

# QFEST ST LOUIS



April 19 - 23, 2015 - Tivoli Theatre



**THE YEAR WE THOUGHT ABOUT LOVE**

**SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 1 P.M.**

**ELLEN BRODSKY, 2014, U.S., 68 MIN.**

What happens when a diverse group of LGBTQ youth dares to be "out" onstage? The film goes behind the scenes of one of the oldest queer-youth theaters in America, the Boston-based True Colors OUT Youth Theater, which transforms daily struggles into performance for social change. With wit, candor, and attitude, the cast captivates audiences surprised to hear such stories in school settings. The film introduces a transgender teenager kicked out of her house, a devout Christian challenging his church's homophobia, and a girl who prefers to wear boys' clothing even as she models dresses on the runway. When bombs explode outside their building, the troupe becomes even more determined to share their stories of love to help heal their city.

*Shown with:*

**ALONE WITH PEOPLE**

(Drew Van Steenberg, 2014, U.S., 30 min.): Andie, a closeted high-school lesbian in the Deep South, is secretly in love with all of her sister's friends and watches "The L Word" on DVD when no one is home.

Free screening courtesy of sponsor **Pride St. Louis.**

**SPONSORED BY PRIDE ST. LOUIS**



**OUT IN THE NIGHT**

**TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 7 P.M.**

**BLAIR DOROSH-WALTER, 2014, U.S., 75 MIN.**

This jaw-dropping documentary tells the story of a group of seven young African-American lesbians who are out walking in a gay-friendly neighborhood of New York City on an August night in 2006. When an older man sexually confronts them, one of the women says that they are gay, but that only escalates the situation: The man becomes violent and threatens to "fuck them straight." Two of the women defend the group, and another pulls a knife from her purse and swings at the man, with the entire encounter captured by nearby security cameras. Strangers jump in to defend the women, and the confrontation escalates, but as the fight comes to an end, all get up and walk away. However, the incident is far from over: 911 has been called, the man involved has been stabbed, and police swarm to the scene with their radios blasting out warning of a gang attack. Rounded up and charged with multiple counts, including attempted murder, three of the women plead guilty, but four claim their innocence. Called a "gang of killer lesbians" by the media, the defendants become known as the New Jersey 4 in activist circles.

**SPONSORED BY PROMO**

QFest uses the art of contemporary gay cinema to spotlight the lives of LGBTQ people and to celebrate queer culture.



**BACK ON BOARD: GREG LOUGANIS**

**SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 3:15 P.M.**

**CHERYL FURJANIC, 2014, U.S., 90 MIN.**

A refreshingly candid documentary film about four-time Olympic champion Greg Louganis, "Back on Board" follows the diver over the past three years, as he struggles with financial security and reunites with the sport he once dominated but was not welcomed in. The threat of losing his house during the recent financial crisis forces Louganis to re-evaluate the choices, relationships, and missed opportunities of his career: With unprecedented access, the film reveals the complicated life of an athlete whose grace, beauty, and courage sparked a worldwide fascination with diving. It chronicles Louganis' rise from a difficult upbringing to nearly universal acclaim as the greatest diver ever and traces his path as he moves from a pioneering openly gay athlete with HIV to an overlooked sports icon. "Back on Board" is the engrossing story of an American legend as he re-emerges on the world stage to combat prejudice, promote tolerance, and return to the diving world after a long period of absence to act as a mentor to the next generation.

**SPONSORED BY THE VITAL VOICE AND MICHAEL REISER, COLDWELL BANKER GUNDAKER**



**QUEER SHORTS**

**TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 9 P.M.**

**ABAN + KHORSHID** (Darwin Serink, 2014, U.S., 15 min.): Inspired by true events, this intimate portrait of two lovers executed for being gay provides a glimpse into the world in which they met.

**ADJUST-A-DREAM** (Jonathan Wysocki, 2014, U.S., 6 min.): On the verge of moving in together, a gay male couple find their anxieties escalating as they shop for their first mattress.

**CAMCHAT** (Blake Pruitt, 2014, U.S., 11 min.): An experimental look at online sexual encounters and relationships.

**I DO (ACEITO)** (Felipe Cabral, 2014, Brazil, 21 min., Portuguese with English subtitles): Junior prepares a big surprise to ask his boyfriend to marry him, but not everything goes as planned.

**SURPRISE** (Leslie Bumgarner, 2014, U.S., 10 min.): A mother and son confess their secrets.

**TONIGHT IT'S ME** (Dominic Haxton, 2014, U.S., 13 min.): A hustler and a trans woman meet for a late-night tryst, with both getting more than what they bargained for.

**YOU. ME. BATHROOM. SEX. NOW. (TÚ. YO. BAÑO. SEXO. AHORA.)** (Francisco Lupini, Venezuela, 2015, 18 min., Spanish with English subtitles): When Antonio finds out that his boyfriend is cheating on him three days before Christmas, he decides to find solace amongst friends at the neighborhood dive.

DOCUMENTARY

NARRATIVE

SHORTS PROGRAM



**LIZ IN SEPTEMBER (LIZ EN SEPTIEMBRE)**

**SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 5:30 P.M.**

**FINA TORRES, 2014, VENEZUELA, 100 MIN., SPANISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES**

"Liz in September" -- based on the classic lesbian play "Last Summer at Bluefish Cove" -- chronicles the unlikely relationship between two apparent opposites. Liz has known several things since she was a child: She is gay, beauty is power, and she will never be a victim. Determined to enjoy the time she still has left on Earth, she hides her terminal disease from even her closest friends. Eva, by contrast, has succumbed to despair. After she loses her son to cancer, Eva finds that pain and guilt damage the relationship with her husband, sinking both into isolation. Alone on her vacation, Eva is left stranded on the road when her car breaks down. Ending up at Margot's Inn, she meets Liz and her group of gay friends, and Liz makes a bet that she can seduce the straight newcomer. Against all odds, the encounter between these two women changes their lives.

**SPONSORED BY MAGICAL JOURNEYS WITH CASSIE WASEM**



**SAND DOLLARS (DÓLARES DE ARENA)**

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 7 P.M.**

**LAURA AMELIA GUZMÁN & ISRAEL CÁRDENAS, 2014, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, 80 MIN., ENGLISH, SPANISH & FRENCH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES**

Every afternoon young Dominican Noelí goes to the beaches at Las Terrenas, where she and her boyfriend look for ways to make a living at the expense of one of the hundreds of tourists. People parade through her life, but Noelí finds a steady client in a mature French woman who looks on the island as an ideal refuge to spend her last years. Feigning to be Noelí's brother, the boyfriend concocts a plan in which Noelí will travel to Paris with the old lady and send him money every month. Although the relationship with the French woman is initially one of convenience, Noelí's feelings become more intense and conflicted as the departure date closes in.

**SPONSORED BY CINDY WALKER**

All screenings are at the Tivoli Theatre, 6350 Delmar Blvd. Individual tickets are \$12 for general admission, \$10 for students and Cinema St. Louis members with valid and current photo IDs. Advance tickets may be purchased at the Tivoli box office or website.



## TIGER ORANGE

SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 8 P.M.

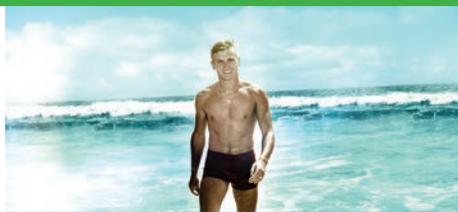
WADE GASQUE, 2014, U.S., 76 MIN.

Chet (co-screenwriter Mark Strano) and Todd (Frankie Valenti, aka former adult star Johnny Hazzard) are estranged gay brothers who grew up in a small town in Central California with their homophobic single father: Bad boy Todd ran off to Los Angeles and is now out and proud, but the mostly closeted Chet stayed at home, running the family hardware store and caring for their ailing father until his recent death. When a broke and homeless Todd returns to the brother he left behind, long-simmering resentments boil to the surface. As the pair confronts their differences and similarities, the film offers a poignant depiction of family dynamics and small-town life.

Shown with:

**DRAGULA** (Frank Meli, 2014, U.S., 25 min.): In this charming coming-of-age musical, a high-school senior eliminates his self-esteem issues after attending a drag performance.

SPONSORED BY JAMES AGNEW & BRAD MORRIS



## TAB HUNTER CONFIDENTIAL

MONDAY, APRIL 20, 7 P.M.

JEFFREY SCHWARZ, 2015, U.S., 90 MIN.

In the 1950s, Tab Hunter was No. 1 both at the box office and on the music charts. Hollywood's most sought-after star and America's boy next door, Hunter was romantically linked to such actresses as Natalie Wood, Debbie Reynolds, and Sophia Loren. Nothing, it seems, could damage Tab Hunter's career: Nothing, that is, except for the fact that he was secretly gay. Now, Hunter's secret is out, and in this revelatory documentary the actor shares the whole story of a happy, healthy survivor of Hollywood's roller coaster. In addition to Hunter's own frank recollections, the film features a cavalcade of old and new Hollywood players -- including Reynolds, Clint Eastwood, Robert Wagner, Connie Stevens, John Waters, Dolores Hart, Rona Barrett, and George Takei -- who talk openly about their personal experiences with the actor.

SPONSORED BY JAMES AGNEW & BRAD MORRIS AND DENNIS GORG



## GERONTOPHILIA

MONDAY, APRIL 20, 9 P.M.

BRUCE LA BRUCE, 2013, CANADA, 75 MIN., ENGLISH & FRENCH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

The always-provocative Bruce La Bruce ("Raspberry Reich," "L.A. Zombie") is back with a new romantic comedy (of sorts). Eighteen-year-old Lake has a sweet activist girlfriend but one day discovers he has an unusual attraction for the elderly. Fate conspires to land him a job at a nursing home, where he develops a tender relationship with Mr. Peabody. Finding that the patients are being overmedicated to make them easier to manage, Lake decides to wean Mr. Peabody off his medication and help him escape, resulting in a humorous and heartfelt road trip that strengthens their bond.

Shown with:

**END OF SEASON SALE (SZEZON VÉGI LEÁRAZÁS)** (Eli Glazer, 2014, Israel, 35 min., Hebrew with English subtitles): Late at night, two aging strangers fail to obtain Viagra for a one-night stand.

SPONSORED BY PRIME TIMERS ST. LOUIS



## SEED MONEY: THE CHUCK HOLMES STORY

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 9 P.M.

MICHAEL STABILE, 2015, U.S., 70 MIN.

"Seed Money" is the story of Chuck Holmes, a San Francisco pornographer turned philanthropist. As a videographer, Holmes almost singlehandedly took gay porn from the back alleys to the mainstream with his legendary Falcon Studios, building a worldwide empire of flesh and fantasy and contributing mightily to gay pride along the way. Holmes helped shaped and create gay identity in the years after Stonewall, and became a founder of gay advocacy groups like the Human Rights Campaign and the LGBT Victory Fund. Later in life, however, Holmes discovered that although his money was welcome in philanthropic circles, he wasn't.

Shown with:

**SAFE WORD** (Todd Lillethun, 2014, U.S., 15 min.): A young gay couple decide to spice up their relationship but find themselves in peril when fantasy and reality start to blur.

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## APPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR

THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 7 P.M.

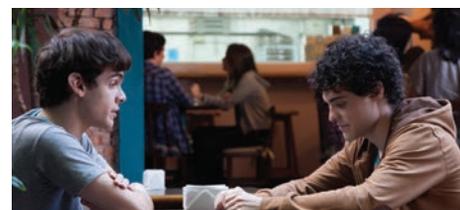
DESIREE AKHAVAN, 2014, U.S., 86 MIN.

Shirin -- played by writer/director/star Desiree Akhavan, who has a recurring role on the HBO series "Girls" -- is simultaneously struggling to become an ideal Persian daughter, a politically correct bisexual, and a hip young Brooklynite. But she's not quite Persian enough, not quite gay enough, not quite anything enough. She fails miserably in her attempt at all identities, and being without a cliché to hold onto can be a lonely experience. After being dumped by girlfriend Maxine, Shirin faces an unimaginable fate: Trading the idyllic lesbian haven of Park Slope for a shared artist's loft in Bushwick. Unable to let go of the memories of their excruciating highs and lows, the endearingly superficial narcissist finds herself plotting to win back her ex.

Shown with:

**PLUNGE** (Kate Lefoe, 2015, Australia, 6 min.): A romantic day trip tests the relationship of two young lovers.

SPONSORED BY THE VITAL VOICE



## THE WAY HE LOOKS (CHOJE EU QUERO VOLTAR SOZINHO)

THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 9 P.M.

DANIEL RIBEIRO, 2014, BRAZIL, 96 MIN., PORTUGUESE WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

Set against the pop music of Belle and Sebastian, Daniel Ribeiro's adorable coming-of-age tale is a funny, tender story about friendship and the complications of young love. Leo is a spirited blind teenager who's fed up with his overprotective parents and the bullies at school. Looking to assert his independence, he decides to study abroad to the dismay of his best friend, Giovana. When the new kid in town, Gabriel, teams with Leo on a school project, new feelings blossom in him that make him reconsider his plans. Meanwhile, Giovana grows jealous of this newfound companionship, and tensions mount between her and Leo. In this family-friendly rom-com filled with pitch-perfect performances, Leo's transformation into the person he was meant to be is infectiously heartwarming.

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