

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: “Fag Hag” Documentary needs donations to be completed



Monica Davidson and the Handbag Mardi Gras float

The Australian documentary *HANDBAG* about four generations of “fag hag” has turned to the Australian Cultural Fund to raise the funds needed to complete the project. After successfully filming in the USA and Australia, the filmmakers have teamed up with ACF to provide a 100% tax deduction to financial supporters of the film. *HANDBAG* is directed by Monica Davidson and produced by Phoebe Hart.

Fag Hag (noun) Slang: Disparaging and Offensive.

A heterosexual female who seeks out or particularly enjoys the company of male homosexuals.

The filmmakers are seeking \$100,000 through donations via the Australian Cultural Fund, a collective funding platform for Australian artists. The fund was established to encourage donations to the arts, and is managed by Creative Partnerships Australia. Unlike crowd funding, through the ACF donors commit rather than pledge funds. Donations over \$2 are tax deductible, so art lovers and supporters get the chance to make a real difference to the work of Australian artists while also getting a tax break.

Handbag (noun): an alternative and non-gender-specific term for members of a straight/gay friendship

HANDBAG follows Monica on her journey as a third-generation “fag hag” as she tries to find out more about this iconic friendship, and why the fag hag fits so uncomfortably in the wider gay community. Monica’s grandmother Dorothy was a friend and ‘beard’ to gay colleague Keithy in the 1940s and 50s, and Monica’s mother Pat is volunteer on the AIDS Quilt. “I have three teenage daughters,” says Monica. “and in case they become fag hags like the rest of us, I want to know why we are still not fully accepted into the GLBTQI, despite having been a part of gay men’s lives since men could be gay!”

HANDBAG is largely shot, including the creation of a Fag Hag float for the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras parade and a crowd-funded trip to the USA to meet fag hags further afield. However, the final and most expensive stage of the film process is still to come. Editing, finished, animation and a killer soundtrack are all needed before the film can be rescued from the filmmakers’ computers and introduced to the world. “*HANDBAG* has been a real labour of love,” says producer Phoebe Hart, “but now we want to give it the glamorous finish it deserves and bring it out to its audience, who have been waiting so long to see it.”

Through the Australian Cultural Fund, the filmmakers are able to offer supporters a 100% tax deduction. This is particularly appealing at this time of year, as the end of financial year is only two months away. Although they need a very large amount, Monica and Phoebe are optimistic they can get the help we need. “We have found our audience through the past two years of filming, and we know they want this film to be released. With their help, we can make that happen by the end of the year”.

For more information about the **Australian Cultural Fund** campaign visit

<https://australianculturalfund.org.au/artists/handbag-the-documentary/>

For more information about ***HANDBAG***, including the plea video, visit

<http://handbagthemovie.com/>

Handbag
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FAG HAG

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