THE OTHER FILM FESTIVAL

19 November - 06 December 2026

ARTS ACCESS VICTORIA

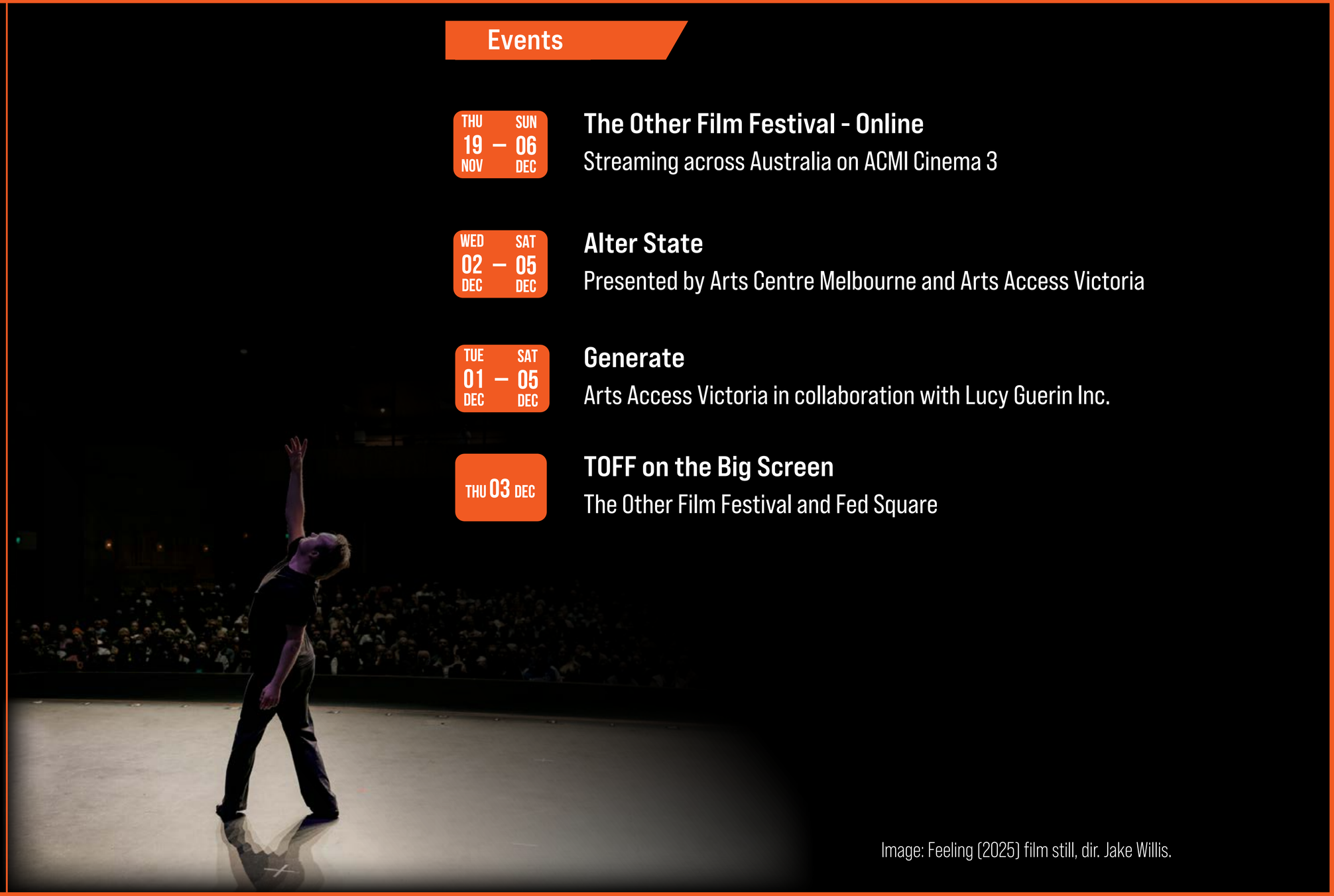
We respectfully acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Country and custodians across all lands and waters now known as Australia. We pay respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples living here and those who have previously lived on these lands. We acknowledge and uphold their continuing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

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Events

THU 19 NOV – SUN 06 DEC
The Other Film Festival - Online
Streaming across Australia on ACMI Cinema 3

WED 02 DEC – SAT 05 DEC
Alter State
Presented by Arts Centre Melbourne and Arts Access Victoria

TUE 01 DEC – SAT 05 DEC
Generate
Arts Access Victoria in collaboration with Lucy Guerin Inc.

THU 03 DEC
TOFF on the Big Screen
The Other Film Festival and Fed Square

Image: Feeling (2025) film still, dir. Jake Willis.

The Other Film Festival 2026

In 2026 we are proud to celebrate The Other Film Festival in collaboration with Alter State!

Please join us from 19 November – 6 December and enjoy a range of disability-led screening programs and events.

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.

The Other Film Festival 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.

Alter State is a disability-led arts initiative celebrating Deaf and Disabled artists, creativity and culture. It is founded and presented by Arts Centre Melbourne and Arts Access Victoria.

The Other Film Festival 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 Launch 2025. Screening 'Eye of the Game', dir. Ramas McRae. Photo by Darren Gill.

A message from Arts Access Victoria's CEO

Joshua Pether



In 2026 we celebrate our 22nd year. We are proud to present this year's program as part of Alter State, with thanks to our partner Arts Centre Melbourne.

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. All films are audio described and captioned. 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 our Major partner City of Melbourne. Thank you to our partners and collaborators: ACMI, Fed Square, Lucy Guerin Inc./WXYZ Studios and Sapphic Flicks. Thank you to all the staff and volunteers who have contributed to TOFF this year, including current Artistic Director Fiona Tuomy and Creative Producer Poppy Haynes. Thank you to the many filmmakers who have contributed to TOFF over the last 22 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) 2026!

TOFF is proud to also be part of Alter State 2026. Alter State is a disability-led arts initiative celebrating Deaf and Disabled artists, creativity and culture. It is founded and presented by Arts Centre Melbourne and Arts Access Victoria.

In 2026, Alter State explores the theme 'Regeneration: Building Deaf and Disabled Futures'. Regeneration is what comes after disruption. Not a return to how things were, but the slow, deliberate work of tending new ground. TOFF 2026 interlinks with this Alter State theme. Reflecting that Deaf and Disabled storytellers play a vital role in shaping and developing new ways to create work and connect with audiences. Also, acknowledging the important role of allyship in making change together across the screen eco-system.

We genuinely thank our major funding partner City of Melbourne and for their on-going and longtime support. We value all our partners and collaborators in front and behind the scenes. Including ACMI, Arts Centre Melbourne, St Kilda Film Festival, MapCo, Fed Square, Lucy Guerin Inc, Sapphic Flicks team of Merryn Trescott and Jamie Connor and the Equi Arts team of Chanel Bowen, Stephanie Dower and Aimee Huxley.

An extra special thank you to the filmmaker teams we are working with. To the AAV Executive Team - Joshua Pether and Darise Pulfer and to Poppy Haynes, TOFF Creative Producer and Erin Dick, AAV Head of Marketing and Communications. A big thank you also to all the AAV Management team, Staff and Board.

Please join us at The Other Film Festival and Alter State 2026!

A message from The Lord Mayor of Melbourne

Nick Reece



The City of Melbourne is thrilled to welcome The Other Film Festival back to town, once again shining a spotlight on the incredible creativity and talent of Deaf and Disabled people in screen.

We've stood behind this Melbourne institution from the beginning and couldn't be prouder of its legacy as Australia's first international disability film festival.

This is a fair city, shaped by many voices and experiences, and we can't wait to see those perspectives brought to life across our iconic theatres like ACMI and the Big Screen at Fed Square.

There are over 20 films on offer across October, November and December and countless opportunities to discover new artists, broaden your perspectives and experience powerful storytelling. With online and in-person screenings, alongside world-leading accessibility features, the festival ensures everyone can enjoy these stories.

Congratulations to the festival organisers on your 22nd year, and to Alter State, Arts Centre Melbourne and Arts Access Victoria for the incredible work you do year-round in fostering disability led arts and culture here in our city.

Explore the program, and I look forward to joining you as we celebrate another outstanding year of cinema at The Other Film Festivalculture here in our city. Explore the program, and I look forward to joining you as we celebrate another outstanding year of cinema at The Other Film Festival.

A message from ACMI's Director & CEO

Seb Chan



Here at ACMI, we are committed to championing screen culture that is genuinely inclusive, diverse and welcoming. Ensuring Deaf and Disabled people can share their stories on their own terms remains central to that vision — and essential to a healthy, future-focused screen sector that is rich, relevant and resonant.

In 2026, we're proud to partner once again with The Other Film Festival (TOFF), celebrating the imagination, talent and perspectives of Deaf and Disabled communities for a fifth consecutive year.

This year's program will stream free across Australia on ACMI's Cinema 3, with every film captioned and audio described.

To everyone joining the festival: may you find joy in new voices, bold ideas and the remarkable creativity on display. All of us at Australia's national museum of screen culture are delighted to share in the celebrations.

Here's to a wonderful TOFF 2026!

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 arer also on the AAV webiste

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.



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 masks 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 Deaf and Disabled Storytelling on Screen

For more info

ArtsAccess.com.au/TOFF

THE OTHER FILM FESTIVAL

19 November - 06 December 2026

ARTS ACCESS VICTORIA

TOFF Program Launch

The 2026 program launch is on Wednesday, 28 October at ACMI, Fed Square. The event features screenings, speeches and networking. Enjoy a selection of local shorts from this year's program at the launch.

Wednesday 28 October

Program Launch Screening Program



Butterflies

12 minutes | 2012 | Australia | English

When a struggling artist is offered a job by a sinister businessman, the prospect is inviting but the reality threatens to kill her imagination.

Director/Writer: Isabel Peppard | Producer/Writer: Warwick Burton | Producer: Warwick Burton

Rehabilitating

16 minutes | 2024 | Australia | English

A woman with chronic pain is stuck in a rehab hospital, unable to leave until she can find a way out of her fears and pain with the help of a new friend.

Director/Writer: Inez Playford | Producer: Freya Brunning



Stella Young Award 2026

Arts Access Victoria cherishes the memory of our collaborator Stella Young and honours her by awarding a young Australian disabled artist each year with $3,000.

The Stella Young Award was established in 2018. It recognises her impact on society through her early work with Disability Media Australia, in particular, the program 'No Limits', which challenged the representation of disability in Australian screen. We aim to help the next generation of artists and activists with disability by awarding the talents of those trying to challenge the system today.





The 2026 Stella Young Award Recipient is Flick!

"This award is a huge honour, one I share with all the disabled artists, advocates and friends that I've learnt from, laughed with, and grown because of. Even just applying for the Stella Young Award and re-engaging with 'you get proud by practising' is a reminder that disability pride is not contingent on being someone else's inspiration. Being able to challenge systems without feeling like I need to earn a narrow approval of what disability is and can be has been freeing as an artist, and is for and because of the community I have around me."

Wed 2 - Sat 5 December

Alter State 2026



The Other Film Festival is proud to be part of Alter State 2026. Alter State is co-presented by Arts Access Victoria and Arts Centre Melbourne. Experience the Alter State 2026 program across Melbourne and online from Wednesday 2 to Saturday 5 December.

Alter State Program

Image: Photography Hilary Walker, featuring Pearl Blackk.

Panels and Networking

Alter State: The Gathering | Friday 4 December, 12 - 5 pm

Explore the world of screen, gaming and creative careers. These sessions will make professional networking more welcoming and inclusive for everyone. Learn practical insights and new ideas for the future of inclusive creative industries.

Where: The Edge, Fed Square, Melbourne CBD

Cost: $15 - $25 (Free for Companions, Support Workers and/or Carers)

Access: Wheelchair accessible, Auslan, audio described, open captioned



Image: Transmit Future, 2024. Photo by Brittany Long.

Tickets for The Gathering

Generate

Arts Access Victoria x LGI/WXYZ Studios

Tue 1 - Sat 5 December



Image by Josh Wells.

Workshops and Screenings

Generate is a week-long collaboration between Lucy Guerin Inc and Arts Access Victoria. Dance and Movement workshops from Monday 30 November – Saturday 5 December at WXYZ Studios.

Where: WXYZ Studios, 130 Dryburgh St, North Melbourne

Cost: Free - $10, Companion Cards welcome

Access: Wheelchair accessible, Auslan interpreted, Audio described, Calm space



Tuesday 1 December, 10 am - 5 pm

Boorloo (WA)-based artists Ainslie Allan (they/them) and Mani Mae Gomes (they/them) invite Naarm audiences into their shared practice. Experience movement, breath and live sound through loop pedal in this workshop. Tuesday 1 December will be a free drop in session open to the public throughout the day. Registrations not required.

Wednesday 2 December, 10 am - 12.15 pm

Touch Compass dancer Alisha McLennan Marler, soloist for White Noise, leads a 90-minute embodied exploration of inclusive dance practice. This workshop will create a shared space where every body can move, connect and create on its own terms. Book Wednesday 2 December workshop tickets.

Thursday 3 December, 10 am - 11.30 pm

Wiring Warming (Wirin – spirit, in Noongar language). Led by MJ Anderson-Hyde, be present in the space and explore your own way of moving. Connecting body and spirit, softy. This workshop is a mix of discussion/yarning and guided movement. Book Thursday 3 December workshop tickets.

Saturday 5 December, 10 am - 1 pm

Film and Dance curated by Sapphic Flicks. Join us for an experimental 'live' dance and film presentation. Curated by Sapphic Flicks, Merryn Trescott (Wiradjuri) and Jamie Connor. Inspired by the surrealist parlour game Exquisite Corpse, this collaborative approach into film, creates a playful space for making and viewing work together. Presented in collaboration with The Other Film Festival. Free event. Register for Saturday 5 December workshop.

More info about Generate

TOFF on The Big Screen

Thursday 3 December

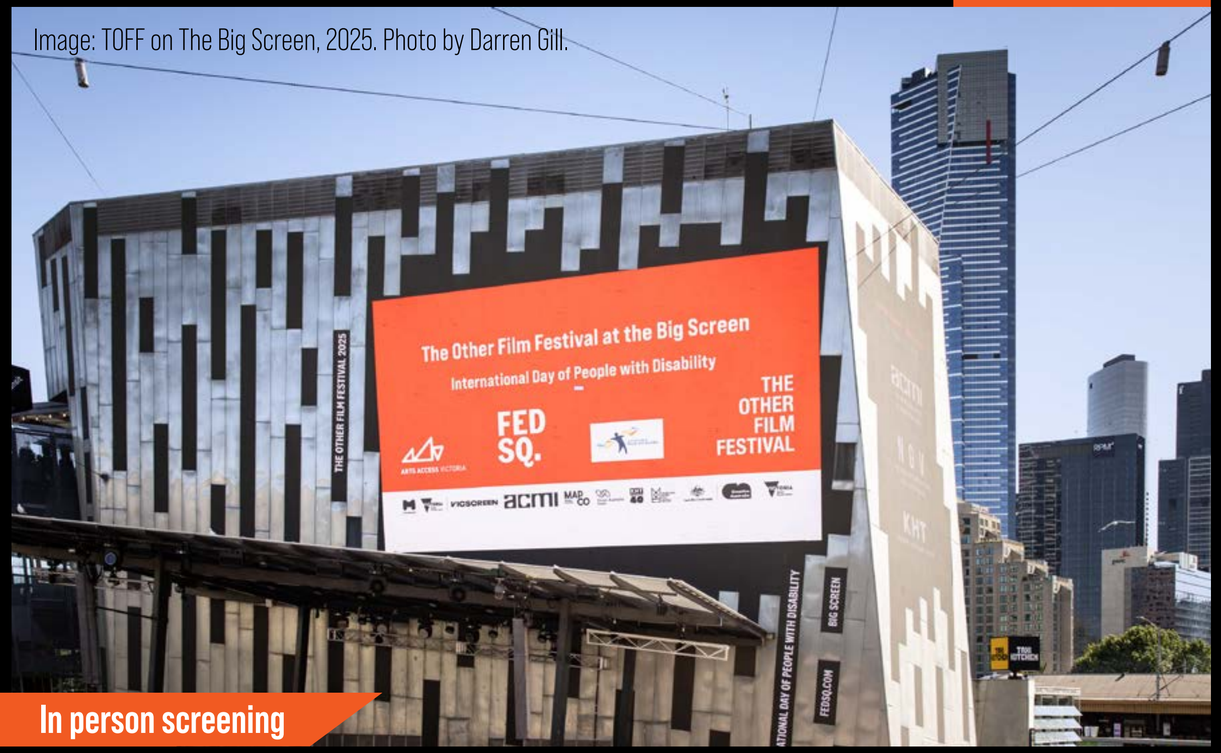


Image: TOFF on The Big Screen, 2025. Photo by Darren Gill.

In person screening

Join us as we celebrate International Day of People with Disability at Fed Square's Big Screen. We have curated a program of 6 Australian short films for you to enjoy. The Other Film Festival 2026 on the Big Screen presented in partnership with Fed Square and as an Alter State event.

Where: Big Screen, Main Square at Fed Square, 5.45 - 7 pm

Access: Wheelchair access, Accessible toilet, changing place toilet, Open captioning

Cost: Free, no booking required

TOFF on the Big Screen info

TOFF on The Big Screen Short Films

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, reclusive watchmaker, who challenges her world.

Director
Edoardo Crismani

Producer/Writer
Tammy Coleman-Zweck

Writer
Tammy Coleman-Zweck

Some Kind of Blue

16 Minutes | 2025 | Australia | English / Cantonese

After moving into her late mother's home by the beach, a musician is confronted by another kind of loss.



Director
Rae Choi

Writer
Rae Choi

Producers
Eleanor Somerville
Sheree Ramage
Rae Choi

TOFF on The Big Screen Short 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
Leo Berkeley

Producers
Leo Berkeley

The Mark

6 Minutes | 2025 | Australia | English



London, 1917. As Virginia and Leonard Woolf painstakingly handprint their first publication, we journey into the stream of Virginia's mind as she is struck with paralysing anxiety, stopping the press in a bid for time.

Director
Inez Playford

Writer
Harald Hummerston

Producer
Emily Bull

With Love, Lottie

12 Minutes | 2024 | Australia | English



When a disabled teenager fears she will never find love, she enlists her friends to become her mentors in the unpredictable world of dating and discovers that love can come in unexpected ways and different forms.

Director / Writer
Lily Drummond

Producer
Sarah Moulton

So Beautiful

9 Minutes | 2025 | Australia | Auslan / English



An experimental short documentary about an Auslan Sprite who must protect her sign language for those who need it most

Director/ Writer
Sofya Gollan

Producer
Rebecca Janek

2026 Online Screening Program

Thursday 19 November – Sunday 6 December

All films are free, audio described, captioned and streamed across Australia.

Check out the films on Cinema 3

Access on Cinema 3

OC CC AD

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.

Click here for ACMI Cinema 3 access page.



Image: The Knight (2025) film still, dir. Lotte Sweeney.

Online Screening Program on ACMI Cinema 3

Butterflies

12 Minutes | 2012 | Australia | English



When a struggling artist is offered a paying job by a sinister businessman, the prospect seems inviting but the reality threatens to kill her imagination.

Director
Isabel Peppard

Producer
Warwick Burton

Writers
Isabel Peppard
Warwick Burton

The Bear Hunt

12 Minutes | 2025 | Australia | English



Determined to make her beloved teddy bear look ‘normal’. 12-year-Ellie goes on a journey that changes the way she understands difference.

Director
Lily Drummond

Producers
Sarah Moulton
Lily Drummond

Writers
Lily Drummond
Nat Luna

D-Tox

12 Minutes | 2025 | Australia | English



Everyday Ari takes a pill. When one day the pills stop, she is forced to confront the truth she has been hiding from.

Director
Polly Garrett

Producer
Lewis Bell

Writer
Polly Garrett
Lewis Bell

The Knight

11 Minutes | 2025 | Australia | English



Claude has urges that need to be explored – in private. A hot, disabled teenager concocts a world of medieval pleasures in her bedroom.

Director
Lotte Sweeney

Producers
Lotte Sweeney
Maiah Stewardson
Morgan Wright
Ben Golotta

Writer
Lotte Sweeney
Maiah Stewardson

Online Screening Program on ACMI Cinema 3

Some Kind of Blue

16 Minutes | 2025 | Australia | English / Cantonese



After moving into her late mother's home by the beach, a musician is confronted by another kind of loss.

Director
Rae Choi

Writer
Rae Choi

Producer
Eleanor Somerville
Sheree Ramage
Rae Choi

Feeling

15 Minutes | 2025 | Australia | English



A dancer sets out to put on a performance of a lifetime to impress the girl of his dreams.

Director
Jake Willis

Writer
Alex Walton

Producer
Jake Willis

THE OTHER FILM FESTIVAL
Official Selection
2026

Renting Films on Cinema 3

You can rent the films until Sunday 6 December, 11.59 pm. 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.

Visit Cinema 3

1. Choose a film. When you hover over a film, click "Rent $0.00".
2. This prompts to set up an account on Cinema 3 with an email address.
3. Once email address is entered, 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.



Image: D-Tox (2025) film still, dir. Polly Garrett.

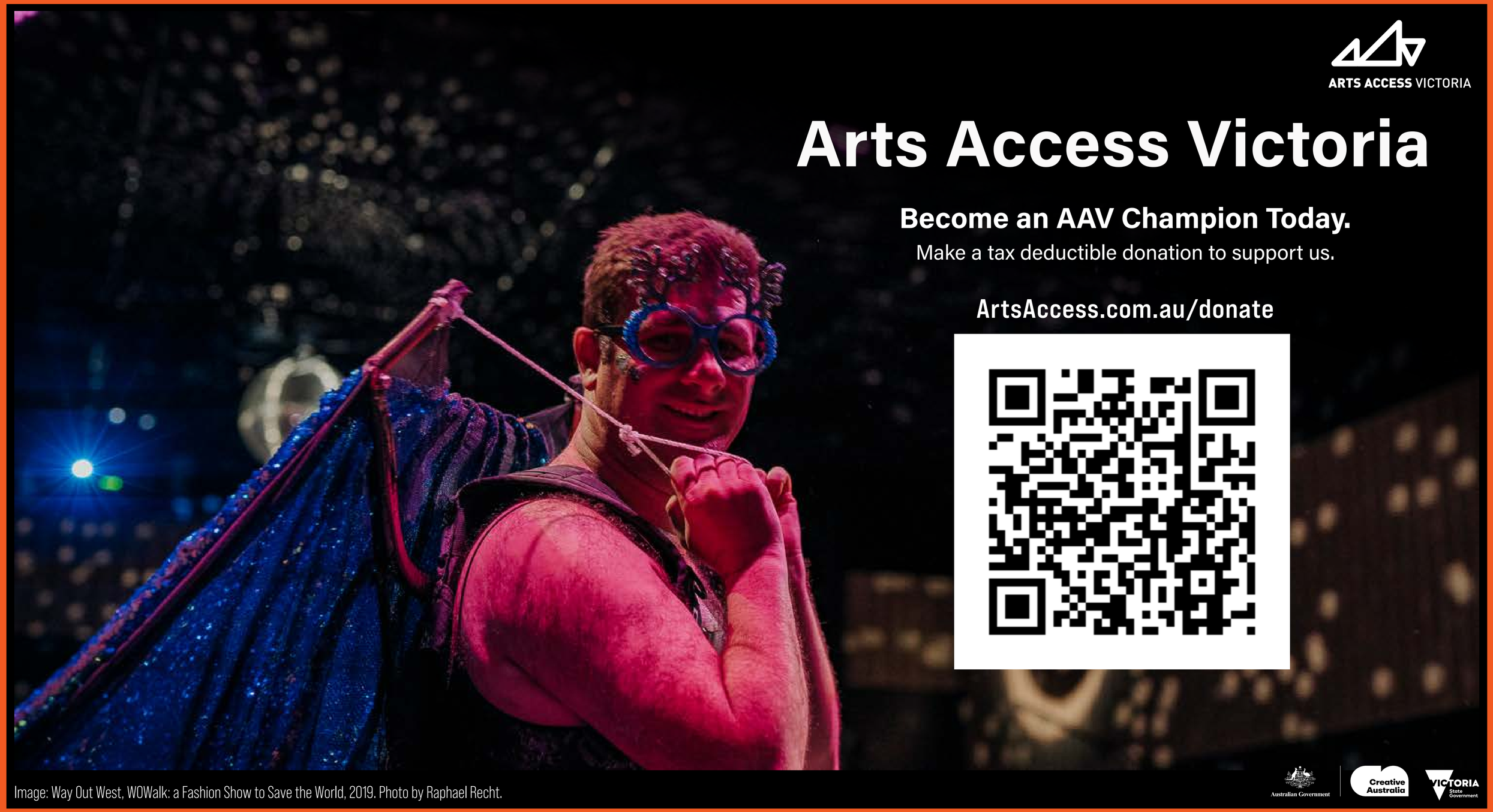


Image: Way Out West, WOWalk: a Fashion Show to Save the World, 2019. Photo by Raphael Recht.

ONLY IN THE CITY


ACMI




QUEEN VICTORIA MARKET


CARLTON GARDENS

SCAN TO SEE WHAT'S ON

CITY OF MELBOURNE


See curated films
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prices, every week.
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Arts Centre Melbourne and Arts Access Victoria present
ALTER STATE
Regeneration: Building Deaf & Disabled Futures
2 — 5 December
Explore the program
www.artscentremelbourne.com.au/festival-and-series/alter-state
FOUNDATION PARTNERS
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ALTER STATE ALLIES
Australian Government
Creative Australia
Grangers/Robertson Foundation
Photography: Hilary Walker, featuring Pearl Blackk.

We Thank all our Supporters and Partners

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

ARTS ACCESS VICTORIA

Our Principal Partner is the City of Melbourne.

CITY OF MELBOURNE

Presented in collaboration with Alter State.

ALTER STATE

Our Festival Partners are ACMI, Fed Square and Lucy Guerin Inc.

acmi

FED SQ.

LGI/WXYZ

Arts Access Victoria is proudly supported by

Australian Government

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VICTORIA State Government