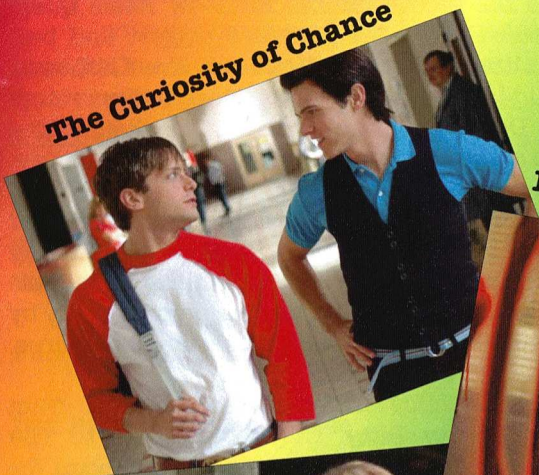


RAINBOW
REELS
FILM
FESTIVAL
2008

Film Guide and Programme

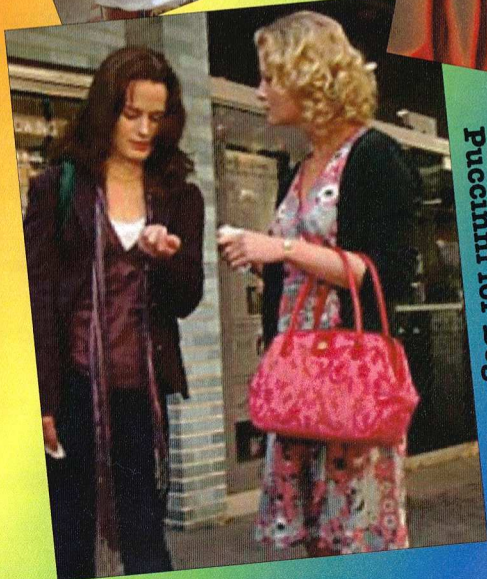
The Curiosity of Chance



Itty Bitty Titty Committee



Puccinni for Beginners



Queer. Here.

Welcome



Dear Film Goers:

We are proud to welcome you to the eighth annual Rainbow Reels Queer Film Festival! This year is expected to be the festival's biggest and best year ever as the organizing committee "outs" this festival to the Kitchener-Waterloo community. So long to hidden screenings in the closed off corridors of the University of Waterloo's Davis Centre and hello to delicious red carpet strolls on the comfortable and fabulous King Street Theatre Centre.

This festival, co-sponsored by the Waterloo Public Interest Research Group and King Street Theatre Centre, attempts to satisfy a niche in the community by showcasing a variety of queer experiences on screen. Its objective is to increase awareness of the many issues that permeate the greater queer community by providing content that spans a diverse range of subject matter and genres.

Everyone should find something to enjoy in this years festival from the radical coming of age story in Itty Bitty Titty Committee, to The Curiosity of Chance set in the 1980s, from the love triangle in Puccini for Beginners, to the exploration of family in Shelter Me, and so much more.

We hope you will have as much fun watching these films as the committee had putting the festival together.

Thanks and enjoy the films,

The Rainbow Reels Queer Film Festival 2008 Organizing Committee

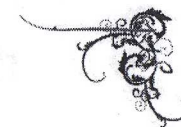
Kallvis Chen, Nathan Etherington, Raj Gill, Martin Krall, Reena Reddy, Michael Schmidt & Linda Swanston

Thank you to the following for their assistance:

Graeme Blyth, Jes Brown, Alex Chunaco, Evan Coole, Earl Friedberg, Brad Hutton, Sami Kelsh, Chris Petersen, James Saliba, Scott Schau, Brooke Young & Liz Widdis



Schedule

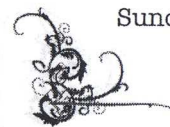


SPECIAL EVENTS

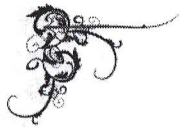
Opening Gala	4
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Information



All films are being shown at the King Street Theatre Centre unless otherwise noted.

King Street Theatre Centre

Box Office: (519) 571-0928
36 King Street West
Kitchener



The King Street Theatre Centre is located on King Street between Ontario and Queen Streets across from the TD Canada Trust building. Ample parking is available on nearby Duke and Queen Streets. The Theatre is also conveniently located minutes away from the Kitchener Downtown bus terminal (local and inter-city buses).

UW Screening

The campus screening will be held in the CEIT (also known as EIT) building in Room 1015.
GRT Route #7 (via University or Columbia), or iXpress
Parking is in Lot N, W, and X.

Ticket Information

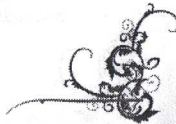
Tickets are available for purchase at the King Street Theatre Centre box office and in the WPIRG office located in Room 2139 of the UW Student Life Centre.

Ticket Prices

Individual Film: \$5.00
Festival Pass: \$20.00
Student Pass with ID: \$15.00

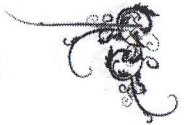
Opening Night Gala

With purchase of pass: \$10.00
Without purchase of pass: \$15.00



Opening Night Gala

7:00 PM Thursday, March 6th

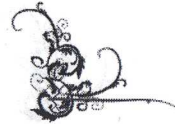


2008 is the festival's inaugural year in our new downtown location. The King Street Theatre Centre is such an exciting space we want you come and enjoy it with us. Get a peak behind the scenes of the theatre, and feel like an artist in the know, as we party in their studio space with an operatic twist. After the screening enjoy a complimentary drink and hors d'oeuvres, and look forward to prizes and live music.

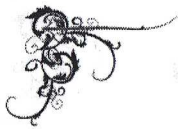
Dress to impress (as if you're headed to the Opera) and from 7pm, come and walk the red carpet to Rainbow Reels Festival Opening Night Screening and Gala. Get ready for an evening of culture and cheekiness - Opera singers, red wine, contests and a chance to enjoy the company of the community.

Before the film, explore the Love Makes a Family photo exhibition while enjoying a drink before the show from the theatre's cash bar.

Screening at 7:30pm, Puccini for Beginners defies categories and expectations while delivering plenty of unconventional romantic comedy. When it's over you won't want to go home, so stay and celebrate the festival as excitement builds for a week of films that tell stories while pushing boundaries and portraying the queer community in all its fantastic diversity.



Special Events



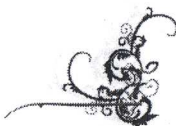
Erica Iris Huang - Gala Performer **7:00 PM, Thursday, March 6th**

Toronto-native Erica Iris Huang developed as a musician since the age of seven, when she began her eight years with the world-renowned Toronto Children's Chorus. Gaining exceptional vocal and performance training, she toured with the chorus throughout North America and Europe. For four consecutive years since 2003, Erica was offered a choral position in the European Music Festival Stuttgart under the direction of Helmuth Rilling, performing at many distinguished concert halls and churches in Germany, Austria, and Switzerland. She completed her BMus in Vocal Performance at Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo, Ontario and is currently in their Opera Diploma Program under the tutelage of Kimberly Barber.

Love Makes A Family Photo Exhibit **March 6th - 9th**

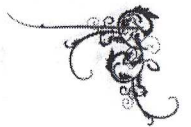
Brought to us by OK2BME, KW Counselling Services, Family and Children Services of the Waterloo Region and Wilfrid Laurier University, this unique traveling photo exhibit, on display at all times during the festival, is designed for audiences of all ages. The exhibit includes photographs and interviews with families that have lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) members. Through first-person accounts and positive images, this exhibit seeks to challenge and change damaging myths and stereotypes about LGBT people and their families. At the most basic level, Love Makes A Family combats homophobia by breaking silence and making the invisible visible. By encouraging people of all ages to affirm and appreciate diversity, this traveling exhibit dismantles prejudice and intolerance, thereby making the world a safer place for all families.

For more information visit:
<http://www.familydiv.org/lovmakesafamily.php>



Natalia Zuckerman

7:00 PM - Saturday, March 8th



Location: King Street Theatre Centre

Admission: With festival pass or film ticket to Nina's Heavenly Delights

Region: New York based

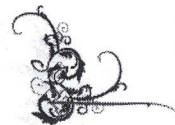
With her music recently featured on The L Word and NPR, Natalia's "come-hither sultriness" and "slinky, earthy vocals" have made quite a stir on the music scene. Natalia's lyrics have been hailed for their imagery and intelligence while her versatility on the guitar has been a pleaser to fans and critics alike. With three albums under her belt, One thing's for certain about Natalia - this girl can play.

"Natalia Zukerman, comes from a family of noted classical musicians (her mother, Eugenia, is a flutist; her father, Pinchas, is a violinist; and her sister, Arianna, is an opera singer), but she has chosen to forsake grand performance halls for a dusty resonant slide guitar in small clubs. She has nimble fingers capable of picking upward of thirty notes per measure, and when she sings she can switch from scat to swoon in the course of a glissando."

- **The New Yorker**

".. insightful lyrics and impressive acoustic guitar work of Natalia Zukerman, who would land somewhere between Joni Mitchell and Ani DiFranco on the female singer-songwriter roster. It was a terrific performance for Zukerman...edgy and engaging..."

Lynn Saxberg - The Ottawa Citizen



Breakfast With Scot

8:30 PM - Wednesday, March 5th



Genre: Drama
Director: Laurie Lynd
Region: Canada
Language: English
Special locaton: University of Waterloo, CEIT 1015

Description:

Adapted from the novel by Michael Downing, *Breakfast with Scot* is a touching comedy that tells the story of a very 'straight' gay couple, Eric (Tom Cavanagh), an ex-NHL hockey player-turned-sportscaster and Sam (Ben Shenkman), a lawyer, who end up with temporary custody of recently orphaned Scot, (Noah Bennett) an 11-year-old boy who turns out to be a total sissy.

Officially sanctioned by the NHL and the Toronto Maple Leafs, *Breakfast with Scot* represents the first time a professional sports league has allowed their logo and uniforms to be used in a gay-themed movie. During production, in an interview with the Toronto Star, Cavanagh said: "You have to give full credit to the NHL and the Leafs for signing on."

In the New York Times, Bernadette Mansur, executive director for the NHL Foundation said, "From our standpoint, this is about a modern family helping to raise a young boy. There was no intention for this to be a political statement, but having said that, we're not going to back down."

Puccini for Beginners

7:30 PM - Thursday, March 6th



Genre: Comedy/Romance
Director: Maria Maggenti
Region: USA
Language: English

Description:

"Puccini for Beginners" is a sophisticated screwball sex comedy.

Allegra loves Samantha. But she won't say so.
Grace loves Philip. But he won't marry her.
Samantha leaves Allegra.
Philip leaves Grace.
Allegra meets Philip.
Allegra falls for Philip.
Allegra meets Grace.
Grace falls for Allegra.
Allegra falls for Grace.
Allegra sees Philip and Grace simultaneously
and has no idea they're exes.

A story about chance encounters, psychoanalytic excuses and one woman's struggle to make a commitment.

Itty Bitty Titty Committee

7:30 PM - Friday, March 7th



Genre: Comedy
Director: Jamie Babbit
Region: USA
Language: English

Description:

From the director of "But I'm a Cheerleader" & "D.E.B.S" comes Itty Bitty Titty Committee. Anna, an all American gal and high school grad has been rejected by her college, her girlfriend just broke up with her, and her big sister is getting married. Anna needs to find a purpose in life. Luckily she meets Sadie, who invites her to join the Clits In Action, or C(i)A, a radical feminist group. Anna soon gets in touch with her radical feminist side and adventure ensues.

"Itty Bitty is a crazy, funny, foul-mouthed, crowd-pleasing winner — one of the most enjoyable films to come out of the festival circuit in some time."

---Danielle Riendeau, afterellen.com

Eternal Summer

9:15 PM - Friday, March 7th



Genre: Drama
Director: Leste Chen
Region: China
Language: Mandarin
with Subtitles

Description:

Jonathan is an introverted and academically disciplined young man, trying hard to fulfill his potential. Shane, rambunctious and charismatic, is always getting into trouble. Friends since preschool, the two young men share a connection that they each struggle to understand. For Jonathan, it is love and physical desire; for Shane, there is an irreplaceable and engrossing friendship that threatens to eclipse his attachment to his girlfriend, Carrie.

The sensitive and subtle direction of Leste Chen and the outstanding performances of the three young leads elevate this film high above most coming-of-age dramas. Created with a clear understanding of the meaning that resonates from such formative relationships, *Eternal Summer* is an endearing portrait of love, friendship and the hard choices that come with growing up.

She's a Boy I knew

3:00 PM - Saturday, March 8th



Genre: Documentary
Director: Gwen Haworth
Region: Canada
Language: English

Description:

They say that when someone comes out of the closet, they can't stop talking about it. Vancouver filmmaker Gwen Haworth not only talked... she made a movie.

Using archival family footage, interviews, phone messages, and animation, Haworth's documentary *She's a Boy I Knew* begins in 2000 with Steven Haworth's decision to come out to his family about his life-long female gender identity.

The resulting auto-ethnography is not only an exploration into the filmmaker's process of transition from biological male to female, from Steven to Gwen, but also an emotionally charged account of the individual experiences, struggles, and stakes that her two sisters, mother, father, best friend and wife brought to Gwen's transition.

Shelter Me

4:30 PM - Saturday, March 8th



Genre: Drama
Director: Marco Puccioni
Region: Italy
Language: Italian with Subtitles

Description:

Anna and Mara return from a holiday in North Africa to find that Anis, a young Moroccan boy, has smuggled himself across the border in the trunk of their car. For Anna, an upper class factory owner, Anis represents an opportunity to act charitably, while factory worker Mara responds to the boy with suspicion. Against either of their expectations, Anis slowly inserts himself into the couple's life, and with them creates a new and unconventional family unit. Living beyond the bounds of accepted society—as lesbians, as immigrants, as working class—the three struggle as their relationships become ever more complex, and outside pressures begin to take their toll. With outstanding performances from the leads, and a narrative that resists the temptation to simplify the intersections of race, culture and class in the protagonists' lives, *Shelter Me* creates a compelling portrait of what it means to struggle for acceptance across both physical and emotional borders.

Nina's Heavenly Delights

7:30 PM - Saturday, March 8th



Genre: Comedy
Director: Pratigha Parmer
Region: England
Language: English

Description:

Nina's Heavenly Delights is a surprising love story where Scottish humor meets Bollywood spectacle! It follows the mixed fortunes of a Glaswegian family, the Shahs and their award winning Indian restaurant, the New Taj.

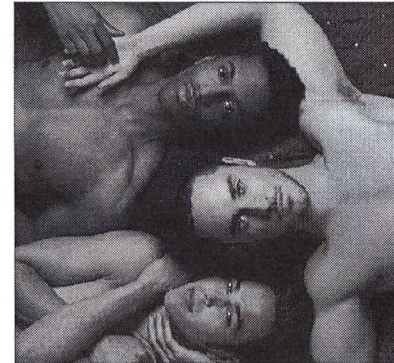
The story is told through the eyes of Nina Shah, a young Scottish Asian woman. Nina had left home under a cloud after an argument with her father but when he dies suddenly, Nina is forced to return. Her return reunites her with her childhood friend Bobbi, a wannabe Bollywood drag queen, and brings her face to face with Lisa, a charismatic young woman who now owns half the restaurant.

Then Nina discovers her father's secret - The New Taj has been selected for The Best of the West Curry Competition. In the turbulent, but exhilarating days that follow, Nina, with Lisa's help, embarks on a personal mission to win the trophy for the third time. But Nina's feelings are thrown into turmoil when she realizes that she is falling in love.

**With special pre-show guest
Natalia Zukerman, 7pm**

Boy Culture

9:15 PM - Saturday, March 8th



Genre: Drama
Director: Q Allan Brocka
Region: USA
Language: English

Description:

Boy Culture is the candid confession of "X", a wildly successful male escort. After ten years of sex-for-pay, "X" gets romantically entangled with his two hot roommates and a reclusive elderly client, Gregory. But before Gregory will agree to sex, he tells an unsettling love story spanning fifty years and dares "X" to try something he hasn't felt for years: emotion.

Based on the critically-acclaimed novel by Matthew Rettenmund, Boy Culture takes on issues of sexual mores and emotional risk with a witty and incisive voice, revealing the leap of faith that love demands.

Boy I Am

3:00 PM - Sunday, March 9th



Genre: Documentary
Director: Samantha Feder
& Julie Hollar
Region: USA
Language: English

Description:

Delving into the heated debate between lesbian feminism and the struggles of transgendered persons for inclusion and acceptance, this film illuminates the polarization of queer communities. As the FTM community grows in size and visibility, some lesbians feel their women-only spaces are being undermined and their community changed. *Boy I Am* follows the final months before three New York City trans men undergo surgery and depicts them debating issues around space within queer communities. Each speaks poignantly about the roles of race, class and feminism in their lives and during their transitions. Drawing links between the right to choose and the right to accessible health care, they defend their place in the feminist movement while searching for acceptance within the queer community.

The Curiosity of Chance

4:30 PM - Sunday, March 9th

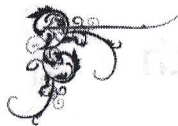


Genre: Drama
Director: Russell P. Marleau
Region: USA
Language: English

Description:

The Only Way He Could Fit In was to STAND OUT!

Writer/Director Russell P. Marleau gives the John Hughes-styled high school comedy a queer twist in this touching coming-of-age tale. It's the 1980's, when new wave angst and gender-bending fashion were all the rage. The new kid at school Chance Marquis (Tad Hilgenbrinck of *American Pie Presents: Band Camp*) however is out. And his being a gay, somewhat awkward teenager makes him the target of the school bully. To deal with this dilemma, Chance turns to the opposite ends of the high school spectrum for help. On one end is the flamboyant drag queen and at the other, the varsity jock, Levi Sparks (Brett Chukerman of *Eating Out 2*) on whom Chance has a bit of a crush. Chockfull of the comic conventions of the high school genre - the idiot faculty, the good-hearted but delusional parents, the fairy tale reversal of popularity - *The Curiosity of Chance* is a frothy bit of nostalgic filmmaking. But like with the best of John Hughes, knowing the genre doesn't mean its story won't also touch your heart.

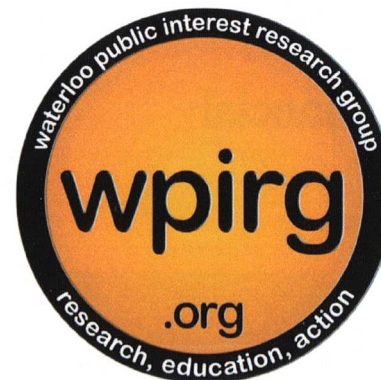
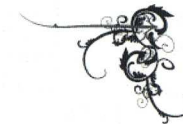
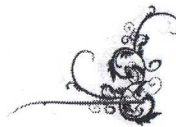


WPIRG

The Waterloo Public Interest Research Group (WPIRG) is a student-driven human rights, environmental and leadership centre located at the University of Waterloo. WPIRG is the oldest PIRG in Canada. It was started in 1973 after UW students, inspired by a visit from Ralph Nader, decided that the resources and knowledge available on campus can and should be used to change the world for the better. WPIRG is a bridge between campus and community where students work in the public interest! Visit: www.wpirg.org or contact us at info@wpirg.org to get involved.

King Street Theatre Centre

The King Street Theatre Centre is a multi-functional theatre space in the heart of downtown Kitchener. Built in 2001 as the home of Theatre & Company, the King Street Theatre Centre hosts a number of community events, other theatre companies and is a flexible space for all sorts of fundraising festivities. With four distinct spaces available for meetings, rehearsals, seminars or stage shows you can be sure there's always something happening at the King Street Theatre Centre. Visit www.kstc.ca and check it out! Interested in having your event at the King Street Theatre Centre? Call Brad E. Hutton at 519.571.7080 ext 221 or e-mail bradhutton@kstc.ca



Join us in organizing next year's festival.

A film festival such as this does not come together without the dedicated help of many volunteers. We are always looking for fresh ideas and energy. To get involved with organizing next year's festival contact us at rainbowreels@wpirg.org. Volunteers can express their talents in a wide variety of ways through:

- film selection
- poster & programme design
- website design
- advertising
- promotional events
- fundraising
- marketing
- and lots more!

If you would like to receive film festival updates join our email list by sending a request to rainbowreels@wpirg.org or join through our website at rainbowreels.org.



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At Wits' End? 
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www.rainbowreels.org