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34TH
ANNUAL

FILM FESTIVAL

ST. PETERSBURG EDITION



JANUARY
25-28, 2024

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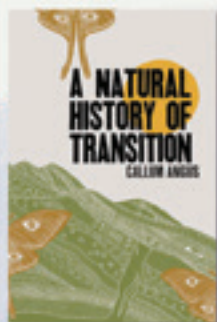
2023 DISTINGUISHED FRIEND OF THE FESTIVAL:



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

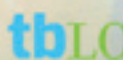
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Photo by Nick Cardello

Welcome to the 34th annual Tampa Bay International Gay & Lesbian Film Festival (TIGLFF) St. Pete Edition! After a successful Tampa Edition last October, we're excited to bring you another opportunity to watch world-class narratives, documentaries, and shorts in St. Pete.

Now, I, the Board, and staff have a big request of you...

This is a pivotal time for TIGLFF as we are in desperate need for members of the community to get involved to ensure the organization's continued existence. While much has changed over the years regarding the accessibility of LGBTQ+ entertainment, TIGLFF still has a part to play in the community. Over the years, TIGLFF has brought performing arts – local Drag Queen Daphne Ferraro, nationally known performers such as Suzanne Westenhoefer, Miss Richfield, John Waters, and LGBTQ+ comedians among others. This is in addition to world-class cinema that you won't see on streaming services.

THIS COULD BE THE END OF TIGLFF if we can't find others to take on the work. TIGLFF has been a part of the Tampa Bay LGBTQ+ community for 34 years. We're the oldest film festival and the oldest LGBTQ+ film festival in Florida where LGBTQ+ rights are under continued threat. This is not a time to lose TIGLFF!

The organization needs first and foremost board leadership – President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary - and members at-large. Leaders with the skills and desire to keep TIGLFF going and growing for the future who can work with the staff, board, and community. Secondly, there is a need for experienced volunteers with social media management, advertising, newsletter/email management, fundraising, community partnerships/outreach, and graphic design.

If you are a fit and interested in learning more or know of anyone who might be interested please reach out to me or direct them to me at rob@tiglff.com. I'll be happy to answer any questions you have about TIGLFF.

We hope you enjoy the St. Pete Edition of the 34th TIGLFF. We hope this is the first of many to come.

See you at the movies!

ROB AKINS
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Dear Friends,

This is the 34th year of the Tampa Bay International Gay and Lesbian Film Festival. As a City of the Arts, we are honored to welcome the film festival to St. Petersburg, and to serve as host.

TIGLFF joins an esteemed group of cultural organizations that excel in presenting visual and performing arts, and we are proud to have this organization as part of our inclusive community.

We also remain proud to be one of America's most LGBTQ-friendly destinations, earning perfect 100 scores on the Human Rights Campaign's Municipal Equality Index for ten years running.

This is my second year hosting TIGLFF as Mayor of St. Petersburg, and I look forward to this partnership and continued opportunities to ensure our community remains a place that is welcoming to all.

I hope you enjoy the festival and, while you're here, stop in for a delicious meal at one of our many excellent dining options in downtown; take a stroll at the St. Pete Pier; and enjoy all of the local art, businesses and parks that make St. Pete the best place to live, work and visit.

Thank you for again choosing St. Petersburg and have a great time!

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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 - \$65

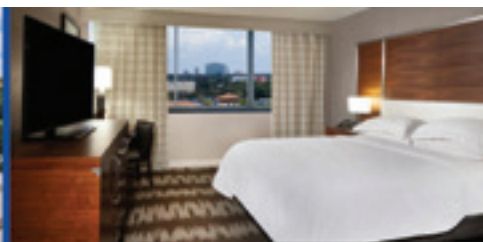
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- See as many in-person screenings as you like during the festival
- Free bag of popcorn at Green Light Cinema
- *Passes purchased for the Tampa Edition are valid for the St. Pete edition

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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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Events, days, dates, times, performers and prices are subject to change without notice. Handling fees will apply.



Opening Night Film

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OPENING NIGHT SHORTS

Green Light Cinema:
Thursday, January 25, 7pm

Filmmakers will be in attendance!



WHAT BECAME OF DAVID BURKETT?

Memories of an old friend are filled with questions and longing.

Duane Michals, 2023, USA, 3 min.

WENDY

A quiet but imaginative eighth grader attempts to find the courage to approach her secret crush while working on a middle-school production of *Romeo & Juliet*.

Maren Lavelle, 2022, USA, 10 min.

LIGHT LEAK

Oscar has two faithful partners: Lucas, his best friend since childhood, and his Super 8 film camera. Right when he starts shooting his new short film with Lucas as the main lead, he realizes that what he feels for him is more than just friendship.

Híbrido Abraxas, Carla Voces, 2022, Spain, 14 min.



DON'T SAY BUTTERFLY

Sam is working on a science project about butterflies. That night his mom leaves him in the apartment by himself for a few hours, the perfect time to explore another side of him.

Sebastian M. Oliver, 2023, Florida, 5 min.

WISHFUL THINKING

Rodrigo, a closeted gay man from a conservative town in Brazil is living in

Los Angeles, where he found a safe place to be who he is—as long as his family doesn't hear about it. He must confront his identity and relationships to understand coming out is more internal than external.

Rodrigo Carvalheda, Sílvia Lara, 2023, USA/Brazil, 16 min.

STREAKS OF COLOR

Inspired by Alma Thomas' *Starry Night* and the *Astronauts*, this short captures the smaller, transient moments in a relationship.

MJ Gudiño, 2023, USA, 7 min.

EITR

In Egyptian Arabic w/ English subtitles.

Mohamed's fear of his true desires will be tested as he is caught off guard by the power of being seen, but can this connection break him out of his performative shell, even for a lingering moment?

Fateema Al-Hamaydeh Miller, 2022, Canada, 15 min.

REQUIEM

Requiem is set in 1605, against the backdrop of the witch trials. It's a coming of age story, following Evelyn (Bella Ramsey) as she engages in a game of cat and mouse against her father, Minister Gilbert, in order to be with Mary, the woman she loves.

Emma Gilbertson, 2021, UK, 15 min.

BI THE WAY

Bi The Way is a short, funny, and intimate animated film about Amir's life-journey as a bisexual cis man - made in a Stop-Motion animation technique.

Amir Ovadia Steklov, 2022, Germany, 15 min.

FLAG ACT

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, including the flying of a rainbow flag.

Susana Darwin, 2023, Florida, 10 min.

TRT: 110 MIN







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EPIC Generations responds to the unique challenges and needs of older LGBTQ+ residents through visits, phone calls, social activities and other support services.



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Ed & Phil

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THE VENUS EFFECT

In Danish w/ English subtitles.

Fri., Jan. 26, 7pm • Green Light Cinema

Liv is in her early twenties. She works at her family's garden center in the province. Totally unprepared, she falls in love with the chaotic but spirited Andrea. Andrea has sought refuge at her uncle's idyllic apple plantation because of stress. Liv has barely cut the umbilical cord from her parents when Andrea bursts into her life. Her encounter with Andrea becomes the catalyst for an identity crisis, which teaches Liv that love and family do not come in a particular form but may take many different shapes. (The Danish Film Institute)

Anna Emma Haudal, 2021, Denmark, 105 min.

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1946: THE MISTRANSLATION THAT SHIFTED A CULTURE

Sat., Jan. 27, 12:30pm • Green Light Cinema

"My Christian friends rejected me because I am Gay. My Gay friends were angry with me for being a Christian." Ed Oxford is a Gay theologian and researcher of how the Bible has been weaponized against LGBT people. Kathy Baldock is a straight white mother who researched the history of the oppression of LGBT lives and came out as a staunch ally. Kathy and Ed discover that the first time that "homosexual" appears in the bible was in 1946. They interrogate the sources of the "clobber passages" that have been used to condemn LGBT people. Filmmaker Sharon "Rocky" Roggio was raised in the church and left after coming out as a Lesbian. She delves into the 1946 decision while weaving the academic with the very personal struggle that she and other LGBT Christians have managed for their entire lives. (Sunny Hall)

Rocky Reccio, 2022, USA, 91 min.



NORWEGIAN DREAM

In English, Norwegian & Polish w/ English subtitles.

Fri., Jan. 26, 9pm • Green Light Cinema

Set against the majestic beauty of a Norwegian Island, Robert navigates the racist and homophobic world of fish factory camaraderie against undeniable intrigue for his mentor, Ivar. Both men are young, beautiful, and quietly raging with hormones and the inevitable tension of traversing conflicting worlds. Director Devold deftly parallels the conflict of the working class and the factory owners to Robert's inner turmoil and, ultimately, his responsibilities as a savior for his mother. He adroitly conveys the tension of his struggle, making the rapturous expressions of joy with Ivar so exquisite. Conflicts of classism, worker's rights, and the pressures of family obligations are interwoven through the deep struggle of two people making hard choices while finding a way to live freely and openly. (Sunny Hall)

Leiv Igor Devold, 2023,

Norway/Poland/Germany, 97 min.

Sponsored by The Knights of The Krewe of Cavaliers



BEFORE I CHANGE MY MIND

Sat., Jan. 27, 3pm • Green Light Cinema

It's 1987, and while the other students wonder if new kid Robin is a boy or a girl, Robin forges a complicated bond with the school bully, making increasingly dangerous choices to fit in. In this refreshing feature directorial debut from TIGLFF alum Trevor Anderson (The Little Deputy in 2016), we are drawn into the complexity of growing up and finding one's place in the world.

Trevor Anderson, 2022, Canada, 89 min.



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SATURDAY NIGHT SHORTS

Green Light Cinema:
Saturday, January 27, 7pm

Filmmakers will be in attendance!

JOEY'S HEART

Joey, a self-described 'gay Bridget Jones' thinks she'll never find her special someone. Tired of being the lonely singleton at parties, she meets Alice at the local community laughter club, perhaps her luck is about to change?

*Louise Lever,
2023, New Zealand, 14 min.*



CHAVO

In Romani & Swedish w/ English subtitles.

Tommy's Grill is a meeting place for the Romani community. Here a motley crew of people gather to eat and talk. When a young man visits the restaurant one evening, rumors begin to spread and Tommy is forced to revisit traumatic memories.

Alecio Araci, 2023, Sweden, 15 min.



F**KED

The story of a married lesbian couple, in an open relationship, trying to navigate their curiosity and newfound freedom. A date takes an unexpected turn in this meditation on race, politics and history in Germany.

Sarah Harrak, 2023, UK, 6 min.

SHAFTED

What do you do when you find yourself alone in an elevator with your gym crush? Joel and Rafi are in what seems to be a standard romantic comedy. But when the fourth wall shatters, the elevator makes way for harsh reality.

*Emerson Collins, Del Shores,
2023, USA, 20 min.*

DANCING HEART

Lesbian love has always been a rebel act. But the relationship between Luisa and Violeta, teenagers and feminists, is pure anarchy.

*Amaranta Saavedra,
2021, Mexico, 13 min.*

KEVIN

A chance encounter with a stranger leads Kevin on an over-thinker's journey to discover the nature of his new relationship.

*Tony Moore, Wesley Quinn,
2022, USA, 11 min.*

THE TREE

Low and hungover, Rebecca finds herself fighting off her ex-girlfriend Vivian, who has turned up to claim the apple tree they had planted in Rebecca's backyard.

*Ida Hansen Eldøen,
2023, Norway, 15 min.*

STOOD UP

Christina and Sara find themselves stood up while they wait for their online dates to arrive. What happens during the course of the evening surprises them both. It's a story about connection, self-empowerment, and the joy of spontaneity.

*Maggie Perotta, 2
022, Florida, 14 min.*

TRT: 93 MIN



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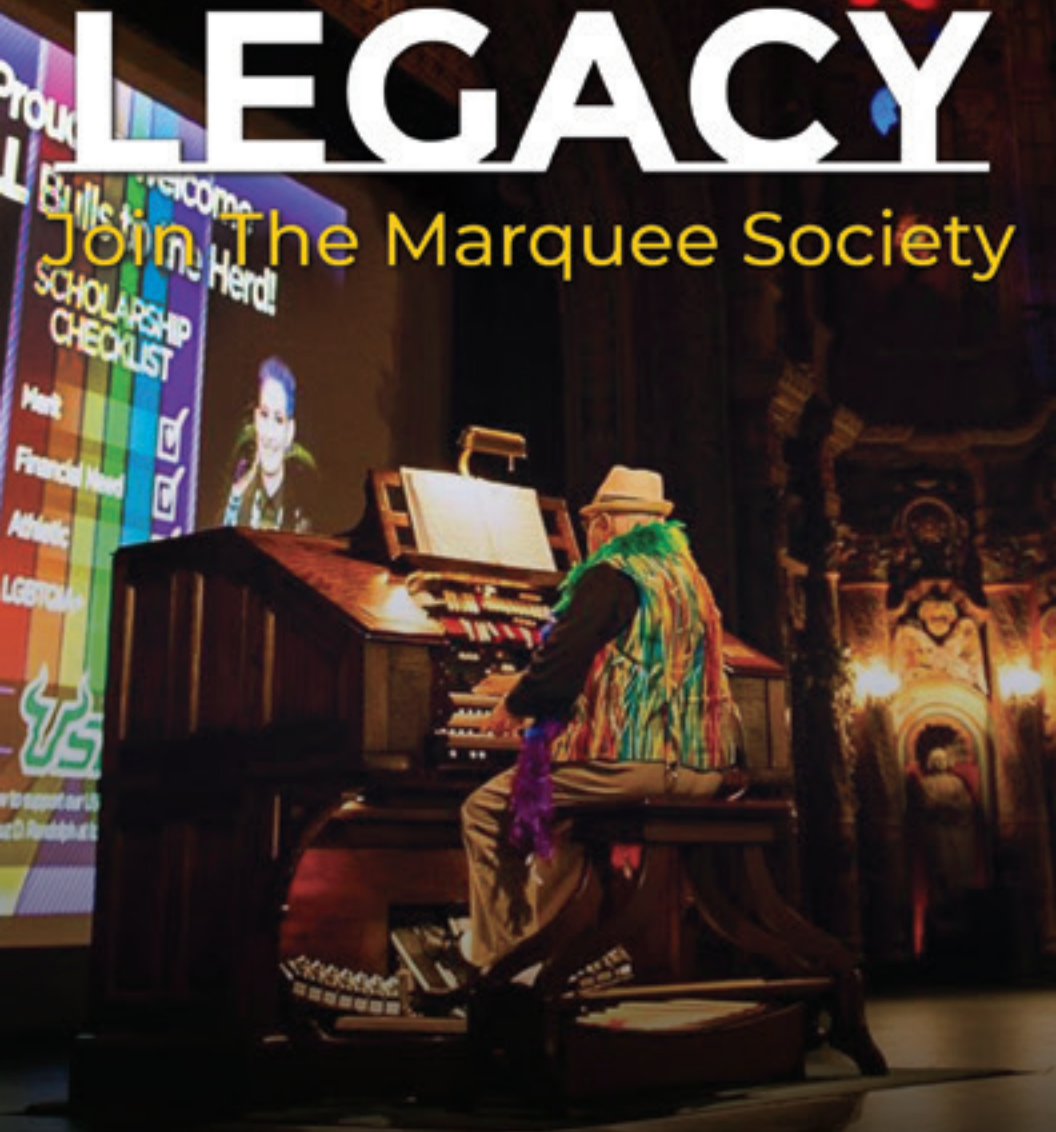
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LIE WITH ME

(ARRÊTE AVEC TES MENSONGES)
In French w/ English subtitles.

Sat., Jan. 27, 5pm • Green Light Cinema

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 Love the Golden Rule



GREETINGS FROM QUEERTOWN: ORLANDO

Sun., Jan. 28, 2pm • Green Light Cinema

In the aftermath of the Pulse horror, Watermark's Rick Todd watched the Orlando community coalesce around an outpouring of grief. Those reflections led to a sense of pride and homage for his beloved Orlando, and for those who paved the way toward a thriving LGBT community. *Queertown* looks at the unique history of LGBT Orlando from the influence of Disney to the legendary status of the Parliament House, as seen through the lives of some of Queer Orlando's prominent trailblazers. (Sunny Hall)

Jess Keller, 2023, Florida, 50 min

Sponsored by Watermark Publishing Group

Preceded by: LOVE, JAMIE

This remarkable short film tells the story of Jamie Diaz, a transgender artist incarcerated in a Texas prison, and the enduring friendship that brought her art of liberation and pride to the outside world.

Karla Murthy, 2023, USA, 20 min.



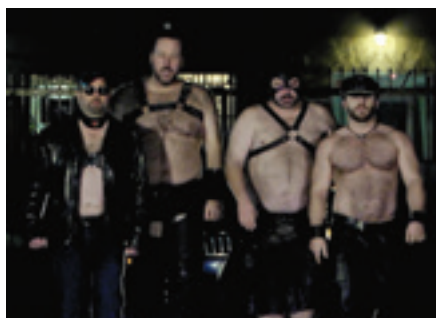
PEAFOWL

Sat., Jan. 27, 9pm • Green Light Cinema

Myung is a transgender woman who cut ties with her family and hometown because she needs to live authentically. Now, all she wants is gender affirmation surgery, but the only way to earn money is by winning the Waacking dance competition, which was a disaster. One day, she receives a call that her father has passed away. Myung learns that her father left a will stating that he will give her an inheritance if she performs the special Drum Dance during his memorial ritual. With no choice left, Myung goes back to her hometown to perform according to her father's will. But her homecoming is fraught, and she discovers more than she bargains for in this singular cinematic work from first time director Sungbin Byun.

Sungbin Byun, 2022, South Korea, 114 min.

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A BIG GAY HAIRY HIT! WHERE THE BEARS ARE: THE DOCUMENTARY

Sun., Jan. 28, 4:15pm • Green Light Cinema

Rick Copp, Ben Zook and Joe Dietl are friends and colleagues who have been in "the business" for decades. Between them, they have worked on everything from *Golden Girls* to *Scooby Doo*. Through ups and downs, the guys never gave up, and when their careers hit a lull, they came together and... voila! — lightning struck with "a silly show that started in a hot tub in Palm Springs with some drunk gays." That hot tub idea magically morphed into the sexy fun mystery series, *Where the Bears Are*. Copp describes the wildly successful show as "The *Golden Girls* meets *Murder She Wrote* with big, hairy gay men." The guys are delighted to share that their characters are type cast to their true selves - and they are loving every wacky minute. This documentary is fun and sweet, even inspiring, in celebrating just how much we can achieve with a big, hairy dose of authenticity steeped in friendship. (Sunny Hall)

Eduardo Aquino, 2023, USA/Brazil, 91 min.



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RIVIÈRE

Green Light Cinema: Sunday, January 28, 6:30pm

In French w/ English subtitles.

Seventeen-year-old Manon leaves the Swiss mountains to head out in search of her father, who is nowhere to be found. As she forms new bonds and encounters her first love, she is determined to follow the path she has set herself on the ice: to become a professional hockey player. (OutPlay Films)

Hugues Hariche, 2023, Switzerland/France, 105 min.

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