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## QFilms Long Beach, Long Beach's oldest film festival, returns to celebrate the diversity of LGBTQ people and their allies

### Films screened in person, outdoors and online

Film festival supports services and programs of The LGBTQ Center Long Beach including legal services, food programs, youth and family outreach, older adult programs, HIV/STI testing, transgender support, and mental health counseling

#### **[Film descriptions and links to assets below](#)**

**LONG BEACH, CA (September 1, 2021) – QFilms Long Beach**, a benefit to support the services and programs of The **LGBTQ Center Long Beach**, returns for its 28<sup>th</sup> year with a hybrid of programming options for film fans to see the best in queer cinema in person, outdoors and online in a safe and welcoming environment. The festival, **Thursday, September 30 through Sunday, October 3**, will again show films at Long Beach's prestigious **Art Theatre** as well as offer some films for online streaming. New this year will be outdoor screenings at the **Museum of Latin American Art (MOLAA)** including the new Latinx short film program. Tickets range from \$10 for individual presentations to \$150 for a VIP All Access to all films, the Filmmakers Lounge, an opening night catered by Buono's Pizzeria, and a Sunday brunch catered by Lola's Mexican at The Center. A full schedule of the 62 films and tickets are available at [www.QFilmsLongBeach.com](http://www.QFilmsLongBeach.com).

“The power of people connecting through the movies is more powerful than any virus, fear or prejudice that we have faced during the pandemic,” said Carlos Torres, executive director of the LGBTQ Center Long Beach. “We took great care this year insuring that QFilms will be a safe place in all sense of the word for our community and our allies to join together to celebrate beautiful stories of survival, creation, comradery and romance.”

The Center has prioritized festivalgoers’ safety and will be following the most up-to-date public health guidelines. In 2020, QFilms switched to an all-streaming festival. Proof of vaccination is mandatory for all in person screenings and festivalgoers are encouraged to arrive early to navigate the process. Those who cannot show proof of vaccination will not be allowed entry.

On Opening Night, Thursday, September 30, there will be an Opening Night party from 8:00pm to 11:00pm at The Center, 2017 E. 4<sup>th</sup> Street in Long Beach and two film programming choices. New this year is an evening of Latinx short films. **CORTOS: Latinx Queer Shorts** at the MOLAA, 628 Alamitos in Long Beach at 7:30pm, will feature short films **Mora and Chenchi**, a women’s focused film from Mexico, **We Are Not Who We Say We Are**, a queer, transgender, and universal tale from Honduras, and **Ocupa**, a women’s/universal focused film from Brazil.

At the Art Theatre, 2025 E. 4<sup>th</sup> Street in Long Beach, **This Is Jessica**, screening at 7:00pm, is a feature documentary about Jessica Blair, a longtime LGBTQIA+ rights advocate with Human Rights Campaign, shares her struggle to remain in her Mormon faith despite coming out as transgender. At 9:30pm, **Yes I Am: The Ric Weiland Story**, features **Bill Gates** and **Zachary Quinto** to tell the story of the brilliant programmer, queer pioneer, and one of the earliest employees of Microsoft. The film is preceded by **Disciple** about a gay priest seeking his inner truth.

Notable films include **No Ordinary Man**, a portrait of **Billy Tipton**, the jazz musician who was revealed after his death to have been transgender; Oscar-winner and LGBTQ icon **Cloris Leachman’s** last lead role in a film, **Jump, Darling; Can You Bring It: Bill T. Jones**, a feature documentary that traces the remarkable history and legacy of one of the most important works of art to come out of the age of AIDS – choreographer Bill T. Jones’s tour de force ballet “D-Man in the Waters;” and **Forgotten Roads**, a meek, repressed and adrift widow moves into town to live with her daughter and grandson and experiences an unexpected spark of life when she befriends the dynamic and independent married woman next door.

**Men & Friends’ Night @ MOLAA** on Friday at 9:30pm features **Summertime**, director Carlos Lopez Estrada’s chronicle of a spoken word poetry musical set in Los Angeles, following the intersecting stories of 27 young Angelinos over the course of a single day. **Women & Friends’ Night @ MOLAA on Saturday at 9:30pm** will rock out with director Bobbi Jo Hart’s documentary about the first all-woman band to release a record on a major label. **Fanny: The Right to Rock** features interviews with Def Leppard’s Joe Elliott, Bonnie Raitt, The Go-Go’s Kathy Valentine, Todd Rundgren, The Runaways’ Cherie Currie, Lovin’ Spoonful’s John

Sebastian, and The B52's Kate Pierson. Fighting early barriers of race, gender, and sexuality in the music industry, and now ageism as they have reformed, the incredible women of Fanny are ready to claim their hallowed place in the halls of rock 'n' roll fame.

Additional short film programs will be screened at the Art Theatre and include **TRANSPirational Shorts, Rated PG-13: Youth Shorts, Queermation: Animated Shorts, (Almost) Midnight: Experimental Shorts, Men In Briefs, and Women In Shorts.** Streaming online only will be the shorts programs, **Eat My (Comedy) Shorts** and **Locally Sourced: California Shorts.**

Platinum Sponsors include the Los Angeles County Department of Arts & Culture. Silver Sponsors are the Arts Council for Long Beach, Lola's Mexican Cuisine, Patrick Doonan & Paul Thompson, Port of Long Beach, and St. Mary Medical Center Foundation. Bronze Sponsors are APLA, Downtown Long Beach Alliance, Keir Jones / State Farm, Water Replenishment District, and Nolan Ross & Company. Star Sponsors are Long Beach Transit, Los Altos United Methodist Church, Mike DeForest & Greg Ainsworth, and Woody Sides & Robert Wallace. Film Sponsors are Earl Jordan / State Farm, AIDS Food Store, Smolowitz Law, and APLC Temple Israel. Donations from Nicandra Thomas, Transgender Services, and Anonymous.

The LGBTQ Center Long Beach supports more than 25,000 people a year through programs including youth and family services, older adult services, mental health counseling, legal services, domestic violence support, trans health programs, HIV and STI testing, and more than 20 weekly support groups. Currently many of these services are offered online during the pandemic. HIV/STI testing is available by appointment Monday through Friday in The Center at 2017 E. 4<sup>th</sup> Street in Long Beach. For more information on services, visit [CenterLB.org](http://CenterLB.org) or follow @CenterLB on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

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## **FILM CREDITS AND LINKS TO ASSETS**

Festival trailer: <https://vimeo.com/594985015>

Festival logos:

[https://www.dropbox.com/sh/la44xwui7kmify7/AAAuVGLV6RGPqu7S\\_ckVGktZa?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/la44xwui7kmify7/AAAuVGLV6RGPqu7S_ckVGktZa?dl=0)

Photo credit to be attributed to the film itself if a specific name is not offered.

## **FEATURE FILMS/DOCUMENTARIES**

- **This is Jessica** (*Andrea Meyerson, 81 minutes, USA*) <https://thisisjessica.com> –Thursday at 7:00pm at the Art Theatre
  - Trailer: <https://youtu.be/3Z28u66cXyM>
  - Poster: [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1fCxiiDi\\_fJIQ5xbyQDMdqEZO3Psoax9/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1fCxiiDi_fJIQ5xbyQDMdqEZO3Psoax9/view) and <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1kthCWCrbnB0HY3qVdhUjJNQWcSE7MMjU/view>
  - This is Jessica paints an intimate, emotional portrait of a woman forced to make a heart-wrenching decision to save herself. From her earliest years growing up as a Mormon boy in a conservative environment, Jessica knew she was a girl. Terrified to risk her family, her faith, her life on earth and eternal soul, Jonathan went about creating the perfect life of a young Mormon man, becoming a missionary, marrying young and starting a family. Serving in the Army under the Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy, she became so despondent about the chasm between whom she was and who she was merely pretending to be. When Jonathan finally comes out as Jessica, it's a leap off the edge of life as she knows it. This is the story of a woman faced with an impossible choice between the life into which she was born, and the one she was born to live.
- **Yes I Am: The Ric Weiland Story** (*Aaron Bear, 63 minutes, USA*) <https://www.ricweiland.com> – Thursday at 9:30pm at the Art Theatre
  - Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/544028300>
  - Featuring **Bill Gates** and **Zachary Quinto** (voice). Ric Weiland was a brilliant programmer, queer pioneer, & one of the earliest employees of Microsoft. He dedicated his life and fortune to philanthropy and activism, but personal struggles eventually became too much to bear. This film is the story of his life and legacy.
- **Rebel Dykes** (*Harri Shanahan & Sian A. Williams, 92 minutes, UK*) <https://www.rebeldykes1980s.com> – Friday at 7:15pm at the Art Theatre
  - Trailer: <https://youtu.be/iC3es6Rup0s>
  - A rabble-rousing documentary set in 1980s post-punk London. The unheard story of a community of dykes who met doing art, music, politics, and sex, and how they went on to change their world.
- **No Ordinary Man** (*Aisling Chin-Yee & Chase Joynt, 84 minutes, USA*) <https://noordinaryman.oscilloscope.net> – Friday at 9:30pm at the Art Theatre
  - Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sLS-Fq8Cbxw>
  - Press kit: [https://www.dropbox.com/sh/vxnyfau4b30xq8n/AADOhCFLS\\_rl-3taVtzGOB-sa?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/vxnyfau4b30xq8n/AADOhCFLS_rl-3taVtzGOB-sa?dl=0)
  - A portrait of **Billy Tipton**, the jazz musician who was revealed after his death to have been transgender.

- **Summertime** (*Carlos Lopez Estrada, 91 minutes, USA - Universal*)  
<https://gooddeedentertainment.com/summertime/> – Friday at 9:15 pm Men & Friends' Night @ MOLAA
  - Trailer: [https://youtu.be/MBeJPuf\\_KYM](https://youtu.be/MBeJPuf_KYM)
  - Images: <https://gooddeedentertainment.com/summertime/#>
  - Over the course of a hot summer day in Los Angeles, the lives of 25 young Angelenos intersect. A skating guitarist, a tagger, two wannabe rappers, an exasperated fast-food worker, a limo driver – they all weave in and out of each other's stories. Through poetry they express life, love, heartache, family, home, and fear. One of them just wants to find someplace that still serves good cheeseburgers.
- **My First Summer** (*Katie Found, 78 minutes, Australia*) <https://www.myfirstsummer.com>  
 – Saturday at 11:00am at the Art Theatre
  - 16-year-old Claudia has grown up in isolation from the outside world. Stranded on a remote property after her mother's death, she is shocked when Grace, a spirited local teen, appears in the garden like a mirage, a breath of fresh, sugary air. The pair find in each other the support, love and intimacy they need, and teach each other the restorative power of human connection. But their idyllic peace is a fragile one as the adult world closes in and threatens their secret summer love.
- **Can You Bring It: Bill T. Jones** (*Tom Hurwitz & Rosalynde LeBlanc, 94 minutes*)  
<https://www.d-mandocumentary.com/#home-section> – Saturday at 6:30pm at the Art Theatre
  - Images: <https://www.d-mandocumentary.com/media>
  - Trailer: <https://youtu.be/zvdqTFNCUwc>
  - A feature documentary that traces the remarkable history and legacy of one of the most important works of art to come out of the age of AIDS – choreographer Bill T. Jones's tour de force ballet "D-Man in the Waters." In 1989, D-Man and the Waters gave physical manifestation to the fear, anger, grief, and hope for salvation that the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Company felt as they were embattled by the AIDS pandemic. As a group of young dancers reconstructs the dance, they learn about this oft forgotten history and deepened their understanding of the power of art in a time of plague.
- **Fanny: The Right to Rock** (*Bobbi Jo Hart, 96 minutes, USA - Women's*)  
[www.fannythemovie.com](http://www.fannythemovie.com) – Saturday at 9:15pm at Women & Friends' Night @ MOLAA
  - Trailer: <https://youtu.be/zspd9hFRtkw>
  - "Revivify Fanny. And my work is done."- David Bowie. Sometime in the 1960s, in sunny Sacramento, two Filipina American sisters got together with other teenage

girls to play music. Little did they know their garage band would evolve into the legendary rock group Fanny, the first all-women band to release an LP with a major record label (Warner/Reprise, 1970). Despite releasing 5 critically acclaimed albums over 5 years, touring with famed bands from SLADE to CHICAGO and amassing a dedicated fan base of music legends including David Bowie, Fanny's groundbreaking impact in music was written out of history... until bandmates reunite 50 years later with a new rock record deal. With incredible archival footage of the band's rocking past intercut with its next chapter releasing a new LP today, the film includes interviews with a large cadre of music icons, including Def Leppard's Joe Elliott, Bonnie Raitt, The Go-Go's Kathy Valentine, Todd Rundgren, The Runaways' Cherie Currie, Lovin' Spoonful's John Sebastian, The B52's Kate Pierson, Charles Neville and David Bowie guitarist and bassist Earl Slick and Gail Ann Dorsey. Fighting early barriers of race, gender and sexuality in the music industry, and now ageism, the incredible women of Fanny are ready to claim their hallowed place in the halls of rock 'n' roll fame.

- **1:15pm: Marry Me, However** (*Mordechai Vardi, 64 minutes, Israel*) <https://www.facebook.com/MARRYMEHOWEVER> - Sunday at 1:15pm at the Art Theatre
  - Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/448617514>
  - The film tells the stories of LGBT men and women who, for religious reasons, decided to marry against their own sexual orientation, to comply with Torah laws and be accepted into their families and religious communities. Some shared their secret with their partners, some kept it hidden, and some lied even to themselves. After their divorces, they confront the conflicts they repressed: their faith and religious laws; children, family and community; exposure to society and search for a partner. The characters experience a journey of self-acceptance and social activism, as they try to affect a change in their religious environments. The film also follows the women who married and divorced homosexual partners, as well as rabbis and psychologists who seek a solution to an unsolvable conflict.
- **Forgotten Roads** (*Nicol Ruiz, 72 minutes, Chile*) <http://www.outplayfilms.com/?p=3510> – Sunday at 5:30pm at the Art Theatre
  - Images and trailer: <https://www.outplayfilms.com/video/forgotten-roads-la-nave-del-olvido/>
  - Bereft on an isolated turkey farm after her husband's death, 70-year-old Claudina—meek, repressed and adrift – moves into town to live with her daughter and grandson. Despite her strained relationship with her daughter, Claudina experiences an unexpected spark of life when she befriends the dynamic and independent married woman next door, Elsa, who seems to travel paths and make choices Claudina never had the chance to make. But in the

gossipy Chilean town of Lautaro, their budding relationship doesn't stay a secret for long. Just as Claudina sees love's horizons expanding, she may be forced to choose between the traditional role she understands and the open road ahead of her.

- **Jump, Darling** (*Phil Connell, 90 minutes, Canada*) – Sunday at 7:45pm at the Art Theatre
  - In Oscar-winning actress Cloris Leachman's final starring role, a rookie drag queen, reeling from a break-up, escapes to the country, where he finds his grandmother in steep decline yet desperate to avoid the local nursing home.

## **SHORTS PROGRAMS**

- **Museum of Latin American Art (MOLAA)**  
**CORTOS: Latinx Queer Shorts** (*Mixed - 64 minutes*) – Thursday outdoor screening at Museum of Latin American Art (MOLAA)
  - Mora and Chenchi (*Diego Toussaint, 20 minutes, Mexico*)
  - We Are Not Who We Say We Are (*Manu Valcarce, 19 minutes, Honduras*)
  - Ocupa (*Juliana Pfeifer, 25 minutes, Brazil*)
- **TRANSpirational Shorts** (*66 minutes - Q&T*) - Friday at 5:00pm at the Art Theatre
  - House of AS (*Leah Shore, 1 minute, USA*)
  - Unliveable (*Matheus Farias & Enock Carvalh, 20 minutes, Brazil*)
  - God's Daughter Dances (*Sungbin Byun, 25 minutes, South Korea*)
  - Karina's Suit (*Frank Benitez, 20 minutes, Colombia*)
- **Rated PG-13: Youth Shorts** (*Mixed - 83 minutes*) – Saturday at 1:30pm at the Art Theatre
  - Coming Out (*Cressa Beer, 2 minutes, USA*)
  - At Last (*Lorena Gordon, 14 minutes, USA*)
  - Graduation (*Robin Wang, 6 minutes, USA*)
  - Les Levres Gercees (*Fabien Corre & Kelsi Phung, 5 minutes, France*)
  - April's Last Memories (*Nancy Cruz Orozco, 21 minutes, Mexico*)
  - Blue Suit (*Kevin J. Nguyen, 16 minutes, USA*)
  - Kapaemahu (*Hinaleimoana Wong-Kalu, Dean Hamer, and Joe Wilson, 9 minutes, USA*)
  - Before the Eruption (*Roberto Perez Toledo, 10 minutes, Spain*)
- **Queermation: Animated Shorts** (*Mixed - 90 minutes*) – Saturday at 4:00pm at the Art Theatre
  - Champion (*Brittany Campbell, 4 minutes, USA*)

- Sweet, Sweet Kink: A Collection of BDSM Stories (*Maggie M. Bailey, 14 minutes, USA*)
- Noah's Song (*Damian Bonito Zapien, 3 minutes, USA*)
- Our Bed is Green (*Maggie Brennan, 7 minutes, USA*)
- Chromosome Sweetheart (*Honami Yano, 5 minutes, Japan*)
- Each and Every Night (*Julie Robert, 12 minutes, France*)
- Top 3 (*Sofie Edvardsson, 45 minutes, Sweden*)
- **(Almost) Midnight: Experimental Shorts** (*Mixed - 103 minutes*) – Saturday at 9:30pm at the Art Theatre
  - Save Twilight (*Mario Hernandez Lopez, 21 minutes, Spain*)
  - The Leaf (*Will J. Zang, 4 minutes, China*)
  - Trips, Friends, Night and Destiny (*Gabriel Ordonez & Gabriel Marin, 9 minutes, Argentina*)
  - Silent Heat (*Lucienne Venner, 19 minutes, The Netherlands*)
  - The Announcement (*Denis Liakhov, 7 minutes, Russia*)
  - The Last Romantics Of The World (*Henrique Arruda, 23 minutes, Brazil*)
  - And Just Two More (*Alireza Mohammadi, 20 minutes, Iran*)
- **Men In Briefs** (*65 minutes - Men's*) – Sunday at 11:00am at the Art Theatre
  - Complicated (*Isak Kohaly, 22 minutes, Israel*)
  - Bill (*Jeremy Munro, 6 minutes, USA*)
  - Getting Closer (*Ethan Roberts, 6 minutes, USA*)
  - I Bleed (*Tiago Minamisawa, Bruno H. Castro, & Guto BR, 7 minutes, Brazil*)
  - Peace (*Adomako Aman, 11 minutes, USA*)
  - My Aunties (*Richard O'Connor, 3 minutes, USA*)
  - Lines (*Kyle Jumayne Francisco, 10 minutes, Philippines*)
- **Women In Shorts** (*92 minutes - Women's*) – Sunday at 3:30pm at the Art Theatre
  - Are You Still Watching? (*Tali Polichtuk, Alex Cardy, & Kitty Chrystal, 7 minutes, Australia*)
  - Lilies (*Joni Renee Whitworth, 9 minutes, USA*)
  - Aimee Victoria (*Chyrstee Pharris, 11 minutes, USA*)
  - Skumjas (*Yassin Koptan, 12 minutes, Egypt*)
  - Eleven Weeks (*Julie Caskey & Anna Kuperberg, 15 minutes, USA*)
  - Roadkill (*Aliza Brugger, 16 minutes, USA*)
  - The Wash (In Love) (*Ibon Hernando, 9 minutes, Spain*)
  - Sunday's Child (*Maisie Richardson-Sellers, 13 minutes, USA*)

## FILMS STREAMING ONLINE

- **Eat My (Comedy) Shorts** (*Mixed - 86 minutes*) – Friday at 7:30pm at [www.QFilmsLongBeach.com](http://www.QFilmsLongBeach.com)
  - *Manivald (Chintis Lundgren, 13 minutes, Estonia - Men's)*
  - *Total Catch (Sarah Clark, 3 minutes, USA - Q&T)*
  - *2 Dollars (Robin Cloud, 15 minutes, USA - Women's)*
  - *As Simple As That (Luciana Bitencourt, 19 minutes, Brazil - Universal)*
  - *Stand Up, Stand Out: The Making of a Comedy Movement (David Pavlovsky, 36 minutes, USA - Universal)*
  
- **Locally Sourced: California Shorts** (*Mixed - 79 minutes*) – Saturday at 7:30pm at [www.QFilmsLongBeach.com](http://www.QFilmsLongBeach.com)
  - *The Parlor with Jeff + Cosgrove (Daniel Maggio, 6 minutes, USA - Men's)*
  - *The Crown With A Shadow (JB Ghuman Jr., 11 minutes, USA - Q&T)*
  - *The Lights Are On, No One Is Home (Faye Ruiz, 11 minutes, USA - Q&T)*
  - *My Neighbor Miguel (Danny Navarro, 14 minutes, USA - Men's)*
  - *Bayanihan & Resilience (Jocelyn Tabancay Duffy, 5 minutes, USA - Q&T)*
  - *1701 : A Blerd Story (Matt Jennings, 7 minutes, USA - Men's)*
  - *Beakman & Jok (Kolmel W. Love & Lex Sloan, 25 minutes, USA - Men's)*