# Anticipation builds for Steve Balderson’s new gay romance 'Love, Venezia'



Filmmaker Steve Balderson is set to captivate audiences globally with his latest venture, "Love, Venezia," a film that brings a poignant and diverse LGBTQ+ love story to life amidst the romantic and historically rich backdrop of Venice. The film's uncensored trailer has already garnered significant attention, achieving over 500,000 views on social media within just two days of its release, marking "Love, Venezia" as one of the most eagerly awaited gay films of the year.

"Love, Venezia" delves into the journey of two strangers whose lives become intertwined unexpectedly within the enchanting canals and labyrinthine streets of Venice. This relationship blossoms into a transformative journey of self-discovery and acceptance, underscored by themes of love and human connection. Director Steve Balderson described the film as a "deeply personal exploration of love and human connection set against the timeless backdrop of Venice," emphasising its universal resonance and celebration of love's enduring power amidst life's challenges. Highlighting the importance of LGBTQ+ representation in cinema, Balderson hopes the film will broaden the portrayal of love stories on screen.

The film stars Daniel Bateman, known for his roles in Broadway’s "Wicked" and films such as "The Midnighters" and "Alone." Joining him is Alexander Ananasso, celebrated for his versatile roles in "The Voyeur" and "The Embalmer." Also starring is the legendary Mink Stole, known for her performances in John Waters' classics including "Pink Flamingos," "Hairspray," and "Serial Mom."

"Love, Venezia" is set to premiere as the Closing Night Gala Film at Cinema Diverse: The Palm Springs LGBTQ Film Festival in September 2024, with an international cinema release planned for 2025.