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**CONNECTICUT GAY & LESBIAN FILM FESTIVAL IN HARTFORD
CELEBRATES 21 YEARS OF BRINGING AWARD-WINNING FILMS TO THE
STATE**

HARTFORD, CT: 04/22/08: The Connecticut Gay & Lesbian Film Festival – a fixture in the state’s cultural landscape – is celebrating its 21st year of bringing to the region a wide range of documentaries, shorts, and full-length feature films that showcase the richness and creativity of the gay and lesbian culture.

“We’re very proud of the fact that we live in an area that embraces, nurtures and celebrates the many stories and accomplishments that the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community has brought to the arts,” said Shane Engstrom, director of this year’s film festival. “Even some of the most liberal areas of the country do not have the kind of 9-day-long gala that Hartford offers. The fact that we’ve been hosting the festival for 21 years tells an important story about how much the state values the diversity that makes up the artistic community in New England, and specifically in Connecticut,” Engstrom said.

Last year’s Festival Audience Award winner, *Freeheld*, went on to win the 2007 Academy Award for Best Documentary. This year’s festival will feature more award-winning films, including the official 2007 Oscar submission for Argentina, *XXY* and the North American premiere of the film *Watercolors*. Special guest appearances by filmmakers and/or actors will be announced on the festival website as the festival approaches.

The 21st annual film festival, presented by the non-profit organization Out Film CT, takes place at Cinestudio on the campus of Trinity College, 300 Summit Street, in Hartford, CT from May 30th through June 7th. Films are shown nightly at 7:30 p.m., with

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matinees on May 31st and June 1st at 3:00 p.m. A Cinema Café is offered on Friday and Saturday evenings starting at 6:30 p.m., featuring gourmet salads and sandwiches and assorted soft drinks from the amazing new Trinity Restaurant. The Opening and Closing night admission price of \$15 general admission / \$12 students and seniors includes entry to gala post-screening receptions. Weeknight general admission is \$8 and \$6 for students and seniors, while weekend evening screenings cost \$9 for general admission and \$7 for students and seniors.

Adding to the festivities, a silent auction is offered throughout the duration of the film festival. Movie buffs can bid on a wide range of items that include exotic travel, fine dining, artwork, spa packages, and fine wines.

For more information, call 860-586-1136, or visit www.OutFilmCT.org.

Out Film CT Presenting Outstanding Queer Cinema since 1988		
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