

DESPERADO²⁰¹⁵

6TH ANNUAL LGBT FILM FESTIVAL

**13
FILM
EVENTS**

**8 FEATURE FILMS
2 DOCUMENTARIES
11 SHORT FILMS
&
1 OLYMPIAN**

**GREG LOUGANIS
BACK ON
BOARD**

JANUARY 23-25, 2015



WELCOME

On behalf of Paradise Valley community College, it is our distinct pleasure to extend a warm welcome as we gather for the 6th Annual Desperado LGBT Film Festival. We thank you in advance for coming together to acknowledge the importance of this vibrant and universal roster of films exploring LGBT culture.

Festivals such as this are an important contribution to our diverse community and opens doors to motivate and inspire people to create, appreciate, participate, and grow through the arts and different cultures. We salute the talented artists, film makers, and performers who will showcase their talents through the arts.

Additionally we would like to thank our generous community sponsors and grant providers, the PVCC Administration and staff, our dedicated planning and film selection committee, our talented graphic designers and writers, and our amazing staff of volunteers. Without their tireless efforts, this festival would not be possible.

We wish you a very successful and memorable experience!



Alan East



Dale Heuser

TEAM 2015

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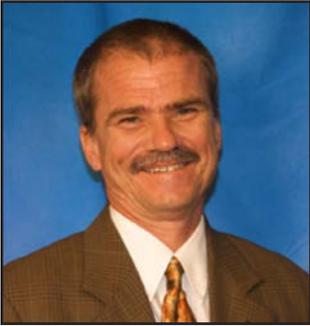
Saturday, August 29th, 2015 11am-5pm

Veterans Memorial State Fair Coliseum

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DESPERADO 2015



Paradise Valley Community College is pleased to serve as the host site for the Desperado LGBT Film Festival. The melding of the art of film with contemporary LGBT social issues serves as a wonderful platform for deeper social conversation and learning. Thank you for attending and enjoy our campus during your visit.

Cordially,

Dr. Paul A. Dale

PVCC President

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Greg Louganis
7:30 pm Friday
9pm Q&A with
Greg Louganis

Feature-length documentary about the greatest diver of all time.



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Limited Partnership
11 am Saturday

The love story between a binational couple, who, in 1975, became one of the first same-sex couples in the world to be legally married.

Cupcakes
12:50 pm Saturday

A group of best friends in Tel Aviv enter a singing competition as the official Israeli entry.



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Short Film Series
2:45 pm Saturday

A collection of informative, thought provoking, and entertaining short films.



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The Foxy Merkins
4:45 pm Saturday
6:30 pm Q&A with
Lisa Haas

Two lesbian hookers make their way through a world of bargain-hunting housewives and double-dealing conservative women in this subversive buddy comedy.



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Crazy Bitches
7:15 pm Saturday

A girls' weekend away turns into a nightmare when they discover that their rental house was the site of a mass murder 15 years ago.

Assisted Listening Devices are available **free of charge** before every performance from the box office.



TICKETS

www.desperadofilmfestival.com

General Admission	\$10 per film
MCCCD Employees	\$9 per film
Students & Seniors	\$8 per film
Saturday Pass	\$40
Sunday Pass	\$30

The Way He Looks 12:15 pm Sunday

Leonardo is a blind teenager searching for independence.

His everyday life, the relationship with his best friend, Giovana, and the way he sees the world change completely with the arrival of Gabriel.



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BFFS 2:10 pm Sunday

When two straight friends go into couples therapy, they're so convincing that even they start to question their relationship.

Boy Meets Girl 4 pm Sunday

A funny, tender, sex positive romantic comedy that explores what it means to be a real man or woman, and how important it is to live authentically.



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The 10 Year Plan 6pm Sunday 7:35 pm Q&A with JC Calciano

Displeased with their love lives, two friends make a pact to be together if neither finds love in ten years. Now two months shy of their deadline, both friends set off to do whatever it takes to avoid ending up as each other's last resort.



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AT A GLANCE

Friday, January 23, 2015

- 8:00 – 12:00 pm Diversity Leadership Alliance Workshop. This event will include a free Screening of *Back on Board: Greg Louganis* and an extended Q&A discussion with Greg Louganis. Preregistration is required at www.diversityleadershipalliance.net
- 6:00 – 7:30 pm Reception for All Access Pass Holders and Special Guests
- 7:30 - 9:00 pm *Back On Board: Greg Louganis*
- 9:00 pm Q&A with Greg Louganis

Saturday, January 24, 2015

- 11:00 – 12:40 pm *Limited Partnership*
Preceded with a screening of the short film *Tomorrow* – winner of the Desperado Student Short Film Contest
- 12:50 – 2:30 pm *Cupcakes*
- 2:45 – 4:30 pm Short Film Series
- 4:15 – 5:00 pm Food available for purchase from Kim Cummings Catering
- 4:45 – 6:30 pm *The Foxy Merkins*
Preceded with a screening of the short film *Trunk*
- 6:30 pm Q&A with Lisa Haas
- 7:15 – 9:00 pm Entertainment provided by DJ Tsunami
- 7:15 – 9:00 pm *Crazy Bitches*
- 9:00 pm Q&A with Jane Clark and the cast of *Crazy Bitches*

Sunday, January 25, 2015

- 12:15 – 1:35 pm *The Way He Looks*
- 2:10 – 3:45 pm *BFFs*
- 3:30 – 4:15 pm Food available for purchase from Kim Cummings Catering
- 4:00 - 5:40 pm *Boy Meets Girl*
- 5:30 – 6:15 pm Food available for purchase from Kim Cummings Catering
- 5:30 – 6:00 pm Entertainment provided by DJ Tsunami
- 6:00 – 7:35 pm *The 10 Year Plan*
Preceded with a screening of the short film *Heavenly Peace*
- 7:35 pm Q&A Session with JC Calciano
- 8:00 pm Post Festival Part at the Rainbow Cactus

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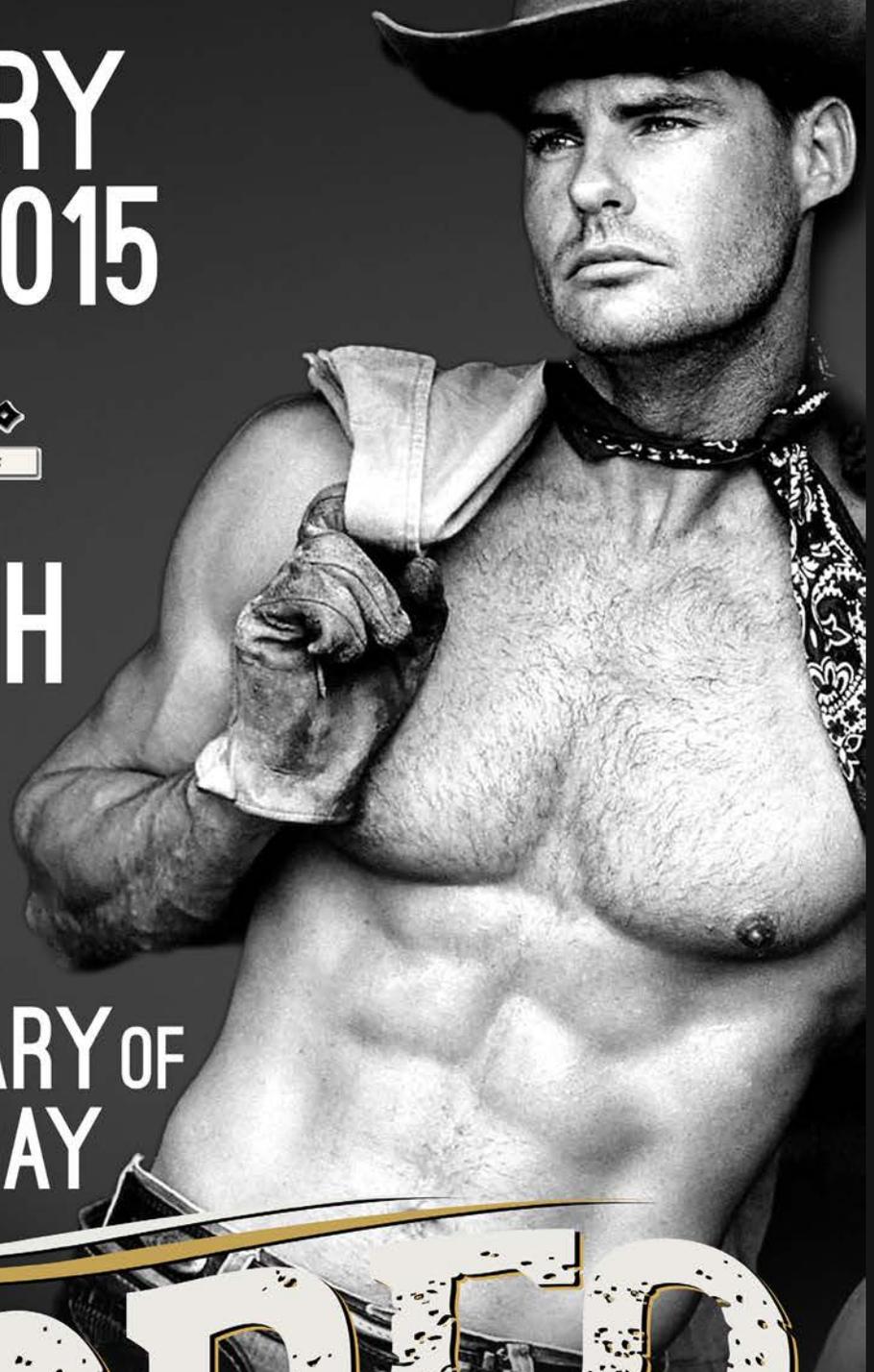
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BACK ON BOARD: GREG LOUGANIS

AN UNFILTERED, RICHLY TEXTURED, AND POIGNANT JOURNEY THROUGH LOUGANIS' LIFE THAT DEFTLY WEAVES INTERVIEWS, ARCHIVAL PHOTOGRAPHS, AND THRILLING FOOTAGE OF HIS BREATHTAKING DIVES



Greg Louganis was the most extraordinary Olympic diver of all time, a beloved American hero and a pioneer in breaking barriers. He came out as gay and having AIDS two decades ago—a time when openly gay athletes were rare and AIDS was still stigmatized and almost uniformly fatal disease.

Back on Board is a feature documentary that chronicles Louganis' rise from lonely, abused child to universally acclaimed superstar athlete, drawing on never-before-seen archival footage that reminds viewers of what made Louganis a singular figure in the history of Olympic sports.

The film portrait of an athlete who is forced to re-evaluate his life, his choices, his relationships and his career as he re-emerges on the world stage with legendary grace to combat prejudice, promote respect and to mentor a new generation of young athletes.

DETAILS

7:30 pm on Friday, January 22

followed by Q&A with Greg Louganis

Running time: 86 minutes

Directed by Cheryl Furjanic

Genre: Documentary

www.louganisdoc.com

THE MAKING OF *BACK ON BOARD*

After reading a newspaper article about Louganis' return to diving, filmmaker Will Sweeney knew that his story would make a great film. He thought of filmmaker Cheryl Furjanic, who is no stranger to making films about decorated Olympians. They reached out to Louganis in the spring of 2011 and they began shooting in May 2011.

The film combines interviews, observational footage, and culls archival footage to capture the beauty, glory and courage of Louganis's athletic performances to create an intimate and visceral account of a trailblazing life that parallels key moments in American history.

ABOUT GREG LOUGANIS

Four-time Olympic champion Greg Louganis is widely considered the greatest diver in history. The only man to sweep both the 3m and 10m diving events in consecutive Olympic Games

(1984 and 1988), he earned five Olympic medals, five World Championship titles and 47 national titles (more than anyone in U.S. history).

Louganis is a pioneer athlete as one of the first openly gay men in sports. He demonstrated courage and strength by competing while HIV positive in the 1988 Olympics. Often remembered for the shocking moment when he struck his head on the springboard, Louganis revealed his remarkable courage and tenacity when he returned to the board shortly after and performed the best dive of the competition. The next day, he

'BACK ON BOARD IS A FEATURE DOCUMENTARY THAT CHRONICLES LOUGANIS' RISE FROM LONELY, ABUSED CHILD TO UNIVERSALLY ACCLAIMED SUPERSTAR ATHLETE'



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won the gold and secured his legacy.

In 1984, Greg received the Amateur Athletic Union's James E. Sullivan Award for outstanding achievements. The following year, he was inducted into the U.S. Olympic Hall of Fame. In 1987, he won the Jesse Owens Award. In 1993, he was inducted into the International Swimming Hall of Fame. And in 1994, he was presented with the U.S. Olympic Committee's Robert J. Kane Award. His 1995 autobiography, *Breaking the Surface* spent five weeks as the New York Times No. 1 best seller.

Louganis is a mentor for the US Olympic diving team, a judge for the Red Bull Cliff Diving Tour, a dog agility expert, a motivational speaker and a human rights activist.

Will Sweeney Production

Back On Board has also screened at AFI Docs Film Festival (Washington D.C.), Frameline Film Festival (San Francisco) and OutFest Film Festival (Los Angeles).

Timeline

- 1960** Born and adopted by Pete and Frances Louganis.
- 1961** Started dancing and acrobatics.
- 1969** Started taking diving lessons.
- 1971** Placed second at National Junior Olympics at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs.
- 1974** At Montreal Olympics, won silver medal in Platform September.
- 1978** Won first place in Platform at World Championships in Berlin.
- 1984** At Olympics in Los Angeles, won gold medals in in Springboard and Platform.
- 1986** Won first place in Platform and Springboard at World Championships in Madrid.
- 1988** Tested positive for HIV in May. At the Seoul Olympics, won gold medals in Platform and Springboard after hitting his head on the board during a reverse two-and-a-half pike during preliminaries. Announced his retirement from diving. Named ABC's Wide World of Sports Athlete of the Year.
- 1993** Moved to New York City to appear on Broadway in Jeffrey.
- 1995** Autobiography *Breaking the Surface* published.
- 2012** Mentored Olympic hopefuls at USA Diving Training in Seattle.
- 2013** Married Johnny Chaillot in California.

DESPERADO FILM FESTIVAL



We put the power in your hands.

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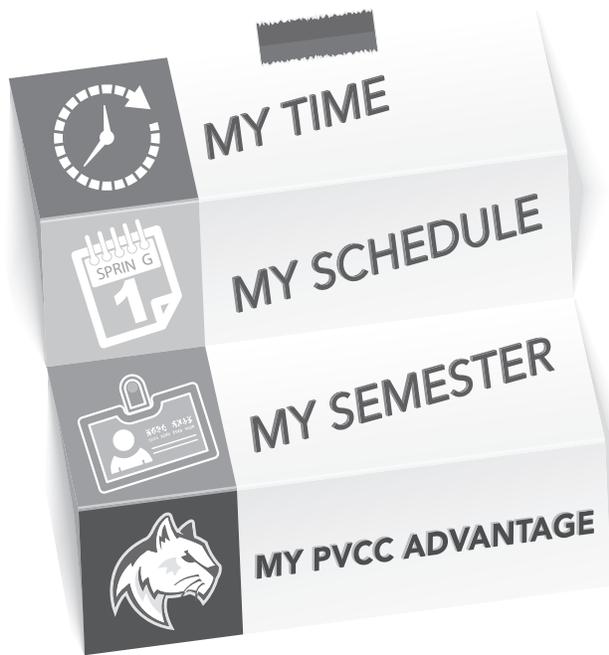
Turn in your voting sheet to any volunteer after the screening.

CREDIT: Will Sweeney Production

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Paradise Valley Community College is proud to host the 2015 Desperado Gay and Lesbian Film Festival.

everybody's
journey
is individual.
- James Baldwin

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LIMITED PARTNERSHIP

THIS TENACIOUS STORY OF LOVE, MARRIAGE AND IMMIGRATION EQUALITY IS AS PRECEDENT SETTING AS IT IS LITTLE KNOWN...UNTIL NOW

STATEMENT FROM DIRECTOR THOMAS MILLER

In 2001, I began working on *Limited Partnership* in Los Angeles with my Co-Producer and Cinematographer S. Leo Chiang. As gay citizens we felt we had to use our creative voice to fight for immigration and marriage equality. Leo had emigrated to the U.S. from Taiwan and we both had first-hand knowledge of the ways our government discriminated against same-sex couples at the border. Initially, we began following five binational same-sex couples, with Richard Adams and Tony Sullivan being one of the couples.

Richard and Tony had by far the most complex and controversial story. Their legal marriage in Boulder, CO in 1975, and subsequent ruling against them by Judge Anthony Kennedy (before he became a Supreme Court justice), forced them to leave the country in 1985. They slipped back into the US illegally in 1986, and have remained in hiding from the immigration service ever since. This limited their participation in the film as they could not be shot at public events and so my intent was to use their story in an historical context and as the spine of the film. They were aware of the risks to their anonymity and safety, but agreed to be in the film in this reduced capacity.

We shot several interviews and a few scenes with Richard and Tony, who had been together almost 30 years at that point. This included time spent with Richard's family as they celebrated Tony's 60th birthday in 2002. As a gay American, it was so heartwarming and life affirming for me to see such love and acceptance in a multi-



Preceded with a screening of the short film *Tomorrow* winner of the Desperado Student Short Film Contest



DETAILS

11 am on Saturday, January 24

Running time: 74 minutes

Director: Thomas G. Miller

Genre: Documentary

Awards: Audience Award Fresno Reel Pride Film Festival

www.limitedpartnershipmovie.com

Limited Partnership will be shown on June 15, 2015 –
PBS Independent Lens

cultural, religious, extended family covering three generations. It gave me hope for my future and furthered my resolve to make this film.

I was very moved by Tony and Richard's love and commitment to the cause, but I became depressed because the conservative Bush administration had taken over control of the country. Any chance for change in same-sex marriage and immigration laws had become non-existent. During this time period, Leo moved to San Francisco and I became an adjunct professor of film at USC. I also was unable to procure any outside funding for the film despite being a finalist on every grant I had applied for. So I put the movie away for several years in hopes of a brighter future, and worked as an editor, producer and director on other feature documentary films.

By early 2008, Massachusetts had legalized gay marriage and several foreign countries allowed gay binational couples to live together legally. The Bush Administration was nearing its end and California was about to legalize gay marriage. Encouraged by the changing political landscape, I began speaking with Producer Kirk Marcolina, who is in a binational relationship and legally married to an Australian man, about reviving the documentary. We contacted Richard and Tony who agreed to expand their role in the film. I have shot many scenes with Richard and Tony over the ensuing years as the American landscape regarding marriage equality and immigration policies changed. One of the most compelling moments was filming them watching the 2008 election when Obama was elected president and Prop 8 was passed. Exasperated by watching gay marriage rights in California being taken away, Richard and Tony vowed to become activists once again. A few

months later, after living underground for over twenty years, I witnessed them "coming out of the immigration closet" and risking deportation, while addressing a huge crowd at a marriage equality rally in downtown Los Angeles. They believed it was important to stand up for their rights and to



finally be recognized as a legal, married, same-sex couple in America. I was struck by how courageous the two of them were, willing to do anything for years on end, just for the right to be together. It was this energy and passion that kept inspiring us to continue making the film.

On a personal level I have grown in many ways. Making this film has given me more confidence in myself as a filmmaker and as a gay man. I

can see that a few individuals like Richard and Tony can create social change, even if it takes decades to accomplish, and I want to be one of those people. The journey is frustrating, depressing, exhilarating, expensive, exhausting and I couldn't be happier that I have gone through it with Richard and Tony and my crew.

I am extremely happy that *Limited Partnership* will celebrate Richard and Tony's long path towards justice and citizenship as they challenged the traditional definitions of "spouse" and "family." Everyone will witness that they won the battle, as the government was never able to separate them, no matter how hard they tried. It is my hope that their journey as pioneers in marriage and immigration equality will now become part of the national conversation that will finally lead to full marriage equality in every state in this country.

CUPCAKES

A DELIGHTFUL MUSICAL COMEDY ABOUT LOVE, LIFE AND LOYALTY

This charming film from Israeli director Eytan Fox (who also co-wrote the screenplay) relates how six friends in Tel Aviv go out of their comfort zones to audition for 'UniverSong.' Traditionally this diverse group of friends watch the vocal contest together and are horrified and embarrassed for their country when they see the cheesy finalist representing Israel. They swear they can do better although only one of them, Efrat is a professional singer. What starts out, as a joke soon becomes a reality when they find themselves chosen to represent Israel in the next finals.

The band of friends are fresh in the world of overly cliché pop music and their charm comes from the spontaneity of their original svng. When the corporate music machine steps in and tries to make them over the band fails miserably. They decide they cannot compete in the guise of something they are not and refuse the national support and financial backing.

When the musical group decides to perform their hit song their way and look else where for the support they also find the courage and strength to make much needed changes in their personal lives.

The music is catchy and upbeat while the film is colorful and lively. Interestingly each friend always wears the same color throughout the film.

DETAILS

12:50 pm on Saturday, January 24

Running time: 90 minutes

Director: Eytan Fox

Genre: Comedy

Written by: Eli Bijaoui, Eytan Fox

Cast: Dana Ivgy, Karen Berger, Yael Bar-Zohr, Efrat Dor, Anat Waxman, Ofer Shechter and Ofer Hayoun



As the film progresses you come to identify each of the six characters with their signature color.

Cupcakes gives you a peak into the fun side of life in Israel. It also amusingly depicts the hypocrisy existing in characters' lives. Their sponsors' son is in a relationship with the Ofer, the only male member of the group, but must maintain his image as a popular heterosexual sex symbol.

Laughs ensue when the singers arrive at the 'UniverSong' finals and come face to face with their international competing musicians. This film is an absolute delight from start to finish.

Sharlene Celeskey



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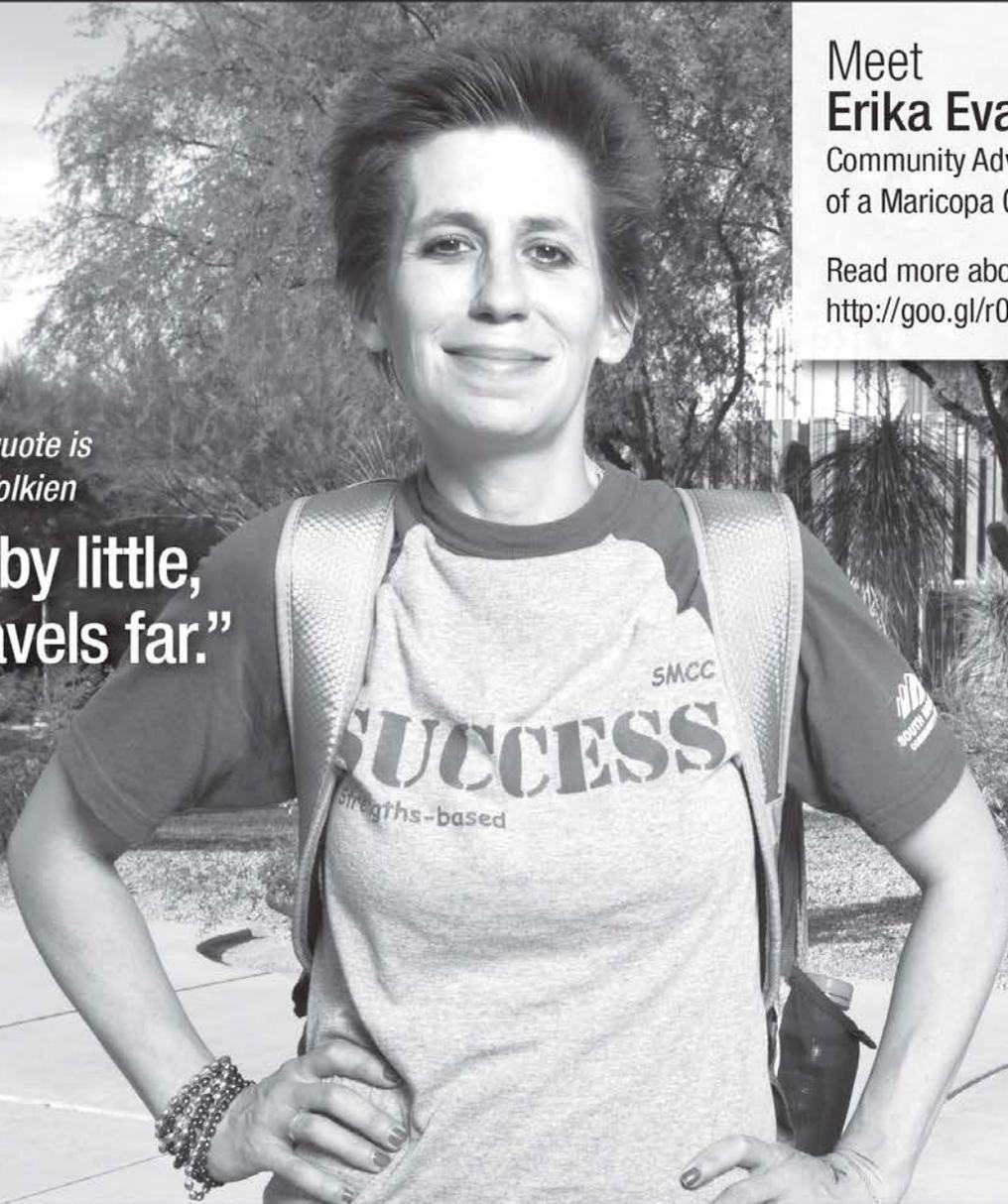
Meet
Erika Evans

Community Advocate and a student
of a Maricopa Community College

Read more about Erika at:
<http://goo.gl/r0czNo>

*My favorite quote is
from J.R.R. Tolkien*

**“Little by little,
one travels far.”**



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THE FOXY MERKINS

TWO LESBIAN HOOKERS WIND THEIR WAY THROUGH A WORLD OF BARGAIN-HUNTING HOUSEWIVES AND DOUBLE-DEALING CONSERVATIVE WOMEN IN THIS SUBVERSIVE BUDDY COMEDY, AN HOMAGE TO AND RIFF ON ICONIC MALE HUSTLER FILMS

By Hans Pedersen, Echo Magazine

The trio that brought you the black-and-white indie *Codependent Lesbian Space Alien Seeks Same* are at it again. This time, though, actresses Lisa Haas and Jackie Monahan have teamed up with director Madeleine Olnek to create *The Foxy Merkins*, “a female hustler movie.”

Echo Magazine caught up with the creative forces behind the film in Park City, Utah – during the 2014 Sundance Film Festival – to discuss their new project.

Echo: How was making *The Foxy Merkins* different from your last film?

Olnek: Well, Jackie and I didn’t let Lisa push us around the way she did last time, right?

Haas: I learned my lesson.

Olnek: Seriously, I wanted to make this female hustler movie. But we actually made this movie together from day one, so that was the big difference, whereas *Space Alien* existed as a



play that I’d done productions of independent of Jackie and Lisa.

Monahan: Wait, Lisa wasn’t in the play?

Olnek: She was in my plays, but she wasn’t in *Space Alien* [the play].

Monahan: Who played Lisa’s part?

Olnek: It was Florence Henderson, that’s how old the play was. [laughing]

Monahan: I was in the bald cap situation. That took a few hours each time ... I thought that was a pain in the ass. But, actually having to get up and put my own makeup on – that was even worse. [laughing]

Echo: Where did you get the idea for the “female hustler movie”? I know it was sort of an homage.

Olnek: Yes, years ago I wanted to make a film called *My Own Private Wisconsin* and, actually, we started that and then...that all got left behind in an early incarnation. I remember when Dustin Lance Black won the Academy Award and said the campfire scene [in *My Own Private Idaho*] gave him the courage to come out. I was also really moved by the movie, especially that scene. I thought about how that’s an iconic thing, and kind of a torch for a lot of gay men. And when you’re

Preceded with a screening of the short film *Trunk*



DETAILS

4:45 pm on Saturday, January 24

followed by Q&A with Lisa Haas

Running time: 81 minutes

Director: Madeleine Olnek

Cast: Lisa Haas and Jackie Monahan

Writers: Lisa Haas, Jackie Monahan and Madeleine Olnek

a woman, in the commercial world, the roles that women play aren't as adventurous – even though women in real life are that adventurous – we don't get to see those same roles. So, what happens when you go to those hustler movies?

You just project yourself into those male characters. Our friend was complaining about how angry she was when she came out and found out there were no prostitutes for lesbians. That was really funny to me, so I just imagined what this world would look like.

Echo: Can you both talk a little bit about your acting backgrounds?

Haas: I studied theatre in school, and studied acting and directing. But I was also interested in writing...I've been in improv group, but a lot of times you have to try out your own material...so I've always found I have to do it myself. I've been in a lot of Madeliene's plays in New York City.

Monahan: Yeah I do standup comedy as well, and improv, stuff like that. I've taken acting classes.

Echo: So, who's gay here and who's not? Is anyone out?

Olnek: Jackie's the only one who's gay. No, we're all gay. [laughter all around]

Monahan: I prefer to be called queer. I don't like labels.

Haas: I prefer [over-pronouncing] HOMO-sexual.

Olnek: The labels I prefer are "talented" and "beautiful." No, we're all out, and we've all paid a price. We can say very honestly in "The Judges' Room".

Monahan: I like to call myself Jackie-sexual.

Olnek: Jackie's out in her comedy, Lisa's out in her thing. And I've been called "gay Madeleine."

Monahan: They call her "the lesbian Woody Allen." That's not cool; they don't call him "the straight Woody Allen."

Olnk: It's totally cool.

Echo: What do you think about the state of LGBT cinema? Are we boxed in or is there freedom to do what you want?

Monahan: I'd say there's freedom to do what you want. I feel like it's different for every generation,

but the younger generation is like "who cares, everybody's just equal."

Olnek: I feel when people feel depressed about the state of LGBT film it has to do with what's only going on in commercial and big-budget film. And it's like, no, in independent film, there's all these different things going on. The bottom line is, things are only going to keep getting more interesting because as the world allows more freedom of expression, more interesting things are going to come out.

Echo: Can you talk about the collaborative writing process?

Olnek: I do this practice of automatic writing, which follows these certain rules. You read about it in Natalie Goldberg's books. You have to keep your hand moving as quickly as possible, you can't cross out, you can't rewrite anything. The surrealists pioneered it in the '30s in Europe. So, I've done it for years. I taught them and drilled them with the rules.

Monahan: And she didn't tell me right away, so after we did the first thing, she was like, then you have to read it to each other! It's stream of consciousness, you had to write for 10 minutes straight and then read it to one another. That was hard. [nervous laughter all around]

Haas: But the rules help a group of people do something together, I think.

Olnek: So as we write and we do rounds of writing, ideas emerge. And then we feed them back into the writing, and that's how we get into more layers.

Echo: Was there stuff you decided to leave out?

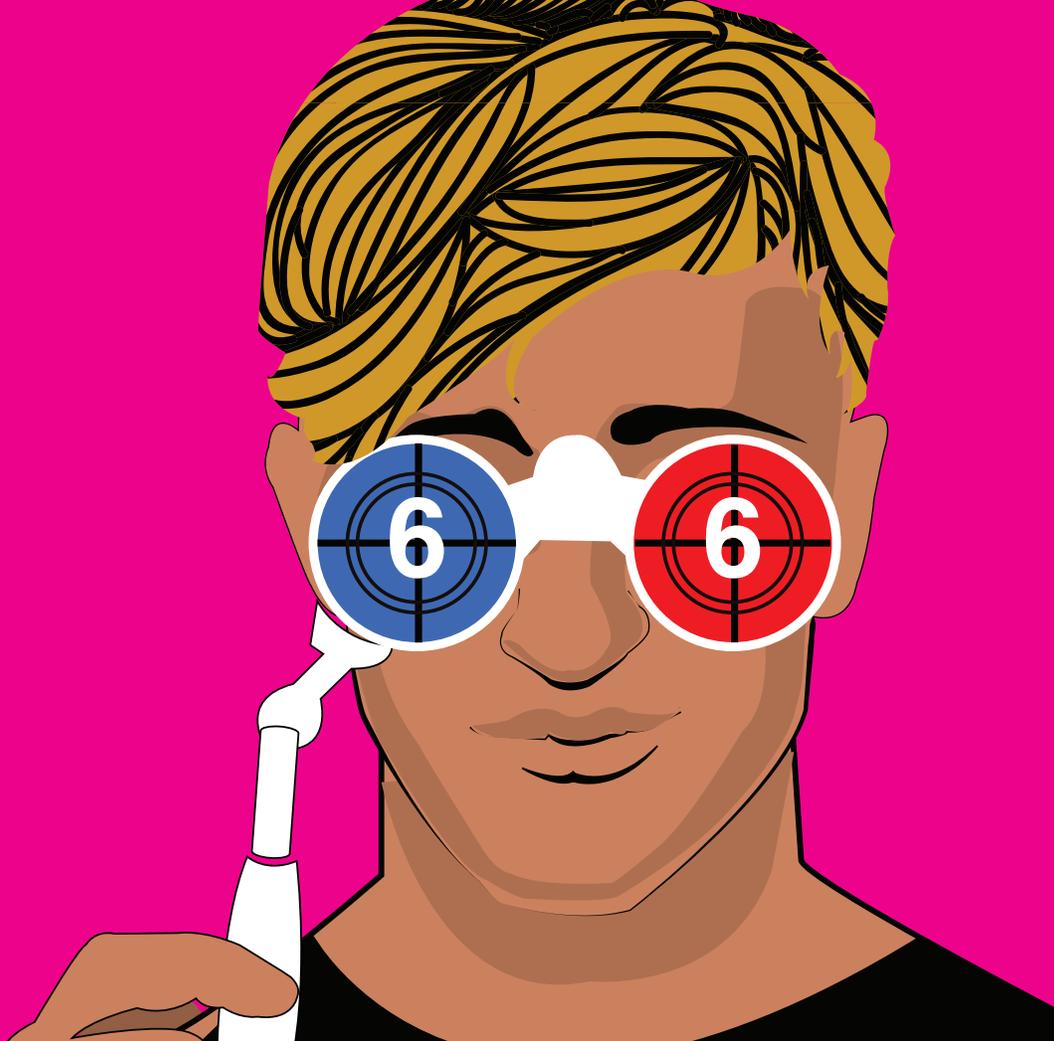
Olnek: We shot many scenes for this movie and a great deal of consideration went into the construction of the experience, not just what scenes were in the movie, but where they were placed and how that contributed to your journey.

Echo: What was it like seeing the movie in front of audience?

Haas: It was great!

Monahan: I just about had a heart attack.

This article appears in the current edition of Echo Magazine.
www.echomag.com



SHORT FILM SERIES

The Desperado Film Selection Committee viewed scores of movies that were considered for this year's event. It's a big investment of time. But some of the best movies we saw were just a few minutes long – the shorts.

The eight movies in the short film program and others screened before some features are proof that creative, compelling, entertaining stories can be told in a compact format. Think of the program of short movies as a festival

within a festival. Together, the films are quick takes on the LGBTQ experience.

Organizing the short films is a lot like programming the festival's feature and documentary films. There has to be a mix of films that appeal to all segments of the community – men, women, bisexuals, transgender and questioning individuals. There are comedies and drama, movies that appeal to younger and older filmgoers. We've even got some animated films in the mix.

And perhaps the best thing about a short film program is that if you don't like one movie, well, another film starts in just a few minutes. But we're betting the short films will leave you wanting more.

DETAILS

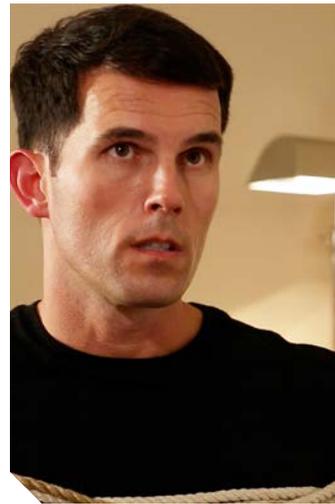
2:45 pm on Saturday, January 24

Running time: 90 minutes



PHALLOMETER

The phallogometric tests were used in the Czech Republic until recently in order to verify the homosexuality of asylum seekers, who reported homosexuality-based persecution in their home country as grounds for asylum. This short film tells the story of a young guy whose sexuality will be tested through this method in a satirical way.



SAFE WORD

A young gay couple engages in a role-playing fantasy in order to spice up their relationship. Greg, the expert, seeks pleasure as a terrified sailor who is bound to a chair when pirates hijack his boat. Billy, the novice, must overcome his squeamishness to become a vicious buccaneer and extort Greg for the location of hidden treasure. When a surprise guest changes the stakes, the fantasy turns into a twisted endgame with shocking results.



FIRST CLUE

What was your first clue you were a lesbian? The answers are playful and poignant prequels to our "when did you know?" and "coming out" stories. Charming and upbeat, First Clue reveals our earliest intuitions that we knew and delighted in who we were until we were taught otherwise.



ALONE WITH PEOPLE

Inspired by Quinn Marcus's (of MTV's *Girl Code*, mtvU's *Quinnterviews*) one-woman show *Chasing Ballerinas*, *Alone with People* follows Andie, a high school girl growing up gay in Georgia. Too afraid to confide in anyone close to her, Andie seeks the help of a therapist to come out to her family and friends in this hilarious and touching coming-of-age-coming-of-gay tale.



BENDIK AND THE MONSTER

Bendik & the Monster is the story of a monster, who dreams of being a cabaret singer. Bendik helps the Monster follow its dreams, while the Monster helps Bendik with his relationship to his mom and her boyfriend. It is a story of finding yourself and challenge others preconceived expectations of your identity.



A LAST FAREWELL

A Last Farewell is both a calm and an upsetting portrait of an aging author's sorrow over the death of his long-term partner. Haunted by visions of his late husband, and in conflict with his daughter who is trying to renew the ties between them, he must tackle the impossible task of moving on and finding peace in the wake of a devastating loss.



BETWEEN US

Arts teacher Ariel is hired by the Handley family for painting lessons with their children. At what seems to be a friendly relationship at first, soon turns into lustful desire between Ariel and the wife, Tara. During a passionate encounter between the two women, Tara's husband and the kids unexpectedly return from a canceled swimming session. As the women are caught off-guard, Tara forces Ariel to hide in her closet. Ultimately, Ariel has to decide between Tara's deceit of false promises or if there is truth behind her love?



COFFEE TALK

A fictional gay series about college friends confronting hot-button issues over a cup of coffee. When emotions emerge and personal secrets are revealed, the conversation quickly goes in an unexpected direction, ending in a funny gag.

CRAZY BITCHES

A GROUP OF SORORITY GIRLS ESCAPE TO A REMOTE RANCH FOR A BIRTHDAY WEEKEND FOR SEVERAL DAYS OF GOSSIP, GIRL-TIME AND GRUB

THE MAKING OF *CRAZY BITCHES*

"I play the pretty one," says Samantha Colburn of her role as Taylor in the horror comedy sex romp *Crazy Bitches*. "Umm, no, actually I'm the pretty one," counters her co-star, Mary Jane Wells (Princess), "the smart one, but also the prettiest."

"Well, I play the little sister and she is younger than the other girls," adds Liz McGeever (Minnie), before offering a grin. "And prettier."

So it went during 15 long, hot summer days of shooting *Crazy Bitches*. One "bitch" would say one thing. Another would refute it, and so on. And each would tell you she meant everything she said ... with nothing but love in her heart.

That sentiment – tongue-in-cheek, of course – was exactly what writer-director Jane Clark wanted from her ensemble cast of seven crazy bitches and one fab gay friend. Clark sought a group of women who could coddle one another with just the right amount of cattiness thrown in.

After coming off *Meth Head*, which earned more than a dozen awards at festivals in 2013, Clark wanted a change of direction and horror seemed to be the perfect genre for a comedic tale of vanity run amok.

DETAILS

7:15 pm on Saturday, January 24

Running time: 100 minutes

Written and directed by Jane Clark

Genre: Horror, comedy

Cast: Samantha Colburn, Candis Cayne, Cathy DeBuono, Andy Gala, Liz McGeever, Victoria Profeta, Guinevere Turner, Nayo Wallace, Mary Jane Wells

www.thecrazybitchesmovie.com



On the surface, *Crazy Bitches* may seem to be all blood and guts, but underneath are real characters dealing with fears, failures and bullying. These women wear their vanities on their sleeves and flaunt it in their friends' faces, but the women's own insecurities make them all too human. "I wrote funny because that's who I am, and the horror was just, well, you know, you got to kill the bitches off!" says Clark.

With a script in hand and production funds raised via family, friends, credit cards and crowd-sourced donations from the "Crazy Bitch Nation," pre-production began in May 2013. Principal photography took place on Great Spirits Ranch in late June and early July. The ranch, which also serves as an animal sanctuary, is situated high in the Santa Monica Mountains near Malibu.

WHO'S WHO IN *CRAZY BITCHES*

Alice (Victoria Profeta) is the housewife who gave up her career to raise a child but now finds her husband cheating with her sister.

Belinda (Guinevere Turner), Alice's sister, is a

hard-luck actress with delusions of stardom.

Minnie (Liz McGeever), Alice and Belinda's youngest sister, is an animal-loving vegan with the keen, if sometimes fuzzy, ability to see into the future.

Cassie (Cathy DeBuono, pictured right) is a former volleyball star with her eyes on one or more of the girls she once chased back in college.

Princess (Mary Jane Wells) – the brainy one – is Cassie's best friend.



BJ (Andy Gala) is the gay boy in the all-girl group. He produces his own news website that focuses on unsolved murders. Dorri (Nayo Wallace) is Alice's best friend, but she won't last long. If the killer doesn't get her first, cancer is about to do her in.

And what would a horror movie be without some sex thrown in? For that, there's boozy, man-stealing Vivianna (Candis Cayne), sex-crazed ranch hand Gareth (Blake Berris), philandering husband Eddie (David Fumero) and beautiful, sexy Taylor (Samantha Colburn).

WHAT THE CRITICS SAY

With such a dynamic cast of LGBT favorites, Jane Clark's Crazy Bitches gets an A — packed with moments that will make you giggle, cringe, and maybe even jump out of your seat for a second. Make no mistake: Bitches be crazy. After Ellen

AWARDS

Best Ensemble Cast, QCinema, Fort Worth, Texas

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THE WAY HE LOOKS

LEONARDO'S EVERYDAY LIFE, THE RELATIONSHIP WITH HIS BEST FRIEND, GIOVANA, AND THE WAY HE SEES THE WORLD CHANGE COMPLETELY WITH THE ARRIVAL OF A NEW BOY AT SCHOOL

This beautifully shot film is based on the 2010 short film *I Don't Want to Go Back Alone*. The actors of this 17 minutes short: Guilherme Lobo, Tess Amorim, Fabio Audi reprise their roles as three school friends in *The Way He Looks*.

The film tackles the subject of a blind 15 year old who wants to exert his independence while his parents and best female friend try to shelter him. While his classmates talk about boy friends and girlfriends he longs for his first kiss.

Daniel Ribeiro both directed this quietly moving film and wrote the brilliant screenplay. Immediately he draws you into the story as you watch blind teenager Leonardo (Guilherme Lobo) deal with both verbal and physical bullying by a group of male classmates. You totally understand why his best friend Giovana (Tess Amorim) takes on the role as his protector. As

you watch how Leonardo yearns for independence and want him to grow you also understand why his parents feel the need to protect him.

Ribeiro crafts the film in a way that you become emotionally involved in the youth's life. Although the story is Leonardo's, Ribeiro shows you other characters' point of view and further involves you in this coming of age drama.

When a new handsome student Gabriel (Fabio Audi) appears in the classroom Giovanni

immediately develops a crush on him. The drama later intensifies when the teacher asks the students to pair up with a same sex classmate for a class project and Gabriel asks Leonardo to be his study partner.

A new world opens up for Leonardo as Gabriel

turns the classical music lover on to contemporary music. He begins to exert his independence as he bonds his new male friend. One of the most sensual scenes in the film shows Leonardo lying in bed hugging and breathing in the scent of the sweatshirt Gabriel left at his house. The friendship then becomes a love triangle between the three friends.

The Way He Looks is a perfect movie. Ribeiro has created a film that tells a heartwarming story of a likeable protagonist struggling with everyday life that should appeal to all types of audiences. *Sharlene Celeskey*



DETAILS

12:15 pm on Sunday, January 25

Running time: 96 minutes

Director and Writer: Daniel Ribeiro

Genre: Drama

Cast: Guilherme Lobo, Tess Amorim, Fabio Audi, Lucia Romano, Eucir de Souza



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BFFs

AFTER AN INTENSE WEEKEND IN COUPLES THERAPY, TWO BEST FRIENDS DISCOVER THE LINES BETWEEN REALITY AND FICTION BEGIN TO BLUR

DETAILS

2:10 pm on Sunday, January 25

Running time: 96 minutes

Genre: Lesbian, questioning

Director: Andrew Putschoegl

Writers: Andrea Grano and Tara Karsian

Cast: Tara Karsian and Andrea Grano

www.bffsthemovie.com

This is the story of how best friends Tara Karsian and Andrea Grano went about creating a movie about two best friends who start to question if their relationship is something more.

"The idea for *BFFs* came directly from our relationship as friends," said writer and co-star Karsian, who plays Kat in the film.

"Andrea and I banter back and forth a lot like a couple and this often ends in Andrea telling me that we need to go to couples therapy," Karsian said. "We know couples who have gone to whacky and humiliating therapy weekends only to go right back to the way they were beforehand, so we aren't convinced they work."

"We were talking about one of those weekends," said writer and co-star Grano, who plays Samantha. "I joked with Tara and suggested

we sign up for one just to have some great stories to tell. Tara thought I would get so caught up in it all that I'd end up believing everything they preached.

"We went back and forth joking and plotting out how the scenario would unfold if we went pretending to be a couple," Grano said. "Then we thought 'What if we started believing we were actually in

love with each other?' That's when it dawned on us. This was a great idea for a script!"

The women set out to write *BFFs* as a short film. But once they got going, they realized the story needed to be a full feature. In three months, the script was ready to send out to a few trusted friends in the business.

The response was positive and they started to think about who we could sell the script to.

But the more they thought about it, the more they realized they had just created the perfect vehicle for themselves as actors. They had basically written their friendship (with a twist) on the page.

The two were naïve enough in the producing world to believe that if they just decided to do it, it would happen – an "if you build it they will come" approach. So pre-production began and they found themselves simultaneously raising money, finding a director, putting together a crew and finding locations. The entire process took them about five months.

Four "angel investors" invested the majority of the budget, and the rest came from crowd-funding.

Filming lasted 15 days, and when it was done the women said they were surprised and relieved with the first cut of a movie they had written, produced and acted in.

They were also happy that their friendship showed up on screen and survived the process.

ABOUT THE STARS

Tara Karsian has had roles in the films *Sassy Pants*, *Terri*, *Number 23*, *Envy*, *Ready? O.K.*, *Single White Female* and the award-winning short film *Hello Caller*. She has guest starred on more 40

television shows. For the last four years of *E.R.*, she played the hospital's social worker, Liz Dade. In 2014, she was seen on the Comedy Central show *Review* starring Andy Daly.

"THE IDEA FOR BFFS CAME DIRECTLY FROM OUR RELATIONSHIP AS FRIENDS"
-TARA KARSIAN

Andrea Grano most recently worked opposite David Strathairn in the independent feature *No God, No Master*. Other film credits include *Scottville*,

Homecoming, *Outside Sales*, *Primo*, *Knuckle Sandwich* and Tim Burton's *Planet of the Apes*. Her television credits include guest starring roles on *Intelligence*, *Castle*, *Brothers and Sisters*, *Law and Order: LA*, *October Road*, *InJustice* and *The District*, as well as recurring roles on Fox's *24*, *The Young and the Restless* and David Kelly's *Girl's Club*.

WHAT THE CRITICS SAY

In their observant writing and appealing performances, Karsian and Grano tap into something believable. Their characters bicker, joke and finish each other's thoughts like any well-tuned partnership, trading insights, barbs and pointed looks — and indulging in a pitch-perfect game of "Who Would You Rather?" — with the natural rhythms of people who are smart, funny and in sync.

The Hollywood Reporter

Like every great friendship movie it has an amazing road trip montage, meaningful looks, and sarcastic banter. It is guaranteed to make you laugh and possibly cry as they face about a possible relationship. BFFs is an honest view of female friendship and the risks involved in taking it further.

Bust Magazine

BFFs had its world premiere last year at the Santa Barbara International Film Festival.

It's also screened at Outfest LGBT Film Festival (Los Angeles), Newport, California International Film Festival, Vail, Colorado International Film Festival, Palm Beach, Florida International Film Festival, Omaha, Nebraska Film Festival, Miami Gay & Lesbian International Film Festival.

BOY MEETS GIRL

A POIGNANT, SEXY, ROMANTIC COMING-OF-AGE COMEDY ABOUT THREE 20-YEAR-OLDS LIVING IN KENTUCKY

By Ken Williams, San Diego Gay and Lesbian News

Boy Meets Girl is an original and unique story that blurs all gender and sexual orientation lines.

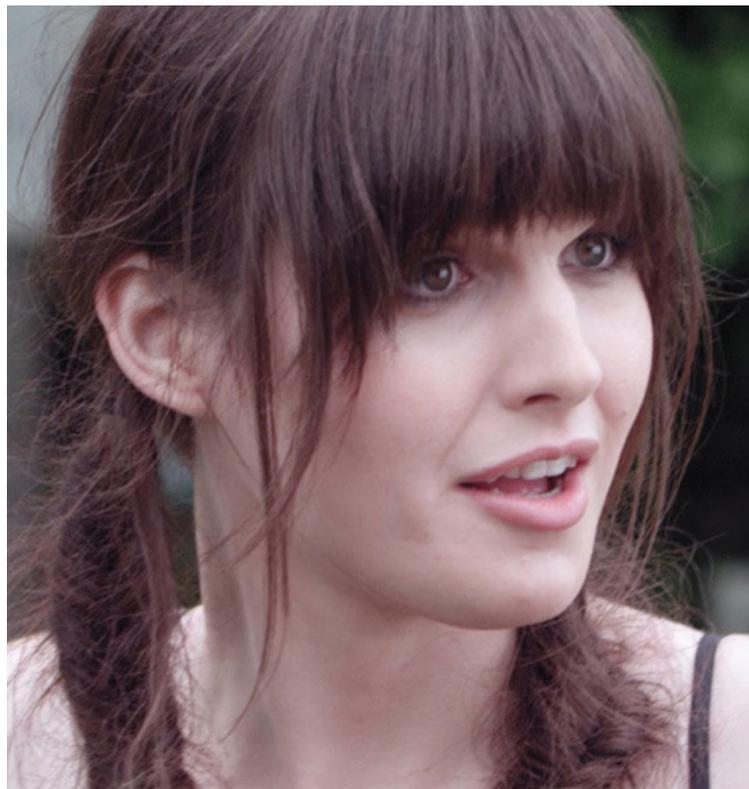
Michelle Hendley makes her film debut, playing Ricky, a 20-year-old transgender woman from a conservative town in Kentucky who yearns to become a fashion designer in New York. Michael Welch (Mike Newton role in "The Twilight Saga" film series) portrays Ricky's lifelong friend, Robby. Alexandra Turshen and Michael Galante are cast as Francesca and David, a debutante and her Marine fiancé who enter their lives.

Writer-director Eric Schaeffer ("If Lucy Fell," "Fall" and "Mind The Gap") spoke with SDGLN about his new film.

Q: Why did you choose to write, produce and direct a love story involving a transgender heroine? Did you wade into a pool of trouble, being a straight filmmaker tackling such a sensitive topic that often is not handled well in movies?

Eric: Like all of my films, I like stories that unite us, regardless of our race, gender, sexual orientation, age, nationality, spiritual beliefs and anything else that the ego can use to create the illusion of separation. I truly believe if we are to survive, we must become closer, not more fractured.

I felt this story, involving a transgender woman,



told in the way I told it, hopefully makes all people identify more with the similarities of her challenges, hopes, feelings, life victories and struggles, than the differences. Based on the storyline, going in, people might not expect to identify but when they realize it indeed is the truth after watching the film, hopefully it may allow them the deeper experience of openness in the future with less judgment of both themselves and the people around them.

The true meaning of labels such as "straight," "gay," and "queer" are part of what I explore in the film. Personally I would not be considered "straight" by the vast majority, a majority who, if they admit to themselves or others their inner fantasy life, desires and actual practices would probably not be considered "straight" either. My work is opening that conversation and hopefully widening the borders of those definitions. Self-hatred, shame and lack of self-acceptance is at the core of our world's cancer and hate, as it fuels

DETAILS

4 pm on Sunday, January 25

Running time: 95 minutes

Director and Writer: Eric Schaeffer

Genre: Romantic, Trans, Women

Cast: Michael Welch, Michelle Hendley and Michael Galante,

www.boymeetsgirlmovie.com

hatred of others by those who misguidedly can't stand the truth about themselves. We have to reverse that.

So no, as with all of my work, being a human being, having experience with humanity, I am as uniquely qualified to tell stories about the human condition as anyone regardless of who I sleep with, what God I do or do not believe in, and what sex I am. The outer shell of experiential existence, gender, sexual orientation, class, these things are cosmetic. The feelings we share are the same and therefore whether I feel hurt because someone doesn't like me because I'm white or fat or old or stupid or not funny or queer is the same hurt someone else feels because someone doesn't like them because they are black or gay or too thin or too smart. You can't compare pain. Pain is pain. It tastes the same everywhere to everyone. And so too does love. I have felt profound pain and I have felt vast love, so I can write about both with immense experience regardless of the outer shell of the characters in my stories. Obviously there are nuances of experience that are not universally the same but I submit they are not as different and abundant as people like to believe.

Q: How refreshing that you cast a transgender actress to play a transgender woman! Is it true that you found Michelle Hendley via Skype? Why was she perfect for the role of Ricky?

Eric: It was very important to me to cast a transgender actress to play Ricky, a transgender character. I wanted less acting and more real life experience brought to the film and obviously a transgender actress could achieve that. I also wanted to help audiences feel more integrated with the story and less distracted by the actor or actress playing the part. I felt that was most achievable by casting a transgender actress. I also wanted to make sure every moment of this story rang true and was never false. Doing a lot of research in the transgender community taught me a tremendous amount and taught me there are many differing viewpoints within that community about certain issues. Having a transgender actress play the part made me feel confident that while the story could not reflect every transgender woman's experience, at least I would not be making up an experience from my imagination that was not

vetted by a transgender woman so I could make sure it was at least germane and authentic to her experience and therefore valid.

Having few choices of transgender actresses in the usual casting avenues, I had to get creative in finding a transgender actress to play Ricky, so I investigated on the Internet and YouTube and that's where I found Michelle, who had a YouTube channel. While she was not an "actress" at the time I saw her videos, I could tell that with hard work she could become one if she was interested and willing to work with me. She was, and she did! She is fantastic in every way.

She naturally had the personality that embodied Ricky, that I could see from her videos: Strength, intelligence, kindness, humor, edginess, sexiness, honesty and emotional depth. So it was just a matter of teaching her the logistics of film acting, which she worked very hard at and conquered quickly.

Q: There is a terrific scene in the movie when Robby and Ricky get angry with each other, and Robby says some very hurtful things to Ricky concerning her sexual identify. The raw emotions of that scene are incredibly powerful and moving. Can you share more about how that scene came about?

Eric: Thank you for the compliment. I hope a feature of my work (this movie exemplifying it in many ways) is sort of unconsciously tricking audiences into having more identification with the stories I tell then they ever would think they could have if told going in what the story was about, how the characters would behave and what they would say. The way I do that is by being faithful to a very conventional story structure and with humor. They are lulled into a sense of security both by laughing, which is always an indication of identification, and by a method of a story unfolding which is familiar to them. And once I have them, then I can take them anywhere, much further without them feeling they are straying as far from the norm as they might were the filmmaking more experimental in its technique. Suddenly they realize things about themselves they might never have been open to had they been wary of the circumstances before they entered the story or pulled out of the story by the filmmaking pointing at itself in an "artsy" or unconventional way.

Read the complete article at www.sdgl.com



THE 10 YEAR PLAN

TWO BEST FRIENDS AGREE TO GET MARRIED IF BOTH ARE SINGLE IN 10 YEARS, BUT AS THE DEADLINE APPROACHES, THEY WILL DO ANYTHING TO AVOID BECOMING EACH OTHER'S LAST RESORT

Preceded with a screening of
the short film *Heavenly Peace*



DETAILS

6 pm on Sunday, January 25
followed by Q&A with JC Calciano

Running time: 90

Director: JC Calcino

Cast: Jack Turner, Michael Hamilton, Teri Reeves and
Moronai Kanekoa

www.10yearplan.com

Q&A WITH DIRECTOR JC CALCIANO

Q: Where did the inspiration for the film come from?

A: *The 10 Year Plan* is actually inspired by two of my best friends. They made a 10 year plan just like Brody and Myles do in the film. Ten years later, they both panicked because they weren't interested in each other romantically and didn't want to hurt each other's feelings. It seemed like a great jumping off point for a movie. The difference is now the real-life inspiration for Brody is in a committed relationship; unfortunately the real Myles is still looking.

Q: What are the central themes of *The 10 Year Plan*?

A: All my films explore themes of love and relationships. I always found it intriguing to explore the line where friendship turns into love. Your lover is you your best friend, but why isn't your best friend your lover? That's what *The 10 Year Plan* is about.

Q: You've had big hits with *Is It Just Me?* and *eCupid*. How does *The 10 Year Plan* fit alongside those movies?

A: *The 10 Year Plan* is the third in that series of romantic comedies. I plan on packaging the three films together as a box set. I hope to have fun cameo appearances from cast members of *Is It Just Me?* and *eCupid* and tie all three story worlds together.

Q: Good quality films for gay audiences can be hard to come by. Being one of the leading quality LGBT filmmakers in the industry, what's the secret your success.

A: I make the movies that I want to see. I love funny and sweet date movies about two people falling in love. Even though my films are gay-themed, they are universal stories that everyone can relate to. I just try to make good old-fashioned love stories about two people - who just happen to be gay.

Cinema 175

WHAT THE CRITICS SAY

Writer-director J.C. Calciano is obviously hoping to craft a gay variation on a classic romantic comedy.
The Hollywood Reporter

AWARDS

Best Comedy Audience Award and Best Comedy Feature, Out of Film, Atlanta's LGBT Film Festival.
Best Comedy Feature and Best Screenplay, FilmOut San Diego
Audience Choice Award, B'More QFest, Baltimore
Best Overall Feature, QCinema, Fort Worth



Fun Facts

- The 10 Year Plan has cameos from the popular web series Steam Room Stories. Ben Palacios, Chris Reid, Adam Bucci, Skyler Seymour, Cedric Jonathan, Josh Wise and Jesse Welch make appearances in the film as their steam room characters.
- Every film JC Calciano has made has a Gogo bar scene in it.
- The star of the film, Jack Turner who plays Myles is from England and has a proper British accent in real life, but plays an American in the film and had to adapt to a Midwestern American accent for the role.
- Many of the original crew from JC Calciano's first two films came back and worked on The 10 Year Plan.

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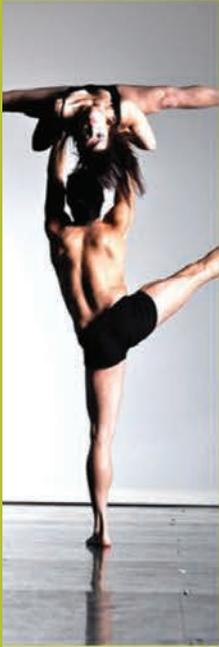
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scholarship benefit dinner

3rd annual



Bill Konigsberg '05
Keynote Speaker
Award Winning Author & Sports Writer

march 14, 2015

Carson Ballroom, Old Main - Arizona State University Tempe campus
5:00-8:00 p.m.

Join us for a community centered evening filled with performances, silent auction (art and retailers), drawings food, beverages, the awarding of our 2015-2016 Community Leadership Scholarship, and a keynote by ASU alumnus, award winning author and sports writer, Bill Konigsberg. Konigsberg's most recent novel, *Openly Straight*, won the Sid Fleischman Award for Humor, was an Amelia Elizabeth Walden Award and Lambda Literary Award finalist, and made more than 15 major "Best of" lists including YALSA's Best Fiction for Teens, YALSA's Teens Top Ten, and the Georgia Peach Award.

All funds go to our LGBT Scholarship Fund housed at the ASU Foundation for a New American University. Ticket prices start at \$55 and include cocktail hour, dinner, entertainment, and full access to the event.

For information, to purchase tickets, and to learn about sponsorship opportunities visit:

<https://alumni.asu.edu/chapters/lgbt-devils-pride/scholarship>



Will A. Smith 2013-14
Community Leadership
Scholarship Recipient



Hayden Hilliard 2014-2015
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