

# FEEDING FRENZY

Queer film buffs can find a table laden to bursting at Evergreen State College's annual festival

by Kelly M. Bryan



Koing Kuoch (left) and Tymme Reitz in *No Ordinary Love*

Has it been eight years already? Sleeping in a bag on a kind stranger's floor, struggling to eat and absorb light in the brief break between screenings, rubbing a butt that aches from seven or eight near-solid hours of film viewing, and hoping that you might find the one elusive film by someone you never heard of that will change your life—such pleasures there be in the Northwest International Lesbian Gay Film

## Cinema

Festival, held annually at The Evergreen State College in Olympia, Wash. The venerable 8-year-old queer-film feeding frenzy will unreel Friday through Sunday, April 28-30. Evening showings (Friday and Saturday) are held at the Capitol Theater, 206 E Fifth Ave., in downtown Olympia; daytime showings (Saturday and Sunday) are held in lecture halls 1, 3 and 5 on the Evergreen campus.

Opening night offers a sequential trio of films—not simultaneous—which makes a festivalgoer's life easier. First up at 7:30 pm is *Devotion*, a lesbian story of conflicted passions, where a long-lost unrequited love shows up in the life of a comic who's just about to hit the big time. Canadian director Mindy Kaplan will be on hand to introduce this U.S. premiere screening. Next at 9:30 pm is the West Coast debut of *No Ordinary Love*, by newcomer Doug Witkins, which traces the lines of lust, romance and betrayal that snake among four male housemates—gay, bi and hetero—who are left to cope after the mysterious death of their ringleader. The feature is paired with the short *Gentle Giants*, Bruce Weber's celluloid puppy treat for fans of the Newfoundland hound (the subject of Weber's latest book). Rounding out the gender parity of the evening is the cross-dressing, gender bending, martial arts madcap *The Legend of Fong Sai-Yuk* at 11:30 pm. After her son loses a kung fu match for the hand of his beloved to the girl's mother, a woman passes herself off as her son's brother to earn a rematch and repair the family's honor. Mid-duel, the two women fall in love. Look for spectacular acrobatics and goofy, melodramatic dialogue.

Pack a snack and bring a pillow: Day 2 starts off early, and the daytime schedule is not so forgiving as the nighttime one. Each day there are three rounds (11 am, 1:30 pm and 4 pm) in a veritable three-ring circus of screenings. Which way to go? How to choose? Since many of the films are made by the as-yet-unknown, sometimes the allure of a comely title must be the deciding factor. How about *Don't Look Up My*

*Shirt Unless You Mean It* (4 pm Saturday, Hall 1)? Or *Zombie Cottage* (1:30 pm Sunday, Hall 3)? *Dottie Gets Spanked* (4 pm Sunday, Hall 5)?

Or you might rely on those pesky, oh-so-optimistic promo flyer niblets. An example: "*Mad About the Boy*. This experimental pixel-vision piece explores the tenuous boundaries of gender through a series of anecdotes told by women who have been mistaken for men, and a must-see synchronized dance scene in a barber shop." A come-on, a beckoning finger, and yet it could go so wrong. This short is part of a 4 pm Saturday program that also includes a Jenny (*Paris is Burning*) Livingston short, *Hotheads*.

But sometimes there's just no easy way to choose. A quandry presents itself at 1:30 pm on Saturday when Ada Gay Griffith's recent portrait of Audre Lorde, *A Litany for Survival*, is scheduled opposite Isaac (*Looking for Langston, Young Soul Rebels*) Julien's documentary *A Darker Side of Black*, which examines homophobia and violence in the world of rap and reggae (Shabba Ranks and Cornell West share their views), and Barbara Hammer's 1995 film *Out in South Africa*.

Saturday night's bill starts out at 7 pm with a visit with this year's guest filmmaker, Liberian-born Cheryl Dunye, who is perfecting the art of the "Dunyementary." Dunye will speak and screen a selection of her work, which includes such titles as *Greetings from Africa*, *She Don't Fade*, and *The Potluck and the Passion*. Following at 9 pm is Ann Turner's *Dallas Doll*, a juicy trash-fest with Sandra Bernhard as a U.S. golf pro who knows what to do with a hole. The evening's topper is "The Great Punk Rock Show" at 11:30 pm, with local bands Behad the Prophets, The Third Sex and Mustache Poop Boogie Machine—a chance to get the blood recirculating in your limbs. There is also the annual festival dance, held at Thekla (near the Capitol Theater); doors open at 9 pm, tickets are \$4.

Washington is prey to the same brand of ballot-driven homophobes that we in Oregon are. Reportedly, some members of the Washington legislature would like to see Evergreen (a state-funded college) penalized for mounting an annual queer film festival. Yet another primary argument in an overall strong case for Oregonians to make the trek up to Olympia.

Festival tickets are \$5 general; the Cheryl Dunye show is \$6. A festival pass is \$50 and admits the purchaser to all films, including the presentation by Dunye. Tickets can be charged by phone by calling the festival office at (360) 866-6000, ext. 6542. If you need assistance in finding housing or hotel accommodations, call the festival office.

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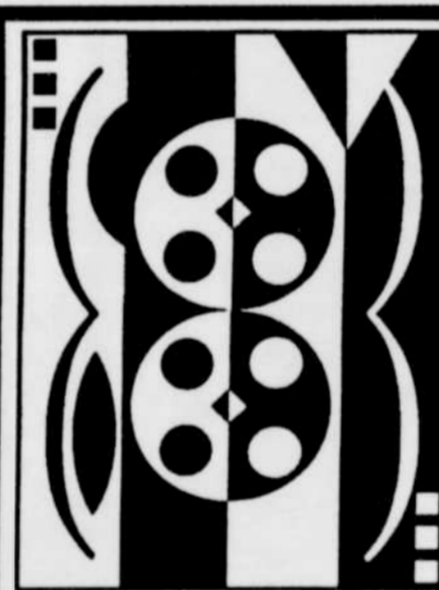
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8th NW International

## Lesbian Gay Film Festival

**Program Guides**  
Available in all the usual locations in early April, or by mail, call 360-866-6000 Ext. 6542

**Ticket Outlets**  
Seattle: Bailey Coy Books 206-323-8842  
Olympia: Rainy Day Records 360-357-4755  
Also in advance on VISA/MC call 360-866-6000 Ext. 6542  
Tickets \$5.00 Full Pass \$50.00  
Tickets available at the door.

**Featuring**  
40 hours of film and video, dozens of NW premieres, a festival dance and guest filmmakers. Featuring the premieres of *Devotion*, *No Ordinary Love*, *A Litany for Survival*, *Ballot Measure Nine*, and many others.

Wheelchair accessible  
Assistive listening devices for the hearing impaired are available.

April 28-30 Olympia, WA

Get ready,



From Days Of Pentecost, USA 1995 US Premiere

and drive on up, cuz



its always a scream!

