



Russ Gage and David Weissman say they can keep showing queer documentaries in Portland for years to come.

"Bringing the directors to Portland was a new challenge and totally well worth it," said Gage of Italian filmmakers Gustav Hofer and Luca Ragazzi and Australian filmmaker Poppy Stockell. "A goal that we'll have until we achieve it is 100 percent filmmaker representation. It enriches the experience by providing context, answering questions, providing further details about the film, making it completely different than watching it in your home."

The other organizer of QDoc, David Weissman, was surprised that more than half the audience at the festival's finale, *The Times of Harvey Milk*, were seeing the 1984 film for the first time. Calling it the "most famous queer documentary," he said: "This is why we're doing the festival. It's not available easily, and people forget it's important to know our history and how things have changed for gay people in the last 30 years. I'm delighted to show the films to people that haven't had a chance yet."

QDoc, under the umbrella of Q Center, will return to its free monthly film series in the fall. "What motivates Russ and I is there's an incredible body of documentaries that people have never seen," said Weissman. "Doing the series at Q Center allows us to show things we might not show at the festival but to continue the work of showing great queer documentaries."

Visit www.pdxqcenter.org for updates.

SMYRC Funding Stabilizes, Director Resigns

The Sexual Minority Youth Resource Center has found some stability since riding the financial roller coaster with its parent organization, Cascadia Behavioral Development.

SMYRC program director Jonathan Weedman announced June 7 that the queer youth organization has secured stable funding for five years through the Schools Uniting Neighborhoods county contract.

The money partially pays for general operating costs of the center, its counseling services and its Bridge 13 training program, according to Weedman. "It's amazing that the county was willing to award that to us, given all the instability with Cascadia," he said.

State and county entities are helping Cascadia through a shortfall of \$2 million that jeopardized services to the majority of Oregon's mental health care recipients.

Weedman also announced his resignation from SMYRC, which will take effect July 18. He says he landed his dream job, counseling elementary school students at Catlin Gable School. Weedman, a clinician, will help build social skills among kids with mental health issues. He said the role of "queer youth consultant" may also naturally fall on him. Catlin Gable, which has an active high school Gay Straight Alliance, hosts the annual Oregon Queer Youth Conference.

"A strength for me in applying was my experience with queer youth," said Weedman.

SMYRC has begun a national search for a new program manager.

"I'm ready to hand the reins over to someone who is fresh and ready to take on new challenges," said Weedman, who held the program manager position at SMYRC for eight years.

Continued on Page 11

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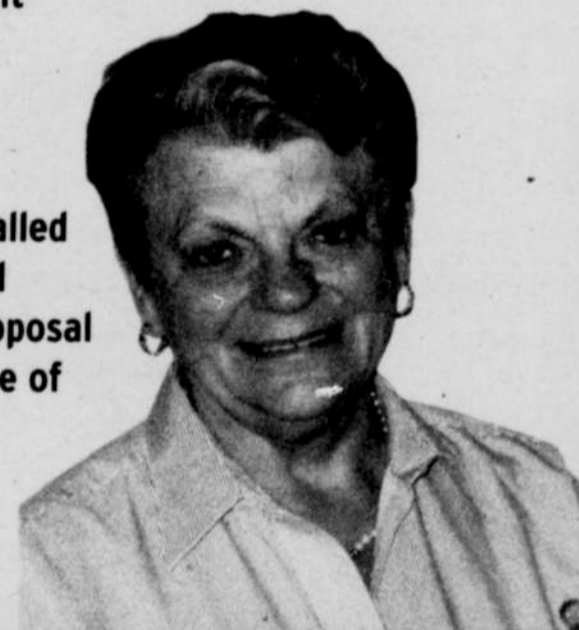
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