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in Queensland



GOLD COAST
FILM
FESTIVAL

APRIL 30 - 11 MAY 2025



AUSTRALIA'S
GOLDCOAST.

TOURISM
& EVENTS
Queensland

EXPERIENCE
GOLDCOAST.

H O T A

HOME
OF THE
ARTS

Gold Coast – Australia's Hollywood on the Rise!



LIGHTS, CAMERA, GOLD COAST!

Our vibrant city is making waves on the global stage, with latest blockbusters like Bear Country, Voltron, and Monarch being filmed right here, supported by our Screen Attraction Program and the Gold Coast Film Commission.

Since 2020, we've hosted more than a third of all international screen productions filmed in Australia—thanks to stunning locations, world-class studios, and skilled local crews.

The screen industry injects more than \$500 million into our Gold Coast economy each year, creating thousands of jobs and opportunities across many professions. With Shadowbox Studios and Baz Luhrmann setting up shop, the future shines even brighter.



AUSTRALIA'S
GOLD COAST



Discover
more

PROGRAM CONTENTS

TICKETS

Tickets for all film sessions and events are available via www.gcff.com.au and festival home, HOTA, Home of the Arts.

GENERAL ADMISSION

For regular sessions:

\$18* ADULT

\$14* CONCESSION

SPECIAL SCREENING AND GALA EVENTS

Special screenings and gala events have individual pricing. Some events are free and require pre-registrations. Please refer to the specific film and events pages for special pricing, inclusions and registration requirements.

*Prices include gst but do not include the booking and transaction fees that may apply. Price details are correct at time of printing. Any changes will be updated on our festival website www.gcff.com.au. Terms and conditions apply.

RATINGS

Gold Coast Film Festival screenings are Festival Exemption (18+) except where stated otherwise. Please check our website most up to date classification information.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Gold Coast Film Festival acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land of which the Gold Coast Film Festival takes place, the Kombumerri families and the Yugambeh Language Region. We pay our respects to them and their elders, past, present and future.

SOCIALISE WITH US

While you're out and about at screenings and events, feel free to share your experience on your socials and tag us.

 @GCFILMFESTIVAL  @GCFILMFEST

ACCESSIBILITY

It's important that everyone who visits GCFF enjoys their time equally. Accessibility is an important part of our festival, so please see here links detailing accessibility at our different venues this year. Should you need further assistance please scan the QR codes below to contact the venue:

HOTA



MOVIE WORLD



WELCOME TO THE GOLD COAST FILM FESTIVAL 2025

LUKE WHEATLEY CEO GOLD COAST FILM FESTIVAL

Welcome to the 24th Gold Coast Film Festival. The Gold Coast is the perfect setting for a film festival that celebrates the artform of filmmaking. We take pride in supporting emerging talent alongside internationally renowned filmmakers.

Over 12 days we will be celebrating stories from local and international artists across feature length films, documentaries, animation, TV and short films.

This year we have selected a program that celebrates World, Australian, and Queensland premieres.

With a line up that includes films from Josh Hale, Jane Larkin, Stephen Osbourne, Angus Kirby, Hanna Ladoul and Marco La Via there are stories that will make you laugh, cry, gasp and be ultimately entertained.

Our events this year are designed to inspire. Whether you're just starting out or already making waves in the industry, join us for our industry networking days. Our Women In Film panelists come from a range of backgrounds and experience in the film industry. This year the panel includes Michelle McGahey, Art Director & Production Designer, Paula Garcia, Actress, Kate Wormald, Choreographer & Intimacy Coordinator and Anne Bruning, Production Manager.

The Gold Coast Film Festival Gala celebrates one of Australia's prominent and acclaimed filmmakers, Robert Connolly with the 2025 Chauvel Award.

Our free events include SIPFest, under the stars at the incredible HOTA Outdoor Stage with live music, incredible short films, food trucks and bars, it's the ultimate outdoor movie experience.

Our festival wouldn't be what it is without our dedicated team, Board of Directors, partners, sponsors and volunteers and I extend my thank you to each of you.

Enjoy.



THE HONOURABLE JOHN-PAUL LANGBROEK MP MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND THE ARTS

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the 2025 Gold Coast Film Festival (GCFF), a vibrant celebration of film and storytelling set against the backdrop of one of the world's fastest-growing screen destinations—the spectacular Gold Coast.

For 24 years, this festival has showcased the power of cinema, uniting filmmakers, industry professionals, and audiences to experience diverse stories from around the globe.

The Gold Coast is at the heart of Queensland's screen industry, and the Gold Coast Film Festival plays a vital role in fostering emerging talent, championing local creatives, and reinforcing our global reputation as a premier filmmaking hub.

Beyond the big screen, the festival offers inspirational panels, outdoor screenings, and industry education programs, creating invaluable opportunities for connection, learning, and collaboration. Signature events such as SIPFest (Shorts in Paradise) and the Opening Night Gala shine a spotlight on the incredible talent and passion that drive our industry forward.

The Crisafulli Government, through Screen Queensland, is proud to support this festival and the creative industries that contribute so much to our state's economy and cultural vibrancy.

Congratulations to the organisers, filmmakers, and supporters who make Gold Coast Film Festival such a resounding success.

WELCOME



ANDREW POWELL MP **MINISTER FOR TOURISM**

It's a pleasure to welcome you to the Gold Coast Film Festival, an event that truly captures the character and charm of the Gold Coast.

Supported by the Queensland Government through Round 28 of Tourism and Events Queensland's Destination Events Program, this event showcases the unique connection between our state's vibrant communities and the diverse regions they call home.

Events like the Gold Coast Film Festival bring people together, celebrate local culture and contribute significantly to the community's pride and economy.

While you're here, I encourage you to explore all that the Gold Coast Region has to offer — whether it's its scenic beauty, local flavours, or the warm hospitality that makes this part of Queensland so special.

A big congratulations to the organisers and everyone who worked hard to bring this wonderful event to life. Thank you for being part of the thriving Queensland Destination Events Program.



TOM TATE **GOLD COAST MAYOR**

I love seeing people thrive in their chosen professions, pushing boundaries and working tirelessly to achieve their dreams.

That is certainly the case with the film industry. Whether it is in front of the camera or behind the lens, your industry strives for excellence and it is time to honour the amazing talent at the 24th Gold Coast Film Festival.

This festival is a celebration of film and film making which just happens to be in the 'home of screen and television', the magical Gold Coast.

Our city has emerged as a place where magic happens and we are blessed with amazing local directors, writers, actors and support personnel across every facet of film making.

Over 12 days, the festival will help further showcase amazing local and international films, exploring diverse stories and unique perspectives through its short and feature film program.

It is only fitting the energy and buzz of GCFF is right here at HOTA with panel sessions, outdoor screenings and special events. Like all delegates, I look forward to SIPFest, an eclectic mix of short films screened under the stars.

As Mayor, I welcome delegates and thank our partners, Screen Queensland, Tourism and Events Queensland, HOTA and Experience Gold Coast.

It's lights, camera, GOLD COAST!



GOLD COAST FILM FESTIVAL TEAM AND BOARD

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VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

Mandy Gelpi

Thank you to all our extraordinary Gold Coast Film Festival 2025 volunteers

We appreciate your time, enthusiasm and passion for film making.

OPENING NIGHT FILM



OPENING NIGHT AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE SCREENING

Join us for a wonderful night celebrating the opening of the 2025 Gold Coast Film Festival.

OPENING NIGHT

PREMIERE SCREENING

EVENT

WED
30
APRIL

RED CARPET
5.30PM

PREMIERE
SCREENING
6.30PM

VENUE:
HOTA,
HOME OF
THE ARTS

THE BALLAD OF WALLIS ISLAND

CAST Carey Mulligan, Tim Key, Tom Basden, Sian Clifford, Akemnji Ndiforhyen
DIRECTOR James Griffiths
GENRE Comedy, Romance
RATING Unclassified M
DURATION 100 mins
LANGUAGE English
COUNTRY United Kingdom
YEAR 2024

Charles, an eccentric lottery winner who lives on a remote island and dreams of getting his favourite musicians McGwyer Mortimer back together.

His fantasy turns into reality when the band mates and former lovers accept his invitation to play a private show at his home on Wallis Island. Old tensions resurface as Charles tries desperately to salvage his dream gig.

CLOSING NIGHT FILM

CLOSING NIGHT WORLD PREMIERE SCREENING

Join us for a wonderful night
celebrating the closing of the
2025 Gold Coast Film Festival.

CLOSING NIGHT

PREMIERE SCREENING

EVENT

SUN
11
MAY

RED CARPET
5.30PM

PREMIERE
SCREENING
6.30PM

Q&A WITH
DIRECTOR
AND FILMS'
CAST AFTER
SCREENING

VENUE:
HOTA,
HOME OF
THE ARTS

BLUE HORIZON

CAST David Cook, Damian McCoy,

Pete Murray, Chantal Elyse

DIRECTOR Josh Hale

GENRE Drama

RATING Unclassified M

DURATION 125 mins

LANGUAGE English

COUNTRY Australia

YEAR 2024

Maris Le Marcus is a famous and privileged musician that maintains a selfish and carefree lifestyle of excess: girls, drugs and trouble. He is void of trust and refuses to let anyone grow close to him due to his difficult upbringing.

After a brush with the law due to some poor life choices, he finds himself obligated to perform community service at a wellness centre for people living with disabilities. There he meets a resident named Douglas, a reclusive man with severe Cerebral Palsy.

When Maris finds out they were both orphaned and raised in state care, a friendship forms that sets them on a path to change both of their lives for the better.

10am-4pm daily

HOTA GALLERY

WHERE ART, ENTERTAINMENT,
CULTURE & LIFESTYLE MEET.

HOME
OF THE
ARTS **HOTA**



Image by John Gellings

FIND OUT MORE
HOTA.COM.AU

EXPERIENCE
GOLDCOAST.

IT'S YOURS TO *experience*

With the city, hinterland and the beach, it's no wonder why the Gold Coast is a favourite for film productions. Explore all the incredible sights and activities whilst you're on the Gold Coast - it's yours to experience!

COUGAL CASCADES / 1238PM



EXPERIENCE
GOLDCOAST.

A diver is seen from behind, swimming in deep blue water. Sunlight filters down from the surface, creating a shimmering effect. The diver's silhouette is dark against the lighter water.

FILM

SAT
3
MAY
3.00PM

FRI
9
MAY
3.00PM

7 BEATS PER MINUTE

In the world of competitive free diving, Jessea Lu (Lu Wenjie) is a legendary figure. The Chinese free diving champion came late to the sport, vaulting into the top tier of talent with remarkable ability and a compulsive drive to challenge her limitations. But in the ocean, you cannot hide from yourself.

In a deep dive, when consciousness shrinks to a singular point, any mistake can prove disastrous. During a world-record attempt in 2018, Jessea blacked out and was lifeless for four minutes.

Award-winning director Yuqi Kang's feature documentary 7 Beats Per Minute parallels Jessea's physical and mental journey back from the depths, with intimate cinéma vérité camera work, astonishing underwater imagery and raw personal interviews.

As the boundaries between the filmmaker and her subject grow more fluid, the two return to the site of Jessea's near-death experience to face the traumas of her past and find a way back to light, air and, ultimately, connection.

CAST Jessea Lu
DIRECTOR Yuqi Kang
GENRE Documentary
RATING Unclassified PG
DURATION 100 mins
LANGUAGE English, Mandarin
COUNTRY Canada
YEAR 2024

A black and white photograph of a modern architectural complex. It features several large, dome-like structures with arched openings, surrounded by landscaped areas with trees and walkways.

ARCHITECTON

From filmmaker Victor Kossakovsky (Guna, Aquarela) comes an epic, intimate and poetic meditation on architecture and how the design and construction of buildings from the ancient past reveal our destruction – and offer hope for survival and a way forward.

Centering on a landscape project by the Italian architect Michele De Lucchi, Kossakovsky uses the circle to reflect on the rise and fall of civilizations, capturing breathtaking imagery from the temple ruins of Baalbek in Lebanon, dating back to AD 60, to the recent destruction of cities in Turkey following a 7.8 magnitude earthquake in early 2023.

Rock and stone connect the disparate societies, from ghostly monoliths stuck in the earth to tragic heaps of concrete rubble waiting to be hauled off and repurposed anew. Through Kossakovsky's inquisitive lens, the grandeur and folly of humanity and its precarious relationship with nature posits the urgent questions: How do we build and how can we build better, before it's too late?

DIRECTOR Victor Kossakovsky
GENRE Documentary
RATING Unclassified PG
DURATION 98 mins
LANGUAGE English, Italian
COUNTRY Germany
YEAR 2024

FILM

TUE
6
MAY
10.00AM

SAT
10
MAY
12.00PM

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PREMIERE SCREENING

BALLKIDS

DIRECTOR Scott Baskett
GENRE Documentary
RATING Unclassified PG
DURATION 60 mins
LANGUAGE English
COUNTRY Australia
YEAR 2024

420 ballkids are selected from a field of thousands of applicants – each desperately hoping to be part of the Australian Open.

Being there is like winning the lottery for these tennis keeners, but – instead of luck – they earn the prize through intense training regimes and delivering almost perfect performances.

The ballkid trials are conducted in Melbourne annually, with interstate and international hopefuls expected to travel if they want to be taken seriously. But selection is only the first hurdle. Once at the Australian Open, all 420 ballkids vie to make it onto centre court and, eventually, earn the prestige of being chosen for the biggest stage of them all - the men's and women's grand final. Each with their own internal struggles, they must overcome heat, long hours, new found independence and an ever increasing demand for perfection.

FILM

SAT
3
MAY

RED CARPET
12:30PM

PREMIERE
SCREENING
1:00PM

Q&A
AFTER THE
SCREENING

TUE
6
MAY

ENCORE
SCREENING
12:00PM

FILM

SAT
3
MAY
10.30AM



BREAKFAST AT TIFFANY'S

CAST Audrey Hepburn, George Peppard, Patricia Neal
DIRECTOR Blake Edwards
GENRE Romance
RATING PG
DURATION 115 mins
LANGUAGE English
COUNTRY United States
YEAR 1961

A young New York socialite becomes interested in a young man who has moved into her apartment building, but her past threatens to get in the way.

Enjoy the morning with some friends and rediscover the obsession that is the film *Breakfast at Tiffany's*, starring the incredible Audrey Hepburn. Adore the wonderful story written by Truman Capote and escape to the beauty of New York City.

FILM

SUN
4
MAY
RED CARPET
2:30PM
PREMIERE
SCREENING
3:00PM
Q&A
AFTER THE
SCREENING



PREMIERE SCREENING

WED
7
MAY
ENCORE
SCREENING
2.00PM

CARMEN AND BOLUDE

CAST Bolude Watson, Michela Caratinni, David Collins
DIRECTORS Michela Caratinni and Maria Isabel Delaossa
GENRE Comedy
RATING Unclassified M
DURATION 109 mins
LANGUAGE English **COUNTRY** Australia
YEAR 2024

From the moment they meet, Bolude, the dutiful daughter of a Nigerian diplomat, and Carmen, a self-made vigilante mestiza, share an unbreakable sistership. Attempting to define themselves amidst American identity politics, light-skinned Carmen acknowledges only her Latin heritage, and Bolude embraces Western values over Nigerian roots.

Sure to change everything, is Bolude's engagement to white, Australian Tommy. Bolude finally braves telling her traditional father, Akin, only two weeks before the wedding. Hurt she has not chosen a Nigerian, Akin responds with an ultimatum: he will only give his blessing if she can follow tradition and get 100 Australians from 100 villages to welcome her.

FILM

WED
7
MAY

RED CARPET
5.30PM

PREMIERE
SCREENING
6.30PM

Q&A
AFTER THE
SCREENING

PREMIERE SCREENING

CARNAL VESSELS

CAST Arnijka Larcombe-Weate, Dylan Stumer and Brent Dunner
DIRECTOR Angus Kirby
GENRE Romance
RATING Unclassified M
DURATION 79 mins
LANGUAGE English
COUNTRY Australia
YEAR 2024

Two friends - the chronically unemployed, aimless Liv and cemetery groundskeeper Alex - find themselves in an in-between, undefined space when they start sleeping together. But when they fall in love, they swap bodies, and soon find out more than they should about each other.

Their budding relationship in chaos, Alex attempts to sabotage things with the other guy he finds out Liv is seeing, only to find that he's lovely, and begins to question his own sexuality. Liv, meanwhile, horrified at the idea of being Alex and having to work, visits her wealthy mum and ends up realising her own independence.

But just as things seem to be working out, external forces threaten Liv and Alex's budding relationship in macabre ways they cannot expect.

FILM

THU
8
MAY

2.30PM

FRI
9
MAY

1.00PM



COTTONTAIL

CAST Lily Franky, Ryo Nishikido, Tae Kimura, Rin Takanashi, Aoife Hinds, Ciaran Hinds, Yuri Tsunemats
DIRECTOR Patrick Dickinson
GENRE Drama
RATING Unclassified M
DURATION 93 mins
LANGUAGE Japanese, English
COUNTRY Japan, United Kingdom
YEAR 2023

After the death of his wife, Kenzaburo (60s) and his son Toshi (30s) receive an unexpected letter from beyond the grave. Akiko, their wife and mother, asks them to scatter her ashes at the place she loved most as a child – Lake Windermere in England. Surprised by this unexpected request, father and son are initially at loggerheads over their next steps.

The two men, along with Toshi's wife Satsuki and young daughter Emi, eventually travel together to England from Tokyo to fulfil Akiko's final wish. But Kenzaburo keeps losing himself in memories of Akiko as his relationship with Toshi becomes increasingly fraught. With little knowledge of where he is going and barely any English, Kenzaburo abandons his family in London and heads to the Lake District on his own with Akiko's ashes.



FILM

SUN
4
MAY

RED CARPET
12.00PM
PREMIERE
SCREENING
12.45PM

Q&A
AFTER THE
SCREENING

WED
7
MAY

ENCORE
SCREENING
10.30PM

PREMIERE SCREENING

SUPPORTING THE QUEENSLAND SCREEN INDUSTRY

Screen Queensland supports film and TV production across the state and is a proud partner of events like Gold Coast Film Festival — bringing the best in local and global cinema to Queensland audiences.

Learn more
screenqueensland.com.au



Images: *Good Cop/Bad Cop* (Jungle Entertainment and Future Shack Entertainment), *Black Snow* Season 2 (Goalpost Pictures), *Nautilus* (Moonriver TV), *Spit* (Tracking Films), *How to Make Gravy* (Warner Bros. Television Australia), *Audrey* (Orange Entertainment Co. and Invisible Republic)

CHRISTMAS KEEPSAKE

CAST Daniel Lissing, Jillian Murray and Ellie Stewart
DIRECTOR Colin Budds
GENRE Romance
RATING Unclassified PG
DURATION 86 mins
LANGUAGE English
COUNTRY Australia
YEAR 2024

A father and daughter find a Christmas themed time capsule buried in their backyard. They task themselves with finding its owner and the father might just find love along the way.

Tom, a devoted Father, and his daughter, Grace, make the big move from the sunny land of Australia to the quaint US town of Ashbury Grove. While exploring her new backyard, Grace finds a mysterious time capsule, containing the guide to a perfect family Christmas. Grace tasks herself with finding the owner of the time capsule and ropes Tom into the investigation.



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— BREWING —

BIGHEAD

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2025



FILM

**THU
1
MAY**
6.30PM

CROCODILE DUNDEE

ENCORE
CUT

CAST Paul Hogan, Linda Kozlowski,
David Gulpilil, John Meillo
DIRECTOR Peter Faiman
GENRE Comedy
RATING Unclassified M
DURATION 97 mins
LANGUAGE English
COUNTRY Australia
YEAR 2025 Encore Cut

American reporter Sue Charlton travels to the Australian outback to meet eccentric poacher Mick "Crocodile" Dundee and invites him to New York City, where he comes face-to-face with the complexities of modern life. Can this bushman adapt?

Audiences old and new will thrill at every adventure, share a heartfelt laugh, and enjoy the infectious charm of Mick Dundee, in the encore of Australia's most iconic film ever. CROCODILE DUNDEE: Encor Cut, features a meticulous restoration, considered edits, an Atmos soundtrack, and will be shown for the first time ever in stunning 4K, in an exhilarating visual experience of the Australian outback and our Aussie hero, Mick Dundee.

TAG

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FUNNY BIRDS

CAST Catherine Deneuve, Andrea Riseborough, Morgan Saylor
DIRECTORS Hannah Ladoul and Marco La Via
GENRE Drama
RATING Unclassified M
DURATION 97 mins
LANGUAGE English, French
COUNTRY France
YEAR 2024

Charlie returns from boarding school to take care of her sick mother Laura, owner of a small organic egg farm in the New Jersey countryside.

It's a struggle to look after her mum, run the farm on her own and keep up with her studies. Their day-to-day life on the farm, already strained by years of unspoken resentment, is turned upside down when Laura's mother Solange shows up unannounced!

Solange is an eccentric French feminist who left America many years ago. She's never had much of a relationship with her daughter. Laura's sudden illness motivates her to reconnect. But can these three women, opposite in so many ways, learn to live together? To combat the unexpected bird flu epidemic that threatens the farm, they must rise above conflict.

Only love and laughter can heal old wounds and help them to accept each other's differences.



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FILM

SUN
11
MAY
2.00PM



GREASE

CAST John Travolta, Olivia Newton-John, Stockard Channing
DIRECTOR Randal Kleiser
GENRE Musical
RATING PG
DURATION 110 mins
LANGUAGE English
COUNTRY United States
YEAR 1978

Good girl Sandy Olsson and greaser Danny Zuko fell in love over the summer. When they unexpectedly discover they're now in the same high school, will they be able to rekindle their romance?

Grab some friends for the afternoon and rediscover the obsession that is film Grease, starring one of Australia's beloved stars Olivia Newton-John. Tap your toes to the unforgettable songs that get stuck on rewind in our minds - You're The One That I Want, Grease Lightin', Summer Nights and more.

HUXLEY

SCHOOL OF MAKEUP

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FOR MORE DETAILS



FILM

SUN
4

MAY
10.00AM

SUN
11

MAY
10.00AM

A GREYHOUND OF A GIRL

CAST Brendan Gleeson, Rosaleen Linehan, Sharon Horgan
DIRECTOR Enzo D'Alo
GENRE Animation, Family
RATING Unclassified G
DURATION 85 mins
LANGUAGE English
COUNTRY Ireland
YEAR 2023

Eleven-year-old Mary loves cooking and loves her Granny, who is sadly dying. But Granny can't let go of life, and when a mysterious young woman turns up in Mary's street with a message for Granny, Mary gets pulled into an unlikely adventure.



FRIENDS OF THE *Arts* FOUNDATION

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FILM

THU
8
MAY

RED CARPET
5.30PM

PREMIERE
SCREENING
6.30PM

Q&A
AFTER THE
SCREENING

HAGAR'S HUT

CAST Zarlina Chisholm, Lincoln Lewis

DIRECTOR Stephen Osborne

GENRE Drama

RATING Unclassified M

DURATION 87 mins

LANGUAGE English

COUNTRY Australia

YEAR 2024

The story follows Skye, a young girl fleeing from the clutches of abuse inflicted upon her by her psychiatrist, who seeks solace in the untamed wilderness.

There, she encounters Xan, a mysterious figure whose motives and identity remain shrouded in enigma. As Skye navigates the delicate balance between truth and illusion, Hagar's Hut unfolds as a suspenseful exploration of resilience and survival.

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FILM

FRI
2
MAY
2.30PM

IRENA'S VOW

Through the eyes of a strong-willed woman comes the remarkable story of Irena Gut, and the triumphs of the human spirit over devastating tragedy, as she risked her life to save a generation of Jews from the atrocities of the Holocaust.

CAST Sophie Nelisse, Dougray Scott, Andrej Seweryn
DIRECTOR Louise Archambault
GENRE Drama, War
RATING MA15+
DURATION 121 mins
LANGUAGE English
COUNTRY Canada, Poland
YEAR 2024



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PREMIERE SCREENING

FILM

**FRI
9
MAY**

**RED CARPET
5.30PM**

**SPECIAL
PERFORMANCE
6.30PM**

**PREMIERE
SCREENING
7.00PM**

JAFaICAN

CAST Peter Andre
DIRECTOR Fredi 'Krugá' Nwaka
GENRE Comedy
RATING Unclassified MA
DURATION 98 mins
LANGUAGE English
COUNTRY United Kingdom
YEAR 2024

Gazza, a small-time crook from London, needs £35,000 in just 21 days to cover his grandmother's overdue care fees. When he overhears a tip about a lucrative heist, he seizes the opportunity and heads to Jamaica to pull off the fraud. What starts as a simple plan quickly spirals out of control as Gazza finds himself dodging danger, hiding from criminals, and deceiving everyone in his path to secure the money.

As the situation escalates, the entire island is soon looking for him, exposing his fraudulent scheme. In a high-octane blend of crime, comedy, and action, Gazza must outwit everyone chasing him while racing against the clock—and his own conscience—to survive and escape the chaos he's unleashed. He has 21 days to become a Jamaican.... OR DIE TRYIN!



FILM

FRI
9
MAY
10.00AM

SUN
11
MAY
12.00PM

JANE AUSTEN WRECKED MY LIFE

A desperately single bookseller, lost in a fantasy world, finds herself forced to fulfil her dreams of becoming a writer in order to stop messing up her love life.

CAST Camille Rutherford, Pablo Pauly, Charlie Anson
DIRECTOR Laura Piani
GENRE Romance
RATING Unclassified M
DURATION 94 mins
LANGUAGE French
COUNTRY France
YEAR 2024



FILM

SAT
3
MAY

RED CARPET
5.30PM

PREMIERE
SCREENING
6.30PM

Q&A
AFTER THE
SCREENING

THU
8
MAY

ENCORE
SCREENING
12.00PM

PREMIERE SCREENING

KANGAROO ISLAND

CAST Adelaide Clemens, Rebecca Breeds, Erik Thomson
DIRECTOR Timothy David
GENRE Drama
RATING Unclassified M
DURATION 113 mins
LANGUAGE English
COUNTRY Australia
YEAR 2024

Lou Wells (Rebecca Breeds) has hit rock bottom. After a promising start to her acting career in Hollywood, out of the blue, her talent agency says they're "just not excited by her anymore" and promptly drops her. Truth is, Lou Wells isn't excited about Lou Wells either.

Broke and aimless, she reluctantly accepts a ticket from her estranged father, Rory (Erik Thomson), to return home to South Australia's ruggedly beautiful Kangaroo Island. But what was meant to be a time for reconciliation turns complicated when years of sibling tension and unexpected family secrets resurface. Lou soon discovers that no matter where you end up, home never leaves you.



FILM

SUN
4
MAY

RED CARPET
5.30PM

PREMIERE
SCREENING
6.30PM

Q&A
AFTER THE
SCREENING

PREMIERE SCREENING

MY EYES

CAST Tsu Shan Chambers, Adam Garcia, Eduardo Avila Sanchez, Kieu Chinh, Nia Rush
DIRECTOR Angela How
GENRE Drama
RATING Unclassified M
DURATION 87 mins
LANGUAGE English
COUNTRY Australia, Mexico
YEAR 2024

When Optometrist Alana discovers her daughter has a rare inherited eye disease, she must look into her past to realize her vision for the future. A judo athlete with a vision impairment halfway across the world may hold the answers she is searching for, but old truths threaten to derail the mission and Alana's marriage. Can she save her daughter's sight without losing everything else she holds dear?

Inspired by true events and starring Adam Garcia (Coyote Ugly, Bootmen), Tsu Shan Chambers (Suka, Remnant), two-time Paralympic champion Eduardo Avila Sánchez and Kieu Chinh (The Joy Luck Club, The Sympathizer), My Eyes is a heartfelt family drama about the power of unconditional love.



FILM

SAT
10
MAY

RED CARPET
2.00PM

PREMIERE
SCREENING
3.00PM

Q&A
AFTER THE
SCREENING

PREMIERE SCREENING

MY TAI

CAST Ruben Wilkinson, Jake Ashton, Tracie Filmer
DIRECTOR Hannah Smith
GENRE Comedy
RATING Unclassified M
DURATION 86 mins
LANGUAGE English
COUNTRY Australia **YEAR** 2024

Tai and his lifelong friend Noah, along with bar manager Maeve and the staff of "McCluskey's," learn that insurance won't cover the rebuilding of their beloved bar after hearing about an incoming cyclone!

Determined to give the bar a proper send-off, they plan one last Cyclone Party to bid it farewell. Unbeknownst to Tai, Noah has secretly decided to leave the island to study medicine, a plan Tai uncovers by accident.

Tai's lifelong obsession is to create the perfect cocktail, and live up to his grandfather's legacy. He's spent years trying to replicate it but has never succeeded. With time running out and Noah on the verge of leaving for medical school, Tai must finally craft the perfect drink he's always dreamed of making. In doing so, he hopes to convince Noah to stay and face the future together.



FILM

TUE
6
MAY
6.00PM

SAT
10
MAY
5.30PM

PAVEMENTS

CAST Stephen Malkmus,
Scott Kanberg, Joe Keery
DIRECTOR Alex Ross Perry
GENRE Documentary
RATING Unclassified M
DURATION 128 mins
LANGUAGE English
COUNTRY United States
YEAR 2024

An examination of the iconic 90s indie band, PAVEMENTS appears to be just another music documentary, until it doesn't.

A prismatic, narrative, scripted, documentary, musical, metatextual hybrid, the film intimately shows the band preparing for their sold-out 2022 reunion tour while simultaneously tracking the preparations for a musical based on their songs, a museum devoted to their history and a big-budget Hollywood biopic inspired by their saga as the most important band of a generation.



FILM

THU
8
MAY
10.00AM

QUEENS OF CONCRETE

CAST Hayley Wilson,
Ava Godfrey, Charlotte Heat
DIRECTOR Eliza Cox
GENRE Documentary
RATING Unclassified PG
DURATION 87 mins
LANGUAGE English
COUNTRY Australia
YEAR 2024

Big dreams wrestle bitter truths as three teenage girls pursue Olympic history. Shot over seven years, this coming-of-age documentary chronicles the journey from childhood to adulthood and the moments that define us.

Queens of Concrete is a seven-year journey following three talented young skateboarders—Hayley (14), Ava (13), and Charlotte (9)—each with dreams of representing Australia at the Olympic Games. Nationally recognised as top competitors in their age groups, these girls are strong contenders. However, as childhood naivety fades, their Olympic ambitions evolve into a tale of resilience, triumph, and self-discovery.

Navigating life lessons, heartbreak, betrayal, a global pandemic, and pressure beyond their years, they emerge with a deeper understanding of themselves and their aspirations. Ultimately, Queens of Concrete celebrates their enduring spirit and the hopeful realisation that, despite life's unpredictability, they have grown into strong young women who have each found their own path forward.



FILM

THU
1
MAY
10.30AM

THE CIGARETTE SURFBOARD

An impassioned surfer, Taylor Lane, creates a functional surfboard with 10,000 littered cigarette butts collected from Californian beaches.

The Cigarette Surfboard takes Taylor around the world to learn from professional surfers who are working to protect and restore the health of the ocean through science, education, art, business and political activism. Taylor returns home to California and uses the Ciggy Boards to generate uproar on the environmental, human health, and economic impacts of cigarette butts.

DIRECTOR Ben Judkins
GENRE Documentary
RATING Unclassified M
DURATION 93 mins
LANGUAGE English
COUNTRY United States
YEAR 2024



PREMIERE SCREENING

THE EDGE

If you're not living on the edge, you're taking up too much space.

In this dramatic feature film, three young women navigate life, love, education, and controversy while deeply embedded in the world of elite sport. The Edge is an honest and gritty portrayal of female athletes in the pool, the gym, and on the track, exploring not only their sports, but morality, friendship, heritage, and sexuality.

FILM

FRI
2
MAY

RED CARPET
5.00PM

PREMIERE
SCREENING
6.00PM

Q&A
AFTER THE
SCREENING

TUE
6
MAY

ENCORE
SCREENING
2.30PM

CAST Jane Larkin, Lily Riley,
Mei Ichinose
DIRECTOR Jane Larkin
GENRE Drama
RATING Unclassified M
DURATION 103 mins
LANGUAGE English
COUNTRY Australia
YEAR 2024

**FILM****THU
8
MAY**
4.30PM**SUN
11
MAY**
4.30PM

THE HAKA PARTY INCIDENT

On May 1st, 1979, a group of young Māori and Pasifika activists, He Taua, confronted a gathering of University of Auckland engineering students as they rehearsed their 'mock' haka.

The fracas that followed prompted the nation to confront systemic racism and make change for a better and more equal partnership between Pākehā and Māori.

Although the aftermath of the clash changed race relations in Aotearoa forever, the incident itself was quickly forgotten. Until now...

DIRECTOR Katie Wolfe
GENRE Documentary
RATING Unclassified M
DURATION 100 mins
LANGUAGE English
COUNTRY New Zealand
YEAR 2024

FILM**THU
1
MAY**
2.00PM

TOGETHER TO 35

Revolves around a young mother facing challenges when her son fails to secure passing marks, igniting events that test the family's resilience and unity.

In a modest home near the Tirupathi temple, 28-year-old homemaker Saraswathi and her husband Prasad, a bus conductor, live with their sons Arun (11) and Varun (10). At 16, Saraswathi chose marriage over education out of love for Prasad. Her lack of formal schooling becomes a challenge when Arun struggles with math, particularly the concept of zero, leading to poor grades and humiliation from his teacher, Chanakya. The situation worsens with Arun's suspension and Prasad's decision to hold him back a year.

Their journey underscores the power of perseverance, family support, and community intervention in overcoming adversity.

CAST Nivetha Thomas, Priyadarshi Pulikonda, Viswadev Rachakonda, Arundev Pothula Gautami, K Bhagyaraj, Krishnateja, Ananya Madgula, Abhay Shankar Duvvuri, Pavan, Raja Prajwal
DIRECTOR Nanda Kishore Emani
GENRE Drama, Family, Comedy
RATING Unclassified PG
DURATION 145 mins
LANGUAGE Hindi
COUNTRY India
YEAR 2024

GOLD COAST FILM FESTIVAL AWARDS GALA



Chauvel Award Winner, Robert Connolly

EVENT

THU
1
MAY

6.30PM - 11.30PM

TICKETS:

Tickets \$160pp or \$1500
for a table of 10*

VENUE:

WARNER BROS.
MOVIE WORLD

DRESS CODE:
COCKTAIL

The Gold Coast Film Festival Awards Gala promises an evening of celebration, fine dining, and red carpet excitement, as we come together to shine a spotlight on the incredible talent and creativity within the Australian film community.

Hosted at Queensland's iconic Warner Bros. Movie World, the event is set to entertain while providing fantastic opportunities to network and connect with industry representatives and filmmakers.

The highlight of the night is the prestigious presentation of the 2025 Chauvel Award, a coveted honour that acknowledges outstanding contributions to the Australian film industry.

On the night we will celebrate two of Australia's most significant filmmakers, Charles and Elsa Chauvel, by presenting The Chauvel Award, to acclaimed Australian screen producer, director and writer, Robert Connolly.

Robert's recent film THE DRY was a critical and commercial success followed by the sequel FORCE OF NATURE and BLUEBACK, screening at the Toronto International Film Festival and Sundance Film Festival.

His most recent film as producer, THE SURFER premiered in Official Selection at the Cannes Film Festival this year. Robert's other feature film credits include THE BANK, BALIBO and PAPER PLANES. Working alongside international and Australian cast such as Oscar Isaac, Eric Bana and Mia Wasikowska.

Through his Australian production company Arenamedia, Robert's producing credits include THE SURFER starring Nicholas Cage, Frances O'Connor's directorial debut EMILY starring Emma Mackey, THE BOYS, ROMULUS, MY FATHER and THE TURNING an acclaimed innovative feature film starring Cate Blanchett, Hugo Weaving and Rose Byrne.

Robert's company has also championed the work of Indigenous filmmakers in Australia including Stephen Page's SPEAR, Jub Clerc's SWEET AS and Tony Briggs' THE WARRIORS. With his company's recent film, Adam Elliot's MEMOIR OF A SNAIL nominated for an Academy Award in 2025, produced by Liz Kearney.

Join us to celebrate Robert and our local film industry at this much loved event.

Tickets available at www.gcff.com.au

*Due to alcohol service at the event, tickets are only available to those 18 and above.

EVENT

FRI
2
MAY

9.00AM -
4.00PM

TICKETS:

\$20 Students
\$30 Adults

VENUE:

HOTA
LAKESIDE
ROOM

INDUSTRY DAY ONE:
**WHAT'S NEXT
IN THE QLD
FILM INDUSTRY**

**SCREEN
QUEENSLAND
NETWORKING
EVENT**

EVENT

FRI
2
MAY

4.00PM -
6.00PM

TICKETS:

FREE

VENUE:

HOTA
LAKESIDE
ROOM

Whether you're just starting out or already making waves in the industry, join us for our industry networking day.

The itinerary focuses on "WHAT'S NEXT IN QUEENSLAND'S FILM INDUSTRY" from finding the next big opportunity to securing financing and managing your budgets, what's new and upcoming in tech and post, and scheduling your film. Whether you're seeking funding, mentorship, or collaboration, this is your chance to gain valuable insights, connect with industry experts and fellow creators so you can take the next steps in your creative career.

Topics include; Post and Screen technology, Mastering the production budget, How to make films on the Gold Coast, What grants are available and how to apply and more!

Tickets available at www.gcff.com.au

Screen Queensland and the Gold Coast Film Festival invite screen practitioners to join us for an informal networking event following our first Industry Day; What's Next in the Queensland Film Industry.

This catered event connects screen practitioners from across the Gold Coast and beyond – welcoming film and television industry professionals of all career stages and backgrounds, including both scripted and factual.

Meet your next project partner, forge industry connections and spark collaboration at this low-pressure networking event.

Tickets Free. Registration essential at www.gcff.com.au

EVENT

SUN
4
MAY

11:30AM -
1:30PM

TICKETS:
FREE

VENUE:
HOTA,
HOME OF
THE ARTS

WRITERS SESSION EVENT

Interested in writing for the screen, or in need of a refresher?

Ever wanted to write a screenplay but don't know where to start? Been writing for a while but want to up your game and get your script ready for pitch?

From conception to development to polish, Gold Coast screenwriter and screenwriting instructor CJ Barnes will take you through the steps to write the script you've always wanted to. During this exclusive two-hour writer's session, he will discuss genre, structure, visual storytelling, character development, writing effective dialogue; everything you need to make your script shine. He will also offer insights and guidance into the development of pitch materials to help you prepare for the next steps in getting your script in the production pipeline.

Tickets free. Registration essential at www.gcff.com.au

EVENT

SUN
4
MAY

2:00PM -
4:00PM

TICKETS:
FREE

VENUE:
HOTA,
HOME OF
THE ARTS

SCRIPT TO SCREEN

Our Script to Screen event offers a rare opportunity to experience a screenplay's journey from the very beginning – with the script.

The winning script will be played out with a table reading and actors from QUT in front of the live audience. With thanks to QUT Acting Students and Associate Professor of Acting Andrea Moor.

The Queensland Screenwriting Award 2025 will be presented at the Gold Coast Film Festival Awards Gala 2025.

Tickets free. Registration essential at www.gcff.com.au

EVENT

FRI
9
MAY

9.00AM -
12.00PM

TICKETS:
\$15PP

VENUE:
HOTA,
HOME OF
THE ARTS

INDUSTRY DAY TWO: PITCH IN PARADISE

Jumpstart your career and sharpen your pitching skills at our Industry Networking Day, dedicated to helping you take the next step in your film making journey.

You'll have the chance to network with seasoned industry professionals and pitch your ideas to them directly. Whether you have a feature film concept, short film, or a new project you're working on, this is your opportunity to make connections, be bold, have a go and get valuable feedback.

Tickets available at www.gcff.com.au

EVENT

FRI
9
MAY

12.00PM -
3.00PM

TICKETS:
\$150PP or
\$1400 for a
table of 10*

VENUE:
HOTA
LAKESIDE
ROOM

WOMEN IN FILM LUNCH

The Women in Film Lunch celebrates influential women in Australia's film industry. It's a chance to be inspired by notable females and utilise networking opportunities over a memorable afternoon in the stunning Lakeside Room, at HOTA (Home of the Arts).

This annual event aims to elevate the profile of women in Queensland's film industry, while shaping a narrative that will inspire future generations. It carries the tradition of celebrating stories, perspectives and experiences of women in the screen industry. It has quickly become one of the highlights of the festival.

Hosted by Nicole Dyer, Gold Coast's ABC wonderful breakfast host and radio personality.

Presented by Screen Queensland.

Tickets available at www.gcff.com.au

SPECIAL GUESTS INCLUDE:

Anne Bruning; Production Manager (The Fall Guy, Elvis, Ghost In The Shell, King Kong)

Kate Wormald; Choreographer and Intimacy Coordinator (Elvis, Eden, Boy Swallows Universe, How To Make Gravy, Ticket To Paradise)

Michelle McGahey; Art director (The Matrix, Godzilla Versus Kong, Alien Covenant) And Production Designer (Eden, Boy Swallows Universe, True Spirit)

Paula Garcia; Actress (Bump, Apple Cider Vinegar, Thirteen Lives)



*Due to alcohol service at the event, tickets are only available to those 18 and above.

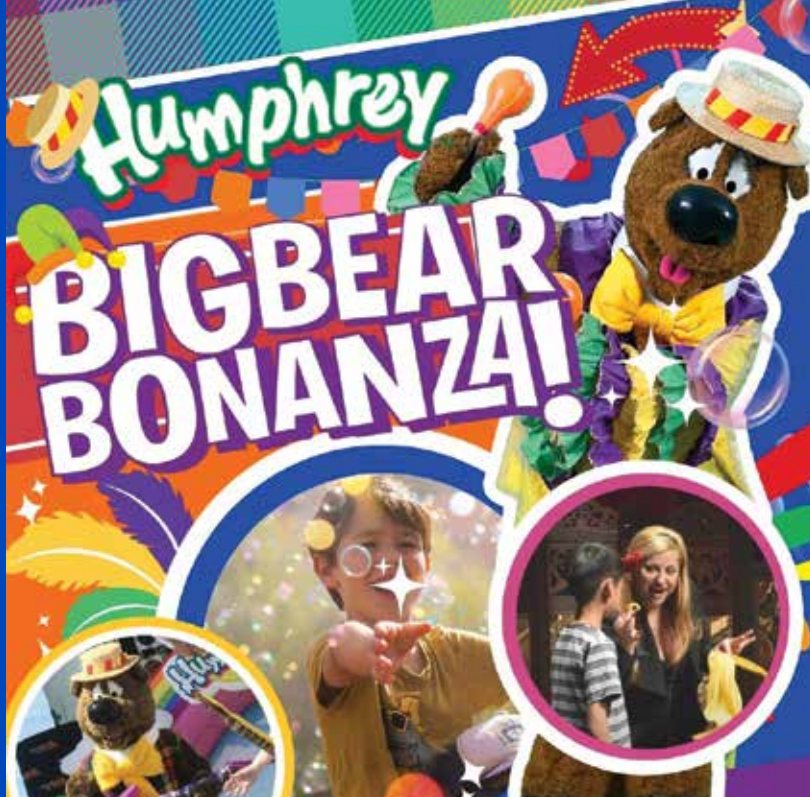
EVENT

SAT
10
MAY

9.00AM -
12.00PM

TICKETS:
\$5PP

VENUE:
HOTA,
HOME OF
THE ARTS



EMERGE! STUDENT SHORT GALA

EVENT

SAT
10
MAY

3.00PM -
6.00PM

TICKETS:
\$25PP

VENUE:
HOTA,
HOME OF
THE ARTS

Get ready for a day bursting with giggles, dancing, magic, bubbles, and unforgettable memories as Humphrey B. Bear and his friends take centre stage at the Gold Coast Film Festival's Kids Day Out!

This fun-filled family event features the high-energy disco-inspired Big Bear Singalong Show, packed with toe-tapping classic kids tunes, dance-along moments, and singalong favourites that will have the whole family joining in. Watch as Humphrey busts a move, shares his biggest bear hugs, chases bubbles, and even performs some magic tricks with the help of his favourite magician friends – keeping little ones (and grown-ups too!) entertained from start to finish.

Don't miss your chance to say hello and snap a photo at the Meet and Greet with Humphrey himself – it's a bear-y special moment you won't want to miss!

It's wholesome fun for kids of all ages – and the young at heart – all happening in the heart of the Gold Coast at HOTA, Home of the Arts.

Proudly presented by OZPIX Entertainment, and the Magic Forest Group, this is the perfect family and kids day out!

Tickets available at www.gcff.com.au

OZPIX
ENTERTAINMENT



Highlighting filmmakers of the future, this competition showcases the best short films from graduating film students from across South-East Queensland film schools and universities.

Prizes for Best Student Short Film, Best Cinematography, Best Screenplay.

Proudly Supported by FOTA (Friends of the Arts) and Blackmagic Design.

Tickets available at www.gcff.com.au

FRIENDS
OF THE
Arts
FOUNDATION

Blackmagicdesign



EVENT

SAT
10
MAY

GATES OPEN
6.00PM
FORMALITIES
START 7.15PM

TICKETS:
FREE

VENUE:
HOTA
OUTDOOR
STAGE

SIPFEST 2025

SHORT FILMS UNDER THE STARS

Gather your friends, pull up a picnic rug and join us under the stars at the incredible HOTA Outdoor Stage for SIPFest, Shorts in Paradise.

The premiere Gold Coast short film festival competition will showcase some of the best short films submitted from around Australia and Internationally.

With live music, food trucks and bars, this is the ultimate outdoor film experience and best of all IT'S FREE!

The night culminates in the live announcement and presentation of the SIPFest award categories and gives our audience the opportunity to vote for their favourite "People's Choice" award on the night!

This event is in laid-back picnic mode. This is a ticketed free event. All attendees must have a valid ticket to enter. Children under 3 years old do not require a ticket.

Tickets free. Registration essential at www.gcff.com.au

SIPFEST SHORT FILM SHOWCASE

PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY EXPERIENCE GOLD COAST
THROUGH THE EGC ARTS FUND

EXPERIENCE
GOLD COAST



AIPOCALYPSE

DIRECTOR Jonathan Weir



ARE YOU COMING TO MY BIRTHDAY?

DIRECTOR Mario Hannah



ONCE A YEAR

DIRECTORS Caleb Keyte and Mertcan Omer Damoglu



FREESTYLE

DIRECTORS Josephine Wagstaff and Josh Stafield



STRAWBERRY CHEESECAKE

DIRECTOR Sean L. McParland



ESCARGOT

DIRECTOR Emma Bengtson



RIDE AND PREJUDICE

DIRECTOR Andy Burkitt



BIG JOHNNY

DIRECTOR Jeanie Kane



SOUS VIDE*

DIRECTORS Luke Van Garza and Martha Louise Van Garza



THE BODY*

DIRECTOR Louris van de Geer



CUT SHORT*

DIRECTOR Tim Ross

*This is a licensed all ages event, and some of the film content may contain mature themes, parental guidance is recommended.

The
EDIT SUITE

**We are
creators.**

video production | photography

PARTNERS

Thank you to our wonderful partners for supporting again this year, the Gold Coast Film Festival. The event is made possible through their generous support.

A special thank you goes to the entire HOTA (Home of the Arts) team for their tireless work and ongoing support of the Gold Coast Film Festival team.

MAJOR PARTNERS



FESTIVAL PARTNERS



SUPPORT PARTNERS



**GOLD COAST
FILM
FESTIVAL**

GCFF.COM.AU