

**SYDNEY
FILM
FESTIVAL**
7-18 JUNE 2017

Screenability Access and Inclusion Guide



**Family &
Community
Services**



**SYDNEY
CITY OF FILM**

Welcome

Sydney Film Festival brings the world's best new films to town every June for 12 days and nights of inspiring and entertaining premieres, talks and parties. Join us and be among the first in Australia to see the greatest, strangest and most exciting work that cinema has to offer.

All Sydney Film Festival venues are wheelchair accessible.

The 2017 Sydney Film Festival Program is available in the following alternative formats via the website:

- PDF document
- Interactive Program Guide

The Screenability Access and Inclusion Guide is available in the following alternative formats:

- Braille

Please contact Sydney Film Festival to request one.

Booking Info

For all access and inclusion bookings or enquiries, and to notify us of your needs so we can make your visit as enjoyable as possible, please call us on 1300 733 733 or email tickets@sff.org.au.

For venue specific access information, please go to sff.org.au/access.

Companion Card

Sydney Film Festival supports the Companion Card program. For patrons who require assistance of a companion or carer, a second ticket is issued at no cost to the Companion Card holder. Please contact Sydney Film Festival directly to assist with your booking.

Vision

Audio Description



Audio describers give verbal descriptions of all the visual elements of what is happening on the screen. This is done during natural pauses and gaps in the dialogue via a small earpiece, provided to audience members before the show. Customers must book the service in advance online or over the phone and pick up their FM headset on arrival. This service has limited availability.

Open Captioned



Open Captioning is a text display of all the words and sounds heard on screen.

Assistance Animals



Assistance animals are welcome at all festival events and venues. Bookings are essential so the venue can be advised. Call 1300 733 733 or email tickets@sff.org.au.

Hearing

Auslan Interpreted Performance



Auslan interpreted intros and Q&A's are for audiences who use Australian Sign Language (Auslan).

Relaxed Performances



Relaxed performances are designed to create a safe and welcoming environment for people on the autism spectrum or other disabilities that create sensory sensitivities, along with their friends, carers and families. Screenings are provided in a supportive and non-judgemental environment, with slight modifications to sound and lighting, an open door policy and a quiet area available.

Screenability

Sydney Film Festival presents Screenability, in partnership with Screen NSW and the NSW Department of Family and Community Services, a new platform for screen practitioners with disability leading the narrative.

This international program showcases the best of 2017, spanning drama and documentary from Australia, France, New Zealand and the UK, offering insights and unique perspectives on life. Sofya Gollan, guest programmer.

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Pulse



Olly is a gay teen with disability who discovers that his two straight best friends are dating each other. Frustrated by his body, he chooses to undertake a pioneering medical procedure: a transplant that puts his mind into the body of a beautiful young able-bodied woman. When his friends see through the beautiful, blonde facade to the troubled boy within, Olly discovers having the perfect body doesn't fix unrequited love or a broken home.

Self-destructive and at risk of losing all that is good in his life, Olly must decide whether his beautiful new identity is worth it. With its understated sci-fi underpinnings, 'Pulse' is a highly sexed-up modern parable on what it is to be young, with disability, and queer on the verge of adulthood.

Festival guests: Daniel Monks,
Stevie Cruz-Martin

Session Times:

Date	Time	Venue
Wed 14 Jun*	6:00pm	Dendy Newtown
Fri 16 Jun	4:30pm	Dendy Newtown

* This session will not have Audio Description available

My Name is Emily



Starting at a new school, Emily is labelled a loner and a freak by her classmates – but she catches the attention of shy Arden (George Webster). When her father (Michael Smiley; ‘Kill List’, SFF 2011; ‘Madame’, SFF 2017) forgets to send a card on her 16th birthday, Emily enlists Arden and his canary yellow hatchback to help break her father out of the psychiatric hospital. As they grow to depend on each other, Emily and Arden learn about life, love, loss and letting go.

Set in Ireland’s misty coastal landscape, this sweetly beautiful debut feature, is complemented by ‘It’s Not Yet Dark’ (screening at SFF 2017), detailing director Simon Fitzmaurice’s work while immobilised by motor neurone disease.

Session Times:

Date	Time	Venue
Thu 15 Jun	4:30pm	Dendy Newtown
Fri 16 Jun	6:45pm	Dendy Newtown

Lust for Sight



Director Manuel von Stürler (‘Winter Nomads’, SFF 2015) takes us on an autobiographical journey to find the origins of his encroaching blindness and discover who really knows what he can actually see – his doctors or himself. It’s an intimate and compelling experience, shot in a way that draws us deep into his viewpoint as an artist losing a vital sense.

As we explore his options for treatment and the impact on his friendships, von Stürler visits an island where one in three inhabitants inherit the same condition he has, discovering kindred spirits as they share their coping mechanisms. This is a gripping insight to an unsettling truth, that what you see is often not what I see.

Festival guests: Manuel von Stürler

Session Times:

Date	Time	Venue
Thu 15 Jun	6:55pm	Dendy Newtown
Sat 17 Jun	11:00am	Dendy Newtown

Drumming is Like Thunder

You can take away Duncan Armstrong's drumkit, but you can't take away his desire to make music and perform. A story of the inspiration of music.

Festival guests: Duncan Armstrong, Alyx Duncan

*'Drumming is Like Thunder' plays in conjunction with all screenings of 'Pulse'.

The Milky Pop Kid

With a twinkle in her eye, actor and disability consultant Jules attempts to share with actor Craig what life is like living with a disability. Jules however has the last laugh.

Festival guests: Johanna Garvin

*'The Milky Pop Kid' plays in conjunction with all screenings of 'My Name is Emily'.

Struck

On the sand dunes of her local beach a female jogger returns to a traumatic place looking for closure.

Festival guests: Aurora Fearnley

*'Struck' plays in conjunction with all screenings of 'Lust for Sight'.

Additional Accessible Sessions

My Life as a Zucchini

When nine-year old Zucchini's alcoholic mother dies, he is taken to an orphanage filled with misfits who, like himself, have been dealt a rough hand by life. Little does he know, they will soon become his de facto family, from his crush Camille to the gentle father-figure policeman Raymond. Based on a best-selling young adult novel and adapted for the screen by Céline Sciamma ('Tomboy', SFF 2011), 'My Life as a Zucchini' is an unusual, affirming but honest film that calls on its young audience's ability to empathise with lives far tougher than their own. They'll come out heartened, strengthened and more resilient from the experience – and so will the adults who take them.

Session Times:

Date	Time	Venue
Sat 17 Jun	1:35pm	Dendy Newtown

In addition there are 70 films with subtitles. For information please visit the website.

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