

## Sydney Film Festival Disability and Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP)

Progress Report - March 2021

The DIAP is an ongoing priority for Sydney Film Festival (SFF). Since it was launched in May 2019, the SFF Senior Management Team has met bi-annually\* to discuss progress and identify areas where improvement is needed.

The Festival has achieved the following actions to date:

- Established an external disability and inclusion advisory panel, comprised of people with a range of disabilities, to help SFF improve its accessibility across all areas of operation. In 2021 two new members were added to the panel to bring specific programming expertise and venue knowledge to the panel.
- Worked with the panel to create a venue access checklist and conduct regular venue audits, to encourage its partner venues to become more accessible.
- Through its website and the printed Festival program guide; promoted access services and ensured a range of clear booking options are available for audiences with disability.
- Produced an access guide for SFF website highlighting all Festival access offerings in one place.
- Offered the public a range of ways to communicate with the Festival and its staff.
- Ensured video materials produced and shared by SFF have captions.
- Ensured communication is designed with access in mind and is available in a range of accessible formats. A braille program guide was produced in 2019.
- Included promotion of *Screenability*, and information about access in general at SFF in the annual marketing plan.
- Continued to build on the strong branding of *Screenability* to highlight disability-led storytelling.
- Employed a *Screenability* programmer with lived experience of disability.
- Held a public panel discussion during SFF 2019 that featured film industry professionals with a disability who discussed their work and promoted authentic casting.
- Held a virtual panel discussion associated with SFF 2020 Virtual Edition and Awards which focused on filmmakers with a disability and the role of mentorship.
- SFF and its *Screenability* program was featured in a *Screen Daily* article (2021) as a festival making “important moves to acknowledge disability in front of and behind the camera” ([How Slamdance and other festivals are working to acknowledge disability](#) by Wendy Mitchell).
- Worked closely with Create NSW on their delivery of various initiatives for filmmakers with disability.
- Incorporated acknowledgement of SFF’s DIAP and its work towards a more accessible and inclusive workplace in new employee induction.
- Worked with Accessible Arts to provide training for all SFF staff and provision of an access ‘cheat sheet’ for all staff.

The next review will take place in September 2021.

\*with the exception of October 2020 when the team did not meet due to Covid.