

MIFF SCREENING GUIDE



Sensory Friendly Screening
Greetings From Mars (84 mins)

Monday 11 August

10am

ACMI 1 (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 *Greetings From Mars*.

To make this session Sensory Friendly, we will be making these changes:

- The cinema space's house lights will 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 that allow neurodivergent audience members to act as they need to in order to self-soothe and exist comfortably within the theatre. These will be introduced at the start of the screening.

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 offer you this Sensory Friendly Screening so you can experience this movie as it was intended to be seen.

Tom Middleditch
Access Coordinator

Getting to the Venue

For full information on the venue, you can click [here](#).

ACMI has two entrances: one on Flinders Street and the other within Fed Square.

Flinders Street entrance:

- Entry is via a small staircase from Flinders Street through a revolving door into an open space. This is called the Lightwell.
- From the Lightwell, take the large central staircase to Level 1 for the Box Office, the MIFF Festival Hub and The Penfolds Lounge.
- From Level 1, take the staircase on the left past the Box Office to Level 2 for Cinemas 1 and 2.
- For step-free/wheelchair access, take the ramp from Flinders Street through the accessible door to the left of the revolving door. This is operated by a push-button with a wheelchair symbol on it.
- Head through the Lightwell foyer to the right past the gallery entrance to an internal lift and take the lift to Level 1.
- Exit past The Penfolds Lounge and take a second internal lift next to the MIFF Festival Hub to Level 2.

Getting to the Venue (continued)

Fed Square entrance:

- Enter Fed Square from Swanston Street and head across the open cobblestoned plaza to the ACMI entrance on the left-hand side.
- Enter through the glass doors into Level 1 for the Box Office, the MIFF Festival Hub and The Penfolds Lounge.
- Take the staircase on the right directly after the glass doors to the cinemas on Level 2.
- For step-free/wheelchair access, take the internal lift next to the MIFF Festival Hub to the cinemas on Level 2.

Please see the [How to Book Your Ticket](#) page on the MIFF website if you require step-free/wheelchair access at ACMI.

The cinema doors have push-buttons for assisted opening. There is carpet in each cinema, and the walls are steel with inlaid lights.

To borrow a wheelchair, present ID at the Box Office on Level 1 and ACMI staff can organise one free of charge.

Getting Around the Venue

The recommended entrance is via the Lightwell on Flinders Street.



Getting Around the Venue (continued)

Take the stairs or the ramp.



Getting Around the Venue (continued)

Enter the space.



Getting Around the Venue (continued)

In the Lightwell, you can take the stairs up.



Or you can use the lifts.



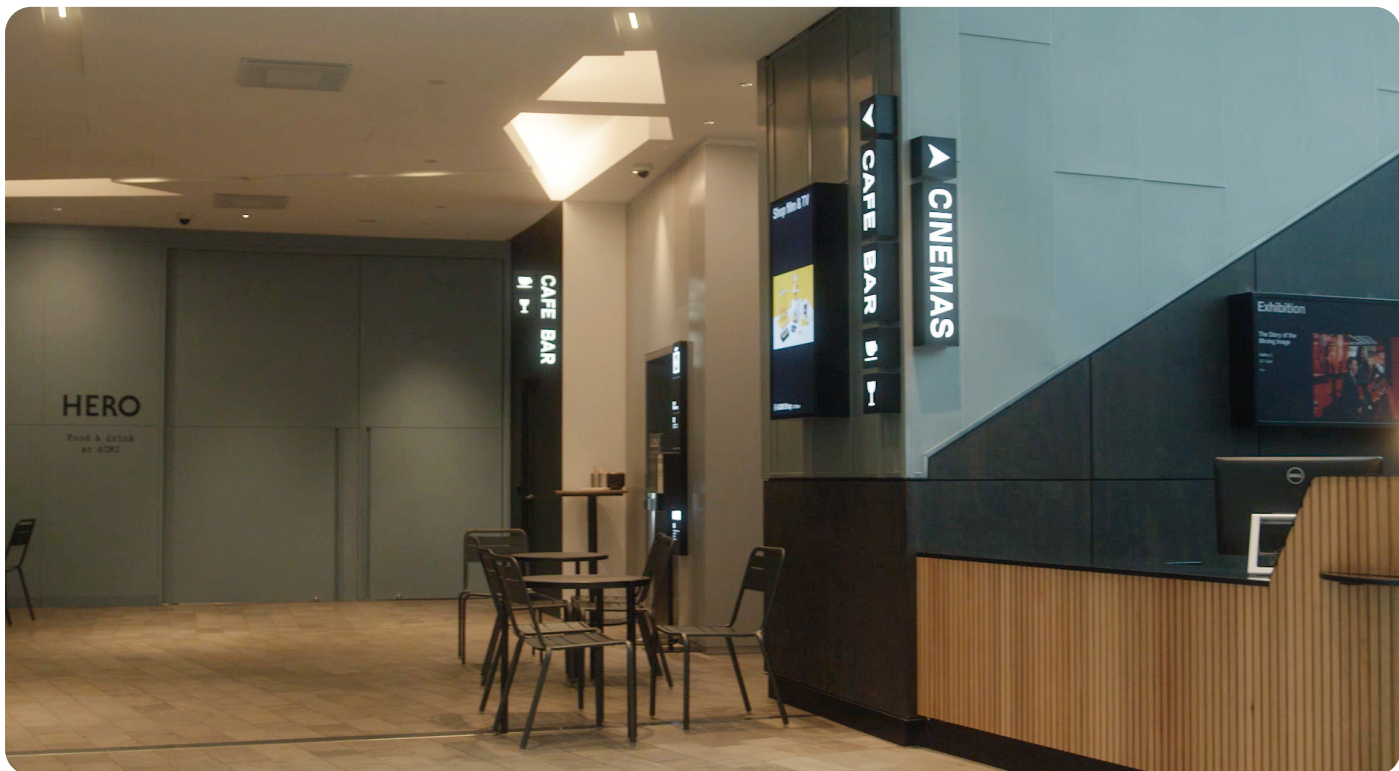
Getting Around the Venue (continued)

This will take you to the Box Office.

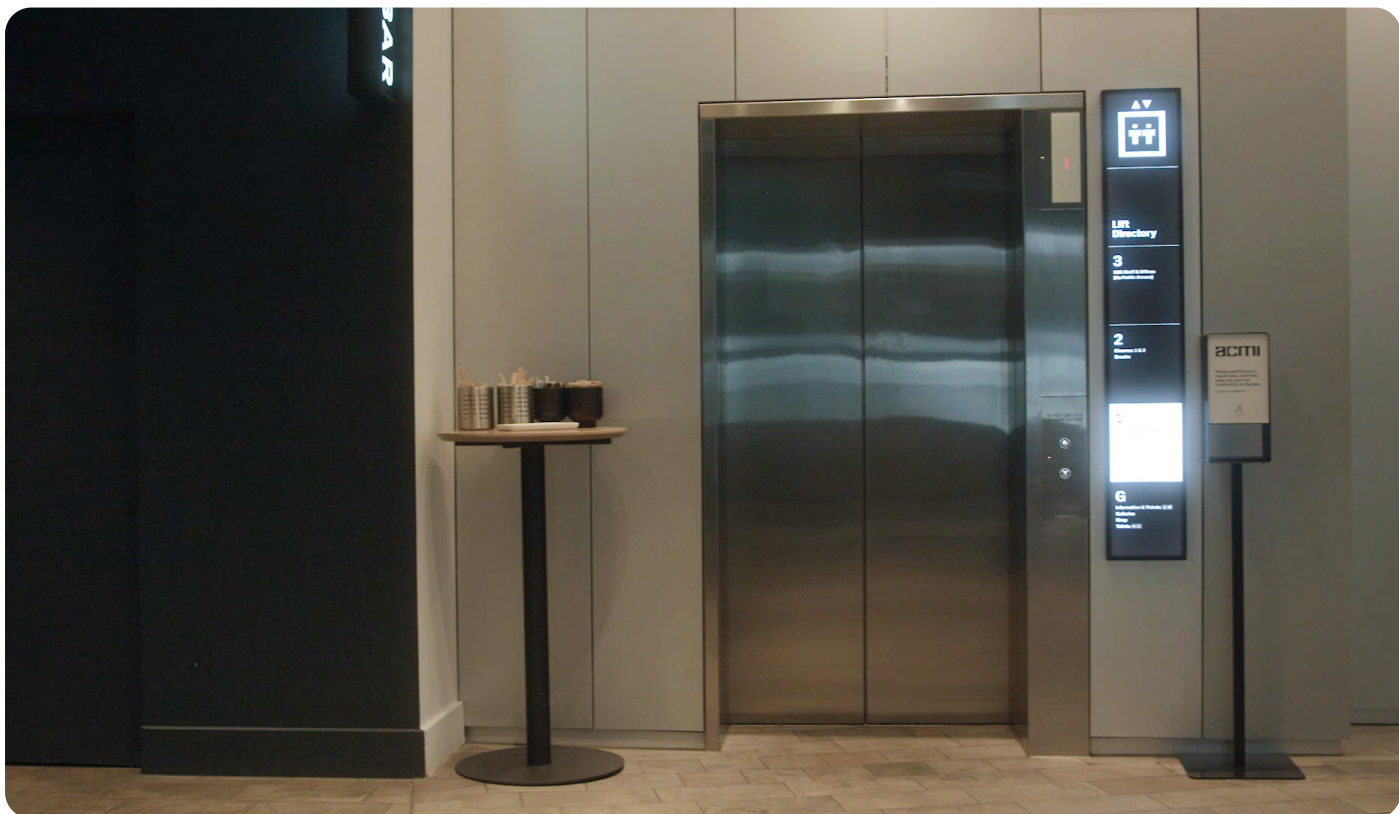


Getting Around the Venue (continued)

You can get to the cinema level via the stairs behind, or by turning to your left.



You will find the lift that goes to the cinema level.



Getting Around the Venue (continued)

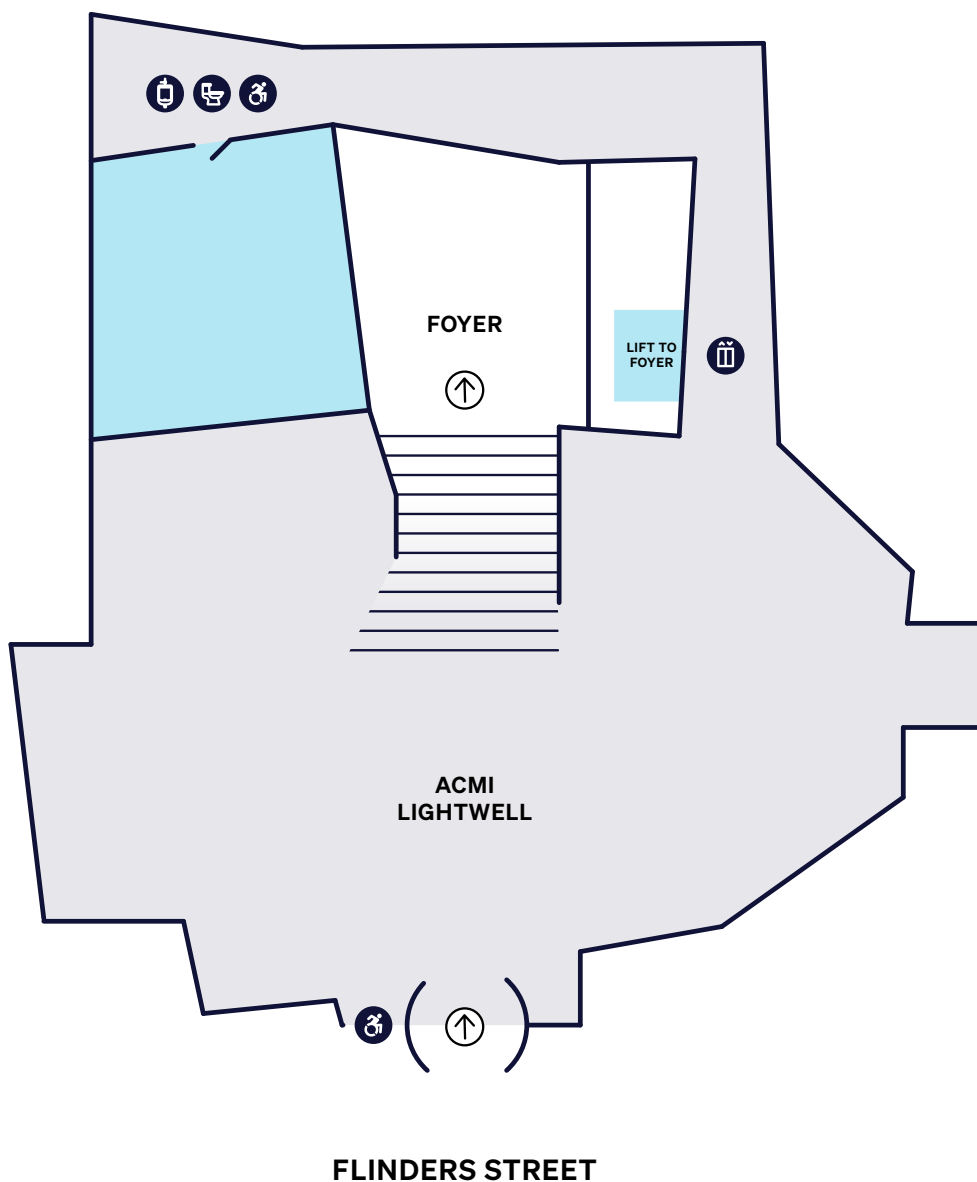
The entrance to your cinema will look like this:



Map of the Venue

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

ACMI Ground Floor

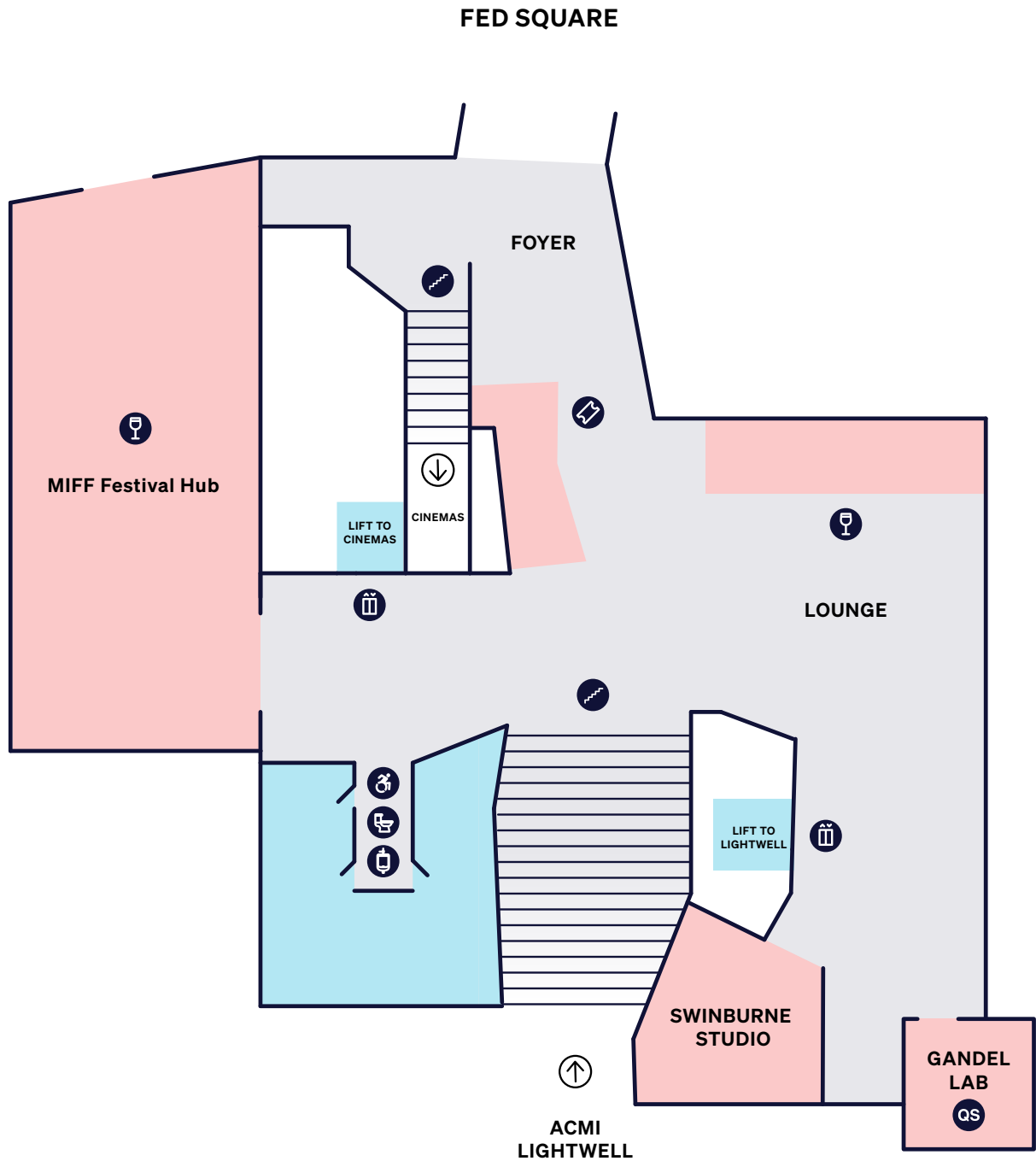


KEY

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

Map of the Venue (continued)

ACMI Level 1

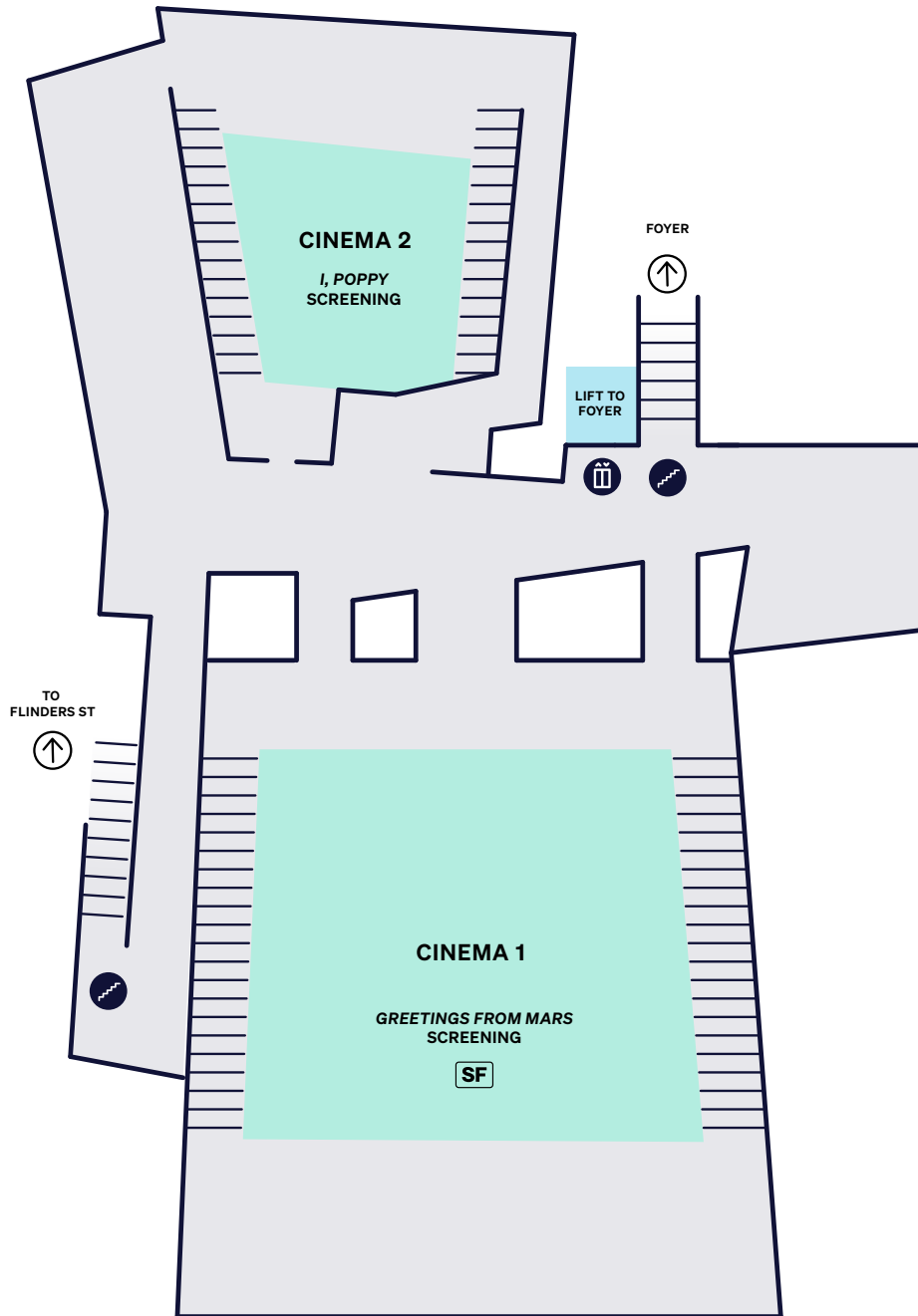


KEY

- | | | | |
|---|-------------------|--------------------------------|-----------|
| ■ Cinemas | Toilets - Urinals | MIFF Box Office | Elevator |
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| ■ Venue Facilities | Wheelchair Access | Quiet Space (Session Specific) | Stairs |

Map of the Venue (continued)

ACMI Level 2



KEY

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

Film Info

Greetings From Mars

Is there life on Mars? One young autistic lad wants to find out ... if he can only conquer four weeks at his grandparents' place in the country first.

Tom, a 10-year-old living with his widowed mum and two teenage siblings, dreams of becoming an astronaut and steering a rocket to Mars. He has the mathematical wit to make it work, but he's also afraid of disruptions to his routine – and particularly the colour red, which could be a drawback on the rust-hued Martian landscape. So when he's packed off to his grandparents' house with his elder sister and brother while his mum takes a month-long business trip to China, Tom's world is turned upside down. To help him cope with the change, his mum suggests that he treat his stay as a space-faring adventure – a mission he embraces wholeheartedly.

Adapted by Sebastian Grusnick and Thomas Möller from their children's book of the same name, Sarah Winkenstette's cute and touching coming-of-age comedy was awarded Best International Feature at the 2024 Kristiansand International Children's Film Festival. Depicting the world from Tom's perspective through animated interludes and shifts in focus, *Greetings From Mars* approaches neurodivergence and grief with sensitivity and heart.

“A heartwarming adventure for the whole family ... Winkenstette uses various audiovisual techniques to bring her 10-year-old protagonist's perceptions to life.”
– *Filmstarts*



Film Info (continued)

After the session, there will be a 30 minute panel run by Bus Stop Films. The panel will discuss themes of neurodivergent storytelling and the nature of performing autism in 2025, as well as a number of other topics. The panel will feature the following participants:



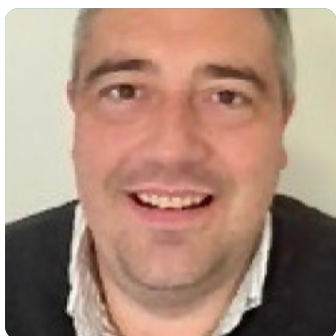
Dianna La Grassa



Adam Velo



Cooper Jebb



James Harkness

Content Advice

For the MIFF screening of this film, we want to strike a balance between avoiding unnecessary spoilers 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:

Mention of:

- public urination

Discussion of:

- deceased parents/children
- reckless self-injury
- skinny-dipping

Depiction of:

- bodily injury involving blood
- brief noisy flashing images pertaining to an accident
- dissociation from anxiety/trauma
- platonic touching without consent
- bees in a manufactured hive
- relocating a dislocated arm
- frequent sensory overwhelm
- low-risk sensory needs being overlooked
- mild nudity
- a fall from a small height
- children running away from home
- an interaction with the police caused by misinformation

Language:

- mild coarse language
 - “shit”; “shitty”
- mild ableist language
 - “maniac”
 - “dwarf”
 - “idiot”
 - “crazy”
 - “fatties”
 - “stupid”

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 feel comfortable doing so, please email our Access Coordinator:
access@miff.com.au

MIFF

Melbourne
International
Film Festival