

65 films, 11 days

A sneak preview of the dizzying montage that is Portland's seventh annual queer film festival

by Timothy Krause

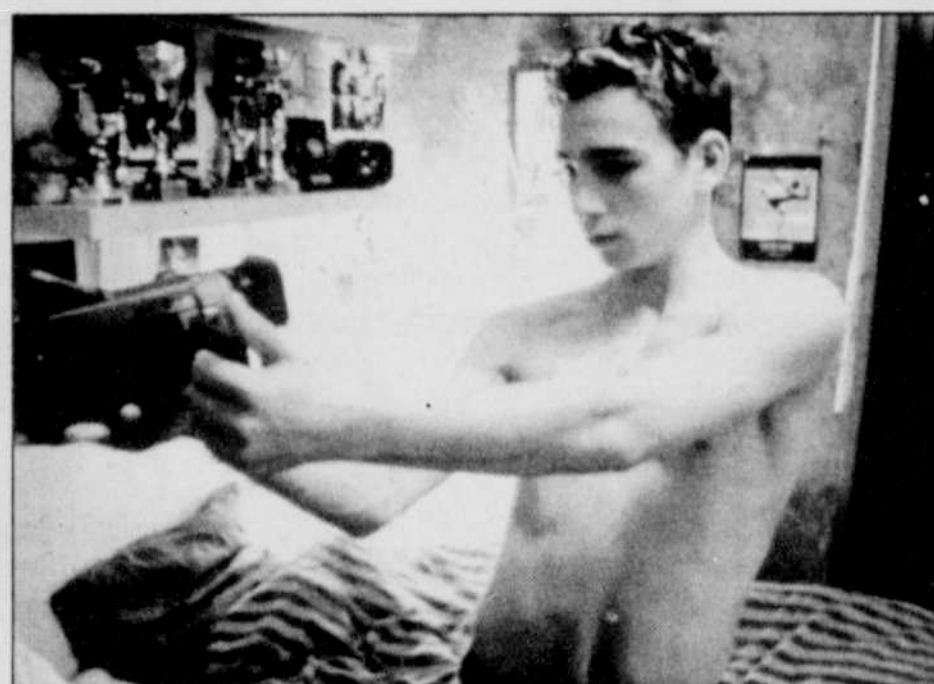
When the calendar turns to autumn and winter rains are knocking at the door, a queer Portlander's fancy turns to—what else?—staying indoors to watch movies. And the seventh annual Portland Lesbian & Gay Film Festival has many reasons to sit in the dark. Sixty-five of them, to be exact.

From Oct. 9 to 19, Sensory Perceptions presents films that illuminate not only cinematic aesthetics but also a range of politics, diversity and social relevance. Still, among the assorted flicks, the festival's artistic director points to a common thread.

"Films like *You'll Get Over It*, *Blue Gate Crossing*, *My Life on Ice* and *A.K.A.* all show characters dealing with issues where their sexuality informs, not dictates, who they are,"



Three young lesbians document their coming out and coming of age in *Don't Worry, It'll Probably Pass* (left), while a French boy receives his own camera and shows the world as seen through the eyes of a 16-year-old in *My Life on Ice*



ing a modern vision of self-identity, including the fluidity of sexuality and familial relationships. All together, the 32 programs give voice and vision to our community's place, here and now, in 2003. **JP**

For complete descriptions of each of the 65 films, pick up a seventh annual PORTLAND

LESBIAN & GAY FILM FESTIVAL program guide at area venues or visit www.sensoryperceptions.org.

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At the box office

How to get your tix to the flix

All screenings—except for *Tipping the Velvet*—are at Cinema 21, 616 N.W. 21st Ave. You can park for free in the Legacy/Good Samaritan parking structure at 2222 N.W. Kearney St. two blocks north and one block west of the theater. *Tipping the Velvet* shows at the Guild Theater, 1219 S.W. Park Ave.

Single general admission tickets to all programs are \$8. Half Passes for the festival are \$80 and allow you into 15 shows and to the Seventh Anniversary Gala. Full Passes are available for \$130 and give you access to all 32 shows and the Gala. Platinum Passes run \$190, get you into all the shows and the Gala, and

allow you to enter the theater at any time and sit in a reserved section.

Tickets and passes are available in advance at www.ticketweb.com or 866-468-7623. They also may be purchased with cash or check at Balloons on Broadway, 617 S.W. Washington St.; Gai-Pied, 2544 N.E. Broadway; and Videorama, 2310 N. Lombard St. or 2640 N.E. Alberta St. Single tickets may be purchased (cash only) at the Cinema 21 box office on the day of show only, one hour before the day's first program until 15 minutes after the last program has begun. Passes for the festival will be available for purchase by cash or check at the will call desk in Cinema 21.

Gabriel Mendoza says. "This is a newer theme in LGBT filmmaking. Where once the fact of alternative sexuality was drama enough, we are now seeing the theme evolve and become more sophisticated and, consequently, more realistic and relevant."

This shift in perspective is due to mainstreaming queer issues, he explains. "A lot

can be said about whether this is good or bad, but it is undeniably affecting all of culture," says Mendoza. "I think it's in the best interest of the community to have an identity or presence in mainstream culture, because the truth is the more homogenized a minority culture becomes with the mainstream, the more accepting the culture is of its values and needs."

Close to Leo is another film that exhibits a contemporary view of sexuality. Leo, the oldest brother of four, tells his open and loving family that he has AIDS. The film then deals with how this news affects the lives of each family member—and their relationship with Leo.

"Years ago the story would be about the issue of his sexuality and the stigma of the disease," remarks Mendoza. "This film starts at acceptance and goes from there."

The family doesn't tell Leo's youngest brother, Marcel, who knows something is wrong and resents being left out. Mendoza says: "A lot of the story is told through his eyes. It's a unique and extraordinary film that explores the whole nature of relationships and the subtleties of love, all of which transcend sexuality but are affected by it."

This attitude is reflected festivalwide, offer-

Seventh heaven

Or, how to make your gala gay

Sensory Perceptions invites you to its **Seventh Anniversary Gala** 9 p.m. Oct. 10 at the Fez Ballroom, 316 S.W. 11th Ave. Join other queer movie buffs for free food, drinks, live entertainment and Skervy DJs Zanne and Stormy as well as a special live performance from Black Angel's J.R. Pella, "Crying in My Beer." A festival pass or \$10 gets you in the door. If you prefer, a special \$15 combo ticket lets you first take in a 7:30 p.m. showing of *Girls Will Be Girls* at Cinema 21, 616 N.W. 21st Ave.

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