



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
2008 RHODE ISLAND
INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
MEDIA RELEASE

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THE 2008 PROVIDENCE GLBT FILM FESTIVAL RETURNS
WITH A FOCUS ON ADDRESSING SOCIETAL ISSUES
The Rhode Island International Film Festival Once Again Hosts
Popular Gay & Lesbian Sidebar August 5-10th

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (July 26, 2008)— One of the most popular cinematic sidebars of the **annual Rhode Island International Film Festival** returns for its 12th year: the **Providence GLBT Film Festival**, August 5-10th. Films made by, for and about the GLBT community have played an integral role in RIIFF, one of New England's premiere film festivals. This year the GLBT festival is screening 27 films from across the globe on an array of topics that touch everything from relationships, bisexuality, cancer survival, Crystal Meth addiction, a documentary on Rhode Island drag queens, to a mockumentary by actor, Dan Butler. A key theme that will surface throughout the Festival is the role of the individual in society and where does one's conscience begin and social responsibility end. This theme is pointedly addressed by four of this year's most significant GLBT films that will be screened.

"Over the years, we have worked hard at seamlessly integrating these exceptional films with non-GLBT films in order to introduce general audiences to work they might not otherwise see," said Sinan Akyuz, RIIFF's GLBT programming coordinator. "The 27 films selected to represent this popular sidebar have been spread throughout the festival and not locked into one time zone.

"We are very pleased to be working with the Bell Street Chapel in Providence where a major portion of this work will be screened," added Chase Huneke, RIIFF's Program Manager. "As part of our partnership and community outreach, RIIFF will donate 50% of the gate to the Bell Street Chapel to help underwrite their year-round GLBT efforts."

The **Rhode Island International Film Festival** will take place August 5th through 10th, 2008. Ranked as a one of the Top 12 Film Festivals in the United States, this world-class festival will be held at venues around the capital of Providence. RIIFF features screenings, filmmaking workshops, meet-and-greet industry events and two industry symposia. Aiming to promote Rhode Island as a filmmaking location and to celebrate the independent filmmaking spirit, RIIFF also hosts a number of high-profile premières and provides a showcase for international features, documentaries, and shorts. This year, the Festival will have 50 World and 41 US/North American Premieres.

This films in this year's Providence Gay & Lesbian Film Festival sidebar cover a wide range topics and include such stars as *Dan Butler, Richard Gere, Jane Lynch, Karen Black, Alec Baldwin, Greg Louganis, Jasmine Guy, Bruce Vilanch, Alec Mapa, Nichelle Nichols, Jane Lynch, Elaine Hendrix, Marcia Wallace, Vernon Wells*; the opening and closing night films that were showcased at Newfest: "Tru Loved," and the critically acclaimed "Were the World Mine;" Casper Andreas'

latest feature that has been wowing the festival circuit; a documentary on the Bailey-Boushay House which broke ground during the height of fear and discrimination around the AIDS epidemic in the late 80's; and Michael Selditch's amazing "Eleven Minutes" that witnesses the dramatic and comic escapades of "Project Runway's" Jay McCarroll.

A complete list of films screening at this year's GLBT Festival follows with show times and venues. Along with these 27 films made for, by, and about the GLBT community, the **Rhode Island International Film Festival** will be screening 289 plus films the week of the festival on an array of brilliant topics that will be sure to captivate its audiences. As the largest film festival in New England, RIFF prides itself in screening the best of independent film there is, at venues throughout the state of Rhode Island.

A wide range of films will be screened during the week of the 12th Annual Rhode Island International Film Festival. Besides the Courthouse Center for the Arts in West Kingston, venues will be scattered throughout the state's prestigious capital city. They include: *The Cable Car Cinema, the Providence Public Library, Gallery Z, the Bell Street Chapel, Columbus Theatre Arts Center, Brown/RISD Hillel, URI Feinstein Providence, Providence Black Repertory Theatre, and the RISD Museum.*

The Rhode Island International Film Festival is supported in part by the *City of Providence, the Providence Tourism Council, the Providence Department of Arts, Culture & Tourism, WJAR TV10, The Providence Phoenix, Clear Channel Communications, Sony, the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts, Amtrak, Rule Broadcast/Boston Camera, the Biltmore Hotel, Amtrak, H.B. Communications, the URI's College of Arts and Sciences, URI's Feinstein College of Continuing Education, the URI Film Media Program, Enterprise Rent-a-Car, Art New England Magazin, Columbia Fun Maps, The Guide* and contributions from members and community supporters.

The Flickers Arts Collaborative, an organization with 25 years of experience presenting major artistic events as well as independent and foreign films to the public, produces the Rhode Island International Film Festival.

Advance ticket sales for screenings and special events are available through the RIFF website (www.RIFilmFest.org). Student, group, and senior discounts are also available with advance booking. To purchase tickets or obtain more information about any aspect of RIFF, call 401-861-4445; or write RIFF, 268 Broadway, Providence, RI 02903; email info@film-festival.org. or log onto www.RIFilmFest.org.

THE 2008 GLBT SCHEDULE:

THE BACK ROOM

Directed by Greg Ivan Smith, 16 min.

Errol is at the end of a very long week as manager of a bookstore, and decides to close up shop a few minutes early. As he reaches to bolt the door, a gruff, bearded man bursts in asking for the art section. Errol acquiesces, and offers his help in searching for this customer's query: an Italian painter who's name the man has written down phonetically as "Jack Car-roo-see". Is there something about that name? Errol locks up his cash register and glances at a favorite postcard he has taped to it.

The man then recalls his story: running from a favorite Florentine piazza through a downpour, the man found refuge inside a little-known church by the Ponte Vecchio. Standing there soaked, he

was awed by the painting before him. As the stranger's tale unfolds, the two men uncover astonishing connections to the painting and to each other that neither could have predicted.

Sat, Aug 9, 2008, 9:30 pm | Columbus Theatre Arts Center, Cinémathèque

BAILEY-BOUSHAY HOUSE: A LIVING HISTORY

Directed by Terence Brown, 33 min.

Bailey-Boushay House broke ground during the height of fear and discrimination around the AIDS epidemic in the late 80's. The film follows the story of a grassroots effort to build the first facility of its kind in the U.S. and vividly portrays both the immense compassion and enormous loss experienced in the early days of operation.

While there have been numerous documentaries about the AIDS crises over the past 25 years, this short film looks at the impact of the epidemic through the lens of one community and one facility. In doing so, it provides an intimate portrayal of the unrelenting devastation that the early days of AIDS brought and, more importantly, the courage one community had to do something about it.

Wed, Aug 6, 2008, 7:00 pm | Bell Street Chapel

BETWEEN LOVE & GOODBYE

Directed by Casper Andreas, 96 min.

RIFF welcomes back Casper Andreas with his third feature, marking a surprising and accomplished dramatic departure from the lighter *Slutty Summer* (2004) and *Four-Letter Word* (2007).

Love makes the world go round. At least that's what Marcel and Kyle believe, until they suddenly discover that love can alternatively flip the world upside-down. When certain elements are set into motion, they tend to stay in motion. If tampered with, they can spin out of control.

Marcel and Kyle are in love at first sight, and even though they can't legally marry, they will find a way to make it work. French Marcel marries their lesbian friend Sarah so he can stay in the USA with Kyle. Together they can overcome any obstacle, hurdle any barrier. Together they cannot be stopped.

Enter Kyle's sister April, a former prostitute. She needs a place to crash, but for how long? Taking a quick dislike to Marcel, April methodically drips poison into their happiness. But where Marcel sees a conniving woman with a not-so-hidden agenda, Kyle only sees his sister - in need. And how do you choose between family and the love of your life? Why should you have to?

SUN, AUG 10, 2008, 7:15 PM | CABLE CAR CINEMA

BI THE WAY

Directed by Brittany Blockman; Josephine Decker, 87 min.

Today the iron curtain between gay and straight is crumbling. The Bible Belt is being unbuckled. For the 'whatever' generation, dating a girl one week and a guy the next is no big deal. Young people may be out of step with their parents' generation, but they may be in step with the latest scientific research on the nature of human love and sexuality.

In the last two years, groundbreaking scientific research has forced Americans to reconsider their notions about love and sexuality. The 2005 New York Times article, 'Straight, Gay or Lying:

Bisexuality Revisited,' reported on a study from Northwestern University, which found that all women are bisexual, whereas no men are bisexual. In the same year, a CDC study found that 11.5% of women ages 18 to 44 have had a same-sex sexual encounter, up from 4.5% ten years ago. Neuroscientists are mapping the neural pathways that link sexual arousal, romantic love, and attachment, helping to explain the complexity of attraction.

BI THE WAY investigates an America in a state of sexual flux. As an emerging generation of young people shows more interest in discovering what makes them happy than in taking on politicized identities, the American sexual landscape is undergoing some seismic shifts. BI THE WAY follows five young people who embrace sexual ambiguity in this time of sexual searching and change.

Sat, Aug 9, 2008, 12:00 pm | Cable Car Cinema

DADDY

Directed by Sidney Karger, 8 min.

Wayne is a young, single, carefree New Yorker with no commitments and little responsibility. But after a random one-night stand, that's all about to change when he discovers he may be pregnant.

Wed, Aug 6, 2008, 7:00 pm | Bell Street Chapel

Fri. Aug 8, 2008, 7:00 pm | Courthouse Center for the Arts

DIVA

Directed by Josephine Mackerras, 7 min.

A transexual leaves his small hometown with a broken heart, he seeks to find himself in Paris

Thu, Aug 7, 2008, 7:00 pm | Courthouse Center for the Arts

Fri, Aug 8, 2008, 3:00 pm | Columbus Theatre Arts Center, Andrews Theatre

ELEVEN MINUTES

Directed by Michael Selditch; Rob Tate, 103 min.

This insightful documentary witnesses the dramatic and comic escapades of "Project Runway"'s Jay McCarroll, as he prepares to launch his own clothing line.

It's been two long years since the sharp-witted Jay McCarroll was dubbed 'the next great American designer' on season one of TV's Project Runway, and he's anxious to finally show his first line of clothing. The feature documentary, Eleven Minutes, chronicles his year-long journey designing and preparing his first independent runway show for New York's Fashion Week in Bryant Park and the subsequent selling of his line to stores.

The goal of this documentary is to drop the pretenses of reality TV and focus on the work. All this is told in strict verite through the eyes of the articulate and entertaining Jay McCarroll, whose experience exposes us not only to the inner workings of the fashion industry and his love/hate relationship to it, but to the creative process in general.

Hair stylist, Jason Low collaborates with Jay to create a distinct collection of gravity-defying wigs for the runway. Jewelry designer, Lola Brooks finds inspiration in Jay's hot-air balloon motifs, creating a collection of three-dimensional wire sculpture jewelry. Beyond the fashion show, sales of the line to stores prove to be a big challenge for Jay. What to manufacture? Where to manufacture? How to anticipate what buyers will want?

The result is a down-and-dirty 'Unzipped' with more work and less glamour, an in-depth, painfully raw and humorous exploration of the creative process and the constant conflict of balancing commerce with art, fame with talent, and reality-TV with actual reality.

Wed, Aug 6, 2008, 1:30 pm | RISD Museum

Sat, Aug 9, 2008, 2:30 pm | Cable Car Cinema

ENVISIONING JUSTICE: THE JOURNEY OF A TRANSGENDERED WOMAN

Directed by Larry Tung, 31 min.

This documentary is about the life and work of Pauline Park. As an orphan born in Korea in a year of revolution, Pauline Park was adopted and raised in the Midwest. Park did her dissertation research in Brussels and Paris for her Ph.D. in political science from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She came out as an openly transgendered woman after moving to New York City in 1997. In June 1998, Park co-founded the New York Association for Gender Rights Advocacy (NYAGRA), the first statewide transgender advocacy organization in New York. Park led the campaign for passage of Int. No. 24, the transgender rights ordinance enacted by the New York City Council as Local Law 3 of 2002. Park was the first openly transgendered individual chosen to be a grand marshal of the New York City Pride March, serving in that capacity in the 2006 Pride March. She has written widely on LGBT issues and has conducted transgender sensitivity training sessions for a wide range of social service providers and community-based organization.

Wed, Aug 6, 2008, 9:15 pm | Bell Street Chapel

GRAMERCY STORIES

Directed by Joyce Chopra, 52 min.

GRAMERCY STORIES explores the highly charged subject of sexual identity, focusing on gay or transgender teenagers who have been failed by the foster care system or were runaways living on the streets. Fortunately, there is a place in the heart of Manhattan -- one of the first in the country -- that offers a home to 25 of these young people. It's in an old brownstone, the Gramercy Residence, and it has attracted teachers and counselors who are devoting themselves to helping these kids find their way in a world that is largely hostile to them. Starting several winters ago, we began to spend time at Gramercy and got to know many of the kids, listening carefully to what they were willing to speak of and what was left out. What struck us over and over again was how courageous they have been in the face of difficulties most of us would collapse under -- abandonment, drug-addicted parents, gay bashing and racial prejudice. For most of them, Gramercy is both the end of the line -- after a short lifetime of bouncing from one foster home to another -- and their first real chance at helping themselves to become whole. Although a range of residents and staff appear throughout, the film is essentially portraits of three courageous young people who are trying hard to transform their lives.

Sat, Aug 9, 2008, 7:15 pm | Bell Street Chapel

KARAOKE SHOW

Directed by Karl Tebbe, 5 min.

Animation filmmakers usually like to stand behind the camera rather than in front of it. At the age of 14, Karl Tebbe badly wanted to be able to dance like Michael Jackson. But you either have

rhythm in your blood or you don't. Now, 22 years later, stop-motion animation has allowed him to finally fulfill his lifelong dream.

Fri, Aug 8, 2008, 11:45 pm | Cable Car Cinema

KARL ROVE, I LOVE YOU

Directed by Dan Butler and Phil Leirness, 97 min.

June, 2004. A film documentarian approaches Dan Butler ('Bulldog' from 'Frasier') to do a movie about the "unknown supporting actor" with Butler and his career as the focus of the film. Though his real desire is to play a lead and his career is at low ebb, Butler reluctantly agrees to do the project. Then during a game of Celebrity at a dinner party Butler chooses the name Karl Rove, President Bush's notorious political advisor. He has no idea who Rove is. He's immediately lambasted by his politically-active friends, one of whom suggests that Rove would be a great part for him to play. Butler does some initial research on Rove and is smitten! This is the "lead" he's been longing to play! Butler forms a creative team. His goal? Write a one-man show about Karl Rove. The show will be an immediate success, HBO will option it, it will be shown continuously leading up to the election, appall the electorate, and insure a Kerry victory in November! The only problem is as Butler goes deeper and deeper into his research, he actually falls in love with Rove.

Wed, Aug 6, 2008, 9:30 pm | Columbus Theatre Arts Center, Columbus Theatre Arts Center, Cinémathèque

LIFE'S A DRAG, A 2007 DRAGUMENTARY

Directed by Lara Sebastian, 55 min.

"Life's A Drag" is an urban experience told through the eyes of a woman who follows a drag queen into the world of sorted performance venues, entertaining social gatherings and intimate conversations about why we do the things we do.

Lesbian film maker L. Sebastian's debut film is an interesting depiction of life imitating art. Wayne Hawkins' multi talented vignettes highlight the film and his portrayal of Miss Sabrina Blaze gives us access to the lives of drag queens, gay boys and show stopping performances. This 2007 dragumentary starts off in a dressing room and ends up all the way "OUT". With a host of extreme characters including drag queens Kitty Litter (Stephen Hartley) BB Hayes (Brian Laquerre) and La Diva Jonz (Gary Jacques). Cross dressers, gender variants and the like are a fascinating part of this world of excess and indulgence.

Discover one interpretation of tolerance, acceptance and the courage it takes to be okay with who you are. Sebastian uses the innovation of modern culture and the familiarity of a traditional society to convey a message that will change your life....

Fri, Aug 8, 2008, 9:30 pm | Bell Street Chapel

LLOYD NECK

Directed by Benedict Campbell, 16 min.

On a Friday in early summer, Taylor, a senior in high school, finishes his last track meet and heads home with his younger sister Alex. Before they leave, they make plans with Taylor's friend Jesse to go to one of Taylor's favorite places on Saturday morning. The following morning, Taylor, Alex, and Jesse go to a nearby state park on the north shore of Long Island. Jesse, a photographer,

takes pictures to remember one of the last days he will spend with his friend before leaving for college. The boy's friendship is presented through the perspective of Alex. "Lloyd Neck" depicts the relationship between two friends as well as a close relationship between two siblings.

Thu, Aug 7, 2008, 9:30 pm | Bell Street Chapel

LUCHANDO

Directed by Noelle Stout, 55 min.

"Luchando," has historically meant the fight for the Cuban revolution, but sex-workers in Cuba's gay underground have refashioned the word to mean the struggle of having sex for money. The film delves deeper into this contradiction by chronicling the struggles of four Cuban jineteros (hustlers) who set out to resolve their touching, and at-times humorous, predicaments in Havana's gay enclaves. The film combines cinema vérité footage, informal interviews, and location sound to offer a first-ever look at same-sex prostitution in Cuba.

After the fall of the Socialist Bloc in the early 1990s, Cuba experienced a total economic collapse and witnessed an unexpected rise of same-sex prostitution. Luchando provides a window into this growing community of sex workers through the lives of four of its most compelling characters: Diosa, an articulate travesti who was kicked out of her father's home for cross-dressing; Manuel, a macho technician who grapples with his sexual identity as he engages in intimate relationships with men; La Gorda (The Fat Girl), an aspiring rapper who is unapologetically bisexual; And Yuris, a cocky and naïve 19-year-old whose womanizing results in four children that he hustles to support. Taken together, the characters' stories embody the dilemmas of post-soviet Cuba--a nation torn between the ideals of socialist equality and a rapidly widening gap between the rich and poor.

Sat. Aug 9, 2008, 5:30 pm | URI Feinstein Campus

MULLIGANS

Directed by Chip Hale, 89 min.

Tyler Davidson's back from college, and he's brought his best friend Chase home to work with him on the golf course for the summer. The Davidsons immediately embrace Chase like a member of the family, which makes Chase's attraction to Tyler's dad, Nathan, especially awkward. But when Nathan returns the attention, the cracks in the family's foundation threaten to tear them all apart. Starring Thea Gill (Queer As Folk) and Charlie David (A Four-Letter Word), with a script by David, Mulligans is a frank and sensitive exploration of family, love, and sacrifice.

Sat, Aug 9, 2008, 9:30 pm | Columbus Theatre Arts Center, Cinémathèque

NO REGRETS NO REMORSE

Directed by Marty Moynihan, 7 min.

When the promiscuous Uncle Flynn passes to the big pub in the sky, it brings about a realisation for Connor of how short life is. Now, through a musical journey of discovery, Connor, Ruby and Donnie will be brought together in a magical love triangle that takes place at Uncle Flynn's Irish wake.

Sat. Aug 9, 2008, 9:30 pm | Columbus Theatre Arts Center Cinémathèque

OUT IN INDIA: A FAMILY'S JOURNEY

Directed by Tom Keegan, 70 min.

David Gere is a scholar who has spent a lifetime studying the intersection of AIDS and the arts. Peter Carley spent years on the front lines of AIDS protests in the U.S. Both lost partners at the height of the epidemic; both remain committed to the "forgotten pandemic." When David gets an opportunity to spend time organizing Indian artists to fight their burgeoning AIDS problem, he and Peter jump at the chance to make a positive contribution to a global crisis.

This deeply personal story examines both David's and Peter's differing perspectives during their "activist adventure" as their relationship is pushed to the breaking point in the crucible of India's marriage-centric society. While David travels across India passionately culling together traditional painters, contemporary puppeteers, and street theatre activists, Peter grows increasingly restive with the outsider status of being his children's main caregiver in India.

Their journey culminates in David's gathering of artists and activists in Calcutta, where the possibility of an artists movement is born. For David and Peter, it is a validation that empowering a new generation of activists is a revolution in itself. At a time when gay families are a hot button issue, and American influence is being challenged abroad, *Out in India* is an exploration of the power and cost of personal vision, set on the brilliantly colored stage of 21st century India.

Thu. Aug 7, 2008, 7:00 pm | Bell Street Chapel

OUT LATE

Directed by Jennifer Brooke & Beatrice Alda, 62 min.

This feature film looks at five individuals who made a decisive change later in life—to come out as lesbian, gay, or transgender, after the age of 55. Why did they wait until their 50's, 60's, or 70's to come out? And what was the turning point that caused each of these people finally to openly declare their sexuality? From Canada to Florida, to Kansas, we find out what ultimately led these dynamic individuals to make the liberating choice to pursue fully integrated lives.

Wed. Aug 6, 2008, 7:00 pm | Bell Street Chapel

THE RED DRESS

Directed by Barney Cheng, 7 min.

A chubby woman honors friendship and life by fulfilling her transgender friend's last wish.

Wed. Aug 6, 2008, 9:15 pm | Bell Street Chapel

Fri. Aug 8, 2008, 7:00 pm | Courthouse Center for the Arts

SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME

Directed by Dina Jacobsen, 9 min.

Alison lights up a cigarette as she waits for a lunchtime appointment in a swanky London eatery. Glancing at the door, a face from her past enters. It's Laura, her first love and the woman that broke her heart ten years ago. Surprised yet delighted to see her, Laura joins Alison for a couple of cocktails. Their exchange is awkward as Alison struggles to make small talk. Laura seizes the opportunity and drops a bombshell: she declares she still loves Alison and wants her back. Before Alison can process this, her girlfriend, Sara, joins them and drops another bombshell. This will prove to be a lunchtime meeting that the three women will never forget.

Sun. Aug 10, 2008, 7:15 pm | Cable Car Cinema

SECOND GUESSING GRANDMA

Directed by Bob Giraldi, 10 min.

Set in 1982, the simple, true-life story of an important week in the life of a twenty-something gay man who finally comes out to his beloved grandmother in the Jersey City house he was raised in following mounting pressure from his mother and boyfriend not to do so.

Sat. Aug 9, 2008, 7:15 pm | Bell Street Chapel

THIRTEEN OR SO MINUTES

Directed by Branden Blinn, 14 min.

Lawrence Jefferies is a guy who's found the flow in his life; he knows how to trust his gut and follow his instincts. Driven by a loving curiosity and strong sense of adventure, he lives his life with a freedom and confidence most men envy.

Hugh Greerey, by contrast, lives under the influence of his self-consciousness, struggling to connect to a deeper sense of who he really is. There is a power and intensity to Hugh's spirit which he fights to hold in check until the two meet by happenstance and a defining moment between them opens one into his humanity and propels the other into his soul.

Thu. Aug 7, 2008, 7:00 pm | Bell Street Chapel

TRIP TO HELL AND BACK

Directed by Stu Maddux, 45 min.

A self-told documentary about a world-renowned horse rider who lives a secret life in the Crystal Meth scene. His addiction turns him into one of the largest dealers in Washington, DC. After a DEA sting, he continues to keep secret the two opposite sides of his life until the day he is sentenced.

Thu. Aug 7, 2008, 7:15 pm | Columbus Theatre Arts Center Cinémathèque

TRU LOVED

Directed by Stewart Wade, 99 mins

Tru (Najarra Townsend), high school student from San Francisco, is uprooted from by her lesbian moms (Alexandra Paul and Cynda Williams) and moved to a conservative suburb. Her non-traditional family makes her an outsider until high school quarterback Lodell takes an interest in her.

Lo is closeted. Tru becomes a friend with whom he can be himself, unlike with his mom (Jasmine Guy), grandmother (Nichelle Nichols), and closest pals.

When Tru hears the closed-minded comments about homosexuality from Lo's friends, she establishes the school's first Gay-Straight Alliance. She meets Trevor, a smart and charming young man being raised by his gay uncle (Bruce Vilanch). Tru begins a romance and fights for social justice as her unconventional family faces familiar struggles. Tru Loved presents an innovative reinvention of the family film genre as well as an inventive approach to filmmaking that explicitly connects with social justice organizations and the communities they represent. The film's originality derives from being among the very first gay-themed family films. Tru Loved updates

traditional themes while it represents today's diverse families and complex social issues related to gay parenting, gay marriage, and gay-straight alliances in the context of a multiethnic cast. While it is virtually Disney-esque in its representation of the family film genre, the themes are distinctive as they relate to contemporary families and their issues.

Driven by a script that twists a familiar genre, *Tru Loved* is a fresh, groundbreaking film that offers unique opportunities for discovery and light-hearted entertainment.

Thu. Aug 7, 2008, 9:30 pm | Cable Car Cinema

WATERCOLORS

Directed by David Oliveras, 106 min.

When a gifted, young artist (Danny) arrives at the opening of his first New York exhibition his erotic paintings trigger memories of his first love (Carter), a troubled athlete whose depression and self-denial led to suicide.

Through a series of flashbacks we see Danny and Carter struggle with their mutual attraction. With the encouragement of three strong and very different women, Mrs. Martin, a free-spirited art teacher, his best friend, Andy, a young girl with a severe physical impairment, and Miriam, a recovering alcoholic and devoutly religious mother, Danny learns to use his creativity to transcend his grief.

Fifteen years later, Danny is faced with the possibility of losing Allan, his current lover, unless he keeps his promise to never paint the boy again.

Thu. Aug 7, 2008, 9:30 pm | Bell Street Chapel

WERE THE WORLD MINE

Directed by TOM GUSTAFSON, 95 min.

Were the World Mine is a magical story inspired by Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. *Were the World Mine* stars Tanner Cohen, Wendy Robie, Broadway star Judy McLane, Soap Opera legend Jill Larson, and Zelda Williams. The musical film is the feature directing debut of Tom Gustafson.

If you had a love-potion, who would you make fall madly in love with you? Timothy, prone to escaping his dismal high school reality through dazzling musical daydreams, gets to answer that question in a very real way. After his eccentric teacher casts him as Puck in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, he stumbles upon a recipe hidden within the script to create the play's magical, purple love-pansy. Armed with the pansy, Timothy's fading spirit soars as he puckishly imposes a new reality by turning much of his narrow-minded town gay, beginning with the rugby-jock of his dreams. Ensnaring family, friends and enemies in this heart-wrenching chaos, Timothy forces them to walk a mile in his musical shoes. The course of true love never did run smooth, but by the end of this moving musical comedy of errors based on director Tom Gustafson's prolific award-winning short film, *Fairies*, the bumpy ride comes to a heartfelt conclusion. With vibrant imagery, a first-rate ensemble cast and innovative music rivaling the best of pop/rock and contemporary Broadway, *Were the World Mine* attempts to push modern gay cinema and musical film beyond expectation.

Fri. Aug 8, 2008, 9:30 pm | Columbus Theatre Arts Center Cinémathèque

WOMAN IN BURKA

Directed by Jonathan Lisecki, 21 min.

A darkly comic look at the life of an actress and the types of Middle Eastern roles available to her in a post 9/11 culture.

Sarita is up for the coveted role of an Iraqi rape victim's ghost in a new film. No one has seen the script or knows whether it's a serious drama or a cheap horror movie, but everyone seems to think it's perfect for her, including her best friend, her manager, and her ex. Will she be the Woman in Burka?

A film by Jonathan Lisecki. Starring *Sarita Choudhury, Sam Rockwell, Kerry Washington, Samantha Buck, Debra Eisenstadt, Zeke Farrow, Catherine Kellner, Jonathan Lisecki and Annie Parisse.*

Wed. Aug 6, 2008, 9:15 pm | Bell Street Chapel

ABOUT THE RHODE ISLAND INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL:

The **Rhode Island International Film Festival (RIIFF)** discovers and empowers filmmakers. Held in Providence, and locations throughout the state of Rhode Island, RIIFF is one of only a handful of festivals worldwide that is a qualifying event for the Academy Awards (i.e. "Oscars"). RIIFF incorporates gala celebrations, premiere screenings, VIP guests, industry seminars, educational programs, and award ceremonies into a week long extravaganza. Cited as one of the "Best International and Short Film Festivals in the United States," RIIFF is New England's largest film festival, screening a record 289 films. Its innovative programming, cultivated industry ties, and loyal audiences have made the Festival a strategic and desirable platform for film premieres, drawing hundreds of independent filmmakers from around the globe. This year's Festival takes place August 5-10, 2008.

For more information, write RIIFF, P.O. Box 162, Newport, RI 02840. Telephone: 401-861-4445. E-mail: info@film-festival.org, website: www.RIFilmFest.org