**THE OTHER FILM FESTIVAL**

**New Cinema By, With and About People with a Disability**

**3rd-7th December 2014**

**WELCOME MESSAGES**

**Rick Randall, Festival Director**

What does it mean to feel welcome?

One in five people experience disability but we rarely see these common experiences reflected in media or on our screens. The curse of invisibility.

I believe there are three important ways humans become more visible to each other: working together, playing together and making art together. Have you formed a friendship at work with someone quite unlike yourself? Have you ever met someone at a party that you would never have met otherwise? Has art connected you to another person’s experience?

The Other Film Festival will be offering you work, party and art in abundance this year. There will be opportunities to hear from groundbreaking Australian and international presenters and the chance to become an Audio Describer for two minutes at the not-so-silent screening of the horror classic, Nosferatu. You will also be treated to the best new cinema about the experience of disability from around the world, then partake in the serious amount of fun on offer at The Other Club.

So, with art and access in plentiful supply, you can truly make yourself at home at the Other Film Festival, a party where everyone is invited and everybody is welcome.

**Robert Doyle, Lord Mayor of Melbourne**

Welcome to the 10th anniversary of The Other Film Festival, Australia’s only international disability film festival. The festival provides opportunities for people with disabilities to participate in the film industry in a variety of roles.

The City of Melbourne is proud to have been supporters of this festival since its inception in 2004 and we look forward to continuing to support the festival well into the future, as part of our triennial grants program.

The City of Melbourne is committed to ensuring that all Victorians have access to opportunities to participate in screen culture as creators, consumers and critics and the festival is a way to showcase some of the excellent work being done by Victorians with disabilities.

The festival hub at the Melbourne Brain Centre at the University of Melbourne will provide an accessible venue for attendees to take part in discussions, forums, and workshops about the issues experienced by people with disabilities. This gathering also provides professional development opportunities for film practitioners not available elsewhere.

I invite you to explore all the opportunities inspired by the Other Film festival — a fine example of diversity within our community.

**Jenni Tosi CEO, Film Victoria**

Film Victoria is delighted to support The Other Film Festival in this very special 10th anniversary year.

As Australia’s largest disability event, The Other Film Festival has grown in scope and scale to become a key event in Melbourne’s screen calendar, reflecting the long tradition of thriving arts and culture in this state.

The magic of film is that it allows us to see into the lives of others, to experience the world as others do.

The festival enables local audiences to enjoy films which are truly creative and diverse in approach, and gives all Victorians access to opportunities to participate in screen culture as both storytellers and consumers.

We congratulate the festival on being invited to screen a selection of films at the UN headquarters in New York last year — a testament to the festival’s standing among international cinema events.

We also acknowledge the significant contribution of Arts Access Victoria to the community as Australia’s first and leading arts and disabilities organisation for an impressive 40 years.

I encourage you to see as many films and participate in as many events as you can. Enjoy all the festival has to offer!

**Margherita Coppolino Chair, Arts Access Victoria**

Welcome to the Other Film Festival 2014.

Firstly, I would like to acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which this event will be taking place, the land of the Wurundjeri, and pay respect to their Elders and families.

I am very pleased that this year, the opening night of the festival falls on the same day as the United Nations’ International Day of People with Disability.

In 2014, Arts Access Victoria, the state’s peak body for Arts and Disability, is celebrating its 40th year of supporting and enabling the aspirations of people with a disability to participate fully in the cultural life of our community.

The Other Film Festival, a program of Arts Access Victoria, is this year also celebrating both its 10th anniversary and the profound impact it has had over those ten years, improving accessibility to cinemas and film festivals around Australia and allowing people with disability to see their own lives represented authentically on the big screen.

So, if taking part in the festivities at The Other Film Festival this year gives you a taste of what social change looks like, then spread the word!

**ACCESS INFO**

All festival sessions will screen at Melbourne Brain centre, Kenneth Myer Building. 30 Royal Parade, Parkville Melway Reference: 2B B7

The Other Film Festival is committed to providing access for everyone. A range of access services and facilities will be available so that everyone can have an enjoyable and accessible festival experience. Please advise us of any access requirements at the time of booking and every effort will be made to provide these.

**Guide Dogs**

Guide Dogs are welcome in all areas of The Other Film Festival and water bowls are available at the venue.

**Companion Card**

Companion Card will be accepted at all sessions and forums.

**Information in Alternative Formats**

Available upon request in Audio, Large Text and Email. If you require a format that is not listed here, please contact us.

**Captioning**

All films screened at The Other Film Festival will be captioned or subtitled.

**Auslan Interpreters**

To ensure access for the Deaf Community, Auslan interpreters will be available for all spoken events including speeches, introductions, forums, workshops and Q&A sessions. Interpreters will also be available for social interaction between deaf and hearing people.

**Audio Description**

All films will be Audio Described for people who are blind or low vision. Through the use of a small radio receiver, audience members can listen to a description of the visual aspects of the film during appropriate breaks in the dialogue. Foreign language film subtitles will be read out. Please book for this service when purchasing tickets.

This year, the festival is planning to trial a service where people with low vision are able to access the film on their smart phones or tablets while in the Auditorium.

**Assistive Listening**

The venue is equipped with an audio loop that can be used to amplify or enhance sound quality. This system can be accessed from all seats in the theatre through the t-switch on a hearing aid. Wireless headsets are also available for people who are hard of hearing.

**Wheelchair Access**

All public areas of The Other Film Festival are accessible for people who require wheelchair access, including toilets. Accessible seating is available in all areas. Please advise at time of booking.

Further information is available on the website and at the venue.

If you have accessibility requirements that are not listed here please contact us.

Email: OFFticketing@gmail.com

Phone: 0420 581 289

**TICKETS & BOOKING INFO**

All festival sessions will screen at Melbourne Brain Centre, Kenneth Myer Building. 30 Royal Parade, Parkville

Melways Reference: 2B B7

**Tickets**

Tickets can be purchased by clicking on the session links in this program, via the festival website or in person at the venue Box Office. Patrons are encouraged to book their tickets in advance as sessions do sell out. People with access requirements are also encouraged to book in advance. Patrons will also need to obtain tickets for Free Sessions.

**Prices**

Single Session Pass $12 Concession and Arts Access Victoria Members $8

**Bookings**

By Phone: 0420 581 289

Requests by Email: OFFticketing@gmail.com

**Box Office**

The Box Office will be open one hour before the first session each day and closes after the final session commences. Pre-booking is advised as sessions do sell out.

For assistance or updated session information, please visit the festival website or contact the Ticketing Manager:

Email: OFFticketing@gmail.com

Phone: 0420 581 289

[www.otherfilmfestival.com](http://www.otherfilmfestival.com)

**Film Classification**

The Other Film Festival has received approval for classification exemption from the Classification Board.

Except for Session 14, no person under the age of 15 years shall be admitted to the screenings of the said films unless in the company of a parent or adult guardian.

No person under the age of 18 years shall be admitted to Session 14.

**GETTING THERE**

Melbourne Brain Centre

Kenneth Myer Building 30 Royal Parade (corner Genetics Lane)

University of Melbourne, Parkville

Melways Ref: 2B B7

**Trams**

Closest Accessible Super-Stop (450 metres) Tram stop 9, Corner Elizabeth and Peel Streets Serves Route 19 and 59 Tactile Surface Indicators on pavements between tram stop and festival venue.

Non-accessible tram stop: Corner Peel Street and Queensberry Street. Alternative Accessible tram Super Stop (1100 m) Tram Stop 1, Melbourne University, Swanston Street Serves Routes 3, 3A, 5, 6, 16, 64, 67 and 72. There are no Tactile Surface Indicators in Tin Alley.

Note: We advise that patrons travel in pairs or groups when using Tin Alley at night.

Closest Non-accessible Tram Stop Tram stop 11, Royal Parade (directly opposite Melbourne Brain Centre) Serves Route 19 Tactile Surface Indicators on pavements between tram stop and festival venue.

**Trains**

Travel to Flinders Street Station. Transfer to Stop 1, corner of Elizabeth Street and Flinders Street. Take Tram 19 or 59 to Stop 9 (Super Stop) or Stop 11. For further information on accessible transport services, visit PTV or call on 1800 800 007

**Buses**

Buses 401, 402, 505 and 546 are accessible. Please ask driver for the ramp to be put down.

Wheelchair-Accessible Demand Responsive Bus Service. On weekdays during the day and evening, a wheelchair-accessible demand response bus service operates for people who are unable to travel on trams or buses. The service operates between Flinders Street and Southern Cross Stations in the city, and St Kilda and Port Melbourne. The buses must be booked in advance, with as much notice as possible. For bookings call 1800 012 061.

**Parking**

Underground parking is available at the venue with lifts up to the festival foyer.

There are 4 disabled parks on Level 1B. All B Levels allow direct wheelchair accessible to the lift.

All A Levels have stair access only down to the lift (Eight steps with handrails).

Weekdays: $10 up to 4 hours, $20 all day

Weekends: $10 all day

Limited street parking is available on Royal Parade and Grattan Street.

**FESTIVAL PROGRAM**

**SESSION 1 OPENING NIGHT PARTY 6:30PM Wednesday 3rd DEC**

INVITATION ONLY Due to limited venue capacity, this event is strictly invitation only.

THE GLOBE COLLECTOR

Summer DeRoche 2012 / 7min / Documentary Australia

Andrew Pullen collects light globes. More than 10,000 of them. Enter a world where a passion for electronics is all-consuming and a diagnosis of Asperger’s syndrome is nothing more than a label. Join one man’s solo quest to protect a technology that is fast being forgotten.

FIXED

Regan Brashear 2012 / 60min / Documentary USA

From bionic limbs and neural implants to prenatal screening, researchers around the world are hard at work developing a myriad of technologies to fix or enhance the human body.

Told through the perspectives of six people with disabilities: a scientist, journalist, disability justice educator, bionics engineer, scholar and exoskeleton test pilot, FIXED takes a close look at the drive to be ‘better than human’ and the radical technological innovations that may take us there.

PHANTOM PAIN

Nicholas Jeffries 2014 / 5min / Experimental Australia

Gone but not forgotten. Amanda is a double amputee who experiences the phenomenon known as phantom limb sensation. The film subtly evokes the physical, emotional and imaginative dimensions to the experience of loss.

Free screening of Opening Night films at 7PM in Fed Square!

**DIGITAL DEMOCRACY & THE ARTS**

Across the arts, people are increasingly using digital platforms to reach new audiences and engage participants but how accessible are these platforms? How well equipped are these platforms for users who may have a disability, be geographically remote, or unfamiliar with technology? How do we make sure that we are not creating new barriers to participation? How can ACCESSIBLE digital platforms extend cultural participation, reach new audiences and extend artistic practices? Join us as we explore these issues and more with two expert panels.

Please note that Session 2 and Session 3 will offer Video Relay Interpreting and Real Time Captioning.

**SESSION 2 DIGITAL DEMOCRACY & THE ARTS: Thursday 4th DEC 10AM**

Meet the industry experts as we explore existing approaches to digital accessibility, how new and emerging technologies can open up digital spaces for new users, what the regulatory and compliance issues we face might be and how we can build workforces that are equipped and prepared for the challenge of producing digital spaces that generate creativity and accessibility.

**SESSION 3 DIGITAL DEMOCRACY & THE ARTS Thursday 4th DEC 12PM**

Join artists/practitioners to explore how they are using digital spaces to make exciting new work, find and engage collaborators, explore aesthetic access (how technology can be incorporated into artistic process and outcomes in a way that extend or transform practices and forms) and build new audiences for their work.

**SESSION 4 FRAMES OF MIND Thursday 4th DEC 2PM**

Lars and the Real Girl – A Lesson In Community Tolerance

Since 2002, Dr. Harry Karlinsky has been presenting Frames of Mind, a monthly series of screenings of films concerned with mental health and illness. This innovative program at the Department of Psychiatry at the University of British Columbia forms part of course work for training clinical professionals. The goal is to promote professional and community education on issues pertaining to the experience of mental health and illness.

Dr Karlinsky will reflect on the Frames of Mind series with specific reference to how the film Lars and the Real Girl proved to be a springboard to discussing the serious issues of stigma and community tolerance. This film revolves around the life of 27-yearold Lars Lindstrom, a quiet, sensitive and awkward young man who lives in small town middle-America. It isn’t until Lars abruptly introduces his girlfriend Bianca, a life-size doll, that viewers realize the extent of Lars’ disconnection from reality.

Indeed, it’s not hard to recognise that Lars has a real problem as opposed to a real girl. Yet the community’s respectful response to Bianca – and by extension Lars - becomes an inspiring lesson in non-judgmental acceptance. What could have easily degenerated into a series of lewd sex jokes and slapstick humour emerges as a gentle, understated, and thoughtful film.

In Lars and the Real Girl, the Hollywood happy ending triumphs. In the real world, however, the different therapeutic skills required by clinicians, family, friends and the community to best help those like Lars still call for further reflection and study.

Dr. Harry Karlinsky is a Clinical Professor within the University of British Columbia’s Dept of Psychiatry. Dr. Karlinsky has a long involvement with various professional and public education initiatives. He is the founding and ongoing Director of the award-winning Frames of Mind Mental Health Film Series and has written a film column for Canadian Psychiatry Aujourd’hui. In addition to numerous published papers, he is the author of two novels, including the forthcoming The Stonehenge Letters (Harper Collins, UK).

Dr. Harry Karlinsky’s attendance is generously supported by the Canadian Consulate.

Dr. Harry Karlinsky is attending as a guest of The Other Film Festival.

**SESSION 5 OUT OF MIND, OUT OF SIGHT Thursday 4th DEC 4PM**

OUT OF MIND, OUT OF SIGHT

John Kastner 2013 / 88min / Documentary Canada

Winner of best Canadian feature documentary at hot docs 2014

What happens to people who suffer from mental illnesses and commit violent crimes? Many are sent to forensic psychiatric hospitals where they disappear from public view for years. As patients, they struggle to gain control over their lives, hoping to return to a society that fears and demonizes them.

Of visiting the hospital, Director John Kastner says “Despite decades of filming killers and other violent prisoners in penitentiaries, I was spooked. But that changed for me… I came to see these patients as they really are: mostly gentle, good people who are not evil, just ill.”

Followed by a post-screening panel discussion with Professor Ian Everall and Dr. Pia Brous. Discussion moderated by Dr. Harry Karlinsky

Professor Ian Everall is Cato Chair of Psychiatry and Head of the Department of Psychiatry, The University of Melbourne. Professor Everall leads the Department in exploring molecular and cellular changes in the brain in major psychiatric disorders such as schizophrenia, major depressive disorder and bipolar disorder.

Dr. Pia Brous is a psychiatrist with over 20 years’ clinical experience working with adolescents and families. She teaches at the Dax Centre and is a member of the Mental Health Review Board.

Dr. Harry Karlinsky is a Clinical Professor within the University of British Columbia’s Department of Psychiatry. Dr. Karlinsky has a long involvement with various professional and public education initiatives. He is the founding and ongoing Director of the award winning Frames of Mind Mental Health Film Series and has written a film column for Canadian Psychiatry Aujourd’hui.

**SESSION 6 SONS AND MOTHERS Thursday 4th DEC 7PM**

SONS AND MOTHERS

Christopher Houghton 2013 / 81min / Documentary Australia

A small group of marginalised men meet once a week as the Men’s Ensemble Theatre troupe. Led by their director, they embark on a year-long journey to create a theatrical love letter to the single most important woman in their lives. What unfolds is a poignant and intimate portrait of seven surprising individuals who reveal all with honesty, grace and a dose of irreverence. As they put their hearts on the line, complications set in. Not everyone is going to make it to opening night.

**SESSION 7 WHO NEEDS FIXING? Thursday 4th DEC 9PM**

SOUNDS FOR MAZIN (GELUIDEN VOOR MAZIN)

Ingrid Kamerling 2012 / 20min / Documentary Netherlands

Mazin is twelve years old and has been deaf since birth. He now faces an operation that is supposed to make him hear. He is looking forward to it, but it freaks him out at the same time. How will a dog sound? Do fish make any noise? Most importantly, what if the operation doesn’t work?

FIXED

Regan Brashear 2012 / 60min / Documentary USA

From bionic limbs and neural implants to prenatal screening, researchers around the world are hard at work developing a myriad of technologies to fix or enhance the human body. Told through the perspectives of six people with disabilities: a scientist, journalist, disability justice educator, bionics engineer, scholar and exoskeleton test pilot, FIXED takes a close look at the drive to be ‘better than human’ and the radical technological innovations that may take us there.

**SESSION 8 AUTISM ON SCREEN Friday 5th DEC 12PM**

THE GLOBE COLLECTOR

Summer DeRoche 2012 / 7min / Documentary Australia

Andrew Pullen collects light globes. More than 10,000 of them. Enter a world where a passion for electronics is all-consuming and a diagnosis of Asperger’s syndrome is nothing more than a label. Join one man’s solo quest to protect a technology that is fast being forgotten.

Andrew Pullen will be attending as a guest of The Other Film Festival.

AUTISM IN LOVE

Michelle Friedline 2012 / 9min / Documentary USA

RV Kuser is fifty, blissfully married and proudly autistic. He has learned to mask the behaviours associated with his autism in order to function successfully. However, this triumph comes at a cost: he is only able to act neurotypically for a limited time before regressing dramatically the more genuine version of himself.

WRETCHES & JABBERERS

Gerardine Wurzburg 2011 / 94min / Documentary USA

Two companions embark on a bold travelling quest to change the world’s attitudes about disability, speech and intelligence. As young men, Tracy Thresher and Larry Bissonnette faced lives of social isolation in mental institutions or trapped by meaningless activities in adult disability centres. However, they taught themselves to communicate by typing, changing their lives in ways neither could imagine.

Following the screening, Akash Temple will moderate a discussion panel that explores the positive attributes of eccentricity.

**SESSION 9 MIND THE GAP: CREATING TIME & SPACE FOR AUDIO DESCRIPTION Friday 5th DEC 3PM**

Join an informative and interactive panel discussion concerning the function and production of contemporary Audio Description. This session will give audience members the opportunity to get hands-on with the experience of film with and without Audio Description. Hear from the experts at Red Bee Media, filmmakers, an Audio Describer for theatre and, most importantly, hear from the consumers of this service and how Audio Description can fundamentally transform their experience and enjoyment of screen culture.

Describing what’s on screen within tight gaps in dialogue raises difficult questions about priorities and competing considerations. The Audio Describer must weigh up the amount of time available for the verbal description, appropriately describe delicate scenes, be able to identify and name important objects and judge how to balance the subjectivities of the director’s input into the process.

This panel discussion will challenge every audience member to reflect on the question: “What is the essential purpose of Audio Description?

Presented by Red Bee Media, The Other Film Festival’s provider of quality Captioning and Audio Description services.

**SESSION 10 3-DIMENSIONAL VIRTUAL WORLDS IN EDUCATION & SOCIETY Friday 5th DEC 5PM**

Come on board a magical journey through the evolution of 3D virtual worlds within an Australian institution that is recognised as world leaders in 3D virtual art and film. Experience moving through a 3D virtual world and communicate with avatars of people from across the globe.

Jay Jay Jegathesan will introduce the highly acclaimed Freedom Project created by the University of Western Australia this year. This project allowed artists and filmmakers with disability and chronic illnesses to share what freedom meant to them.

Jay Jay will reveal how Art, Education, Architecture, Teaching and Machinima contribute to the delivery of 3D Virtual Presence.

Jay Jay Jegathesan holds a Bachelor of Commerce (Hons) degree from the University of Western Australia (UWA), majoring in management and marketing. Since 2008, he has been the manager of the School of Physics at UWA and is the founder and leader of the UWA presence in 3D virtual worlds.

His research interests extend to looking at groups of artists, film makers and educators through the lens of Communities of Practice, as well as growth and development of the disabled and chronically ill communities through virtual worlds.

Jay Jay and his avatar are attending as guests of The Other Film Festival.

**SESSION 11 DEAF REVELATIONS Friday 5th DEC 7PM**

SOUNDS FOR MAZIN (GELUIDEN VOOR MAZIN)

Ingrid Kamerling 2012 / 20min / Documentary Netherlands

Mazin is twelve years old and has been deaf since birth. He now faces an operation that is supposed to make him hear. He is looking forward to it, but it freaks him out at the same time. How will a dog sound? Do fish make any noise? Most importantly, what if the operation doesn’t work?

THE KISS

Charlie Swinbourne 2013 / 8min / Comedy United Kingdom

Some things can be communicated better without words. Two awkward people meet in a cafe for a first date. It’s all a bit uncomfortable until they witness a very unusual kiss between two deaf people.

WORDLESS IN HAVANA (HABANA MUDA)

Eric Brach 2010 / 61min / Documentary France

The deaf community in Havana is poor and socially isolated. Farm worker Chino is looking for a way out. An offer from Jose, a gay Mexican who has fallen in love with him, might just be his ticket to get work in Mexico. However, Cuban and Mexican sign languages are very different and Chino’s wife and children have some understandable concerns of their own.

**SESSION 12 A.K.A. DOC POMUS Friday 5th DEC 9PM**

A.K.A. DOC POMUS

William Hechter and Peter Miller 2012 / 98min / Documentary Canada

A moving tribute to the world’s most unlikely rock and roll icon. Jerome Felder was an overweight Jewish kid from Brooklyn with polio. His parents hoped he would become a lawyer or an accountant but Jerome reinvented himself as a blues singer, taking on the coolest blues name his teenage mind could come up with: Doc Pomus.

Starting as a blues singer, he went on to write some of the most memorable songs of his era including Viva Las Vegas and Save the Last Dance for Me. Discover one of music’s great untold stories.

**SESSION 13 DEAF PERSPECTIVES Saturday 6th DEC 1PM**

CROSSING THE DIVIDE

Cathy Heffernan 2012 / 16min / Documentary United Kingdom

Follow the journey of four deaf people, separated by religion but thrown together at the only deaf school in Belfast during the Troubles in the 1970’s. Was the shared experience of being deaf enough to bridge the deep, historical religious divide of Northern Ireland?

I SIGN, I LIVE (IK GEBAAR, IK LEEF)

Anja Hiddinga and Jascha Blume 2012 / 59min / Documentary Netherlands

Jascha is rebellious and uncertain. He is a young deaf art student who doesn’t much care about the hearing world. But it’s a world he can’t escape if he wants to realise his big ambitions. A trip to Europe’s only home for elderly deaf people changes everything.

Join Mija Gwyn, the festival’s Deaf Program Coordinator, and guests for a lively panel discussion concerning Deaf culture and generational change.

**SESSION 14 TOUGH SHORTS Saturday 6th DEC 3PM**

THE COMMUTE

Jake McAfee 2013 / 4min / Drama USA

A father attempts to return home in time for his daughter’s eighth birthday party celebration but New York’s public transport has other plans.

KRUTCH

Clark Matthews 2013 / 6min / Experimental USA

A fresh, bold entry into the world of erotic film, this steamy experimental short explores perception, sexuality, disability and gender in the streets and between the sheets of New York City.

WHEN I STOP LOOKING

Todd Herman 2013 / 15min / Documentary USA

Using the style of medical portraits, this intimate and thoughtful film will take you far beyond the surface layer of appearance. Enter the intensely private worlds of people living with significant facial and cranial conditions.

KOALA

Daniel Remón 2012 / 16min / Drama Spain

Mercedes works for an insurance company. She is good at her job and she is looking forward to an important promotion. Then her company hires a clumsy new assistant through the Down Syndrome Foundation.

OUR CURSE (NASZAKLATWA)

Tomasz Sliwinkski 2013 / 28min / Documentary Poland

 A personal and searing account of two young parents trying to tame their rampaging fear as their newborn child comes home for the first time. Their child has Congenital Central Hypoventilation Syndrome, also known as Ondine’s Curse, a rare and incurable disease that causes breathing failure during sleep.

**SESSION 15 FIXED Saturday 6th DEC 5PM**

FIXED

Regan Brashear 2012 / 60min / Documentary USA

From bionic limbs and neural implants to prenatal screening, researchers around the world are hard at work developing a myriad of technologies to fix or enhance the human body.

Are disabilities simply ailments we just haven’t cured yet? Who gets fixed and who chooses? Is it community attitudes that really need the fixing? Told through the perspectives of six people with disabilities: a scientist, journalist, disability justice educator, bionics engineer, scholar and exoskeleton test pilot, FIXED takes a close look at the drive to be ‘better than human’ and the radical technological innovations that may take us there.

Have your say as a feisty panel leads us in search of some common ground between some fiercely held positions.

**SESSION 16 ON THE ROAD WITH SNOW WHITE & THE SEVEN DWARFS Saturday 6th DEC 7PM**

ON THE ROAD WITH SNOW WHITE & THE SEVEN DWARFS

Cath South and Stewart Carter 1993 / 55min / Documentary Australia

21st Anniversary Screening

In 1993, Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs was Australia’s longest-running theatre show and advertised itself having ‘live little people on stage!’. Twenty-one years later, members of the ensemble and the film’s directors revisit the documentary of life on the road to reflect on how times have changed.

Or not.

Meet the directors of the film and members of the ensemble in an insightful post-screening discussion concerning the range of opportunities and burden of responsibility facing short-statured actors, performers and entertainers.

Panel moderated by Arts Access Victoria’s own Leisa Prowd.

**SESSION 17 NOSFERATU THE NOT-SO-SILENT VERSION Saturday 6th DEC 9PM**

NOSFERATU

F. W. Murnau 1922 / 84min / Horror Germany

Your chance to audio describe a masterpiece of cinema!

Nosferatu truly is the film that would not die. Plagiarised from Bram Stoker’s novel, Dracula, a court later ruled that all copies of the film be destroyed. One print survived and the film is now regarded as a silent and influential masterpiece of early cinema.

Silent films, however, have never had much to offer people who are blind or have low vision.

The Other Film Festival, ever ready to push the boundaries, intends to make some cinema history of its own. This night, for the first time anywhere in the world, 30 sighted members of the audience will each be given the chance to bring the film to life for their blind and low vision fellow audience members. But audience participation, an open microphone and two minutes of fame is not the end of the story. There will be three blind judges on hand to pass some candid comment on your silver-tongued efforts. However, if your words bring the scene to life for them, some serious prizes will be yours for the taking.

THE JUDGES

Chief Magistrate, Tommy Edison, the blind film critic, will have his hands full just managing the other judges. Emma Bennison is the indomitable Executive Director of Arts Access Australia and an opinionated lover of good film and good access. Tony Sarre is a blind filmmaker and a black belt in karate.

The decisions of the judges will be final and justice, for once, will be truly blind. As Tommy says, “If you don’t like our decisions, we’ll see you in court!”

Live piano provided by the immortal Mr Wayne Joiner.

FREE entry for the first thirty people to sign up for their two minutes of live audio description.

FREE entry for Zombies, Vampires and the Undead.

**SESSION 18 FRESH SHORTS Sunday 7th DEC 1PM**

PHANTOM PAIN

Nicholas Jeffries 2014 / 5min / Experimental Australia

Gone but not forgotten. Amanda is a double amputee who experiences the phenomenon known as phantom limb sensation. The film subtly evokes the physical, emotional and imaginative dimensions to the experience of loss.

LONDON CALLING

Scott Cleverdon 2013 / 7min / Comedy Spain

A man with a secret love. A carer fearing for her job. When two people cannot be more different, they might have more in common than they imagine.

SUPER

Samara Hersch 2014 / 7min / Comedy Australia

An enthusiastic team of super heroes save a local supermarket. Made in collaboration with Access Inc and filmed on location at Piedimonties, North Fitzroy’s iconic supermarket.

SKIN TOUCHING SKY

Kat Worth and Emma Norton 2014 / 5min / Dance Australia

How do you write a love letter to yourself? Enter a visually compelling exploration of a young woman’s relationship with her body, her skin and her love of dance. Devised, performed and co-produced by Emma Norton.

LIVING IN SPACE (KUI MA OLINKOSMONAUT)

Katre Haav 2014 / 13min / Documentary Germany/Estonia

Reality and imagination blend together to make Oliver’s life. It’s hard to resist being dragged into illusion but it’s even harder to get out of it. Using animation elements, this is a compelling depiction of the experience of schizophrenia and the daily possibility of psychosis.

SINS INVALID

Patty Berne 2013 / 33min / Documentary USA

Would you like justice with that? Sins Invalid is the secret entrance into the absurdly taboo topics of sexuality, embodiment and the disabled body. This is a performance project that incubates and celebrates artists with disabilities, centralising artists of colour and queer and gender-variant artists; members of communities who have been historically marginalised.

**SESSION 19 THE BLIND FILM CRITIC Sunday 7th DEC 3PM**

The words blind since birth and serious film critic had never been used in the same sentence until Tommy Edison burst onto the US film scene three years ago. Equipped with candour and cut-through humour, Tommy immediately attracted the endorsement of Roger Ebert, the doyen of American film critics. After more than 25 years on local radio in Connecticut, USA, Tommy Edison is now building an international reputation for his film reviews on YouTube.

Of his reviews, Tommy says “I watch movies and pay attention to them in a different way than sighted people do. I’m not distracted by all the beautiful shots and attractive people. I watch a movie for the writing and acting.” Tommy Edison is attending as a guest of The Other Film Festival.

As well as his popular critiques of Hollywood’s latest offerings, Tommy is also the go-to guy for all the questions you’ve never asked. His many videos, with titles like How Blind People Dream and Favourite Smells attract viewers in their millions.

Reflecting on his experience of being blind since birth, Tommy says: “One of the greatest challenges I faced was accepting that I’m visually impaired. As I became an adult, I was forced to face my own reality and needed to make a choice — either embrace my blindness and live a happier life, or do something I might regret. Eventually I chose the former which led me to a long career in radio, reviewing movies, and sharing my experiences as a blind person to a worldwide audience.”

In Australia for the first time, Tommy Edison will share his journey from radio traffic reporter to living his dream as the blind film critic. The presentation will be followed by a Q&A with the audience and be assured, no questions are off-limits.

Tommy Edison’s attendance is generously supported by the US Embassy.

**SESSION 20 A.K.A. DOC POMUS Sunday 7th DEC 5PM**

A.K.A. DOC POMUS

William Hechter and Peter Miller 2012 / 98min / Documentary Canada

A moving tribute to the world’s most unlikely rock and roll icon. Jerome Felder was an overweight Jewish kid from Brooklyn with polio. His parents hoped he would become a lawyer or an accountant but Jerome reinvented himself as a blues singer, taking on the coolest blues name his teenage mind could come up with: Doc Pomus.

Starting as a blues singer, he went on to write some of the most memorable songs of his era including Viva Las Vegas and Save the Last Dance for Me. Discover one of music’s great untold stories.

**SESSION 21 CLOSING NIGHT LOVE Sunday 7th DEC 7PM**

Stay tuned for surprise guest performers...

AUTISM IN LOVE

Michelle Friedline 2012 / 9min / Documentary USA

RV Kuser is fifty, blissfully married and proudly autistic. He has learned to mask the behaviours associated with his autism in order to function successfully. However, this triumph comes at a cost: he is only able to act neurotypically for a limited time before regressing dramatically the more genuine version of himself.

DO YOU BELIEVE IN LOVE?

Dan Wasserman 2013 / 50min / Documentary Israel

Her body is paralysed by Muscular Dystrophy and she doesn’t believe in love, but Tova, the Matchmaker, strives tirelessly to find love for everybody else.

People flock to her apartment where her lust for life and tough-love approach to finding matches for people with disabilities leads to a unique matchmaking style.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

**Festival Team**

Festival Director: Rick Randall Festival Manager: Emily O’Brien Associate Director: Sophie Sherriff Deaf Program Coordinator: Mija Gwyn @ Deaf Arts Network Technical Manager: Andrew Taylor @ Twilight Cinemas Publicity: Cathy Gallagher @ CG Publicity, Annette Smith @ Ned & Co Communications and Social Media Coordinator: Nicky Dracoulis Ticketing and Box Office: Pip O’Brien Volunteer Coordinator: Don Kohlmann Auslan Interpreters: Lynn Gordon and Kirri Dangerfield Captioning and Audio Description Coordination: Alec Downs @ Red Bee Media Graphic Design: Katie Darbyshire @ Caramel Creative Design Supervision: Rowan Wilson @ Caramel Creative Production Assistant: James Lipari Party Starters: Pamela Debrincat, Ester Tuddenham and Paul Matley Venue Technical Support: Tom Keeble Venue Services Support: Alan Smith Catering: Jeremy and his great team at Dr Dax Executive Director, Arts Access Victoria: Veronica Pardo Manager, Industry Development Program: Wendy O’Neill Operations Manager, AAV: Chris Brophy Finance Manager, AAV: Jeanette Ryan Financial Accountant AAV: Yolley Kalos

**Film Selection**

Akash Temple, Mija Gwyn, Rick Randall and Sophie Sherriff

**Special Thanks**

Aaron Lee, Andrew Willis, Bob Willis, Brandt Lee, Candy Mitchell, Dale Fairbairn, Deb Zipper, Delaney Hutchins, Gabriele Urban, Gabrielle Connellan, Ian Row, Jane Crawley, Kelli Keating, Lewis Thorne, Madeline Getson, Margherita Coppolino, Matt Jones, Megan Breen, Michael Parremore, Penelope Lee, Sharon Pinney, Sue Edwards, Janelle Whalan, Sasha Hough, David Peters, Sophie Li, Martin Curnow, Jo Ellis and all the dedicated filmmakers who submitted films to The Other Film Festival. Major props all our fabulous Volunteers!

THANK YOU TO ARTS ACCESS VICTORIA STAFF AND BOARD.

Cover photograph and festival image: Artist: Sue Austin © www.wearefreewheeling.org.uk Photographer: Norman Lomax

The Other Film Festival is supported by the Australian Government.

**Public Partners**

City of Melbourne, Film Victoria, Screen Australia, Victorian Equal Opportunity & Human Rights Commission

**Philanthropic Partner**

Lord mayor's Charitable Foundation

**Festival Partners**

Red Bee Media, Caramel Creative, The Florey, VicDeaf, Coleby Consulting

**Festival Supporters**

Dr Dax Kitchen, fed Square, US Embassy, Mountain Goat, The Dax centre, Picture Start, Jorge de Araujo, Goethe Institut, Word of Mouth, Consulate General of Canada, Ankara Accessible Film Festival

**Arts Access Victoria gratefully acknowledges the financial support of:**

Arts Victoria, Australia Council for the Arts, Department of Human Services