

SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL

2022 DIAP Review

Progress Report – April 2022

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 SFF Senior Management Team met most recently on 23 February 2022 to review its actions against DIAP targets. Achievements are below:

- The DIAP needs to be more deeply integrated into the new 2023 Business Plan which will re-calibrate objectives and targets for the Festival, post the intensely disrupted Covid period.
- The SFF Disability Committee met and participated in the delayed 2021 November Festival. SFF's Head of Operations who has previously coordinated the Committee, will review its makeup, format and continuing involvement with the Festival, with a view to having a person with lived experience of disability running the Committee.
- In 2020, as part of SFF's Virtual Program, SFF hosted an online Panel discussion about mentoring for filmmakers with a disability; and at the November 2021 Festival, all Screenability films were presented by the filmmaker (including international films), and one (1) feature and all three (3) shorts were included in both the in-person and virtual programs. All 2021 Screenability filmmakers were invited to attend the Festival and those who could did attend.
- SFF Screenability programmer Rebecca McCormack, was interviewed for a student master's thesis study, *Cinema for Everyone?*
- SFF's Screenability program was featured in a Screen Daily article in February 2021: <https://www.screendaily.com/features/how-slamdance-and-other-festivals-are-working-to-acknowledge-disability/5156755.article>
- 2021 Screenability feature, *Beautiful Minds*, won the 2021 Audience Award with the filmmaker receiving the Audience Award trophy for best feature.
- A few relaxed screenings were programmed in 2021. Issues with captioning at Palace Cinemas will be reviewed and remedied for 2022.
- The SFF Festival Director has been invited to participate in a panel at the 2022 Cannes Film Festival to speak about SFF's Screenability program and efforts to make SFF more inclusive and accessible.
- SFF is investigating private and corporate opportunities for alternate funding of the Screen NSW Screenability filmmaker fund, to prepare to support filmmakers with a disability if government funding reduces or disappears.
- Corporate support was sought for the 2022 Screenability Program. Whilst this was declined for the 2022 Festival, the corporate organisation has expressed interest in support for the 2023 program.
- SFF continues to work with the Disability Committee and venues to improve access to venues. In 2021, SFF allocated a volunteer to be an accessibility champion at each venue.
- SFF will consult with a trusted international consultant, Martin vanBroekhoven, who is attending the 2022 Festival - on technical improvements around captioning and other accessibility improvements for audiences and filmmakers.

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- SFF has implemented captioning across all SFF produced content. SFF to further explore adding audio description as well.
- SFF partnered with Woodville Disability Services Group during the 2021 Festival to provide ticket scanning and wayfinding work experience opportunities for its clients at the State Theatre. This was very successful and SFF will expand the number of opportunities for the 2022 Festival.
- All SFF 2022 Festival staff will undertake accessibility training prior the 2022 Festival Launch.
- Two SFF key staff members attended Accessibility Arts Training sessions in 2020, 2021 and 2022 to continue building knowledge for the organisation.
- SFF has established disability language guidelines which align with the social model of disability and universal design and access.
- A date for the next review will be set for September/October 2022.

*Covid disruptions in 2020 and 2021, led to this schedule being reduced to one meeting pre year. The October 2020, and October 2021 meetings were both unable to take place due to Festival date adjustments in both years.