



26th BFI LONDON  
LESBIAN & GAY FILM FESTIVAL  
23 March – 1 April 2012

## LONDON LESBIAN AND GAY FILM FESTIVAL CLOSES ON A HIGH

*Leave it on the Floor* is one of the films being shown as part of this year's BFI London Lesbian and Gay Film Festival. ...I've seen the film and loved it. It's fresh, thoughtful and great fun – and it presents an insight into a gay experience many of us won't know much about. But perhaps most importantly, it's representative of a significant new trend in gay cinema. **Matthew Cain, Channel 4 News**

Now in its 26<sup>th</sup> year the London Lesbian and Gay Film Festival is definitely well-established but not Establishment. **Kirsty Wark**

In terms of audience demand it's massive. Virtually every ticket is sold. **Mark Ravenhill**

It's a rich festival...There's far more to it. **Matthew Sweet**

### BBC2 Review Show



Pictured l-r: Producer Yves Verbraeken, director Bavo Defurne, and actors Jelle Florizoone and Eva van der Gucht at the Closing Night gala screening of *North Sea Texas*.  
Photo: Christa Holka

Sunday night (1 April) saw the Closing Night of the 26<sup>th</sup> BFI London Lesbian and Gay Film Festival at BFI Southbank with Bavo Defurne's **North Sea Texas**, courtesy of Peccadillo Pictures (a curtain-raiser for its release in cinemas on 6 April). The screening was the climax of ten days of sold-out screenings and events which saw intense demand for tickets with audience attendance reaching 21,224 admissions.

Clare Stewart, BFI Head of Exhibition said, "This year's LLGFF has been a resounding success and we have been thrilled by the response to the films. The programming team created a brilliantly eclectic programme which has struck a nerve with audiences and media. The atmosphere has been electric throughout and BFI Southbank has been near capacity for ten days with 88 sold-out screenings."

Festival highlights included a wide range of special guests such as Brenda Fricker and director Thom Fitzgerald for the Opening Night screening of **Cloudburst**. Gene Robinson, Bishop of New Hampshire – the first openly gay Bishop in Christendom – was serenaded by pop duo Fingersnap (David McAlmont and Guy Davies) with their song "Bishop of New Hampshire" at a screening of the documentary **Love Free or Die**. Marc Almond took to the stage to discuss pioneering, gay, rock star Jobriath with director Kieran Turner at the world premiere of **Jobriath A.D.**. Marco Berger presented his Centrepiece screening of **Absent**. Maryam Keshawarz was also present for her Centrepiece screening of **Circumstance**. Legendary drummer Patty Schemel regaled the audience with tales of life on the road with the likes of Courtney Love after the screening of **Hit So Hard**. Veteran director Peter de Rome (87) was followed by two documentary crews at his events celebrating the release of his erotic films on BFI DVD. Leading British filmmaker Pratibha Parmar presented a special work-in-progress screening of her project on author and activist Alice Walker, **Beauty in Truth**. Andrew Haigh attended a special screening of the internationally acclaimed **Weekend** to launch the DVD release. Other directors who attended the festival were Campbell X (**Studlife**), Olivier Hermanus (**Beauty**), Patrik-Ian Polk (**The Skinny**), Sheldon Larry (**Leave It on the Floor**), and Jeffrey Schwarz (**Vito**).

BFI Southbank was mobilised beyond the cinema screens and featured visiting DJs at the weekends, a ballroom dancing display from the Pink Dancers, a three screen erotic film event with Peter de Rome, an interactive art installation event with 14 actors called Cruising for Art, a Glam rock night, a panel discussion on trans representation in cinema, free lectures on the BFI Mediatheque's lesbian and gay collection, and was visited by the London Dyke March.

The Derek Oyston CHE Film Prize (£1,000) was awarded to Adele Tulli for **365 Without 377**, a colourful film about law reform in India, and the runner-up prize (£500) went to Morgan Jon Fox for **This is What Love in Action Looks Like**.

The LLGFF programming team is Brian Robinson (Senior Programmer) with Emma Smart, Jason Barker, Michael Blyth and Nazmia Jamal.

## **PRESS CONTACTS**

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## **Notes to editors**

**About the BFI** The BFI is the lead body for film in the UK with the ambition to create a flourishing film environment in which innovation, opportunity and creativity can thrive by:

- Connecting audiences to the widest choice of British and World cinema
- Preserving and restoring the most significant film collection in the world for today and future generations
- Investing in creative, distinctive and entertaining work
- Promoting British film and talent to the world

## **LLGFF Sponsors**

In 2012 the Festival is delighted to welcome back a number of its most valued and longstanding partners. Accenture return for a second year as Main Sponsor of the festival, Renault are back as the LLGFF's valued car partner, American Airlines similarly will be the Festival's official airline and the May Fair Hotel, for a third successive year, will be accommodating some of the festival's special guests. We would also like to thank our special screening sponsors the LGBT Interbank Forum for their continued support of the LLGFF along with Soho House, Konditor & Cook, Icelandic Glacial, Arts Council England, Skillset and other funding contributors. Finally, thanks goes to our returning Media partners The Independent, G3 and attitude, new partner Time Out, and our Distribution Partner Impact.

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