on Thursday 2nd April 5.00pm. *(please note the Jade and Emerald Pass can only be purchased over phone or in person).*

TICKETING RULES

1. All prices include GST.
2. A session ticket will be required to enter each film.
3. We encourage patrons to arrive early as seating is unreserved.
4. Laws governing film festivals mean that all audience members must be 18 years or over.
5. No refunds or cancellations given unless a session is moved or cancelled.
6. Valid concessions: full time students with student photo ID card, healthcare card holders.
7. Concession cards must be presented to receive concession rate.

ACCOMMODATION



BENDIGO VISITOR CENTRE
FREE ACCOMMODATION
BOOKING SERVICE

Freecall: 1 800 813 153

Website: www.bendigotourism.com

QUEER COUNTRY

Art Exhibition Friday 3rd April 2009

Official Opening Night:

Friday 3rd April, 6.30pm

(Celebratory drinks will be supplied by our sponsor Balgownie Estate. Lush finger food will be available)

Gallery B, Church Street, Bendigo

Exhibition Dates & Gallery Hours:

Friday 3rd April 6pm-9pm, Saturday 4th April 10am-6pm,

Sunday 5th April 10am-4pm

For further information regarding the Art Exhibition contact Noel on 0417 557 548



Balgownie Estate



Dir: Tom Gustafson, USA, 2008, video, 97 min

Forget High School Musical – here's the real deal! *Were the World Mine* is an original and invigorating mix of the musical and teen flick, blended in with the pangs of first-love and a healthy dash of fairy dust, all set against the magical backdrop of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

Openly gay Timothy lives with his single mother, and attends an all-boys school where he's prone to musical daydreams to escape the drudgery of class and the homophobic taunts from his fellow students. The object of his desire is Jonathon, the handsome star of the rugby team, and Timothy dreams this very straight boy will fall in love with him. When Timothy is selected to play the mischievous Puck in the school production of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and Jonathon is also cast in the play, it seems fate is on his side. Soon Timothy discovers a recipe hidden in the text to create a magical love-pansy – if you're sprayed with the nectar from the flower you will fall madly in love with the next person you see. Will Timothy tempt fate and use the flower on Jonathon?

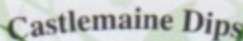
Armed with innovative songs and spirited choreography, and a wonderful spirit of adventure, director Tom Gustafson has crafted an exuberant crowd-pleaser based on his 2003 short film



Fairies. *Were the World Mine* is full of wonderful performances, including Wendy Robie (the eye-patch wearing Nadine from *Twin Peaks*) as the drama teacher, and Broadway star Judy McLane as Timothy's mum. But shining above all is newcomer Tanner Cohen as Timothy who radiates star quality in his first lead role. A huge success wherever it screens, *Were the World Mine* is the perfect way to kick off this year's Festival! (Paul Tonta – 19th Melbourne Queer Film Festival)

Winner, Grand Jury Award for Outstanding US Dramatic Feature, LA Outfest.

"Were the World Mine succeeds as a rousing, warm-hearted spectacle." **The Hollywood Reporter**



Session 2 - Boys' Shorts



Hirsute

The Back Room

Dir: Greg Ivan Smith, USA, 2008, video, 16 min

Two strangers uncover astonishing connections as they search for a mysterious Renaissance painting.

Even In My Dreams

Dir: Flavio Alves, USA, 2008, video, 8 min

Michael, an elderly, world-worn widower, happens upon a Tom of Finland doll in a sex shop display window. His subconscious fascination with the erotic doll is the trigger for a belated and reluctant sexual self-discovery at the end of a lifetime of sexual repression.

HerzHaft

Dir: Martin Busker, Germany, 2007, video, 15 min
German with English subtitles

Soccer coach Ralf is torn between reason and longing when he falls in love with Felix, a teen in his soccer team.

Hirsute

Dir: A.J. Bond, Canada, 2007, video, 14 min

Kyle is building a time machine, and is confronted by an arrogant gay version of himself who has a preoccupation with boiled eggs and body hair removal.

Am Gay (Jag Är Bög)

Dir: Nicolas Kolovos, Sweden, 2008, video, 15 min
Swedish with English subtitles

Nicolas' imagination gets the better of him when he tries to come out to his family over dinner.

Morning Suits

Dir: Helena Mitchell, UK, 2008, video, 7 min

Love is like a hired suit – sometimes it doesn't quite fit.

The Window



Dir: Philippe Gosselin & Ronald Regina, USA, 2008, video, 5 min

Three men discover the profound liberation (and pleasure!) that comes from letting go of inhibitions, embracing all of who you are and revealing your soul and yourself to the world.



When I Become Silent

How Do I Say This? I'm Gay

Dir: Silas Howard & Michael Bodie, USA, 2007, video, 5 min

A college student musters the courage to come out to her mother, with the support of her musically inclined friends.

LOVE SUCKS

Dir: Ingrid Jungermann & Sara Winters, USA, 2008, video, 10 min

For a vampire couple, forever can really bite.

Night Star (Inkanyezi Yobusuku)

Dir: Kekeletso Khena, South Africa, 2007, video, 13 min
Zulu with English subtitles

Two Zulu women fall in love in a remote African village during Ukuya Enyangeni, the time of isolation and contemplation that occurs during menstruation.

Self Help for Sapphists

Dir: Karen Rutter & Jenny Radloff, South Africa, 2007, video, 6 min

A modern girl's guide to life as a lesbian.

When I Become Silent (Watashi Ga Chinmoku Suru Toki)

Dir: Hyoe Yamamoto, Japan, 2007, video, 18 min
Japanese with English subtitles

Aspiring writer Kyoko panics when her girlfriend of one year proposes moving in together.

Dancing to Happiness (Tanz Ins Glück)

Dir: Barbara Seiler, Switzerland, 2008, video, 17 min
Swiss German with English subtitles

Two women sign up for a dance class and get far more than either bargained for.

A SOFT PLACE

Dir: Suzanne Guacci & Michael Magnifico, USA, 2007, video, 10 min

Two women argue about a doona in a laundrette in this wacky tale about a saucy secret.





Skin

Dir: Rhys Graham, Australia, 2008, video, 27 min

Skin examines the 15 year collaboration between tattooist and artist eX de Medici and her subject Geoff O, as they negotiate the possibility of bequeathing Geoff's almost completely tattooed skin as an artwork when he dies.

The Letter

Dir: Evan Randall Green, Australia, 2008, video, 8 min

When Adrian decides to share his feelings for another male, he is ignorant to the upset his actions may cause.

Love and the Space Between

Dir: Beth Child, Australia, 2008, video, 15 min

Between love and loss, heartache and friendship, grief and moving on, sex and death, there is the space between.



The Uncertainty Principle

Dir: Jacqui Schulz, Australia, 2007, video, 15 min

Two women meet in a doctor's waiting room. In that instant, despite the universe between them, their lives become paradoxically entangled. Knowing how to die can mean knowing how to live, and uncertainty can be a rewarding experience.

Steak

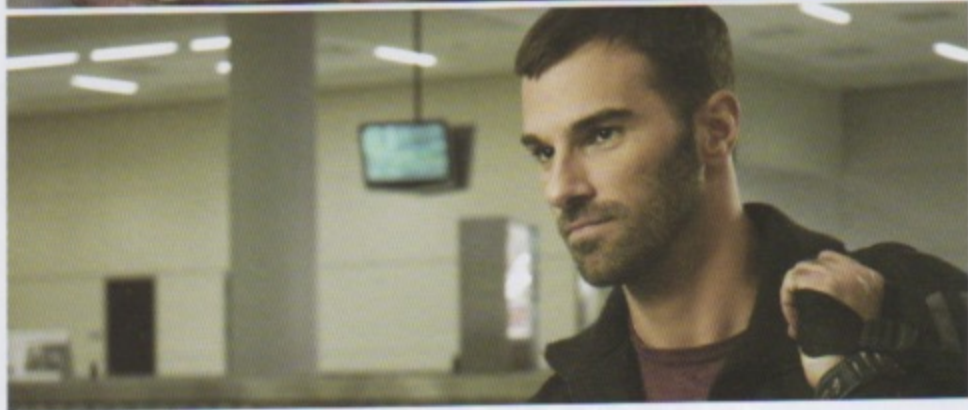
Dir: Kathryn Goldie, Australia, 2008, video, 9 min

Take one steak, a little rock salt and freshly cracked pepper. Season well. Add a dash of bitterness, and garnish with resentment. Serve.

Kris Cross

Dir: Sarah Spillane, Australia, 2009, video, 17 min

Inspiring documentary that follows the sometimes painful but ultimately positive story of Kris who is in the midst of a transition from female to male.



Yen Tan, USA, 2008, video, 87 min

Jeff and Mark had been best friends since college, and when Mark dies suddenly it falls upon Jeff to sort out his personal details. Checking Mark's emails, Jeff comes across one from an Italian man, Andrea, who had been corresponding with Mark, informing him that he would be in the US and wants to meet for the first time. Jeff relays the tragic news about Mark's passing, but Andrea still decides to visit. With seemingly nothing in common but Mark, the two talk in polite conversation, which soon turns more

intimate and personal. Over the course of a weekend these two men share honest, revealing, and ultimately cathartic exchanges, with the spectre of Mark always hovering.

A marked change of pace from most US gay-themed films, *Ciao* is an intimate drama that seduces you with beautifully observed moments, realistic performances and subtle direction. Director Yen Tan has crafted an achingly affecting film about love, loss and the desire for connection. (Paul Tonta – 19th Melbourne Queer Film Festival)

"Superb. A no-frills movie with a wonderful script. This one is an absolute keeper." **Out in Hollywood**





Dir: Shamim Sarif, UK, 2008, video, 80 min

Those lucky enough to catch *The World Unseen* at last year's Melbourne Queer Film Festival will be delighted to find out that it isn't the only film writer/director Sarif has made in recent years. And they'll be even happier to discover that both films feature the same two leading actresses. Here's a filmmaker who definitely knows when she's on to a good thing. In *I Can't Think Straight*, Lisa Ray and Sheetal Sheth again prove they have chemistry to burn in a contemporary romance about Tala (Ray), a wealthy Jordanian living in London, who is just about to finally tie the knot (with her fourth

fiancé), when she meets Leyla (Sheth), an Indian English woman, currently dating Tala's old buddy. All Sparks fly, but will convention and culture get in the way before the course of true love can do its thing?

Full of genuinely tender moments and some deft comic touches, *I Can't Think Straight* is a must for lovers of uplifting romantic cinema. Ray and Sheth both bring real depth and sensitivity to their roles. Oh, and if it's just the eye candy factor you're interested in, did we mention how gorgeous they are? (Madeleine Swain – Melbourne Queer Film Festival)

**free anonymous telephone counselling, information
and referral service for the GLBTI community**



**Tasmania & regional Victoria: 1800 184 527
Melbourne: 03 9663 2939**

keeping our community connected

donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible

switchboard.org.au

FABulous After Party

Brought to you by

fab.cv
Bendigo Queer Film Festival - Central Victoria

Bendigo
Queer
Film
Festival

**Saturday
4th April
9.30pm till late**

@ ICON
Howard Place
Bendigo
\$10 Entry

FABulous AFTER PARTY

Featuring - Wilma Fingadoo

Auction



• One

Original Canvas Painting
by Darren Casey valued at \$600

• Two

A balloon flight from Balloon
Flights of Bendigo valued at \$260

• Three

A balloon flight from Balloon
Flights of Bendigo valued at \$260

• Four

*Final auction bids close at
8.45pm on Saturday 4th April
(just prior to film Session 7)*



darren casey
artistic design



Let's Get Saucy

**Licensed Café, Delicatessen,
Catering, Regional Foods,
Meal Solutions**



88a-88b Victoria Street
Eaglehawk
03 5446 9111

*In every
community beats
a queer heart*

BQFF Festival Patrons

2004 Judy Small
2005 Rodney Croome
2006 Sue Ann Post
2007 Anton Enus
2008 Kristy Edmunds

BQFF Festival Directors

2004 Chris Walters
2007 Robyn Bull
2008 Julian Regan

Leadlight Cafe & Bar

BQFF Brunch

Enjoy a nice brunch
before the show.

10-3pm Saturday & Sunday
25 Queen St, Bendigo.

20% Discount (When you present this coupon.)

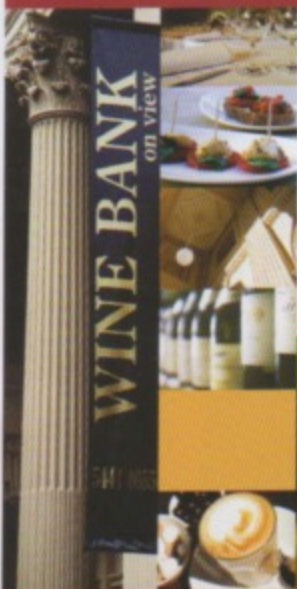
Lesbian Bi Sexual Gay Not Sure?

The Bendigo Queer Film Festival

Is it for you, do you need support? As a BQFF committee member, I'm happy to discuss your concerns and issues in a **COMPLETELY CONFIDENTIAL** setting. It's **FREE** & no pressure, just a quiet chat.

You may like to meet others in a similar situation. If you are a little hesitant, why not give me a call – Julian Regan (mobile) 0403 319 916

The official Bendigo Queer Film Festival bar!!!



WINE BANK

on view

Extensive range of local,
domestic & international wines.

- Retail sales
- Wine club membership
- Function room
- Degustation evenings
- Sommellier services
- Corporate/function wine supplier

Enjoy continuous food, specials and cakes everyday



45 View Street, Bendigo 3550

Phone: 03 5444 4655

Email: admin@winebankonview.com

Festival Director

Julian Regan

Festival Board Members

Mark Dean – Secretary
Kerry Robertson – Treasurer
Clare Anderson
Raul Arregui
Vikki Cameron
Cassy Evans
Marcus Gardner
Paul Hampton
Noel Hourigan
Daniel Borton

Program

Good One Graphic Design
(03) 5443 3434
Email: design@goodone.net.au
www.goodone.net.au

Program Notes

Lisa Daniel
Paul Tonta
Madeleine Swain

Program Printing

Mulqueen Printers
(03) 5447 8948

Website

Raul Arregui

Special thanks to:

Lisa Daniel and Rowena Doo and the Board of the Melbourne Queer Film Festival; Women's Health Loddon Mallee; FABCV; Projectionist David Thomas (Melbourne); Rainbow Radio and the Management of Fresh FM 895; COGB Mayor Kevin Gibbins; Viv Collins & Julieann Keyser (Bendigo Visitor Centre); Bendigo Theatre Company; Anne Henshall (COGB); Robyn Burgess (Capital Theatre); Naomi Hallam; Pam Kendrick and Paul Northam. Our generous and pertinent advertisers and sponsors; and to our many volunteers – the hugest thank you.

Festival Office

C/- Women's Health Loddon Mallee
47 Myers Street Bendigo 3550
Email:

contact@bendigoqueerfilmfestival.com.au
www.bendigoqueerfilmfestival.com.au

Phone Contacts

General Information
Julian Regan 0400 918 759

Queer Country Art Exhibition
Noel Hourigan – 0417 557 548

OUR BQFF SURVEY

Complete the
2009 BQFF Survey Form
for a chance to win
a prize from one
of our great sponsors
Connor Park valued at \$54

Drawn Sunday 5th April

Connor PARK
WINERY



Typhoon are
offering
**\$13 mains &
\$7 desserts**
between
sessions 6 & 7.

Orders taken
on the day

95 Mitchell Street
Bendigo

5443 3111



Bendigo Queer Film Festival

Another Gay Sunshine Day!

9-11 April 2010

www.bendigoqueerfilmfestival.com.au

Principal Associates



Responding to Women's Needs

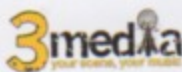
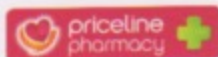


trends alla bendigo - central victoria

Sponsors



darren casey
artistic design



WINE BANK
on view



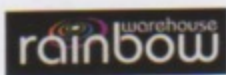
Castlemaine Dips

SANDHURST FIRE
PROTECTION

Trouble



Supporters



Special thanks to



recycled