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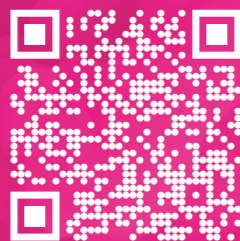
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BLUSSH

For

Lovers

A ROMANCE FESTIVAL

BLUSSH

FILMS | AUTHOR TALKS | LITERARY LUNCH | BOOK SIGNINGS
POP-UP BOOK SHOP | POETRY | MARKETS
LIVE PODCAST RECORDINGS | BREAKFAST ROM COM BINGO

13-14 FEBRUARY 2026
BRISBANE QLD AUSTRALIA

DENDY CINEMAS, COORPAROO
COORPAROO SQUARE

BLUSSHROMANCEFESTIVAL.COM

@BLUSSHROMANCEFESTIVAL

of Films

& Books

You had me at hello...

Blussh Romance Festival exists because of love. The love of stories, of cinema, of books dog-eared and films rewatched, and above all, the unwavering love and support of the romance community that continues to champion this genre and each other.

Now in its third year, Blussh delivers a heartfelt program made possible by the passion of romance readers, writers, filmmakers, and audiences, alongside our generous new venue partners who have opened their doors and embraced the Blussh dream.

We are deeply grateful for the ongoing support of Romance Society, Screen Queensland, and Brisbane City Council with Cr Fiona Cunningham presenting **Breakfast with Heart**. The free breakfast event expands upon the poetry program, transforming the top end of the Square

into a romantic playground with vinyl spun love songs, markets, delicious coffee and pastries and **Rom Com Bingo!**

New to the program are live podcast recordings, and a book club! The book club is being delivered by Book World Club, and unpacks book one of The Beauty Series, **Beauty from Pain** by Georgie Cates, followed by the world first in-cinema premiere of the film.

Whether you're romance-obsessed or newly curious, Blussh invites you come flirt with us and to fall headfirst into all our program has to offer.

Sue-Anne & Kylie x

Love, On the House (free events)



Breakfast with Heart

Start your day with a swoon-worthy morning of heartfelt poetry, delicious coffee (Cr Fiona Cunningham's treat!), vinyl spun love songs and **Rom Com Bingo**. Poets curated by **Brett Dionysius**. Morning MC'd by **Olympia Kwitowski**.

Sat 14 Feb / 7.30am to 9.00am
(Next to *Beyond the Pale*)

*Brisbane Record Fair will be held concurrently from 8am – 3pm



The Morning After Markets

We're bringing you the perfect Valentine's Day morning mooch around, with a curated pop-up market showcasing local makers. Stallholders will be selling a variety of unique, handcrafted goods including bookish gifts, chocolates, jewellery, and scents.

Sat 14 Feb / 7.30am to 1pm
(Opposite *Beyond the Pale* and in *Romance Society* Hub*)



Live Podcast Recordings

Experience not one, but two, live podcast recordings with romance darlings **Sarah Williams**, **Louisa Duval** and **Sharyn Swanepoel**, as they talk romance with festival attending authors.

Sat 14 Feb
11am – The Write Podcast (Sarah Williams)
12noon – Pages and PJs (Louisa Duval and Sharyn Swanepoel) (*Romance Society* Hub*)

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



Have Sword, Will Kiss: The Romantasy Revolution

In conversation with **Stacey McEwan**, **AK Mulford**, **Sarah L Richhelm**, **Jaymin Eve**. Moderated by **Kate Cuthbert**.

The literary festival program kicks off with the Queens of romantasy joining with fierce and fabulous newcomers, this not-to-be-missed panel asks if the momentum can last, or really, is this just the beginning?

Fri 13 Feb at 4pm
\$10

Following the panel, frock up and join us for the festival's Opening Night Film & Salon with a special screening of *“Wuthering Heights”*.



Lights, Camera... Love!

In conversation with **Jodi McAlister**, **Karen Farrell**, **Tania Joyce**, **Sofia Aves**. Moderated by **Jem Gowen**.

Whether it's a rock stage, a reality TV set, or the glow of the footlights, love is always centre stage. This panel pulls back the curtain on the rockstars, reality stars, and rising stars, through contemporary stories that explore the drama of connection when the world is watching, and those who protect the stars: the lovers, the crew, the bodyguards.

Sat 14 Feb at 9.30am
\$10

More bodyguard swoon is on offer following the panel with the retro screening of the 1992 classic *The Bodyguard* with Whitney Houston and Kevin Costner.



Lussh Literary Lunch: One is the Loneliest Number

In conversation with **Louisa Duval**, **Allison A. Andrews**, **Kate Cuthbert**, **Melanie Saward**, **Ali Berg** and **Michelle Kalus**. Moderated by **Ally Blake**.

The act of writing is often imagined as solitary. A single author, a single voice. But what magic emerges when that voice becomes a chorus? A conversation about creativity, trust, and the power of shared storytelling.

Sat 14 Feb at 1pm
\$10 ticket only
\$40 ticket (Includes delicious lunch bowl and beverage).

Option to bundle Saturday's author panels:
• **\$25 In Conversation Bundle** (Includes 3 panels)
• **\$55 In Conversation Bundle** (Includes 3 panels + lunch)



Algorithms, Aisles, and Accidents

In conversation with **Lauren Jackson**, **Sarah Williams**, **Ky Garvey**, **Kat T. Masen**. Moderated by **Louisa Duval**.

How do we find our next great read, or does it find us? From the precision of algorithmic recommendations to the happy chaos of bookstore browsing, this panel explores the strange, delightful ecosystem of story discovery in the digital age.

Sat 14 Feb at 2.30pm
\$10

From page to screen

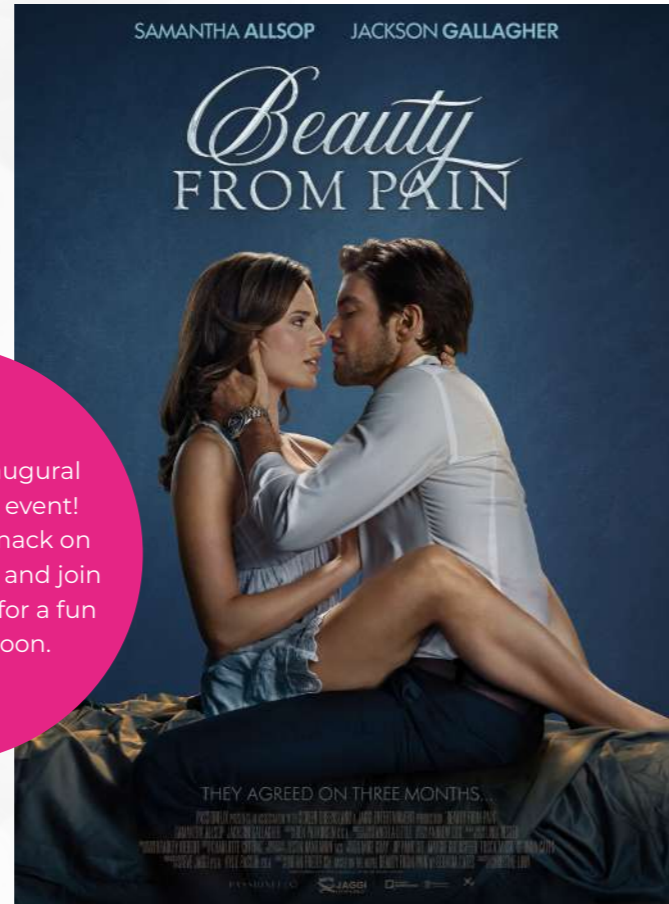


Beauty from Pain: Blussh Book Club presented by Book World Club

Step into the intoxicating world of **Beauty from Pain** by **Georgia Cates** with an afternoon that's equal parts book club, boudoir fantasy, and cellar door. Join fellow readers and romance lovers as we unpack the deliciously dark tension of *Beauty From Pain* with a guided book club discussion, fun games and other cheeky surprises.

Don't miss the inaugural Blussh Book Club event! Grab a beverage, snack on your mini antipasto and join like-minded lovers for a fun and flirty afternoon.

Sat 14 Feb at 4.30pm
\$20 (includes beverage and mini antipasto)



Beauty from Pain (CTC)

Australian premiere in-cinema screening.

After a devastating heartbreak, an aspiring musician escapes to Australia for a holiday and agrees to a no-strings romance with a billionaire winemaker, but when she falls in love with him, she must choose between walking away or risking her heart on a man afraid to love.

Blussh has teamed up with Romance Society and Passionflix to bring you an exclusive Australian in-cinema screening of **Beauty from Pain**, adapted from New York Times, USA Today, and Wall Street Journal bestselling author Georgia Cate's bestselling novel.

Arrive early and join cast and crew on the pink carpet for some pre-screening pink carpet love, before heading into the cinema for this very special screening. After the film, stay for an intimate Q&A with the film's creatives.

Sat 14 Feb at 6.30pm
\$18

Pink carpet arrivals from 6.00pm | Film screening at 6.30pm

Want ALL the *Beauty from Pain*? Package the Book Club and film screening for only \$35.



Books@Stones will be on-site, located in the Romance Society* Hub, and open Friday afternoon and all-day Saturday, selling festival authors and poets books, and bookish treasures.

Book signings

After each author panel, authors will be signing books in the *Romance Society* Hub*, located ground floor, next to Dendy's entrance, Coorparoo Sq.



We celebrate the beauty of falling in love through film, literature, and digital storytelling. We are an online community with a heartbeat in the real world. Bringing our members together in person every quarter for special events and cinema screenings.

Whether you're looking for your next book obsession or a new circle of friends who 'get' your passion for romance, you'll find it here. Find us at the Romance Society Hub* downstairs from Dendy, opposite Beyond the Pale.

BIG NEWS: In 2026, we're evolving! Romance Society* will be moving to a whole new online platform.

Explore what this means online at romancesociety.com.au or visit us during BLUSSH and sign up (for free!) to secure your spot and be the first to hear our upcoming announcements.

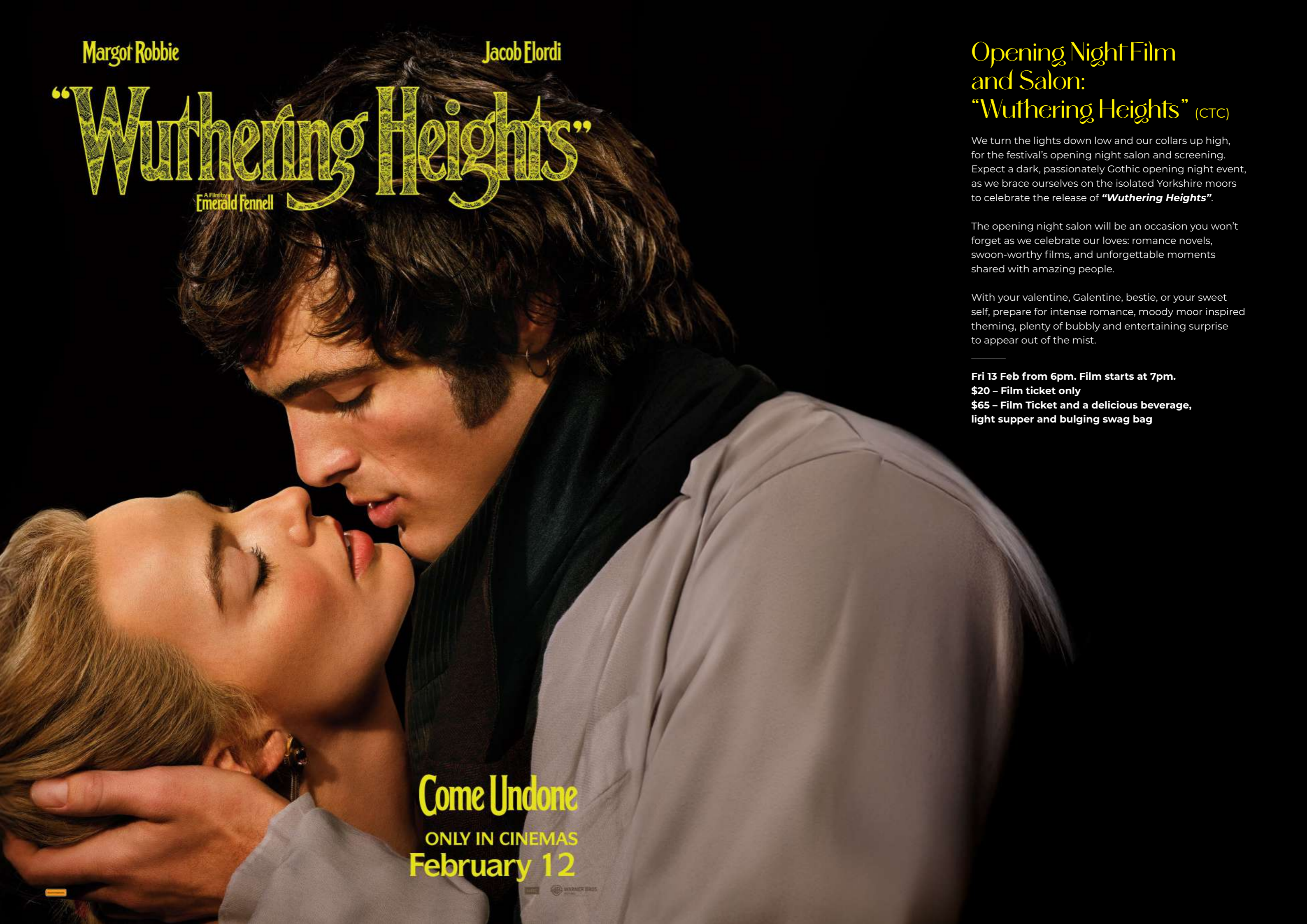


Margot Robbie

Jacob Elordi

“Wuthering Heights”

A Film by Emerald Fennell



Opening Night Film and Salon: “Wuthering Heights” (CTC)

We turn the lights down low and our collars up high, for the festival's opening night salon and screening. Expect a dark, passionately Gothic opening night event, as we brace ourselves on the isolated Yorkshire moors to celebrate the release of **“Wuthering Heights”**.

The opening night salon will be an occasion you won't forget as we celebrate our loves: romance novels, swoon-worthy films, and unforgettable moments shared with amazing people.

With your valentine, Galentine, bestie, or your sweet self, prepare for intense romance, moody moor inspired theming, plenty of bubbly and entertaining surprise to appear out of the mist.

Fri 13 Feb from 6pm. Film starts at 7pm.

\$20 – Film ticket only

**\$65 – Film Ticket and a delicious beverage,
light supper and bulging swag bag**

Come Undone

ONLY IN CINEMAS
February 12

WARNER BROS. PICTURES PRESENTS

On the Screen – Blussh Films, Series + Shorts

Visit blusshromancefestival.com for detailed event information, trailers and updates on festival hub activations and attending special guests.



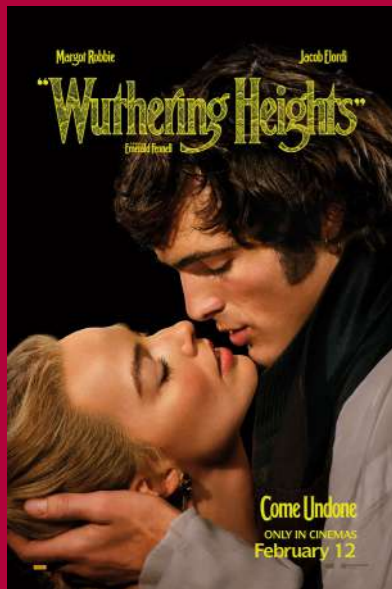
Two Years Later (CTC)

Walk the pink carpet at the Brisbane premiere of the upcoming Paramount+ series **Two Years Later**, a romantic comedy-drama starring Phoebe Tonkin and Brenton Thwaites.

Watch the first 2 episodes of this 8 episode romantic comedy-drama before its release. This premiere promises a warm, witty and intimate celebration of Australian storytelling.

Stay after the screening for an intimate Q&A with the series creators.

Fri 13 Feb 2.30pm
\$10

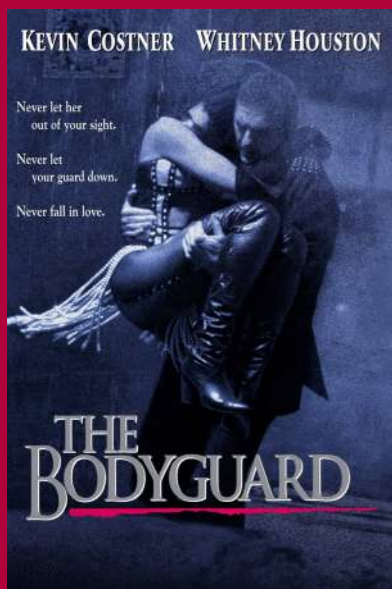


Opening Night Film and Salon: “Wuthering Heights” (CTC)

We turn the lights down low and collars up high for the festival's opening night salon and screening. Expect a dark, Gothic evening on the Yorkshire moors as we celebrate the release of **“Wuthering Heights”**.

“Wuthering Heights” is a passionate and tumultuous love story set against the backdrop of the Yorkshire moors, exploring the intense and destructive relationship between Heathcliff and Catherine Earnshaw.

Fri 13 Feb – Arrivals from 6pm. Film starts at 7pm.
\$20 – Film ticket only
\$65 – Film Ticket and a delicious beverage, light supper and bulging swag bag



The Bodyguard (MA)

Lose yourself in the ultimate '90s romance with a retro screening of the iconic 1992 film, **The Bodyguard!**

A record breaking soundtrack, iconic chemistry between Whitney Houston and Kevin Costner, and Houston's powerful screen debut made this romance thriller a timeless pop culture phenomenon.

This is your chance to catch this absolute classic on the big screen.

The film follows on from the In Conversation author panel: Lights, Camera... Love! which discusses movie stars and the people that protect them.

Sat 14 Feb at 10.45am
\$10



From Italy With Love (G)

From Italy With Love is romantic comedy about an ambitious American marketing executive who goes to Italy to rebrand a pasta sauce, clashing with a charming Italian chef, leading to romance, cultural clashes, and a realisation about what truly matters in life and love.

Filmed in Sydney and post produced in Brisbane, arrive early and join the filmmakers on the pink carpet and stay after the screening for an intimate Q&A.

Sat 14 Feb.
Pink carpet from 2pm. Film at 2.30pm
\$18

As a special addition to this screening, the feature film is precluded with **Half Past Midnight** short film.



Beauty from Pain (CTC)

After a devastating heartbreak, an aspiring musician escapes to Australia and enters a no-strings romance with a billionaire winemaker. When feelings deepen, she must choose between protecting her heart or risking everything on a man afraid to love.

Blussh and Passionflix present an exclusive Australian in-cinema screening of **Beauty from Pain**, adapted from Georgia Cates' bestselling novel, written and filmed entirely in Brisbane. Arrive early for pink carpet moments with cast and crew, then stay for an intimate post-screening Q&A with the film's creatives.

Sat 14 Feb at 6.30pm.
\$18



Half Past Midnight (CTC) (SHORT FILM)

A chance encounter outside a movie theatre forces two strangers to confront their romantic pasts.

Half Past Midnight short film (run time 11 minutes) will screen before From Italy with Love feature.

FESTIVAL PLANNER – Friday 13 February

	FILM	IN CONVERSATION	ROMANCE SOCIETY HUB / COORPAROO SQUARE
14.00	PINK CARPET ARRIVALS		
14.30	TWO YEARS LATER (CTC)		
15.00		HAVE SWORD, WILL KISS: THE ROMANTASY REVOLUTION <i>In conversation with Stacey McEwan, A K Mulford, Jaymin Eve, Sarah L Richelm and Kate Cuthbert.</i>	
15.30			
16.00			
16.30			
17.00			
17.30			HAVE SWORD, WILL KISS: THE ROMANTASY REVOLUTION Author Book Signing
18.00	OPENING NIGHT SALON: BLACK CARPET ARRIVALS		
18.30			
19.00			
19.30			
20.00			
20.30	“WUTHERING HEIGHTS” (CTC)		
21.00			
21.30			
22.00			

FESTIVAL PLANNER – Saturday 14 February

	FILM	EVENT	ROMANCE SOCIETY HUB / COORPAROO SQUARE
7.30			7.30am – 4.00pm POP UP BOOK SHOP by Books@Stones
8.00			
8.30			
9.00			
9.30			
10.00		LIGHTS, CAMERA... LOVE! <i>In conversation with Jodi McAlister, Karen Farrell, Tania Joyce, Sofia Aves.</i> Moderated by Jem Gowen.	7.30am – 9.00am BREAKFAST WITH HEART with Cr Fiona Cunningham featuring coffee, poetry and Rom Com Bingo
10.30			7.30am – 1.00pm MORNING AFTER MARKETS featuring local artisans and hand made wares
11.00	THE BODYGUARD (MA) <i>Film commences at 10.45am</i>		LIGHTS, CAMERA... LOVE! Author book signing
11.30			
12.00			
12.30			LIVE PODCAST RECORDINGS
13.00		LUSSH LITERARY LUNCH: ONE IS THE LONELIEST NUMBER <i>in conversation with Louisa Duval, Allison A. Andrews, Kate Cuthbert, Melanie Saward, Ali Berg and Michelle Kalus.</i> Moderated by Ally Blake.	
13.30			
14.00	PINK CARPET ARRIVALS		ONE IS THE LONELIEST NUMBER Author Book Signing
14.30	FROM ITALY WITH LOVE (G) HALF PAST MIDNIGHT SHORT FILM (Pre-feature screening)	ALGORITHMS, AISLES, AND ACCIDENTS <i>in conversation with Lauren Jackson, Sarah Williams, Ky Garvey, Kat T. Masen.</i> Moderated by Louisa Duval.	
15.00			
15.30			ALGORITHMS, AISLES AND ACCIDENTS Author Book Signing
16.00			
16.30			
17.00			
17.30		BOOK CLUB Presented by <i>BLUSSH</i> Book World Club Beauty From Pain Georgia Cates	
18.00	PINK CARPET ARRIVALS		
18.30			
19.00			
19.30	BEAUTY FROM PAIN (CTC)		
20.00			
20.30			



Take an early mark from work (we double dare you!) and start your festival with a delicious lunch at one of the many restaurants in Coorparoo Square.

Enjoy a BLUSSH cocktail, inspired by the festival, at Beyond the Pale.