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Back to the Future

Celebrating 22 years

One of the highlights of the 2008 Portland Lesbian & Gay Film Festival was *Chris & Don: A Love Story*, the touching documentary about writer Christopher Isherwood and his 35-year relationship with the much younger artist Don Bachardy. Watching it made me reflect on my own 22-year relationship with writer Marc Acito, and not just because he, too, was much younger.

Our first date coincided with the Greenwich Village Halloween parade. Marc wore a long black woolen overcoat, and he wrapped it around me to keep us warm. With that warm feeling in mind, I asked other filmgoers where they were 22 years ago.

Film festival sponsor Celia Lyon and her partner, Barb Davidson, also met in 1986 when they were both landscape designers. "We were making out in the bushes as much as we could," Celia laughed, adding, "Let's go back to those days."

Barb Beck calls 1986 "the year of my escape." She escaped from her marriage, her family and her job by running away with a man and opening a travel agency in Atlanta. Diane Young also escaped that year. "I was living in St. Louis, married to a man and having the big revelation that it was time to move on." Since she's now Barb's partner, you can guess how that worked out.

Also due for a life change was Marty Katkanski, who "was newly sober, hadn't come out and struggling a lot." It would be another five years before she met her current girlfriend, Crystal Leighty. Meanwhile, Ron Pitt was in NYC working for a tour operator, which led him to New Zealand, where he met his future husband. Likewise, Erik Harebo had just left to teach English in Japan for five years. Closer to home, Molly King went to

**Out Going**

BY FLOYD SKLAVER

freshman at Benson High. Phil Schlaadt was also in high school "cheering madly at football games, hanging out with the quarterback" and, no doubt, lusting after him. Too bad he didn't know Brett Hulstrom, who was "student body president and homecoming king" in San Jacinto, Calif.

Dan Horowitz was "in the fourth grade in Mrs. Walsh's class," while Aaron Ridings was "the manager of the safety committee" at Sunnyside Elementary. Jon Batiste was 8 years old in New Orleans and "playing with the little boys next door." Steven Nash tried to convince me he "was just starting kindergarten." To which I said, "Baloney," although I used a much stronger word.

Jimmy Parchment was 6 years old and living in Canyon Lake, Calif. "I asked a lot of questions," he told me, "and still have a letter from my teacher which says: 'Keep asking questions. You'll go far.'" Jimmy also sang "Somewhere Out There" from *An American Tail* in the school talent show, although he refused to break into song in the lobby of Cinema 21.

Alan Leggett was going to elementary school in

Longview, Wash., where he played with dolls and pretended to run a Burger King "by selling Ritz crackers with cheese and calling them cheeseburgers."

Wayne Bund was 5 when he "French kissed my neighbor Jamie on the bus on the way to kindergarten." Jamie must have been the last girl Wayne kissed, however, as I saw him make



From left, Kendra Wenzel, Tim Bias, Floyd, Melissa Sanborn and Molly King attend the opening of Portland's queer film festival.

the World's Fair in Vancouver, British Columbia; Chris Healy was in San Francisco working at Macy's; and Melissa Sanborn was playing tennis in Salem.

Kendra Wenzel and Teresa Terry were both in college, while festival organizer Gabriel Mendoza was skipping high school to go to Powell's Books. He says, "I got a better education there" than at Woodburn High. Nick Calomiris was starting his freshman year of high school in Fresno, Calif., with Audra McDonald (*Private Practice*) and Sharon Leal (*Boston Public*), while Tony Hoy was a

guest appearance in *What Ever Happened to Fannie Mae?*, which was filmed at his house and opened for the fascinating and inspiring Sissyboy documentary.

Hearing all these stories brought me back to that chilly night when I slipped into the coat of someone I'd just met and who's kept me warm ever since. Happy anniversary, Marco. Thanks for teaching me to be Out Going. 10

FLOYD SKLAVER wants to know about your event. E-mail him at floydsklaver@comcast.net.