

13—
15
Nov



tilde

2015
Melbourne
trans &
gender
diverse
film
festival



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Redefining
Androgyny



YGENDER



Director's Welcome

Welcome to Melbourne's second 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 representations of trans and gender diverse (gd) people.

With more variety in trans and gd stories emerging in the mainstream, *tilde* remains committed to offering opportunities to trans and gd filmmakers and showcasing films that contain more positive, complex, varied and authentic representations of trans and gd people. We also believe in the importance and power of bringing people together over the *tilde* festival weekend. As an international, community-based festival, we believe a spirit of solidarity can exist across differences, distances and cultures.

This year, indicative of our growing international reputation, we received over 120 submissions from across the globe. After a difficult selection process, we're proud to present a weekend of highly acclaimed films and scarcely known stories that are

formally and thematically varied and innovative. Stories from local shores include a follow-up short film about two Central Arrernte Sistergirls produced specially for *tilde* by our friends at Bent TV – alongside films from countries including Turkey, China, Uruguay and the Philippines.

These are stories of resistance, transformation and survival, providing insights into both the familiar and the unknown. From the hilarious to the profound, we hope you'll laugh, cry, wonder, get hot, get inspired and feel less alone. A common humanity shines across the struggles experienced in fighting for a world where all the beautiful variations of gender are seen and celebrated.

The support and encouragement of many individuals, organisations and groups has been crucial in being able to run our second festival. We extend heartfelt thanks to all our *tilde* Friends, Supporters and Sponsors.

As testament to a growing festival and audience demand, we've relocated to North Melbourne's Lithuanian Club, so that *tilde* folks can take up even more space in a fabulous atmosphere. We welcome everyone to *tilde*, and we very much look forward to seeing you there!

Liz Alexander

OPENING NIGHT Fri 13 Nov. 8pm Doors open 7.30pm

Two 4 One

+ 100 Crushes Chapter 6: They



Two 4 One

"a refreshing story for those who are in the queer and trans communities to see reflected back to them onscreen"

Ewan Duarte, /Bent

After this session the celebrations continue at *tilde's* official opening night party. Join us in a welcoming space for tunes and shenanigans at the Lithuanian Club bar.

EXEMPT FROM CLASSIFICATION

Recommended for ages 12+.

People under the age of 15 must be accompanied by an adult.

Two 4 One

Canada, 2014, 77 mins. Dir. Maureen Bradley

Two 4 One is a narrative 'dramedy' about a trans man, Adam, and what ensues when his ex-girlfriend contacts him out of the blue. Adam and Miriam broke up over two years ago, before Adam's transition. Miriam requests Adam's help with her artificial insemination kit, which she's received in the mail. Adam helps Miriam out a little bit too much and not only ends up inseminating her but also ends up in her bed and pregnant himself. *Two 4 One* explores the complexities of love, gender, sexuality, family, pregnancy, relationship paradigms and masculine ideals from a queer and trans perspective.

Best Canadian Film

– Victoria Film Festival 2015

Audience Award, Best Canadian Fiction Film – Available Light Film Festival 2015

Audience Award, Best Feature Film

Translations: The Seattle

Transgender Film Festival 2015

Outstanding Male Performance (Gavin Crawford) – ACTRA Toronto Awards 2015

Best Supporting Performance, Female (Gabrielle Rose) – Leo Awards 2015

Audience Choice Award (Screenplay) – Female Eye Film Festival 2013

SHORT

100 Crushes Chapter 6: They

Canada, 2014, 2 mins. Dir. Elisha Lim

"Hari was the first person I knew to use the pronoun 'they'. I resented it, resisted it, envied it, and finally adopted it myself."

SESSION 2 Sat 14 Nov. 1pm Doors open 12.30pm

tilde shorts



A collection of shorts from around the globe, *tilde* Shorts features films either made by trans and gender diverse filmmakers, or that focus on trans and gd content. These films will screen with an intermission.

EXEMPT FROM CLASSIFICATION

Recommended for ages 12+.
People under the age of 15 must be accompanied by an adult.

Coco Solid – Heaven's Gate (inc. FAFSWAG doco)

Aotearoa, 2014, 5 mins.

Dir. Coco Solid, Carthew Neal

A music video documentary about the FAFSWAG Ball, a South Auckland event that celebrates Polynesian *fa'afafine* (transgender) culture through fashion, voguing and dance battles.



MyMy

Australia, 2014, 14 mins. Dir. Anna Helme

In a mythic cyberfeminist universe, a frustrated young man yearns for affinity and connection. In this age of digital avatars, he crafts a far more corporeal version of himself – by stitching together parts of himself to become his own cyborg twin. But his new clone has been corrupted by a techno-magick virus. This other self embodies a dangerous idea: that there are parts of ourselves beyond our control.

You're Dead to Me

USA, 2013, 12 mins. Dir. Wu Tsang

Best Short – Imagen Awards 2014

A Latina mother and her estranged child are forced to revisit past issues on a tragic anniversary date. Directed by Wu Tsang, produced by Melissa Haizlip and written by Adelina Anthony.



Performing Girl

USA, 2013, 25 mins. Dir. Crescent Diamond

Grand Jury Award for Outstanding Documentary Short Film – Outfest LA 2013

Audience Award for Best Short Film – Southwest Gay & Lesbian Film Festival 2013

A documentary about D'Lo – a queer, transgender, Tamil Sri Lankan American actor, writer, director and comic who began performing at age 11 for his family and classmates in California's desert town of Lancaster. Animations, home movies and family snapshots paint a portrait of D'Lo's personality.

In interviews and performance clips from his performances, D'Lo and his parents explain how his identity – and their relationships – have changed over the past 20 years.



Sissy

Canada, 2014, 3 mins. Dir. Jen Crothers

What exactly is a sissy? Sissy explores masculinity, gender identity, misogyny and self-acceptance. A playful exploration of what it means to be a sissy.

Perfect in My Imperfections

Aotearoa, 2012, 22 mins. Dir. Julia Parnell

An exploration of a challenging time in the life of choreographer, dancer and *fakaleiti* (Tongan transgender person) Amanaki Prescott. Though a rising star in the New Zealand professional dance scene, Amanaki struggles to feel accepted within the Tongan community and her own family. In an attempt to challenge her place within both Tongan and New Zealand culture, Amanaki plans a dance performance in which she takes on the traditional Tongan female dance moves.



Beyond the Mirror's Gaze

Canada, 2013, 4 mins. Dir. Iris Moore

By playfully exchanging body parts, the couple in this light-hearted animation encourages viewers to contemplate their preconceptions about their own bodies and genders.



SESSION 3 Sat 14 Nov. 5pm Doors open 4.30pm

The New Man

+ Escaping into
Common Places...



“an intimate but
far-reaching
character study of
someone currently
living an undefined
life between two
genders”

The Hollywood Reporter

The New Man (El Hombre Nuevo)

Uruguay/Chile, 2015, 79

mins. Dir. Aldo Garay

At the tender age of 12, Roberto supported the Sandinista revolution in Nicaragua and fought for education and social reforms. Roberto was to continue the political struggle, fighting alongside the communist Tupamaros in Uruguay. Thirty years later she struggles to live her life as a woman named Stephanía.

Working to improve the health and wellbeing of trans and gender diverse communities.

Mental Health and Counselling Services.

Physical Health and Medical Services.

Alcohol and Other Drug Counselling and Harm Reduction.

Sexual Health Testing and Treatment Services.

For more information go to www.vac.org.au



Documentary filmmaker Aldo Garay has followed Stephanía for over 20 years. In *The New Man* he provides a personal and tender portrait of a woman who looks back on a tempestuous life in which violence, drugs, sex work and political commitment all found their place. The picture of society that emerges is as diverse as it is intimate.

Teddy Award, Best Documentary
– Berlin Film Festival 2015

SHORT

**Escaping into Common Places,
Having Gothic Adventures in the
Neoclassical and Other Ages.**

Or: My Life is Framed by You

Netherlands, 2014, 6 mins.

Dir. Mijke van der Drift, Alex Reuter

Caught between hypervisibility and erasure, a trans body performs politics by countering gendered assumptions about space, shape, intention, position and norms.

SESSION 4 Sat 14 Nov. 8pm Doors open 7.30pm

Something Must Break

+ Hello Titty



“an intimate and energetic picture of people looking for who they can be and are allowed to be”

International Film Festival Rotterdam



Something Must Break (Nånting måste gå sönder)

Sweden, 2014, 85 mins.

Dir. Ester Martin Bergsmark

This stunning, gritty, multi-award-winning new drama from the director of *She Male Snails* takes place in Stockholm. *Something Must Break* revolves around the turbulent, edgy romance between two youngsters at the margins of society who find some escape in each other. Andreas struggles to accept the reality of his attraction and implications for his sexuality of falling for ethereal Sebastian/Ellie, while Sebastian/Ellie embraces her fluidity and as she carves out her place in the world as a fragile but ultimately resolute woman. A deliciously dark exploration of young love and the quest for meaning in hard places.

Best Actress (Saga Becker)

– Guldbagge Awards 2015

Silver Q Hugo Award, Best Feature

– Chicago International Film Festival 2014

Mai Zetterling Grant (Ester Martin Bergsmark) – Göteborg Film Festival 2014

Jury Prize, Best Feature Film

– Queer Lisboa Festival, Internacional de Cinema Queer 2014

Tiger Award (Ester Martin Bergsmark)

– Rotterdam International Film Festival 2014

Ocaña Award (Ester Martin Bergsmark)

– Seville European Film Festival 2014

SHORT

Hello Titty

Germany, 2015, 15 mins. Dir. Skyler Braeden Fox

Tit Star Showboy is wrapping up his career as a tit flasher, and is offering one last round of private viewings in his trailer, just days before his top surgery. The queers have all come flocking to see the show. Inside the trailer, perversion and hilarity ensue.

SESSION 5 Sun 15 Nov. 4pm Doors open 3.30pm

tilde short documentaries



This collection of short documentaries, made by or about trans and/or gender diverse people and communities, highlights significant contributions, challenges and personal journeys of activists within marginalised communities in Australia, Turkey and China.

EXEMPT FROM CLASSIFICATION

Recommended for ages 12+.
People under the age of 15 must be accompanied by an adult.

Arrernte Sistergirls Share Their Journey

Australia, 2015, 9 mins.

Dir. Andrew McNamara

Following the success of last year's screening of the short film *Sistagirls*, the Arrernte Sistergirls Brianna and Rosalina Curtis – fierce advocates for both trans and Indigenous rights – are back to share more glimpses of their experiences, hardships and pivotal moments as a 'minority of a minority of a minority', while conveying with inspiring candour what gives them strength and what's possible. Produced specially for *tilde* by Bent TV, Melbourne's LGBTI audiovisual production group.

Voltrans

Turkey, 2013, 60 mins.

Dir. P. Ulaş Dutlu, Özge Özgüner

The trans activists that gather together as Voltrans – the first trans men's organisation in Turkey – talk about being a trans man in a transphobic and heterosexist society, the impact of gender roles, and their struggle against clichés regarding manhood and 'trans manhood'; each with their own subjective views and down-to-earth honesty.

Brothers

China, 2013, 24 mins. Dir. Yaoyao

China's first documentary to focus on the female-to-male transgender community, which endures hardships unfathomable to the majority within Chinese society. It documents the life of Tony, who forms part of a group of female-to-male transgender people who call each other brothers. *Brothers* shows Tony's road to self-acknowledgement and the difficulties he encounters on his path.

CLOSING NIGHT Sun 15 Nov. 7.30pm Doors open 7pm

Quick Change

+ Float



Quick Change

"Eduardo Roy Jr.'s well-crafted drama explores Manila's transgender community with docu-like authenticity"

Richard Kuipers, Variety

Join us after the film as we party up a storm with our closing night celebrations.

Quick Change

Philippines, 2013, 98 mins.

Dir. Eduardo Roy Jr

Dorina is a trans woman with a flourishing career – albeit in an illegal cosmetic surgery business. She is a mother figure to her eight-year-old nephew, Hero, and a devoted wife to Uno. Dorina's weapon is the syringe, which can turn an ordinary face from simply pretty to pretty fierce. Her customers are mostly seasoned gay beauty pageant contestants, obsessed about the men in their lives. But behind the quest for beauty lies the pain and suffering of achieving it. Is it about gaining more confidence, or a desperation and hunger for love? Between her job and her family, Dorina feels like one lucky woman – until Uno falls for someone else.

Acting Prize (Migs Cuaderno)

– *Chéries-Chéris 2014*

Balanghai Trophy, Best Sound, Best Actor and Best Screenplay – *Cinemataya Independent Film Festival 2013*

Special Jury Prize (Eduardo Roy Jr)
– *Cinemataya Independent Film Festival 2013*

Critics Jury Award (Eduardo Roy Jr)
– *Vesoul Asian Film Festival 2014*

SHORT

Float

USA, 2015, 4 mins. Dir. Sam Berliner

An experimental short film shot completely underwater, of trans and genderqueer folks swimming naked. Float is set to music by trans musician Rae Spoon. It has been described as "stunningly celebratory" (Frameline), "exuberant" and "beautiful".

Diversity.



From teeth to feet to mental health, we have all kinds of health and support services for all kinds of people.

We know health services have a way to go before they're fully inclusive of diversity. We're looking at how we measure up, so join us in this conversation.

Email participation@cohealth.org.au Subject: tilde, with what a welcoming health service looks like for you.

Diversity. We don't just care. We celebrate it.

proud sponsor of tilde 2015

cohealth
cohealth.org.au

Tickets

Tickets are available from tildemelbourne.com

Pre-purchase

Single: Full \$15 / Conc \$10

Opening Night: Full \$20 / Conc \$15

Double pass: Full \$28 / Conc \$18

(excludes Opening Night)

Season Pass: Full \$90 / Conc \$60

At the door

Single: Full \$20 / Conc \$15

Opening Night: Full \$25 / Conc \$20

Note: tickets sold out in advance for *tilde* 2014. We have relocated to a bigger venue for 2015, but please book tickets early to avoid disappointment! Check the *tilde* website for up-to-date ticketing information.

Venue

Melbourne Lithuanian Club

44 Errol St,
North Melbourne
VIC 3051

There will be plenty of friendly people around, including *tilde* guides for anyone who needs assistance.



Access

The Lithuanian Club is licensed and wheelchair accessible – including toilets.



tilde welcomes your 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.

tilde Mission Statement

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

Symbolism at tilde

til·de (noun\ˈtil-d \):

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, indefinable 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 (binary and non-binary) 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 who was classified male at birth might describe herself as a trans woman or simply as a woman. It is also important to acknowledge that people who identify as trans can describe themselves as non-binary too, and may or may not also identify as gender diverse (see below).

Some Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people use the term 'Sistergirls' 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' people may or may not identify as trans, or may have shifting or fluid gender. For *tilde*, this term also acknowledges that our festival is inclusive of an infinite range of identities, communities and individuals who may use terms such as (but never limited to) genderqueer, femme, sissy, tomboy, cross-dresser, butch, drag queen, and many more!



The *tilde* Team

Director: Liz Alexander

Festival Assistant: Steph Doole

Programming: Ana Stephens (lead),
Cal Andrews

Media & Communications:
Steph Doole, Emily Dwyer (Mar–Aug),
Ollie Fabinyi (Sep–Nov)

Sponsorship & Partnerships:
Ollie Fabinyi (lead), Amanda Marx (Apr–Sep)

Events: Ollie Fabinyi, Meg Hale, Larry

Technical Support: Julz Hay, Lara Soulio

Consultancy & Other Support:
Zoe Birkinshaw, Tom Cho,
Urszula Dawkins, Léuli Eshraghi,
Cerise Howard, Louise Malcolm,
Tara Phillips, Ash Pike

Additional Selection Committee:
Tama Favell, Christina Radburn

Program Guide Editor: Cal Andrews

Website Maintenance: Ana Stephens

Classification: Gabe Curtis, Alyssa Fooks,
Anders Furze, Lisa Horsburgh, Jenny Luong

***tilde* is curated and produced entirely
by volunteers, with collaborative
involvement across all areas.**

***tilde* Animation & Trailer:** Patch Sinclair
Program & Poster Design: Elwyn Murray

Thank You from *tilde*

To all our wonderful festival volunteers,
all those who submitted films, Brianna and
Rosalina Curtis, Andrew McNamara (Bent
TV), TranScreen, Crystal Love, Starlady
Nungari, Liam Dooley, Greer McGeary, Alex
Cardy, Jessie Jungalwalla, Rowland Thomson
and Crusader Hillis (Hares & Hyenas).

tilde was organised and will take
place on the land of the Wurundjeri,
Boonerwung, Taungurong, Djajawurrung
and Wathaurung 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 otherwise specified,
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 updates to
classification information.

tilde Planner

Friday 13 Nov.

8pm

Opening Night

Two 4 One

+ 100 Crushes

Chapter 6: They

Followed by opening
night party

Saturday 14 Nov.

1pm

Session 2

tilde shorts

5pm

Session 3

The New Man

+ Escaping into
Common Places...

8pm

Session 4

Something Must

Break

+ Hello Titty

Sunday 15 Nov.

4pm

Session 5

tilde Short

Documentaries

7.30pm

Closing Night

Quick Change
+ Float

Followed by closing
night celebrations

All sessions screen at the
Melbourne Lithuanian Club
44 Errol St, North Melbourne VIC 3051

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