

Lesbian Space Princess



2025 | 87mins

Directors: Emma Hough Hobbs, Leela Varghese

Starring: Shaban Azeez, Demi Lardner,

Richard Roxburgh, Bernie Van Tiel

Space Princess Saira's (Shaban Azeez) mundane world is rocked when her girlfriend brutally dumps her. In the midst of her heartbreak she receives a distress call from her ex, Kiki, (Bernie Van Tiel) who has been kidnapped by the 'straight white mailiens'. Suddenly Saira must embark on a wild intergalactic space quest to save her beloved Kiki.

Lesbian Space Princess is a joyful animated romp bursting with humour. Written and directed by new Australian talents Emma Hough Hobbs and Leela Varghese, their clear love for cinema and gay culture practically oozes out of this film. *Lesbian Space Princess'* bright and fun animation style connects well with the film's playful nature. As we follow Saira's turbulent love-fuelled journey, we meet many friends and some foes along the way. The Princess' queer band of saviours includes an irritable spaceship and a renowned gay-pop star prepared for the dangerous action of space.

Plus **Splish, Splash, Splosh!**

Lily Eloise Ward | 4mins

Giving *Lesbian Space Princess* the warm welcome it deserves is Lily Eloise Ward's short film, *Splish, Splash, Splosh!* Ward is a local young film maker from Somerset with a flare for stop motion that captures a childlike joy. *Splish, Splash, Splosh!* follows Jeremey, whose mood is brightened by a lucky meeting with a new friend.

Despite being flourished with the fantastical elements of science fiction, this film tells a relatable tale of love's afflictions and the need for self discovery. Varghese and Hobbs' witty dialogue roars relentlessly from start to finish, describing their work as a 'pure expression of free will'. Receiving best feature at Berlin's Teddy awards this year *Lesbian Space Princess* is sustaining some truly deserved praise.

'a little jewel of queer joy that promises a less fraught future'

-The Guardian

Excellent

Fair

Poor



What did you think of the film? Please mark or tear the number.

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Did You Know?

- While writing, Vargheese and Hobbs aimed to represent brown characters, expressing their frustration that so few are seen in animation, often seeing more green characters than brown
- Varghese and Hobbs were inspired by noughties romantic comedies like *Legally Blonde* (2001) and *Forgetting Sarah Marshal* (2008)
- Leela Varghese won two awards this year for her short film *I am The Most Racist Person I Know* (2025)

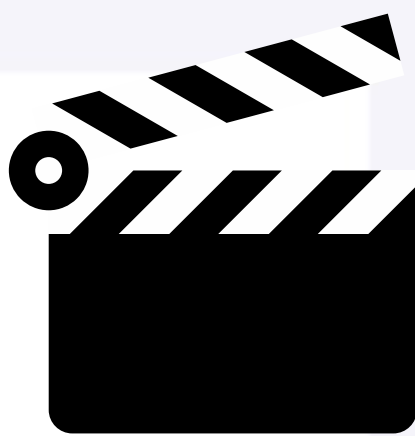
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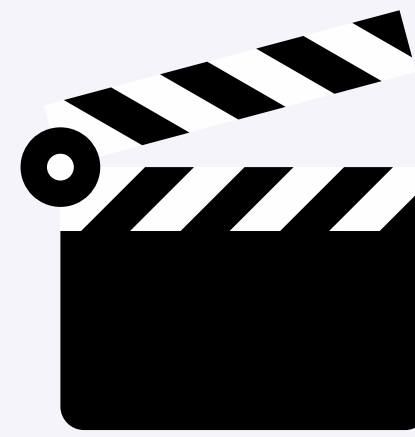
Waking Life (2001)

A surreal animated film that follows the various people a man meets as he journeys from one dream to another. Waking life is praised for its interesting experimental use of animation.



Persepolis (2007)

Adapted from Marjane's autobiography *Persepolis*, this black and white animated coming of age story follows Marjane's life after the Iranian revolution. This emotional tale translates seamlessly from novel to film.



My Dog Tulip (2009)

Based on J.R Ackeleys memoirs exploring his relationship with his German shepherd Tulip. A gentle and bittersweet tale of companionship.

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Excellent

Fair

Poor



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