

FILM FILM FILM

The eighth-annual Queer Film Festival, composed of films with sexuality themes, begins tonight

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Oregon Daily Emerald

"If it weren't for gays, honey, there'd be no Hollywood," Elizabeth Taylor is quoted as saying.

But does Hollywood portray gay and lesbian relationships accurately? The answer is "no," members of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Alliance agree.

"Does 'You've Got Mail' correctly depict a heterosexual romance?" Kathleen Workman points out. "Probably not."

"Hollywood doesn't accurately depict a heterosexual or homosexual relationship," Kayla Emmons adds.

The eighth-annual Queer Film Festival begins tonight with a handful of films, but just because they portray gay and lesbian relationships, doesn't mean they represent them correctly. They are a step up from gay representation in films from the 1970s and 1980s, however.

Those movies "depicted gays as cruising sexual predators," Jason Maas-Despan asserts.

Even though Hollywood might not represent gay relationships accurately, "at least they're getting represented," Maas-Despan adds.

The film festival starts with the British film "Bedrooms and Hallways." Made in 1998, the film follows a dozen 20-something Londoners in search of love as one character, Leo, is reaching the big 3-0.

Leo is searching for stability, sex and identity, but not necessarily in that order. After getting some advice from his eccentric neighbors, he joins a "New Man" therapy group. What ensues is anyone's guess, from a new crush to a childhood sweet-

heart who's back in town. The film stars Kevin McKidd ("Trainspotting"), Simon Callow ("Shakespeare in Love") and Harriet Walter.

Friday night's feature, "Show Me Love," was nominated last year for an Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film.

Agnes and Elin are two teenage girls stuck in a small town, and the two are full of boredom. Agnes is the shy, new girl in town and she has a crush on Elin. Elin is popular, goes to parties, drinks and finds numerous boyfriends. Eventually, the two find each other.

"Show Me Love" deals with teenage angst, adolescent love and courage; Rebecca Liljeberg and Alexandra Dahlstrom are the two principal stars.

Saturday introduces two features, Australia's "Head On" and Canada's "Beefcake."

The former is described as a "narcotic ride through a powder keg of racial tension, police homophobia and sexual abuse, all framed by a day in the life of a troubled soul who must confront his status as an immigrant and a gay man."

"Beefcake" seems to turn the tables on women's beauty magazine by paying homage to the 1950s muscle magazines. The film profiles photographer Bob Miser, creator of the Athletic Models Guild, an agency for buff young men who posed for magazines like Physique Pictorial, Adonis and Tomorrow's Man.

"Beefcake" is a blend of documentary and fiction film directed by Thom Fitzgerald.

The film festival takes a little break until it returns Feb. 18 with several shorts: "Atlanta," "Top of the World," "The Offering," "Das Clown" and "Adam."

Saturday returns with two features, "Das Trio" and "Living with Pride."

"Das Trio" follows three small-time thieves and pickpockets who break the group's rule of "no exchanging bodily fluids within the team."

The film focuses on three different people who are brought together by their basic needs and are torn apart by their unruly desires.

"Living with Pride" documents the life and times of Ruth C. Ellis, who is recognized as the world's oldest "out" African-American lesbian. The film offers an opportunity to experience a century-long history of African-American gays and lesbians as seen through the life of one inspiring woman.

The last film of the festival, "Better than Chocolate," is a romantic comedy that centers on 19-year-old Maggie, a college dropout who works in a lesbian bookstore. One night, she meets Kim and the two fall in love.

Trouble arises when Maggie's mother and brother, who are unaware of her sexual orientation, move in with her because of her mother's divorce from her second husband. Other characters appear, including a transgendered nightclub performer who is pursuing Frances, the bookstore owner.

"Better than Chocolate" is a film filled with love, romance and sex.

The Queer Film Festival starts tonight, runs Friday and Saturday, and continues February 18-20.

All films start at 8 p.m. in 180 PLC. Tickets are \$4 for students, \$5 for the general public per show, or \$12 for students and \$15 for the general public for a pass to all six nights.



'Bedrooms and Hallways'



'Beefcake'



'Show Me Love'

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