

First Northwest Lesbian/Gay Film Festival

A chance to see films reflecting positive lesbian and gay lifestyles, enjoy award-winning and rarely screened films

BY ELEANOR MALIN

Four days of film and fun come to Olympia, Washington, when Evergreen State College and Olympia communities host the first Northwest International Lesbian/Gay Film

Cinema

Festival April 28-May 1. Such a festival has previously only been held in San Francisco, New York, and Amsterdam, and promises culture and entertainment not available in such impressive amounts very often.

Many of the films are award-winning works from around the world, by and about lesbians and gay men. Many of films have never before been screened in the Northwest. All were chosen with an eye to presenting lesbian and gay lifestyles in a positive light, accentuating relationships.

The programming is impressive (see schedule). Not all the films are love stories, and though many are humorous and some are whimsical, not all of them are light fare either. The collection includes some films requiring special permissions and rights, which occasionally entailed getting up at 2 a.m. to call some other place on the planet. In any case, the selection is both balanced, and, appropriately, festive. Festival planners are expecting good

audiences and a successful event that will be repeated annually.

Seeds of a film festival

A serendipitous blend of interests and funds has caused this blessed film event. Marge Brown, Evergreen film faculty, attended the San Francisco International Lesbian/Gay Film Festival for the last five years. It occurred to her that such an event might be welcome in the Northwest, and she was successful in getting a film budget. She helped in the selection of the theme and search for appropriate films.

Jeremy Morrison, a coordinator for Lesbian/Gay Resource Center, had some funds he was able to commit in preliminary stages of the film festival. Sheila Fox, an arts administration intern with Ed Trujillo, took a grant writing class last term, and thought to herself, "Why not write a grant for the film festival?" She was encouraged by Trujillo to pursue that end, and was successful in securing some funds for the festival, with a possibility of more to come.

According to Morrison, there has been good financial support from student groups, Affirmative Action, and some of the offices at Evergreen. The festival received an advance on expected revenues, and there has been a huge amount of volunteer support, some from straight students, as well.

Interest in the festival has been high, and Morrison feels the atmosphere at Evergreen has helped. He says he has tried to reach out to the

community at large in his position at L/GRC, and expects the festival to do a lot by way of enlightening the general population, and entertaining and delighting filmgoers, both gay and straight.

Fox says that an atmosphere of "can do" prevails at Evergreen, so that a monumental undertaking such as this can happen. She is especially appreciative of the fact that there will be a benefit for the Olympia AIDS Task Force (*The AIDS Show*) and for the Lesbian Mothers Legal Defense Fund (*Alternative Conceptions*).

Fox stressed that the Evergreen campus is a good setting for such an exciting event. Situated on a 1,000-acre wooded campus with beach access minutes away, with spa facilities available for a modest fee, the festival is ideally located in a perfect place to relax, screen films, meet new people (some of the filmmakers will be on hand to discuss their works), and have a great mini-vacation.

Tickets to all showings are \$4.50, and a free T-shirt comes with the purchase of 10 or more tickets. Community housing is available free of charge during the festival, however, and there will be free childcare by trained staff. If you don't have transportation, van service is offered from Seattle, Tacoma, Vancouver, Wash., and Portland. Portland/Vancouver (round-trip) is \$15.00. For more information, call (206) 866-6000, ext. 6544, or write to the LGRC, CAB, 305, Evergreen State College, Olympia, WA 98505, Attn: Esther.

Two of the short subjects playing Saturday, April 30, *Gaia's Dream* and *Cerridwen's Gift*, are by Portland filmmaker Rose Bond.

An opportunity like this doesn't come along every day. Don't miss this opportunity to participate in the creation of an exciting annual film festival!

Northwest International Lesbian/Gay Film Festival highlights

An Evening with Barbara Hammer

Barbara Hammer is an acclaimed film and performance artist who has deeply influenced the lesbian/feminist cultural movement. She has been a dominant force in experimental, anti-narrative film. Her films are visually rich, thought-provoking and skillfully made. She is an Evergreen faculty and will be on hand to discuss her films: *Our Trip*, *Sync Touch*, *Superdyke*, *Menses*, *Haircut*, *Audience*, *Snow Job/The Media Hysteria of AIDS*, *No No Nooky TV*.

Pouvoir Intime — Canada

A botched armored car robbery leads an endearing ex-con, his son, their accomplices, a gay armored car driver and his waiter boyfriend into a warehouse full of theater sets for a harrowing and surreal climax. Director Yves Simoneau establishes such sympathy for all of his characters that the distinctions between good guys and bad guys all but disappear.

Ann Trister — Canada, 1985

Ann Trister examines the developing ambiguous relationship between a young Jewish painter and a 40-year-old child psychologist, both of whom have just left relationships with men.

La Triche — France, 1984

After the New York Gay and Lesbian Film Festival, the *Village Voice* reviewer called this film, "a turn-on from beginning to end. . . ."


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