

JR: I remember Robin Williams joking in his Oscar acceptance speech, "Thank you, Gus Van Sant, for being so subtle you were almost subliminal." Does this approach frustrate some of your actors who prefer a little more definitive direction?

GVS: I can do that if that's what they want. I can talk to them. There's a way that you can go, that comes more from the stage, of really investigating and psychologically breaking down a character and doing warm-up exercises. I don't

know how to go into that style, but it's partly because that belongs to the stage. But you can certainly sit down and talk about a character for hours, and usually that happens at some point, and then it happens once. You don't keep doing it every day.

JR: Milk was a huge influence in fighting the Briggs Initiative, which would have banned openly gay public schoolteachers, and this year California battled Proposition 8. Were you interested in drawing parallels between today's struggles and those of 30 years ago?

GVS: It's a really interesting time to actually have the film appear because 10 years ago, it was still pretty close to the '70s. Now 30 years is a long enough gap.

But also some of the same issues are

still here and still prevalent and still being fought. When we started the movie, I don't think that Obama had declared that he was going to run as president. Harvey had a similar "hope" speech. Obama, as the first potentially black president, is a sign of hope himself, as was Harvey as our first gay politician in America. So yeah, the similarities are striking.

JR: Are you hoping that this overall message of optimism will appeal to people? Most movies about politics are turning people off today.

GVS: Yeah, that was always one of our fears: How do you tell a political story and not have it become, I guess, flat? How do you pull it off?

That was something that was in Lance's script—there was something about his script that was hard to pinpoint, because there was still a lot of politics in his dialogue, and yet you found yourself becoming really moved during the reading of the script. I still am not sure what exactly that is, but it exists in the movie as well. It's something that does pull you to the story, and



Milk screenwriter Lance Black joined Gus Van Sant for Basic Rights Oregon's annual dinner Oct. 11.



From left, Portland Mayor-elect Sam Adams, Hotel deLuxe owner Gordon Sondland, Gus Van Sant, Oregon Gov. Ted Kulongoski and Human Rights Campaign co-founder Terry Bean attend the world premiere of *Milk* Oct. 28 at San Francisco's Castro Theatre.

yet the characters are often speaking about stuff that could be very flat. Lance has always said he's telling the emotional stories through the politics. He did something really interesting that's sort of a magic trick, so hopefully that magic trick works.

Harvey was really dynamic and very funny, and so he kept the humor in his politics. His political speeches were always engaging, and especially his debates with Briggs were like a comedy act. **10**

Gus Van Sant hosts the red carpet debut of *Milk* featuring Portland Mayor-elect Sam Adams and March Fourth Marching Band 8:30 p.m. Nov. 14 at Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall, 1037 S.W. Broadway. Tickets are \$31.75-\$63.75 from the box office or Ticketmaster. Proceeds benefit Outside In. For more information visit www.outsidein.org.

JUSTIN REEVES BURKE

www.oregonrealty.com/justinreevesburke

OFFICE: 503-297-2523 CELL: 503-473-4794
FAX: 503-292-6070

Oregon realty co.

8552 SW APPLE WAY PORTLAND, OR 97225

everyone welcome!

people's FOOD CO-OP

open 7 days 8a-10p
(503) ORGANIC
5E 21st btwn Division/Powell

\$165⁰⁰

3 Massages Package (\$30 savings)
1 hour massages - Regularly priced \$195.00

We are one of Portland's
Finest Spa Services, offering
Massage • Acupuncture
Skin Care • Spa Services

Private treatment rooms with
jacuzzi and saunas at our
Downtown location!

For more great deals and coupons
on our services offered please visit
www.angelichealinghands.com

ANGELIC
Healing Hands, Inc.

3 LOCATIONS TO CONVENIENTLY SERVE YOU:

CEDAR MILL 1225 NW Murray Rd., Portland (503)644-6109	DOWNTOWN - PTLD CENTER PLAZA 2075 SW First Ave., Ste 1-C, Portland (503)226-1672	SUNSET ATHLETIC CLUB 13939 NW Cornell Rd., Portland (503)644-6109
---	--	---

Car Audio/Visual • Navigation • Security • Remote Start • Backup Camera • Cellular • iPod • Factory Integration • Blue Tooth

PDX's Car Audio Experts

MOBILE WEST
SINCE 1975

your local neighborhood experts
in car audio/video, GPS, security
and cellular needs since 1975

140 NE Broadway • 503-257-0488 • M-F 9 to 6, SAT 9 to 5

Car Audio/Visual • Navigation • Security • Remote Start • Backup Camera • Cellular • iPod • Factory Integration • Blue Tooth

Westside Florist

Our professionals
will arrange
your delivery

YOUR DOMESTIC PARTNER

(503) 642-9992
1-800-356-1884

Don Duncan
owner

Aloha Market Centre
20455 SW TV Highway
www.westsideflorist.net

YOUR "FAMILY"
CONNECTION IN
VANCOUVER

Alan Ford
REALTOR

(360) 931-2250
alanford@mac.com

Ask me about the
Home Buyers
Scouting Report

KELLER WILLIAMS