

2012

program


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20-22 april 2012
www.bendigoqueerfilmfestival.com.au




BENDIGO
queer film



festival

**melbourne**
Queer film
festival

**CITY OF GREATER**
BENDIGO



SESSION 1 FRIDAY 20 APRIL 7.30pm

Cloudburst

Dir: Thom Fitzgerald, Canada, 2011, video, 93 min

Olympia Dukakis already has a place in the hearts of queers with her brilliant portrayal of Anna Madrigal in the *Tales of the City* series, not to mention her performances in *Steel Magnolias*, *The Event*, and her Oscar-winning role in *Moonstruck*. Almost singlehandedly cornering the acting market for strong-willed women, and with a mouth to match, in *Cloudburst*, you ain't seen – or heard – nothing yet!

Dukakis plays Stella who's lived with her partner, Dot (Oscar-winner Brenda Fricker), for over 30 years in Maine, USA, but Dot's grand-daughter thinks the best place for her grandma is in a nursing home. Tricked into signing over the house and forced to move into a home, Dot is busted out by Stella, and the two women decide to high-tail it to Canada, where same-sex marriage is legal. Getting hitched is their last-gasp bid to stay together. Along the way they pick up sexy hitchhiker, Prentice, a small-town boy turned modern dancer, who's returning to his Canadian town to visit his dying mother. Will this unorthodox 'family' make it across the border in one piece and realise their dreams?

Winner of numerous awards, *Cloudburst* is the latest movie from Canadian filmmaker Thom Fitzgerald, who has been making award-winning queer cinema for over 15 years, including *Three Needles* (MQFF 2006), *Beefcake* (MQFF 2000), *The Event* (MQFF 2004) and *The Hanging Garden*. Funny, emotionally engaging and beautifully made, hop aboard this romantic road movie – you'll be glad you did!



SESSION 2 SATURDAY 21 APRIL 11.30am

QUEER AS FXXK

105 min

Four gay men, one household. Brendan is from North Queensland, Peter is from the 80s, Davo is from a parallel universe and Aaron is up his own arse. Over the past year in the gay soap *Queer as Fxxk*, we've watched these four guys come to terms with sex, relationships, drugs, coming out, homophobic mothers, well meaning counsellors, sexual health testing, Kylie, the Rubik's Cube and what it means to have sex with a chicken.

Watch highlights from the first three seasons of *Queer as Fxxk* on the big screen and get a sneak peek of where we are going in the next series.



SESSION 3 SATURDAY 21 APRIL 1.30pm

CITY OF MELBOURNE OZ SHORTS PACKAGE

> **Battlefield**

Dir: Tim Marshall, Australia, 2011, video, 9 min

> **Echo**

Dir: Iain Murton, Australia, 2012, video, 12 min

> **These Empty Streets**

Dir: Jarrah Gurrie, Australia, 2011, video, 29 min

> **Unfinished Thoughts**

Dir: Dimitrios Pouliotis, Australia, 2011, video, 15 min

(Greek with English subtitles)

> **The Wilding**

Dir: Grant Scicluna, Australia, 2008, video, 15 min

(Official Selection Berlin International Film Festival 2012)

> **Adam's Tallit**

Dir: Justin Olstein, Australia, 2011, video, 16 min

> **The Confession of Father John Thomas**

Dir: Elka Kerkhofs, Australia, 2011, video, 5 min



SESSION 4 SATURDAY 21 APRIL 3.30pm

THE CURE: A DOCUMENTARY FILM

Dir: Heather Corkhill, Australia, 2011, video, 60 min

This new Australian documentary investigates reparative programs (ex-gay ministries) and the mental health implications of trying to 'change' one's sexuality. Emerging from the vestiges of the 1970s ex-gay movement, many organisations (both here and overseas) continue to promote 'freedom' or 'transformation' from homosexuality. Through a series of candid interviews, *The Cure* breaks through the semantics of a range of reparative methodologies to unveil a single ultimatum to homosexual Christians – you must change. The lexicon of such programs has evolved to suggest a more temperate approach than aversion therapies, such as electro-shock therapy, once used in the past to re-orientate sexuality. But even in their current incarnation within organisations such as Exodus and Living Waters, these programs continue to have devastating effects on the mental and emotional health of many participants.

Such stressful emotional turmoil is compounded within the Christian context, where a failure to change or even suppress one's homosexuality bears the consequence of ostracism from the church community and support network, and the threat of eternal spiritual damnation. Ultimately though, *The Cure* discovers the resilience of the human spirit in the pursuit of true happiness. In accepting themselves for who they really are and embracing their identity, participants finally experience the happiness of living an authentic life, and a tangible sense of freedom.

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SESSION 5 SATURDAY 21 APRIL 5.00pm

MORGAN

Dir: Michael D Akers, USA, 2011, video, 90 min

Morgan is a fit competitive cyclist who suffers a catastrophic accident during a race that leaves him paralysed from the waist down and forever confined to a wheelchair. After a long stint in hospital he's now able to live at home, but depends heavily upon his mother after he lost his job and his boyfriend left him during recovery.

His loss of independence makes him justifiably angry as he struggles with the difficulty of performing simple daily tasks in an effort to regain some independence.

For awhile he lets negative feelings get the better of him and turns to alcohol for comfort, but before long finds the strength to get out into the world again, where he meets and begins dating Dean, who is trying to resurrect his own life after nursing his sick mother. As they negotiate the vagaries of their new relationship, they must also face their own substantial fears.

After Morgan buys a new wheelchair and begins training for a race, he is forced to face some difficult personal truths.



SESSION 6 SATURDAY 21 APRIL 8.00pm

D.E.B.S.

Dir: Angela Robinson, USA, 2004, video, 83 min

Opening night MQFF 2005. Back by popular demand. Audiences all over the world loved this spy-spoof-meets-teen-flick D.E.B.S. back in 2004. While comparisons with Charlie's Angels and Austin Powers are inevitable, a more precise reference would be the smart 1980s teen comedies from John Hughes, which seemed to define a generation.

Embedded in the Standard Aptitude Test for American high school students is a hidden test which cherry picks pupils who can lie, fight, and steal for an elite secret defense program called the D.E.B.S. Amy is the 'perfect score' and the Academy's great hope for finally defeating gorgeous and sexy arch villain Lucy Diamond ('so evil, no agent has survived a meeting with her' and a dead ringer for Demi Moore!). Right off the bat it's clear that Lucy intrigues Amy more than she cares to admit, and when they finally meet, the chemistry is more than they can handle. Will Amy give up her alpha, beta, gamma existence, and trade it all in for romance with the alluring Diamond? In D.E.B.S., Robinson has created a genuinely funny all-girl-action romp, with an easy-on-the-eye cast and a cracking retro soundtrack. For all the girls who longed for Charlie's Angels with a bit of girl on girl action - your dreams have been answered!

Welcome to the 2012 Bendigo Queer Film Festival!

We're back for another year, and as in past years, Lisa Daniel, Director of the Melbourne Queer Film Festival has once again selected a great package of films. We're particularly looking forward to our opening feature *Cloudburst*.

Putting the festival together each year takes a lot of work, chiefly from the committee of volunteers, but also with the great support we get from our sponsors, and our partners. They help us to keep the prices of our tickets down, and ensure that we can have a festival.

Following on from the success last year, we'll be screening another retro session this year. With our 10th anniversary coming up next year, we've been a bit nostalgic, and selected *DEBS*. We screened *DEBS* at our 2005 festival, and it's still the most popular film we've screened, ever.

Queer Country will, once again, open over three weeks. The exhibition will open on Saturday 31 March, separately to opening

night film. So if you're in the area, come and join us for a relaxing Saturday afternoon, and see some fantastic works from regional Queer artists.

This year our silent auction is expanded to include some other great prizes in addition to the fabulous work by Darren Casey. Don't forget to put your bid in over the festival weekend to win one of the wonderful prizes we have.

The importance of an event like this in a regional city should never be underestimated, and we'd like to thank everyone that's come along and supported us in the past, and we look forward to seeing you again this year.

2012 Festival Conveners, Daniel and Vikki.



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VENUES

Films & Queer Country Art Exhibition

La Trobe University

Visual Arts Centre

121 View Street, Bendigo

FABulous

Opening Night Party

ICON, Howard Place, Bendigo



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BQFF Play Safe Policy

We care about the health and well being of all who have links with the festival and we encourage everyone to play safely. Be mindful of the local community, environment and laws including drink driving laws. We ask you to take care, look after yourself, your friends and other community members. Please protect yourself and your partners by always practising safe sex.

Festival information

Festival office

C/- Women's Health Loddon Mallee
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info@bendigoqueerfilmfestival.com.au

Phone:

Daniel Borton 0400 918 759

Vikki Cameron 0431 120 620

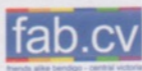
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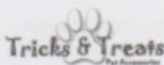
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> 26-28 APRIL 2013

TICKETING

Patrons are advised to pre-purchase tickets to avoid disappointment. All tickets can be booked via our website, or by calling the festival on 0400 918 759. Tickets will be available for collection from the box office on the weekend.

The companion card is accepted at film sessions.

TICKET PRICES

Opening Night	Full: \$20	Concession: \$17
Single Session (Saturday)	Full: \$15	Concession: \$12
Rainbow pass (3 films)	Full: \$45	Concession: \$36
Kaelaidoscope pass (all films)	Full: \$65	Concession: \$55

No ticket is required for Queer as Fxxk. This is a free session.

Ticket sales are by Cash Only, no card facilities are available.

TICKETING RULES

- > No entry will be permitted after the film has started.
- > All prices include GST. Booking fees may apply.
- > A session ticket will be required to enter each film.
- > We encourage patrons to arrive early as seating is unreserved.
- > Laws governing film festivals mean that all audience members must be 18 years or over unless otherwise stipulated.
- > No refunds or cancellations will be given unless a session is moved or cancelled.
- > Valid concessions: full time students with student photo ID card, carer card, healthcare card holders.
- > Concession cards must be presented to receive concession rate.

ACCOMMODATION

Bendigo Visitor Centre - Free accommodation booking service.

Freecall: 1 800 813 153 or online **www.bendigotourism.com**

QUEER COUNTRY ART EXHIBITION

OFFICIAL OPENING

Friday 31st March 6:00pm
La Trobe University Visual Arts Centre
121 View Street, Bendigo

Exhibition dates:
31st of March to 22nd April 2012

Gallery Hours:
Tuesday to Sunday 10am to 5pm

FABulous Opening Night Party

Friday 20th April
9:30pm till late

@ICON,
Howard Place, Bendigo
\$5 entry