SCREEN AUSTRALIA IN ASSOCIATION WITH FILM VICTORIA

AND THE MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL PREMIERE FUND

A CBOB FILMS PRODUCTION



# THE COMING BACK OUT BALL MOVIE

A FEATURE LENGTH DOCUMENTARY

## TAG LINE

"If you're out of the closet, you're out of the CLOSETS!"

- Ardy Tibby

## LOGLINE

The Coming Back Out Ball explores the heartbreaking and heartwarming stories of a group of older LGBTI+ people as they prepare to attend a Ball celebrating their gender and sexual identities.

## SYNOPSIS

The Coming Back Out Ball is an observational feature documentary that follows a group of older LGBTI+ people, who have been invited to attend a Ball celebrating their gender and sexual identity. Faced with the complexities of ageing and isolation, these extraordinary people seize each day with determination and humour. In a world that is rapidly changing for the LGBTI+ community around the world, we witness some of our cast experiencing acceptance and love for the very first time in their lives.

## TECHNICAL DETAILS

Run Time: 84 minutes Colour HD DOLBY 5.1



# MEET THE CAST







DAVID MORRISON

ARDY TIBBY

JUDITH SLADE







MICHELLE MCNAMARA PETER WAPLES-CROWE

NANCE PECK







DAVID MORGAN

LIZZI CRAIG

TRACE WILLIAMS







HEATHER MORGAN

DEREK CHRISTIAN TRISTAN MEECHAM

### MEET THE FILMMAKERS

#### SUE THOMSON - WRITER/DIRECTOR/PRODUCER



Sue is an independent film-maker with over twenty years experience in film and television. Her productions include THE COMEDY GALA for the Melbourne International Comedy Festival, CLASS CLOWNS (Network Ten), BOYS AND BALLS with Roy & HG, (Sydney Film Festival, ABC & theatrical release), THE FIFTH SET (ABC) and THE LAST GREAT AMATEURS with Magda Szubanski (ABC). Sue spent 3 years working on her feature documentary, TEMPEST AT THE DROP-IN, narrated by Eric Bana (ABC). Sue directed and produced TALKING TURKEY, a comic documentary with Brian Nankervis and Colin Lane (DFAT). In 2017 Sue executive produced the 4x30min COMEDY FESTIVAL ROADSHOW specials (SBS2).

#### ADAM FARRINGTON-WILLIAMS - PRODUCER



Adam is an independent documentary producer who recently produced THE WORD: RISE OF THE SLAM POETS for the ABC and Rohan Spong's critically acclaimed feature documentary WINTER AT WESTBETH. WINTER AT WESTBETH had its sold-out World Premiere at the Sydney Film Festival and the 65th Melbourne International Film Festival. The film also had its International Premiere at DOC NYC in 2016, where it received a Special Jury Mention. Adam also co-produced the feature documentary ALL THE WAY THROUGH EVENING (2012) that screened theatrically throughout Australia.

#### ROGER MONK - WRITER/CO-PRODUCER



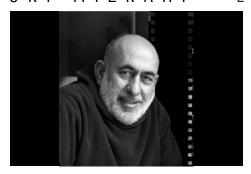
Roger Monk is a multi award winning screenwriter and producer. Roger won AFI, IF and Critics Circle best script awards for feature film WALKING ON WATER. The film also won the Teddy at Berlin. Roger has written for numerous TV series including Emmy Award winning NOWHERE BOYS. Roger also mentors emerging writers from diverse backgrounds.

#### TRISTAN MEECHAM - CO-PRODUCER



Tristan Meecham is an artist, performer and Artistic Director of ALL THE QUEENS MEN. Together with Bec Reid, All The Queens Men champion social equality, celebrating diverse communities through creative actions and socially engaged frameworks. Recent creative actions include: THE COMING BACK OUT BALL, a spectacular social event celebrating Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex elders and an LGBTI ELDERS DANCE CLUB, a free monthly social event.

#### URI MIZRAHI - EDITOR



Uri Mizrahi is one of Australia's most highly regarded editors, whose work over thirty years includes, drama and documentary for cinema and television. His work has garnered him numerous nominations and awards including the Best Editing AFI Award for RAINBOW BIRD & MONSTER MAN (2002) and the AFI Award for Best Visual Design with John Hughes for AFTER MABO (1998). Uri's recent work includes the telemovies, SISTERS OF WAR (2010) & PARER'S WAR (2014) and the documentaries, PUTUPARRI & THE RAINMAKERS (2015) MY MOTHER'S LOST CHILDREN (2017) and GUILTY (2017).

#### SKY DAVIES - CINEMATOGRAPHER



Sky's fixation with cinema began at a tender age when she attempted to adapt her favourite primary school picture books into films. Once in the film industry, Sky has worked in the camera department of productions such as ANIMAL KINGDOM, BALIBO and WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE. Her work ranges from experimental to commercial and narrative driven drama with repeat clients such as Pepsi, Interflora and the ABC. Her projects have screened in prestigious international festivals and receiving various festival and ACS awards, including 2016's Golden Tripod.

#### RICHARD KICKBUSH - CINEMATOGRAPHER



Richard Kickbush is a cinematographer with experience in 2D, 3D and now Virtual Reality. His passion for cinema has taken him all over the world, working with amazing people on a wonderfully diverse range of projects. Richard now dedicates his focus towards social impact documentaries. This film was a chance to be part of telling the stories of the elderly LGBTI+ community and build on his dedication to capturing underrepresented members of our society. He is based in Melbourne, Victoria.

#### JEREMY SHAW - SOUND RECORDIST



Jeremy has over 30 years experience in sound recording and production. After running a post-production facility for 5 years, he remembered that what he actually liked doing is location sound. From problem solving, hiding under tables and in the back of cars to recovering drones from trees Jeremy is enjoying every minute of sound recording and considers this film, a very special project to be a part of.

#### ZARA SENGSTOCK - PRODUCTION MANAGER / POST PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR



Zara is a Melbourne based filmmaker. Since graduating from Swinburne University with a Bachelor in Film and Television, Zara has worked on a diverse array of established Australian Features and Television Series including; JUDY AND PUNCH, ANGEL OF MINE and THE DR BLAKE MYSTERIES: FAMILY PORTRAIT (TELEMOVIE). Zara is also a budding director and producer whose work spans short films, music videos and live theatre.

### CREATIVE STATEMENT

The Coming Back Out Ball Movie follows artist Tristan Meecham as he navigates homophobia and ignorance in order to stage a spectacular Ball to celebrate the sexual and gender identity of older LGBTI+ people. Tristan works to create a night that acknowledges and celebrates LGBTI+ elders who, he says, paved the way for him – a young gay man – to be out and proud.

Over the course of this documentary, nine key characters open their hearts with raw honesty, generously sharing their painful and secretive pasts, looking back fifty years or more to a world far less accepting of LGBTI+ people.

Many of our cast have experienced social isolation. The CBOB (Coming Back Out Ball) project gave them new confidence, reasons to re-connect and vital opportunities to be accepted and respected. This shift was subtle; a coming together of disparate groups, of communities whose common ground was the shared experience of isolation and discrimination. Our film listens to elderly Australians, mostly in their seventies and eighties, who are now living their authentic life, who want to speak honestly and be heard.

Tristan battles through the judgements and doubts from stakeholders and even some of the LGBTI+ elders he's working with, to remain focused on creating the Ball. He is determined to take over Melbourne's largest civic space, the magnificent Melbourne Town Hall, to honour 'his elders'.

With the Ball fast approaching, a monthly Dance Club is established to help isolated LGBTI+ elders meet other members of their communities and learn some dance steps. This 'inclusive idea' was met with some initial resistance from the elders attending. Some people complained about the music, about the dances being taught and the free food supplied. Some of the elders were confused by Tristan's artistic vision and disagreed with his plans for the Ball. Always respectful of everyone's opinion, Tristan worked at getting more people to the Dance Clubs, changing the music and adding to the food options! Numbers increased slowly and steadily throughout the filmmaking process and the LGBTI+ communities are now enthusiastic supporters of the monthly dance club.

Filmically, the production and staging of the Ball offered a clear structural vehicle to tell a host of heart-warming and heart-wrenching stories about elderly LGBTI+ Australians and explore Australia's LGBTI+ history. This, all at a time when LGBTI+ Australians were under the microscope more than ever before, with the Marriage Equality Postal Vote running parallel to the creation of The Coming Back Out Ball Movie. The vote was a landmark event for our older LGBTI+. Here we were, filming a Ball that was celebrating diverse gender, sexuality and identity, while a debate about whether people should be allowed to marry the same sex was raging around Australia.

On the day of the Ball, we wondered whether cheeky Nance would attend, we worried that Judith wouldn't get out of hospital in time and we hoped that Michelle's wife would agree to accompany her to the Ball. All the wonder, emotion and chaos of the night was captured in a rich cinematic style with seven cameras filming every aspect of the event.

The Coming Back Out Ball Movie is a record of Australian history, a dark past with a rainbow coloured future, told via a group of extraordinary people.

# BEHIND THE SCENES































### CREDIT BLOCK

SCREEN AUSTRALIA IN ASSOCIATION WITH FILM VICTORIA AND THE MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL PREMIERE FUND A CBOB FILMS PRODUCTION "THE COMING BACK OUT BALL MOVIE"

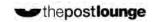
EDITOR URI MIZRAHI COMPOSER MARK D'ANGELO CO-PRODUCERS ROGER MONK & TRISTAN MEECHAM
SOUND DESIGNERS LIVIA RUZIC & KEITH THOMAS DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY SKY DAVIES & RICHARD KICKBUSH
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS SHAUN MILLER, MICHAEL MCMAHON, TONY NAGLE, NELSON KHOURY & PAUL GIGGLE
PRODUCED BY ADAM FARRINGTON-WILLIAMS & SUE THOMSON DIRECTED BY SUE THOMSON



















© 2018 CBOB FILMS Pty Ltd, Filmfest Limited and BEEPS Pty Ltd trading as The Post Lounge All Rights Reserved.

### EPK CREDITS

Director SUE THOMSON

Producers

ADAM FARRINGTON-WILLIAMS
SUE THOMSON

Editor **URI MIZRAHI** 

Co-Producers
ROGER MONK
TRISTAN MEECHAM

Cinematographers
SKY DAVIES
RICHARD KICKBUSH

Sound Recordists
JEREMY SHAW
ALEX CHRISTENSEN

Composer MARK D'ANGELO

Executive Producers
SHAUN MILLER
MICHAEL MCMAHON
TONY NAGLE
NELSON KHOURY
PAUL GIGGLE

Original Concept of The Coming Back Out Ball ALL THE QUEENS MEN

Production Manager **ZARA SENGSTOCK** 

# Writers SUE THOMSON ROGER MONK

Indigenous Consultant
SARAH BOND

Script Consultant
ANNA GRIEVE
JOHN THOMSON

Additional Cinematography

SUE THOMSON ROHAN SPONG DAVID FRANJIC MEG PERROTT LOUIS WALTER FIONA DEAN

Additional Sound Recordists
HUGH PALMER
ALEX WAKEFIELD
BEN BOMITALI

Assistant Editor
SHAUN SMITH

Post Production Supervisor ZARA SENGSTOCK

Post Production Facility
THE POST LOUNGE

Post Producer
KURT ROYAN

Post Production Co-ordinator **ELA FURDAS** 

Colourist
KALI BATEMAN

Online Editor
ALAN BENNETT

Sound Post Production Facility
ALCHEMY AUDIO

Sound Designers
LIVIA RUZIC
KEITH THOMAS

Sound Mixer **KEITH THOMAS** 

Legals
SHAUN MILLER, SHAUN MILLER LAWYERS

Completion Guaranty provided through
FIRST AUSTRALIAN COMPLETION BOND COMPANY PTY. LTD

A very special thanks to
DEREK CHRISTIAN
LIZZI CRAIG
MICHELLE McNAMARA
HEATHER MORGAN
DAVID MORGAN
DAVID MORRISON
NANCE PECK
JUDITH SLADE
ARDY TIBBY
PETER WAPLES-CROWE
TRACE WILLIAMS

with

ROBYN ARCHER, AO, CdOAL
CARLOTTA

DR. DEBORAH CHEETHAM, AO YORTA YORTA, SOPRANO & COMPOSER
GERRY CONNOLLY
TRISTAN MEECHAM
BEC REID



PRODUCED BY

### CBOB FILMS

FINANCED WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF



PRODUCED WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF





DEVELOPED AND PRODUCED WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF





PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENT AND PRODUCTION FUNDING FROM





**Australian Government** 

### DISTRIBUTION

Tony Ianiro +61 450 858 787 tony@thebacklotstudios.com

Rumaine Vassou +61 415 491 182 rumaine@thebacklotstudios.com

Adam Farrington-Williams +61 425 776 645 adamfarringtonwilliams@gmail.com



The Backlot Films specialises in the acquisition and distribution of theatrical and ancillary content for placement in Australia, New Zealand and Singapore, offering a specialised, attainable and integrated roadmap for domestic producers and international sales agents.

