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CONTACT: Nicole Glander
TELEPHONE: (860) 727-0050
EMAIL: nicoleglander@msn.com



**OUT FILM CT OPENS 23RD FILM FESTIVAL WITH WORLD PREMIERE FILM;
FULL SCHEDULE ANNOUNCED**

HARTFORD, CT - 5/10/10: Out Film CT is pleased to announce the line-up of the 23rd Connecticut Gay & Lesbian Film Festival, beginning Thursday, May 27th and spanning 10 days through Saturday, June 5th. The festival kicks off this year with the world premiere screening of Casper Andreas' new romantic comedy *Violet Tendencies*, starring Mindy Cohn of "The Facts of Life" fame in the title role. Vice President Suzanne Shayer points out, "Our festival has continued to grow in prominence on the festival circuit, which has allowed us to attract several premiere screenings in recent years."

Several filmmakers and actors are expected to engage with the audience throughout the 10-day festival. According to Festival Director Shane Engstrom, "We've confirmed that lead actors Jesse Archer (*A Four Letter Word*) and Adrian Armas (*The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*) will be in attendance for *Violet Tendencies*, and we're still working on lining up some other surprises for the rest of the festival."

The Opening Gala Night (Friday, May 28) will feature the New England premiere of *La Mission*, a film that showcases the richness of the Latino community in the Mission District of San Francisco, starring Benjamin Bratt ("Law and Order") who plays a father devastated by the discovery of his son's homosexuality. Closing Night takes you to the other side of the globe where you experience the fun, disarming and musically provocative New Zealand comedic duo known as *The Topp Twins: Untouchable Girls*.

This year's festival program boasts a rich amalgam of different topics and cultures... from a clever homage to the 60s British Mods culture (*We Are The Mods*) to a sexual scandal that threatens Jerusalem's ultra-orthodox Jewish community (*Eyes Wide Open*), and from a modern ghost story in a traditional and closed Peruvian fishing village (*Undertow*) to a comedic, fast-paced series about two therapists who decide to get divorced but are forced to make a go of it when their book *How To Succeed In Marriage Without Even Trying* hits the *NY Times* Bestsellers List (*We Have To Stop Now*). Finally, *The Baby Formula* and *Baby Love* are two very different stories about the lengths to which people are willing to go to create a family.

Documentary films span a wide range of hot topics, from the significance of gay pride events around the world (*Beyond Gay: The Politics of Pride*) to a revealing exploration of the significant role that the Mormon Church played in reversing same-sex marriage in California (8: *The Mormon Proposition*). In *Prodigal Sons*, Director Kimberly Reed shares a personal story

of how her male-to-female transition exacerbated a sometimes strained relationship with her brother. *Edie & Thea: A Very Long Engagement* documents the touching 40-year love story of two impressive women.

Out Film CT takes pride in its local talent and is proud to include several filmmakers with a Connecticut connection. The following filmmakers from this year's line-up hail from the Nutmeg state:

- Susan Muska (*Edie & Thea: A Very Long Engagement* – Saturday, 5/29 @ 7:30 p.m.)
- Brian Pelletier (*Everybody Is Having Sex... But Ryan* – Sunday, 5/30 @ 3:00 p.m.)
- Madeleine Olnek (*Countertransference* – Wednesday, 6/2 @ 7:30 p.m.)
- Paula Durette (*Numerology* – Saturday, 6/5 @ 7:30 p.m.)

The full festival schedule and online ticket sales are available at www.OutFilmCT.org. Presented by Out Film CT, the festival takes place at Cinestudio on the campus of Trinity College, 300 Summit Street, in Hartford, CT. Films are shown nightly at 7:30 p.m. (except Opening Night at 8:00 p.m.) with matinees on May 29th and 30th at 3:00 p.m. Admission prices for the Opening Gala and Closing Night (Friday, 5/28 & Saturday, 6/5) are \$15 for general admission and \$12 for students and seniors, which includes the films, food, beverages and musical entertainment. All other shows are \$9 for general admission and \$7 for students and seniors. Tickets are now available at the festival website or can be purchased during the festival at the theater box office.

Delicious gourmet salads and light meals from **The Spot Eatery** are available on Friday and Saturday evenings starting at 6:00 p.m. Movie buffs can bid on a wide range of items at the silent auction that runs for the duration of the festival and includes exotic travel, fine dining, artwork, spa packages, and even a custom pair of Ruthie Davis shoes!

Out Film CT is a nonprofit cultural organization dedicated to presenting outstanding LGBT cinema and other theatrical events throughout the year, culminating in the 10-day Connecticut Gay & Lesbian Film Festival. As Connecticut's longest-running film festival, it has become a distinctive fixture 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.

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

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| Out Film CT | | |
| Presenting Outstanding Queer Cinema since 1988 | | |
| www.OutFilmCT.org | PO Box 231191 Hartford, CT 06123-1191 | (860) 586-1136 |

Select Photos (others available upon request):



Benjamin Bratt in *La Mission*



Mindy Cohn, Sam Whitten and Casper Andreas in *Violet Tendencies*



Cathy DeBuono, Suzanne Westenhofer and Jill Bennett in *We Have To Stop Now*

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