

PREVIEWS

social worker girlfriend, Alex, and they are very much in love. However, as the holidays approach, pressures from Casey's conventional family start to strain. Casey is feeling more compelled to be the daughter her uptight mother wants, while Alex is keeping a secret. Director Lauren Himmel offers a rare film treat—a lesbian couple who are at once sexy, inspirational and yet very real.

FOOD OF LOVE
9:15 p.m. Sept. 23

When Paul (Kevin Bishop), a young, talented music student, gets a job as a page turner for the world-famous Richard Kennington's (Paul Rhys) one-night-only piano recital in San Francisco, the two are instantly drawn to one another. Paul is star-struck by his idol, and Richard finds Paul's intensity, beauty and innocence irresistible. After a torrid, secret affair in Europe, Paul returns home to attend music school, where he begins to question his ability and dates older, experienced men seeking validation of his talent. Based on acclaimed author David Leavitt's novel *The Page Turner*, Spanish director Ventura Pons' film is a gorgeous piece of work shot in San Francisco, New York and Barcelona.

A LESBIAN SURVIVAL GUIDE: GIRL'S SHORTS II
7 p.m. Sept. 24

In "The Bounty," two women steal a rare sperm sample and hightail it with a chauvinist bounty hunter hot on their heels. The animated "Ladies Tea" dissects the dynamic patterns that occur in a women's dance bar. "Turn Me On" uncovers the secrets of vibrators, from their early days as a medical tool to their emergence as mass-marketed consumer toys. The silent fairy tale cum B-horror "Pussies from Outta Space" tells the cartoonish adventures of a worker-waif and her artist lover. It's 1975, and 10-year-old budding butch Cassie musters up the courage to invite the cute femme down the street to a football game in "Shaving." "Marcilla" is a gothic black-and-white update of the lesbian vampire story *Carmilla*. "The Seamstress" turns the sewing table on an uppity supermodel. What happens when your friends are also your dating pool? Find out in the hilarious and instructional "The 10 Rules (A Lesbian Survival Guide)."

NIGHT TRADE: BOY'S SHORTS II
9:30 p.m. Sept. 24

The first stop in these edgy shorts exposes "Rock Bottom" when a lonely john picks up a charming young street hustler. Reality



Hilbert goes from successful, straight ad exec to surreal public toilet dweller in *Exploding Oedipus*

bites hard and leaves marks in the beautiful and dark "Night Trade." A phone call brings with it a flood of memories in "Baby Blue." The world spins too fast in the love story "Dizzy." The rich "Neon" glow of night fades as the double life led by Arno causes internal conflicts and danger. "Red ribbons or red tape?" asks "Lost Cause," as people with AIDS experience frustration dealing with organizations designed to help them. It's "Foucault Night" at the local leather bar and a basher is on the loose in "Foucault Who?" An Australian man recalls an outrageous story of his mean-spirited mother during "In Search of Mike." A poignant longing for what could have been permeates "The Moment After."

LUSTER
7 p.m. Sept. 25 (the short film "Baby Blue" will be presented before the feature)

Waking up confused after an orgy is only the beginning of an unforgettable weekend for Jackson, a Los Angeles poet and record store clerk. He thinks he's in love with Billy, whom he met at the orgy. Enter Jackson's hunky cousin Jed, who is in town for the weekend. You're not supposed to have sex with your cousin, right? Then there's Derek, a store customer who claims Jackson is "the one." To complicate matters further, it seems Jackson's best friend might not be straight after all. And when Sonny (Willie Garson of *Sex and the City*), a closeted rock star, asks Jackson to help write lyrics for his next album, things really

begin to spin out of control. Wildly gritty and entertaining, *Luster* is a queer boy's adventures in lust, sex—and maybe even love.

EXPLODING OEDIPUS
9:15 p.m. Sept. 25

Seeking refuge in the seedy Marathon Hotel, Hilbert (Bruce Ramsay) isolates himself with a suitcase full of books and home movies. Images from his troubled childhood flicker on a bed sheet. As he retreats further into self-reflection, Hilbert's confusion and desires begin to take on distorted proportions. Forced to re-evaluate himself on the heels of his father's heart attack, he becomes torn between the possibilities of the future and the ties of his past. He begins to reject a successful career, friends and his loving girlfriend and heads out on a journey into the stained under-worlds of drugs, booze and bathroom sex in San Francisco's avant-garde art scene. In his directorial debut, Marc Lafia weaves a rich visual fabric to create an emotional texture that is sensual and sophisticated.

LOST SOULS
7 p.m. Sept. 26

A road trip becomes a journey of loss, self-discovery and redemption in "Saturn's Return." An uncompromising work about the cycle of abuse and the perverse nature of desire, "Touch" is a disturbing tale of a teen-age boy held captive for a period of years. "Roberta

Loved" is the life of Roberta, a 350-pound secretary who turns 50, gets laid off and is diagnosed with a deadly brain tumor in the same day. Eventually she meets Kevin, a bisexual hustler past his prime, who advertises that "freaks" are his specialty. As her final hours rush by, they develop an intense, sublime and horrifying relationship. In "Take-Out," typical high schooler Rory meets Pete, a middle-aged man in the midst of a breakdown, and is drawn into a friendship that proves to be a catalyst.

KM.O
9:30 p.m. Sept. 26

It's the hottest day of the year and the city of Madrid is simmering—with sexual tension. Seven couples arrange to meet at Kilometer 0, the imaginary center point of Spain and a popular cruising spot. In a comedy of errors of epic proportions, these 14 strangers get hopelessly tangled in mistaken identities and second chances. The metrosexuals collide (and disrobe) in this delightful romantic comedy.

GUARDIAN OF THE FRONTIER
7 p.m. Sept. 27

In the first Slovenian film directed by a woman, Maja Weis has created a challenging psychological drama of friendship, freedom and sexual awakening. Three students take a canoe trip on the Kolpa River and, as they float deeper into the woods, their carefree adventure makes unexpected twists and turns. They encounter a mysterious cast of characters, including the Guardian of the Frontier, a self-defined defender of "traditional" Slovenian values. While two of the girls grow closer and more flirtatious, the other is drawn to the Guardian. This gorgeous film reveals the complex borders affecting young women coming of age in a transitioning Eastern Europe.

MR. SMITH GETS A HUSTLER
9:30 p.m. Sept. 27

Hustlers and johns operate out of a swank bar run by the maleficent Mr. Lapp (Benjamin Hendrickson). His favorite lapster is handsome 18-year-old Bobby Blue (Alex Feldman), who works to support his mother, a helpless alcoholic. Enter the mysterious and attractive Mr. Smith (Larry Pine), who walks in and takes an immediate shine to Bobby—but Mr. Smith is not the lonely out-of-towner he pretends to be. Director Ian McCrudden's adaptation of the stage play is a sullen tale of broken hearts and homes.

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