



PRESS RELEASE

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EROS Film Festival Returns to Trinity College for 16th Year

HARTFORD, Conn. – Oct. 28, 2014 – Out Film CT, the organizer of Connecticut’s two annual LGBT film festivals, announces the lineup for the 16th EROS Film Festival, running Nov. 12 – 16 at Cinestudio, on the campus of Trinity College. The festival is sponsored by EROS (Encouraging Respect Of all Sexualities), Trinity’s LGBT/straight student alliance, and showcases a broad selection of LGBT feature films and documentaries that will appeal to all film lovers.

For the second consecutive year, the EROS student group will host a **free Sunday brunch**, Nov. 16 at 1 p.m. at Trinity’s Queer Resource Center, 114 Crescent Street. Also for the second year in a row, there will be a **candlelight vigil** in honor of Transgender Day of Remembrance outside Cinestudio preceding the Sunday evening closing show.

The films in this year’s EROS Festival span continents and cultures to showcase the joy, sorrow, humor and diversity of the LGBT experience.

“Whether they make you laugh, cry or shout out in anger, these exceptional films all tell powerful and very human stories that will touch you and move you,” said Festival Co-Director Shane Engstrom.

“These remarkable films reflect the strength, courage and perseverance of the LGBT community through stories of our collective struggles, losses, triumphs and victories,” said Festival Co-Director Laura Williams.

Here is the EROS Film Festival lineup:

Kinky Boots (Wednesday, 11/12 @ 7:30 p.m.) Come see this classic film that inspired the hit Broadway musical. Charlie Price faces the impending shutdown of the shoe factory that his family has owned and operated for generations. Just when he feels that all is lost, he has a chance encounter with Lola, a flamboyant drag queen. Lola’s desire for stylish, kinky boots for herself and her colleagues provides a glimmer of hope for the factory and its employees. Based on a true story.

BFFs (Thursday, 11/13 @ 7:30 p.m.) For 40-something Kat, another birthday and another boyfriend have come and gone. After receiving a gift of a getaway weekend at a couples retreat, Kat is persuaded by her BFF Samantha to take the trip together by pretending to be lovers. Samantha and Kat go through the motions of repairing their relationship and discover that they might just be more than BFFs. Are the feelings that they are experiencing a result of play-acting at being a lesbian couple? Or are they tapping into feelings buried deep in their lifelong friendship?

Boy Meets Girl (Friday, 11/14 @ 7 p.m.) If you missed it at the LGBT Film Festival earlier this year, now’s your chance to see this remarkable film. If you saw it at the Festival and loved it, come see it

again! This fun and romantic coming-of-age comedy features the beautiful, fashion-forward transgender woman Ricky and her best childhood friend Robby (Michael Welch, *Twilight*). Lamenting the lack of eligible bachelors, Ricky considers dating a girl. In walks the sexy Francesca. Has Ricky found true love?

Eat With Me (Friday, 11/14 @ 9 p.m.) Feeling invisible in her bland marriage, Emma moves in with her son, Elliot, who lives in a downtown L.A. loft. Elliot is a young chef who is facing foreclosure on his lackluster Chinese restaurant—and he’s gay. Emma’s disapproval has made strangers of mother and son, but they need each other now more than ever. While Emma explores her newfound freedom, with the encouragement of a saucy new friend, Elliot confronts his fears of intimacy. Words may fail them, but they find a common language through food. Cameo appearances by George Takei, oh my!

Out in the Night (Saturday, 11/15 @ 3 p.m.) This shocking documentary is based on the true story of four women that the newspapers branded the New Jersey 4. Under the neon lights in a gay-friendly neighborhood of New York City, four young African-American lesbians are violently and sexually threatened by a man on the street. After the women defend themselves, they’re labeled aggressors and convicted in the courts and in the media as a “Gang of Killer Lesbians.”

Appropriate Behavior (Saturday, 11/15, 7 p.m.) The absurdly talented Desiree Akhavan (who some of you may know from the lesbian web series *The Slope*) wrote, directed and stars in the film as Shirin. She’s a sharp-tongued bisexual twentysomething who is reeling from a breakup with Maxine her activist vanilla girlfriend. Being part of a perfect Persian family isn’t easy. Her family doesn’t know she’s bisexual, and Maxine can’t understand why she doesn’t tell them. Following a family announcement of her brother’s engagement, Shirin embarks on a private rebellion involving a series of pansexual escapades while trying to decipher what went wrong with Maxine.

I Feel Like Disco (Saturday, 11/15, 9 p.m.) This is a touching and bittersweet story about a family learning to accept each other. Young Florian’s gay coming-of-age tale is told with equal parts humor, absurdity, honesty and pain, with a sensitive touch that never loses sight of the film’s refreshingly awkward sweetness. Florian is a pudgy teen who loves disco and struggles with his sexuality, with an overbearing dad who just doesn’t get him at all. Florian’s mother Monika was always there to mind the gulf between them, but when she suffers a stroke and slips into a coma, father and son are forced to deal with each other and cope with this new reality.

Matt Shepard is a Friend of Mine (Sunday, 11/16, 3 p.m.) The 1998 beating and murder of a 21-year-old college student Matthew Shepard raised the world’s awareness about discrimination against LGBT people. Directed by his childhood friend, this film takes you on a journey to learn about Matt’s charismatic personality, which is documented through family photos, vacation videos, and even his personal diary entries. It is the story of loss, love, and grief that does not go away. As such, the film will provide a proxy for a wide variety of people and communities to experience firsthand the devastation of intolerance, the power of love and the beauty of compassion. [A free brunch precedes the film at 1 p.m. and admission to this film is free.](#)

Pride (Sunday 11/16, 7:30 p.m.) Set in the summer of 1984, when Margaret Thatcher is in power and determined to break up the National Union of Mineworkers strike. Lesbians and Gays Support the Miners (LGSM) starts an effort to raise money to support the families of the striking miners. When the Union seems embarrassed to receive their support, the activists are not deterred. They identify a mining village in deepest Wales and set off in a mini bus to make their donation in person. And so begins the extraordinary story of two seemingly alien communities who form a surprising and ultimately triumphant partnership. [A candlelight vigil precedes the film at 7 p.m. in front of the theater.](#)

Festival Details:

When: Wednesday, Nov. 12 – Sunday, Nov. 16

Where: Cinestudio at Trinity College, 300 Summit St., Hartford, Conn.

Ticket Prices: \$9 general admission; \$7 students & seniors; FREE for Trinity Student & Staff with proper ID.

Out Film CT is a nonprofit cultural organization dedicated to presenting outstanding LGBT cinema and other theatrical events throughout the year, including First Thursdays Cinema, culminating in the nine-day Connecticut LGBT Film Festival. Connecticut's longest-running film festival holds a special place in our state's cultural landscape, bringing the community together to introduce, celebrate and rediscover the ideas and values that make the LGBT community unique. Mark your calendars for the 28th Annual Connecticut LGBT Film Festival, May 29 – June 6, 2015. First Thursdays Cinema becomes Second Thursdays Cinema in January 2015. www.outfilmct.org

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