

FILM

Ah, the Internet. We'll never run out of stories about experiences on the Internet. There must be as many stories as there are sites.

Which is exactly what writer/director Jed Weintrob found when he became addicted to live cam video sites (you know, where you get to watch people live their lives in real time) while nursing a heartbreak some time back.

His new movie, *On Line*, is about just such a guy, John, a Manhattanite who joins his old college buddy in an Internet porn venture after his woman walks, leaving him an emotional wreck. Their site, Intercon-X.com, hooks you up via your live cam to "hosts" with cams of their own.

"She might live halfway across the country—or just across the street. It doesn't really matter, does it? The world is a lot smaller than you think," begins the monologue to this smart, sexy film about the difference between fantasy and reality—and how computers now lend so widely to both.

Josh Hamilton (Matt in *Urbania* and Marty in *The House of Yes*) as John is the perfect used-to-be-a-normal-guy Internet geek with his own Web video diary and a voyeuristic addiction to an attractive woman on

User available?

Log in to the new indie flick *On Line*

BY LISA BRADSHAW

AngelCam.com. (Yes, the Web sites in the film really exist, but you get the feeling they were thrown up after it was released.)

John's foil is his hyperactive roommate and business partner, Moe (Mercutio in *Romeo + Juliet*), a ladies man whose current conquest is the vulnerable Moira (Isabel Gillies), who has regular chats with lonely college student Ed (former Oregonian Eric Millegan—see Page 29) on the live cam suicide site FinalExit.com. Ed, in turn, regularly hooks up through Intercon-X with an older New Yorker, Al (John Fleck), for hot rounds of Master and Servant. Al's best Net buddy is the bisexual Jordan (Vanessa Ferlito), a pouty-lipped beauty who enjoys the film's most satisfyingly sexual scene with John via live cam (of course).

It's when John and Jordan decide to get



Suave Manhattanite Al has a thing or two to teach Ohio college student Ed in *On Line*

together in real life that all the trouble starts, but it's also their closing of this big cyber-circle that proves imperative when tragedy strikes.

The most touching relationship of the film is between Ed and Al, vastly different people from completely separate worlds—yet finding a connection. Millegan is particularly convincing as a

tini tunes) create somewhat of a grainy dream-scape lovingly recorded on digital video.

On Line, which opens Sept. 26 at Hollywood Theatre, has its ups and downs, but it's one of the better installments of films about Internet connections and their ability to open up your entire world—or shut it down. **B**

whiny, isolated student in Ohio surrounded by frat boys, sneaking moments on his roommate's computer. The ultimate question between the two—should I actually find this person?—is at the crux of the movie's investigation. "Would you really want to meet her, or would that just ruin everything?" John narrates.

This narration, in tandem with several scenes made up completely of onscreen cam shots and a smooth set of lounge, international-sounding rhythms (due in no small part to two new Pink Mar-

Long on shorts

Portland welcomes two short film festivals

Whether you're short on cash or attention span, you've got a couple of fine opportunities worth checking out. First is *Queer Films in Color!*, a nice selection of shorts presented by the American Friends Service

Committee in recognition of films by and about people of color in the queer community.

Highlights include trans slam poet Marcus Rene Van's "Junk Box Warrior," about the frustration of not fitting into the gender binary; "Forever Bottom," a frank look at the insatiable appetite of an Asian male bottom; "Two Spirit People," an overview of the Native American concepts of gender and sexuality; and the award-winning "A Different Kind of Black Man," which documents the

feelings of successful black gay men around masculinity and their roles in the African American community.

Queer Films in Color! plays at 6 p.m. Sept. 20 at Hollywood Theatre, 4122 N.E. Sandy Blvd.

Your other option is the annual PISS Fest (that's the Portland International Short Film Festival), a diverse collection of quick flicks from around the world. Having shuffled through hundreds of crap entries so

you don't have to, PISS Fest offers the best of the best, which this year includes two queer-themed entries: Portlander Andy Blubaugh's baleful but engaging "He Said" and the baffling but beautiful Australian entry "The Chase."

PISS Fest plays Sept. 26 at Hollywood Theatre and Sept. 27 at Itisness, 3016 N.E. Killingsworth St. Showtimes are 7 and 9 p.m.

Both festivals are short on admission, too, asking \$5 each. **B**

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