

Program Schedule for Sunday, March 8, 2026

Theatre 2

9:15 – 9:30 am Check-in for Breakfast

9:30 am Filmmaker Breakfast – The Funding Studio – Join Melissa Erickson as she talks about using a fiscal sponsor in creating money for your film projects.

10:30 am Q & A - Discussion

10:45 am Close Breakfast Panel

Short Film Block - Salvation - March 8 11:00 am - Sunday (length 1:13)

Bloom In: An awkward cactus learns to bloom in her own divine timing. This is a story about a girl finding her place in the world, personified through a cactus who judges herself and compares her truth to the Poppy flowers around her. When the Sun comes out to remind the Cactus how to open her heart and trust in her own unique soul's expression, this little prickly cactus finally learns the power of self-love, softening the walls around her heart so she can BLOOM IN.

These Things: These Things is a short film created in response to events that leave the characters feeling scared, sad and confused. What do you do when there are no words to express what you feel?

The Language of Light: Ponch Hawkes: A Melburnian, Ponch's work has explored themes to do with women, sport (including circus), female bodies, relationships and identity. Starting out in the Pram Factory and early Circus Oz period, Ponch photographed circus performers, then extended out to portrayals of artists, feminists, sportspeople and others. Her first exhibited work was Our Mums and Us, featuring her female friends and their mothers, amongst them writer Helen Garner. More recent projects such as Flesh after 50 / 500 Strong exhibitions have explored the ageing female body. Hawkes' extensive career is considered an influential part of the Australian Feminist art movement.

Insensible Losses: A doctor puts aside concerns about her own pregnancy as she works to care for a miscarrying patient.

Fine: Family meal time goes haywire in this video work created during the current war; ordinary routines dissolve into chaotic, spectacular performance as everything falls apart.

Nowhere Good: An exploration of the human experience of an aging woman who has been grifting for her entire life and what happens when her past shows up to confront her.

Fender: On the final night of summer, Annie is confronted by a relentless stalker, the embodiment of her deepest childhood fears. When her friends dismiss her concerns, Annie must contend with her anxieties and the unsettling truth.

Feature - March 8 12:30 pm - Sunday (length 1:35)

Cancer With Virgo Rising: Clara is a math teacher and is a huge success as an educational influencer on her online channel. Good-natured, sarcastic and sometimes mocking, she likes to keep everything under control, but she will need to learn to deal with vulnerability when she discovers she has breast cancer. With courage and resilience, she faces bad days and better ones alongside her teenage daughter, mother and loyal friends. On her journey of healing, Clara has the chance to celebrate life and redefine her relationships. Based on a true story.

Short Film Block - It Matters - March 8 2:20 pm - Sunday (length 1:10)

For You, My Eight Hours: "For You, My Eight Hours" is a 25-minute documentary capturing artist Huang Yin's auction of her eight hours. Through spontaneous creation and dialogue, she transforms from "selling time" to "reclaiming self," showcasing the artist's struggle and breakthrough between commerce and art.

Ditch Witch: Olivia, a professional separation agent, breaks up on behalf of her clients to deliver their news impersonally. But when hired to break up with an old love, she has to choose between revealing her client's truth or her own.

Mildred 4 a Million: A gregarious great-grandmother who desperately wants to connect with her tablet-obsessed great-granddaughter sets out on a quest to get a million followers on TikTok. Starring legendary TV icon Marla Gibbs at 93 years young, this poignant comedy explores human connection across generations in the age of tech addiction.

Typo: After graduating from university a year ago, Astrid has been struggling to find a job that fits with her Asperger's characteristics. Dependent on her pregnant sister and brother-in-law, time is running out for her to gain her independence before the baby is due. A misguided idea to hold an 'art' garage sale unexpectedly opens the door to pursuing her passion for typography as a career. However, the question remains: can she overcome the challenges of her Asperger's and succeed in the interview?

Short Film Block - Change - March 8 3:45 pm - Sunday (length 1:14)

Love Bomb: Christine's whirlwind romance takes a dark turn in this surreal horror comedy.

Rash: Days before her board exam, a stressed medical student develops a mysterious rash and must decide between pursuing success or saving her health and sanity.

2389: Coming Home: Two humans, a scientist and a soldier from Martian colony, come to Earth destroyed by climate change and resource wars, to find out if it is livable once again; during the research they decide to alter their findings and prevent repopulation.

Anokhi: An Indian immigrant mother, Anokhi, quietly struggles in an abusive marriage, but when her daughter gets bullied, she must decide what kind of example she wants to set.

Newton's Cradle: The married head of the elite women's club, 'Decent Ladies', loses her peace of mind when an enigmatic carpenter starts appearing in her dreams.

Cruda Verdad Dura Moral: In a world of wild parties and ambiguous friendships, Carla, a resilient young woman, must confront the shadows of a night she barely remembers, as her closest relationships force her to question trust, truth, and her own perception of consent and betrayal. **Viewer Discretion: sexual content.**

Feature - March 8 5:15 pm (length 1:32)

Seems Like Love: Liza, a young and optimistic woman, arrives in Saint Petersburg for the first time, enchanted by the city's poetic bridges, legendary embankments, and vibrant bohemian parties. Her adventure begins when she meets a free-spirited artist named Vasya and his musician friend, Viktor. Together, they embark on a whimsical journey through the city, involving the sale of an antique bed, spontaneous conversations, and the magic of white nights. As the day unfolds, unexpected connections form, leading Liza to discover that love might be found in the most unforeseen circumstances.

Obstacles Film Block - March 8 7:05 pm (length 1:12)

The Inbetween: Stuck in the land between life and death, Ray must solve the mystery of his missing sister before it's too late to wake up again.

Like Leaving: A young couple is on the brink of emigration, hoping to build a better future for their little daughter. But when an unexpected delay disrupts the process, and Nazy - now pregnant - can no longer travel, tensions rise. Reza, unwilling to let go of their dream, proposes a devastating solution. Caught in a painful dilemma, Nazy is unaware that their daughter, Ava, has quietly made her own decision to resolve the crisis.

The Other Side: Set in the heart of Mumbai, "The Other Side" is a compelling portrayal of the struggles endured by a Mumbai street artist aspiring to attend one of the country's finest art academies. When he is faced with the decision between his desires and a friend's needs, he must choose between his heart and his conscience.

Divide: Two estranged siblings of opposing political persuasions cleaning out their mother's home after her death, fight over the inheritance of a sentimental souvenir.

The Girl: A young girl and mother travel a long way to their new home, only to discover the neighborhood is a bit rougher than they expected.