# 2009 Connecticut Gay & Lesbian Film Festival
# Film Descriptions

**Thursday, May 21 @ 8:00 p.m. – Sneak Preview!**

**Tru Loved**
*Dir: Stewart Wade, 2008, USA, 102 min*
Sixteen-year-old Tru is uprooted by her lesbian moms from her comfortable gay-friendly home in San Francisco and moved to a conservative, suburban community in Southern California. Tru's only friend is a closeted football player, and even that friendship is jeopardized when she starts the school's first Gay-Straight Alliance.

**Friday, May 22 @ 7:30 p.m. – Opening Night**

Shorts Program: **Out & About!**
Don't miss these eclectic 6 short films where we venture out and about from river swimming to salsa dancing, baton twirling and obnoxious diner guests with a little coming out and poetry thrown in for good measure.

- Dancing to Happiness (Tanz Ins Gluck), 17 min
- Downstream, 6 min
- Don't Mess with Texas, 7 min
- Twirling Earl, 2 min
- Good Art/New Poetry, 7 min
- Second Guessing Grandma, 10 min

-- followed by feature presentation --

**I Can't Think Straight**
*Dir: Shamim Sarif, 2008, UK, 82 min*
An exuberant, touching romantic comedy about the clashing of two worlds and cultures. Tala, a London-based Palestinian, prepares for her elaborate wedding in Jordan when she meets Leyla, a young British Indian woman who turns her world upside down.

**Saturday, May 23 @ 3:00 p.m.**

Shorts Program: **Suburbia to Sarajevo**
In suburbia USA, major attempts at social engineering ensue when the 'rents find Mark's secret stash of gay porn… but social engineering of a very different kind is in order when we take you to the first Queer Sarajevo Festival just last year!

- Queer Sarajevo Festival 2008, 30 min
- Dirty Magazines, 39 min

-- followed by feature presentation --

**Ask Not**
*Dir: Johnny Symons, 2008, USA, 73 min*

A rare and compelling documentary film that explores the effects of the US military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy on gay and lesbian service members. The film exposes the tangled political battles that led to the discriminatory law and examines the societal shifts that have occurred since its passage in 1993.

**Saturday, May 23 @ 7:30 p.m.**

Shorts Program: **Heroes! (or Queeroes?!)**
Four enthralling tales with plenty of pluck on display, from animated gay beach rescues and boys who save the orphanage from toxic waste to sci-fi lesbian vampires with fabulous special effects and a brush with a future self that has an aversion to hair.

- A Day at the Beach, 2 min
- Hirsute, 14 min
- In Twilight's Shadow, 12 min
- Candy Boy, 13 min

-- followed by feature presentation --

**The Country Teacher (Venkovský učitel)**
*Dir: Bohdan Slama, 2008, Czech Republic/Germany/France, 113 min, in Czech with English subtitles*
When a gifted young teacher moves to the countryside and befriends a woman and her 17-year old son, a series of events is set in motion that tests the boundaries of their friendship… a profoundly moving story of desire, responsibility, forgiveness and the need to belong.

**Sunday, May 24 @ 3:00 p.m.**

Shorts Program: **Imaginanimation**
What do antique dolls in the throes of passion, a talking goose dispensing advice, a questionable tag sale purchase and kissing a stranger have in common? None are as nearly as dysfunctional as the lesbian vampires in counseling…

- Love Sucks, 9 min
- Pat's First Kiss, 5 min
- Functional Design, 4 min
- Operated by Invisible Hands, 7 min
- When the Time's Right, 11 min

-- followed by feature presentation --

**Pedro**
*Dir: Nick Oceano, 2008, USA, 90 min, in English & Spanish with English subtitles*
In 1994, MTV made the groundbreaking decision to cast openly gay, HIV-positive Cuban-American Pedro Zamora as part of MTV's The Real World: San Francisco. This is his story. Screenplay by Dustin Lance Black of Oscar-winning *Milk* fame.

**Sunday, May 24 @ 7:30 p.m.**

Shorts Program: **Sunday Secrets**
Did you ever think you had something to hide? Secrets from a teacher, a bar hook-up, the camera, the church pew, a childhood mate, or oneself might just be revealed in these six shorts.

- James, 17 min

- Thirteen or So Minutes, 14 min
- Shattercane, 21 min
- Saint Jude, 6 min
- Clouded, 13 min
- Girls Room, 10 min

-- followed by feature presentation --

**Ferron: Girl on a Road**
*Dir: Gerry Rogers, 2009, Canada, 73 min*
Director Gerry Rogers' beautiful portrait of Canadian singer/songwriter Ferron, known for influencing Mary Gauthier, The Indigo Girls and Ani DiFranco is a must see. This film captures Ferron's salt of the earth folk stylings and features a live performance in Vancouver as she re-unites with her old band mates after 10 years.

**Monday, May 25 @ 7:30 p.m.**

Shorts Program: **Story Time**
A celebration of stories including a letter from William Burroughs to Allen Ginsberg, a cross generational encounter at a Laundromat, an avant-garde stalking horse, and a community theater troupe strives for Broadway ala Xanadu, oh my!

- King County, 6 min
- The Japanese Sandman, 12 min
- Laundromat, 12 min
- Horsepower, 17 min

-- followed by feature presentation --

**Antarctica**
*Dir: Yair Hochner, 2008, Israel, 110 min, in Hebrew with English subtitles*
Omer is miserable because he's about to turn 30 and he hasn't found love or his true purpose in life. Will he find someone who will spark his imagination as well as his libido? As he starts to get a handle on his own personal crisis, his little sister, Shirley, chooses to pursue a lesbian romance with her boss, the owner of the city's hippest coffeehouse. This bold, original drama, with its attractive and provocative ensemble cast, explores the age-old quest for true love... and the carnal diversions along the way.

**Tuesday, May 26 @ 7:30 p.m.**

Shorts Program: **Family Ties**
Four shorts that explore the ties that bind and answer the haunting questions: Who gets the sex toys after a break-up? How could you raise a transsexual child and not know it? Could great granny have been like me? Can a tyke with a supersoaker be denied?

- Babysitting Andy, 11 min
- The Bond, 6 min
- Just Me?, 22 min
- Shafted, 10 min

-- followed by feature presentation --

**Trinidad**
*Dirs: Jay Hodges & P.J. Raval, 2008, USA, 80 min*
TRINIDAD uncovers Trinidad, Colorado's transformation from Wild West outpost to "sex-change capital of the world," and follows three transgender women who may steer the rural ranching town toward becoming the "transsexual mecca."

**Wednesday, May 27 @ 7:30 p.m. - Centerpiece**

Shorts Program: **Dangerous Love**
A daring shorts program of dicey situations… a straight man tries something kinky with his band mate only to have his wife walk in, a twink tests the waters at the local bath house, a target practice session takes a surprising twist and a soldier is picked up for cruising in Singapore.

- Just a Kiss, 3 min
- The Casuarina Cove (Tanjong Rhu), 19 min
- The Young and Evil, 15 min
- Kaveri: A Mate, 7 min
- Sweat, 15 min
- Missing the Target (Fuori Target), 3 min

-- followed by feature presentation --

**Sex Positive**
*Dir: Daryl Wein, 2008, USA, 75 min*
SEX POSITIVE explores the life of Richard Berkowitz, a revolutionary gay hustler-turned-AIDS activist in the 1980s, whose invaluable contribution to the invention of safe sex has never been aptly credited. Berkowitz emerged from the epicenter of the epidemic as a community leader, demanding a solution to the problem before anyone else would pay attention.

**Thursday, May 28 @ 7:30 p.m.**

Shorts Program: **World Shorts**
Shorts from around the world explore LGBT rights and discord; break-ups raise custody issues of people and possessions in France and Poland, and in Kenya homosexuality carries a 7 year prison term.

- At the End of the Street (Na Koncu Ulicy), 14 min
- The Gravedigger, 18 min
- 7 Years, 22 min

-- followed by feature presentation --

**Girl Seeks Girl (Chica Busca Chica)**
*Dir: Sonia Sebastian, 2009, Spain, 90 min, in Spanish with English subtitles*
Spain's answer to *The L Word*, we are introduced to a group of women looking for love in all the right and sometimes wrong places as they play musical beds to their hearts' desire. This sexy and amusing work is breezy and fast-paced. Don't miss this pursuit of love and of sexual satisfaction in cosmopolitan Madrid.

**Friday, May 29 @ 7:30 p.m.**

**Training Rules**
*Dirs: Dee Mosbacher & Fawn Yacker, 2009, USA, 58 min*

Rene Portland had three training rules during her 26 years coaching basketball at Penn State—no drinking, no drugs and no lesbians. This stunning expose reveals how women's collegiate sports, caught in a web of homophobic practices, destroys the lives and dreams of many of its most talented athletes.

-- followed by feature presentation --

**Drool**
*Dir: Nancy Kissam, 2009, USA, 84 min*
Life looks up when Anora Fleece, bullied by her husband, discovers the friendship (and more) of the new 'cocoa skinned' woman next door. When she accidentally kills her husband, Anora takes off on a family road trip with her kids and lover, looking for the perfect place to 'bury daddy.' Winner of Best Screenplay Prize at the 2006 Slamdance Festival.

**Saturday, May 30 @ 3:00 p.m.**

Shorts Program: **Testimonials & Turmoil**
Modern day accounts of gay life in Beirut, Lebanon are juxtaposed with Harvey Milk's own recorded reflections and premonition of his assassination.

- The Beirut Apartment, 50 min
- 575 Castro St., 7 min

-- followed by feature presentation --

**"Showgirls" Provincetown, MA**
*Dir: C. Fitz, 2009, USA, 72 min*
This giddily entertaining overview of Provincetown's annual stage review scales the heights and plumbs the depths of that bucolic seaside town's legendary Monday night show, which takes place under the auspices of drag guru Ryan Landry, along with a number of his perennial drag cohorts.

**Saturday, May 30 @ 7:30 p.m. – Closing Night**

Shorts Program: **Friends & Lovers**
Be a fly on the wall as an odd couple falls in love while searching for something special, then witness some Bollywood mom-style vigilante justice when she finds her son is the victim of a vicious bully. Finally, enjoy this gay take on "Friends" when we join four Kansas City misfits as they venture to the Emerald City of NYC.

- The Back Room, 17 min
- Astoria, Queens, 21 min
- Kali-Ma, 14 min

-- followed by feature presentation --

**Chef's Special (Fuera de Carta)**
*Dir: Nacho G. Velilla, 2008, Spain, 111 min, in Spanish with English subtitles*
Maxi thinks his life is just perfect: he's a famous chef and owner of a gourmet restaurant in Madrid, and is open about his sexuality. The sudden appearance of his kids on the scene, the result of a prior sham marriage and the arrival of an attractive Argentinean ex-soccer star next door will force him reconsider everything he has held dear.