

# MIFF SCREENING GUIDE



**Sensory Friendly Screening**

***Marlee Matlin: Not Alone Anymore* (99 mins)**

Sunday 17 August

6.45pm

Forum Melbourne (Melbourne CBD)



# Contents

<b>3</b>	<b>What to Expect</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Getting to the Venue</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Getting Around the Venue</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>Map of the Venue</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>Film Info</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>Content Advice</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>Feedback</b>

# 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 *Marlee Matlin: Not Alone Anymore*.**

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](#).

Forum Melbourne 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 entryway 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 staff member for lift access.

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

# 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 close to the front entrance of ACMI.



## Getting Around the Venue (continued)

Forum Melbourne is across the road to your left.



You can cross the road here.



## Getting Around the Venue (continued)

If queuing is required, you will be lining up along here.

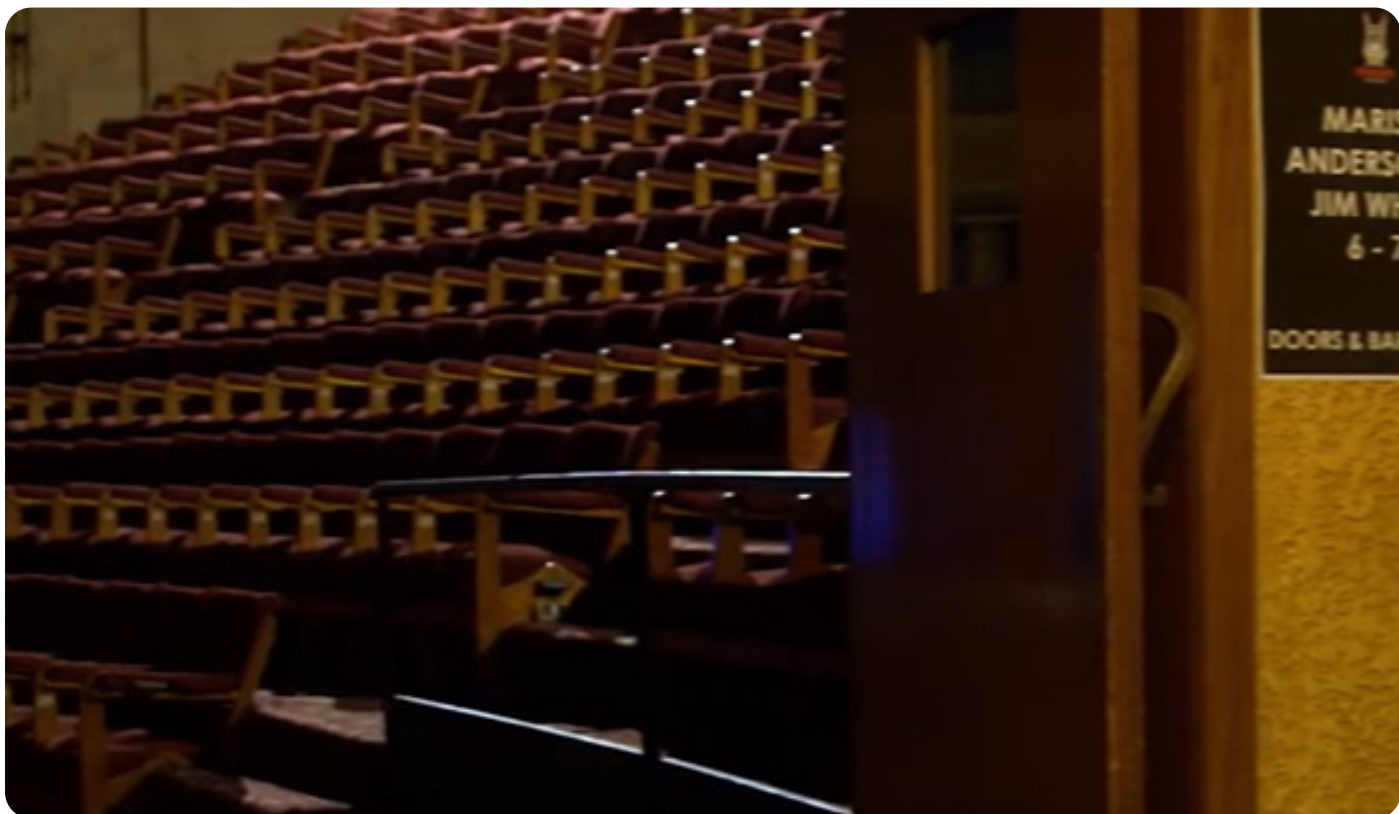


## Getting Around the Venue (continued)

When inside, you will be taking two flights of stairs.



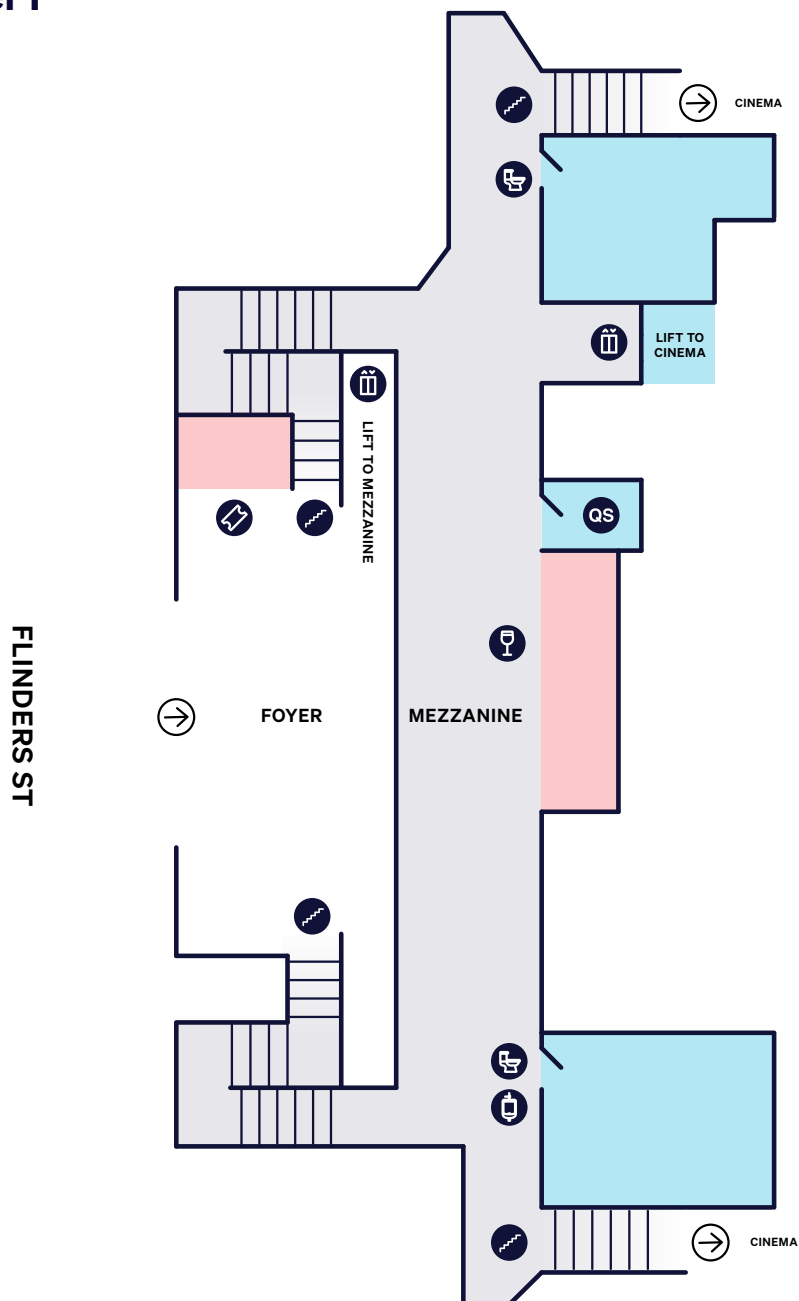
These will take you to the entry of the cinema space.



# Map of the Venue

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

## Forum Level 1



### KEY

- Cinemas
- Services
- Venue Facilities

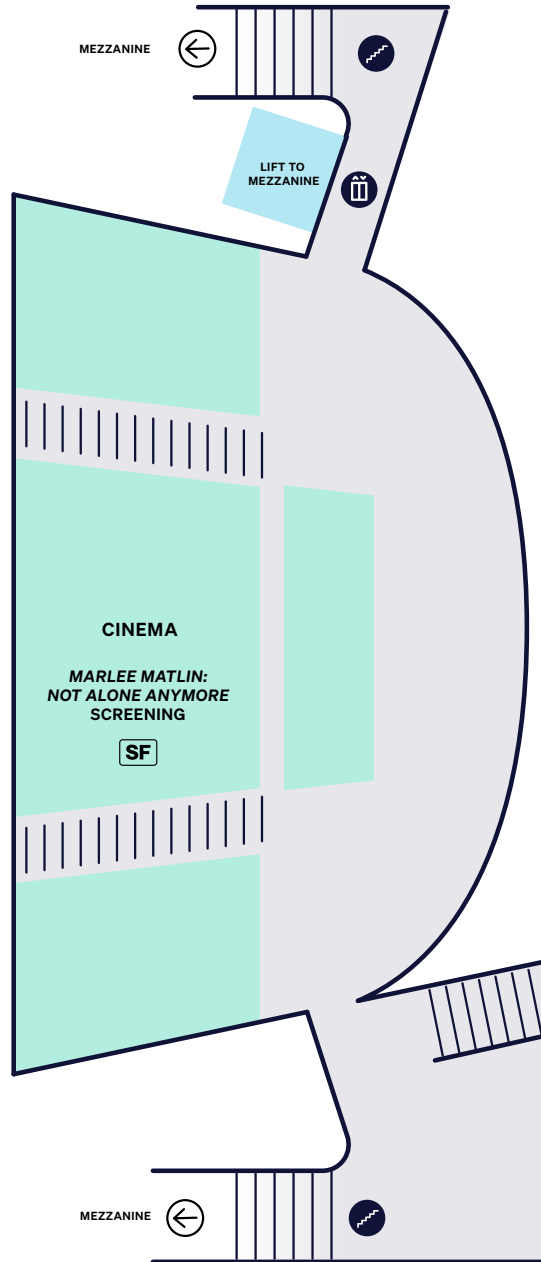
- Toilets - Urinals
- Toilets - Stalls
- Wheelchair Access

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

- Elevator
- Escalator
- Stairs

# Map of the Venue (continued)

## Forum Level 2



### KEY

- Cinemas
- Services
- Venue Facilities

- Toilets - Urinals
- Toilets - Stalls
- Wheelchair Access

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

- Elevator
- Escalator
- Stairs

## Film Info

### ***Marlee Matlin: Not Alone Anymore***

**In this heartfelt documentary, the Oscar-winning star of *Children of a Lesser God* reflects on a career of striving to change the system for Deaf performers.**

In 1987, aged 21, Marlee Matlin (*CODA*, MIFF 2021) scooped the Academy Award for Best Actress in a Leading Role for her performance in *Children of a Lesser God* – the first of just two occasions a Deaf actor has won an Oscar. She made a career not only through her onscreen roles but also as an advocate for disability rights, a responsibility she didn't ask for but took on with gusto, testifying in the Senate in favour of mandatory closed captioning and joining the Deaf President Now campus movement at Gallaudet University. Her journey has been far from an easy one, however, as she candidly reflects in this revealing documentary: given few acting opportunities after her Oscar win, she worked hard to overcome addiction, industry prejudice and personal traumas including a violent relationship with her co-star William Hurt.

Filmmaker and actor Shoshannah Stern (*Grey's Anatomy*), who is also Deaf, crafts a compelling portrait of a woman looking back on her career while making an impact on the lives of others. Built from an intimate sit-down with Matlin – undertaken using American Sign Language and onscreen captions – as well as interviews with Matlin's family, fellow performers and colleagues including Aaron Sorkin and Henry Winkler, *Marlee Matlin: Not Alone Anymore* is a tribute to a trailblazing talent and a resonant call for greater inclusion.

“More than your average biographical documentary ... a bittersweet corrective, a tribute to a trailblazer long overdue her flowers.” – *RogerEbert.com*

# 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:

- a parent's grief over not having the child they imagined
- strangers passing away

Discussion of:

- domestic abuse
- children learning about the abuse experienced by their parents
- physical assault
- sexual abuse
- problematic drug use
- language deprivation
- deaf living constituting a "lesser life"
- deaf people being required to speak in order to be accepted
- exclusion from community
- strained family relationships

## Content Advice (continued)

Depiction of:

- mild nudity
- hearing actors portraying deaf characters
- deaf children being forced to speak

Language:

- coarse language
  - “shit”
  - “fuck”
- ableist language
  - the r-slur
  - “hearing-impaired”

# 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](mailto:access@miff.com.au)

MIFF

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