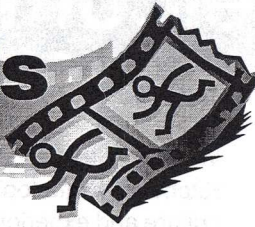


# Rainbow Reels

## Queer Film Festival

March 2003



Queer Culture on Film  
WPIRG's 3rd Annual Queer Film Festival  
March 13 - 16, 2003  
The Princess Cinema &  
University of Waterloo



*WPIRG is a UW-based student funded and directed organization whose mission is to provide support for students to research, educate, and take action on environmental and social justice issues as they define them – students acting in the public interest.*





# welcome

THANKS FOR COMING!

Welcome to the 3rd annual Rainbow Reels Queer Film Festival Kitchener-Waterloo's only film festival dedicated to celebrating queer culture and experience. This year's festival brings 9 feature length films and 2 short films to the Kitchener-Waterloo area. This is the first year that we have been able to bring filmmakers responsible for some of the films we are showing to the festival. Four of the films will have directors or producers in attendance during the screening which will be followed by a question and answer session. We encourage you to attend these films and ask the filmmakers questions.

Maintaining the Rainbow Reels tradition of diversity, this year's program features a wide selection of genres, from documentaries to comedies to coming of age stories. The people portrayed in these films should inspire a wide range of emotions. Laughter, sympathy, bewilderment and outrage will all be experienced in the theatre during the festival. Films allow you to experience the world through the eyes of someone else. Through these eyes, we hope you will see your family, friends, neighbours and maybe yourself, from a different perspective.

We hope that all of you will attend as many of these films as possible. Use the festival not only as a chance to be introduced to new films but also as a chance to meet new people. Say hello to the stranger sitting next to you or in the next row and ask them what they thought of the film. But most importantly have a good time and enjoy yourself.

Rainbow Reels would like to thank our sponsors whom without their assistance this festival would not be possible: Waterloo Public Interest Research Group (WPIRG), Federation of Students, Voice Magazine, Princess Cinema, GLOW, JSA, Generation X, Club Renaissance & Between the Lines.

We would also like to thank  
Graham Hollings, Steve Hutton, Phillip Pike, Mirha-Soleil Ross

The Rainbow Reels Organizers:  
Chris Cowperthwaite, Fletcher Lu, Steven Singer, Douglas Stebila, Ron Welker, Ryan Weston, Paul Wisken and WPIRG staff - Narina Nagra & Daryl Novak



Welcome to Rainbow Reels Queer Film Festival 2003

# festival at a glance

## THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 2003

LOCATION: The Princess Cinema, 6 Princess St. W., Waterloo

### 9:20 PM: TREMBLING BEFORE G-D

Sandi Simcha Dubowski, Germany, 2001, 84 minutes  
Admission: \$6 members, \$9 non-members

### 11 PM: JSA-GLOW Social to Discuss the Film

Huether Hotel, 59 King St. N.

## FRIDAY, MARCH 14, 2003

LOCATION: POETS, The Atrium, Carl Pollock Hall, University of Waterloo

### 6 PM: YAPPING OUT LOUD: Contagious Thoughts from an Unrepentant Whore

Mirha-Soleil Ross & Nicole Stamp, 2002, 75 minutes

### 7:15 PM: SPEAKER: Mirha-Soleil Ross (Creator of Yapping Out Loud)

### 8 PM: DIVAS: LOVE ME FOREVER

Edimburgo Cabrera, 2001, 81 minutes

### 9:30 PM: 21

Erin Greenwell, 2002, 53 minutes

## SATURDAY, MARCH 15, 2003

LOCATION: Davis Centre room 1302, University of Waterloo

### 6 PM: REWRITING THE SCRIPT: A Love Letter to Our Families

Friday Nite Productions, 2000, 46 minutes

### 7:30 PM: DANNY IN THE SKY

Denis Langlois, 2001, 88 minutes

### 9:15 PM: SONGS OF FREEDOM

Phillip Pike, 2002, 75 minutes

### 10:30 PM: SPEAKER: Phillip Pike (Director of Songs of Freedom)

## SUNDAY, MARCH 16, 2003

LOCATION: Davis Centre room 1302, University of Waterloo

### 7 PM: THE SHORT SHIFT: TWO SHORT FILMS

OHM-MA Ruthann Lee, 2002, 5 minutes  
CANADA: SPERM BANK OF SATIN Graham Hollings, 2002, 12 minutes

### 7:30 PM: Sneak Preview of an Independent Canadian Queer Comedy

### 8:45 PM: IRON LADIES

Yongyoot Thongkonthoon, 2000, 104 minutes

**FREE ADMISSION** except Thursday night (but we'll take donations)

THANKS!  
TO GEN-X  
for 2 for 1 video rental coupons  
CLUB REN  
for free entry on Saturday coupons  
& BETWEEN  
the LINES  
for door prizes

Rainbow Reels Queer Film Festival at a Glance



thur. mar. 13. 2003

**TREMBLING BEFORE G-D 9:20PM**

[ Sandi Simcha Dubowski, 2001, 84 minutes ]  
<http://www.tremblingbeforeg-d.com>  
at the Princess Cinema, 6 Princess St. W., Waterloo

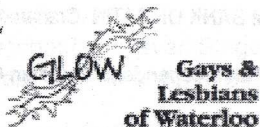
Trembling Before G-d is an unprecedented feature documentary that shatters assumptions about faith, sexuality, and religious fundamentalism. Built around intimately-told personal stories of Hasidic and Orthodox Jews who are gay or lesbian, the film portrays a group of people who face a profound dilemma - how to reconcile their passionate love of Judaism and the Divine with the drastic Biblical prohibitions that forbid homosexuality. As the film unfolds, we meet a range of complex individuals - some hidden, some out - from the world's first openly gay Orthodox rabbi to closeted, married Hasidic gays and lesbians to those abandoned by religious families to Orthodox lesbian high-school sweethearts.

Many have been tragically rejected and their pain is raw, yet with irony, humor, and resilience, they love, care, struggle, and debate with a thousands-year old tradition. Ultimately, they are forced to question how they can pursue truth and faith in their lives. Vividly shot with a courageous few over five years in Brooklyn, Jerusalem, Los Angeles, London, Miami, and San Francisco, Trembling Before G-d is an international project with global implications that strikes at the meaning of religious identity and tradition in a modern world. For the first time, this issue has become a live, public debate in Orthodox circles, and the film is both witness and catalyst to this historic moment. What emerges is a loving and fearless testament to faith and survival and the universal struggle to belong.

**JSA-GLOW SOCIAL 11PM**

The Malt Room, Huether Hotel,  
59 King St. N., Waterloo (Next door to the theatre)

Informal discussion/social for all those in attendance at the film *Trembling Before G-D*. Brought to you by the Jewish Students' Association (JSA) & Gays and Lesbians of Waterloo (GLOW).



Thursday, March 13, 2003

fri. mar. 14. 2003

POETS, The Atrium, Carl Pollock Hall, University of Waterloo

**YAPPING OUT LOUD: 6PM**  
**CONTAGIOUS THOUGHTS FROM AN UNREPENTANT WHORE**

On May 1, 2002, transsexual sex worker & performance artist Mirha-Soleil Ross delivered a series of blows in monologue form at anti-prostitution discourses and campaigns, detailing the way they impact, often tragically, on prostitutes' working conditions and lives. This is a video documentation of the event which took place at the 519 Church Street Community Centre in Toronto. Mirha-Soleil Ross is well known for her challenging, humorous, incisive, and politically astute work. Over the last 12 years, she has created numerous performances, videos, and installations she considers "whore activism," artistic and political interventions in a social and cultural context where almost every single aspect of prostitutes' work and lives are stigmatized and criminalized. Yapping Out Loud completes a cycle that began in 1990. It synthesizes a decade of transsexual and sex worker political and aesthetic development, reflection, and knowledge in a form that is simultaneously both performance art and activist pedagogy. **After the film, join us for a talk and discussion with Mirha-Soleil Ross.**

**DIVAS: LOVE ME FOREVER 8PM**

[ Edimburgo Cabrera, 2001, 81 minutes ]

Divas: Love Me Forever is a documentary about desire, fantasy, self-acceptance and the search for love. Edimburgo Cabrera, the Cuban-Canadian director and videographer (Latin Queens), follows six black female impersonators through Toronto's vibrant gay club scene as they search for home, love and family. The life stories of these six divas become a prism illuminating gay life in the Caribbean and North America from the 1970s to the present. A diva is a female impersonator who stands out amongst her peers because of her superior performance talents, devoted public following, and public advocacy on behalf of her gay community. The divas in the documentary are Michelle Ross, Chris Edwards, Jackae Baker, Stephanie Stevens, Matti Dinah and Duchess (deceased).

**21 9:30PM**

[ Erin Greenwell, 2002, 53 minute - <http://www.smithyproductions.com>]

Being fifteen isn't always the easiest thing in the world, and for Leigh, life as a suburban lesbian just isn't cutting it. She's got a wrestling-obsessed jock brother, a wandering father she barely knows who has recently made an appearance back in her life, and an overwhelmed mother who can't seem to either hold down a job or run the household. There are moments though, when she's not hiding her diary from her brother or rolling her eyes at her father's gaffes, that make it all worthwhile. This would be at band practice, where Leigh's chair in the trumpet section happens to be next to Jen, her best friend and the girl who increasingly occupies her daydreams. In love as only fifteen year olds can be, Leigh's reveries are disrupted by reality. Her father's leaving again and her brother John has found her diary. What happens next is as surprising to Leigh as it is to the rest of the family. "21" is beautifully reminiscent of Todd Solondz' paean to teenage angst *Welcome to the Dollhouse*, and Erin Greenwell brings a much needed dose of reality to the current spate of teen lesbian films.

Friday, March 14, 2003



sat. mar. 15. 2003

Davis Centre room 1302, University of Waterloo

**REWRITING THE SCRIPT: 6PM**  
**A LOVE LETTER TO OUR FAMILIES**

[ Friday Nite Productions, 2000, 46 minutes ]  
<http://www.rewritingthescript.ca>

Rewriting the Script: A Love Letter to Our Families is a video produced by Friday Nite Productions, a Toronto based collective of South Asians. In the words of the collective, "This video is a gesture of love and appreciation for our families of origin. A gesture that attempts to create an opening within our communities in which our families may continue, the often silent, struggle against homophobia. This video is dedicated to shattering those silences that keep us apart and to inspiring strength and courage that bring us together." This stunning new documentary explores the loves, lives and sexualities of Queer South Asians and their families of origin. Parents, siblings and family members talk about the struggle to re-write and re-define their relationships. **The screening will be followed by a facilitated discussion and reception.**

**DANNY IN THE SKY 7:30PM**

[ Denis Langlois, 2001, 88 minutes ]  
<http://www.dannyinthesky.com>

Danny is a young man looking for love, the son of a gay dad and a top model mom who died of an overdose when he was still young. He wants to become part of a society that values luxury, glamour and appearances above all, by becoming a model, despite his dad who's dead set against it. His first forays in the world of fashion dramatically change his vision of things and he abandons everything. He embarks on a quest to find his real identity, taking modeling to its extreme by becoming a stripper. He finds the love he was looking for on the set of a porno shoot, with Karine, a photographer who's as voyeuristic as he is exhibitionist. But destiny soon catches up with him...

**SONGS OF FREEDOM 9:15PM**

[ Phillip Pike, 2002, 75 minutes ]  
<http://www.jahloveboyproductions.com>

"They don't think about what we have together as love. How can you hate someone for loving someone else? It's ridiculous. It doesn't matter what sense it's in, it's still love. And that's all I have to say to everyone. What we have is love and we are sharing it." So declares Denise, a young Jamaican lesbian who remains defiant in the face of a notoriously violent, homophobic society that threatens her safety and condemns the way she chooses to love. Songs of Freedom takes us inside Denise's world and that of other Jamaican gays and lesbians. It tells compelling stories of individuals courageously carving out meaningful lives, despite the taboo against their sexual identity. Instilled with an often contradictory sense of humour and anguish, these stories are about growing up, going to school, dating, and "coming out" in a country where one's individuality often collides with the dictates of family, community and religion. Songs of Freedom breaks new ground as the first documentary about gay life in Jamaica, even as it reflects the universal quest for human dignity in the face of oppression. **Screening followed by discussion with the film's director, Phillip Pike.**

sun. mar. 16. 2003

Davis Centre room 1302, University of Waterloo

**THE SHORT SHIFT: TWO SHORT FILMS 7PM**  
**OHM-MA**

[ Ruthann Lee, 2002, 5 minutes ]

Using older photographs of her mother's youth, super-8 footage of Toronto's Korea town, along with images of her own present-day life, this intimate narrative video-letter critically explores connections between love, gender, race, sexuality and national identity by a young queer-identified Korean-Canadian woman. OHM-MA premiered at the Inside Out Film Festival and Screened at The Reel Asian Film Festival.

**CANADA: SPERM BANK OF SATAN**

[ Graham Hollings, 2002, 12 minutes ]

In 1999 a U.S. preacher called Canada "The Sperm bank of Satan" after the Supreme Court extended the definition of spouse to include same sex couples. This film is an oblique response. Canada: Sperm Bank of Satan comments on Canada-U.S. relations: if Canada is a "sperm bank", who is on top? This queer road movie has fun exploring Canadian identity and the way it is shaped by Canada's relationship with the United States. **The filmmaker, Graham Hollings, will be in attendance at this screening.**

**SNEAK PREVIEW OF 7:30PM**  
**CANADIAN QUEER COMEDY**

The screening will be followed by discussion with the filmmaker as well as some cast members.

**IRON LADIES 8:45PM**

[ Yongyoot Thongkonthoon, 2000, 104 minutes ]

THE IRON LADIES tells the true story of a Thai male volleyball team who won the national championships in 1996 with a team consisting mostly of gay men, drag queens, transsexuals and one straight guy. The film was a surprising success in Thailand, where it became the second-highest grossing film of all time. Its popularity spread to the US, where THE IRON LADIES won the Audience Award for best film at several major festivals, including the San Francisco International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival and The New York Lesbian and Gay Film Festival.

**Festival Sponsored by:** WPIRG - Waterloo Public Interest Research Group, UW SLC 2139  
Phone: (519) 888-4882 | Email: [info@wpirg.org](mailto:info@wpirg.org) | Website: [www.wpirg.org](http://www.wpirg.org)

Saturday, March 15, 2003

Sunday, March 16, 2003



# sponsors

## Rainbow Reels Queer Film Festival March 2003



This third annual queer film and video festival features internationally acclaimed queer works that present images of queer lives and issues; emphasizes issues of multicultural diversity and gender; encourages local artists, critics, and audiences to participate in the discussion of cultural identities and aesthetics; and to present the public with an opportunity to see and discuss the thematic, aesthetic, and political concerns raised by the work of queer filmmakers.

