

For

Lovers

A ROMANCE FESTIVAL

BLUSH

FILMS | AUTHOR TALKS | LITERARY LUNCH
BOOK SIGNINGS | POP UP BOOK SHOP
POETRY | MARKETS & MORE

14–15 FEBRUARY 2025
BRISBANE QLD AUSTRALIA

ANGELIKA CINEMAS
SOUTH/CITY/SQ BRISBANE

[BLUSHROMANCEFESTIVAL.COM](https://blushromancefestival.com)

[@BLUSHROMANCEFESTIVAL](https://www.instagram.com/blushromancefestival)

of Films

& Books

You had me at hello...

Welcome to the second BLUSSH Romance Festival!

Building on the incredible success of our inaugural year, we're thrilled to bring you an even bigger celebration of love, storytelling, and magic in 2025.

Queensland is the beating heart of Australia's romance industry, producing more romance films and hosting more romance writers than anywhere else and BLUSSH was created to honour and celebrate this passion for love stories.

BLUSSH has been blessed with the ongoing support of Romance Club and welcomes new sponsors Brisbane City Council and Screen Queensland, with Cr Fiona Cunningham co-hosting our inaugural Poetry event. Thanks to a host of wonderful partners, the BLUSSH dream has been made possible.

BLUSSH is for the lovers of love. Through the power of film and literature, we'll take you on a journey that celebrates the beauty, complexity, and sheer joy of falling in love. Our hope is that BLUSSH will inspire you to dream bigger, love deeper, and believe in endless possibilities.

Join us for an unforgettable celebration of romance. Strut the pink carpet, dance under the chandelier, and immerse yourself in a dazzling showcase of romance's many sub-genres, styles, and stories.

Whether you're a hopeless romantic, a curious newcomer, or a passionate storyteller, BLUSSH promises to ignite your heart and imagination.

Sue-Anne & Kylie x



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and their continuing connection to land and as custodians of stories for millennia. We recognise the important and ongoing contributions of Indigenous Australians to art and literature, and pay our respects to elders past, present and emerging.

On the shelf – In Conversation



The Rom-Com Revival

In conversation with Rachael Johns, Amy Andrews, Ally Blake and Louisa Duval

Enjoy a morning of light-hearted discussion and belly laughs as we explore the recent glow-up of the much loved rom-com genre in books and film. Boasting some of the biggest names in Australian romance including **Amy Andrews**, **Louisa Duval** and moderated by **Ally Blake**, this not-to-be-missed panel features the undisputed Queen of Australian women's fiction, **Rachael Johns**, in her only Brisbane appearance launching her brand-new book – *The Bad Bridesmaid*.

\$10 / \$8

Sat 15 Feb at 10am

Arrive early and kick off your day of romance at *Love & Lattes on The Lawn* from 8.30am. Enjoy a delicious coffee and be serenaded by live poetry readings from local poets, thanks to Cr Fiona Cunningham.



Lussh Literary Lunch: Lit to Lens

In conversation with Kylie Scott, Elle Croxford, Ally Blake and Nick L'Barrow

Take a leap into the world of adaptation and celebrate the excitement of seeing your favourite books on the big screen. The transformation from page to screen allows readers to develop a deeper connection to a story while creating new opportunities for audiences to discover and celebrate the magic of romance. We deep dive the adaptation of **Kylie Scott's** novel *Lick*, explore the reverse trajectory of a film inspiring a novel with **Elle Croxford** and the intriguing viewpoint of how to watch films like a writer with **Ally Blake**.

\$10 / \$8 ticket only

\$40 ticket, delicious lunch bowl and beverage

Sat 15 Feb at 12Noon

Every ticket purchased to *Lit to Lens* receives a complimentary ticket to the exclusive Australian in-cinema screening of *Lick*.



Shadows and Swoon: Romantasy Panel

In conversation with HM Hodgson, Melanie Pickering, Demi Clorissa and Elena Moriarty

From YA to very adult, our panel of authors will step into a world where romance meets the mysterious, the magical, and the macabre whilst celebrating love in its most shadowy, spellbinding forms.

\$10 / \$8 ticket only

Sat 15 Feb at 3.30pm

Book the *Author In Conversation Bundle* and enjoy these three engaging author sessions at an exclusive discounted rate of only \$55 for all three sessions, including lunch, a beverage, and a ticket to the *Lick* screening.

SHELF LOVERS ON-SITE POP-UP SHOP WILL BE OPEN ALL-DAY SATURDAY, OFFERING AUTHORS' BOOKS AND OTHER LITERARY TREASURES.

Need a book for the author signing after each event? No worries! We've got you covered!



Opening Night Soirée – Bridget Jones: Mad About the Boy (CTC)

Make Valentine's Day extra special with a fabulous Opening Night Soirée and screening of *Bridget Jones: Mad About The Boy*.

Join your fellow romantics for an evening filled with romance, sparkle, and plenty of bubbly. Strut your stuff on the pink carpet, sip on BLUSSH-inspired cocktails and rub shoulders with the cream of Australia's romance community.

Whether you're bringing your Valentine, Galentine, bestie, or just your fabulous, sweet self, treat yourself to an unforgettable night of love, laughter, and a few delicious surprises along the way.

Your ticket includes pink carpet arrivals, a cocktail from Byron Bay Spirits Co., a delicious meal from FISHBOWL and a BLUSSH swag bag.

\$45

Fri 14 Feb at 6pm | Film at 7pm

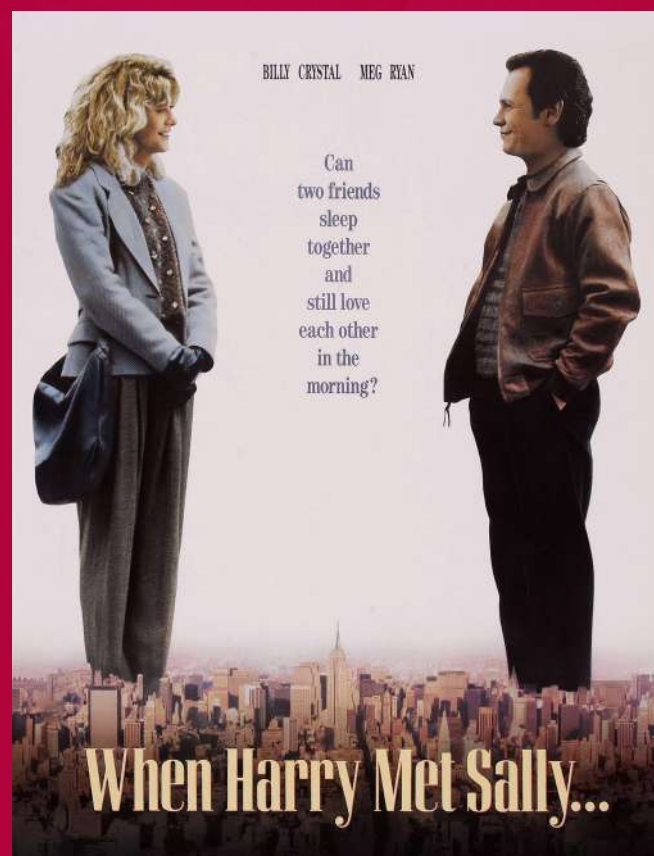
When Harry Met Sally (M)

The OG of Rom Coms turns 35 this year and we can't wait to celebrate. *When Harry Met Sally* asks that age old question...Can two friends sleep together and still love each other in the morning?

Following on from *The Rom-Com Revival* author panel, we celebrate the rom-com in film with one of the all-time classics.

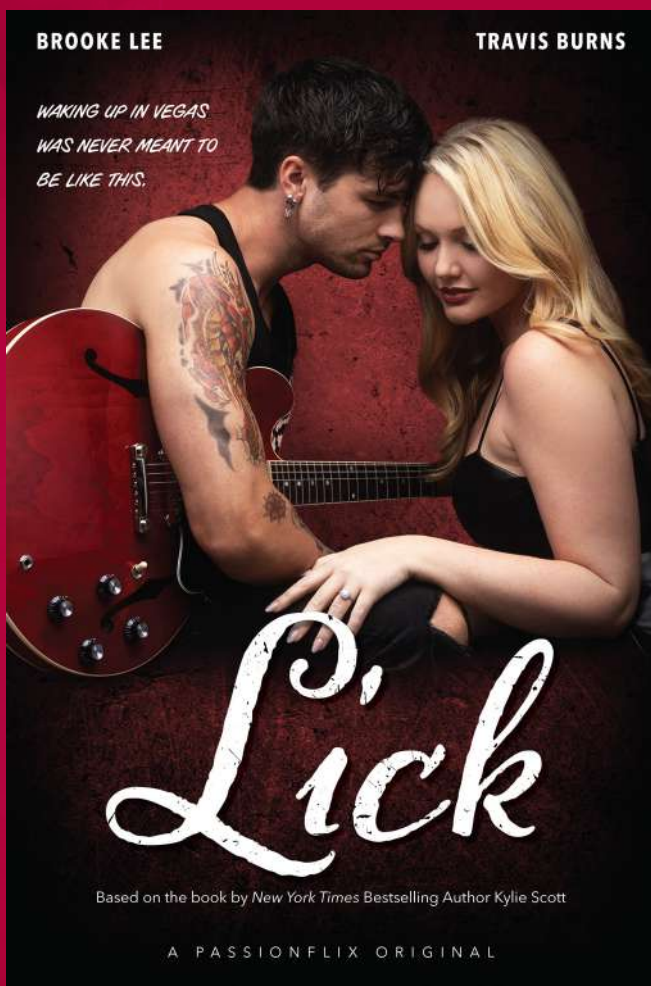
\$18 / \$15

Sat 15 Feb at 11am



BLUSSH QUICKIES

The festivals inaugural short film program will screen shorts from Australia, America and Spain. Full screening details on website.



Lick (MA)

Evelyn wakes up in Vegas married to rock star David after blacking out on her 21st birthday. Thrust into his fame, she questions if she can handle his lifestyle as they navigate if their marriage is real or a mistake.

BLUSSH has teamed up with Passionflix to bring you an exclusive in cinema Australian screening of *Lick*, adapted from Kylie Scott's best-selling novel.

Join *Lick* director Louise Alston, actor Brooke Lee and writer Kylie Scott on the pink carpet for some pre-screening shenanigans, before heading into the cinema for this very special screening.

After the film, stay for an intimate Q&A with Louise, Brooke and Kylie, moderated by Brisbane's very own celebrity interviewer and podcaster Nick's Flicks Fix.

Complimentary ticket with any *Lit to Lens* ticket purchase
Sat 15 Feb at 1.30pm

A Royal Proposal - A Royal in Paradise II (G)

Nearly a year after finding love in paradise, writer, Olivia Perkins, and Prince Alexander are stronger than ever...or so they thought. As Christmas approaches, a family holiday at the Royal palace turns into a festive mess.

Will Olivia find her happily ever after like in all her books?

Prepare to be swept away again with Olivia and Alexander. Rewatch the original film *A Royal in Paradise* on Amazon Prime or Apple TV.

Arrive early and join cast and crew on the pink carpet and stay after the film for an intimate Q&A.

\$18 / \$15

Sat 15 Feb - Pink carpet from 4pm | Film at 5pm



BLUSSH Films (Cont.)



When Love Springs (G)

A talented PR professional, Rory, enlists the manager of a Bed & Breakfast, Noah, to pretend to be her boyfriend in front of her ex, while she helps save his failing family business.

Filmed entirely in Queensland, *When Love Springs* has all the ingredients of a classic romantic comedy.

Arrive early and join cast and crew on the pink carpet and stay after the film for an intimate Q&A.

\$18 / \$15

Sat 15 Feb – Pink carpet from 6pm | Film at 7pm



Love and Lattes on the Lawn

Start your day with a swoon-worthy morning of heartfelt poetry, fresh summer air, and delicious coffee - on Councillor Fiona Cunningham!

Fiona, along with curator Brett Dionysius, brings together Queensland's finest poets, including Madeleine Dale, Jane Frank, Jarad Bruinstroop, Vanessa Page, David Terelinck, and Damen O'Brien.

Sat 15 Feb at 8.30am

On The Lawn between Organic Grocer and Le Chapel Barber



The Morning After Markets

We're bringing you the perfect Valentine's Day morning-after activity with a curated pop-up market showcasing local makers.

Stallholders will be selling a variety of unique, handcrafted goods including ceramics, jewellery, scents, and so much more.

The Morning After Markets will run from 9am to 3pm so you can pop in for a browse between BLUSSH films and author sessions.

Sat 15 Feb from 9am to 3pm



Romantic Moments

In the spirit of Trent Dalton's *Write Your Heart Out* and Gillian Anderson's *Want*, BLUSSH guests are invited to sit and write what 'romance' means to them.

A sentence, a paragraph or more.

Pop in between sessions and visit the fabulous women from the *How To Write Academy* to craft your own love note to contribute to our *Romantic Moments* wall.

Sat 15 Feb from 9am to 3pm
Join us at the How to Write Academy stall

Saturday 15 February

	FILM	EVENT	FOYER ACTIVATIONS
8.30		LOVE & LATTES ON THE LAWN featuring poets Madeleine Dale, Jane Frank, Jarad Bruinstroop, Vanessa Page, David Terelinck, and Damen O'Brien.	9am – 3pm THE MORNING AFTER MARKETS featuring local artisans and hand made wares 9am – 3pm ROMANCE INDUSTRY STALLS including Romance Writers Australia, How to Write Academy, Australian Romance Readers Association, Serenade Publishing 9am – 5pm SHELF LOVERS Pop Up Book Shop
9.00			
9.30			
10.00		THE ROM-COM REVIVAL <i>in conversation with</i> Rachael Johns, Amy Andrews, Louisa Duval and Ally Blake.	
10.30			
11.00	WHEN HARRY MET SALLY (M)	Author book signing	
11.30			
12.00			
12.30		LUSSH LITERARY LUNCH: LIT TO LENS <i>in conversation with</i> Kylie Scott, Elle Croxford, Ally Blake and Nick L'Barrow.	
13.00		Author book signing Pink carpet arrivals for <i>Lick</i>	
13.30		LICK (MA)	
14.00			
14.30			
15.00			
15.30		SHADOWS AND SWOON: ROMANTASY <i>in conversation with</i> HM Hodgson, Melanie Pickering, Elena Moriarty and Demi Clorissa	
16.00		Pink carpet arrivals for <i>A Royal Proposal</i>	
16.30		Author book signing	
17.00		A ROYAL PROPOSAL - A ROYAL IN PARADISE II (G)	
17.30			
18.00	Pink carpet arrivals for <i>When Love Springs</i>		
18.30	WHEN LOVE SPRINGS (G)		
19.00			
19.30			
20.00			
20.30			

Our Partners

BLUSSH is made possible through the incredible support of our sponsors and partners.

PRINCIPAL SPONSOR

Romance
Club

FESTIVAL SPONSOR



Dedicated to a better Brisbane



Rambla.



FESTIVAL PARTNER



VENUE PARTNER



SOUTH/CITY/SQ



MEDIA PARTNER

She **SOCIETY**

Show your BLUSSH ticket and receive unique discounts at any of The Talisman restaurants, Fishbowl, Uncle Don and La Macelleria. Deals detailed on BLUSSH website.



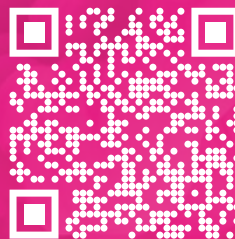
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