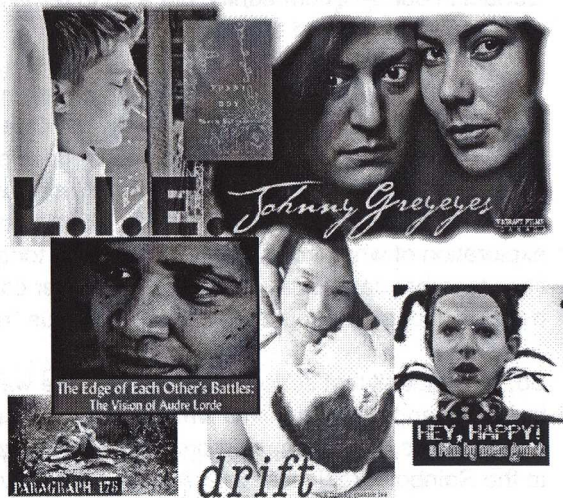


# Rainbow Reels Queer Film Festival March 2002



Queer Culture on Film  
WPIRG's 2nd Annual Queer Film Festival  
March 14 - 17, 2002  
The Princess Cinema &  
University of Waterloo Davis Centre 1302



WPIRG is a UW-based student funded and directed organization whose mission is to provide support for students to research, educate, and take action on environmental and human rights issues as they define them – students acting in the public interest.



# welcome

THANKS FOR COMING!

Welcome, everyone, to the 2nd Annual Rainbow Reels Queer Film Festival, Kitchener-Waterloo's first and only festival, as far as we know, devoted to celebrating Queer expression through film. This year we are presenting critically acclaimed, award-winning or just plain controversial films from Canada and the United States. We hope these films will inspire and entertain you, or at least provoke some interesting discussion.

Rainbow Reels is dedicated to sharing Queer experiences on film, and to reflecting the diversity and range of those experiences within Queer communities. Film has allowed issues to be explored through numerous different lenses, and Rainbow Reels attempts to help foster a continuing atmosphere of learning from each other and exploring these issues together. Highlighting the work of various members of Queer communities allows us not only to recognize the place of Queers in our own community, but also to remember Queer struggles which continue around the world.

Of course, this festival is also meant as a meeting place. Rainbow Reels offers a chance for dialogue between Queers and those outside Queer communities to discuss the experiences presented in these films. Despite increasing mainstream representation of Queers in film, the films offered as part of this festival attempt to allow a deeper exploration of what it can mean to be Queer today. Sharing these films together can hopefully allow for stronger connections to be built between Queer communities and the ominous "rest of the world."

So, now that all that serious stuff is out of the way, y'all should just kick back and enjoy the films which have been selected. Pretty boys, hot mommas, and so much more. Really, who wouldn't want to come to the Rainbow Reels festival? We're sure glad you did.

### **The Rainbow Reels Organizers:**

Sarah Anderson, Mark Schaan, Steven Singer, Ron Welker, Ryan Weston and WPIRG staff – Daryl Novak & Narina Nagra

[And a special thanks to the designer of our logo & poster, Scott Pigeau]



Welcome to Rainbow Reels Queer Film Festival 2002

# festival at a glance

## THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 2002

11 PM: **L.I.E. (Long Island Expressway)** *Canadian Premiere!*  
**FREE ADMISSION!**  
Michael Cuesta, USA, 2001, 94 minutes  
at The Princess Cinema, 6 Princess St. W., Waterloo

## FRIDAY, MARCH 15, 2002

7 PM: **OPENING GALA** with celebrated Canadian queer author,  
**SHYAM SELVADURAI**

8 PM: **THE EDGE OF EACH OTHER'S BATTLES, THE VISION OF AUDRE LORDE**  
Jennifer Abod, 2000, USA, 90 minutes

9:30 PM: **JOHNNY GREYEVES**  
Jorge Manzano, 2000, Canada, 80 minutes

## SATURDAY, MARCH 16, 2002

7 PM: **A BOY NAMED SUE**  
Julie Wyman, 2000, USA, 56 minutes

9 PM: **HEY, HAPPY!**  
Noam Gonick, 2001, Canada, 75 minutes



## SUNDAY, MARCH 17, 2002

7 PM: **DRIFT**  
Quentin Lee, 2001, USA, 90 minutes

9 PM: **PARAGRAPH 175**  
Rob Epstein and Jeffrey Friedman, 2000, USA, 81 minutes

### DETAILS

**LOCATION:** Davis Centre room 1302, University of Waterloo  
**FREE ADMISSION** (but we'll take donations)

**Sponsored by:** WPIRG - Waterloo Public Interest Research Group, UW SLC 2139  
Phone: (519) 888-4882 | Email: info@wpirg.org | Website: www.wpirg.org

**Cosponsored by:** Federation of Students, UW Graphic Services, UW Bookstore, Generation X, and Club Renaissance, and the Princess Cinema

Rainbow Reels Queer Film Festival at a Glance

thur. mar. 14. 2002

L.I.E.

11PM

[ Michael Cuesta, USA, 2001, 94 minutes ]

<http://lot47.com/lie/>

at the Princess Cinema, 6 Princess St. W., Waterloo

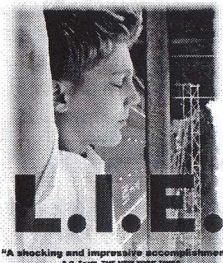
"L.I.E." is about a boy who, in losing just about everything and everyone he has in the space of a single week, finds himself. Set in a world of contemporary suburban adolescence, "L.I.E." begins as we join a group of boys who rob houses in the middle-class comfort of Long Island. While it seems that they break and enter strictly for kicks, they are good at it. Two of these boys, Howie and Gary, are the very best of friends.

It is Gary's idea to rob the house belonging to an old guy named Big John, and when Big John quickly figures out exactly who to go to after the crime, Howie learns that his pal Gary has been leading a secret life.

Gary and Big John have been engaged in a sex-for-pay relationship, and this secret life fascinates Howie. Perhaps for the first time he realizes that he can truly live, like Gary, outside the bounds of school, of home, and that it may be OK that his feelings for Gary may run deeper than those for his other friends. Gary, in the meantime, has figured out how to run away from Long Island, and when he leaves it is Howie who suffers the greatest loss. Howie's father – a white-collar builder with mounting legal troubles – is too wrapped up in his business and in love with his girlfriend to suspect that his son may be really hurting. And when his father finally gets busted by the FBI and taken to jail, Howie is truly alone. Alone, that is, until Big John steps in. But what, exactly, does Big John want, and just how much resilience can Howie – a mere 15-year-old – be expected to summon?

With "L. I. E.," director Michael Cuesta and his co-writers show us a suburban world full of charming criminality, innocent perversion and most importantly a depiction of adolescence that neither whitewashes nor condescends. "L.I.E." is a journey full of surprises that may lead us to question many of our preconceptions and assumptions.

CANADIAN  
PREMIERE



"A shocking and impressive accomplishment."  
—A.O. Scott, THE NEW YORK TIMES

Thursday, March 14, 2002

fri. mar. 15. 2002

SHYAM SELVADURAI

7PM

[ OPENING GALA with celebrated Canadian queer author ]

UW Davis Centre room 1301 (the fishbowl)

<http://www.interlog.com/~funnyboy>

Shyam Selvadurai was born in 1965 in Colombo, Sri Lanka. For years, Sri Lanka's Tamil minority and Sinhalese majority have clashed over issues of power-sharing and local autonomy. This political unrest resulted in violent riots in the city of Colombo in 1983, and it was after these riots that the Selvadurai family immigrated to Canada. His novels, *Funny Boy* (1994) and *Cinnamon Gardens* (1998) reflect Selvadurai's concern about the political and societal realities of Sri Lanka, and the challenges and triumphs that ordinary people face as a consequence. Selvadurai identifies his experiences as an immigrant to Canada as part of the reason he is able to write so capably and compellingly of his home country.

THE EDGE OF EACH OTHER'S BATTLES  
THE VISION OF AUDRE LORDE 8PM

[ Jennifer Abod, 2000, USA, 90 minutes ]

<http://www.jenniferabod.com>

I am doing my work...are you?" Audre Lorde challenges participants at an historic transnational conference in 1990 with these words. Ten years in the making, *The Edge of Each Other's Battles* is a labor of love and commitment to feminist art and philosophy. It is also one of the last times that we see and hear the remarkable Black lesbian feminist warrior poet, Audre Lorde, before cancer took her life. The film brings to life Lorde's social vision and is a tribute, as was the conference itself, to her work and life. It captures her message of the need to create a more humane world and to continue the struggle for justice rather than giving in to apathy. See this film and get a much-needed dose of inspiration through the passion and wit of the deeply political Audre Lorde.

JOHNNY GREY EYES 9:30PM

[ Jorge Manzano, 2000, Canada, 80 minutes ]

<http://www.johnnygreyeyes.com/>

Johnny Greyeyes is the powerful story of a Native American woman struggling to maintain strength, love and spirit within the walls of a women's prison. An official Sundance selection, the movie was also nominated for Best Picture at the 2000 American Indian Motion Picture Awards, and Jorge Manzano won Best Director. It also won the Freedom Award at Los Angeles Outfest 2000. Since the shooting death of her father, Johnny has spent most of her life in prison. There, she forms a new family and falls in love with her cellmate Lana. But her responsibilities to the outside world weigh heavily as she attempts to pull together her fractured natural family. With her release date near, Johnny valiantly strives to keep her two worlds together. The first feature film focusing on Native lesbians, *Johnny Greyeyes* is a deeply humanizing portrait of life behind bars.

Friday, March 15, 2002

sat. mar. 16. 2002

## A BOY NAMED SUE

7PM

[ Julie Wyman, 2000, USA, 56 minutes ]

Julie Wyman's compelling documentary chronicles the transformations of a transsexual named Theo from a woman to a man over the course of six years. The film successfully captures Theo's physiological and psychological changes during the process, as well as the effect that the process has on his relationship with his lesbian lover. Close friends bare all for the camera as they too, deal with the transformation. Wyman takes full advantage of the unlimited access she received into an extraordinarily personal process to compose a moving story about gender identity, relationships, and how even the most permanent relationships undergo change.

A Boy Named Sue, ranked among festival favorites the world over, is a rare documentary, one that unflinchingly looks at personal issues, yet never intrudes upon its subject, allowing moment after moment of honest emotion to shine through.

"A Boy Named Sue' is one of the best videos to date on female-to-male transsexual experience. Wyman spent six years taping Sue's transformation into Theo and then organized a huge archive of material into a moving, informative and smart rendering of what a difference sex reassignment surgeries can make not only to the transsexual himself but also to all those in his immediate circle. Theo is a great subject and Wyman is a talented and imaginative documentarian. If you are looking for a sensitive and sophisticated representation of transsexual experience, look no further." Judith Halberstam, University of California, San Diego.

## HEY, HAPPY!

9PM

[ Noam Gonick, 2001, Canada, 75 minutes ]

<http://www.heyhappy.com>

Following appearances at the Sundance Film Festival and Toronto's InsideOut, here comes home-grown badboy Noam Gonick's outrageous debut feature Hey, Happy!, a brash and stylish treat that confronts his burgeoning reputation as a unique talent. Gonick's film is a sexy, twisted fantasy that officially marks Winnipeg as the epicenter of Canadian and international cool. Set in an outlandish, pre-apocalyptic Winnipeg of the imagination, Hey, Happy! follows the adventures of Sabu (Jeremie Yuen), dj by night, porn store manager by day, who's just about to complete his quest to sleep with two thousand men. His final conquest is in sight, and it just so happens to be Happy (Craig Aftanis), a cute, geeky UFO-ologist who spends his days receiving transmissions from aliens on his boombox. Unfortunately for Sabu, the evil hairdresser Spanky (the sublimely scary Clayton Godson), the self-proclaimed 'biggest bitch in the world' has his own nasty plans for Happy. Adding disaster to drama, the Red River is about to burst its banks and wash Winnipeg away. With a touch of voodoo, a little alien visitation and lots (and lots) of drugs, Sabu not only finds true love but also helps to save the world. Drenched in rave culture (with a kick-ass soundtrack) and dripping with cute boys and outlandish characters (including the fabulous Dita Vendetta and local gadfly Johnny Simone), Hey, Happy! is unlike any other Canadian film you're ever likely to see. Ignore the emergency exits, cast away your inhibitions and dive into this strange and wonderful queer world. prairie boy's libido triggers an apocalypse!

sun. mar. 17. 2002

## DRIFT

7PM

[ Quentin Lee, 2001, USA, 90 minutes ]

<http://www.marginfilms.com/drift/>

Filmmaker and enfant terrible of the Queer cinema scene Quentin Lee delivers a provocative and probing examination of the idea of "what if" in his new digital feature, Drift. Ryan, a screenwriter, attends a party with his long-time boyfriend, Joel, only to find that he "clicks" instantly and deeply with a young writer and student named Leo. Their sudden and visceral bond underscores Ryan's sense of confusion about his life and his relationship, inspiring him to break up with Joel and, à la Sliding Doors, into three very different scenarios. The decisions that Ryan faces – is his lover really the love of his life or is there someone else? Is he settling or unappreciative of what he has? Can anyone truly understand and see him? – are both common and deeply philosophical. Inventive, cerebral, and deeply moving, Drift's exploration of the different paths that one man's quest for understanding and insight might have taken will leave you wondering about the "what-ifs" in your own life.

## PARAGRAPH 175

9PM

[ Rob Epstein and Jeffrey Friedman, 2000, USA, 81 minutes ]

<http://www.tellingpictures.com/films/5.html>

By the 1920's, Berlin had become known as a homosexual eden, where gay men and lesbians lived relatively open lives amidst an exciting subculture of artists and intellectuals. With the coming to power of the Nazis, all this changed. Between 1933 and 1945 100,000 men were arrested for homosexuality under Paragraph 175, the sodomy provision of the German penal code dating back to 1871. Some were imprisoned, others were sent to concentration camps. Of the latter, only about 4,000 survived. Today, fewer than ten of these men are known to be living. Five of them have now come forward to tell their stories for the first time in this powerful new film.

The Nazi persecution of homosexuals may be the last untold story of the Third Reich. Paragraph 175 fills a crucial gap in the historical record, and reveals the lasting consequences of this hidden chapter of 20th century history, as told through personal stories of men and women who lived through it: the half Jewish gay resistance fighter who spent the war helping refugees in Berlin; the Jewish lesbian who escaped to England with the help of a woman she had a crush on; the German Christian photographer who was arrested and imprisoned for homosexuality, then joined the army on his release because he "wanted to be with men"; the French Alsatian teenager who watched as his lover was tortured and murdered in the camps. These are stories of survivors – sometimes bitter, but just as often filled with irony and humor; tortured by their memories, yet infused with a powerful will to endure. Their moving testimonies, rendered with evocative images of their lives and times, tell a haunting, compelling story of human resilience in the face of unspeakable cruelty. Intimate in its portrayals, sweeping in its implications, Paragraph 175 raises provocative questions about memory, history, and identity.

Saturday, March 16, 2002

Sunday, March 17, 2002

# sponsors

## Rainbow Reels Queer Film Festival March 2002



This second annual queer film and video festival features internationally acclaimed gay and lesbian works that present images of gay and lesbian lives and issues; emphasizes issues of multicultural diversity and gender; encourages local artists, critics and audiences to participate in the discussion of cultural identities and aesthetics and generally to present the public with an opportunity to see and discuss the thematic, aesthetic and political concerns raised by the work of lesbian and gay filmmakers.



**CLUB RENAISSANCE**

