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34TH
ANNUAL

FILM
FESTIVAL

OCTOBER
5-8, 2023

www.tiglff.com



LET'S OOH & AHH.

Welcome attendees and filmmakers of the 2023 Tampa Bay International Gay & Lesbian Film Festival. For your next project, discover the awe-inspiring sights, sounds and the beauty of St. Pete/Clearwater, Florida, where America's Best Beaches and our 26 eclectic and inviting communities welcome you.

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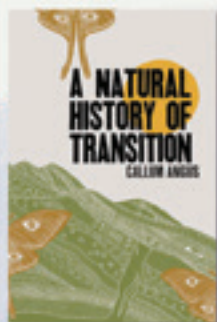
2023 DISTINGUISHED FRIEND OF THE FESTIVAL:



TONI RUSSELL is a 5th Generation Tampa Bay Native and currently lives in St. Petersburg. She has been a loyal supporter and corporate sponsor of the Festival since she joined in 2006. She served on the Board in 2009 and as Treasurer from 2010 - 2012. In addition to running a busy real estate brokerage with her son, Spencer, she continues to sponsor and volunteer for the Festival and other LGBTQ+ events and businesses throughout the Tampa Bay area. I feel privileged to have TIGLFF right here in my backyard, and I hope that never changes. It is such an enjoyable environment when we come together and watch relevant films on the Big Screen and interact with filmmakers and actors. It also gives filmmakers the desire to create content that has potential to change the lives of its viewers. It certainly has changed mine!

PAST RECIPIENTS: 2021: Mariruth Kennedy • 2019: Mark Bryan & Roger White
2018: Kat Klingerman & Jean Colton • 2017: Ty Maxey and Timothy Thomas
2016: David Gonzalez • 2015: Ed Lally • 2014: Sam Salmons
2013: Eunice Fisher • 2012: The Knights of The Krewe of Cavaliers

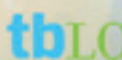
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This project is funded under the provisions of the Library Cooperative Grant program awarded to Tampa Bay Library Consortium, Inc. Florida's LCG program is administered by the Florida Department of State's Division of Library and Information Services.



Photo by Nick Cardello

Welcome to the 34th annual Tampa Bay International Gay & Lesbian Film Festival!

So much has happened over the past 34 years of world class LGBTQ+ cinema in Tampa Bay. TIGLFF began as an event for the community to come together and watch films that reflected their lives and times, and it grew to become an annual eleven-day event where we enjoyed films with friends and saw people we only saw once a year, at this festival that dominated the Tampa Theatre and quiet downtown Tampa. Then came increased acceptance and equality - long fought for by earlier generations - that changed the urgency of an event like TIGLFF. And, for a moment, we thought things were getting comfortable.

Whether we want to admit it or not, those hard-earned equalities are under attack. During these times of fear mongering and hate, TIGLFF is more important than ever. We won't hide or blend in, but will shine with Pride. After all, we're here and we're Queer!

This year we're trying something different and celebrating mini-festivals on each side of the bridge over the next few months. And we have some exciting things in store for you at TIGLFF Tampa, including guest appearances, exclusive screenings and special events.

Opening Night at the Tampa Theatre will be a celebration like no other, with not one but two very special opening film events. The Mattachine Family, a touching, romantic crowd-pleaser, celebrates where we've been and where we're going, as well as our unique chosen family structures. Immediately following a conversation with guests from the film, some Big Easy Queens will welcome us back to the theater with a mini-cabaret pre-show before that film. With stunning sets and a cast that clearly had a blast making this drag extravaganza, we'll enjoy a communal Opening Night extended screening celebration in our historic Tampa Theatre home.

The rest of the weekend at the AMC Westshore will be just as captivating, with Spotlight screenings featuring queer icons like Billy Porter and Guinevere Turner on Friday. Saturday is a jam packed cinematic celebration with features and shorts from Nigeria, France, Mexico, Switzerland, the UK, Germany, Belgium, and all over the US (including some great local shorts!). Closing Day on Sunday is an Indigo Girls extravaganza, punctuated with the enchanting and romantic musical, Glitter and Doom.

We can't wait to see you all at the movies!

ROB AKINS
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Jane Castor, Mayor

Greetings:

It is a pleasure to welcome you to the **34th Annual Tampa Bay International Gay and Lesbian Film Festival (TIGLFF)** October 5-8, 2023, hosted by the Friends of the Festival, Inc. This year, the event opens with live screenings at the historic Tampa Theatre in downtown Tampa followed by additional screenings at the AMC West Shore 14. As a city that prides itself on its inclusiveness, the City of Tampa is proud of the association we have had with the Friends of the Festival organization and this yearly event for over three decades. We commend the many sponsors for their continued support in featuring creative and exciting films for the viewing audience.



Since its founding in 1989, this Film Festival is known as an event that *Entertains, Empowers and Enlightens* its audience and it showcases a selection of compelling films by, for, or about the LGBTQ+ community. It has become one of the largest Gay and Lesbian Film Festivals in the United States and one of Tampa's premier cultural events. This is a notable distinction and has contributed significantly to our efforts in promoting Tampa as a "City of the Arts."

We are proud of Tampa's reputation as a city with a wealth of cultural richness and diversity and are honored this tradition continues. On behalf of our citizens, a warm welcome to the film audience.

Sincerely,

Jane Castor



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Single Serve - \$15

- A ticket to see any film Thursday-Sunday (including either opening night film - or get the Double Feature with live show in between for \$25)

Quad Feature - Buy 3, Get 1 Film *Free* (Most popular option!) - \$45

- Choose any 4 screenings to attend, for the price of 3 screenings (\$15 savings)

Friend of the Fest - \$125 (Highest access + greatest support for queer film!)

- See as many in-person screenings as you like during the festival
- On screen "Thank You" before each film as well as digital shout-out on the TIGLFF website + social media
- One complimentary drink in our Friends of the Fest Lounge
- Invitation to a pre-film afternoon behind-the-scenes tour of the historic Tampa Theatre, Arrive Theatre 5:20pm with tour beginning promptly at 5:30pm

Limited to just 30 Friends of the Fest Passes due to capacity for tours - we suggest booking yours now

VENUE INFORMATION:

Tampa Theatre

711 N. Franklin Street, Tampa, 33602

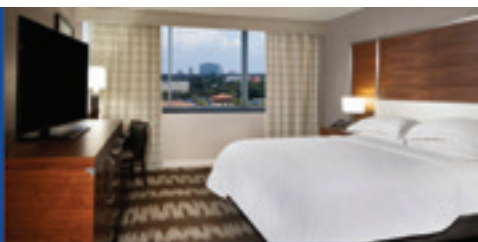
Opening Night Only

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ALAN IRA DUSOWITZ

The Friends of the Festival Fund was established in 2009 through the estate of Alan Ira Dusowitz. This endowment trust helps fund film programming content for TIGLFF. In honor of Alan, TIGLFF will give annual awards for best emerging filmmaker in the categories of Full Length Feature film and Short film. You can also help ensure a bright future for GLBT film screenings here in Tampa Bay by including TIGLFF in your estate planning. To find out more please contact Friends of the Festival and ask about The Friends of the Festival Fund. Thank you.



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A romantic couple, a man and a woman, are shown in a close embrace, nearly kissing. The man is wearing a dark suit, and the woman is wearing a red dress. They are set against a backdrop of Parisian architecture, including the Eiffel Tower and a windmill, under a night sky with a full moon. The scene is illuminated with warm, golden light.

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Opening Night Film

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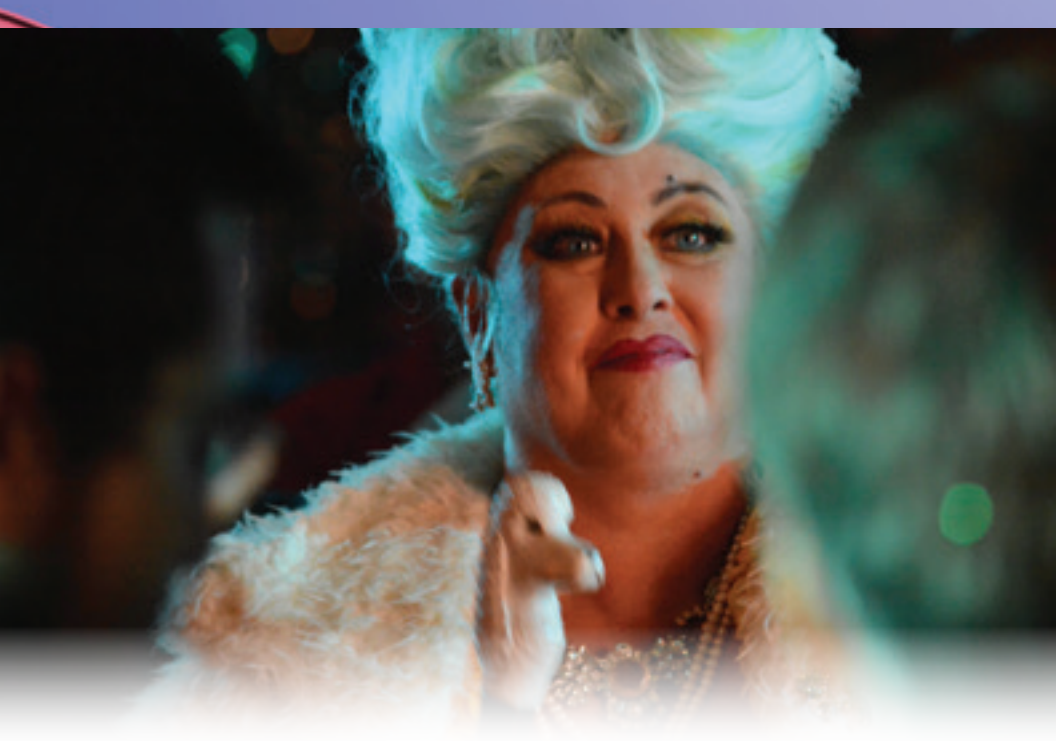
THE MATTACHINE FAMILY

Tampa Theatre: Thursday, October 5, 7pm

Actor Juan Pablo Di Pace and writer/director Danny Vallentine will be in attendance!

Oscar (Juan Pablo Di Pace, *Mamma Mia*) and Thomas (Nico Tortorella, *Scream 4*) meet cute, get married, have charming friends and burgeoning careers. Fate steps in and the two agree to be foster parents to a little boy, Arthur. When Arthur is reunited with his birth mother, Thomas realizes he loves being a dad. Oscar's acting career has finally taken off, and to say that Thomas' desire to be a dad is terrible timing would be wildly understated. Thomas' best friend, Leah (Emily Hampshire of *Schitt's Creek*) struggles with infertility and the old friends find themselves sharing an unexpected journey together. *Mattachine Family* is a sweet celebration of true friendship and finding family at exactly the right time. (Sunny Hall)

Andy Vallentine, 2023, USA, 98 min.



Opening Night Film

Sponsored by the St. Pete Clearwater Film Commission

BIG EASY QUEENS

Tampa Theatre: Thursday, October 5, 9:30pm

Guests from the film will be in attendance and will provide a cabaret pre-show!

Seems like a perfect time in Florida for campy gangland humor. Fort Lauderdale Director Erynn Dalton (*The Gravedigger*) delivers this raucous delight. Miss Minnie Bouvée (Eric Swanson) is a full-bodied queen of the Big Easy underworld who finds herself under threat by a mysterious masked predator and the fragrance of gardenias, a "sore spot of torment" from Miss Minnie's past. Adding to her distress is the return of her former lover, Jackson, a conniving rake looking for money. Never mind that Jackson dumped her 20 years ago to marry her younger sister, Mimi Bouvée-Truvé, (Benjamin Shaevitz) a demure housewife who can catapult from a dainty deb in a pink frilly apron to a foul mouth terror when she disapproves of the caterer's quote. Enter Miss Minnie's longtime nemesis, Poodles Makenzie (deliciously delivered by Jennifer McClain), "a psychopath with a hideous coiffure," who seeks to destroy Miss Minnie and everything she holds dear. Robert Leleux's script of giggle worthy turns of phrase, "theirs is a romantic intrigue" along with excellent singing and gorgeous costumes are a delightful dressing to the bloody mayhem and murder splayed across the screen with glorious delight. (Sunny Hall)

Erynn Dalton, 2023, Florida, 71 min.





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OUR SON

Narrative Spotlight Film

Fri., Oct. 6, 7pm • AMC Westshore, Theater 7

Featuring great lead performances by two talented gay actors, *Our Son* is an absorbing exploration of parenthood and family. Gabriel (Pose's Billy Porter) and Nicky (Beauty and the Beast's Luke Evans) share a life in a spacious city apartment with their sweet 7 year old son, Owen (Christopher Woodly). Nicky works long hours while Gabriel stays home to care for Owen. When one day Gabriel decides he needs to end their 13 year marriage, the men begin a fight for custody. Nicky turns to family and friends including Matthew (Girls' Andrew Parnell) and his lawyer Pam (American Horror Story's Robin Weigert) for support while Gabriel now finds himself on the search for a new job. Both fathers are forced to consider what they prioritize in their lives and what they truly value most. (Garrett Stralnic)

Bill Oliver, 2023, USA, 104 min.

Sponsored by Hilton Tampa Westshore



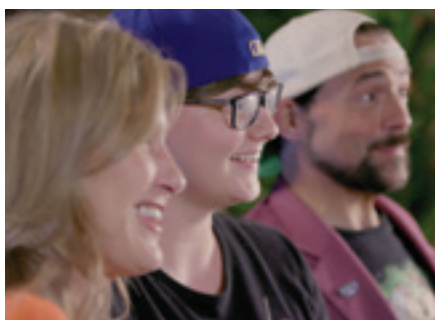
BLACK BARBIE

Sat., Oct. 7, 2pm • AMC Westshore, Theater 7

"It took 21 years for one black fashion doll to be worthy of the Barbie name." Award winning Queer director Laqueria Davis decided to make "Black Barbie" after spending time with her Aunt Beulah Mae Mitchell, a 45-year employee at Mattel. This led to complex conversations about race, body image, and evolution of Black Barbie. Davis' compelling documentary begins by exploring the history of Black women at Mattel, breaking barriers, and inspiring little Black girls in the 70's. A number of influential adult Black women are moved to tears as they recount their longing and confusion as little girls who loved dolls that were white, with flowing long hair. This is not just a documentary about dolls. It is about empowerment, expression, and the confluence of play with the not-so-subtle messages Black children continue to receive about their place in our society. (Sunny Hall)

Laqueria Davis, 2023, USA, 100 min.

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CHASING CHASING AMY

Documentary Spotlight Film

Fri., Oct. 6, 9pm • AMC Westshore, Theater 7

Many lesbians of a certain age hated *Chasing Amy*, Kevin Smith's 1990's romcom about a straight white guy who falls in love with a lesbian. But for Sav Rodgers, a young filmmaker from Kansas grappling with his own queerness while suffering bullying, the film opened a door that started his journey to coming out as queer and eventually, trans. Sav gained access to Kevin Smith and Jody Lauren Adams (Amy), who appear to be genuinely engaged in emotional retrospect of the impact of *Chasing Amy* on the film industry and, pointedly, their own lives. Smith acknowledges that since then, there are far better and more authentic LGBTQ films "from the community," but his film came to Sav at a time when that was not the case, at least in Kansas, and Smith is genuinely moved by the impact his film had for Sav. At its heart, Sav's film is an introspective homage to sharing a story without ever knowing who will be forever changed by the telling. (Sunny Hall)

Sav Rodgers, 2023, USA, 85 min.



BIG BOYS

Sat., Oct. 7, 2:15pm • AMC Westshore, Theater 8

Big Boys is a sweet and humorous story about the awkwardness of growing up and feeling different from your peers. Jamie is an anxious and chubby, 14-year old. While he's not the least bit interested in sports, he might just be a culinary master. He thought he was going on a camping trip with just his brother Will (Pen15's Taj Cross) and his favorite older cousin Allie (Everybody Wants Some's Dora Madison), so he isn't exactly thrilled to meet Allie's new fiancé. Dan turns out to be a beefy, charming "bear" of a man. As Jamie and Dan get time to bond, things become more complicated as he experiences exciting new feelings. (Garrett Stralnic)

Corey Sherman, 2023, USA, 90 min.

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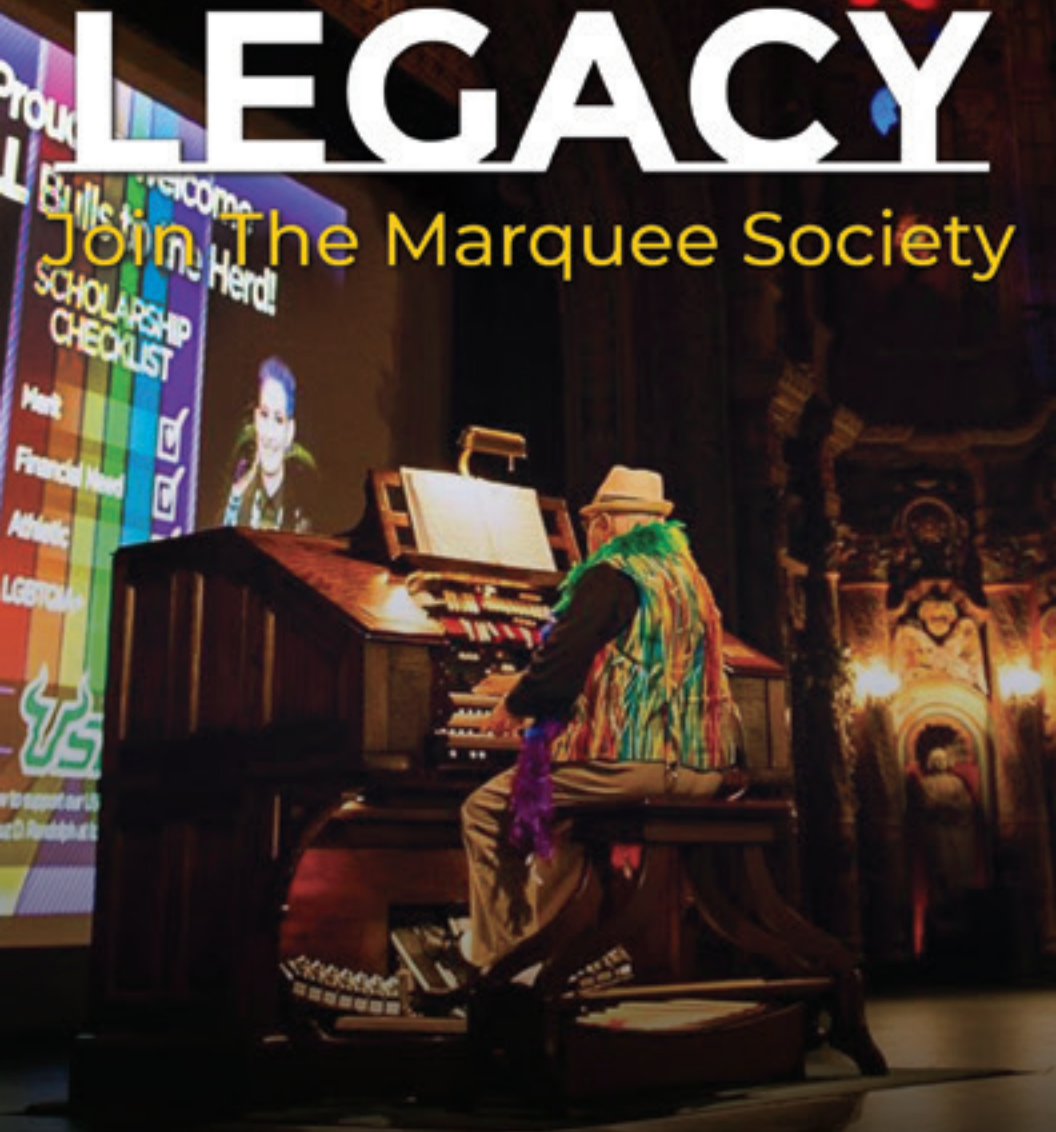
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AMC Westshore, Theater 7: Saturday, October 7, 4:15pm

FLAG ACT *Susana Darwin, 2023, Florida, 10 min.*
Simone has run afoul of the FLAG Act, a new law which prohibits the flying of "provocative" flags. As a conflict escalates, she coolly defends her right to free speech.

MIKEY'S ARMY *Andrew Keenan-Bolger, 2022, USA, 11 min.*
A teenager conjures courage from a trio of guides who appear in an explosion of glitter and glitz.

THE ART OF MAKING THE SIMPLE, COMPLICATED

Karla Enriqueta Noriega & Maria Jose Noriega, 2023, Mexico, 15 min.

During her mom's visit from Mexico, Makos has to decide if it's finally time to come out of the closet.

DADDY ISSUES *Matt Campanella & Stephanie Hepner, 2022, USA, 5 min.*

When encountered with an unexpected client, BDSM worker Ollie is forced to confront emotional baggage and make an unimaginable decision to protect his job.

STILL THE ONE *Taisiya Zaretskaya, 2022, USA, 3 min.*

The family in this animated tear-jerker stays together despite challenges, proving that love conquers all.

GIRL ON GIRL *Laura Jayne Tunbridge, 2023, UK, 10 min.*

On move-in day, a lesbian couple are forced to acknowledge that the problems between them extend beyond the bedroom.

GAY QUIZ *Caleb Cook, 2022, Florida, 3 min.*

A concessions stand worker gives his attractive new coworker an internet quiz to determine if he's gay.

HEATHER *Sarah Forest, 2023, Florida, 14 min.*

A young video store clerk becomes obsessed with a VHS aerobics instructor.

F^CK 'EM RIGHT BACK *Harris Doran, 2021, USA, 13 min.*

An aspiring Baltimore rap queen must outwit his vengeful day-job boss in order to avoid getting fired after accidentally eating an edible.



LIE WITH ME (ARRÊTE AVEC TES MENSONGES)

In French with English subtitles.

Sat., Oct. 7, 4:30pm • AMC Westshore, Theater 8

Based on the bestselling French novel, *Lie With Me* is a story about lost love and the importance of being true to yourself. Established author Stéphane Belacourt (Guillaume de Tonquédec) returns to his beautiful hometown to promote a renowned local cognac distillery and deliver a keynote speech. Stéphane doesn't blend naturally with the bourgeoisie in attendance because he has always been open about his sexuality and because he hasn't had a drop to drink in years. He is surprised to meet Lucas (Victor Belmondo), the son of his first love. After all those years Lucas's resemblance to his father brings the memory of his secret steamy affair vividly back to life. (Garrett Stralnic)

Olivier Peyon, 2023, France, 100 min.

Sponsored by Straz Center



JESS PLUS NONE

Director Mandy Fabian will be in attendance!

Sat., Oct. 7, 6:30pm • AMC Westshore, Theater 7

Jess is a hot mess. She is impulsive, whiney, and completely self-absorbed. That she is the maid of honor for her best friend is like an afterthought to Jess' preoccupation with her recent breakup. The wedding is literally in the woods and a reunion of sorts for college friends and partners. College friends coming together for a wedding opens up all the expected cans of worms. Volleyball and campfires wedge open happy youthful memories and pangs of old wounds. Jess is obsessed with reuniting with her ex-girlfriend at the wedding, an obviously foolish endeavor to everyone except Jess. She is full of desperation and inexplicably manages her angst with, um, robust self-care in the most inappropriate situations. Thankfully, Abbie Miller (*The Sinner*, *Justified*) as Jess is affably quirky and elicits enough sympathy to give us hope that she will find a way to just get over herself. (Sunny Hall)

Mandy Fabian, 2023, USA, 101 min.

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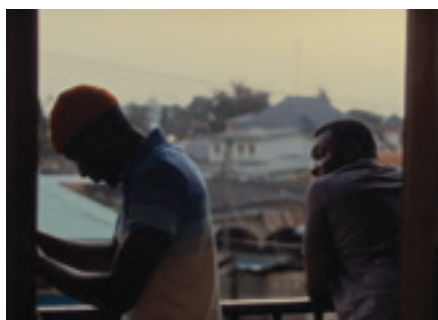
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ALL THE COLOURS OF THE WORLD ARE BETWEEN BLACK AND WHITE

In English and Igbo with English subtitles.

Sat., Oct. 7, 7pm • AMC Westshore, Theater 8

When Bambino, a salt of the earth delivery driver in Lagos, meets aspiring photographer, Bawa, the two men form an instant intimacy. As they explore their city together, their friendship grows. Taboos against homosexuality present a serious threat to their relationship and they sabotage their love for each other through their own legitimate fears and internalized homophobia. Filmmaker to watch, Babtunde Apalowo, initially presents Lagos as a cultural tourism destination. But his beloved metropolis is besmirched by threats of mob action. In his stunning directorial debut, Apalowo powerfully demonstrates the intricacies of human relationships and sounds the alarm on the scourge of an ugly global trend wherein groups of narrow-minded citizens seek vengeance against that which they see as "wrong." (Karin Wolf)

Babtunde Apalowo, 2023, Nigeria, 93 min.

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THE LOST BOYS (LE PARADIS)

In French with English subtitles.

Sat., Oct. 7, 8:45pm • AMC Westshore, Theater 7

Featuring an invigorating original score by Bachar Mar-Khalife and engaging performances, *Lost Boys* boldly explores ideas of freedom, the human need for love, and the ever-lingering effects that experiences in the juvenile detention system have on young people. After a failed escape attempt from a youth correctional facility, Joe (Peter von Kant's Khalil Ben Gharbia) resigns to preparing for a return to his old life. The monotony of confinement is disrupted when an interesting new and rebellious boy named William (Julien de Saint Jean) joins the facility. The two are easy friends and quickly become very close. Within the confines of their cellrooms, and under strict surveillance, their love for one another must remain secret, conjuring allusions to Jean Genet's classic *Un Chant d'Amour*. (Garrett Stralnic)

Zeno Graton, 2023, Belgium, 83 min.

LATE NIGHT SHORTS

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AMC Westshore, Theater 8: Saturday, October 7, 9pm

THE DALLES *Angalis Field, 2023, USA, 11 min.*

When a handsome cyclist passes through the family cherry farm asking for directions to a local cruising site, Cam takes that as an invitation to follow him.

KEEP/DELETE *Kryzz Gautier, 2022, USA, 19 min.*

In a future world where memories are handled like computer files, two lovers decide to undergo a procedure and have their entire relationship wiped from their brains.

DOGFRIEND *Hundefreund, Maissa Lihedheb, 2022, Germany, 18 min.*

A date takes an unexpected turn in this meditation on race, politics and history in Germany.

POLYWOOD *Alessio Mineo, 2023, USA, 15 min.*

Serial singleton Clayton's first date nerves wane within minutes of meeting August. But as Clayton's confidence grows, August drops a bombshell.

FIRST(ISH) DATE *Shira Baron, 2023, USA, 11 min.*

After weeks of online dating, Molly finally meets Jess in person, but even as sparks fly, she finds herself face to face with her oppressive insecurities.

PIPES *Killian Feusi, 2022, Switzerland, 4 min.*

Bob is a plumber hired to fix a broken pipe. He lands, to his surprise, in a gay fetish club.

HONEY TO THE MOON *Rob Woodcox, 2023, Mexico, 9 min.*

A wandering soul caught in a moment of reflection is met with a sweet surprise; an object of desire. Thrust from his lonely corner, Moon falls into a journey of love with Sun. Are they predestined to orbit each other forever?

LOLLYGAG *Tij D'oyen, 2022, USA, 10 min.*

How can you ignore the boy next door? This sun-drenched study of isolation, ennui, obsession and loss plays out a woman's sensual yet macabre childhood memory that occurred the summer of her parents' divorce.





IT'S ONLY LIFE AFTER ALL

Sun., Oct. 8, 3pm • AMC Westshore, Theater 7

"Fans want to know what is personal," says Emily Saliers. And, in spite of her admitted discomfort with the personal, Saliers and Amy Ray, the iconic Indigo Girls, go there in this acclaimed documentary by filmmaker Alexandria Bombach. Bombach gets out of her own way, melding her footage with Ray's personal video and audio recordings from high school, all the way through the 40 years of their iconic partnership. Fan coming out testimonials abound, many avowing that the Indigo Girls saved their lives. Bombach shares those stories and pushes it a bit by exploring the deeper impact of the duo's experiences, not only with their audience but also with each other and within their own personal journeys. They reflect on their music and their place in the zeitgeist of the 80's and 90's, even cringing sometimes, as many of us do when we look back 30 years at the hormone-induced angst of our younger selves. But it's their candid revelations of their personal journeys that finally separate them as two individuals, instead of one melded entity. The joys, struggles and triumphs of each of them highlight how very different they are, yet so connected in the music they make together, still. (Sunny Hall)

Alexandria Bombach, 2023, USA, 118 min.

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GLITTER AND DOOM

AMC Westshore, Theater 7: Sunday, October 8, 6:30pm

Director Tom Gustafson will be in attendance!

"You look like someone with a lot of songs inside," says Glitter to Doom. And the songs are those of Amy Ray and Emily Saliers — the Indigo Girls. New arrangements and mashups of their classics are a delight in Tom Gustafson's (Were the World Mine) homage to the soundtrack of love and the burning desire for "the dream." This charming musical is the tale of two aspiring artists in separate orbits, spinning in one universe. Glitter (Filipino musical superstar Alex Diaz) wants to literally run away and join the circus. Doom (Alan Cammish) just wants a chance to perform with his guitar in a local nightclub. Their moms, Missi Pyle (Dodgeball) and Ming-Na Wen (Mulan, The Mandalorian) have their own aspirations for their beloved sons' careers, but they ultimately come around, as mothers tend to do. Through it all, the classic music of Amy and Emily is turned on its head in a delightful deluge of song, dance, and the angst of youthful ambition. Fans of the Indigo Girls will relish hearing new versions of their faves. And those who aren't fans will revel in passionate music perfectly executed in an entirely unique setting. These guys are gorgeous, sweet, and madly in love with the siren's call of performing. The singing is legit. The dancing and ensemble performances are spot on. Topping off the film are appearances by Lea DeLaria (Orange is the New Black) as the hardened pub owner and Tig Notaro (One Mississippi) as a clown coach. (Yup, a clown coach.) (Sunny Hall)

Tom Gustafson, 2023, USA, 113 min.

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