



presents

## The 21st Connecticut Gay & Lesbian Film Festival

### Film Schedule

#### Thursday May 29 – Special Sneak Preview – 8:00pm

##### **Shelter**

*Jonah Markowitz, USA, 2007, 89 min – [www.heretv.com/sheltermovie](http://www.heretv.com/sheltermovie)*

Forced to give up his dreams of art school in order to take care of his family, Zach has become accustomed to a life where he neglects his own needs in favor of taking care of his older sister, Jeanne and his nephew, Cody. When his best friend's older brother, Shaun, returns home to cure a case of writer's block, Shaun and Zach develop a friendship that develops into a true, intimate relationship. Shaun presses Zach to take control of his life, and to take ownership of his artwork. He also develops a strong bond with Cody, and Zach happily notices the positive effect Shaun's attention has on him. As time progresses, however, a host of new issues come up. Zach struggles with his identity, his family, and friends, while trying to understand the new emotions Shaun has brought into his life. When the cat is let out of the bag, Jeanne threatens to take Cody away. Wanting nothing but the best for him, Zach is forced to decide between his pattern of always putting others' desires first or fighting for what is really most important and appropriate for both his and Cody's future.

#### Friday May 30 – Opening Night – 7:30pm

(Cinema Café open from 6:30pm - rain or shine)

(Opening Night Festivities to follow)

##### **Were the World Mine**

*Tom Gustafson, USA, 2008, 95 min – [www.speakproductions.com](http://www.speakproductions.com)*

As the gay outcast at an all-boys prep school, Timothy daydreams about the handsome jock. But his are no ordinary flights of fancy; they're musical theater extravaganzas, complete with show-stopping songs, dazzling sets, and pirouetting rugby player chorus boys. A devilishly funny and intoxicatingly romantic musical tale of empowerment - inspired by Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream

Preceded by shorts program:

##### **41 Seconds (41 Sekunden)**

*Tobias Martin & Rodney Sewell, Germany, 2006, 4 min – [www.sewell.de/41S](http://www.sewell.de/41S)*

What do you do when your girlfriend tells you that your best friend kisses better than you? *In German with English subtitles.*

##### **signage**

*Rick Hammerly, USA, 2007, 12 min – [www.idlerichpro.com](http://www.idlerichpro.com)*

A receding hairline, the beginnings of crow's feet, and a chance meeting with a young shirtless deaf man in a bar, force Lex to confront getting older in a youth-conscious world. *In English and American Sign Language with English subtitles.*

##### **Gay Zombie**

*Michael Simon, USA, 2007, 20 min – [www.logoonline.com/shows/events/short\\_films/details.jhtml?cid=1569863](http://www.logoonline.com/shows/events/short_films/details.jhtml?cid=1569863)*

A sexually confused zombie goes on an adventure through West Hollywood where he makes friends and meets a special someone named Todd. His new buddies help him come to terms and try to assimilate him into normal life. Everything is

peachy until his flesh eating appetite can no longer be subdued. Will Miles be able to control himself? Will his bloody ways be too much for a boy to bear? Find out during this hilarious ride of undead love.

#### **Four Feet**

*Georgina Tsilogianis, Canada, 2007, 2 min*

As Veronica ponders her current relationship, a psychic appears out of nowhere and gives her an answer she never expected.

#### **Transient**

*Craig Boreham, Australia, 2005, 10 min – [www.craigboreham.com/pages/transient.html](http://www.craigboreham.com/pages/transient.html)*

Transient is a poignant meditation on the nature of love and relationships. An 'end of love' story that traverses themes of travel, capitalism, loss and love, filmed in Sydney and Vietnam.

### **Saturday May 31 – 3:00 pm Early Show**

#### **Call Me Troy**

*Scott Bloom, USA, 2007, 100 min – [www.tragoidia.com/troy](http://www.tragoidia.com/troy)*

Troy Perry is a leather-loving gay rights legend... perhaps best known as the founder of the Metropolitan Community Church. But no religion is necessary to enjoy this incredible chronicle of Troy's life and story of our movement. Troy has been on the front lines of virtually every major civil rights struggle in gay/lesbian history. In 1969, he performed the first public same-sex marriage in the U.S., and went on to file the first lawsuit seeking legal recognition for same gender marriages. With a skillful blend of present-day recollections and rare archival footage, that history comes alive magnificently. Even in the darkness of tragedy, Troy continues to lead, with nurturing daddy-bear warmth, bawdy humor, and a divinely-inspired oratorical skill.

Preceded by:

#### **Marriage Makes a Word of Difference**

*Fran Rzeznik, USA, 2007, 44 min –*

[www.lmfct.org/site/PageServer?pagename=Marriage\\_Makes\\_a\\_Word\\_of\\_Difference](http://www.lmfct.org/site/PageServer?pagename=Marriage_Makes_a_Word_of_Difference)

Emmy award-winning Fran Rzeznik is behind this film that portrays the personal struggles and political challenges of Connecticut's same-sex couples (and their families) who are fighting for the freedom to marry.

### **Saturday May 31 – 7:30pm**

(Cinema Café open from 6:30pm - rain or shine)

#### **The New World**

*Etienne Dhaene, France, 2006, 92 min*

In this fresh and sly take on lesbian parenthood, things go awry right from the beginning. Lucie accidentally announces her need to have kids with her girlfriend Marion... via microphone to a karaoke club. When Marion agrees, they go through one train-wreck of a sperm donor after another. And when they tell their families, the real fun begins. A delightfully warm and witty story exploring the nature of family in this "new world."

Preceded by shorts program:

#### **Members Only**

*Carolina Roca-Smith, USA, 2007, 10 min*

Amy, the new kid in town, can't seem to get a date...or even a woman to look in her direction until she meets power lesbian Joan Fox. Joan isn't interested in love, but does have a corner on the market. Luckily for Amy, it's for sale.

#### **Today, I Become A Man**

*Mocha Jean Herrup, USA, 2007, 9 min*

"Today, I Become A Man" is a 9-minute documentary about a man who tries to pass as a "real" drag king by pretending to be a woman pretending to be a man.

#### **eddie**

*Quentin Kruger, USA, 2007, 10 min*

“eddie” tells the story of a young Latina girl who is forced to deal with her sexuality as a result of an embarrassing mishap during a summer afternoon kickball game.

### **Love Is Love**

*Anne Renton, USA, 2007, 7 min*

Jake and Sabrina, two heterosexuals, struggle find love in a world where they just don't fit in. Follow this comedic yet poignant look at how life might be if the world was predominately gay and straight people were the “queer” ones.

### **The Rosary of Aurora (El Rosario de la Aurora)**

*Iván Lara, Spain, 2007, 11 min*

Aurora is awoken at four in the morning by a divine phone call that reveals the mysterious whereabouts of a very close relative. Aurora's journey takes her to a brothel called "The Good Path" where her adventure begins. *In Spanish with English subtitles.*

### **Fine and Dandy**

*Bartholomew Sammut, Australia, 2006, 15 min*

A woman whose thoughts and actions are controlled by 1885 social etiquette is struggling to find happiness through self help books and videos. Through this she hopes to attract the attention of a potential female suitor.

## **Sunday June 1 – 3:00 pm Early Show**

### **Butch Jamie**

*Michelle Ehlen, USA, 2007, 84 min – [www.butchjamie.com](http://www.butchjamie.com)*

In this witty charmer, Jamie's acting career is on the skids with even her roommate's diva cat getting more roles than she. What's a butch to do when she gets an offer she can't refuse? This original butch dyke comedy is a welcome change to a traditional genre. In some of the best drag since Tootsie, Ehlen turns in a sincere and hilarious performance with smart and deadpan delivery.

Preceded by shorts program:

### **Begging for Change**

*J. T. Tepnapa, USA, 2006, 12 min*

Two universes unfold from a coin toss in award-winning writer-director J.T. Tepnapa's dramatic short about redemption and desperation. In the first scenario, a homeless teen (Brandon Michael) rejects the aid of a handsome jogger (Damon Preston) only to continue to live another day on the streets. In the second, the flip of a coin leads him into the arms of that same jogger. Will either path lead him home?

### **The Vicious and the Delicious**

*Tonnette Stanford, Australia, 2008, 12 min*

An outrageous soap-opera drama, *The Vicious and the Delicious* explores the shocking scandals of the powerful Cassamento family and their lovers. Hair-pulling catfights, countless illicit affairs, flamboyant fashion statements and bizarre story twists - all this and more in...*The Vicious and the Delicious!*

### **The Touch**

*Jane Clark, USA, 2007, 7 min - [www.filmmqueen.com/TheTouch/touchpage.html](http://www.filmmqueen.com/TheTouch/touchpage.html)*

"The Touch" is a story set in 1906 and based on a romance between Renee Vivien, a lesbian poet living in Paris and Kerime, a practicing Muslim woman and wife of a Turkish diplomat. The film structures their last moments together around Renee's poem "The Touch" as they meet in a Paris park.

## **Sunday June 1 – 7:30 pm**

### **Manuela & Manuel (Manuela Y Manuel)**

*Raul Marchand, Puerto Rico, 2007, 94 min - [www.manuelaymanuel.com](http://www.manuelaymanuel.com)*

Deep inside, Manuel has always been Manuela. While coping with her own lost love, Manuela agrees to play Manuel, the fiancé of her best friend Coca-who is pregnant and must face her conservative family. Hidden identities and misunderstandings abound in this hilarious high-camp farce with tremendous heart. *In Spanish with English subtitles.*

Preceded by shorts program:

**Mano-A-Mano**

*Todd Strauss-Schulson, USA, 2007, 5 min*

Two guys compete for the same job in a special sort of call center.

**Serene Hunter**

*Jason Bushman, France, 2007, 13 min*

Luc, a randy gay Parisian, likes sex with men a lot. But he likes the hunt even more. His simple life is thrown into confusion, however, when he meets Sebastian and quickly moves in - just as an old flame from Los Angeles comes back into town. *In French with English subtitles.*

**Getting Lucky**

*Christian Lloyd, Canada, 2007, 38 min*

A story-starved filmmaker wakes up in the most dangerous neighborhood in New Orleans with a hot stranger he doesn't remember meeting. As he begins to try to put together the events of the previous evening, events start to turn more sinister.

**Monday June 2 – 7:30 pm**

**She's A Boy I Knew**

*Gwen Haworth, Canada, 2007, 70 min - [www.artflick.com](http://www.artflick.com)*

Using interviews, animation and old family footage, Vancouver filmmaker Gwen Haworth documents her male-to-female gender transition partially through the voices of her anxious but loving family, best friend, and wife. A comic, heartbreaking, and uplifting autobiography that breaks away from the usual marginalized depictions of transsexuality and focuses on the interpersonal relationships of a family who unexpectedly find their bonds strengthening as they overcome their preconceptions of gender and sexuality.

Preceded by shorts program:

**Congratulations Daisy Graham**

*Cassandra Nicolaou, Canada, 2007, 15 min*

Seventy-year-old Daisy Graham is having a hard day. No one in her small town wants to let her forget about the big ceremony tomorrow, a ceremony at the local high school in her honor. But Daisy has more important things to think about than some ceremony – she's dug out her old rifle, now all she needs is a box of bullets.

**I Am Not A Werewolf!**

*J. Anthony Hernandez, USA, 2007, 8min*

An openly gay man is in denial about becoming a werewolf after a sexual encounter in an airport men's room.

**Seoul to Soul**

*Paul Detwiler & Michael Chen, USA, 2006, 18 min*

A young Korean gay man's spiritual journey through a Mormon upbringing in Utah and tumultuous life of raving, addictions, and drug trafficking in Southern California.

**Benny's Gym**

*Lisa Marie Gamlem, Norway, 2007, 25 min*

A bully and the object of his attention form a secret bond that leads them down unexpected avenues. *In Norwegian with English subtitles.*

**Tuesday June 3 – 7:30 pm**

**The Witnesses (Les Témoins)**

*André Techiné, France, 2007, 112 min*

Set in the late 1980s, amid the onset of AIDS and the end of the sexual revolution, this haunting drama focuses on the contrasts between sex and love, health and sickness, friendship and romance. Newly arrived in Paris, a handsome young man begins a friendship with a couple adjusting to life as new parents, and soon an unexpected love affair upsets the tranquility of their lives. *In French with English subtitles.*

Preceded by shorts program:

### **In the Place of the Dead**

*Keith Claxton, UK/Morocco, 2006, 13 min*

In Marrakesh, an Englishman's fleeting encounter with a hustler named Karim breaks a sacred taboo and conjures up an ancient Arabian demon.

### **Mirrors (Miroirs d'été)**

*Étienne Desrosiers, Canada, 2007, 14 min*

Julien's holiday at the family cottage takes a twist when a mysterious neighbor confuses him. A poetic summertime coming-of-age drama. *In French with English subtitles.*

### **Cowboy Forever**

*Jean-Baptiste Erreca, Brazil/France, 2006, 26 min*

Set in the Pantanal area Western Brazil paying tribute to *Brokeback Mountain*, "Cowboy Forever" tells the story of the traditional, conservative life of Latino Cowboys. *In Portuguese with English subtitles.*

## **Wednesday June 4 – 7:30pm**

### **The World Unseen**

*Shamim Sarif, South Africa/UK, 2007, 94 min*

The introduction of apartheid is just beginning its treacherous grip on Cape Town, South Africa of 1952. This is the setting for debuting director Shamim Sarif's acclaimed novel, now film. Amina, a gorgeous no-nonsense, business owner of a café has broken all the rules of her own conventional Indian community. When Miriam (Lisa Ray, star of Deepa Mehta's film *Water*), a young traditional Indian wife and mother, meets Amina, their unexpected attraction pushes Miriam to question her loveless marriage and sets in motion a chain of events that will forever change their lives. In a world rife with injustice, "The World Unseen," written, directed, financed and produced entirely by women, is full of hope, triumph and love.

Preceded by

### **Risk, Stretch or Die**

*Saskia Heyden, Germany, 2007, 60 min*

French Drag King Océan LeRoy is an established celebrity in Berlin's transgender scene. Famous for his performances of quick transition from woman to man, Océan also lives the contradiction in real life: seductive Drag Star at night, smart sexy successful businesswoman during the day... For almost a year filmmaker Saskia Heyden observes the charismatic and fascinating Ocean against the fitting backdrop of formerly divided and ultra-hip Berlin. Introspective and articulate, Océan LeRoy dwells in ambiguity between day and night, woman and man, openness and mystery. Gloriously challenging the binary yet thriving on both sides, Ocean travels a two-way path of gender with ease. *In German with English subtitles.*

## **Thursday June 5 – Centerpiece Film – 7:30pm**

### **XXY**

*Lucía Puenzo, Argentina/Spain/France, 2007, 91 min*

XXY explores the painful search for gender identity of Alex (an outstanding performance by Inés Efron), a hermaphrodite, as she enters adolescence and is pressured by her parents to "choose." While Alex's ambiguity is apparent and raises concerns for her parents and peers, her resolve to be her own person is undaunted. The rugged Uruguayan coast provides a stunning backdrop to the roiling emotions of family turmoil and adolescent forays into relationship. This stunning coming of age tale was chosen to represent Argentina at the 2007 Oscars in the Best Foreign Language Film category. *In Spanish with English subtitles.*

Preceded by shorts program:

### **And Everything Nice**

*Craig Boreham & Peta Jane Lenehan, Australia, 2006, 7 min - [www.craigboreham.com/pages/aen.html](http://www.craigboreham.com/pages/aen.html)*

The curiosity of a schoolgirl leads her to skip a day at school to observe a classmate as she wanders through the city.

### **Herzhaft**

*Martin Busker, Germany, 2007, 15 min*

The forbidden love between the 15 year-old Felix and his soccer coach Ralf, who is 33 years old, is no longer a secret!

### **Black Men and Me**

*Michèle Clarke, Canada, 2006, 6 min*

In "Black Men and Me," a woman explores her position as a Trinidadian dyke and her complex relationship with black men. Shot in a barbershop, a traditional gathering place for black men, she has her head shaved while she reflects on her black masculinity.

### **Stray**

*Craig Boreham & Dean Francis, Australia, 2007, 15 min - [www.craigboreham.com/pages/stray.html](http://www.craigboreham.com/pages/stray.html)*

A contemporary retelling of the classic tale of the City Mouse and the Country Mouse, "Stray" follows the story of Mouse, a teenager who leaves his home in the country in search of his place in the world. Along the way he is exposed to the seedy underbelly of the city and the people who live there including the broken drag diva Lamé Doe Ray, who takes him under her wing. Will Mouse be led astray and consumed by the drug soaked landscape of the ghetto?

### **Prada Handbag**

*Stuart Vauvert, Australia, 2007, 22 min*

Having always been an outsider, a young woman finds her niche when she lands a job at a kooky drag bar full of colorful characters - a world of sequins, feathers and false eyelashes - and assumes the new identity of Prada Handbag.

## **Friday June 6 – 7:30pm**

(Cinema Café open from 6:30pm - rain or shine)

### **Watercolors (World Premiere)**

*David Oliveras, USA, 2008, 106 min - [www.silverlightentertainment.com](http://www.silverlightentertainment.com)*

When a gifted, young artist arrives at the opening of his first New York exhibition, his erotic paintings trigger memories of his first love, a troubled high school swimmer (whose coach is played by Olympic Champion Greg Louganis). Through a series of flashbacks we see Danny, the introverted artist, and Carter, the rebellious jock, struggle with their mutual attraction. With the encouragement of three strong and very different women, Mrs. Martin, a free-spirited art teacher, his best friend, Andy, a young girl with a severe physical impairment, and Miriam, a recovering alcoholic and devoutly religious mother, Danny learns to use his creativity to move beyond his past.

Preceded by shorts program:

### **Walk Like a Man**

*Jim Morgison & Patricia Zagarella, Australia, 2008, 52 min*

Character driven, emotionally charged and socially compelling this film tracks the journey of two of the best gay rugby teams in the world- reigning champions, San Francisco Fog and feisty upstarts, Sydney Convicts as they prepare to battle in the World Cup of gay rugby - the Bingham Cup (named for 9/11 hero, Mark Bingham, a passionate gay rugby player and a passenger on Flight 93 who courageously stormed the cockpit). Don't miss this real life drama about real life issues punctuated with blood, sweat and queers!

### **Love Bite**

*Craig Boreham, Australia, 2008, 3 min - [www.craigboreham.com/pages/lovebite.html](http://www.craigboreham.com/pages/lovebite.html)*

Noah and Gus hang out and smoke some weed after school. As the munchies kick in, Noah feels compelled to share a secret desire that has been tormenting him.

## **Saturday June 7 – 7:30pm**

(Cinema Café open from 6:30pm - rain or shine)

### **The Chinese Botanist's Daughters (Les Filles du Botaniste Chinois)**

*Daï Sijie, France/Canada, 2006, 94 min*

Beautiful Li Min, orphaned by an earthquake, has an affinity with flowers. Granted the chance to study with a renowned botanist, she moves to the home he shares with his daughter, Chan An. Hidden in the seclusion of the botanical garden the young women fall tentatively and tenderly in love. But they cannot be openly together and plans for a shared future put their fragile existence under threat. Set in the early nineties in rural China, this tragic story was inspired by real events. Exquisitely shot and beautifully realized, the loveliness of the gardens and the enduring nature of the women's love linger in our imagination. *In Chinese with English subtitles.*

Preceded by shorts program:

**No Bikini**

*Claudia Morgado Escanilla, Canada, 2007, 9 min*

A young swimmer is liberated from gender rules in this beautifully shot tale about a girl who decides for herself.

**A Work in Progress**

*Keshia Coe, USA, 2008, 8 min* - [www.myspace.com/aworkinprogressthemovie](http://www.myspace.com/aworkinprogressthemovie)

Two writers with a past are stuck together on a project for their agent, but both have their own ideas of what the script should be. Jane and Betty work through schlocky art cinema, Hollywood action film, and hurt feelings to find the plot - and each other.

**Ramona's New Dresser**

*Bohdana Smyrnova, Ukraine/USA, 2008, 11 min* - [www.myspace.com/ramonasnewdresser](http://www.myspace.com/ramonasnewdresser)

When climbing a tree in New York, Polish immigrant Paulina gets a hole in her stockings. Someone's got to stitch it.

**Rock Garden: A Love Story**

*Gloria Kim, Canada, 2007, 10 min*

An allegory about love, loneliness and the healing power of acceptance, "Rock Garden: a love story" is the tale of two neighbors who struggle and toil with everyday existence and how the most unlikely of objects changes them both.

**Henry**

*Will McCord, USA, 2008, 13 min* - [www.existentiaumentertainment.blogspot.com](http://www.existentiaumentertainment.blogspot.com)

Through the Internet, an overweight, gay Asian man masquerades as an Asian woman to lure an attractive straight man to a bar. *Trinity Alum '95.*

-----  
Out Film CT presents

The 21st Connecticut Gay & Lesbian Film Festival

May 30 - June 7, 2008 (with special sneak preview May 29)

in Hartford at Cinestudio on the campus of Trinity College

Featuring: an amazing selection of GLBTI features and shorts from around the world

- Opening and Closing night parties Friday, May 30 and Saturday, June 7
- Cinema Café -- serving light fare Friday and Saturday evenings (May 30, 31 & June 6, 7) starting at 6:30pm - rain or shine!
- Our famous Silent Auction featuring fabulous travel, dining, and other items and services

Showtimes are every evening at 7:30pm; with special Early Shows on May 30 & June 1 at 3pm

Tickets, available at the door and online:

Opening/ Closing Nights \$15 general admission / \$12 students and seniors

Early and Late Shows, Weeknights (Mon. - Thurs.) \$8/ \$6

Weekend Evenings (Fri., Sat., Sun.) \$9/ \$7

3-Day Pass (not valid opening/closing) \$23

Full Festi-Pass (all 12 shows!) is still \$69

The full schedule, details, directions and advance tickets are available online at

[www.OutFilmCT.org](http://www.OutFilmCT.org)

Phone: 860-586-1136

Venue:

Cinestudio at Trinity College

300 Summit Street at College Terrace

Hartford, CT 06106

860-297-2463

Presenting Outstanding Queer Cinema since 1988