

THE OTHER FILM FESTIVAL

16 Nov - 03 Dec 2025



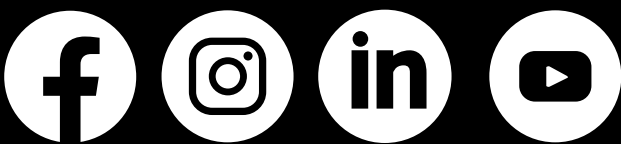
ARTS ACCESS VICTORIA

We respectfully acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Country and custodians across all lands and waters now known as Australia. We pay respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples living here and those who have previously lived on these lands. We acknowledge and uphold their continuing relationship to this land and waterways. We acknowledge that their sovereignty has never been ceded.

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Events

	Time	What	Where
SUN 16	10 am – 3:30 pm	Industry Day with Melbourne Queer Film Festival	Conference room 1, Building 16 (Storey Hall), RMIT
SAT 22	1:15 – 3:15 pm	TOFF x MQFF screening	Cinema Nova (Cinema 2), Carlton
TUES 25	2:30 – 4 pm	The Gathering at TOFF	Koorie Heritage Trust, Federation Square, CBD
WED 26	1 – 6:30 pm	TOFF Schools Program	SIGNAL, Northbank, Flinders Walk
THUR 27	1 – 6:30 pm	TOFF Schools Program	SIGNAL, Northbank, Flinders Walk
WED 03	2 – 5 pm	TOFF Place for Every Story Screenings	Gandel Lab, ACMI, Federation Square, CBD
WED 03	5:30 – 6:30 pm	TOFF on the Big Screen at Fed Square	The Big Screen, Fed Square, CBD

Online Screenings

When	What	Where
20 Nov -03 Dec	TOFF 2025 Screening Program on Cinema 3	Online via ACMI's Cinema 3
17 - 30 Nov	TOFF x MQFF screening program	Online via MQFF website

21 Years of The Other Film Festival

In 2025 we are proud to celebrate the 21st Birthday of TOFF!

As part of our 21st birthday celebrations we have chosen to highlight storytelling from our local communities. With screening programs and events from 16 November – 3 December 2025.

For many Deaf and Disabled people our screen work is more than just storytelling. It's evidence. It's advocacy. It disrupts assumptions and re-sets stereotypes. It creates solidarity and community. It addresses cultural inequities and the deep pain of not seeing ourselves reflected back in the world. Screen and cultural participation and practice can be a vehicle for expression, resilience, transformation or even survival. Storytelling can be an act of reclaiming power, sharing experiences and shifting ideologies. A way to create a sense of pride and belonging.

TOFF is Australia's first international disability film festival. Since 2004, it has become a leader in the global disability screen advocacy movement. The Other Film Festival champions Deaf and Disabled-led and authored work. Acknowledging also the vital role of allyship in the screen industry to make change together.

TOFF is a Major Project of Arts Access Victoria (AAV). AAV is the state's peak body for arts and disability. Since 1974, AAV has been a leader in disability arts practice, access and cultural equity. AAV is disability-led. AAV produces and platforms the work of Deaf and Disabled artists.



Image: TOFF December 3 Screening 2024. Photo by Raphael Recht.

A message from Arts Access Victoria's CEO

Joshua Pether



In 2025 we celebrate our 21st year. The inaugural The Other Film Festival (TOFF) was launched in 2004 in response to the lack of opportunities for Deaf and Disabled people to view stories reflecting our own lived experience. TOFF is a trailblazer, becoming the first and foremost, disability film festival in Australia. From the outset TOFF has led the way in delivering a global standard of universal access. We offer Deaf and Disabled makers and audiences an accessible place for high quality and compelling events. At TOFF our groundbreaking work centres Deaf and Disabled screen creatives and audiences and in the process transforms how the screen industry values and includes us.

Thank-you to all our Major partners City of Melbourne and VicScreen Thank you to partners and collaborators ACMI, Vision Australia Radio, MapCo, Melbourne Queer Film Festival and Koorie Heritage Trust. Thank you to all the staff and volunteers who have contributed to TOFF over the years, including current Artistic Director Fiona Tuomy and Creative Producer Poppy Haynes. I would also like to acknowledge former Festival Directors Mija Gwyn and Rick Randall. Thank you to the many filmmakers who have contributed to TOFF over the last 21 years. And of course, to you -our audience- who demonstrate time and time again that people want more Deaf and Disabled stories on screen and accessible cinema experiences. You have made TOFF a leading beacon for the screen culture of the future. One where Disabled stories are ours to tell.

A Message from The Other Film Festival's Artistic Director

Fiona Tuomy



Welcome to The Other Film Festival (TOFF) 2025! We are proud to celebrate the 21st Birthday of TOFF.

We acknowledge that since The Other Film Festival (TOFF) first started in 2004, the screen landscape has transformed and that Deaf and Disabled storytellers play a vital role in shaping and developing new ways to create work and connect with audiences. We have worked hard to position TOFF as an essential counterpoint in the screen eco-system.

Storytelling and community are at the heart of this year's festival. To help celebrate TOFF's 21st Birthday we wanted to focus on local stories and voices. Reflecting our role as part of an important human rights-based storytelling movement. Celebrating the aesthetic potential of disability and access. To diversify the bodies, ideas and ways of being usually found in screen and cultural spaces. Sharing authentic and untold stories that are ours to tell.

We genuinely thank our major partners - City of Melbourne and VicScreen for your ongoing support. We value all our partners and collaborators in front and behind the scenes, including ACMI, St Kilda Film Festival, MQFF, Map Co and Vision Australia Radio. An extra special thank-you to AAV Executive Team - Joshua Pether and Nikki Zerella and to Poppy Haynes, TOFF Creative Producer and AAV Marketing and Communications team - Sabina Knox and Erin Dick. A big thank-you also to all the AAV management team and staff.

Importantly I would like to acknowledge the vital contributions of previous TOFF and AAV staff and volunteers who laid the foundations to the sustainability and continued success of the festival. Including founding Festival Director Rick Randall, former Festival Director Mija Gwyn and former AAV CEOs Veronica Pardo and Caroline Bowditch.

Please join us at The Other Film Festival 2025!

A message from
Lord Mayor of Melbourne



For 21 years, The Other Film Festival has championed inclusive cinema, and the City of Melbourne is proud to stand alongside it as a longtime supporter.

As Australia's very first and longest-running international disability film festival, it has amplified marginalised voices in

the film industry, strengthened our local arts community and set the bar for audience accessibility in Melbourne and beyond.

Congratulations to the many organisers, partners, supporters and artists who have built this incredible legacy.

This year's program spans in-person and online events, and I encourage you all to support the artists, their stories and the power of inclusive storytelling.

Nicholas Reece
Lord Mayor

A message from
The Director & CEO of ACMI



At ACMI, our aim is to nurture an inclusive, diverse and welcoming place for people to gather and experience screen culture. Supporting Deaf and Disabled people to tell their stories, their way, is integral to that purpose and the health of our screen industry overall. Building a vibrant ecology of creative practitioners will only ensure a more sustainable future for film – and more

compelling content for those of us in the audience.

ACMI is incredibly proud to partner with The Other Film Festival (TOFF) for the fourth-year running, celebrating the creativity, voices, and stories of the Deaf and Disabled communities.

All films in the festival will be streaming online across Australia on ACMI's Cinema 3. They'll be captioned, audio described, and available for free.

To everyone taking part in this year's festival – may you delight in discovering fresh voices, bold ideas, and inspiring new works. All of us here at Australia's national museum of screen culture are thrilled to share in the festivities.

Wishing you all a wonderful TOFF!

Seb Chan
ACMI Director & CEO

Access at TOFF

The Other Film Festival is committed to making films as accessible as possible. A range of access services and facilities are available to ensure everyone can have an accessible and enjoyable festival experience.

This year we are running events online and in person across the City of Melbourne. We have provided links to all venue access and way-finding pages. Please contact us or the venues for more information.

Please advise of any access requirements when you book your tickets – every effort will be made to meet your request.

Contact Arts Access Victoria

Phone: 03 9699 8299 (Voice Only)

Phone: 0401 224 864 (Text or Voice)

Email: info@artsaccess.com.au

All Events are also on the AAV website

ArtsAccess.com.au/TOFF



Wheelchair Access

All events are wheelchair accessible, including toilets. Accessible seating is available in all areas.



Auslan Interpreters

Auslan interpreters will be available at all TOFF run events or be requestable.



Support Workers available

There will be Support Workers available.



Registered Assistance

Animals welcome Registered Assistance Animals are welcome and water bowls are available.



Quiet space

We will have quiet rooms at all indoor events. All events are relaxed.



Open captioned

Open captioned films display captions that dictate any spoken dialogue, music or sound effect in the film and are shown on the screen for the duration of the film.



Closed captioned

Closed captioned films display captions that dictate any spoken dialogue, music or sound effect in the film. Closed captions can be turned on and off.



Captioned

If there is both Open and Closed captions.

All foreign films have English captions.



Hearing Loop

There are hearing loops at select venues in the festival.



Audio Description

Audio description provides commentary to describe body language, expressions, movements, key action and the visual content of the film. Narration occurs during the natural pauses in the audio, and sometimes during dialogue if deemed necessary.



Mask Friendly

TOFF is a mask friendly festival. We will provide mask for anyone who would like to use one.



Online

Whenever an event has this symbol it means the event or screening program will be available online.

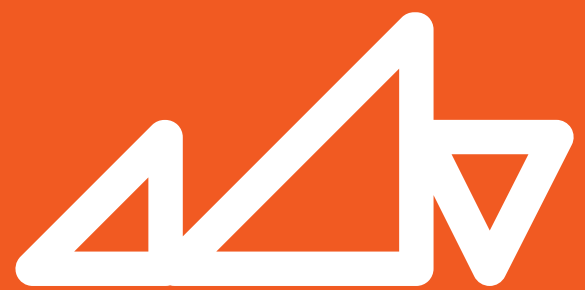
Celebrating 21 Years of Deaf and Disability Film

For more info



**THE
OTHER
FILM
FESTIVAL**

16 Nov - 03 Dec 2025



ARTS ACCESS VICTORIA

Industry Day With MQFF

Sunday 16
November



In person networking and panels

We are teaming up with JIMPA (2025 film) and Melbourne Queer Film Festival (MQFF) for Industry Day. Join us for this relaxed, proudly queer event. Enjoy inspiring conversations that shape the stories we tell on screen.

When: Sunday 16 November, 10 am – 3:30 pm
Where: Conference room 1, Building 16 (Storey Hall), RMIT, 342–344 Swanston St
Access: Wheelchair Accessible, support workers available

Cost: Free
Booking: Registration is essential.

Emerging Filmmakers Pitch & Networking 10 am — 12 pm

We invite emerging filmmakers to present a 30-second introduction and film pitch. This is your chance to share your projects with the JIMPA creative team and special guests. This informal session is a great opportunity to connect with other queer filmmakers.

Director's Masterclass with Sophie Hyde 1 — 2 pm

Learn from one of Australia's most influential directors in this exclusive masterclass.

JIMPA Panel 2:30 — 3:30 pm

Sophie Hyde and Aud Mason-Hyde join key community members from Naarm to reflect on JIMPA. Panel members will be sharing what inspired the film's queer spirit. This panel is a heartfelt celebration of the stories that matter.

TOFF x MQFF screenings

Saturday 22
November



Film screening

If You Are Afraid You Put Your Heart Into Your Mouth and Smile

87 Minutes | 2025 | Austria | German, German Sign Language (English subtitles)

Anna is a 12-year-old living in Vienna with her deaf, single mother, Isolde. As Anna's relationships deepen and her struggles grow more complex, she begins to find-and use-her own voice. This story intertwines Deaf and trans identities in a coming-of-age story that explores class and the parent-child bond.

Director/ Writer Marie Luise Lehner

Company Nikolaus Geyrhalter Filmproduktion

A special presentation in collaboration with Melbourne Queer Film Festival (MQFF).

We are bringing you a special screening of If You Are Afraid You Put Your Heart Into Your Mouth and Smile alongside Australian short film With Love, Lottie (2024).

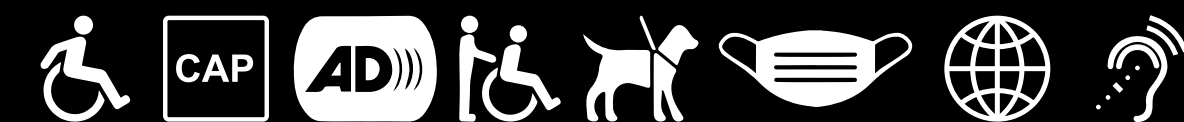
You can join us in person for the screening or you can [watch from the comfort of your own house online](#).

When: Saturday 22 November, 1.15 pm

Where: Cinema Nova (Cinema 2), Carlton

Cost: \$13 - \$28

Access: Wheelchair accessible, audio described, captioned, online



You can find out more about [MQFF's access](#) via their website.



With Love, Lottie

12 Minutes | 2025 | Australia | English

A love letter to anyone who has ever felt like the odd one out. A beautifully realised, authentic celebration of first dates inspired by Drummond's experiences as a young disabled queer person.

Director/ Writer Lily Drummond

The Gathering at TOFF

Tuesday 25
November



Networking and screening

25 Minutes | 2025 | Australia | English

A documentary short about the inaugural First Nations Deaf and Disabled Yarning Circle that premiered at Alter State 2024.

Director/ Writer
Merryn Trescott

Producer
Sapphic Flicks

Company
Arts Access Victoria, Arts Centre Melbourne

Come join us for this special Gathering event at Koorie Heritage Trust as part of TOFF. We will be screening the documentary short. Yarning Circle members will be share their experiences after the screening.

This event will be both in person and hybrid with catering provided on the day.

When: Tuesday 25 November, 2.30 pm – 4 pm
Where: Koorie Heritage Trust, (Yarra Building, Federation Square) and online via Zoom.
Access: Auslan Interpreted, wheelchair accessible, quiet room, assistance animals welcome, support staff available.



Cost: Free
Booking: Please RSVP by 12 pm on Tuesday 25 November, with any access and dietary requirements and we will send you a Zoom link for the session.
RSVP: You can RSVP by email, or phone 9699 8299 (voice only)/ 0401 224 864 (text or voice) or filling in the form on our website

The Gathering is AAV’s free online networking event for Deaf and Disabled artists. We run the Gathering on the last Tuesday of every month.

TOFF Schools Program

25 -26
November



In person screening

25 Minutes | 2025 | Australia | English

Capturing the City: Stop Motion Animations (work in progress) has it all. Prison breaks on sharks, fashion shows, wizards and going down to the Vic Market for a coffee. These students have created stories from figurines, plasticine, paper and imagination.

Director

Seb Fowler

Writer

Capturing the City Creatives

Producer/ Company

Arts Access Victoria

Capturing the City brings young Deaf and Disabled creatives in High Schools and TAFEs across Melbourne together in the CBD.

This year, students worked together to create their own stop motion animation shorts. The animations will be screened as part of The Other Film Festival at SIGNAL for audiences to drop in and check out.

Capturing the City is in partnership with Signal and the City of Melbourne.

When: Wednesday 26 and Thursday 27 November, 1 pm – 6:30 pm

Where: SIGNAL, Northbank, Flinders Walk, Melbourne

Access: Wheelchair accessible, closed captions, assistance animals welcome, support staff available.



Cost: Free

Booking: No booking required.



Local Spotlight

Wednesday
3 December



In person screening

Local spotlight will be broken up into 3 sessions:

Session 1: Experimental Shorts (11 films) [00:39:38]

Session 2: Dance Shorts (4 films) [00:54:53]

Session 3: Embracing Voices (1 film) [00:33:32]

Experience the vibrancy of disability-led screen storytelling. Explore innovative ways to create work and connect with audiences. Be challenged and transported through original and untold stories!

Please join us on International Day of People with Disability for our Local Spotlight screening program. We are featuring 15 Victorian made screen works. Including animations, short films and documentaries.

When: Wednesday 3 December, 2 - 5 pm

Where: Gandel Lab, ACMI, Federation Square

Access: Auslan Interpreted, captioning, audio loop, wheelchair accessible, quiet room, assistance animals welcome, support staff available.



Cost: Free

Booking: Please book your spot via Humanitix

TOFF on The Big Screen

Wednesday
3 December



In person screening

Blockhead and Sparkles and the Flood of Tears

9 Minutes | 2021 | Australia | English

Featuring hand-drawn oil pastels by acclaimed artist Digby Webster, this animated short film celebrates neurodiversity as it follows two friends with unique gifts.

Director

Digby Webster, Lauren Orrell

Producers

Rosie Lourde

Writer

Lauren Orrell, Rosie Lourde

Celebrate International Day of People with Disability and TOFF 2025 Closing Night! Everyone is welcome to join us for this free event at Fed Square's Big Screen. We have curated a program of six Australian short films for you to enjoy. Meet and celebrate with filmmakers and audience members from this year's festival.

We will be screening Blockhead and Sparkles and the Flood of Tears, Bokeh, Dungeons, Goblins and Broccoli, Songbirds, When The Sky Was Blue and Where The World Is Quiet. Where the World is Quiet is also part of the of online screening program.

When: Wednesday 3 December, 5 - 6 pm

Where: Big Screen, Main Square at Fed Square

Access: Wheelchair accessible, changing place, registered assistance animals welcome, support workers available



Please note: Fed Square is cobblestoned and may be difficult to navigate for visitors using mobility aids.

Cost: Free

Booking: No booking required

TOFF on The Big Screen Short Films

Bokeh

12 Minutes | 2024 | Australia | English/ Auslan



Two photographers set out on an unforgettable journey to find the ‘perfect’ photo.

Director/ Writer **Producers**

Christian Misuraca Daniel Shao

Dungeons, Goblins and Broccoli

8 Minutes | 2023 | Australia | English



A group of avid Dungeons and Dragons players embark on their next quest.

Director/ Writer	Bus Stop Films
Dan Sanguinetti	Writers
Producers	Dan Sanguinetti,
Dianna La Grassa	Russell Lee, Bus Stop
Company	Films participants

Songbirds

7 Minutes | 2022 | Australia | Ukrainian



A young hearing-impaired violinist, while auditioning for a music school in Ukraine, is haunted by past memories.

Director	Writers
Stefan Bugryn	Llewelyn Michael
	Bates

When The Sky Was Blue

14 Minutes | 2021 | Australia | English, Mandarin



One Sunday between meals and chores with her family, ten-year-old Leah experiences small but striking moments of longing and loss.

Director/ Writer	Producers
Rae Choi	Rae Choi, Sheree
	Ramage

2025 Online Screening Program

This year we are streaming 7 local short films for free on ACMI's Cinema 3.

Access on Cinema 3



How to turn on Audio Descriptions and Captions

1. Start the film.
2. Click to the three dots on the bottom right of the screen.
- 3a. Click Subtitles/CC to choose captions.
- 3b. Click Audio option to choose audio descriptions.

Home Is Where the Art is, film still, 2024.



Online Screening Program on ACMI Cinema 3

Black Time, White Time

12 Minutes | 2023 | Australia | English



A tech-savvy teen, who relocates to live with her Deaf Aunty. Must learn Auslan and deal with a technophobic watchmaker, who challenges her world.

Director	Company
Edoardo Crismani	Pink Pearl Productions
Writer	Producers
Tammy Coleman-Zweck	Tammy Coleman-Zweck

Compare the Parents

11 Minutes | 2023 | Australia | English



This short film captures the discrimination parents with intellectual disability face when they become parents.

Director	Company
Kylie Fisher	Positive Powerful Parents Self Advocacy Group
Producers	
Neon Sheep Films	

Dark Matter

10 Minutes | 2024 | Australia | English



A disabled man tries to solve the biggest question in physics, a solution to the theory of everything, while rubbish piles up on his balcony.

Director/ Writer	Producers
Leo Berkeley	Leo Berkeley

Eye of the Game

13 Minutes | 2025 | Australia | Aulan



Born Deaf, an Aussie Rules footballer defies expectations. By playing in an all hearing team, he strives to claim the ruck position in the Seniors.

Director/ Writer	Company
Ramas McRae	Big Blue Entertainment, Vicscreen, AFL, MIFF
Producers	
Adam Bigum	

Online Screening Program on ACMI Cinema 3

Home Is Where the Art is

12 Minutes | 2024 | Australia | English



A portrait of Arts Access Victoria’s SRS (Supported Residential Services) Studios. Where artists have been creating works for over 30 years.

Director	Company
Rachel Edward	Arts Access Victoria
Writer	Producers
SRS Studio Artists	Arts Access Victoria

No Prior Opportunity

15 Minutes | 2025 | Australia | English



Rhys Gilday, a man on the autism spectrum, and his love of AFL umpires, shine a spotlight on the game’s most misunderstood figures.

Director/ Writer	Producers
Alex Walton	Theo McMahon, Fraser Pemberton
Company	
TRAK Studios, Cut by Dog & Dogmilk Films	

Where the World is Quiet

12 Minutes | 2025 | Australia | English



Reveals a personal side of former Australian of the Year Grace Tame. Shaped by autism, auditory processing disorder, and a need to outrun the noise.

Director/ Writer	Producers
Ben Strum	Shahar Burla, Grace Tame, Ben Strum
Company	
Aspect	



Renting Films on Cinema 3

You can rent the films until 3 December. You will not be able to access the content after this.

Click the buttons under each film to rent the individual films. Or you can go to Cinema 3.

1. Choose a film to watch or explore, when you hover over a film you can click "Rent \$0.00"
2. This prompts to set up an account with Cinema 3 with an email address
3. Once email address is entered, you will need to enter your name
4. Create a Password and enter again to confirm it
5. You can read Terms and Conditions for setting up an account
6. There is then some information to read about the free rental and the time periods to watch within. You then agree to rent; and accept the terms
7. You are then taken to another screen. This screen has information about the rental period, and the time you have to watch the film
8. The same screen also says "Success a receipt has been emailed to you." There is also a link to view "System Requirements" at this stage, which you can do to see if your device will work
9. If you click the "System Requirements" link, it will take you to the "Help & FAQ" page. You can scroll down to read the requirements You will then receive two emails from "Cinema 3 ACMI"
10. The first email will thank you for joining
11. The second email is a "Purchase Receipt" but because it is free all the amounts on the receipt are \$0.00. There is a Watch Now button in the email



Dungeons, Goblins and Broccoli, film still, 2023.

Arts Access Victoria

Become an AAV Champion Today.

Make a tax deductible donation to support us.

ONLY IN THIS CITY OF OURS



NGV International



HER Rooftop



Aung Lo



The Tea Rooms 1892



Arbory Afloat

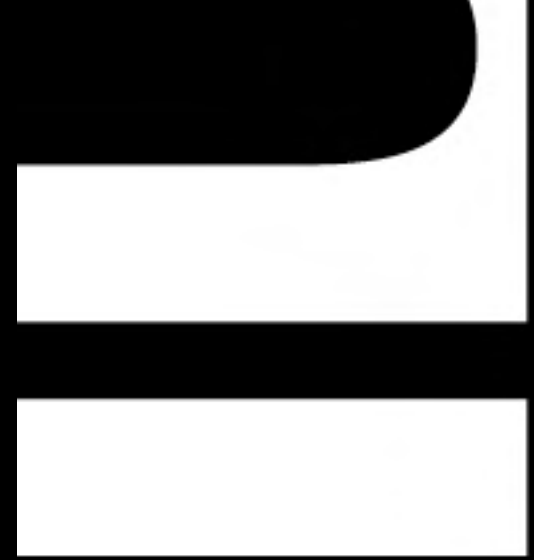
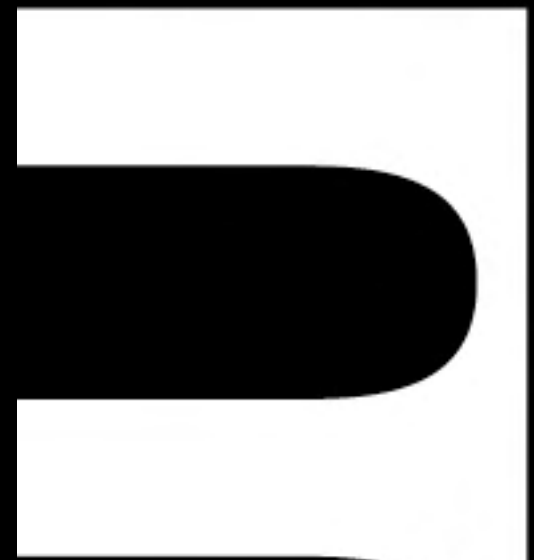
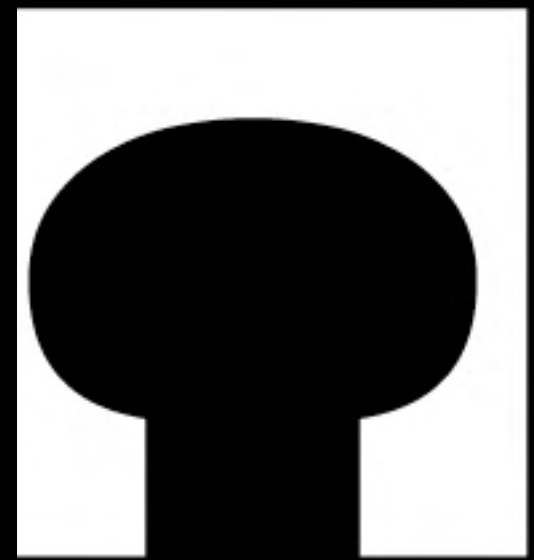
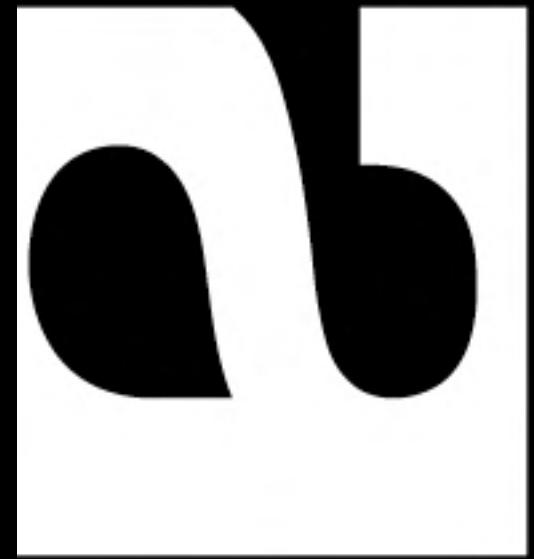


SCAN TO SEE
WHAT'S ON
MELBOURNE

ONLY
IN THE
CITY



CITY OF
MELBOURNE



**See curated films
at unbeatable
prices, every week.**

**Become an
ACMI Member.**



**CREATIVITY
VICTORIA**



Vision Australia Radio



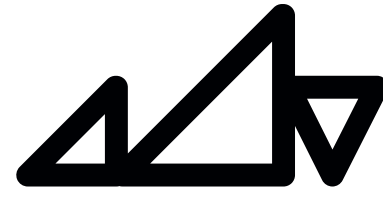
varadio.org

On-air, online, on podcast

Tune in any time for a broad range of unique programs including readings from the latest newspapers, magazines and books plus a range of speciality programs that inform and entertain the blind, low vision and print-disabled communities.

We Thank all our Supporters and Partners

The Other Film Festival is a major Arts Access Victoria Project.



ARTS ACCESS VICTORIA

Principal Partner is the City of Melbourne.



CITY OF MELBOURNE

Government Partner is VicScreen.



VICSCREEN

Festival partners are ACMI and MapCo.



Media Partner is Vision Australia Radio.



**Vision Australia
Radio**

Community Partner is Koorie Heritage Trust and Melbourne Queer Film Festival.



Arts Access Victoria is proudly supported by Creative Australia and the Victorian Government.



Australian Government

