

POSITION DESCRIPTION

POSITION TITLE	Volunteer
REQUIRED DATES & HOURS	<p>1–23 August 2026</p> <p>These dates are inclusive of any induction dates, festival delivery dates (6–23 August) and any encore screening dates.</p> <p>A minimum of five (5) shifts is required across the festival dates. Shifts are between three to six hours.</p>
FESTIVAL DATES	6–23 August 2026
LOCATION	Melbourne CBD and metropolitan venues

ABOUT MIFF

Founded in 1952 and now in its 74th edition, the Melbourne International Film Festival (MIFF) is a highlight of Australia’s cultural calendar, with a long history of bringing Victorians the story of the world through unforgettable screen experiences. Held over 18 days in August and spanning events across metropolitan Melbourne and regional Victoria, MIFF is the largest film festival in the Southern Hemisphere and the world’s biggest showcase of new Australian cinema.

Following a very successful edition in 2025, MIFF returns in 2026 with the most anticipated titles from the world’s greatest festivals – from Cannes and Sundance to Rotterdam, Berlinale and beyond – and with a vibrant showcase of the local screen sector’s brightest stars. Presented alongside the feature film program are a suite of shorts, cutting-edge XR works, galas, special events, MIFF Talks, festival guests, the MIFF Awards and the Bright Horizons international film competition: one of the richest feature film prizes in the world. Alongside the metropolitan screening program, the festival presents MIFF Regional, MIFF Schools and a selection of MIFF Online titles.

Alongside the public festival program, MIFF runs industry-focused and capacity-building programs: the co-financing fund Premiere Fund, the talent incubator program Accelerator Lab, the screen content co-production and financing market 37°South, and the Critics Campus program for emerging arts/film critics.

Our Vision: To be the heart of the film community in Australia and our region.

Our Mission: MIFF creates must-see shared cinema experiences and discovers, develops and celebrates talent. We champion Australian film on the world stage and we introduce the best in global cinema to Australia.

Our Purpose: To celebrate all forms of cinema, we build a connected, inclusive and adventurous screen culture shaping our understanding of ourselves and the world.

Core Values: Engaged, Inclusive, Independent, Creative.

Filmfest Limited trades as Melbourne International Film Festival (MIFF) and MIFF Industry, and is a registered charity.

ABOUT THE ROLE

The volunteer position at MIFF plays an integral role in the successful delivery of all festival screenings and events. The primary responsibility of a volunteer is to assist the MIFF Usher and Venue Coordinator to ensure that MIFF audiences have a safe and enjoyable experience. Volunteers will do their utmost to engage MIFF attendees and provide excellent customer service and up-to-date information. Volunteers will be required to attend the MIFF Induction Day prior to commencing as a volunteer and attend a Front of House briefing at the commencement of every shift.

Volunteering at MIFF is a great opportunity to engage with the arts and cinema community, collaborate with the wider MIFF team, and gain experience in efficient event delivery.

ORGANISATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS

Reports to: Venue Coordinators, Ushers, Volunteers Manager, Front of House Manager and Operations Coordinators. Hereafter referred to as 'supervisor(s)'.

Key interactions: Head of Operations, Operations Manager, Front of House Manager, Events team, Box Office Manager and Box Office team, Technical team, Guest Services team and Programming team.

AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY AND DUTIES

<p>Customer Service</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offer the best first impression of MIFF for all attendees, including ticketholders, the general public, and guests and patrons of the festival • Provide superior frontline customer service to MIFF attendees through ushering, queue management, scanning tickets and wayfinding • Provide information on MIFF events and operations to ticketholders and the general public • Proactively assist MIFF attendees, including directing to Box Office and other screening and event venues, as well as any other reasonable requests • Ensure all MIFF Deluxe Members and MIFF Circle patron entitlements are provided and deliver a high level of customer service
<p>Venue Operations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend a volunteer Front of House (FOH) briefing at your allocated venue at the commencement of each shift • Assist supervisor(s) and fellow volunteers with the operations for your allocated area

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain and organise queues, as directed by supervisor(s), ensuring priority and general queues are clearly delineated and patrons are in the correct queue • Assist supervisor(s) to manage the priority queue, ensuring these patrons receive priority entry where appropriate • Ensure all tickets are scanned as ticketholders enter the session • Ensure that only attendees with a valid ticket or MIFF identification pass are admitted into a MIFF cinema • Proactively direct ticketholders to their seats, including maintaining and monitoring reserved and MIFF Circle seating • Assist attendees to find their allocated seat in relevant venues or for specific special events • Assist supervisor(s) in the operation of the standby queue for sessions that have reached capacity • When presented with the opportunity to sit inside a screening, monitor the screening content and audience and report any issues to your supervisor(s) immediately. The opportunity to view films on shift will be determined by FOH staff for each screening and is not guaranteed • Assist with any latecomers arriving to sessions, including scanning tickets and directing them to either an empty seat or their allocated seat inside the cinema • Participate in session debrief with supervisor(s) and fellow volunteers after each session to ensure any issues or incidents are communicated for FOH reporting
<p>Risk Management</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow the instructions of your supervisor(s) in the event of an emergency or evacuation • Ensure you are briefed and understand the emergency and evacuation procedure for your rostered venue • Monitor crowd conditions and alert the supervisor(s) to any serious or unresolved issues • In the case of incidents, including medical emergencies, volunteers are expected to escalate to supervisor(s) and are not expected to triage or personally respond to incidents
<p>Events</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As rostered and directed by the Operations team, provide on-the-ground assistance to MIFF staff during MIFF events and premieres • As directed by the supervisor(s), assist with any talent appearances, media calls, and intros and Q&As
<p>Access and Inclusion</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure an understanding of MIFF's access and inclusion policies • Provide outstanding customer service to any d/Deaf and disabled MIFF attendees • Use accessible language • Assist with the delivery of accessible sessions at your venue, such as open-captioned, audio-described and sensory-friendly sessions and perform duties delegated to you by your supervisor(s)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide feedback given to you by any attendees regarding access and inclusion to supervisor(s)
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present a positive image of MIFF as well as the festival program and partners • Adhere to all MIFF policies and procedures • Represent MIFF by wearing your MIFF branded volunteer T-shirt on all shifts • Be presentable and appropriate for work at all times • Undertake the volunteer duties outlined in this position description across all MIFF screening and event venues • Arrive to all shifts on time and ensure you sign in and out of each shift • Do not attend shifts if you are not fit for work, and communicate with Volunteers Manager immediately if unable to attend any rostered shift • Wear closed-toed shoes to every shift • Take initiative and troubleshoot where necessary • Undertake any other duties as directed by your supervisor(s) where reasonable
Maintaining Good Relationships With MIFF Staff and Stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute to positive morale and maintain professional and productive working relationships with MIFF staff and fellow volunteers • Demonstrate a willingness to assist others when necessary • Contribute to a positive environment • Display respectful behaviour towards other staff, fellow volunteers and festival patrons • Communicate any problems, delays, risks or concerns to your supervisor immediately and recommend solutions where possible • Maintain confidentiality of all MIFF information and intellectual property
Adhering to MIFF's Code of Conduct and HR Policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MIFF is committed to a respectful, safe and inclusive workplace that is free from discrimination, harassment, sexual harassment, bullying and victimisation. All MIFF staff and volunteers are expected to adhere to MIFF's Code of Conduct. The Code of Conduct and HR policies will be provided upon acceptance of the role.

EXPECTED PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS

Below is an outline of the expected physical requirements and environmental conditions you will likely encounter while carrying out this position. If you require assistance or accommodations to work within these conditions, or if you require any more information, please contact volunteers@miff.com.au

Primary Actions/Conditions

- Communicating with public; supervising and assisting ticketholders and guests
- Ticket scanning; queue management
- Assisting with cinema seating

- Position may require extended periods of standing, use of stairs
- Shifts are 3+ hours in length

Secondary Actions/Conditions

- Using voice projection to make announcements
- Duties could take place in brightly lit spaces, dark cinema spaces and/or outdoor spaces
- Low to medium manual handling
- Using smartphone device or laptop; ability to navigate complex rostering systems and consistent use of screens

ACTION	Never	Occasional	Frequent	Continually
Sitting			X	
Standing			X	
Walking			X	
Steps or Stairs		X		
Squatting or kneeling	X			
Bending or twisting		X		
Working at heights < 2m	X			
Working at heights > 2m	X			
Working with hands above shoulder height; reaching forwards or sideways		X		
Gripping or grabbing			X	
Fine hand coordination (typing on smartphone; iPad; computer)			X	
Eye coordination (use of smartphone/computer screen)			X	
Carrying of equipment/printed materials/other		X		
Lifting floor to waist; waist to height		X		
Lifting above shoulder height	X			
Pushing or pulling		X		
Shift work/long hours		X		
Driving (as part of position)	X			

ABOUT YOU

What makes a MIFF volunteer?

- Passion and enthusiasm for MIFF and the cinema experience
- A willingness to engage with the general public in a friendly and professional manner
- A desire to be part of a team
- Confidence in speaking and understanding English

- A commitment to making the festival a fantastic and memorable experience for all MIFF audiences

What we are looking for in your written application:

- **Passionate:** MIFF volunteers are lovers of film, arts, coffee, Melbourne and much more. You don't need to be a cinema expert, but we want to see what you're passionate about.
- **Interested in learning:** Have an open mind and willingness to learn from the experience.
- **Available:** All volunteers must attend an in-person induction day, and all first-time MIFF volunteers must attend an in-person interview. Unavailability for these dates or during the festival may impact the outcome of your application.

What we are looking for in an interview:

- **Collaboration:** A MIFF volunteer is someone who values every member of the team equally and makes their teammates feel heard.
- **Participation:** A MIFF volunteer doesn't have to be the loudest person in the room, but they are keen to connect with those around them.
- **Engagement:** A MIFF volunteer is eager to learn and will listen to instructions, ask questions when needed and aim to complete all tasks given to them.

HOW TO APPLY

To apply for this position, please fill out the application form [here](#).

Applications close at 11.59pm AEST on 7 June 2026.

For any queries, contact volunteers@miff.com.au.

MIFF is an inclusive and equal-opportunity employer, and welcomes applications from everyone. We especially encourage applications from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, members of the LGBTQIA+ community, culturally diverse people, d/Deaf people, neurodivergent people and people living with a disability.