



21st London Lesbian & Gay Film Festival

21 March – 4 April 2007

Plus a UK-wide tour from May to September

Closing Night Gala 4 April 2007

After two weeks of screening the best in queer cinema, the **21st BFI London Lesbian & Gay Film Festival** comes to a close tonight with the world premiere of **The Picture of Dorian Gray** (courtesy of Third Rock), director **Duncan Roy**'s third feature. The film is an excitingly modern version of Oscar Wilde's novel. Dorian is beautiful and ageless as only a 19-year-old can be, and the role is brilliantly played by **David Gallagher** (star of long running US teen drama *7th Heaven*). The film successfully translates Wilde's story from late 19th century London to early 21st century Manhattan. When they play the game of asking what three things one would never do, Dorian's answers are: betray a friend, kill someone or have sex with a man. It will spoil no-one's enjoyment of this film to know that he breaks all three of his taboos. The acting is first rate and the script is excellent. Through its use of split-screen video technology and sharp art direction, the film has a look that is cool and beautiful. Roy is on terrific form and more than fulfils the promise of his debut feature, AKA.

Following the screening, guests will be queering up the new **BFI Southbank** space for the Closing Night party with cabaret from **Nathan Evans** and the boys from **Bearlesque** and **Lippy's** very own **Max Sparkle** on the decks, with DJ **Nikki Lucas**.

As befits an event now in its 21st year, the Festival has become a more thoughtful affair and Manchester-based artist **Paul Harfleet's Pansy Project** has contributed to this air of maturity. An installation of 3000 pansies were planted around the South Bank in memory of David Morley, who was murdered in a homophobic attack there in 2004, and Paul spent the Festival fortnight tending to the flowers and engaging with passers-by, the Metropolitan Police, local MPs and Festival-goers in debate around the issues that The Pansy Project raises.

Generations of Love created a space in the programme for older audiences to experience the Festival and we also got the chance to meet some very influential figures from the world of Lesbian & Gay cinema. This was the start of a year-long series of events, details of which will be made available at www.llgff.org.uk. **Sir John Mortimer**, who defended Gay News in the infamous 1977 blasphemy trial and wrote the screenplay for *Brideshead Revisited*, gave a hugely entertaining Q&A after the screening of **Bermondsey** for which he wrote the script. At 84, Sir John just pipped pioneering pornographer **Peter de Rome** to the post as our most senior Festival guest – both sell-out events proved hugely entertaining.

187 international filmmakers and industry delegates visited the Festival, including **Paul Dawson** from **Shortbus**, which proved a huge hit with Festival audiences, **Daniela Sea**, who came over to promote the Opening Night film, **Itty Bitty Titty Committee**, **Jack Hazan**, director of the David Hockney documentary **A Bigger Splash**, **Waris Hussein** director of **The Connoisseur** and of course David Gallagher for *The Picture of Dorian Gray*.

Established directors delivered accomplished features consolidating their place in queer cinema culture. **Maria Maggenti**'s sophisticated date movie **Puccini For Beginners** became the box office smash of the Festival selling out three screenings. **Eytan Fox** used the Palestine-Israeli conflict to great effect as the backdrop to a love story in his third feature, **The Bubble**, **Maurice Jamal** delivered an assured second feature in the shape of the riotously funny **Dirty Laundry**, and award-winning British director **Pratibha Parma** presented a Glasgow-based cross-cultural romantic comedy in the shape of **Nina's Heavenly Delights**.

There were also several first features from talented newcomers. From the UK came **Adaora Nwandu**'s ambitious and touching love story **Rag Tag**, 21 year old US director **Ash Christian** embraced his inner fat girl to comic effect in the impressive **Fat Girls** and also from the States, Argentinean drama **Glue** directed by **Alexis Dos Santos** explored the awkwardness of adolescent sexual experimentation to great effect.

The **Radical Desire** programme brought the lesbian cognoscenti out in force – Lois Weaver (*Split Britches*), Sarah Waters, Ali Smith, Valerie Mason John and Amy Lamé were all there to witness the subversion of iconic femininity, with a special performance by **Bird Club** and the premiere of **Inge Blackman's Fem**.

Following **Image, Memory and Representation: The Work of Inge Blackman**, the celebrated filmmaker and programmer **Topher Campbell** explored the responsibilities and expectations associated with black queer filmmaking and they shared their experiences as practitioners in the field in a discussion that was both riveting and illuminating.

US artist **Bec Stupak** and a cast of New York Radical Faeries reinterpreted the decadent world of underground legend **Jack Smith** in her **Flaming Creatures (Blind Remake)** installation in the new studio space at BFI Southbank. Stupak's installation provided a new platform from which to view the impressive body of experimental works in the Festival.

The 21st BFI London Lesbian & Gay Film Festival is followed by a nationwide tour to around 40 towns and cities across the UK and Ireland from May to September. Full venue and screening details for the tour will be available on the website www.llgff.org.uk when they are confirmed. We will be touring several feature titles including **Eternal Summer, 4.30, Beyond Hatred, The Blossoming of Maximo Oliveros, Amnesia: The Jame Brighton Enigma, Tick Tock Lullaby, Sonja, Red Doors** and a great range of short films.

Notes to Editors

The London Lesbian & Gay Film Festival is presented by the BFI and programmed by senior programmer **Jonathan Keane** with **Topher Campbell, Anna Dunwoodie, Brian Robinson** and **Kyle Stephan**. The Festival enjoys the support of a wide range of sponsors including main sponsor Accenture, sponsors Renault, AIR FRANCE KLM, and media partners Diva, Gay Times, Pink Paper and Impact. We are also grateful for the support of LGBT Interbank Forum, Cobra Beer, Soho House, The Chocolate Lounge, Heaven, Konditor & Cook, Midnite Express, Winona eSolutions, the Canada High Commission, the Goethe Institute, the Embassy of Denmark, UK

Film Council, Mouth That Roars, Mayor of London and event sponsor Metropolitan Police. The LLGFF thanks all of its sponsors for their continued support. Nadege Meriau from Millennium Images took the Festival pansy image in collaboration with Paul Harfleet and Marmalade Creative produced the moving ident.

The LLGFF Honorary Patrons are **Clare Balding, Lea DeLaria, Stephen Fry, David Furnish, Paul Gambaccini, Sir Elton John, Isaac Julien, Bryony Lavery, Sir Ian McKellen, Phyllis Nagy, Pratibha Parmar, Patricia Rozema and Sarah Waters.**

The LLGFF, as we know it now, was established in 1986 and is the third largest film festival in the UK. The LLGFF on Tour runs from May to September visiting around 40 towns and cities across the UK and Ireland.

There's more to discover about film and television through the BFI. Our world-renowned archive, cinemas, festivals, films, publications and learning resources are here to inspire you. The Mediatheque is a new space at BFI Southbank where users can view digitised film and television material from the BFI National Archive for free.

For further information contact:

Billy Wiz

LLGFF Press Officer

020 7957 4729

billy.wiz@bfi.org.uk

Sponsors

Main Sponsor



Sponsors



Event Sponsor



Special Screening Sponsors

LGBT Interbank Forum Members:



Media Partners



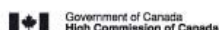
Distribution Partner



In-Kind Sponsors



Funding Contributors



Honorary Patrons

Clare Balding Lea DeLaria Stephen Fry David Furnish Paul Gambaccini Sir Elton John Isaac Julien Bryony Lavery
Sir Ian McKellen Phyllis Nagy Pratibha Parmar Patricia Rozema Sarah Waters