



tilde

Melbourne Trans
& Gender Diverse
Film Festival

21–23 Nov. 2014

Bella Union, Trades Hall, Carlton



The *tilde* Team

Director: Liz Alexander

Programming: Gem Stone (Coordinator),
Lennox Cakes Diamonds, Claire Henry

Media & Sponsorship:
Steph Doole (Coordinator), Ash Pike

Founding Design & Production:
Eden St James

Events: Larry

Technical Support: Louise Malcolm

Consultancy: Urszula Dawkins, Cerise
Howard, Tara Phillips, Vahid Vahed

Additional Selection Committee:
Ana Stephens, Lia Incognita

Support: Zoe Birkinshaw

Website: Eden St James (Development),
Cerise Howard (Maintenance)

Photography: Gerwyn Davies

Program & Poster Design: Elwyn Murray

tilde functions with collaborative
involvement across areas.

Thank You

tilde would like to thank:

all its fabulous Pozible supporters,
all the wonderful volunteers, Bryan Andy,
Tansy Burrows, Kalil Cohen, Lisa Daniels
(Melbourne Queer Film Festival), Kath
Duncan, Alyssa Fooks, Andy Gras (Kiel
Transgender Film Festival), Stephen Hahn,
Crusader Hillis & Rowland Thomson (Hares
& Hyenas), Grace Lee, Crystal McKinnon,
Bex Davis, Lee Gambin, Andrew McNamara
(Bent TV), Starlady Nungari, Cannon
O'Saurus, Christina Radburn, Rick Randall
(Other Film Festival), Ana Stephens,
TranScreen, Clare Trevelyan.

tilde was organised and will take place
on the land of the Wurundjeri people of
the Kulin nation. We acknowledge that
sovereignty was never ceded, and we pay
our respects to Wurundjeri custodians and
traditional owners, past and present.

Unless a rating is specified, all films are
restricted to persons 18 years and over.
This is a legal requirement of the Australian
Classification Board. Please see the *tilde*
website for the latest classification.

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Director's Welcome

We at *tilde* are supremely excited and proud to welcome you to Melbourne's very first international trans and gender diverse film festival! *tilde* was born of the desire to build community and connection through sharing and celebrating film stories of gender diversity, and to counter the long history of narrow and distorted representation of trans and gender diverse (gd) people.

tilde strives to showcase the work of trans and gd filmmakers along with films that contain positive, complex, varied and authentic representations of trans and gd people. We also strive to expose how every human is profoundly affected and restricted by gender norms.

This festival emerged through the passion, sweat and tears of the *tilde* team. The support and encouragement of many individuals, organisations and groups in the transgender and wider communities has been crucial. We thank our Pozible donors, who also made this unfunded festival possible. Our partner, the Sydney Transgender International Film Festival, along

with other transgender film festivals around the world, have been keen friends and mentors. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to you all.

The films included in our weekend program explore many themes, identities and lives. They range from stories of specific identities and cultural understandings to depictions of how free we would all be if gender norms and policing were undone. We encourage feedback and dialogue, and hope the films we present are sources from which further discussion can emerge. *tilde* is very much a community festival and we hope to incorporate your ideas into our future events.

We welcome everyone at *tilde*! Our venue, the Bella Union, offers a gorgeous space where people can relax and hang out, chat, rant, party, meet others and make connections. We see this time very much as part of the *tilde* experience. So show up, show off, come early, stay late. We can't wait to see you.

Liz Alexander



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Boy Meets Girl

OPENING NIGHT

Friday
21 Nov.

Doors open
7.30pm

Screening
8pm

Boy Meets Girl

USA, 2013, 100 mins. Dir. Eric Schaeffer

Boy Meets Girl is a poignant, sensitive and sex-positive coming of age comedy about three people living in Kentucky: Ricky, a transgender woman, Robby, her best friend from childhood, and Francesca, a beautiful young debutante waiting for her marine to return from the war. Both Robby and Ricky are taken by surprise when Ricky falls for Francesca. Ricky and Francesca strike up a friendship, and maybe a little more, which in turn forces all of them to confront parts of their own pasts, prejudices and feelings.

Writer/Director Eric Schaeffer distinctly addresses issues of shame and hate, judgment and gender as the characters define and redefine themselves.

Part drama, part romantic comedy, *Boy Meets Girl* explores what it means to be 'real' regardless of the gender or small town you're born into.

After *Boy Meets Girl* the celebrations will continue for *tilde's* official opening night party. Join us in a welcoming space for tunes from a DJ, a set from Simona Kapitolina, and celebrate the fierceness of the trans community. Simona is a singer-songwriter, DJ and producer from Melbourne, Australia.

tilde shorts

SESSION 2

Saturday
22 Nov.

1pm

Transgender Tuesdays

Transgender Tuesdays

*USA/UK, 2012, 34 mins. Dir. Mark Freeman
and Nathaniel Walters-Koh*

Co-presented by cohealth

Twelve patients of the USA's first public health clinic for transgender people share their amazing life experiences of the 'bad old days'. Compassionate health care changed their lives and pioneered a new informed-consent international model of care. *Transgender Tuesdays* demonstrates the staunch resilience of the trans community and the integral support of trans allies.

LEFT

UK, 2014, 2 mins. Dir. Daniel/Danielle Winter

3075 individually left-hand-drawn frames make up *LEFT*, a rotoscoped silent short film about a child, their bear, and moving away from home.

Black is Blue

USA, 2014, 17 mins. Dir. Cheryl Dunye

Sneak preview! A day in the life of Black, an African-American trans man, who works as a security guard inside an apartment block in Oakland, California, and has to negotiate vulnerability and stigma. This film explores, among other things, the added layers of oppression that come with being a trans person of colour.

Sistagirls

Australia, 2014, 9 mins.

Dir. Gavin Henderson & Andy McNamara

From our friends at BentTV, this is an interview with Central Arrernte sistagirls Rosalina and Brie reflecting on sistagirl culture, history and identity in Central Australia, and their move to the Tiwi Islands.

tilde shorts – a collection of shorts from around the globe, featuring films either made by trans and gd filmmakers or focusing on trans and gd content. These films will screen with an intermission.



Black is Blue

Betwixt/Between

Taiwan, 2012, 8 mins. Dir. YunTing Tsai

A beautifully choreographed interpretation of a time in life, undecided and somewhere between two alternatives.

My Genderation

UK, 2014, 3 films x 3 mins each. Dir. Raphael Fox and Lewis Hancox

My Genderation is an ongoing documentary project that features small intimate portraits which explore gender variance in a unique and insightful way.

Audrey's Beard

Canada, 2002, 2 mins. Dir. Alec Butler

An Amazon with a beard embodies a trans/intersex/two-spirit identity over a ten-year period, inspired by time-lapse film of a blooming flower bud.

Dear Jiz

Canada, 2014, 12 mins. Dir. Ms Naughty

Genderqueer porn star Jiz Lee bathes in a warm bath and the words of their fans. This erotic exploration of Jiz Lee's body is also a testament to the way that porn can expand horizons and change minds.

Certainly Not

Germany, 2014, 6 mins (excerpt). Dir. Resa-Philip Lunau

Two excerpts from Resa-Philip Lunau's documentary on experiences of varying gender identities. Here Ed talks about what it's like to be a trans masculine person with a disability and Emy, a prominent sex worker rights activist, also speaks.

My Prairie Home

+ Dos Almas



SESSION 3

Saturday
22 Nov.

5pm

My Prairie Home

Canada, 2013, 77 mins. Dir. Chelsea McMullan

Official selection at Sundance 2014. *My Prairie Home* follows indie singer Rae Spoon and takes us on a playful, meditative and at times melancholic journey. Set against majestic images of the infinite expanses of the Canadian Prairies, Spoon sweetly croons us through their queer and musical coming of age. Interviews, performances and music sequences reveal Spoon's inspiring process of building a life of their own, as a trans person and as a musician.

My Prairie Home calls into question how we choose to define home, and asks us to celebrate the places inbetween, be they in music, geography or gender.

"beautiful and deeply
personal cinematic
poetry"

— *LA Times*

Dos Almas

USA, 2013, 16 mins. Dir. Danielle Villegas

In the mid 1800s, deep in the western wilderness, two differently gendered people meet. Two-spirit natures are revealed when worlds collide.



Romeos

+ In My Shoes

SESSION 4

Saturday
22 Nov.

8pm

Romeos

Germany, 2011, 94 mins. Dir. Sabine Bernardi

When Lukas is assigned to the women's dormitory for his compulsory civil service in Germany, this trans man learns that there's much more to transition than physical changes. Full of the zest for life, he meets the macho Fabio, who seems to personify everything he wants to be. The attraction between them gradually develops, but how much will they risk for their feelings, when Lucas has to reveal his transgender identity? A journey through queer Cologne, with a protagonist who is at once brave and flawed.

Romeos is a film about love, friendship, the complexities of transitioning, and how it can impact on others.

In My Shoes

Australia, 2014, 6 mins. Dir. Monique Schafter and Mat Govoni

An exploration of what it's like growing up transgender, intimately told through the eyes of five young Australians.

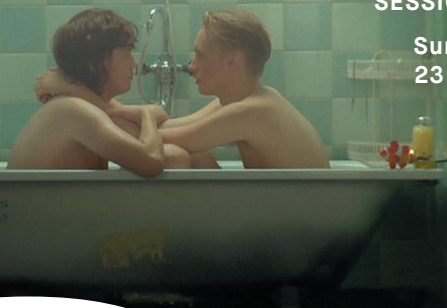
She Male Snails

+ Moire

SESSION 5

Sunday
23 Nov.

3pm



She Male Snails

Sweden, 2012, 72 mins.

Dir. Ester Martin Bergsmark

She Male Snails is a visual fantasy of delicately flavoured contrasts, of delirium and sensuality, distillation and disjuncture, and the reclamation of femininity from the destruction of masculine forces. The film portrays people that are caught between genders, more than just a boy or girl, with an eye for feminine androgyny. The protagonists Eli and Ester struggle with anxiety, violence, and the problematic nature of self-definition. The film explores the challenges of reciprocating love, when simply remaining alive is a task. *She Male Snails* is a story of survival, love and resistance.

"an ode to life and individuality that survives and stays strong"

— *Indiewire*

Moire

Spain, 2014, 14 mins. Dir. Stephanie Cortes and Juancho Banuelos

Each house keeps a family's secret locked away. In a house dominated by Sergio's grandfather, Sergio's grandmother is a secret ally, providing precious moments in a safe hideaway for Sergio's gender to be explored.



Kumu Hina

+ Brotherboys
Yarnin' Up

CLOSING NIGHT

Sunday
23 Nov.

6pm

Kumu Hina

Hawai'i, 2014, 77 mins. Dir. Dean Hamer

Kumu Hina's Hawai'i is a place where someone assigned a little boy can grow up to be the woman of their dreams, and a young person can rise to become a leader among men. Set over a year in Honolulu, the film follows the year-long quest of Hina Wong-Kalu, a Native Hawaiian mähū – or transgender – teacher and leader who uses traditional culture to inspire a student to claim their place as leader of their school's all-male hula troupe. This quest unfolds along an exploration of Hina's relationship with a Tongan man that proves to be more complicated than hoped for, and hints at some of the compromises trans people may make. A documentary that unfolds like a narrative film, *Kumu Hina* offers insight into a Hawai'i rarely seen on screen.

Brotherboys Yarnin' Up

Australia, 2014, 9 mins.

Dir. Lisa O'Brien and Auntie Gloria

Wuli Wuli and Waka Waka brotherboy Kai and Wiradjuri brotherboy Dean explain what it means to be a brotherboy and talk about their transition journeys and the support they have been given in their own Indigenous communities.

Please join us for a cocktail or mocktail prior to the film. Celebrate the closing of the festival, and scheme with us about future possibilities. This evening is co-hosted by Seahorse Victoria. Seahorse Victoria was formed in 1975 as a support and social group for the Victorian transgender community and is the longest running transgender organisation in Australia.

**cohealth is committed
to offering welcoming
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services to Melbourne's
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Tickets

Pre-purchase

Single

Full: \$15

Conc: \$10

Opening Night

Full: \$20

Conc: \$15

Double pass

Full \$28

Conc: \$18

Treble pass

Full: \$42

Conc: \$27

At the door

Single

Full: \$20

Conc: \$15

Opening Night

Full: \$25

Conc: \$20

*Why not tilde on with us all weekend
and come to ALL sessions by
purchasing 2 x treble passes!*

Tickets are available from the Bella Union website at www.bellaunion.com.au

Venue

Bella Union is at Trades Hall,
54 Victoria Street, Carlton.

Enter from Lygon Street.

The area is well lit and there should
be plenty of friendly people around,
including *tilde* guides for anyone
who needs assistance.

Access

Bella Union is licensed and
wheelchair accessible – to arrange
access call (03) 9650 5699 prior
to the event. We can also advise a
mobile number to text if you have not
prearranged. Bella Union staff and
tilde guides will be there to assist.
We welcome feedback on your
access experience.

tilde is committed to keeping the
festival financially accessible. We
have made every effort to balance
our costs with affordable ticket
prices.

It is paramount to *tilde* that the
space is welcoming and friendly
to all.

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***tilde* Mission Statement**

Our mission at *tilde* is to showcase films that celebrate the stories and perspectives of the trans and gender diverse communities, to provide opportunities to trans and gender diverse filmmakers, to challenge gender normativity, and to celebrate diverse representations of gender.

til-de (*noun* \ˈtil-də\):
a symbol (~) indicating
equivalency or similarity
between two values or
approximations.

We like the idea that a *tilde* has a thereabouts, an approximation, an in-between-ness to it that steers away from absolutes or being rigidly bound. This captures some of our thoughts about the messy, undefinable nature of gender.

What do 'trans' and 'gender diverse' mean?

'Trans' is an umbrella term including transsexual and transgender, describing a range of non-conforming gender identities and expressions. Currently in Australia people are classified at birth as female or male. Female-classified children are raised as girls. Male-classified children are raised as boys. A female-classified person who identifies as a boy or man might describe himself as a trans man or simply as a man. Similarly, a woman classified as male might describe herself as a trans woman or simply as a woman.

Some Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people use the term 'sistagirls' to describe male-classified people who live partly or fully as women, and 'brotherboys' to describe female-classified people who live partly or fully as men (*definition adapted from the National LGBTI Health Alliance Inclusive Language Guide*).

'Gender diverse' refers to people whose gender expression or identity differs from what is expected of them. They may not identify as trans or may have shifting or fluid gender. This term also acknowledges *tilde*'s inclusion of identities including genderqueer, femme, sissy, tomboy, cross-dresser, butch, drag queen and many more!

tilde Planner

Friday 21 Nov.	7.30pm	Opening Night 8pm: <i>Boy Meets Girl</i> followed by party
Saturday 22 Nov.	1pm 5pm 8pm	Session Two <i>tilde shorts</i> Session Three <i>My Prairie Home + Dos Almas</i> Session Four <i>Romeos + In My Shoes</i>
Sunday 23 Nov.	3pm 6pm	Session Five <i>She Male Snails + Moire</i> Closing Night co-hosted by Seahorse 7pm: <i>Kumu Hina + Brotherboys Yarnin' Up</i> followed by closing celebrations

Doors open thirty minutes before each screening
– we would love to have your company before and
after the films.



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www.tildemelbourne.com



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