

## TALK BY FILMMAKER MIRO BILBROUGH on her new film Being Venice Oct 17 12-1 81 FT

## written and directed by Miro Bilbrough

http://beingvenicethemovie.com

## Synopsis

Venice is having trouble with the men in her life. On the night her ex-hippy dad Arthur arrives to stay in Sydney to stay on the sofa of her tiny apartment for a week, she is dumped by her lover and initiates a dizzyingly wrong-footed affair with her charismatic best friend Lenny. Arthur carefully ignores the turmoil swirling around his daughter's life until she confronts him about the childhood that shadows their present.

At the core of the feature film *Being Venice* is a couple of aging children: Venice and her father Arthur. Foremost of these is Venice, a woman on the threshold of crossing into that place where we expect to be older, safer, wiser but -- sometimes hilariously -- aren't. As a storyteller I was interested in observing a father and daughter as they wrangle roles they have outgrown but which persistently, doggedly define them. I felt this kind of vexed family-relationship would have resonance for many: parents and children alike, and most especially as we age. *Being Venice* is also a love letter to the less photographed aspects of my adopted home city Sydney.

I will show a few clips from the film, with a focus on the construction of subjectivity and emotional or human time in relationship to protagonist Venice. Screen scholar Yvette Biro calls this species of time, Tempus. The cinematic construction of Tempus is one focus of a Doctorate of Arts I am currently undertaking at University of Western Sydney where I am researching how to interrupt and transform feature film narrative with strategies of the poetic or the cine-poem. I will also touch on my journey as a filmmaker, one of whose spurs was Film Studies at Victoria with Russell Campbell in the late eighties, and reading Herman Melville's Bartleby for English 101 with Damien Wilkins, a short story I later made into a film of the same name...