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Winners of 23rd Connecticut Gay & Lesbian Film Festival Awards Announced

Out Film CT wrapped up its 10-day film festival on Saturday, June 5th, naming *La Mission* as the favorite feature film of the festival. Over 2,000 attendees from all over Connecticut and beyond enjoyed a wide selection of exceptional feature films, shorts and documentaries in the festival's 23rd year at Cinestudio, located on the beautiful campus of Trinity College in Hartford. Out Film CT is pleased to announce that audience members and the Festival Jury participated in selecting the following films for the 23rd Connecticut Gay & Lesbian Film Festival Awards:

Best Feature - Audience Award

Winner – *La Mission*
Runner Up – *Undertow (Contracorriente)*
Special Mention – *Baby Love (Comme Les Autres)*

Best Documentary - Audience Award

Winner – *Edie & Thea: A Very Long Engagement*
Runner Up – *Beyond Gay: The Politics of Pride*
Special Mention – *The Topp Twins: Untouchable Girls*

Best Short - Jury Award

Winner – *The Roe Effect*
Runner Up – *Peking Turkey*
Special Mention – *The Golden Pin* and *Decoding Alan Turing*

Director's Award

Peter Bratt (*La Mission*)

According to Festival Director Shane Engstrom, "This year's award winners celebrate a rich diversity of films and cultures, both familiar and exotic." This year's Audience Award for Best Documentary, *Edie & Thea: A Very Long Engagement*, is a compelling journey into the heart of a 40-year love affair between two remarkable women. It also showcases the artistry of Connecticut native Susan Muska and Gréta Olafsdóttir, who directed the film. Out Film CT was pleased to feature the work of a number of local Connecticut filmmakers in this year's festival, as well as to premiere many films at the state, regional, national, and international levels.

La Mission, winner of the Audience Award for Best Feature, reveals the richness of the Latino community in the Mission District of San Francisco, and stars Benjamin Bratt ("Law and Order") as a father devastated by the discovery that his revered son is gay. Garnering further recognition for the film, the Out Film CT **Director's Award** was bestowed upon Director **Peter Bratt**. This award was created to highlight the achievements of a director whose film vision captures the spirit of the festival.

Engstrom states, "Bratt did an amazing job of telling the highly nuanced story of a father and son challenged to rebuild their relationship within a deeply traditional and homophobic community."

The Jury Award for Best Short Film was awarded to Kiel Adrian Scott's ***The Roe Effect***, a powerful portrait of a high school girl whose unwanted pregnancy causes her to risk all that she holds dear to keep a chilling secret.

Special guests from San Francisco to New York City appeared at the festival for a formal Q&A after the film as well as to mingle with the audience. Participants included actor/screenwriter Jesse Archer who attended the world premiere of the film ***Violet Tendencies***, Directors Allegra Hirschman & Shellie Citron (***T 4-2***) and Brian Pelletier (***Everybody Is Having Sex... But Ryan***).

Out Film CT does more than put on the annual film festival. Through a long standing collaboration with the Trinity College gay-straight student organization, EROS (Encouraging Respect of all Sexualities), Out Film CT presents the 12th EROS Film Festival in November, 2010. This event brings more queer films to Hartford with an emphasis on youth, history and classic films. In addition, the "Out Film CT Presents" film series continues at Cinestudio throughout the year. Check the website for updates at www.OutFilmCT.org. The organization is always welcoming of new volunteers who wish to become more active in the community by helping out at a single event or joining the committee to screen and select films throughout the year. Becoming involved in Out Film CT or providing support through monetary donations are wonderful ways to support the arts, the queer community, and to raise awareness and appreciation for the diversity and freedoms that Connecticut offers its residents.

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.



Jesse Archer, actor/screenwriter, *Violet Tendencies*



Allegra Hirschman & Shellie Citron, directors, *T 4-2*



Brian Pelletier, director, *Everybody Is Having Sex... But Ryan*

Hi-res photos available upon request.

Out Film CT

Presenting Outstanding Queer Cinema since 1988

www.OutFilmCT.org

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