

After five years of European production, Musawa put the publication in her backpack and returned to the Oregon women's land she co-founded in the 1970s, WHO (Women Having Options) Farm. Renamed We'Moon Healing Ground, the community reflected a focus on the nurturance of women and their creative gifts, and an atmosphere that continues to offer their children a different vision of women's significance.

2006 contributor **Kim Antieau** calls the publication "an integral part of my life" and says, "When I feel like I just cannot stand being a stranger in this strange land one more minute, I get We'Moon, sit at my kitchen table and flip through it slowly, savoring the art and the words. It is a nourishment I cherish all year around."

Production remains a volunteer activity and a labor of love for those who have helped get the calendar into the hands of its many fans. This year's theme is, appropriately, "In the Spirit of Love." 2006 special editor **Bethroot Gwynn** calls the publication "a balm for the sore heart in these oh-so-troubled times for the human family."

For more information call Mother Tongue Ink at 877-693-6666 or e-mail [matrix@wemoon.ws](mailto:matrix@wemoon.ws).

—Patricia L. MacAodha

### Short and sweet

If brevity is the soul of wit, then the 62 films in this year's **Portland International Short Short Film Festival** ought to be pretty damned clever.

Now in its fourth year, **PISS Fest!** (as it is affectionately called) limits the running time of each film to 10 minutes or less, with a different lineup of films set for each showtime. Expect everything from glossy 35 mm productions to makeshift movies shot on Fisher-Price toy video cameras.

Queer content is hardly ubiquitous, but gays and lesbians do pop up in a couple of places. Matt Donaldson's *Hello?*, a film about loss and madness, features a lesbian couple. And Bo Mehrad's *Ping Pong Love* puts a gay couple front and center.

*Ping Pong Love* is a lighthearted, borderline insipid movie about a straight guy with a vicious case of writer's block. He's trying to pen a hetero romance, but two of his male neighbors continually interrupt him. One is a blabby dork who incessantly bounces a pingpong ball on a paddle, and the other is a nerdy, fastidious type. The pair fall in love on the spot, and they look to the writer for advice on how to carry on their courtship.

The script and acting are so clunky that, at times, it's almost embarrassing to watch the proceedings. That said, it's refreshing to see a movie in which a queer relationship is presented as a functional, everyday thing—not an aberration from some hetero norm.

Non-tomo highlights of **PISS Fest!** include



*Ping Pong Love* screens 7 p.m. Oct. 21 during the Portland International Short Short Film Festival.

*Local Motion*, a program of 20 films made in Oregon.

In addition, the Canadian film *A Curious Shower* is a meditation on the art of shower-taking. From Australia there's *Dentally Disturbed*, a comedy about the ramifications of the disappearance of dental floss. On a dramatic note, Danielle Lurie's Sundance entry *In the Morning* concerns a 13-year-old Turkish boy who avenges a brutal attack on his sister.

**PISS Fest!** screens 7 and 9:10 p.m. Oct. 21 and 22 at Hollywood Theatre, 4122 N.E. Sandy Blvd. Admission is \$6.

—Stephen Blair



### All that glitters

Arriving just in time for Portland's queer film fest, *The Best Gay & Lesbian Films: Glitter Awards 2005* (Blood Moon Productions, 2005; \$23.95 softcover) is a wonderful guide through the maze of films offered by independent filmmakers in the sexual minorities community. This is the official book of record for this year's Glitter Awards, aka "The Gay Oscars."

Often against powerful odds, independent filmmaking with gay and lesbian overtones is a flourishing subculture in the United States. This is a book about 37 of those films thought to be the best in their genre. Most of the films reviewed are strong in content, original in themes and defiant of society's expectations. As you read, it is easy to see how these gutsy filmmakers help change the audience's perceptions of gay life. Their films challenge people's views of the sexual minorities community as to what is "normal." In this vein, authors **Darin Porter, Danforth Prince and Theodora Chowfatt** have done a credible job in conveying some of the creative dilemmas faced by each of the filmmaking teams.

In addition to reviews, you get to feast your eyes on 300 photos that grace the pages. You will find reviews and interviews with stars, producers and directors, and you get to read what mainstream critics had to say about each film.

The text has an easy-to-read style, but the book could stand a bit more organization and clearly defined sections. It is a bit difficult to track some of the information presented. The photographs need more contrast to make them easier on the eye.

If you are planning on attending this year's **Portland Lesbian & Gay Film Festival** (continuing Oct. 22 and 23 at Hollywood Theatre), you will definitely want to look for the book, or you can order a copy online at [www.bloodmoonproductions.com](http://www.bloodmoonproductions.com).

—Suzanne Deakins

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