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Contact: Kevin Schaub, kevin@siglff.org

September 20, 2017

Sacramento International LGBTQ Film Festival Celebrates 26th Year
Bringing Some of the Best of 2017 Queer Film to the Crest Theater

When: Friday, Saturday, Sunday, October 13, 14, 15, 2017

Where: The Crest Theatre 1013 K Street, Sacramento, CA

SACRAMENTO, CA -- Celebrating its 26th anniversary, the Sacramento International LGBTQ Film Festival (produced by SIGLFF) is a spectacular community event consisting of three days of LGBTQ film, local food, beer, wine, and live entertainment!

Join us as we take over the historic Crest Theater in downtown Sacramento, CA, for 3-days: Friday, Saturday, Sunday, October 13, 14, 15, 2017 for some of the best queer cinema of 2017. Eight programs comprised of six feature-length films and 16 short films will be showcased.

While our organization name remains the same (SIGLFF), we have updated our *Festival* name to Sacramento International **LGBTQ** Film Festival to better reflect who we are as a community and as audiences for queer film.

SIGLFF26 features three fabulous feature films: We open this year with *Alaska Is a Drag*, writer-director Shaz Bennett has expanded her short film into a rousing and crowd-pleasing debut feature that is the queer lovechild of Rocky and Hedwig. Director Shaz Bennett will be in attendance at Opening Night for a post-screening Q&A.

On Saturday, October 14: *Signature Move* directed by Jennifer Reeder and starring the sexy and talented Fawzia Mirza plays on Saturday night, with local Sacramento comedienne Elisia Gonzales starting off with a short stand-up set for an evening of comedy. *After Louie*, an engaging inter-generational story starring Alan Cumming, Zachary Booth, Wilson Cruz and with Mx. Justin Vivian Bond.

SIGLFF26 has three riveting documentaries: *The Untold Tales of Armistead Maupin* which examines the amazing life of the celebrated San Francisco wordsmith, directed by Jennifer Kroot and editor extraordinaire Bill Weber (the team behind *To Be Takei*).

The Death and Life of Marsha P. Johnson which looks at the life and mysterious death of this transgender pioneer and her dear friend Sylvia Rivera in this riveting film.

SIGLFF26's Closing Night Film, *The Lavender Scare*, tells the McCarthy-era story of an unrelenting campaign by the federal government to identify and fire all employees suspected of being homosexual. Director Josh Howard will be in attendance at the screening.

Jen Hatton, SIGLFF Board Member and Programmer says "For 26 years SIGLFF has brought quality films that explore the LGBTQ culture. This year is no different, from comedies and documentaries to



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character-driven dramas, SIGLFF continues to enrich the Sacramento Valley with films that both inform and inspire. It's a wonderful community building event that everyone I know looks forward to year after year."

Rachael Hudson, SIGLFF Board Member, "I am so excited that SIGLFF is presenting *The Death and Life of Marsha P. Johnson* and *The Lavender Scare*—LGBTQ documentaries tell our histories, our stories that don't get told anywhere else."

"As a State employee, I am so happy to be living and working in the liberal and accepting state of California. *The Lavender Scare* is critically important to Sacramento audiences." says Board Chair Michael Dennis.

SIGLFF26 has two shorts programs with 8 short films in each, which will make you laugh, cry, and gasp with pride amongst fellow film-lovers. Numerous filmmakers and special guests are expected to attend, and we are looking forward to some vibrant post-show Q&As with them (please check Facebook and our website for updates at www.siglff.org).

"Also new this year, our Audience Awards carry cash prizes for the winning filmmakers (\$750 for best feature-length film, \$500 for best short film)," gushed Programming Chair, Kevin Schaub, "Your votes really count! We are looking forward to celebrating these films together—as a community."

Expected Guests, more TBA:

Director, Shaz Bennett, ALASKA IS A DRAG

Director, Josh Howard, THE LAVENDER SCARE

Director, Florencia Monovil, ENCUENTRO

Director, Ryan White & Director of Photography, Alex Clausen, CRUISING ELSEWHERE

Director, Bobby Yan, MARZ

Festival Info and Tickets: <http://siglff.org/>

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SCHEDULE AT-A-GLANCE

Opening Night, Friday, October 13

7:00pm Alaska Is a Drag

9:15pm Friday Night Shorts Program

Saturday, October 14

1:30pm The Death and Life of Marsha P. Johnson

4:00pm The Untold Tales of Armistead Maupin

7:00pm Signature Move

9:15pm After Louie

Closing Night, Sunday, October 15

3:30pm Sunday Shorts Program

6:30pm The Lavender Scare



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TICKETS, PRICING, PASSES, BOARD

Ticket Pricing

\$15 General

\$10 Matinee

\$70 VIP Pass

-Includes all films

-Complimentary pre-screening hors d'oeuvres, beer, wine, and bubbly

-Early entry (5:30pm on Friday & Saturday; 5:00pm on Sunday)

\$50 Film Only Pass

-Includes all films, (no pre-screening receptions)

-Must bring photo ID with same name as on the pass, to each screening

\$10 Student Film Only Pass

-Includes all films (no pre-screening receptions)

-Must bring current/active student ID with photo, with the same name as the pass, to each screening

Tickets & Passes available:

SIGLFF.org

Ticketfly.com

Ticketleap.com

The Crest Theatre

CREST THEATER

1013 K Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

SIGLFF Board

BOARD MEMBERS

President Michael Dennis

Co-Vice President Scott Brozek

Co-Vice President Gerald Filice

Programming Chair, Artistic Director, Press Contact: Kevin Schaub

Rachael Hudson, Outreach

Jennifer Hatton, Programmer

PRESS VISUAL MATERIALS

SIGLFF26 Program Guide PDF:

<http://siglff.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/siglff26.Oct13.14.15.2017-programguide.pdf>

Downloadable Hi-Res Film Trailers

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/9e8mathjgkuyw9b/AACU-t9HhKkhY88Vio5KtUYPa?dl=0>

Hi-Res Print-Quality Press Photos:

1) Folder with 7 feature film photos: 6 films, there are 2 for The Lavender Scare



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https://www.dropbox.com/sh/8bf0d03htt9t3h/AAD1_h6xzf7wSLAqveUHH1-qa?dl=0

2) Short Films Press Images Folder: 16 short films

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/0gmcjip4mce78m4/AAAWJ2lKjsKp1WTFaHr3Zy83a?dl=0>

FEATURE FILM DETAIL

Opening Night

ALASKA IS A DRAG

Director: Shaz Bennett

2017 | USA | 83 min

Friday, October 13; 7:00pm

<http://siglff.org/events/event/alaskaisadrag/>

Expected Guest: Director, Shaz Bennett

Writer-director Shaz Bennett has expanded her memorable short film of the same name into a rousing and crowd-pleasing debut feature that is the queer lovechild of Rocky and Hedwig. Tough, but diva fabulous, Leo, an aspiring drag superstar, is stuck working in a fish cannery in Alaska. He and his twin sister are trapped in the monotony of fist fights and fish guts. Out of necessity, Leo learned to fight back, which catches the attention of the local boxing coach. When a new boy moves to town and wants to be his sparring partner, Leo has to face the real reason he's stuck in Alaska.

<http://www.AlaskaIsADrag.com>

@alaskaisadrag

THE DEATH AND LIFE OF MARSHA P. JOHNSON

Director: David France

2017 | USA | 107 min

Saturday, October 14; 1:30pm

<http://siglff.org/events/event/marshapjohnson-saturday-matinee/>

SHORT VERSION

Who killed Marsha P. Johnson? When the beloved, self-described “street queen” of NY’s Christopher Street was found floating in the Hudson River in 1992, the NYPD called her death a suicide. Protests erupted but the police remained impassive and refused to investigate. Now, twenty-five years on, Academy Award® nominated director and journalist David France (*How to Survive a Plague*) examines Marsha’s death—and her extraordinary life— thanks to the work of a dynamic activist named Victoria Cruz.

Marsha teamed up with Sylvia Rivera, the radical duo fought arrests, condemned police brutality, organized street kids, battled the intolerant majority within the gay community, and helped spearhead the Stonewall Riots. In 1970 they formed the world’s first trans-rights organization, STAR (Street Transvestites Action Revolutionaries). Marsha and Sylvia ignited a powerful and lasting civil rights movement for gender nonconforming people. (Last year we screened S.T.A.R., a documentary short about Marsha and Sylvia)



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LONG VERSION

Who killed Marsha P. Johnson? When the beloved, self-described “street queen” of NY’s Christopher Street was found floating in the Hudson River in 1992, the NYPD called her death a suicide. Protests erupted but the police remained impassive and refused to investigate. Now, twenty-five years on, Academy Award®-nominated director and journalist David France (How to Survive a Plague) examines Marsha’s death—and her extraordinary life—in his new film.

Marsha arrived in the Village in the 1960s where she teamed up with Sylvia Rivera when both claimed their identities as “Drag Queens,” to use the vernacular of the times. Together, the radical duo fought arrests, condemned police brutality, organized street kids, battled the intolerant majority within the gay community, and helped spearhead the Stonewall Riots.

In 1970 they formed the world’s first trans-rights organization, STAR (Street Transvestites Action Revolutionaries). Despite their many challenges over the years—bias, homelessness, illness—Marsha and Sylvia ignited a powerful and lasting civil rights movement for gender nonconforming people.

Now, a quarter century later, at a time of unprecedented visibility and escalating violence in the transgender community, a dynamic activist named Victoria Cruz has taken it upon herself to reexamine what happened at the end of Marsha’s Life. *THE DEATH AND LIFE OF MARSHA P. JOHNSON* follows as this champion pursues leads, mobilizes officials, and works to get to the bottom of Marsha’s death.

DIRECTOR DAVID FRANCE

WRITERS DAVID FRANCE, MARK BLANE

PRODUCERS L.A. TEODOSIO, KIMBERLEY REED, DAVID FRANCE

EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS JOY A. TOMCHIN, SARA RAMIREZ, ALAN GETZ, STANLEY TOMCHIN

EDITOR TYLER H. WALK

CINEMATOGRAPHERS THOMAS BERGMANN, ADAM UHL

MUSIC BRYCE DESSNER

CAST MARSHA P. JOHNSON, SYLVIA RIVERA, VICTORIA CRUZ

MARSHAPJOHNSONMOVIE.COM

Downloadable Trailer:

<https://vimeo.com/209241065/bfecdf6349>

THE UNTOLD TALES OF ARMISTEAD MAUPIN

Director: Jennifer M. Kroot; Editor/Co-Director: Bill Weber

2017 | USA | 91 min

Saturday, October 14; 4:00pm

<http://siglff.org/events/event/armistead-maupin-saturday-matinee/>

THE UNTOLD TALES OF ARMISTEAD MAUPIN examines the life and work of one of the world’s most beloved storytellers, following his evolution from a conservative son of the Old South into a gay rights pioneer whose novels have inspired millions to claim their own truth. Jennifer Kroot’s documentary about the creator of *Tales Of The City* moves nimbly between playful and poignant and laugh-out-loud



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funny. With help from his friends (including Neil Gaiman, Laura Linney, Olympia Dukakis, Sir Ian McKellen and Amy Tan), Maupin offers a disarmingly frank look at the journey that took him from the jungles of Vietnam to the bathhouses of '70s San Francisco to the front line of the American culture war.

DIRECTOR JENNIFER M. KROOT

PRODUCERS GERRY KIM, MAYURAN TIRUCHELVAM

EDITOR BILL WEBER

CINEMATOGRAPHER SHANE KING

SOUND LORA HIRSCHBERG

MUSIC MICHAEL HEARST

ANIMATION GRANT NELLESSEN

FESTIVALS

2017: SXSW (WORLD PREMIERE), FRAMELINE41 (OPENING NIGHT)

AWARDS

AUDIENCE AWARD WINNER, DOCUMENTARY SPOTLIGHT (SXSW), BEST DOCUMENTARY

JURY WINNER (OUTSHINE MIAMI), AUDIENCE AWARD (NASHVILLE)

ARMISTEADFILM.COM

SIGNATURE MOVE

Director: Jennifer Reeder

2017 | USA | 82 min

Saturday, October 14; 7:00pm

<http://siglff.org/events/event/signature-move-saturday-night/>

Sacramento-based comedian, Elisia Gonzales will kick off the program with a short stand-up set!

SIGNATURE MOVE is a comedic and heartfelt look at modern families and the complexities of love in its many forms. Zaynab (Fawzia Mirza) is a Pakistani, Muslim lawyer living in Chicago who begins a new romance with Alma (Sari Sanchez), a confident Mexican-American woman. Zaynab's recently widowed mother Parveen (Shabana Azmi) has moved in and spends her days watching Pakistani TV dramas while searching for a potential husband for her only daughter. Alma's mother is a former professional Luchadora, which Zaynab finds fascinating, as she has recently taken up lucha-style wrestling with a former pro wrestler. Zaynab tries to keep her secrets from her mother, who knows more than she lets on. (SIGLFF audiences will remember Fawzia in last year's short SPUNKLE, and her raucous Q&A after feature film *Jamie and Jess are Not Together* in SIGLFF20.)

DIRECTOR JENNIFER REEDER

WRITERS FAWZIA MIRZA, LISA DONATO

PRODUCERS BRIAN HIEGGELKE, FAWZIA MIRZA, EUGENE SUN PARK, HUGH SCHULZE

EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS MICHAEL SHANNON, NABEELA RASHEED, JAN HIEGGELKE

EDITOR FELIX PINEIRO

CINEMATOGRAPHER CHRISTOPHER REJANO

MUSIC CARLOS VILLALOBOS, JR.

CAST FAWZIA MIRZA, SHABANA AZMI, SARI SANCHEZ, AUDREY FRANCIS, CHARIN

ALVAREZ, MARK HOOD, MOLLY BRENNAN

FESTIVALS

2017: SXSW (WORLD PREMIERE)



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AWARDS U.S. GRAND JURY PRIZE—BEST NARRATIVE FEATURE FILM: JENNIFER REEDER (OUTFEST)

<https://signaturemoviemovie.com/>

AFTER LOUIE

Director: Vincent Gagliostro

2017 | USA | 100 min

Saturday, October 14; 9:15pm

<http://siglff.org/events/event/after-louie-saturday-night/>

AFTER LOUIE follows Sam (Alan Cumming), an artist and activist from ACT UP who lived through the early years of HIV/AIDS—a man scarred and still struggling with survivor’s guilt. Cemented into an oppressive past, he is bewildered by a younger generation of carefree gay men with their uninhibited use of social media, sexting, and seeming political indifference. But when he meets the seductive young Braeden (Zachary Booth) at a bar late one night, their pants quickly come down and, eventually, so does Sam’s ossified guard. As the pair become increasingly intimate, an intergenerational relationship blossoms between them—one capable of reawakening Sam’s artistic soul and reviving his wilted heart.

DIRECTOR VINCENT GAGLIOSTRO

WRITERS VINCENT GAGLIOSTRO, ANTHONY JOHNSTON

PRODUCERS LAUREN BELFER, BRYCE J. RENNINGER, ALAN CUMMING

EDITOR MARIA CATALDO

CINEMATOGRAPHER AARON KOVALCHIK

COSTUME DESIGNER HANNAH KITTELL

MUSIC JONATHAN SHEFFER

CAST ALAN CUMMING, ZACHARY BOOTH, JUSTIN BOND, WILSON CRUZ, JOEY ARIAS,

PATRICK BREEN, DAVID DRAKE

FESTIVALS

2017: BFI FLARE (WORLD PREMIERE), FRAMELINE41 (CLOSING NIGHT)

<https://twitter.com/afterlouie>

<https://www.facebook.com/afterlouie/>

<http://afterlouie.com/>

THE LAVENDER SCARE

Director: Josh Howard

2016 | USA | 78 min

Sunday, October 15; 6:30pm

<http://siglff.org/events/event/lavender-scare-sunday-night/>

Expected Guest: Director, Josh Howard

The Lavender Scare is the first documentary film to tell the little-known story of an unrelenting campaign by the federal government to identify and fire all employees suspected of being homosexual. In 1953, President Eisenhower declared gay men and lesbians to be a threat to the security of the country and therefore unfit for government service.

In doing so, he triggered the longest witch hunt in American history. *The Lavender Scare* is a compelling



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story of one man's fight for justice. And it is a chilling reminder of how easy it can be, during a time of fear and uncertainty, to trample the rights of an entire class of people in the name of patriotism and national security.

<http://www.theLavenderScare.com>

Trailers:

<https://www.thelavenderscare.com/video>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xnFv-SrYJ0E>

SHORTS PROGRAMS DETAIL

FRIDAY NIGHT SHORTS PROGRAM

Friday, October 13; 9:15pm

*content is for mature audiences

Expected Guests:

Cruising Elsewhere, Director Ryan White, Director of Photography, Alex Clausen

<http://siglff.org/events/event/friday-night-shorts-2017/>

Cake

Director: Jacintho Muinos

2015 | Australia | 16 min

A late-night Internet hook-up between a housebound gamer and a relentless party boy runs overtime. But the morning arrival of Andrew's grandma turns things a bit awkward in this charming Aussie romance.

Cruising Elsewhere

Director: Ryan White

2016 | USA | 13 min

Whatever happened to Wohler Beach? Oral histories and spectral pornography resurrect memories of a once legendary Russian River gay beach in this sexy short.

Tits.

Director: Louisa Bertman

2015 | USA | 5 min

Quite simply, this is a powerful animated short about tits.

Queer Ghost Hunters: Part 1

Director: Stu Maddux

2017 USA 11 min

As Season 2 begins, the team of queer ghost hunters investigates one of the most haunted prisons in the world—The Shawshank Redemption Prison. Help comes from a former inmate as the Queer Ghost Hunters unearth hidden histories in their uniquely clever way.



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Haygood Eats

Director: hazart
2016 | USA | 5 min

A bickering husband-and-wife catering team (or is it husband-and-beard?) is shooting a cheesy TV ad, and we get to see the hilarious outtakes.

Rusalka

Directors: Wes "Potato" Hurley & Nathan Miller
2016 | USA | 9 min

Imagine Hans Christian Andersen's "The Little Mermaid" retold by Tom of Finland, and throw in an homage to early gay erotic films, and you get the artful *Rusalka*, set to the music of Antonín Dvořák's opera of the same name and starring burlesque icons Luminous Pariah and Chris Harder.

The Blondes (Las Rubias)

Director: Carlota Martínez Pereda
2016 | Spain | 17 min

Blonde, pretty, and delinquent: nothing stands in the way of Marta and Pepa...except another blonde. Inspired by real events and the style of Almodóvar. *In Spanish with English subtitles*

Curmudgeons

Director: Danny DeVito
2016 | USA | 17 min

A potty-mouthed octogenarian in an assisted living facility gets a big-time surprise engineered by his daughter, in this funny and endearing sketch directed (and with a delightful cameo) by Danny DeVito.

SUNDAY SHORTS PROGRAM

Sunday, October 15; 3:30pm
<http://siglff.org/events/event/sunday-short-program-2017/>

Expected Guests: Director, Florencia Manóvil, ENCUENTRO & Director Bobby Yan, MARZ

Boys in the Street #pride

Director: Louisa Bertman
2016 | USA | 4 min

This gorgeous animated music video addresses growing up surrounded by homophobia.

Bootwmm

Directors: Paige Gratland & Sam McWilliams
2015 | USA, Canada, UK | 11 min



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Deana McGuffin is a third-generation New Mexico bootmaker, hand-crafting wearable pieces of art. When she is approached by a Canadian artist and an SF tattoo artist to create a gay-themed cowboy boot, a story unravels of a unique collaboration that takes them to the heart of cowboy country in Texas.

Britney-Holics Anonymous - A Spear-itual Awakening

Director: Jerell Rosales
2015 | USA | 10 min

A delivery man stumbles upon an unusual support group where cheerful devotees addicted to a certain pop star meet in solidarity.

Etage X

Director: Francy Fabritz
2016 | Germany | 14 min

An accidental meeting in an elevator at a department store leads two older women to their limits and forces them to improvise. *In German with English subtitles*

Marz

Director: Bobby Yan
2016 | USA | 12 min

A childhood friendship is put to the test after a fleeting encounter stirs up uncomfortable feelings that neither is equipped to answer.

Dusk

Director: Jake Graf
2017 | UK | 15 min

Writer-Director Jake Graf (*Dawn*) returns with a beautiful rumination on self-perception and lasting love set in 1950s England.

Encuentro

Director: Florencia Manóvil
2016 | USA | 17 min

Claudia is in for a spark-filled evening when she encounters the captivating foreigner, Isabel, who challenges her perceptions of Latinos and of herself in this beautiful short.

Little Potato

Director: Wes "Potato" Hurley & Nathan Miller
2016 | USA | 14 min

This visually fascinating autobiographical short (a Jury Prize winner for Best Short Doc at SXSW) is about a gay boy growing up in the Soviet Union, his gutsy mail-order-bride mom, and their dream of escaping to America.

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