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## FILMS

# The ultimate DIY festival

Crank up the AC and while away a lazy summer day with some new queerly flavored DVDs

BY ANDY MANGELS

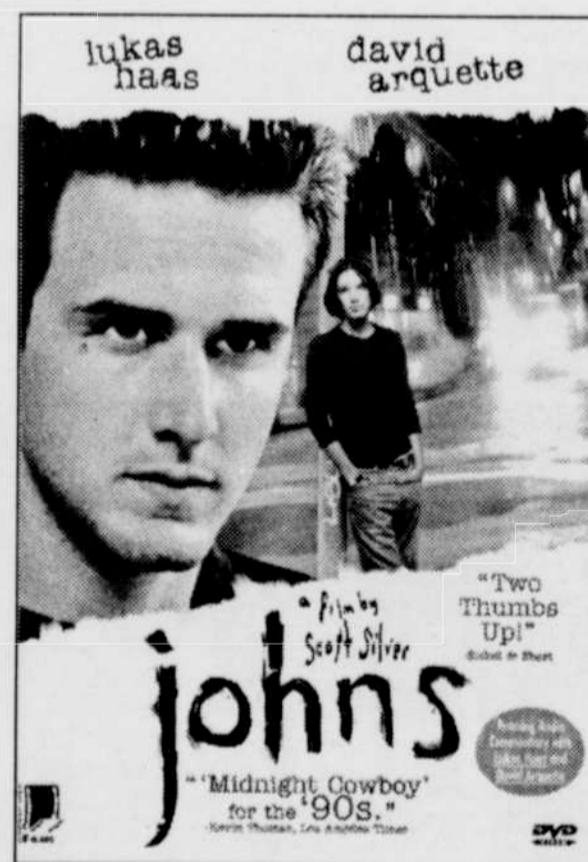
Can't wait for the Portland LGBT Film Festival in October? Why not hold your own festival at home with the many queer-themed DVDs available on the market?

They store video and audio images on a CD-size platter. With crystal-clear images and sound, most DVDs feature the film in widescreen format as well as extras such as director and star commentaries, isolated music scores, deleted scenes, outtakes, uncensored footage, behind-the-scenes clips, alternate endings, music videos, foreign language subtitles and more.

In the July 7 issue of *Just Out*, we covered nine other queer-themed DVD titles, so here's another batch for you to select from for your own festival.

FRIED GREEN TOMATOES  
Universal

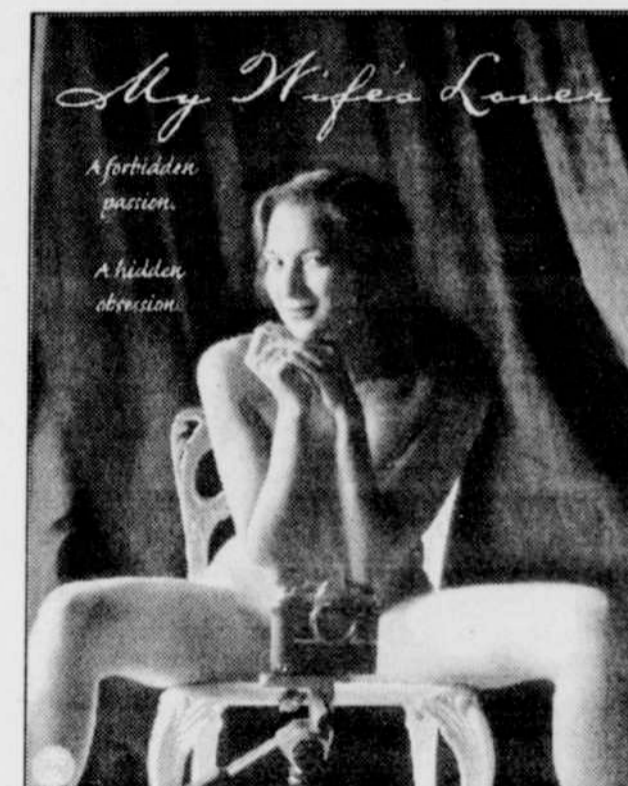
An unhappy housewife (Kathy Bates) has a chance meeting with a sprightly old woman (Jessica Tandy) who begins spinning tales about the life of Idgie Threadgoode (Mary Stuart Masterson), a tomboy in the Southern small town of Whistle Stop. She meets and falls in love with Ruth (Mary-Louise Parker), and the two open a cafe, endure attacks by Ruth's abusive ex-husband and the Ku Klux Klan, and become involved with a mysterious murder. Based on lesbian author Fannie Flagg's novel, this radiant film never explicitly reveals Idgie and Ruth are lesbians, but the chemistry between the stars is so strong, their love is unquestionable. The actresses are ideally cast, and the story is engrossing and emotional. This highly recommended "extended version" features lots of extra footage, a director commentary track, an original documentary about the making of the film, production photographs, multiple poster designs and a bunch of printable recipes for food seen in the film, including the title treats!



JOHNS  
Fox Lorber

Lukas Haas and David Arquette are male prostitutes on the mean streets of Los Angeles, and they have no one to trust but each

other. Rookie Donner (Haas) falls in love with the hard-bitten John (Arquette), but the streets might swallow their hope and their future. Haunting and gritty, *Johns* isn't a happy movie, but it's as realistic a portrayal of gay street kids' lives as you're likely to see on film. A commentary by the two stars is revealing, showcasing the harrowing people and stories they encountered while researching their roles.



MY WIFE'S LOVER  
Tai Seng

Alan and Joanne head up a Hong Kong advertising firm, but their marriage isn't working. Unbeknownst to her, he begins an affair with a secretary, but she soon finds emotional fulfillment with a vivacious, boyish female photographer named Terry. When Alan agrees to use Terry's nude photos in an ad campaign, Joanne becomes her model, then her lover. But Alan resolves to have Terry for his own, and the consequences for the trio might be costly. This Chinese DVD has English dialogue either dubbed or subtitled—interestingly, watching both simultaneously results in two different sets of dialogue!—as well as Cantonese, Mandarin or Vietnamese language tracks. The plot of this is not much better than your average episode of *Red Shoe Diaries*, but those looking for beautiful Asian women entangled romantically and sexually can find them here.

THE OPPOSITE OF SEX  
Columbia TriStar/Sony

Christina Ricci plays the nastiest half-sister any gay man ever could conjure in a nightmare. She seduces her brother's boyfriend, then gets pregnant and disappears with him. In pursuit of the duo is her brother, the boyfriend's other

