



## PRESS RELEASE

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## The 28<sup>th</sup> Connecticut LGBT Film Festival's Winning Films

**HARTFORD, Conn. – June 11, 2015** – The 28<sup>th</sup> Connecticut LGBT Film Festival had a successful conclusion on June 6, with dual screenings in downtown Hartford at Spotlight Cinemas at Front Street and the Connecticut Science Center. During the Festival's nine-day run, audiences enjoyed more than 50 films from 17 countries and had the opportunity to interact with actors, directors and screenwriters.

Now it's time to announce the Audience Awards for feature films and documentaries, the Jury Awards for short films and the Directors' Award, selected by Co-Directors Shane Engstrom and Laura Williams.

Williams noted that all of the features and documentaries earned high scores from the audience, which made it a tight race. "That's actually a good thing, because it shows that we picked the right mix of films to show from the hundreds that the committee reviewed – and this year we had more films to review than ever," Williams said.

Here is the lineup of award-winning films:

### **Best Feature - Audience Award**

Winner:

***Liz in September***

Runner Up:

***54: The Director's Cut***

Special Mention:

***How to Win at Checkers (Every Time)***

### **Best Documentary - Audience Award**

Winner:

***Back on Board: Greg Louganis***

Runner Up:

***In the Turn***

Special Mention:

***Lady Valor: The Kristin Beck Story***

### **Best Short - Jury Award**

Winner:

***Alone With People***

Runner Up:

***You. Me. Bathroom. Sex. Now.***

Special Mention:

***Bald Guy***

### **Directors' Award**

**Cheryl Furjanic** (*Back on Board: Greg Louganis*)

***Liz in September*** is a poignant story of love, loss, friendship and discovery that follows a group of women who meet each year for a beach vacation at a lesbian resort in Venezuela. ***54: The Director's Cut*** takes the audience back to the heyday of Studio 54 in New York with restored gay and bisexual scenes that were cut from the original 1998 release because they were deemed to be too edgy. ***How to Win at Checkers (Every Time)*** is a touching story set in Thailand about a young boy and the older gay brother he loves and adores unconditionally.

***Back on Board: Greg Louganis*** is an unflinching documentary about the legendary Olympic diver who fell on hard times after his glory days were behind him. ***In the Turn*** follows the journey of Crystal, a 10-year-old transgender girl growing up in rural Ontario, whose mother is hoping to help her find acceptance and empowerment in the company of a queer roller derby collective. ***Lady Valor: The Kristin Beck Story*** reveals how Christopher Beck, a former U.S. Navy SEAL, is embarking on a new mission as Kristin Beck so she can live her life truthfully as a transgender woman.

***Alone With People*** shows in a tender and comical way how a high school girl growing up in the South seeks love and acceptance while coming out to her family and friends with the help of a therapist. ***You. Me. Bathroom. Sex. Now.*** is an hysterically funny tale about what happens when you mix loneliness, desire, liquor and poor language skills at your neighborhood gay bar. ***Bald Guy*** is a fun and whimsical musical film about being who you are and loving whomever you want.

Williams and Engstrom chose Cheryl Furjanic, director of ***Back on Board: Greg Louganis***, as the recipient of the Directors' Award. "Not only did Cheryl create a compelling and moving film about a truly important figure in LGBT history, she really connected with the audience during her Q&A," Engstrom said. "Many times audiences hesitate to ask questions, but this audience was so engaged with Cheryl they were practically fighting for a chance to ask a question. Some people in the audience, especially younger people, didn't know who Greg Louganis was when they came to the theater. Cheryl's film painted a wonderful portrait for the entire audience, from those meeting Greg for the first time to those who could recall practically every one of his amazing Olympic dives."

**Out Film CT**, which organizes the festival, is a nonprofit cultural organization dedicated to presenting outstanding LGBT cinema and other theatrical events throughout the year, culminating in the nine-day Connecticut LGBT Film Festival. Connecticut's longest-running film festival holds a special place 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. Out Film CT also presents the EROS Film Festival each fall and the Second Thursdays Cinema series, with screenings at Cinestudio on the second Thursday of the month. [www.outfilmct.org](http://www.outfilmct.org)

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