

Bell Street Chapel Theatre

5 Bell Street, Providence, RI 02909

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Tickets: \$10; \$15 opening night on 8/11 at 6:00 p.m.

Wed., 8/11:

6:00 p.m.

A GLBT Opening Night Reception with filmmakers in attendance who will kick off this year RIIFF Sidebar, followed by a screening of the new film by Rob Williams, "Role/Play." "Role/Play" is a dramatic narrative feature film about a recently outed actor (played by Steve Callahan from *East Side Story* and *Nine Lives*) and a recently divorced gay marriage activist (played by indie gay film star Matthew Montgomery from *Redwoods*, *Socket*, *Pornography: A Thriller*, *Long-Term Relationship*, *Back Soon* and *Gone But Not Forgotten*). Admission for the reception and film screening is \$15 with \$5 of every ticket going to *Marriage Equality RI*.

Bedfellows

Directed by Pierre Stefanos

15 min. U S A, 2010

The film 'Bedfellows,' told in the style of an old children's fairy tale but set against the modern-day backdrop of New York City, follows the adventure of 20-something Bobby as he returns to the gay bar where he got his heart broken for the first time. Upon meeting and spending the night with an attractive stranger named Jonathan, Bobby dreams about what a lifetime relationship with him could be like. The dream takes us on a thirty year journey of ups and downs in life and love. But what will happen when Bobby wakes up to reality in the morning?

Role/Play

Directed by Rob Williams

85 min. U S A, 2010

When hunky soap opera star Graham Windsor (Steve Callahan; *East Side Story*, *Make the Yuletide Gay*, *Nine Lives*) is outed as the result of a gay sex tape scandal, he seeks refuge at an exclusive Palm Springs resort. But quiet anonymity eludes him when handsome marriage-equality activist Trey Reed (Matthew Montgomery; *Redwoods*, *Back Soon*, *Pornography: A Thriller*) checks in to escape the fallout from his own bitter divorce. As an undeniable passion begins to sizzle between Graham and Trey, they force each other to confront their professional downfalls – and the firestorm each has created in the gay press.

9:15 p.m.

I Suck

Directed by Jason Bowers

16 min. U S A, 2010

A closeted gay vampire deals with the awkward 'coming out' scenario.

A Marine Story

Directed by Ned Farr

95 min. U S A, 2010

Featuring Dreyka Weber and Paris Pickard

A decorated Marine officer unexpectedly returns home from the war and is quickly recruited to help a troubled teen prepare for boot camp. When the true reasons for her return become known it threatens the future for both of them. Dealing with an issue that now has tremendous relevance as American troops are stretched to the breaking point, A MARINE STORY highlights the absurdity of the military ban on gays through the personal story of one courageous woman.

Thurs., 8/12:

5:00 p.m.

GirllikeMe

Directed by Rowland Jobson
14 min. United Kingdom, 2009

Lucy is young, Lucy is damaged, Lucy is pretty, Lucy likes to play. Everything changes for 13 year old Lucy when she sends provocative messages to an unknown 'boy' and arranges a date.

DraBen am See (Losing Balance)

Directed by Felix Fuchssteiner
105 min. Germany, 2009

Featuring: Petra Kleinert, Michael Lott & Sina Tkotsch

Jessika, a precocious teenage girl with loving parents and a good-natured older sister, is the center of a slightly eccentric family. A series of small events disrupts their delicately balanced ecosystem. Jessika's father loses his job and becomes bored and despondent, while Jessika's mother reenters the workforce and becomes empowered. These events act as catalysts for the slow, painful disintegration of the family, with each member committing shocking acts of alienation and self-destruction. Desperately wanting her family but at the same time desiring her adolescent independence, Jessika struggles to find the best way to restore a balance.

7:00 p.m.

Hip, Hot GLBT Shorts 1

Following the screening of "Heartland Transport," "Gayby," "We," "Hide and Seek," "Never Too Late" and the special screening of "Valuing All Families: Marriage Equality in Rhode Island," there will be a discussion about issues raised in the film and progress made toward marriage equality in Rhode Island. Members of the panel will include Kathy Kushnir, executive director of Marriage Equality Rhode Island; State Representative Frank Ferri (D-Dist. 22, Warwick), and State Senator Rhoda Perry (D-Dist. 3, Providence), both cosponsor of marriage equality legislation. The \$10 admission includes the screening and the discussion.

Heartland Transport

Directed by Cody Stokes
8 min. U S A, 2009

On April 3, 2009, the Iowa Supreme court unanimously upheld the ruling that there was no governmental interest in denying citizens marriage licenses based on their sexual orientation. Immediately following, Ed Reggi and Scott Emanuel chartered a bus taking seventeen same sex couples from St. Louis, MO to Iowa City, Iowa to be legally married.

gayby

Directed by Jonathan Lisecki

11 min. U S A, 2010

A gay man and a straight woman decide to have a child together the old fashioned way.

We

Directed by Carl Rashad Jaeger

30 min. U S A, 2009

The film is about the rift between two men named Adam and Sam. Sam has just arrived from New York to see Adam, his husband of 4 years, to see if they can put their marriage back together. Separated for three months, Adam, a photographer has finally found his footing in San Francisco. Sam is an investment banker who's life is in New York City. What does it mean for two men to be married in today's America? What constitutes a family? Can you just walk away? As they begin their cross country drive to spend some much needed time together, we wonder if this marriage will survive and become hopeful that it can. Will the people they run into along the way support them? Will their friends and family?

Hide and Seek

Directed by Justine Jungels Bevilacqua

22 min. U S A, 2009

Hide and Seek is a short fictional narrative dealing with issues of sexuality and the desire for acceptance. Eve cannot be honest about her sexuality with her religious mother, and so tricks her mother into believing she is in love with her best friend Brent. Eve yearns to be loved for who she is and struggles with her fear of rejection and her need to move into her own adult life.

Never Too Late

Directed by Wendy Weinberg

8 min. U S A, 2009

Two hotel maids have lived quietly together in San Francisco for 25 years. When the California Supreme Court grants same-sex couples the right to marry, Stella and Rosie decide it's time to tie the knot. But before they can hire a florist, Prop 8 is passed. Will they have to head east in search of equality? 'Never Too Late' uses images from vintage films and classic TV, but replaces the original soundtrack with contemporary dialog. By juxtaposing archival images with today's politics, the film humorously reveals how far we've come and how much further we still have to go to rectify this inequality.

9:15 p.m.

Remission

Directed by Greg Ivan Smith

14 min. U S A, 2009

As Sam anxiously awaits the results of a biopsy at his secluded cabin, his dread amplifies when he realizes that he may not be alone.

To Comfort You

Directed by Marc Saltarelli

15 min. U S A, 2009

A daily phone call between a mother and her HIV-positive lesbian daughter proves that the most difficult thing about love is letting go. Starring Pauley Perrette (Abby of NCIS) and Golden Globe winner Susan Blakley.

The Seminarian

Directed by Joshua Lim
98 min. U S A, 2010

Featuring: Mark Cirillo, Linda J Carter & Javier Montoya

The Seminarian is a story about Ryan, a closeted gay student in his final semester of theological study. Despite the school's hostile stance towards homosexuality, Ryan has two gay classmates - Gerald and Anthony - in whom he confides in secret. He is also close to his religiously devout mother who, as things stand, is unaware of his sexual orientation. Ryan needs to complete a solid theological thesis in order to continue doctoral work at the university of his dreams. As he works on his thesis 'The Divine Gift of Love,' Ryan begins a relationship with Bradley - a guy he met on the Internet who seems perpetually unable to commit himself. Ryan confides in Gerald and Anthony, only to learn about their romantic struggles as well. Consequently, Ryan questions his view on God's gift of love. During this volatile time, with the pain of unrequited love and the inability to share his fears with his mother deepening, Ryan struggles with finishing his thesis and holding on to his faith in love.

Fri., 8/13:
2:00 p.m.

Rose Murray: Portrait of a Photographer

Directed by Aart Kramer
16 min. Netherlands, U S A / France, Jamaica, 2010

This film presents an independent woman artist, Rose Murray who is continuing to produce vital works in the golden years of her life. Her work takes us back through the years for a fascinating view of Kingston, Jamaica where she lived during the 60's and 70's. Rose is a self made photographer who, in this film, describes her motivation, style and methods. Through the techniques of split-screen and photo montage combined with unstaged interviews, we see her struggles to overcome a Diplomatic life and triumphs as she finds her way, creating meaning not only in her life, but in the lives of those around her.

In the Matter of Cha Jung Hee

Directed by Deann Borshay Liem
64 min. U S A / South Korea, 2010

In the 1960s just before being adopted from a Korean orphanage by an American family, my identity was switched with another girl named Cha Jung Hee. I was told to keep the switch a secret, then sent to America. In the Matter of Cha Jung Hee is a personal essay that chronicles my journey to find my double, while exploring the ethical and social dimensions of international transracial adoption. The film is a poignant reflection on memory, identity and what it means to walk in someone else's shoes.

4:00 p.m.

Een Kleine Duw (A Gentle Push)

Directed by Philippe Verkinderen
15 min. Belgium, 2009

Nine year old Robbie is looking forward to the last school day, that will keep him safe from his bullies for at least two months. Unfortunately, Robbie will have to say goodbye to a lot more this day... In a whirlwind of events, Robbie becomes a total new person.

Brownstones to Red Dirt

Directed by Dave LaMattina & Chad Walker
75 min. Sierra Leone/U S A, 2009

The film uses interviews and letters to show the factors that have shaped the children's lives are remarkably similar, despite the differences of their experiences. Four pairs of pen pals show how these two "lost" groups will help one another find their way through an increasingly complex and confusing world. Each pair of pen pals highlights a major issue faced by kids across the world. Isaiah and Abdul teach us about family. Isaiah's father left him as a baby while the rebel commander that killed Abdul's parents then adopted him. Malik and Balla use their art, not vengeance, to heal. Augusta may live miles away in Sierra Leone, but her lesson of what it means to be a friend reaches Destiny in Brooklyn. Fred and Emmanuel, both victims of damning stereotypes attached to being a young black male from the inner city and a war orphan struggling in a third world country, defy expectations to improve the world around them. As their friendship grows, so does their sense of responsibility. The students in Brooklyn decide to have a fundraiser barbecue, a block party of sorts, which raised enough money to buy school supplies and mattresses for their friends. And, in one final surprise, they watched as the kids in Sierra Leone—orphans once living in a leaky tin shack—were actually placed in an apartment paid for by their hard work. In the end, the lessons they learned—and taught—were simple: friendship knows no boundaries and a child's compassion knows no limit.

7:00 p.m.

Hip, Hot GLBT Shorts 2

Following the screening of the films "Amateur," "Franswa Sharl," "Door Prize," "To Comfort You," "Queen" and "Loop Planes," a panel will respond based on their diverse experiences in the transgender community. Their backgrounds include work with community non-profit agencies, personal experiences of transition, involvement in the higher education community, and supporting people transitioning and making lives in their affirmed gender. They will help us process the films and also help us interpret the relationship between transgender and genderqueer and the lesbian, gay, and bisexual world. The \$10 admission includes the screening and the discussion.

Amateur

Directed by Daniel Trevino
15 min, U S A, 2009

A withdrawn boy goes on a camping trip and becomes interested with a confident gender-bending girl named Sam. When she forces him to question his true feelings towards her, he must now confront his own insecurities before he can accept Sam and himself.

Shape of the Shapeless

Directed by Jayan Cherian

30 min. U S A, 2010

Shape of the Shapeless explores the journey of Jon Cory, aka Premdas, aka Rose Wood, through various gender and social roles. By day, Jon Cory is a professional crafts person, who runs a successful business in New York City. By night she is Premdas, a yogi and a prudent devotee of his Guru. In late nights she performs in various clubs around the city as a burlesque dancer under the name Rose wood. Rose considers herself neither male nor female, and her gender is something she could write and rewrite and believes the body is just a costume. The film explores the spiritual quest of a performer, a yogi, and an artisan who transgress the boundaries of traditional notions of body, gender, creed, and sexuality.

Door Prize

Directed by Zsa Zsa Gershick

7 min. U S A, 2009

Beth Grant (Sordid Lives, No Country for Old Men) and Zsa Zsa Gershick (Bluebonnet Court, Gay Old Girls) star in a tale of trans-formation. Phyllis Lovacheck (Grant) is a well-tailored tourist from Toledo, in Hollywood to see the sites and visit her closeted son, Toby. She knows his secret, but he doesn't know hers. Monique Stern (Gershick) is a dapper trans boi. Her motto is, "A woman who wears a tie can let slights go by." She is the last to judge, or so she thinks. Are Phyllis and Monique destined to be friends or foes? They are about to find out. A restaurant. A necktie. A bodice-ripping tale of passion at the pound. And a line at the Ladies Room. Peeing should never be so problematic.

Queen

Directed by Eduardo A. Garcia

9 min. U S A, 2009

Everyone's looking for action in this crude comedy about three Queens and three rough-trade men who party hard, gossip about Marlon Brando's sexuality, and dance to Cab Callaway in a slummy, down town apartment in Jersey City.

Loop Planes

Directed by Robin Wilby

11 min. U S A, 2010

13-year-old Nick lives with his dad at an amusement park. But today, with the arrival of his mother and a pink-haired girl, Nick is in for the ride of his life.

9:15 p.m.

Hip, Hot GLBT Shorts 3

Catching On: The Day The World Turned Gay

Directed by Nick Pistorino

18 min. U S A, 2009

When same-sex marriage is nationally legalized, homosexuality suddenly spreads across the world, and young Brian must fight against the zombie-like gays and lesbians as they pass on their condition through ass grabbing.

You Can't Curry Love

Directed by Reid Waterer

23 min. U S A/India, 2009

A handsome East Indian from London travels to India on business, falls for a local guy and discovers a country he only thought he knew in this Bollywood-inspired romantic comedy from director Reid Waterer.

MWM

Directed by Greg Luna

25 min. U S A, 2010

"MWM" mixes the traditions of both narrative and documentary film making to create an "imagined conversation" loosely based on the New York Magazine article "Married Man Seeks Same For Discreet Play" by David Amsden (2007). "MWM" centers on a nameless male subject as an off-camera student filmmaker interviews him about his encounters with other men. As the filmmaker uncovers the man's methodical Internet routine, he also learns more about the subject's complicated sexual history. Eventually, the subject's splintered identity is seen to be the inevitable outcome of his own choices.

La Viuda (The Widow)

Directed by David Martin-Porrás

19 min. Spain/U S A, 2009

A lonely widow infatuated with the local priest will use her son as a lure to bring home the object of her desire.

Disarm

Directed by Nathan Keene

17 min. Australia, 2009

Two men meet online for a hook-up, but after an initial confrontation, they fall into conversation and have something they did not expect: a connection.

Heart of the Matter

Directed by Tom Lenk & Patty Wortham

7 min. U S A, 2008

This satirical short film mocks a rediscovered marriage counseling VHS tape from the late 1980s. Tom Lenk and Patty Wortham star as husband and wife marriage counseling team, Terry and Sheila. They demonstrate how to strengthen marital vows and sexual intimacy, while noticeably in complete denial of their own sexual qualms. Written by Tom Lenk and Patty Wortham. Cinematography by Jesse Rice.

Sat., 8/14:

11:00 a.m.

GLBT VIDEO LOUNGE

An "open screen" to the GLBT community to present local work, music videos and provide a networking opportunity. Slots are available on a first come, first served basis for up to seven participants to present their digital work, up to five min. in length, on a DVD. Be prepared to introduce and talk about your work and answer questions from the audience.

This is a Free event, sponsored by a grant from **Equity Action** and the **Rhode Island Foundation**

1:00 p.m.

In A Time Without Love

Directed by Mark Strydom
24 min. SOUTH AFRICA, 2009

As an old man, Vuka is confronted by death, and finally tells his daughter his epic journey in pursuing Carmen, her mother and his one true love.

I Remember Better When I Paint

Directed by Eric Ellena & Berna Huebner
54 min. Belgium/France/Netherlands/U S A, 2009

'I Remember Better When I Paint' is the first international documentary about the positive impact of art and other creative therapies on people with Alzheimer's and how these approaches can change the way we look at the disease. A film by Eric Ellena and Berna Huebner, presented by French Connection Films and the Hilgos Foundation, and narrated by Olivia de Havilland. Among those who are featured are noted doctors and Yasmin Aga Khan, president of Alzheimer's Disease International and daughter of Rita Hayworth, who had Alzheimer's.

3:00 p.m.

En Tus Manos (In Your Hands)

Directed by Ron Jacobs
27 min. Columbia, 2010

In the vicious slums of Colombia, where prosperity is dictated by brutality, a conflicted kid seeks membership in a brutal gang, with the hope of one day having the power to determine his own destiny.

Burned: Life In and Out of Texas Youth Prisons

Directed by Emily Pyle
69 min. U S A, 2009

This feature-length documentary film follows a year in the lives of two boys incarcerated in Texas' scandal-plagued juvenile justice system. Justin Cannon faces trial for an escape from a youth facility, attempted after prison psychologists told him he would spend the rest of his life locked up. Joseph Galloway struggles to adjust to life on the outside after release from a facility where he was raped by another youth in a locked security cell and repeatedly beaten in gang-related fights. Through these tense, haunting personal narratives, the film examines the broader national debate over the future of juvenile corrections – will the Texas system grow to incorporate treatment and rehabilitation services designed to redirect the behavior of young offenders, or will they become merely prisons for children as young as ten?

5:00 p.m.

Esther & Me

Directed by Lisa Geduldig
33 min. U S A, 2010

A touching and humorous portrait of San Francisco Jewish nursing home resident, Esther Weintraub, a funny, feisty, politically-minded, former model, former comedian, who comes back to life when a spring chicken in her 40's (comedian/comedy producer, Lisa Geduldig) befriends her. Despite the vast age difference, the two become inseparable friends. Through the use of interviews and archival and contemporary photos, the film traces Esther's story over the course of 74 years from age 15 as a

professional violinist in a Canadian mandolin orchestra to age 89 as a San Francisco Jewish nursing home resident. The film is a retrospective of Esther's unique and varied life and her relationship with first-time filmmaker, Lisa Geduldig, who brought Esther back onstage at age 87 to perform comedy.

Gen Silent

Directed by Stu Maddox

70 min. U S A, 2010

Shot in and around Boston, *Gen Silent* explores the complex issue of LGBT elderly who are sometimes forced back into the closet when they try to obtain long-term/health care. Filmmaker Stu Maddox asked six LGBT seniors if they will hide their lives to survive. They put a face on what experts in the film call an epidemic: gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender seniors so afraid of discrimination, or worse, in long-term/health care that many go back into the closet. Their surprising decisions are captured through intimate access to their day-to-day lives over the course of a year. Unlike any previous LGBT film about aging, *Gen Silent* startlingly discovers how oppression in the years before Stonewall now leaves many elders not just afraid but dangerously isolated. Many of our greatest generation are dying prematurely because they don't ask for help. *Gen Silent* brings these issues into the open for the first time. The film shows the wide range in quality of paid caregivers --from those who are specifically trained to make LGBT seniors feel safe, to the other end of the spectrum, where LGBT elders face discrimination, neglect or abuse. As we journey through the challenges that these men and women face, we also see reasons for hope as each subject crosses paths with a small but growing group of impassioned professionals trying to wake up the long-term and healthcare industries to their plight.

7:15 p.m.

Franswa Sharl

Directed by Hannah Hilliard

14 min. Australia, 2009

Twelve year old Greg has inherited his fathers competitive streak. On a family holiday to Fiji they have different ideas about where Greg should focus his talents. When his creative pursuits fail to amuse his father Greg goes to bizarre lengths to win him back. Based on a true story.

Agnes Moorehead is God!

Directed by Tanya Meronk

19 min. U S A, 2008

Picture it... Christmas Eve 1967, snow gently falling... a cafe'. Gay Lesbian icon Barbara Stanwyck is seated calmly perusing a magazine. Agnes Robertson Moorehead enters, in full 'Endora' mode, & the Sapphic fur starts flying...oh yes!!!! There will be blood... & cocktails.

Play in the Gray

Directed by Kaitlin Meelia

84 min. U S A, 2010

'Play in the Gray' is a penetrating, and at times vulnerably raw, portrait of the work, art, and emotional lives of the members of All the Kings Men (ATKM). ATKM is a drag and cabaret inspired theater troupe from Boston.

The troupe intrigues— on stage they perform as old ladies or appear to be women dressed as men or men dressed as women. Their electrifying, award-winning show makes audiences laugh while also questioning themselves and the world. Behind the scenes, the members of ATKM practice hard, spend long hours on the road, and struggle to “make it”— they want ATKM to be a household name. Personally, they struggle to discover who they are, who they want to be, and who they are afraid of being. The film travels with the troupe as they visit their hometowns, have difficult conversations with family, work their day jobs, maintain relationships, and share their stories of personal struggle and identity. ATKM challenge the notion of what it means to “be a man” or “be a woman”, shedding light on what happens when the answer is not that easy. On its face, ‘Play in the Gray’ is a simple dismantling of the “man-woman” binary that pervades popular culture. But this film is more than just an exploration of gender theory. ‘Play in the Gray’ is a tiny, yet profoundly intimate, glimpse into the human experience. This film is about the complications of loving, being loved, getting hurt, suffering disappointment, questing for approval and being courageous.