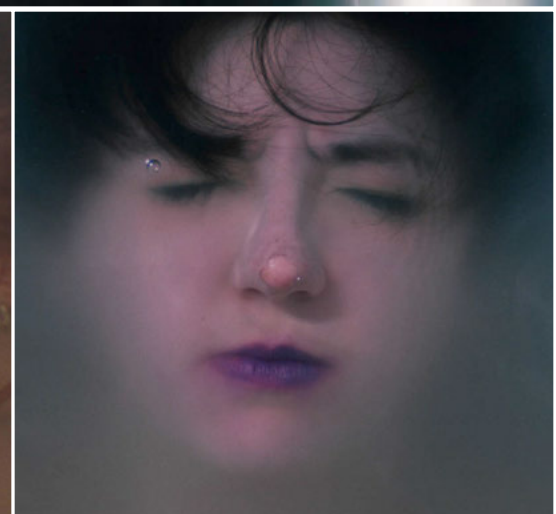




QFEST ST. LOUIS

13th Annual QFest St. Louis



June 19-28, 2020
cinemastlouis.org/qfest



WE'RE PROUD OF OUR COMMUNITY

AARP in St. Louis is proud to sponsor the 13th Annual QFest Film Festival. We understand the importance of celebrating LGBTQ stories in film, as well as supporting our community here in St. Louis.

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STLPR 

13th Annual QFest St. Louis

June 19-28, 2020



Pier Kids

QFest St. Louis uses the art of contemporary gay cinema to spotlight the lives of LGBTQ people and to celebrate queer culture. The event will excite, entertain, and enlighten audiences of all identities.

This year marks the 13th anniversary of QFest. The fest, which features films that would not otherwise screen in St. Louis, is presented by Cinema St. Louis (CSL), organizers of the St. Louis International Film Festival.

Because of the Covid-19 health crisis, QFest will be presented virtually in 2020. This short [video](#) provides more information on CSL's decision to move its 2020 festivals and events online. CSL is partnering with Eventive, which also handles our ticketing, to present the Virtual Festival.

VIRTUAL FESTIVAL BASICS

- QFest's complete lineup of films and shorts programs will be available to view on demand anytime from June 19-28.
- Recorded Q&As and livestreams with filmmakers will accompany many of the programs.
- Access to programs is limited to Missouri and Illinois.
- Once a ticket-holder begins watching a program, access to it remains available for 24 hours.
- Full information on access, including system requirements, is found in the [Virtual Fest FAQ](#).
- Help with playing films on your TV (through HDMI, casting/airplay, or apps) is found [here](#).

TICKETS/PASSES

Tickets: Individual tickets are \$10 for general admission, \$8 for Cinema St. Louis members and students with valid and current photo IDs. (There will be a credit-card/handling fee of \$1.50 for all tickets.) To obtain a student discount code, contact Brian Spath (brian@cinemastlouis.org) and provide an image of a currently valid student ID.

Passes: All-access [passes](#) are available for \$75, \$60 for CSL members. (There will be a credit-card/handling fee of \$4.89 for the \$75 pass and of \$4.11 for the \$60 member pass.) If you're interested in seeing all QFest programs, the pass offers great value: With a pass, the 12 paid QFest programs — \$120 if purchased individually — cost only \$75, a savings of \$45. CSL members also receive a substantial discount: \$60 for a pass vs. \$96 for tickets to the dozen paid programs.

Free Screenings: Documentary Shorts 1, Documentary Shorts 2, Narrative Shorts 1, Narrative Shorts 2, and "These Them" are free, thanks to the generous support of sponsors. If you'd like to "Gay It Forward," helping ensure that CSL can continue to offer free screenings during QFest in the future, you'll have the option of making a contribution when ordering tickets for the free screenings.

AARP Free Screenings: A limited number of free tickets to QFest screenings — including the AARP-sponsored films "Sordid Lives" and "Surviving the Silence" — are available exclusively through AARP in St. Louis. Visit [AARP](#) to obtain a code for a free ticket.

CONTRIBUTIONS

CSL will gratefully accept contributions of any size to help with the challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic. Click [here](#) for ways to support the organization.

MORE INFO

314-289-4152, cinemastlouis.org

SOCIAL MEDIA @QFESTSTL



Sordid Lives

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This program is underwritten in part through a grant from the Creative Impact Fund for Diversifying the Arts, a partnership between the Arts & Education Council and local community leaders.

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Films in other languages will feature English subtitles.

After Forever: Season 2

Tina Cesa Ward, U.S., 2019, 100 min., web series

The second season of the web series "After Forever" — winner of five Daytime Emmy Awards — picks up six months after the end of Season 1 (available on Amazon Prime). As he and his friends continue their journeys of love and loss, central character Brian has a new relationship and a new job, but the ghost of his late partner, Jason, remains very much present in his life. St. Louis native Kevin Spirtas — a longtime actor on the daytime soap opera "Days of Our Lives" — stars as Brian and also serves as the series' co-writer and executive producer. Queerty.com writes of the series' first season: "Queer film and TV sometimes draw criticism for focusing too much on the issues of young people. 'After Forever' does something entirely new, examining a latter-day cultural phenomenon that we'll be dealing with more of now that our population is aging, post AIDS: same-sex couples in long-term relationships. Life doesn't end at 50, or at marriage. 'After Forever' knows that, and tells a fresh story — by turns sexy, funny and sad — that's always enlightening."



Ask Any Buddy

Evan Purchell, U.S., 2020, 78 min., experimental documentary

"Ask Any Buddy" is a feature-length video companion to the Artforum Best of 2018 Instagram feed of the same name. The piece uses fragments from 126 theatrical feature films spanning the years 1968-86 to create a kaleidoscopic snapshot of urban gay life in the era — or at least how it looked in the movies. From casual tearoom cruising to actual police raids, "Ask Any Buddy" uses rare hardcore (but never gratuitous) footage shot at dozens of real bathhouses, bars, movie theaters, Pride parades, and legendary hotspots like New York's Hudson Piers to

accurately depict the social practices and activities that actually went on at these locations. The Queer Review writes: "What emerges is not only a loving homage to the work of some of the pioneering gay adult filmmakers of that era like Arch Brown, Jack Deveau, Joe Gage, Wakefield Poole and Peter de Rome and their stars, but a celluloid celebration of gay love and sexuality in all its forms and the freedom and fun in the pursuit of pleasure."

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Breaking Fast

Mike Mosallam, U.S., 2020, 92 min., Arabic & English, narrative

Set against the twinkling lights of West Hollywood, "Breaking Fast" is a sweet-natured romantic comedy about Mo, a practicing Muslim still reeling from heart-break. When an All-American guy named Kal offers to join him in his nightly *iftars* (the traditional sunset meals eaten by Muslims during Ramadan), the two discover they have more in common than meets the eye. The film features Haaz Sleiman (Apple+'s "Little America"), Michael Cassidy ("People of Earth"), and Amin El Gamal ("Good Trouble"). Film Threat writes: "With 'Breaking Fast,' (director Mike) Mosallam has created a beautiful, tender, and heartfelt movie. A wrong turn is never taken by either him or his extremely well-written characters."

Shown with:

Just Ask Him (Brian Tognotti, U.S., 2020, 13 min.):

An out high-school kid gathers the courage to ask the hot soccer jock to a dance.

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The Capote Tapes

Ebs Burnough, U.S., 2019, 91 min., documentary

Truman Capote — whose books “Breakfast at Tiffany’s” and “In Cold Blood” were both bestsellers and critical darlings — was a singular figure in the 20th century: He presented himself unapologetically on television at a time when most gay men took pains to avoid scrutiny. “The Capote Tapes” offers a fresh portrait of the writer by both exploring his darker side and celebrating his towering achievements. Among the film’s revelations are newly discovered tapes of interviews that Paris Review co-founder George Plimpton conducted with Capote’s friends after his death. The tapes shed an especially revealing light on Capote’s final novel, the never-completed “Answered Prayers,” which set out to expose Manhattan’s social aristocracy. Also featured are excerpts from Capote’s notorious television appearances and new, insightful interviews with such figures as Dick Cavett, Jay McInerney, and Capote assistant Kate Harrington. Variety writes: “‘The Capote Tapes,’ a meticulous and lovingly assembled documentary that takes in Capote’s life and career, but with a special emphasis on the years after ‘In Cold Blood,’ goes over a lot of terrain you already know, and pokes into a lot of corners you didn’t.”



Carmilla

Emily Harris, U.K., 2019, 96 min., narrative

Inspired by Sheridan Le Fanu’s classic Gothic vampire novella, “Carmilla” — a moody, atmospheric, beautifully mounted adaptation — is a coming-of-age love story enveloped in mystery. Sheltered 15-year-old Lara (Hannah Rae) lives with her father and strict governess, Miss Fontaine (Jessica Raine), but when a carriage crash brings enigmatic young Carmilla (Devrim Lingnau) to recuperate at their house, she provides an outlet for Lara’s curiosity and burgeoning sexuality. The pair begin a passionate friendship, but rumors of a supernatural presence make Miss Fontaine mistrustful of Carmilla. The Times Literary Supplement writes: “A new cinematic vision of ‘Carmilla’ by the filmmaker Emily Harris is one of

the most rewarding entries in the canon — a moody allegory of teenage curiosity and longing within a domestic setting of rigid evangelism and sexual repression. At its most compelling, the film also recuperates the figure of Carmilla from oversexed demoness to queer feminist.”



Dirty Sexy Comics: The Uncensored Story of Gay Erotic Comix

Robert Chandler, U.S., 2018, 96 min., documentary

They’re not just comics. They’re not just porn. They are our fantasies, our struggles, our stories. The men who write and draw gay erotic comic books have been turning on readers and documenting gay history in unique fashion by creating time capsules of desire. These are the unsung heroes of the gay community: creative, determined, and unapologetic. “Dirty Sexy Comics” tells the story of these hot comics, the brave men who made them, and the history of a struggling but tenacious community. It’s dirty and nerdy. It’s uncensored and uncompromising. Among the creators featured are Patrick Fillion, Jon Macy, Howard Cruse, Jacob Mott, Dave Davenport, and Robert Fraser. If you love comics, gay history, or erotic drawings of naked guys, then this is the perfect film for you.



Documentary Shorts 1: LGBTQ Pioneers

88 min., Free

Inspirational stories of LGBTQ pioneers.

Orville + Bob (Alan Griswold, U.S., 2019, 40 min.):

The story of how an unlikely couple met and have remained together, despite seemingly insurmountable differences and societal pressures, for more than 48 years.

Our Service, Our Stories: The Evolution of the LGBT Military Experience

(Bill Anderson, Neil Beecher, Bill Duckworth, Belita Edwards, Ed Imparato, Michael La Borde & Warren Tymony, U.S., 2019, 21 min.):

A group portrait of senior veterans at the Los Angeles LGBT Center who served between 1951 and 2017.

Taboo Teaching (Dan Steadman, U.S., 2019, 27 min.):

A profile of Missouri history teacher Rodney Wilson, who garnered national attention when he came out to his students in the early 1990s and nearly lost his job at Mehlville High School.

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Documentary Shorts 2: The Queer Experience

89 min., Free

Celebrations of the queer experience from around the globe.

Breakwater (Cris Lyra, Brazil, 2019, 25 min., Portuguese):

A group of young lesbians from São Paulo go on a trip to a remote beach for a New Year's celebration.

Kapaemahu (Dean Hamer, Joe Wilson & Hinaleimoana Wong-Kalu, U.S., 2019, 8 min., ancient Hawaiian dialect):

Drawing on new research and using vivid animation, "Kapaemahu" explores the healing power of four mysterious stones on Waikiki Beach and the legendary transgender spirits within them.

Lipstick and Leather (Amy Oden, U.S., 2019, 32 min.):

An exploration of the alt-drag community in the nation's capital and how these performers are spreading their influence across the East Coast.

Making Samantha (T Cooper & Allison Glock-Cooper, U.S., 2020, 10 min.): In this music video for Benjamin Scheuer's "I Am Samantha" — a song inspired by his friend Samantha Williams — 27 trans actors tell the story of the universal human journey to find identity, acceptance, and love.

A Throne for Miss Ghana

(David Munoz, Ghana/Spain, 2020, 14 min., English & Spanish):

Veso Golden, a transgender woman from Ghana, lives in isolation because of social rejection but dreams of succeeding in a great international beauty pageant.

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Good Kisser

Wendy Jo Carlton, U.S., 2019, 80 min., narrative

From award-winning writer/director Wendy Jo Carlton comes this fresh, romantic ride, brimming with mind games and erotic tension. Kate and Jenna want to spice up their relationship by opening it up to a third person and plan a date with the enchanting Mia. Jenna becomes enthralled with Mia's sexual confidence and charm, and as they spend the evening dancing, drinking tequila, and sharing secrets, the women become entangled physically and emotionally. But what was intended as a night of fun soon exposes the cracks in Kate and Jenna's relationship. Director Carlton is a two-time QFest alum with "Hannah Free" and "Jamie and Jessie Are Not Together." The Chicago Reader writes: "Carlton's characters speak in sentences that are self-conscious and overly aware, rendering them a little unlikable but instantly identifiable as representations of the awkward, cowardly parts of our own selves when faced with a crumbling relationship. At times giggly, at times cringey, this film initially seems like a rom-com but quickly turns into the anxious, tightly wound reflection on sexuality and self it clearly was meant to be."

Shown with:

Carol Support Group (Allison Tate, 2017, U.S., 8 min.):

Co-produced by "Good Kisser" director Carlton, this ingenious short chronicles a mutiny during an AA-like meeting of Carolholics — people addicted to Todd Haynes' film "Carol" (2015).

Sponsored by Cindy Walker



Narrative Shorts 1: Love and Sex

116 min., Free

Stories of people hooking up, breaking up, and shacking up.

Bill & Robert (Kamaria J. Hodge, U.S., 2020, 9 min.):

The story of a love that blooms between two black men just five years after homosexuality was decriminalized in the United States.

Encounter (Ivan Löwenberg, Mexico, 2019, 18 min.,

Spanish): A sudden event brings together elderly Arcelia, who has been estranged from her family for many decades because of her longtime relationship with partner Lulu, and young Julian, who struggles to explore his identity while living under the umbrella of his conservative mother and macho-minded grandfather.

Finding Norm(al) (David Cork, Glenn Quentin George &

Ashton Pina, U.S., 2019, 8 min.): Devastated Norm, newly single after his longtime boyfriend breaks up with him on Thanksgiving evening, baby-steps his way back into dating and bachelorhood as he tries to find his new "normal."

Jeff Drives You (Aidan Brezonick, U.S., 2019, 17 min.):

A lonely gay man falls in love with an artificially intelligent car over the course of a road trip.

Lukewarm (Mitch Yapko, U.S., 2019, 7 min.): John and

Eric put the "lust" back in "lackluster" sex.

Next Level Shit (Gary Jaffe, U.S., 2018, 11 min.): Taylor

prepares obsessively for the perfect third date with dreamboat Chris, but his efforts backfire.

A Single Evening (Ashlei Hardenburg-Cartagena,

U.S., 2020, 13 min.): In this musical short about dating and loneliness, an annoyed and single bisexual woman navigates her way through yet another lonely night while personified dating apps serenade her with songs about her inability to find love.

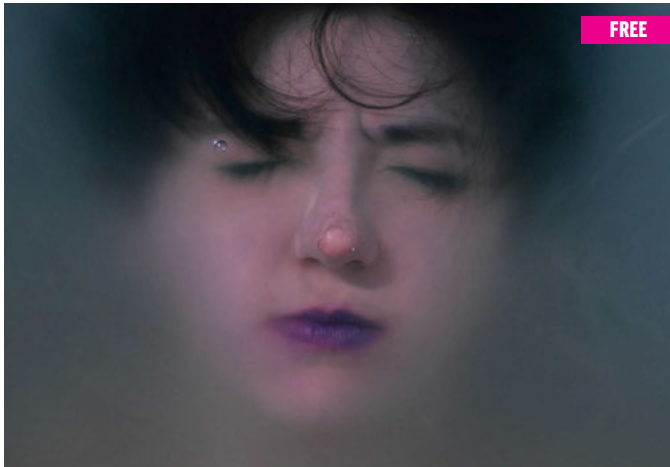
Treacle (Rosie Westhoff, U.K., 2019, 18 min.): Two friends

take a weekend trip to help one of them get over a recent breakup, but their relationship begins to change when heterosexual Jessie, in her drunken loneliness, kisses bisexual Belle.

Unexpected (Daniele Guerra, U.K., 2019, 2 min.): A chance encounter between two young men leads to a chase and an unexpected result.

Woman on the Threshold (Dan Steadman, U.S., 2019, 13 min.): In this short inspired by an old episode of "Alfred Hitchcock Presents," Faye, haunted by the death of her beloved Dolores, considers taking her own life when she suddenly encounters the Grim Reaper.

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Narrative Shorts 2: Cultural Encounters

114 min., Free

Films about challenges to the status quo — from the perspectives of both the disrupted and disrupter.

The Act (Thomas Hescott, U.K., 2020, 18 min.): In 1965 — the eve of decriminalization for acts of male homosexuality in the U.K. — Matthews, a young gay man at odds with the world, discovers love, sex, and a new family in the backstreets and underground bars of Soho.

Ayaneh (Nicolas Greinacher, Switzerland, 2019, 14 min., English, Dari & Swiss German): In Switzerland, young Afghan refugee Ayaneh meets Anna at a public swimming pool and instantly feels attracted to her, but as the relationship develops, she is confronted with growing resistance from her religious family.

Driving Louise (Isaac Knopf, U.S., 2019, 22 min.): When 19-year-old Ezra drives widowed 70-year-old neighbor

Louise to visit her husband's out-of-state grave, she confronts a newfound insecurity about her sexual identity while Louise silently recalls a hidden relationship with a woman 50 years before.

Good Night (Eric Shahinian, U.S., 2019, 11 min., Armenian & English): When Aram, a newly out Armenian man, brings Jason back to his place after their first date, he must decide how far he's willing to go to make sure they both have a good night.

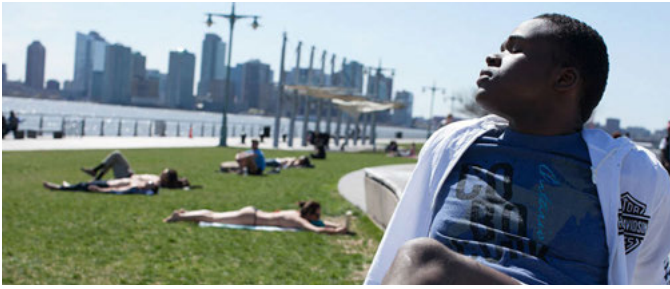
My Brother Is a Mermaid (Alfie Dale, U.K., 2019, 20 min.): Set in a desolate and prejudiced coastal town, this social-realist fairytale shows how a child's unconditional love can be a powerful, disruptive force for good in the life of a trans-feminine teen.

Old Hen (Todd I. Gordon, U.S., 2020, 14 min.): Henry, a septuagenarian cross-dresser, finds his life abruptly changed when Dolores, his longtime co-worker and closest friend, suddenly dies.

That Girl, Peugeot (Rebecca Coley, U.K., 2020, 15 min.): Born a girl, Peugeot wants to be a boy, and when the relationship with her old-fashioned mother becomes fractured after her father's death, she takes drastic measures to stay true to herself.

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Pier Kids

Elegance Bratton, U.S., 2019, 96 min., documentary

In "Pier Kids," homeless queer and trans youth of color — caught up in the precariousness of survival and self-preservation — hang out at Christopher Street Pier, forging their own chosen family. Genuine and charming, these eloquent teens must contend with overwhelming amounts of homophobia and abuse. Over three years, the filmmaker records the lives of his subjects who, after being kicked out by their families for their sexuality, have become homeless on the same street where the gay-rights movement began so long ago. The Hollywood Reporter writes: "Bratton aims to shine a light on a community within the community, specifically the 40 percent of queer youth who are both homeless and people of color. Bratton, himself gay and African-American, knows this life first-hand. He was kicked out of his home after coming out, then lived on the streets for several years before joining the Marine Corps. The subjects of 'Pier Kids' live in a perpetual state of precariousness. In calling attention to their struggles, Bratton honors their endurance and celebrates their existence."

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The Prince

Sebastián Muñoz, Chile, 2019, 95 min., Spanish, narrative

In the explosive drama "The Prince," an unconventional romance develops in a prison in 1970 Chile. Just before the elections that bring Allende to power, narcissistic 20-year-old Jaime stabs and kills, for mysterious reasons, a friend known as the Gypsy. Incarcerated for his crime, Jaime meets the Stallion, an older and respected prisoner who provides the young man with protection. Behind bars, Jaime becomes known as the Prince, and as he learns about love and loyalty with the Stallion, he reveals a deep need for tenderness and recognition. The two men form a close relationship of "black love," as it is called in prison, and together confront a violent power struggle among the inmate population. "The Prince" was awarded the Queer Lion at the 2019 Venice Film Festival.



Queering the Script

Gabrielle Zilkha, U.S., 2019, 85 min., documentary

Nerd alert! This incisive doc transports audience members into the cosplay-wearing, fanfic-writing underbelly of queer fandoms, specifically exploring the sometimes inspiring but often troubled history of queer female representation on television. Fans, creators, and actors beautifully articulate their frustrations and their ideas for more accurate and more inclusive visibility. Among those interviewed are Ilene Chaiken ("The L Word"), Angelica Ross ("Pose"), Stephanie Beatriz ("Brooklyn Nine-Nine"), and, of course, Lucy Lawless ("Xena, Warrior Princess"). The Hollywood Reporter writes: "'Queering the Script' is helmed by fans of fandom and unapologetically made as a vehicle for those fans to cheer for their favorite queer women TV characters. But the film is also attempting to do a lot more than celebrate. The sheer amount of ground it covers — the history of lesbian television characters and their fans, Fandom 101, takes from Hollywood showrunners like Ilene Chaiken and Gloria Calderón Kellett — at times feels dense and overwhelming. Yet the feature-length doc is as fun as it is informative."



Sordid Lives

Del Shores, U.S., 2000, 111 min., narrative

Based on a long-running hit play by Del Shores, the film version of "Sordid Lives" — a Q Classic now celebrating its 20th anniversary — played for a record-setting 96 weeks at the Camelot Theater in Palm Springs. In this cult-classic comedy, Ty (Kirk Giger), a gay Hollywood actor, returns home to his small Texas town for his grandmother's funeral. As the three generations of his dysfunctional family come together, the hilariously trashy truth of their "sordid lives" is revealed. The film features an all-star ensemble cast, including Olivia Newton-John ("Grease"), Delta Burke ("Designing Women"), Bonnie Bedelia (TV's "Parenthood"), and Beau Bridges ("Masters of Sex"), but the true show-stealer is Leslie Jordan ("The Help") as Brother Boy, Ty's institutionalized, Tammy Wynette-obsessed gay uncle.

Shown with:

The Stand-In (Yousef Kazemi, U.S., 2019, 18 min.):

Inspired by true events, "The Stand-In" tells the story of Bryan, whose wedding to his partner doesn't go as planned when his biological mother refuses to attend.

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Surviving the Silence

Cindy Abel, U.S., 2020, 79 min., documentary

"Surviving the Silence" tells the remarkable yet unknown story behind the historic discharge of Col. Grethe Cammemeyer for admitting she was a lesbian during the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" era. In 1992, Col. Pat Thompson was a decorated Army nurse, only two years away from retirement, when she was asked to preside over the military review board that eventually dismissed Cammermeyer. Although Thompson had served her country with distinction for more than 30 years — from conflict zones in Central America to working inside the Pentagon — that appointment was perhaps her most challenging because she was forced to protect her own life secret: She, too, was a lesbian and had lived privately with her life partner, Barbara Brass, for many years. In "Surviving the Silence," the three women come together to provide a nuanced view of the difficulties of lesbian life in America throughout the 20th century. Director Abel is a QFest alum with the documentary "Breaking Through."

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These Them: Season 1

Jett Garrison, U.S., 2019, 60 min., web series, Free

The queer comedy series "These Them" — whose co-writer and star, Gretchen Wylder, is a St. Louis native — dives headfirst into the NYC lesbian/GNC scene by following four main characters: Gretchen, a newly out, high-energy lesbian looking to make up for lost time; Vero, a nonbinary dog walker turned queer educator; Asher, a shy and private trans man who passes as cisgender and likes it that way; and Kevin, Gretchen's gay best friend, who is simply looking for love. With its snappy dialogue and engaging performances, this eight-episode web series — by turns charming, empowering, and hilarious — features lots of mixed signals, some steamy and often amusingly awkward sexual encounters, a few secret crushes, and even a handful of musical numbers. Tracy E. Gilchrist, feminism editor of The Advocate, writes: "Playful, sexy, informative, and crucial, 'These Them' shines a light on a panoply of underrepresented queer identities and changes the game for nonbinary visibility."

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