Portland Queer Documentary Film Festival

May 17-20, 2012
McMenamins Kennedy School
Welcome to the Sixth Annual QDoc!

Big changes this year as we make our move to the fabulous McMenamins Kennedy School Theatre. We’re thrilled to have food, drink and a wide range of hangout space all in the same building, further enhancing the community atmosphere that is so central to the QDoc experience.

Lots of guests are coming this year, too! We have filmmakers and film subjects visiting Portland from far and wide to introduce their films and answer your questions.

Come join us as we explore topics ranging from a German gay cartoonist to a lesbian photographer in South Africa; rediscover a gay glam rocker from the early ‘70s; and meet our inspiring opening night guest, lesbian country music star Chely Wright. We have films dealing with religious themes, with youth issues, with women’s health, with a very unusual couple in Italy and with Norwegian lesbians skinnydipping on the Isle of Lesbos! And even more!

Looking forward to seeing you all! Enjoy the movies!

Russ Gage & David Weissman
Festival Co-Directors

Thank You

So many individuals are responsible for the realization of this Festival it would be impossible to thank them all here. With regrets to those we neglect to mention, we’d like to acknowledge the tremendous efforts of the following: Stevee Postman (graphic design guru); Jessica Lyness (PR goddess); Ted Hurliman (maestro of operations); Gemma Sanz de la Serna (front-of-house dominatrix); and Jimmy Radosta (chief wordsmith).

Additionally, we are indebted to these folks for their support, advice and enthusiasm: Howie Bierbaum, Steve Vierk, Beth Hutchison, George Voorhes, Stella Maris, David Castro, Gabriel Mendoza, Chris Israel, Alan Colley, Jenni Olson, Bill Foster, Amy Williams, Sam Swaim, Kristy Conrad, Sarah Bohin, Bill Dickey, Gus Van Sant, Anne Clark, Elena Balducci, Wing Grabowski, Les Lewis, Rick Watkins, Celia Lyon, Barbara Davidson, Robert Hogg, Diane Benjamin, Bob Baskette and all of the community partner organizations and volunteers who have joined us to make this event special.

Please join us in thanking all of our sponsors and showing your appreciation for their support of this event. Our fiscal sponsor, Portland’s Q Center, deserves immense credit for its ongoing partnership in this Festival. Thank you to Barbara McCullough-Jones, Paul Fukui, Logan Lynn and the Q Center board of directors! Thank you to the McMenamin brothers, Jimi Byron, Mike Wyatt, Mel Jenson, Rene Rank and Daniel Barton for hosting QDoc this year. Also of special note: Thank you to the team at Basic Rights Oregon for their support, especially Juan Martinez, Joe LeBlanc and Kyle White.

This year we are delighted to have the continued support of the Regional Arts & Culture Council and The Wendy Foundation. Individual supporters listed inside have sustained QDoc with their vision and belief in its value to the community by personally contributing to bring it to Portland’s LGBTQ community. Thank you.

Lastly, and especially, we’d like to thank the filmmakers and the film subjects for sharing their important and inspiring stories with us.
As The Dixie Chicks learned all too well, the world of country music isn’t the most inviting place for anyone who deviates from the narrow Nashville norms. In 2010, singer Chely Wright put this conservative environment to the test when she became the first major country music performer to publicly come out as lesbian.

Having made a strong debut as the Academy of Country Music’s Top New Female Vocalist in 1995, Wright went on to score big hits with “Shut Up and Drive” and “Single White Female.” She was romantically linked with superstar Brad Paisley and was invited to perform at “The Mother Church of Country Music,” the Grand Ole Opry.

Behind the scenes, though, Wright was struggling with her sexuality and her Christian faith, and she was haunted by a difficult childhood in rural Kansas. After attempting suicide, she decided to risk her career by releasing *Like Me*, a memoir about her years in the closet.

*Wish Me Away* is a candid profile of a groundbreaking figure in music history. —Jimmy Radosta

**Opening Night Party**

This year’s Opening Night Party is being hosted by renowned Portland restaurateur Chris Israel (Grüner) at the as-yet-unnamed event space adjoining his upcoming new restaurant Corazon. Join Chely and the QDoc crew for post-film delectables and imbibables and some down-home surprises!

1207 SW Washington St. between 12th and 13th. Plenty of street parking in the area, underground parking also available in the building.

Tickets for film-only • $9 general • $7 students and seniors
Tickets for film and Opening Night Party • $25
Party-only tickets (subject to availability) at the door • $20
Festival Pass • $75, includes all screenings and Opening Night Party

**Chely Wright in attendance**

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Named after a track from Wright’s album “Lifted Off the Ground,” *Wish Me Away* is a candid profile of a groundbreaking figure in music history.

—Jimmy Radosta

**Wish Me Away**

*Wish Me Away*:(dirs Bobbie Birlefli and Beverly Kopf 2011 USA 96 min.

Sponsored By: **Q CENTER**
Assigned female at birth, Lynnee, Rocco, Kaleb and Miguel span a decade or more in age, speak different languages and live in urban cultures as dispersed as San Francisco, New York, Paris and Barcelona. And yet, in director Valérie Mitteaux’s sympathetic hands, the stories of their journeys into transmasculinity reveal common themes. How does a boy who was raised as a girl learn to be a different kind of man? How can transmen inhabit a masculinity that is fluent and authentic, while learning to use the privilege that once oppressed them?

It’s fascinating to see the various ways by which these incredibly charming guys and their friends untangle these conundrums. Especially involving are scenes depicting relationships with family: Rocco awkwardly interviewing his parents and twin sister about his coming out, and Lynnee (aka Lynn Breedlove of revered dyke-punk band Tribe 8) interacting in loving exasperation with his mother, who is something of a fabulous diva herself. These scenes help reveal the context that formed each person’s unique expression of masculinity.

While the realm beyond the gender binary is no longer terra incognita, at least not for queer Portland, the film’s quietly nuanced perspective is rewarding no matter what one’s gender expression. As Mitteaux observed in a recent Q&A about the film, “It’s not a film about trans persons. It’s a film about looking at femininity and masculinity through the experiences of trans persons.”

—Stella Maris

Subject Lynnee Breedlove in attendance

You may not recognize the name Ralf König, but you probably recognize his art. One of the most commercially successful German comic book creators, he is best known for books like "SchwulComix (GayComix)" that offer a twisted take on queer culture. Equal parts Tom of Finland and R. Crumb, König’s comics are sexually charged and often politically incorrect, portraying daily routines of gay life alongside serious subjects like AIDS.

Having grown up in a village centered around a sauerkraut factory, König worked as a carpenter before coming out as a gay man in 1979. After achieving minor success when his work appeared in the Munich underground magazine Zomix, he attended art school and eventually caught the attention of a gay publishing house. In 1994, König achieved worldwide notoriety when his comic book The Most Desired Man was adapted into a live-action film of the same name, starring Til Schweiger.

King of Comics is a touching portrait of a cutting-edge artist with a wicked sense of humor. All hail the king!

—Jimmy Radosta

Sponsored by:

King of Comics: Dir Rosa von Praunheim 2011 Germany 80 min.
La Bocca del Lupo:
Dir Pietro Marcello 2009 Italy 75 min.

In Italian “La Bocca del Lupo” means “mouth of the wolf.” It is also the name of the bay of Genoa, as well as slang for finding oneself in hard times or behind the barred windows of prisons. In his film La Bocca del Lupo, Pietro Marcello weaves all these meanings into a cinematically expansive and deeply intimate love story between two unlikely partners and the city where they dream of making a new life together.

Released from prison for murder, Enzo returns to the back alleys and red-light districts of Genoa to reunite with his true love Mary— but all is not what it seems with these two outsiders who dream of finding a quiet haven together. One revelation after another unfolds as the course of their affair moves from prison yards, to neon-lit bars, to an astounding interview in the home they share. The result is both a unique tale of commitment and fidelity and an exploration of the violent and tender sides of life in the city’s underworld. Using the audio tapes that the lovers exchanged during incarceration; contemporary and archival footage that evokes classic Italian cinema; and a narration reminiscent of Proust and Jean Genet, La Bocca del Lupo blends personal passions and poetic history to create a hymn to love, to memory and finally to Genoa and the lives of those at its margins.

—Donal Mosher

The LuLu Sessions:
Dir S. Casper Wong 2011 USA 87 min

In this enormously compelling and tender-hearted film, director S. Casper Wong chronicles the journey she shared with her former teacher, best friend and on-again/off-again companion over the last 15 months of LuLu’s life. Armed with a predilection toward profanity, an ever-lit cigarette and a can of cheap beer, LuLu unflinchingly battles a disease she knows only far too well.

Dr. Louise Nutter, affectionately known as LuLu, is a renowned cancer researcher on the cutting edge of developing a promising anti-cancer drug. Passionate, driven and inspiring to scientific peers and students alike, LuLu is known as much for her 16-hour workdays as for her hard-living lifestyle. When she herself is diagnosed with breast cancer, LuLu remarks, “I don’t have time to do this shit,” and never allows the diagnosis to transform her spirit or shake her trademark sense of humor.

The raw self-reflection expressed at times by those experiencing breast cancer, as well by those closest to them, is all captured here. But at its core The LuLu Sessions is a completely unconventional love story—an intimate and deeply personal portrait of two people confronting a terminal illness with honesty, laughter and love.

—Donal Mosher

Community Partners: Asian Pacific Islander Pride, Planned Parenthood Columbia Willamette

May 19
Saturday
6 pm

**QUESTION ONE**

Directors Joe Fox & James Nubile and subject Darlene Huntress in attendance

On May 6th, 2009, Maine became the first state in this country to legislatively grant same-sex couples the right to marry. Seven months later, on November 3rd, 2009, Maine reversed that decision by voter referendum, becoming the 31st state to say “no” to marriage equality. *Question One* chronicles the fierce and emotional battle that took place in Maine during that time, a battle whose political symbolism is a bellwether for the greater ideological battlefield in American politics.

Closely mirroring California’s Prop 8 battle, *Question One* chronicles the behind-the-scenes workings of both sides of the conflict. The filmmakers spent the duration of the campaign imbedded in the war rooms and strategy sessions, capturing the private thoughts, insights, fears and conflicts expressed by key leaders as they crafted and created their messages and strategies. Equally fascinating are the interviews with foot soldiers from each side who passionately believe in their cause.

With the state of Washington facing its own voter referendum this year, and the equality movement in Oregon carefully strategizing its next move, *Question One* provides an insightful and timely examination of the inner workings and cross-continental tactics that are being employed in marriage equality battles across the country.

*Panel discussion facilitated by Basic Rights Oregon following the film.*

**JOBRIATH A.D.**

This is a 21-and-over screening

*Jobriath A.D.* uncovers the amazing forgotten story of a musical prodigy who aspired to be the first openly gay rock star in the early ’70s. Born Bruce Campbell in 1946, he burst into the heart of 1960s counterculture as “Jobriath Salisbury” singing the song “Sodomy” in the original L.A. cast of *Hair*.

Wildly talented, hyper ambitious, seductively and flamboyantly gay, Jobriath hooked up with infamous and powerful promoter Jerry Brandt, who just a year earlier had skyrocketed Carly Simon to stardom. Brandt massively hyped Jobriath as a new rock messiah who would “outglitter Bowie, out-queen Queen...” But Brandt’s hype backfired, and the self-proclaimed “True Fairy of Rock ‘n’ Roll” proved to be too much even for the era of androgynous glam rockers and sexual ambiguity.

Director Kieran Turner follows Jobriath from his complicated family life and his musical beginnings in L.A. through his rollercoaster relationship with the wolf-like yet fawning Brandt. The film also chronicles his amazing capacity for reinvention in new forms, ending with his final days as a cabaret singer dwelling in the famous Chelsea Hotel. Beautifully accented by animated depictions of Jobriath’s life, *Jobriath A.D.* features stunning archival footage and interviews with acquaintances, family and subsequent generations of performers (including Jake Shears, Joey Arias and Marc Almond) inspired by his truly stellar dreams and talent.

*Panel discussion facilitated by Basic Rights Oregon following the film.*

*Jobriath A.D.:* Dir Kieran Turner 2011 USA 107 min.
Community Partners: The Living Room, Portland PFLAG, Sexual Minority Youth Resource Center

In the summer of 2005, a 16-year-old boy named Zach in Memphis, Tenn. came out to his parents. Within days, he posted on his MySpace blog, “Today, my mother, father and I had a very long ‘talk’ in my room where they let me know I am to apply for a fundamentalist Christian program for gays.”

Zach's parents were sending him to Love in Action, a program that refers to homosexuality as an addictive behavior and claims to turn gay teens straight. But before Zach got there, his despairing posts on the Internet quickly spread from his friends, to the local community, to the nation. In a remarkably short time, daily protests were organized outside the campus of Love in Action. This Is What Love in Action Looks Like follows the inspirational story of Zach's local community standing up for their friend in what would become an international news story. Former Love in Action director John Smid as well as former adult and teenage clients share their reflections on these experiences. In addition, local bloggers, community activists and classmates of Zach tell their stories of becoming involved. By the time Zach emerged in late July 2005, there was a barrage of headlines in the international press, including Good Morning America, CNN, The New York Times, Time magazine and The Advocate. And yes, the story has a happy ending!

DIFFICULT LOVE with
NOT A MAN IN SIGHT

From the southern tip of Africa and the northern tip of Europe, here are two very different perspectives on contemporary lesbian life.

DIFFICULT LOVE portrays photographer Zanele Muholi, whose work explores the multilayered stories of black South African lesbians. Though South Africa's 1996 constitution was the first in the world to outlaw discrimination against gays and lesbians, the legacy of apartheid and long-ingrained homophobia and sexism continue to create a challenging environment for black lesbians. Muholi's breathtaking images document not only the hardships some lesbians face, but also capture the tenderness, love and beauty of her community. Her subjects, many of whom appear in the film, range from urban professionals and academics to a homeless lesbian couple living under a bridge.

NOT A MAN IN SIGHT looks at three generations of lesbians in Norway. Director Mette Aakerholm Gardell and her wife, Stina, are wanting to have a child, which prompts Mette's search for a new understanding of what “lesbian” means. Martine is 24 and wants to be seen as “just a normal masculine human being.” She feels like a heterosexual boy as she's falling in love with a lesbian. Marja and Bodil, a couple both in their 70s, are from the first generation of lesbian/feminist activists, now dealing with aging and health issues together and dreaming of skinnydipping on Lesbos.

This Is What Love in Action Looks Like: Dir Morgan Jon Fox 2010 USA 70 min.

DIFFICULT LOVE: Dir Zanele Muholi & Peter Goldsmid 2010 South Africa 47 min.

Not a Man in Sight: Dir Mette Aakerholm Gardell 2011 Norway 48 min.
In June 2003, the Episcopal Church in New Hampshire came under fire when it became the first to elect an openly gay man, Gene Robinson, as a bishop. Since that flash point, Robinson has been at the center of the contentious battle for LGBT people to receive full acceptance in the faith.

Director Macky Alston (whose documentary, *Family Name*, won the Freedom of Expression Award at the 1997 Sundance Film Festival) follows Robinson into the breach in the struggle for equality. While resolute in his calling, Robinson grows increasingly critical of the central role that religious institutions have played in fostering homophobia and hatred. He is pointedly not invited to a once-a-decade convocation of bishops, and he courts controversy by attending.

His presence the next year for the Episcopal General Convention underscores the impact of its impending decisions about the church’s stance on the consecration of future gay bishops and the performance of same-sex marriage ceremonies.

While Robinson never intended to be the poster boy for gay bishops, *Love Free or Die* (winner of a U.S. Documentary Special Jury Prize at the 2012 Sundance Film Festival) demonstrates that he has become a beacon of hope for millions. His history-making church provides a model for other communities of faith to treat all people with dignity and respect, regardless of their sexuality.

*Love Free or Die*: Dir Macky Alston 2011 USA 82 min.

We are thrilled to bring you the long-awaited documentary about Vito Russo as our Closing Night film. Russo was one of the most articulate, charismatic voices for gay rights since the early Gay Liberation days in 1970s New York. His parallel passions for cinema and gay rights came together in the book *The Celluloid Closet*, a groundbreaking study of gay and lesbian imagery and themes in film that remains a landmark in the field, and which subsequently became a major documentary film. As one of the founders of GLAAD, Russo led the charge in demanding an end to homophobic portrayals of gays and lesbians in the media. As AIDS engulfed the gay community, Russo became one of the most ferocious critics of the Reagan administration’s response to the epidemic and a tireless advocate for people with AIDS.

Jeffrey Schwarz’s comprehensive and moving film tells Russo’s story through the voices of many of his friends and colleagues, among them Lily Tomlin, Armistead Maupin, Felice Picano and Larry Kramer. Intimate interviews with family members evoke a touching picture of Russo’s parents’ gradual embrace of everything he stood for. The epic nature of Russo’s place in a turbulent history is dynamically captured in a wealth of archival material. *VITO* captures the essence of this remarkable man whose courage and wisdom will be celebrated for generations to come.

*VITO*: Dir Jeffrey Schwarz 2011 USA 93 min.
Community Partners
We are proud to highlight the missions and activities of our community partners at the Festival, and we thank them for all that they do for our communities year-round.

Asian Pacific Islander Pride
api-pride.blogspot.com

Basic Rights Oregon
basicrights.org

Cascade AIDS Project
cascadeaids.org

Cascade Festival of African Films
africanfilmfestival.org

Equal Rights Washington
equalrightswashington.org

Equity Foundation
equityfoundation.org

Human Rights Campaign Portland
portland.hrc.org

Integrity Oregon
integrityusa.org

The Living Room
thelivingroomyouth.org

Metropolitan Community Church of Portland
mccportland.com

Northwest Film Center
nwfilm.org

OGALLA: The LGBT Bar Association of Oregon
ogalla.org

Our House of Portland
ourhouseofportland.org

Pants-Off Productions
pantsoffpdx.com

Planned Parenthood Columbia Willamette
ppcw.org

Portland Lesbian & Gay Film Festival
plgff.org

Portland Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians and Gays
plagpdx.org

Portland Q Center
pdxqcenter.org

Pride Foundation
pridefoundation.org

Sexual Minority Youth Resource Center
smyrc.org

Festival Supporters
QDoc would not be possible without extraordinary support from individuals, sponsors and foundations who are dedicated to making this Festival available to our community.

Thank you, and thanks to those who joined us after publication.

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QDoc is also supported in part by generous grants from:
Regional Arts & Culture Council
The Wendy Foundation
Equity Foundation

Portland’s LGBTQ Community Center
Q Center is a place where dozens of vibrant events and meetings happen. Some groups focus on specific topics—like coming out or gender identity—and others gather for fun social interactions—like sing-along piano cabarets or craft nights.

Most of these options are free-of-charge and run by dedicated volunteers, keeping your Q Center truly community-driven and accessible.

Stop in and see what’s happening at your LGBTQ Community Center!

www.pdxqcenter.org
4115 N Mississippi Ave. Portland, OR 97217
503.234.7837
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On Thursday, June 21st, establishments around the state will be donating a generous portion of their proceeds to Basic Rights Oregon. Make a day of it and support equality for all. Visit as many places as you can & be sure to thank them before you leave.

+ don't forget to order dessert!

For a list of locations in your area, call us at 503-232-6151 or visit us online at www.basicrights.org

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Here’s to the crazy ones. The misfits. The rebels. The trouble-makers. The round heads in the square holes. The ones who see things differently... you can quote them, disagree with them, glorify, or vilify them. But the only thing you can’t do is ignore them. Because they change things... Because the people who are crazy enough to think they can change the world, are the ones who do.

—Jack Kerouac

Welcome Q Doc Film Festival!
Sleep in class or smoke in detention—you won’t get into trouble at McMenamins Kennedy School! This 1915 elementary school turned hotel and restaurant features the Honors and Detention Bars, brewery and movie theater, where we will even bring beer and pizza to your seat.

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Morel Ink is proud to support QDOC, Russ Gage and everyone who contributes to making Portland such a great place to live, work and play.

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THE LIFE OF GAY RIGHTS ACTIVIST VITO RUSSO

PREMIERES MONDAY, JULY 23 AT 9PM/8C

Every revolution needs a voice.
At a Glance

Thursday May 17
7pm Wish Me Away
9:30pm Opening Night Party

Friday May 18
6:45pm Girl or Boy, My Sex Is Not My Gender
9pm King of Comics

Saturday May 19
1:30pm The LuLu Sessions
4pm La Bocca del Lupo
6pm Question One
9:30pm Jobriath A.D.

Sunday May 20
11:30am This Is What Love in Action Looks Like
1:30pm Difficult Love & Not a Man in Sight
4pm Love Free or Dle
7pm VITO

All screenings at McMenamins Kennedy School Theatre
5736 NE 33rd Avenue, Portland Oregon 97211

Tickets & Passes

ADVANCE TICKETS are available online at www.queerdocfest.org
Visa, Mastercard and American Express are accepted. Small handling fee applies.

DAY OF SHOW tickets are available for purchase at McMenamins Kennedy School Theatre
beginning 30 minutes prior to showtime. Cash only.

FESTIVAL PASSES allow single admission to all Festival screenings as well as Opening Night Party.
Pass holders enjoy priority entrance as the first line allowed into the theater.
Passes are available online—very limited quantity, order early.

TICKET PRICES
GENERAL ADMISSION $9
STUDENT / SENIOR (62+) $7 (present I.D. at door)
OPENING NIGHT PARTY + FILM $25
FESTIVAL PASS $75 (very limited quantity)

FREE seats available to youth 23 and under.
To reserve your seat in advance, contact qdocyouth@gmail.com

All orders are final—no refunds, exchanges or substitutions.

www.queerdocfest.org / info@queerdocfest.org