

Love Between the Covers

Pre-Valentine's Day Screening of US Romance Doco in Canberra

On 13 February Canberra's Tuggeranong Arts Centre will host a screening of US documentary *Love Between the Covers*, which follows the lives of five romance novelists—including Susan Donovan, Eloisa James and Australia's own Joanne Lockyer—as they build their businesses.

After the screening, five Canberra romance writers—Rhyll Biest, Bec Fleming, Stella Francis, Elyse Huntington and Justine Lewis—will be on hand to answer questions about what it's like to be part of this billion-dollar industry locally.

Harlequin Australia author Rhyll Biest explains how she got the film to our shores... "When I came across an article on 'romance novels for feminists' about a US documentary made about romance writers and readers, I was très excited! Especially since its website encourages romance chapters to host their own screening.

The only problem? I was in Australia, and I was quick to learn that this meant there were a few extra hoops for me to clear. First, I had to get a film classification exemption since the film had

not been rated for screening in Australia. Luckily, this process is largely electronic now and wasn't as painful as expected.

Then I had to find a venue. ARC (the cinema at the National Film and



Sound Archive) wanted to charge \$2000, which (surprisingly) I turned down. But after a bit of a search, I found that Tuggeranong Arts Centre has a cute little cinema.

I paid a screening fee to the filmmakers, which goes towards the cost of making the film, and

received the DVD in January. I signed an agreement that I would show it once and not flog it off to my local DVD store—do those still exist? I approached a couple of booksellers for sponsorship, but that didn't happen, which was a bit disappointing.

I thought I was ready, but no, even public libraries want you to take out public liability insurance, which isn't as cheap for one event as one would think.

I then recruited some homies (fellow Canberra Romance Writers) to join me on the Q&A panel and now we're in business.

I've just sent out media releases and set up my website page and Facebook page, and set up an Eventbrite site to sell tickets online. And that's it for now, though I'll also be plugging the event on local radio and doing a flyer drop."

Ticket sales to the screening are through Eventbrite and online links are as follows: www.facebook.com/CanberraLBTC/, www.biestbooks.com/love-between-the-covers-screening.html, and www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/love-between-the-covers-tickets-19924097512.