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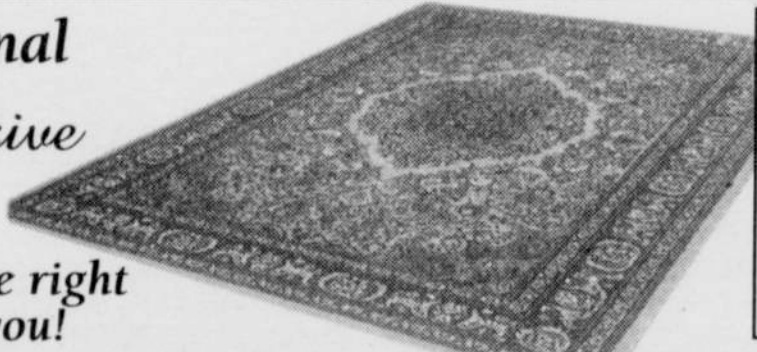


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Film Festival Quietly Shakes Nonprofit Status

Without fanfare or so much as an announcement to some sponsors, Sensory Perceptions, the nonprofit organization producing the Portland Lesbian & Gay Film Festival, dissolved.

The festival, which has been going strong for nine years in its current form, was actually a for-profit business in 2005 and will continue to operate as a business in the future.

"We didn't announce it officially," said Gabriel Mendoza, artistic director of the festival. "When we were soliciting for donations, we didn't promote ourselves as nonprofit in 2005."

According to Mendoza, the administrative tasks of operating as a nonprofit were so cumbersome that switching to a business status made more sense.

"We were stuck with this big nonprofit administrative thing that was taking up a lot of our time," he said. "It was more financially feasible for us to not have that organization and to let the festival provide for itself."

Mendoza also said he didn't feel the organization kept information from its sponsors. "Pretty much the people who invested any time or money in the festival knew of the change, but there was never an official announcement."

However, several of the festival's premier sponsors, including Bella Casa Realty, Tim Bias of Farmers Insurance Group and this newspaper, were not informed of the change.

"This is the first I've heard of it," said Bias.

According to Mendoza, the change does not affect the festival in a profound way. It actually allows for more autonomy and less paperwork and leaves more grants available to needier organizations.

"We're not saving lives. We're just showing movies," said Mendoza. "There are a lot more important organizations that could use the grants we were competing for."

Dale Schiff, owner of Haven Coffee, was a festival sponsor and says she has no problem with the decision.

"I will continue to support the festival no matter what. Whether it's a for-profit venture or a nonprofit, it doesn't make a difference to me," she said.

Bill Dickey of Witham & Dickey Printing also supported the decision and said he was aware of the change.

"I was informed, and it did not make a difference. I think it was a much-needed change," Dickey said. "Somebody needed to fund the thing, to take the risk."

Celia Lyon of Bella Casa Realty said she would also continue to support the festival but says she doesn't recall being told the festival was operating as a business.

"I don't think I was really ever told. I probably would have continued to sponsor it in the same way, but I think it might have been nice to know," Lyon said. "I might want to have more involvement so I know where my dollars are going."

For more information about the Portland Lesbian & Gay Film Festival, visit www.plgff.org.

Newsom Protested at Fund-Raiser

San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom was met with a mixed reception when he spoke at a fund-raising party for his re-election campaign Dec. 12 in Portland. The event was hosted and promoted by Basic Rights Oregon, City Commissioner Sam Adams and leaders of gay and lesbian business community.

Newsom and his supporters were greeted by a protest by local queer activists. Although the group recognized his actions on same-sex marriage, they challenged his policies toward low-income and homeless people. Pointing out that up to 40 percent of homeless youth are queer, many of whom rely on prostitution and other underground economy because of the cut to their general assistance check,

2005 Sucked

Willamette Week gave 2005 the royal flush with its eloquent "2005 Sucked" cover story Dec. 28 by letting readers answer the question: "What pissed you off in 2005?"

Notable responses included "domestic violence" from Oregon House Speaker Karen Minnis, who kept family values out of whack by blocking civil unions for gays and lesbians.

Multnomah County Chair Diane Linn kept the marriage issue alive by sharing some feedback she received in response to her vote to legalize same-sex marriage in 2004.

Linn, who is up for re-election this year, told *Willy Week*: "People like a woman who said, 'I can't believe you did what you did, and I'm going to pray for your soul, and I believe you're going to burn in hell.' It's the gentleman that grabbed me by the arm and said, 'Don't ever do that to us again.' And I said, 'Do what?' He said, 'Allow those people to be married.'"

Daniel Show Acceptance

A new television drama about an Episcopal priest and his untraditional family is drawing praise from gay rights organizations and protest from the religious right wing.

media watch

The Book of Daniel, created by Jack Kenny, who is openly gay, centers around a priest named Daniel Webster and his family, which includes a 23-year-old gay Republican son, a 16-year-old drug-dealing daughter and a 16-year-old adopted son who is having sex with the bishop's daughter.



Aidan Quinn plays an Episcopal minister in the family drama *The Book of Daniel*.

As reported by PlanetOut.com, the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation called the series a "witty and unconventional family drama" and applauded the show's gay character, played by Christian Campbell.

Conversely, the American Family Association is urging members to send letters of protest to NBC concerning the show's depiction of Christians.

"This is an offbeat, inclusive series—inclusive of people of faith and inclusive of gay and bisexual people," GLAAD spokesman Damon Romine told PlanetOut.com. "It doesn't surprise me that the AFA would be afraid of this series—it shows a family that's both deeply religious and loving and accepting of their gay son."

The show is scheduled to air Fridays beginning Jan. 6. 10