

evaporate when these eloquent, unapologetic women tell their tales. Their insights are often hilariously raw and decidedly un-PC. Beautiful, slight Octavia says, "I don't want a skinny girl 'cuz they can't keep me warm. I don't want a fat chick 'cuz there's too much to push around." The film shows them with their girlfriends, at home, on the street and at a "ball," where they compete for prizes and status. Some have been in the closet, some not. Some were accepted by their families, others were thrown out of the house. All the ones interviewed here identify as female, not male. All share a common humanity and a desire for much more than visibility. They want to be superstars, and they are.

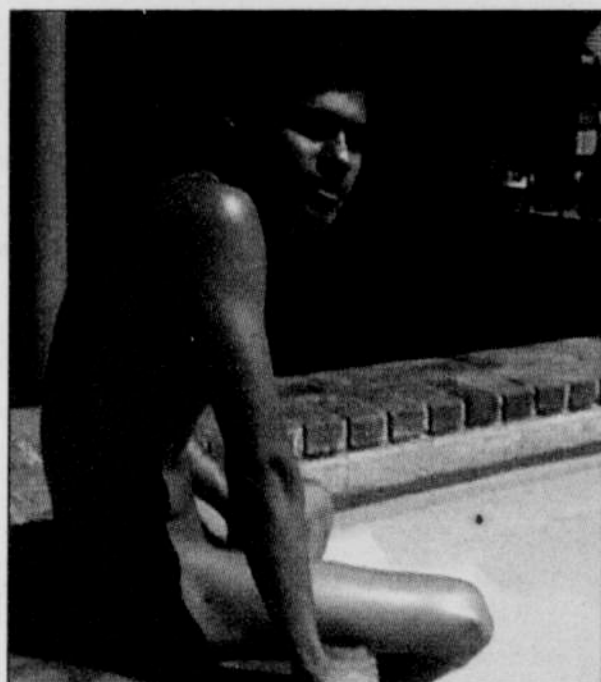
The "Aggressives" pull their superstardom out of themselves. In the 1970s, porn star and "sex personality" Peter Berlin did the same thing. Berlin starred in two porn features, *Knights in Black Leather* and *That Boy*. But his influence was vastly larger as his iconic image—Dutch boy haircut, leather cap, huge hard-on unmistakable through white sailor pants—wafted through gay culture. No one seemed to know anything about him at the time. He was seen mostly walking the streets of San Francisco, stopping to pose, luring a trick into an alley and then disappointing him by vanishing, or perched silently in a tree at the city's famous cruising spot Land's End. "That boy" becomes *That Man: Peter Berlin* in Jim Tushinski's superb documentary. The former cipher tells pretty much all about himself, emerging as a striking, self-aware personality as magnetic as the character he consciously created. Among the interviewees who help paint this memorable portrait are John Waters, who calls him "Dinah Shore with a hard-on," and porn legend Jack Wrangler, who calls him "a sculpture." Berlin's "living art" consisted of simply appearing in public in his mysterious sexual guise. The film shows him as a prescient performance artist who predated the personality-out-of-thin-air that would become a major obsession of today's culture (think Paris Hilton). The fact that behind the image he is, in fact, a sensitive, funny, self-deprecating and brilliant man is one of the many surprises at this year's excellent film festival. **JM**

The ninth annual PORTLAND LESBIAN & GAY FILM FESTIVAL runs Oct. 14 to 20 at Cinema 21, 616 N.W. 21st Ave., and Oct. 22 and 23 at Hollywood Theatre, 4122 N.E. Sandy Blvd. For more information visit [www.sensoryperceptions.org](http://www.sensoryperceptions.org).

GARY MORRIS is a Portland free-lance writer who spends his spare time helping troubled heterosexuals change their orientation. They can be helped.



*That Man: Peter Berlin* solves the mystery of an iconic "sex personality" from the 1970s.



*Cycles of Porn* screens 10 p.m. Oct. 15 at Cinema 21.

## Festival Schedule

### Cinema 21

**FRI, OCTOBER 14**

7 p.m.: *April's Shower*  
9 p.m.: *Adam & Steve*

**SAT, OCTOBER 15**

2 p.m.: *Life in a Box*  
4 p.m.: *Loggerheads*  
6 p.m.: *Sevigne*  
8 p.m.: *Guys and Balls*  
10 p.m.: *Cycles of Porn*

**SUN, OCTOBER 16**

2 p.m.: *The Aggressives*  
4 p.m.: *Winter Passing*  
6 p.m.: *The Dying Gaul*  
8 p.m.: *Margaret Cho: Assassin*

**MON, OCTOBER 17**

7 p.m.: *El Favor*  
9 p.m.: *Sara Silverman: Jesus Is Magic*

**TUE, OCTOBER 18**

7 p.m.: *Girl's Shorts*  
9 p.m.: *Côte d'Azur*

**WED, OCTOBER 19**

7 p.m.: *Where the Truth Lies*  
9 p.m.: *Dorian Blues*

**THU, OCTOBER 20**

7 p.m.: *Transamerica*  
9 p.m.: *Night Watch*

### Hollywood Theatre

**SAT, OCTOBER 22**

2 p.m.: *Both*  
4 p.m.: *That Man: Peter Berlin*

**SUN, OCTOBER 23**

2 p.m.: *Never Been Thawed*  
4 p.m.: *Boy's Shorts*

### Special Events

**FRI, OCTOBER 14, 8:30 p.m.**

VIP Reception  
Vitis Enoteca, 535 N.W. 16th Ave.

**SAT, OCTOBER 15, 9:30 p.m.**

*Guys and Balls* Party  
Adidas, 1039 N.W. Couch St.

**SAT, OCTOBER 22, 8 p.m.**

Closing Night Party  
Crush, 1400 S.E. Morrison St.