

MIFF SCREENING GUIDE

SF

Sensory Friendly Screening

***The Cats of Gokogu Shrine* (119 mins)**

Saturday 24 August

10.15am

Forum (Melbourne CBD)



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What to Expect

As part of MIFF's mission to be a leader in accessible services for cinema-going audiences, we are offering this Sensory Friendly Screening of the film *The Cats of Gokogu Shrine*.

To make this session sensory-friendly, we will be making a number of changes:

- The cinema space will have house lights that remain at an 'Airplane Night Time' level.
- The sound will be reduced by a quarter.
- The space will have different social permissions granted to it, introduced at the start of the screening, that allow Neurodivergent audience members to act as they need to in order to self-soothe and exist comfortably within the theatre.

MIFF has an open-door policy for its film screenings by default, and the same will apply to this session. In addition, there will be a designated Quiet Space for you to remove yourself to in the case of sensory overload or if you wish to have some time to yourself.

All of this creates a unique viewing experience for you. You will be able to rock, stim, hum, filter any sensory input as desired and pace around the cinema as you please.

We are excited to be able to offer you this Sensory Friendly Screening so you get to experience this movie as it was always intended to be.

Tom Middleditch
Access Coordinator

Getting to the Venue

For full information on the venue, you can go here: [\[MIFF Website Page Link\]](#)

Below is the basic information:

- Forum has a main entrance located on Flinders Street.
- The main entrance has a small step up to two central doors.
- For step-free/wheelchair access, there is a ramped entry way through the right side of the main entrance.
- To access the cinema, there are large railed staircases to the left and right of the foyer. The two staircases contain multiple levels of steps that lead to an upstairs mezzanine containing a bar and refreshment area.
- For step-free/wheelchair access to the cinema level, there is a lift along the corridor on the left of the entrance foyer. Please see a MIFF Front of House staff member for lift access.

Please see 'How to Book Your Ticket' if you require step-free/wheelchair access at Forum: [\[MIFF Website Page Link\]](#)

Getting Around the Venue

Once you have arrived at Flinders Street Station:



Cross the road to Fed Square.

Getting Around the Venue (continued)

Travel towards the public bathrooms and turn left down the ramp.



Getting Around the Venue (continued)

At the end of the ramp you will be out the front of ACMI.



Getting Around the Venue (continued)

The Forum is across the road to your left.



You can cross the road here.



Getting Around the Venue (continued)

You will be lining up along here.

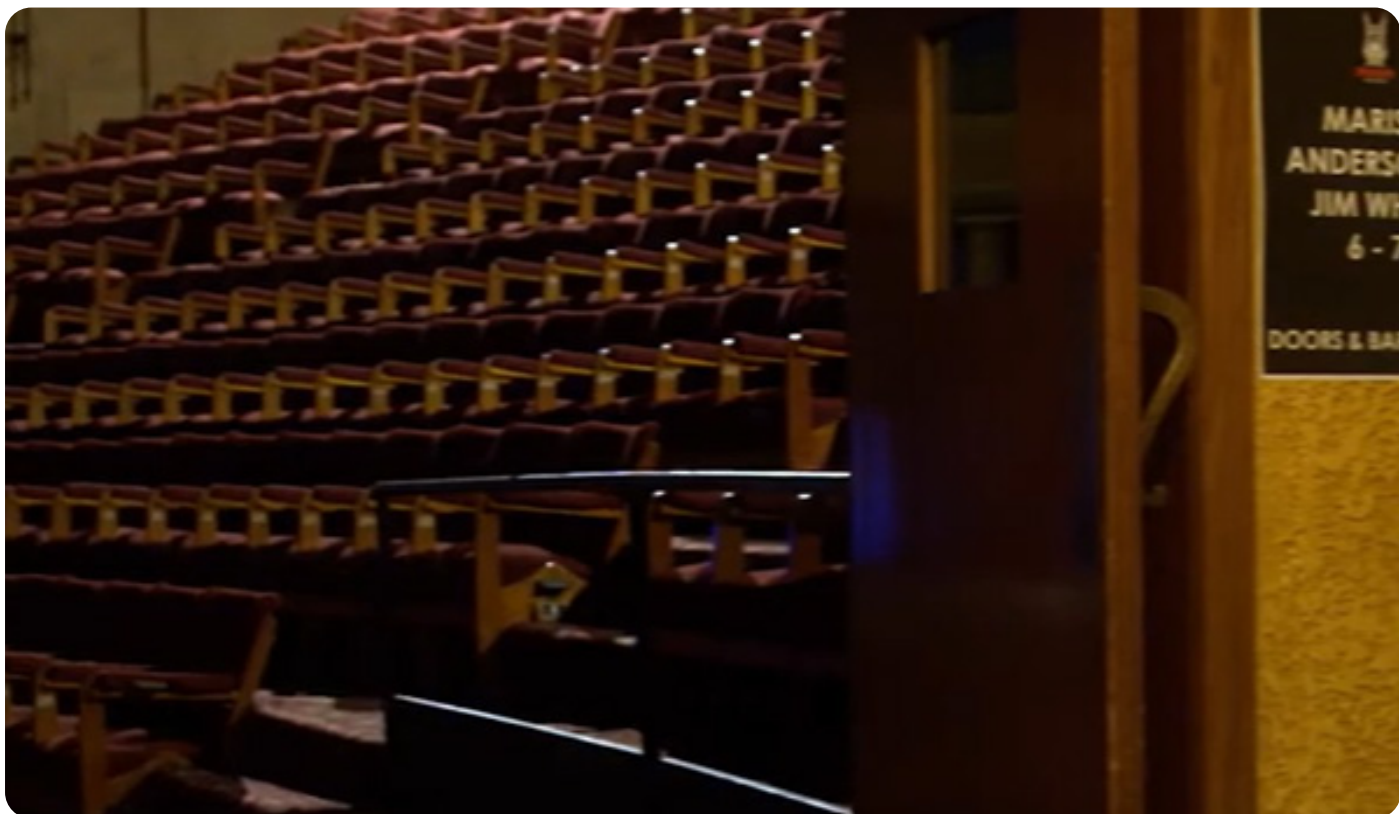


Getting Around the Venue (continued)

When inside you will be taking two flights of stairs.



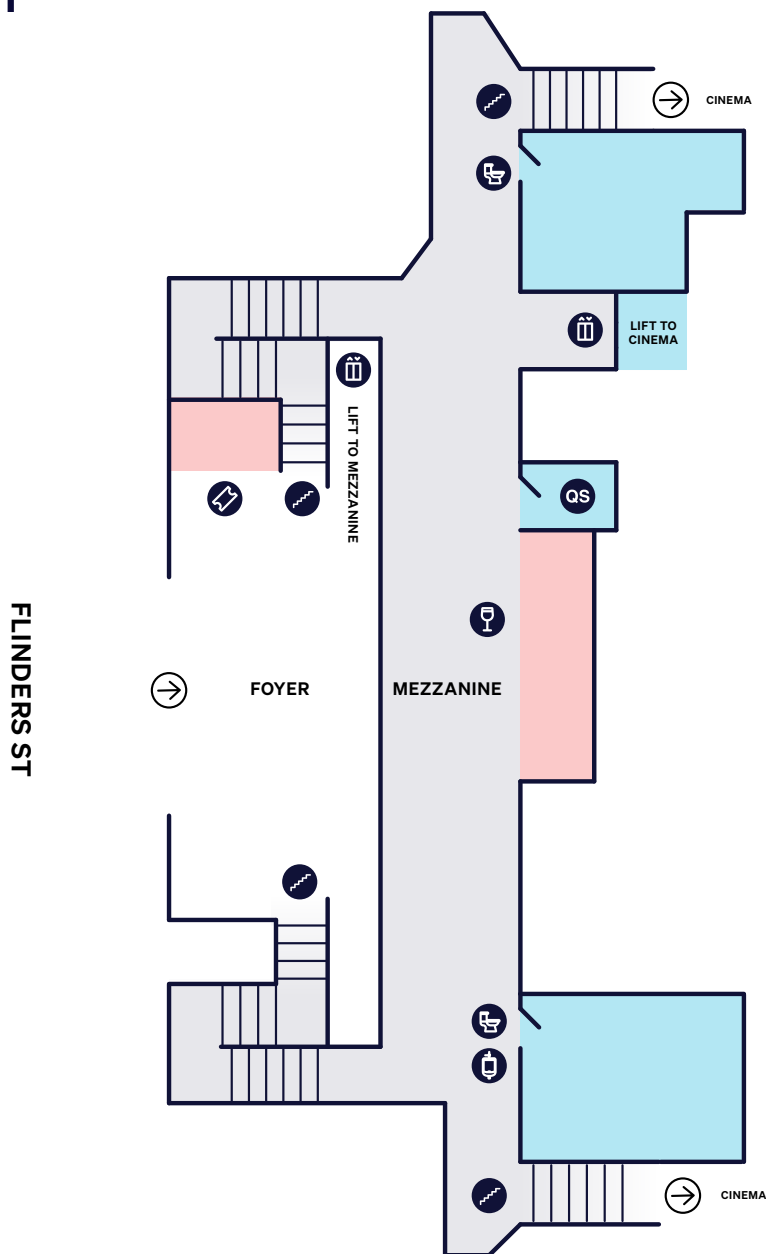
In order to get to the Cinema.



Map of the Venue

Here is a map of the venue you will be watching the movie in.

Forum Level 1

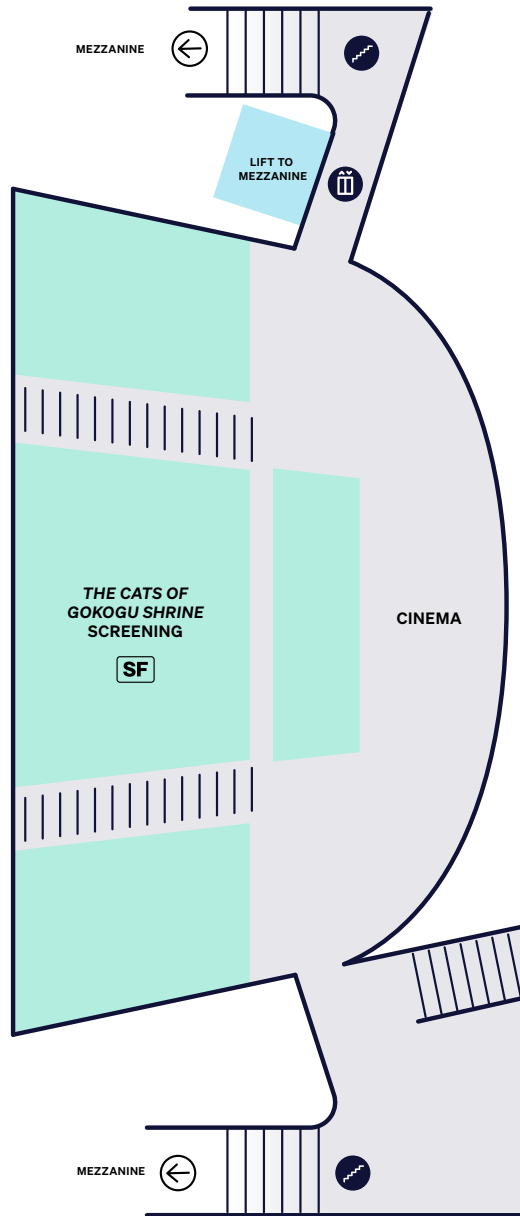


KEY




- | | | | |
|------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|-----------|
| Cinemas | Toilets - Urinals | MIFF Box Office | Elevator |
| Services | Toilets - Stalls | Bar / Candybar | Escalator |
| Venue Facilities | Wheelchair Access | Quiet Space (Session Specific) | Stairs |




Map of the Venue (continued)




Forum Level 2






KEY

-  Cinemas
-  Services
-  Venue Facilities

-  Toilets - Urinals
-  Toilets - Stalls
-  Wheelchair Access

-  MIFF Box Office
-  Bar / Candybar
-  QS Quiet Space (Session Specific)

-  Elevator
-  Escalator
-  Stairs

Film Info

A Wiseman-esque study of a Japanese village's Shinto shrine whose feline residents bring the local humans joy, solace and sometimes consternation.

The seaside village of Ushimado in Okayama is the home of filmmaker Kazuhiro Soda and his wife and producer Kiyoko Kashiwagi – as well as dozens of street cats. Having found a haven in the ancient Shinto shrine of Gokogu, the animals live in harmony with their human neighbours (for the most part), but there is disagreement on how best to manage them. Some people feed them; some volunteer to catch them for a desexing program; others are indifferent, preferring instead to tend the temple's gardens. Meanwhile, some forward-thinking locals see their potential as a tourism draw for the town.

When Soda and Kashiwagi settled in Ushimado, they quickly discovered the area's natural and communal beauty and decided to document it over the course of a year. *The Cats of Gokogu Shrine* is Soda's "Observational Film #10", made according to his self-imposed "10 commandments" that include doing no prior research and having no pre-set themes or goals; using long takes with no scripts, narration or super-imposed titles; and shooting himself, for as long as possible. The result is a charming portrait of a community united, and divided, by its spiritual centre and the endearing critters who live there.

"Soda's patient curiosity slowly reveals the fraught question of how to coexist with beings we can never fully understand ... He models a wise, compassionate, and easily replicable way of looking at the world." – *Screen Slate*



Content Advice

For the MIFF screening of this film, we want to strike a balance between keeping elements a surprise and providing the information you need to make an informed decision as to the emotional journey you will be going on. We believe the below is sufficient for this:

Content

Mention of:

- Vaccination
- Friends dying of old age
- Shame of knowingly betraying an animal
- Being a child in World War II Japan
- Forced Child Labour
- Warding away cats with pain
- The life length of street cats
- The survival rates of Kittens
- Cats being Abandoned

Discussion of:

- Wounded Cats
- Cats going missing
- Cats Injuring themselves
- Cleaning up cat poo
- Cats being Desexed

Content Advice (continued)

Imagery

Depiction of:

- Cats living with obvious signs of Physical Harm
- Cats being forcefully held
- Cats being caught in Cages, some smaller than others
- Cats calling out in distress
- Cats that have been anaesthetised
- Cats Post Surgery
- Cat Excrement
- A typhoon that causes property damage
- Spiders
- Funeral Rites
- A Deceased cat being buried

Feedback

How did you go?

MIFF is delighted to have the opportunity to present Sensory Friendly Screenings for adult audiences. We can only improve based on feedback we receive from the people who matter – you!

If you are comfortable, please email our Access Coordinator:

access@miff.com.au.



Melbourne
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