



NEWS RELEASE

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The Center Long Beach presents The Long Beach Q Film Festival 2009 *A Pride Week Event*

Long Beach, California, May 8-10, 2009 - [The Gay and Lesbian Center of Greater Long Beach](#) is proud to announce the Q Film Festival 2009, which will take place May 8-10, 2009 at the newly renovated [Art Theater](#) located at 2025 East 4th St. in Retro Row of Long Beach. Tickets are \$8 - \$12.

The 4th Annual Q Film Festival presents features, short films and documentaries which focus on issues that impact the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer community. Each night will be hosted by local comedians Sandy Seacrest, Carlease Burke, Lynda Montgomery and Nikki Coldwater.

Q Film Festival will kick off with the world premier of "Let It Reign", documentary short featuring Imperial Court, directed by Long Beach filmmaker, Camrin Pitts. Following is a homecoming presentation of "[Don't Go](#)," a new television series shot locally in Long Beach by acclaimed director Amber Sharp. Critics have called "Don't Go" a kind of Melrose Place meets L Word. Sharp and members of the cast will attend the screening on May 8th at 6:30 p.m. with a Q & A and VIP Party following the film. Showing later that evening at 9:00 p.m. is the feature film "[Tru Loved](#)" "Tru Loved" explores the struggle between ignorance and understanding when 16-year-old Tru starts her school's first Gay-Straight Alliance. Featuring a supporting cast of Hollywood luminaries, "Tru Loved" both entertains and inspires. The screening will be preceded by a VIP Party and followed by a Q & A with members of the cast and production including director Stewart Wade and actress Najarra Townsend of the title role.

On Saturday at 1:00 p.m. Q Festival will host a workshop entitled: "How to Make Your First Short Film" led by local film maker, Camrin Pitts of [Little Red Pictures](#), Participants will conceive, shoot, edit and premiere the group's work later that night at the conclusion of the short films presentation. At 4:00 p.m. Q Festival will present Fun in Women's Shorts highlighting the academy-award nominated short "[La Corona](#)." Translated as "The Crown," this documentary profiles female inmates of a Columbian prison who ferociously compete for a beauty pageant crown while incarcerated. At 6:30 p.m. Fun In Men's Shorts will showcase John Keitel's "[Saving the Boom](#)" the story of one man's crusade to save the oldest gay bar in Laguna Beach from the wrecking ball. The director and cast will be with us for the screening and Q & A.

Q Festival concludes on Sunday with a triumphant and affecting pair of films. At 4:00 p.m. marriage equality will find focus from two different, yet deeply personal perspectives in the documentaries "[For My Wife](#)" and "[The Constant Process](#)." "For My Wife" chronicles the making of an activist. After the

tragic death of her wife, Charlene Strong was thrust into the spotlight to become a powerful voice for the equal rights of same-gender couples and their families, resulting in the passage of Washington State's historic Domestic Partnership legislation. "The Constant Process," written and directed by Mormon filmmaker Douglas Hunter, is a spiritual portrait of the life and theology of lesbian priest Susan Russell. Hunter's film records and reveals the remarkable journey of Russell as her life shifts from obscure, tepid and heterosexual to an inspired, out-and-proud Episcopal priest. During the film production, Hunter had his own awakening and became a fierce opponent of Prop 8. The director and cast will attend the screening and Q & A.

Monday through Thursday, the film "[Eleven Minutes](#)" will be shown by The Art Theater – for more information on the Art theater go to www.arttheatrelongbeach.com

About The Center Long Beach

The Gay and Lesbian Center of Long Beach is located at 2017 E. Fourth Street in Long Beach. The Center was officially incorporated in 1980 as One in Long Beach, Inc. and has been providing a variety of health, social, advocacy, legal, and service programs to the LGBT community in the Long Beach area for three decades. The Center serves approximately 21,000 lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender clients and constituents annually through 23 different programs and services.

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2009 Q FILM FESTIVAL AT A GLANCE (more films to come in future press release)

FRIDAY, MAY 8th

6:30pm "Don't Go" – Feature preceded by world premier "Let It Reign" Imperial Court short film followed by Q & A with directors and cast members

7:45pm Opening Night Party at The Center with entertainment, drinks and hors d'oeuvres

9:00pm "Tru Loved" – Feature followed by Q & A with director & cast members

11:30pm "Pink Flamingos" – featuring a brand new, beautifully restored 35mm print

SATURDAY, MAY 9th

1:00pm Workshop: "Making Your 1st Short Film" Moderated by Camrin Pitt of Little Red Pictures

2:00pm "Bi The Way" - Documentary followed by Panel moderated by Denise Penn including cast members, bi-sexual researchers, bi-sexual filmmakers, reviewers and critics

4:00pm Fun In Women's Shorts – Featuring Academy Award Nominated "La Corona" (The Crown) followed by Q&A with directors & cast members

5:30pm Shorts Party at The Center with entertainment, drinks and hors d'oeuvres

6:30pm Fun In Men's Briefs – Featuring "Saving the Boom" followed by Q&A with director & casts

9:00pm "Were The World Mine" – Feature

SUNDAY, MAY 10th

1:30pm "A Place To Live: The Story of Triangle Square" – Documentary

3:30pm "For My Wife" – Documentary preceded by short film "The Constant Process" followed by Q&A with directors & casts

6:00pm "I Can't Think Straight" – Feature

7:00pm Closing Night Party at The Center with entertainment, drinks and hors d'oeuvres

8:00pm "ShowGirls, Provincetown, MA" – Documentary hosted by Nikki Coldwater

Friday, May 8th

Don't Go – Feature – 6:30pm at the Art Theatre

Directed by Amber Sharp – USA, 2007, 53 minutes – Website: www.dontgotheseries.com

A refreshing new foray into the ensemble cast dramedy, *Don't Go* is like "The L Word" with more racial and socioeconomic diversity. Featuring Guinevere Turner (*Itty Bitty Titty Committee*, *Go Fish*) and Nisha Ganatra (director and star of *Chutney Popcorn*), *Don't Go* is funny, fierce and oozing sexuality and attitude. Shot in Long Beach, "Don't Go" is the intimate story of the lives and loves of a group of vibrant individuals living in an apartment complex in Los Angeles. These people struggle with the same issues we face every day: love, loss, change, and family. But rather than a static representation of our daily problems, this television series introduces us to new characters that may be our neighbors in real life but are rarely seen on our television screens. Please join us as writer-director Amber Sharp takes us on a unique and fascinating journey which might take us right back to our own realities.

Don't Go is preceded by world premier, short documentary:

Let It Reign

It's not dancing with stars, it's better! See the *best* dance show in town as Drag Kings and Queens kick up their heels for charity. Join mother-and-son filmmaking team, Kathleen and Camrin Pitts, as they take you on a wild ride of pageantry, illusion and performance that promises to "heal the world, one small step-ball-change at a time."

Tru Loved – Feature – Friday, May 8th 9:00pm at the Art Theatre

Directed by Stewart Wade – USA, 2008, 103 minutes – Website: www.truloved.com

Sixteen-year-old Tru is uprooted by her lesbian moms from her comfortable gay-friendly home in San Francisco and moved to a conservative, suburban community in Southern California. Tru's only friend is a closeted football player, and even that friendship is jeopardized when she starts the school's first Gay-Straight Alliance Club. Najarra Townsend as Tru and other rising actors carry the film, as familiar faces like Jasmine Guy, Nichelle Nichols (Lt. Uhura from STAR TREK!), Jane Lynch, Alec Mapa, and Bruce Vilanch round out the stellar supporting cast. *Tru Loved* has won fourteen awards at six film festivals.

Saturday, May 9th

Making Your 1st Short Film with Camrin Pitts – Workshop, 1:00pm, The Center

Never picked up a camera before? Not a problem, Director Camrin Pitts will guide you through this hour long crash course on how to a movie with no budget. Make sure you bring a pen, paper and plenty of creativity. The lecture will conclude with a making of a short film to showcase on the closing night of the film festival.

Bi The Way – Documentary – 2:00pm at the Art Theatre

Directed by Brittany Blockman and Josephine Decker – USA, 2008, 85 minutes

Website: www.bithewaymovie.com

Take a journey across the changing sexual landscape of America in the documentary film "Bi The Way." Focusing on five subjects, "Bi The Way" will sift through scientific investigations, social constructions and personal experiences to glimpse an insight into the spectrum of human sexual identity. Spanning the continent from New York to Los Angeles, and featuring commentary from the likes of Michael Musto and Dan Savage, this film offers a hip, fresh insight into a growing awareness of a more fluid sexuality. As each of these young people reveals, however, bisexuality is mysterious, suspicious and largely undefined. Their journey reflects the struggle we all experience as we seek to understand ourselves and each other.

Saturday, May 9th (continued)

La Corona (The Crown) – Short Documentary – 4:00pm at the Art Theatre

Directed by Amanda Micheli and Isabel Vega – USA, 2007, 40 minutes – Website: www.runawayfilms.com
Academy Award Nominated “La Corona” Plays in **Fun in Women’s Shorts**

The contestants are hired killers, guerillas and thieves. The beaming winner, resplendent in an evening gown and glittering jewels, will be crowned by the previous year’s queen. This is a beauty pageant like no other, and it happens every year in the women’s penitentiary in Bogotá, Colombia. In their spellbinding and poignant short documentary La Corona filmmakers take viewers inside the prison’s heavily fortified walls, where preparations are underway for this highly anticipated and fiercely competitive event.

Other Women’s Short Films – To Be Announced

Saving The Boom – Short Documentary – 6:30pm at the Art Theatre

Directed by John Keitel – USA, 2008, 32 minutes

Website: http://savetheboom.blogspot.com/2008_05_01_archive.html

Saving The Boom Plays in **Fun in Men’s Shorts**

When “The Boom Boom Room,” the oldest gay bar west of the Mississippi and the center of gay nightlife in Laguna Beach, is sold and slated for redevelopment as a boutique hotel, Fred Karger, a long-time resident, gets angry. He makes it his mission not only to save “The Boom” from the wrecking ball but also to preserve the rapidly diminishing gay heritage of Laguna Beach. As Fred rallies the beach town citizens -- gay and straight, young and old -- in petition drives and community activism, “Save the Boom” explores the impact that the 61-year-old bar has had the town; from the early days before freeways when Rock Hudson would seek refuge in the beachfront enclave, as well as a drink or two at “The Boom;” to its pride, as recollected by Bob Gentry when he’s elected the first openly gay mayor in the country in the early 1980s.

Other Men’s Short Films – To Be Announced

Were The World Mine – Feature – 9:00pm at the Art Theatre

Directed by Tom Gustafson – USA, 2008, 95 minutes – Website: www.weretheworldminefilm.com

If you thought star-crossed lovers and love potions created confusion in the forest in A Midsummer Night’s Dream, wait until you see what they do to an all-boys high school putting on a production of that Shakespearean classic.

Handsome and imaginative Timothy (Tanner Cohen) is the class outsider, a student who mentally escapes his surroundings by imagining a row of dodgeball-wielding jocks as a corps de ballet. When he gets cast as Puck opposite his secret crush, dreamy jock Jonathon (Nathaniel David Becker), things get amorously complicated - Puck, after all, has a gift for creating mischief and for making the unlikeliest of people besotted with each other. Even the Neanderthal coach, who wants to shut down the production to spare his athletes from playing women’s roles, isn’t safe.

From chorus lines of rugby players to musical numbers built around the Bard, the sweet and sexy WERE THE WORLD MINE (adapted by writer-director Tom Gustafson from his acclaimed short film FAIRIES) is a delightful and exhilarating blend of theatrical fantasy and adolescent reality.

Sunday, May 10th

A Place to Live: The Story of Triangle Square – Documentary – 1:30pm at the Art Theater

Directed by Carolyn Coal – USA, 2008, 88 minutes – Website: www.aplacetolivemovie.com

This affecting and illuminating documentary follows seven gay seniors on a journey to find security and stability in the later years of life. Suffering both physical as well as financial limitations, elder gays and lesbians often find themselves at a unique disadvantage; to secure not only affordable, but welcoming housing. Triangle Square, the first gay-centered development of its kind in the U.S. offers that welcome, but only to a lucky few. Follow them on their journeys, from youthful activism and independence to quiet lives of reflection and remembrance, as they strive to carve out new experiences - and futures - at Triangle Square.

For My Wife – Documentary – 3:30pm at the Art Theatre

Directed by David Rothmiller – USA, 2008, 73 minutes – Website: www.formywife.info

While her partner of 9 years lay dying, Charlene Strong was barred from her bedside because their relationship had no legal standing. In the wake of that tragedy, Charlene summoned the courage to testify before the Washington State Legislature on behalf of same-sex couples seeking legal recognition. Charlene's passionate testimony was considered instrumental in passage of the domestic partnership legislation. She has become a tireless and vocal advocate of marriage equality everywhere. The documentary, "For My Wife," brings dramatic and human focus to the struggle for same-sex marriage equality. From the heartbreak of personal tragedy, something valuable has been gained. "For My Wife" speaks to the universal truths of love, dignity and justice.

For My Wife is preceded by short documentary:

The Constant Process

Directed by Douglas Hunter – USA, 2008, 19 minutes

Website: http://durationmachine.com/Site/The_Constant_Process.html

Life is defined as a constant state of change and growth. "The Constant Process" documents Susan Russell's remarkable change from ordinary, married-with-children, "cultural Christian," to an empowered, inspired, out-and-proud lesbian priest. Acceptance of homosexuality is still a work in progress for many Christians. Rev. Russell is an intelligent, articulate, and compassionate voice of reason in an occasionally heated debate. Douglas Hunter is a producer, documentary filmmaker and devout Mormon. Hunter conceived the project as an opportunity to engage others across a religious and cultural divide. Ironically, it was this exploration that would initiate his own personal transformation. Hunter became a vocal opponent of Proposition 8, and, like Rev. Russell, a voice for compassion and acceptance.

I Can't Think Straight – Feature – 6:00pm at the Art Theatre

Directed by Samim Sarif – UK, 2007, 80 minutes – Website: www.icantthinkstraight-themovie.com

Love and attraction are emotions common to all people in all cultures. Rejection, confusion and family dysfunctions are just as common. "I Can't Think Straight" takes these universal truths and places them in the context of traditional Middle Eastern society. As Leya and Ali prepare to be married, Leya finds herself falling in love with another woman: Ali's best friend Tala! The drama unfolds and truths are revealed as Leya and Tala must consider what love is, what it means and the price they must pay for their decisions.

Sunday, May 10th

ShowGirls: Provincetown, MA – Documentary – 8:00pm at the Art Theater

Directed by C. Fitz – USA, 2009, 72 minutes – Website: <http://www.myspace.com/showgirlstown>

Nikki Coldwater from Imperial Court will Emcee the night and kick it off with a little of her own very special spice. Then we'll head "back east" for drag – Provincetown style – screening the feature documentary "ShowGirls, Provincetown, MA". Over the course of the summer of 2007 director, C.Fitz documented the legendary Provincetown stage production of "Showgirls," and the stories of the people involved. Her camera crews descended upon the tiny idyllic fishing village located on the tip of Cape Cod that is the backdrop for "Showgirls." Every Monday evening musical performers, comedians, performance artists, drag queens, dog acts, and those who could only be described as, talent challenged, emphatically conducted their acts with the goal of the \$500.00 prize at the end of the night.

Monday-Thursday, May 11-14th at The Art Theater

Eleven Minutes - see www.arttheatrelongbeach.com for screening times & tickets

Directed by Michael Selditch & Robert Tate – USA, 2008, 103 minutes

Website: <http://www.elevenminutes-jaymccarroll.com>

Jay McCarroll may have been called "the next great American designer," after his big win on season one of TV's Project Runway, but that was just the beginning. Over the next year, documentary cameras would follow Jay as he prepared to unveil his own line on the runway during New York's Fashion Week. What emerges is a raw, funny, sometimes painful portrait of the creative process as Jay tries to find balance between art and commerce, fame and talent, reality TV and actual reality.