

REELING: THE 36th CHICAGO LGBTQ+ INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

OPENING NIGHT!

7:00 PM | Davis Theater

4614 N. Lincoln Ave.

6:30 PM Red Carpet | Reception Follows Screening

FREELANCERS ANONYMOUS

Sonia Sebastian (USA, 2018, 81 mins)

Reeling's 36th edition kicks off with this Chicago-based fizzy screwball comedy. Stuck in a dead-end job with an impossible-to-please boss played by a hilarious Alexandra Billings (TRANSPARENT, GOLIATH), Billie (Lisa Cordileone, EASY ABBY) has a meltdown and quits. Now what is she going to tell her demanding fiancée Gayle (Natasha Negovanlis, ALMOST ADULTS) who's planning a lavish wedding? When she meets a ragtag group of other underemployed women, Billie is struck with the idea of cultivating their skills to create an app for freelancers. Billie takes the risk of her life, lying to Gayle in order to buy time. When the wedding and app launch party are booked for the same day, will the sly, resourceful Billie be able to keep it all together? This delightful romp from director Sonia Sebastian (GIRL GETS GIRL) features an outstanding supporting cast of seasoned laugh getters including Jennifer Bartels (AMERICAN WOMAN; BROKEN), Megan Cavanagh (A LEAGUE OF THEIR OWN; SCROOGE & MARLEY), and Amy Shiels (TWIN PEAKS: THE RETURN).

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

7:00 PM | Landmark 7

CANARY (KANARIE)

Christiaan Olwagen (South Africa, 2018, 122 mins)

Seventeen-year-old Johan is a small-town boy whose love for Boy George and Depeche Mode makes him an easy target for bullying from the neighborhood kids. When he gets drafted during apartheid by the South African Army, Johan is accepted into the Kanaries, the military's traveling choir. Johan's innate musical gifts are embraced by his fellow misfits, but as the tour continues, his eyes are opened to the oppression and injustice around him. At the same time, his long-repressed sexual identity, heightened by an illicit affair with one of his fellow songbirds, threatens to push him into the danger zone. Set in the mid-80s, this dramedy with vibrant musical numbers artfully explores issues of sexuality, patriotism, and the power of individuality – all set to a throbbing new wave beat.

7:15 PM | Landmark 6

SHARED MOMENTS | Shorts Program

Break-ups are harder the second time around in TELL ME TWICE; two women find consolation at a mausoleum as they honor their departed partners in FORGET-ME-NOT; lesbian seniors share what true community is like in A GREAT RIDE; and MARGUERITE reveals to her caregiver that they may have something in common. A Dyke Delicious Program. Running Time: 73 mins

9:00 PM | Landmark 6

SHAKEDOWN

Leilah Weinraub (USA, 2017, 82 mins)

“Shakedown” was a series of parties founded by and for African American women in Los Angeles that featured strip shows for the city’s lesbian underground scene. Inspired by transwoman Mahogany who, as the mother of the scene, presided over queer strip shows and balls in the 1980s, butch Ronnie Ron created, produced, and presented these new shows. Showing the protagonists backstage and in interviews, this intimate chronicle reveals that Shakedown was more than just a strip club. As one of the few spaces for the lesbian subculture, Shakedown brought together and galvanized a queer community of color. Director Weinraub, well-known as the one-time CEO of the high fashion streetwear clothing brand Hood By Air, participated in the scene, shooting 400 hours of footage which she has edited into a swirling, intoxicating mass of raw female pleasure that has been critically hailed as a new form of documentary.

9:30 PM | Landmark 7

MAPPLETHORPE

Ondi Timoner (USA, 2018, 102 mins)

Matt Smith (THE CROWN; DR. WHO) gives a fearless, unabashedly sexy performance in this long awaited biopic as Robert Mapplethorpe, arguably one of the most important artists of the 20th century, who discovered himself both sexually and artistically in New York City through the ‘70s and into artistic renown in the ‘80s before his untimely passing from AIDS in 1989. Timoner’s unapologetically frank movie explores Mapplethorpe’s life as he and then girlfriend Patti Smith (Marianne Rendon, IMPOSTERS) move into the famed Chelsea Hotel, home to a world of bohemian chic. Photographing his new found circle of friends of artists, musicians, socialites, film stars, and members of the S&M underground, Mapplethorpe soon discovers his unique photographic gifts. Enabled and emboldened by his lover and art patron, Sam Wagstaff (Tony Award winner John Benjamin Hickey), Mapplethorpe’s erotically charged photos shocked the art world, setting off a firestorm of controversy that is still being played out today in the court of public opinion.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

1:00 PM | Landmark 7

PICKING UP THE PIECES | Shorts Program

Sometimes things fall apart and we have to find a way to pick up the pieces. This collection of shorts explores the complexity of dealing with loss from grieving a loved one and surviving a

tragedy to finding beauty in something that is over before it truly begins. In *JERKY*, a recent widower struggles to heal while learning to care for his late husband's dog. *DYLAN DYLAN* tells the story of two men struggling to understand each other's emotions after the tragic loss of their foster son Dylan. We get some comedic relief with local filmmaker Todd Lillethun's *THE QUIT*, about the trials and tribulations of smoking cessation; but we see the darker side of addiction in *GRIP*. In *SARIWALA*, a poor boy is crushed to lose his prized possession to someone who doesn't understand its true value; and in *49*, four strangers reeling from a large scale attack must come together and help one another heal through love, acceptance, and understanding. Running Time: 90 mins

1:15 PM | Landmark 6

IN MY ROOM

Ayelet Albenda (UK/USA, 2017, 73 mins)

IN MY ROOM is a coming of age film that takes place inside the rooms of six teenagers, and is told entirely out of self-made videos they posted on YouTube. Not Youtube stars, these are just teenagers talking to anyone who is willing to listen. Arieh, a 12-year-old boy loves makeup; Lydia is questioning her gender and begins transitioning to Liam; Rachel struggles daily with anorexia; Lina is Muslim and fighting prejudice; Ryan is a sweet, straight Asian teen who lives for his music; and Sabrina is pregnant at 15. Through cross-editing of the characters, viewer comments, and footage from the entire video blogosphere, their lives are woven into one collective journey. The result is a visual and narrative kaleidoscope of adolescence, a rare invitation to peek inside the world of these fearless kids whose insights are both heartbreaking and inspiring.

3:00 PM | Landmark 7

STILL WAITING IN THE WINGS

Q. Allan Brocka (USA, 2018, 110 mins)

This delightful musical comedy follows the trial and triumphs of a ragtag team of actors waiting tables in Times Square. Buff Lee (Blake Peyrot) shakes his moneymaker at the gay strip club while Anthony (Jeffrey A. Johns) is dreaming of Broadway glory while working with his fellow wanna-be stars as a singing/dancing waiter. In-between the hilarious musical numbers, competition is heating up backstage at the restaurant. Naïve Anthony hasn't figured out that his new bestie at work is scheming to take his place and grab his audition spots. And to Lee it looks like Anthony is cheating – nothing to sing about. Queer movie maven Q. Allan Brocka (*BOY CULTURE* and the *EATING OUT* series) keeps the action zipping along in this frothy and very sexy comedy that will be nirvana for showtune queens. The cast includes a host of cameos from Broadway legend Chita Rivera to Bruce Vilanch, Cindy Williams, Sally Struthers, Lee Meriwether, Ed Asner, Patricia Richardson, and Seth Rudetsky.

3:15 PM | Landmark 6

WIN SOME, LOSE SOME | Shorts Program

Ups and downs are part of life, so enjoy the ride with this group of shorts. *LOVE WINS* tells the story of Jan (82) and Emily (87), who met and fell in love during a time when doing so was strictly taboo. Their compelling and at times humorous story provides a fascinating look into how they raised three children while living in a conservative suburb of New Jersey, completely

in the closet – even to their families. Riley is invited to her ex's wedding and finds out that SHE'S MARRYING STEVE; while Dyke Delicious favorite Dreyer Weber goes on a first date where the two women discover they will need to learn how to navigate each other in GETTING STARTED. A Dyke Delicious Program. Running Time: 74 mins

5:00 PM | Landmark 6

LEITIS IN WAITING

Joe Wilson, Dean Hamer (Tonga, 2017, 72 mins)

Tonga, the tiny island kingdom in Polynesia, is home to the “leitis” – an intrepid group of native transgender women fighting a rising tide of religious fundamentalism and intolerance in their South Pacific home. Over the course of an eventful year, we follow the gracious but quietly determined Joey Mataele, a devout Catholic of noble descent, as she organizes an exuberant beauty pageant, mentors a young contestant rejected by her family, garners the support of a Royal Princess, and spars with American-financed evangelicals threatening to resurrect colonial-era laws that would criminalize the leitis’ lives. With unexpected humor and extraordinary access to the Kingdom’s royals and religious leaders, this deftly observed documentary reveals what it means to be different in a society ruled by tradition and what it takes to be accepted without forsaking who you are.

5:15 PM | Landmark 7

SNAPSHOTS

Melanie Mayron (USA, 2018, 91 mins)

Set in the present with flashbacks to the early ‘60s, SNAPSHOTS brings together three generations of women – matriarch Rose (Oscar nominee Piper Laurie, CARRIE; TWIN PEAKS; THE HUSTLER), her daughter Patty (Brooke Adams, DAYS OF HEAVEN; THE DEAD ZONE; INVASION OF THE BODY SNATCHERS), and granddaughter Allison (Emily Baldoni, RECKLESS; COHERENCE). Each year Patty and Allison spend a laughter-filled girl’s weekend with gran at her lakeside home. But this year will be different. Allison’s discovery of forgotten photos leads Rose on a trip into her past...to memories of the love of her life – the beautiful, free spirited Louise (Emily Goss), her one time next door neighbor. Rose’s secret past is set to collide with Allison’s secret future in this powerfully acted family drama from renowned actor-director Melanie Mayron (THIRTYSOMETHING; JANE THE VIRGIN; GLOW; GRACE AND FRANKIE).

7:00 PM | Landmark 6

ANCHOR AND HOPE

Carlos Marques-Marcet (Spain, 2017, 112 mins)

Eva (Oona Chaplin, GAME OF THRONES; BLACK MIRROR) and Kat (Natalia Tena, HARRY POTTER’S Nymphadora Tonks) live a carefree lifestyle aboard their London canal boat until Eva presents Kat with an ultimatum: she wants a child. Kat resists, knowing that it will end their bohemian existence, but when her best friend Roger (David Verdaguer) visits from Barcelona and offers to be the sperm donor, the three independent spirits decide to go for a more traditional life. As Eva revels in her pregnancy and Roger fantasizes about his role in this new family, Kat feels like a third wheel, and suddenly what was meant to enrich their lives threatens to pull them apart. This amicable, eccentric romantic drama features a wonderful supporting

performance from acting legend Geraldine Chaplin (Oona's real life mother) as Eva's no-nonsense mom.

7:15 PM | Landmark 7

RIOT

Jeffrey Walker (Australia, 2017, 106 mins)

RIOT tells the story of the courage and passion behind Australia's first Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras. In the late 1970s when homosexuality is still a crime in Sydney, a group of activists – some friends, some lovers, some just committed to their search for equality – don fancy dress, join hands and parade down Oxford Street – unaware that angry police lie in wait and that history is about to be written. Gay rights pioneer Lance Gowland, uncompromising and utterly charming, is the leader of this eclectic band that includes a passel of his lovers, a lesbian couple fighting a losing custody battle, and others. Damon Herriman is superb as Gowland, heading a marvelous ensemble cast playing the real-life figures. Walker's spirited, moving retelling of Australia's Stonewall crackles with energy and fiery passion, culminating in the riot that finally changed hearts and minds Down Under.

9:15 PM | Landmark 7

JUST FRIENDS

Ellen Smit (Netherlands, 2016, 80 mins)

Yad (Majd Mardo), a darkly handsome Middle Eastern medical student in Amsterdam, quits his hard partying lifestyle to spend the summer in a small Dutch city with his parents. A temp job as a domestic worker for the energetic Ans (Jenny Arean) leads to Yad meeting her hunky blonde grandson Joris (Josha Stradowski). The erotic fireworks between the two are off the charts and their affair is the perfect respite from their respective family problems. But can this be more than just a hot, summer fling? Can the possibility of love bridge the cultural differences threatening to tear the seductive heartthrobs apart? This ultra-sexy romantic dramedy offers something beyond the usual pleasures of a young gay love story, and the conflicts with their families have nothing to do with Yad and Joris's sexuality, marking JUST FRIENDS as a truly modern tale of queer love.

9:30 PM | Landmark 6

DADDY ISSUES

Amara Cash (USA, 2018, 86 mins)

Maya Mitchell (Madison Lawlor) is a talented queer artist on the verge of a first love that is more complicated than anything she could ever imagine. She spends her days escaping into her drawings and social media, where she cyberstalks the alluring Jasmine Jones (Montana Manning), an aspiring designer who is in an emotionally charged, co-dependent relationship with Simon Crow (Andrew Pifko), a neurotic sugar daddy. When Maya and Jasmine's paths finally cross, they begin a romantic relationship that provides Maya her every dream of first love and gives Jasmine the creative inspiration she needs to jump start her career. It's all gumdrops and fairytales until a bizarre love triangle soon emerges – thanks to those pesky daddy issues. Cash's visually eye-popping, wildly offbeat tale of a twisted relationship has been described as being the lovechild of Wes Anderson and David Lynch.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

1:00 PM | Landmark 7

ENCRUCIJADOS | Shorts Program

This collection of Spanish-language shorts explores the intersection of LGBTQ+ identity and Latinx culture. OJOS TRISTES (SAD EYES) tells the story of a closeted Chicano teen as he travels from El Paso, TX, to visit his sister, a struggling actress in Hollywood. In DARIO, a 17-year-old boy from Barranquilla, Colombia, performs in a carnival dancing group in secret to avoid his mother's judgment. HIJO PRODIGO (PRODIGAL SON) is the story of a closeted gay teenager coming out to his conservative family. UN INSTANTE (AN INSTANT) shares a message of friendship, love, and the importance of small moments. In PRINCESA DE HIELO (FROZEN PRINCESS), a young boy requests a special princess dress for Christmas, testing the convictions and love of his parents. Running Time: 78 mins

1:15 PM | Landmark 6

CALL HER GANDA

PJ Raval (Philippines/USA, 2018, 98 mins)

When Jennifer Laude, a 26-year-old Filipina and alleged sex worker, is found dead in a motel room, the perpetrator is quickly identified as 19-year-old U.S. Marine Joseph Scott Pemberton. Pemberton solicited Jennifer at a disco while on liberty leave, brutally murdering her when he discovered she was transgender. Amidst a media storm and police inquiry, three women intimately invested in the case pursue justice – an activist attorney, a transgender investigative journalist, and Jennifer's mother – taking on hardened histories of U.S. imperial rule that have allowed previous American perpetrators in the Philippines to evade consequences. Part human interest story, part investigative exposé, the Hollywood Reporter calls CALL ME GANDA "As suspenseful as it is moving."

3:00 PM | Landmark 7

WILD NIGHTS WITH EMILY NARRATIVE CENTERPIECE!

Madeleine Olnek (USA, 2016, 84 mins)

Molly Shannon (SNL; DIVORCE; SUPERSTAR) is the legendary poet Emily Dickinson in this black comedy by writer-director Olnek (THE FOXY MERKINS, CODEPENDENT LESBIAN SPACE ALIEN SEEKS SAME) that explores the hidden aspects of Dickinson's life. Dickinson's persona has been that of a reclusive spinster – a delicate wallflower too sensitive for this world. But through the lens of Olnek, Dickinson's vivacious and irreverent side is revealed, along with her lifelong romance with her sister-in-law Susan Dickinson (Susan Ziegler, HELLO, MY NAME IS DORIS; DON'T TRUST THE B---- IN APARTMENT 23). Incorporating Dickinson's letters and poems into its fabric, and hailed as, "the best lesbian comedy in years," here at last is the full-bodied woman, creatively stimulated by her lifelong secret love affair, emerging from the confines of her stereotypical public persona at long last.

3:15 PM | Landmark 6

CONVERSATIONS WITH GAY ELDERS: KERBY LAUDERDALE

David Weissman (USA, 2017, 69 mins)

With astonishing detail, honest insight, and unadorned poignancy, Kerby Lauderdale, a man in his late 70s, recounts the major events that shaped his life and identity as a gay man, in this intimate filmed conversation with David Weissman, the acclaimed director of the award-winning documentaries WE WERE HERE and THE COCKETTES. Weissman leads Lauderdale through a fascinating tour of this “regular guy’s” life – from his vivid recollections of his sexual awakening, through a first college romance, to a lengthy marriage to a woman, and an eventual coming out that led him to a 14-year partnership with a man during the height of the AIDS epidemic, Lauderdale is expressive, sincere, and deeply touching as he recalls his journey to wholeness. The film is an installment of Weissman’s ongoing intergenerational oral history documentary series.

5:00 PM | Landmark 7

ALASKA IS A DRAG

Shaz Bennett (USA, 2017, 88 mins)

Tough, but diva fabulous, Leo (Martin L. Washington, Jr.) is stuck working in a fish cannery in Alaska dreaming of drag superstardom. To escape the monotony of fish guts, Leo and his twin sister hang out at the town’s only gay bar owned by their surly surrogate mom (a hilarious Margaret Cho). Out of necessity, Leo’s learned to defend himself and his fighting skills catch the eye of his cannery boss (Jason Scott Lee), who offers to train him. When Declan (Matt Dallas), the buff new guy in town and the object of Leo’s erotic yearnings, offers to be his sparring partner, Leo has a choice to make – drag, boxing, or both? This offbeat dramedy from writer-director Shaz Bennett is the essence of a fish out of water story – literally.

5:15 PM | Landmark 6

WHAT'S COOKIN'? | Shorts Program

A few of these shorts contain sugar and spice and a couple are not-so-nice. SPARK is an animated tale of a woman whose flame for attraction is dimming. In MAYBE a young girl encounters an androgynously cool teen. Other films tackle more serious issues: teen suicide in SINK; and politics in WAFFLES, in which a woman wakes up to find out what her one-night hook-up stands for. THANK YOU, COME AGAIN follows an anthropology grad student who learns more about human nature selling sex toys than in the classroom; and not all best friends make suitable roommates in LESBEHONEST: I'LL BE ALRIGHT. A Dyke Delicious Program.

Running Time: 69 mins

7:00 PM | Landmark 6

NO TIME LIKE THE PRESENT | Shorts Program

Time is of the essence in this collection of short documentaries centered on the real lives of transgender people in America. In BURTON BEFORE AND AFTER, a trans man and his friend dive into a cache of home video footage from the early stages of his transition 15 years prior. One woman creates a visual letter to her transgender fiancé's only living grandparent in GRANDMOTHER AND ME. FIGHTING TWO WARS: THE STORY OF THALIA JANE AINSLEY tells the story of a Vietnam war vet who transitioned later in life. Trans teens Dakota Nieves and Indiana Baker explore their experiences growing up trans in New York City in T(HE)Y. In HOME MADE, two tattoo artists share their experiences as trans and queer men in the tattoo industry. One twin documents the journey of his brother's struggle with mental illness, drug addiction, and

gender transition over the course of one tumultuous year in MY BROTHER BLAKE; and a couple from Tennessee share their insights surrounding love, gender, and pet snakes in GRAHAM AND ZEKE. Running Time: 79 mins

7:15 PM | Landmark 7

DEVIL'S PATH

Matthew Montgomery (USA, 2018, 86 mins)

In the early '90s, two strangers, Noah (Stephen Twardokus) and Patrick (JD Scalzo) meet in a wilderness park where gay men cruise for sex. What seems like a random encounter quickly descends into a horrific nightmare. With recent disappearances and attacks, the two men soon find themselves on the run, drawn into a deadly game of cat and mouse. As they flee further into the woods they begin to understand that the greatest danger may be closer than either of them realizes. Will these strangers be able to work together to survive or will their own secrets and lies lead them to be the next two victims? Gay indie acting fave Montgomery (PORNOGRAPHY: A THRILLER; SOCKET; FINDING MR. WRIGHT) makes his directorial debut with this creepy, sexy thriller that will have you guessing until the last moment.

9:00 PM | Landmark 6

DRAG, DICK, AND OTHER FOUR LETTER WORDS | Shorts Program

Can your body-ody handle these sexy, sassy shorts? BATTLE CRY peeks behind the curtain of Canadian drag queen and "tragicomedienne" Pearle Harbour's new show; and THE COCOA FONDUE SHOW shines a spotlight on RUPAUL'S DRAG RACE, featuring Bob the Drag Queen, Ginger Minj, Jackie Beat, and more in this must-see drag extravaganza. Can't get enough of Bob? Neither can we! In BOB THE DRAG QUEEN TALKS SEX, the DRAG RACE Season 8 winner spills the tea on all things sex and sexual health. The heat gets turned up in THE FIX, a surreal farce about a man who has a big, throbbing, veiny secret. EXPIRATION DATE is an animated story about searching for an unexpired romance; and things stay (slightly) animated in THE SH*T, one man's inspired journey to attain power bottom status. An annoying rideshare passenger just wants the driver to himself in LUBER; and you'll get a punishing lesson in linguistics from a mystery Brit in DON'T F*CK WITH ENGLAND. Running Time: 77 mins

9:30 PM | Landmark 7

HE LOVES ME

Konstantinos Menelaou (Greece/UK, 2017, 72 mins)

Convinced a holiday away from the city will help mend their rocky relationship, two young men hitchhike to a remote seaside enclave, filling their days and nights with passionate lovemaking in the crystal clear water and making excursions into the rocky outcrops for sensuous alone time under the sun. A narrator articulates their inner thoughts as they frolic in the sand and surf, but even in this golden paradise, doubts they left behind catch up to them, leading to an emotionally charged confrontation that will either result in the crumbling of their already fragile relationship, or an opportunity to once again discover the spark that united them in the first place. HE LOVES ME, frank in its depiction of sex, is an exploration of the unconventional nature of love and its ability to survive against the odds.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

7:00 PM | Landmark 7

MY BIG GAY ITALIAN WEDDING

Alessandro Genovesi (Italy, 2018, 89 mins)

In this merry romantic comedy, tall drink of water Antonio and his cuddly bear of a boyfriend Paolo happily cohabitate in Berlin and are finally taking the plunge. They decide to celebrate in the small village in Italy where Antonio grew up. Though his mother is immediately supportive, her husband Roberto, the town Mayor, is much more reluctant. Paolo, who is estranged from his conservative mother, must also get her to the nuptials as a condition of Antonio's mom attending and paying for the whole shebang – a lavish ceremony dreamed up by Italy's most renowned wedding planner. Then there's the problem of Antonio's female stalker who insists that she, not Paolo, is his one true love. Throw in a couple of wacky roommates and the aisle to the altar is paved with hilarity, hijinks, and lots of love in this warm-hearted commedia d'amore.

7:15 PM | Landmark 6

THE REST I MAKE UP

Michelle Memran (USA, 2018, 79 mins)

María Irene Fornés has been called “America's Great Unknown Playwright.” She's written more than 40 plays, won nine OBIE awards, been a Pulitzer Prize finalist, and mentored thousands of playwrights across the globe. Theater luminaries like Tony Kushner, Paula Vogel, Lanford Wilson, and Edward Albee have credited Irene as an inspiration and influence. When she stopped writing in 1999 due to dementia, a friendship with a young female writer reignites her creative spirit. The camera becomes a catalyst, capturing Irene's ability to teach, to inspire, and to turn the scraps of everyday life into moments worthy of wonder and delight. Memran's film captures Irene's memories – of creative triumphs, groundbreaking friendship, female love affairs long and short – weaving together present and past while moving mentor and student towards an ever-deepening connection in the face of forgetting. A warm, lively portrait of a virtuosic theater artist is the result.

9:00 PM | Landmark 7

THE QUEENS

DOCUMENTARY CENTERPIECE!

Mark Saxenmeyer (USA, 2018, 99 mins)

Using the framework of Chicago's 35 year old Miss Continental Pageant as its backdrop, Saxenmeyer's entertaining and insightful documentary explores the transgender subculture of competitive female impersonation in all its glittery glory. The journeys of several contestants are explored as they plot their paths to victory. Along the way we meet several other entertainers immersed in this fascinating close-knit community who share the dazzling highs and unique challenges of their lives on and offstage. The film also delves into the rich history of The Baton, Chicago's historic female illusion showplace (now in its 49th year). A warm profile of Jim Flint, pioneering LGBTQ rights pioneer and local legend, owner of the Baton and the pageant, is also included. Part RUPAUL'S DRAG RACE, part POSE, part MISS AMERICA, and all absolutely fabulous, this is THE QUEENS.

9:15 PM | Landmark 6

BUDDIES

Arthur J. Bressan, Jr. (USA, 1985, 81 mins)

When timid 25-year-old New Yorker David (David Schachter) volunteers to be a “buddy” to an AIDS patient, the community center assigns him to Robert (Geoff Edholm), a 32-year-old gay activist from California who has been abandoned by his friends and lovers. With each subsequent visit to his hospital room, the growing bond between the two men unfolds as Robert recalls his life as a handsome, confident and pioneering gay activist to David, who records his thoughts about their visits in a journal. This early queer cinema classic, the first dramatic feature film about AIDS, has long been unavailable and will be shown in a new digital restoration. Reeling’s connection to BUDDIES couldn’t be more personal: it played on opening night of the festival in 1985 to a sold-out crowd at the Music Box with director Bressan in attendance.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

7:00 PM | Landmark 7

ADONIS

North American Premiere!

Scud (Hong Kong, 2017, 97 mins)

Renowned for his erotically outrageous films (VOYAGE; UTOPIANS; AMPHETAMINE), Scud pushes the envelope even further with ADONIS, his seventh feature. It’s the story of Yang Ke (Adonis He Fei), an actor with the Beijing Opera, whose dreams of stardom are fading now that he’s pushing 30. When he loses his job and is down on his luck, he finds himself answering ads for “nude outdoor model” gigs and soon ends up participating in what will become his ticket to infamy: a gay porn film that becomes a sensation in the underground. As Ke descends further and further into a world of hedonism as a hotly desired sex worker, he finds himself increasingly emotionally detached. When Ke accepts the invitation of a mysterious, masked client (played by gay porn star Eric East) on his 30th birthday, even he might have found his limits. Filled with the mind blowing visuals and ultra-sexy cast director Scud is renowned for, ADONIS may well be his most provocative film. *Contains graphic visual content; viewer discretion advised.*

7:15 PM | Landmark 6

COUNTRY NOISE (LANDRAUSCHEN)

Lisa Miller (Germany, 2017, 102 mins)

After years of indulging in the cosmopolitan high life of Berlin, Toni finds herself broke and in a 20-something crisis. She decides to return to Bubenhausen, the small town she once called home. Saddled with a sullen father and a conservative, prejudiced mother, not to mention a dead-end gig as an intern for a local newspaper, life is anything but a cabaret for Toni. “Hip” is not the word for Bubenhausen, but things look up when the pink-haired Toni is assigned to cover the local Carnival celebration and she reconnects with her childhood friend, the fun-loving, lip-pierced, trombone player, Rosa. These two kindred spirits do their best to shake

up humdrum Bubenhausen – but Rosa’s crush on the proudly gender-fluid Toni may or may not be reciprocated – and it might finally be time for her to grow up. Miller’s liberating, raucous comedy was an official entry of the Berlin International Film Festival.

9:15 PM | Landmark 6

TRANS REVOLUTION | Shorts Program

These four shorts meet at the intersection of gender and politics. A group of Muslim trans women stand their ground against social marginalization in secular Malaysia in *PASSAGE TO WOMANHOOD*; in *SPECTRUMS*, we follow the social, political, and spiritual lives of ten members of the transgender community in Israel; *THAT'S MY BOY* is a touching look at the successful and remarkable life of Sonu, a transgender man thriving in India; and capping off this program is *SUNUNÚ—THE REVOLUTION OF LOVE*, which takes us on a journey with trans dad Fernando Machado as he becomes an international news sensation when he announces that he is pregnant with his trans partner, Diane Rodriguez, in Ecuador. This short is an intimate and touching portrayal of a couple tackling first-time parenthood while they challenge complex ideas of gender roles in their lives and in politics. Running Time: 93 mins

9:30 PM | Landmark 7

A MOMENT IN THE REEDS

Mikko Makela (UK/Finland, 2017, 108 mins)

Leevi, who has been living in Paris while attending college, returns to his native Finland for the summer to help his estranged father renovate the family lake house so it can be sold. Tareq, a handsome, soft-spoken recent asylum seeker from Syria, has been hired to help with the work, and when Leevi’s father returns to town on business, leaving them on their own, the two young men warily establish a connection that leads to a hot love affair set against the idyllic Finnish summer. Looming over the budding romance is the father’s imminent return, the inevitability of Leevi returning to Paris, as well as Tareq’s complex relationship with his family in Syria. Timely and thought provoking, writer-director Makela’s movie is also the first independent LGBT film ever made in Finland.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

7:00 PM | Landmark 6

CHRISTABEL

North American Premiere!

Alex Levy-Heller (Brazil, 2017, 112 mins)

Deep in the vast tropical savanna of Brazil’s Cerrado region, Christabel, the only daughter of a rural farmer, finds a woman late one night in the forest who says she’s been attacked by men. Christabel offers her shelter in the home she shares with her father. Enthralled by the mysterious Geraldine’s independent spirit, the tenderhearted Christabel soon finds herself falling under the older woman’s sultry spell. Geraldine claims to be the daughter of one of Christabel’s father’s sworn enemies and urges him to journey to meet her father and reconcile. Once alone, the seductive tension between the two women builds to a passionate encounter that Christabel has secretly desired, but Geraldine’s motives may be less than pure. This moody,

erotic film, a sensual melding of gothic romance and the supernatural, was inspired by Samuel Taylor Coleridge's legendary poem.

7:15 PM | Landmark 7

1985

Yen Tan (USA, 2018, 85 mins)

In this bittersweet, deeply human drama from award-winning writer-director Yen Tan (PIT STOP; CIAO), Manhattan transplant Adrian (Cory Michael Smith, GOTHAM; CAROL) returns to his Texas hometown for Christmas during the first wave of the AIDS crisis, hiding both his HIV status and his sexuality from his religious conservative mother (Virginia Madsen, SIDEWAYS) and father (Michael Chiklis, THE SHIELD). Adrian reconnects with his younger brother, who may be questioning his own budding sexuality, and his estranged childhood pal and onetime girlfriend (Jamie Chung), while struggling with whether to reveal his true nature and health challenges.

9:15 PM | Landmark 7

KILL THE MONSTERS

Ryan Lonergan (USA, 2018, 80 mins)

Handsome control freak Patrick (writer-director Ryan Lonergan, A THOUSAND BEAUTIFUL THINGS), his second half, the charismatic, impulsive, trust fund baby Sutton (Garrett McKechnie, TERRITORY), and the third and newest member of their threesome, darling boy toy Frankie (Jack Ball, HENRY GAMBLE'S BIRTHDAY PARTY), live the charmed life of your average, everyday thruple. But when Frankie is stricken with a mysterious illness, the dynamic trio swings into action, heading west in search of a holistic cure. On the way, between fights and makeup sex in nondescript hotel rooms, the unique challenges facing this three-way relationship are probed. Shot in radiant black and white with a lively music score, part gorgeous travelogue, part political allegory, and a full on examination of the quirks and kinks of a loving threesome, KILL THE MONSTERS is the road trip you wish you could take.

9:30 PM | Landmark 6

HOME IS WHERE THE HEART IS | Shorts Program

Matters of family and home are highlighted in this program of hard-hitting narrative shorts. A twenty-something gay man visits home for the first time in years and is forced to make peace with the ghost of who he could have been in ZERO ONE. In LIFE IN DARKNESS, a man wakes up on his birthday in Mosul, Iraq, only to deal with destruction in his relationship, as well as in his homeland; and the bond between a disabled Muslim father and his son is tested in ABLUTION. In KHOL (OPEN), an estranged gay man (Shawn Parikh) must return to his small hometown after his father's sudden death and must manage broken relationships with his sister (Sarayu Blue), his ex (Jason Rogel), and most significantly, his mother. In GUN, the lives of two otherwise unconnected individuals are brought together by a shared struggle of identity and a deadly weapon. Running Time: 90 mins

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

7:00 PM | Landmark 7

THE HAPPY PRINCE

SPECIAL PRESENTATION!

Rupert Everett (UK, 2017, 105 mins)

The multi-talented Rupert Everett, one of filmdom's first openly gay actors, brings his dream project to the screen – a study of the sunset years of legendary writer and wit Oscar Wilde. Hailed as a “brilliant tour de force,” we encounter Wilde at the end of the 19th century when the sophisticated dandy was the darling of London society. But his open homosexuality was his undoing and after a much publicized, notorious trial, Wilde is sent to prison. Impoverished and stricken by ill health upon his release, he goes into exile in Paris, surviving on the flamboyant irony and brilliant bon mots that defined him. After a half-hearted attempt to reconcile with his wife Constance (Emily Watson, *BREAKING THE WAVES*, *ANGELA'S ASHES*), he heads back into the arms of his young lover Lord Douglas (Colin Morgan, *MERLIN*; *HUMANS*), an emotionally disastrous decision. Supported by loyal friends, including Reggie Turner (Oscar winner Colin Firth) who try to protect him from his own excesses, Wilde reflects on his life while observing from an ironic distance with detachment and humor his reduced circumstances. Everett wrote the script, makes his directorial debut with *THE HAPPY PRINCE*, and caps his extraordinary acting career with a deeply moving performance. “Rupert Everett is magnificent in a dream role,” *The Guardian* raved, and so he is.

Rupert Everett is scheduled to attend the screening.

7:15 PM | Landmark 6

FUNNY STORY

Michael Gallagher (USA, 2018, 87 mins)

When narcissistic, womanizing TV star Walter Campbell (Matthew Glave, *GRACE AND FRANKIE*; *FEUD*; *THE WEDDING SINGER*) discovers that his latest fling is pregnant, he figures he better break the news to his estranged adult daughter Nicole (Jana Winternitz, *THE THINNING*) in person by crashing her vacation in Big Sur. As a favor to Nic, he agrees to bring her friend Kim (Emily Bett Rickards, *ARROW*), along with him on the drive. When they arrive at their destination, Walter realizes he's unknowingly invited himself to his daughter's wedding with Kim. Surrounded by Nic's closest gal pals, he's a fish out of water. But that isn't the biggest problem – he's learned something about Kim on the trip up that might mean he has to ruin the wedding. What's a father to do? Gallagher's delightfully dark wedding dramedy, a Slamdance Festival favorite, offers some surprisingly insightful answers.

9:00 PM | Landmark 6

TRANSCENDING GENDER | Shorts Program

This program of international narrative shorts highlights the struggles faced by transgender, intersex, and gender non-conforming people, and the communities we build that support us (or sometimes don't) as we face the world around us. In an episode of new web series *BROTHERS* we get an intimate look at the everyday lives of a group of four trans masc friends living in NYC. Starring actor/stand-up comedian and transgender activist Bethany Black (*DOCTOR WHO*) and Sean Duggan (*THE LOBSTER*), *TUESDAY NIGHT* is a tongue-in-cheek comedy about the sensationalized media representation of trans people, and the burdens of local planning

regulation. DUALITY (DVITA) tells the heartbreaking story of a member of the Hijra (intersex/transgender) community in India, who develops a crush on a girl but realizes that neither his community nor the world at large really approve of his identity and existence. A young transgender man feels solid in his choice to present authentically, but struggles to settle into his daily life in MATHIAS. Running Time: 71 mins

9:30 PM | Landmark 7

ANALYSIS PARALYSIS

Jason T. Gaffney (USA, 2018, 91 mins)

Tyler (co-writer/director Gaffney) seems like the perfect catch. He's smart, funny, and adorably hunky, but he suffers from an unusual anxiety disorder – analysis paralysis, which makes him incapable of taking action without imagining the multiple ways that each possible choice could go wrong. At the behest of his therapist, Tyler fights the disorder by asking out his dreamy neighbor Shane (Kevin Held). Despite the odds (visualized with a multitude of hilarious fantasies), the romance flourishes until Tyler's affliction comes up against a stumbling block that might finally be too much for the couple: Shane's rigidly stern parents. You won't have to fight your resistance to this delightful romantic comedy.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

7:00 PM | Chicago Filmmakers

THE LIGHTER SIDE | Shorts Program

Sometimes we just need to have a good laugh, and this program is full of them. Family dynamics take center stage in HEATHER HAS FOUR MOMS and GRACE AND BETTY; finding a good match is the name of the game in BOBBY AND SHEELAGH and UP OR OUT; and partners find ways to make a typical day something special in LEMONADE. Plus, Dyke Delicious favorite Fawzia Mirza stars in FOXY TROT. A Dyke Delicious Program. Running Time: 72 mins

9:00 PM | Chicago Filmmakers

OH, THE HORROR! | Shorts Program

There comes a time when we all have to face our inner demons, and, sometimes, those demons turn out to be actual monsters! From a haunting at a gay nudist resort to a psych ward demon, these spooky shorts will have you trembling on the edge of your seat! A young man deals with the consequences of being a homophobic bully in LITTLE BILL'S PEEP SHOW; RED VELVET reveals one man's dark inner world, soaked with anger and despair; a psych ward demon is awakened in THE QUIET ROOM; a boy and his two fathers are visited at night by a mysterious stranger in LITTLE BOY BLUE; and in HIPPOPOTAMUS, the lone caretaker for a closed gay nudist resort is confronted with what he thinks he sees, and what has been watching him all along. Running Time: 76 mins. *Note: This program contains sexually explicit content.*

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

1:00 PM | Chicago Filmmakers

LESSONS IN LOVE | Shorts Program

This diverse collection of documentary shorts gives us an authentic look into the lives of gay men right here in Chicago and from around the world. Two Australian pavement artists share a unique relationship and system of artistic collaboration in TWO MINDS ARE BETTER THAN ONE; OUT ON THE STREETS shares the stories of young gay men experiencing homelessness in Chicago; and an African refugee visits the Memorial to Homosexuals Persecuted Under Nazism in Berlin in the experimental short THE WORLD IS ROUND SO THAT NOBODY CAN HIDE IN THE CORNERS – PART II: THE KISS. A LESSON IN LOVE tells the tale of Bud and Don, who have shared 41 years of love and gratitude in the wake of gay liberation and the AIDS epidemic; and in BEING OKEY–WHEN LOVE IS TREATED AS A CRIME, we get an intimate look into the compelling life of a gay Nigerian man who narrowly escaped death and fled with his partner to Switzerland, only to be caught between the constant fear of deportation and the hope for a safe life together. Running Time: 71 mins

3:00 PM | Chicago Filmmakers

YOUNG HEARTS BREAK TOO | Shorts Program

Whether you are starting your life's journey or are just young at heart, we can all relate to the experiences shared by the women in these short stories. SOME GIRLS and ERIN'S GUIDE TO KISSING GIRLS remind us of our first teen crushes; teenage girls at a Hasidic sleep-away camp explore a forbidden book in SUMMER; a twin's sister may have crossed a line in DUPLICITY; and two young girls from very different backgrounds fight conventions in NAUGHTY AMELIA JANE. A Dyke Delicious Program. Running Time: 73 mins

5:00 PM | Chicago Filmmakers

MANY LOVES, ONE HEART | Shorts Program

This diverse collection of shorts speaks to what it means to be LGBTQ+ in different places, cultures, and communities around the world. MANY LOVES, ONE HEART: STORIES OF COURAGE AND RESILIENCE shines a light on the nascent LGBTQ+ movement taking place in Jamaica; THE WORLD IS ROUND SO THAT NOBODY CAN HIDE IN THE CORNERS–PART I : REFUGEE is a compelling look at the trying journey of a gay African refugee seeking asylum in Germany. In AN IRAQI BELLY DANCER, a refugee from Iraq escapes his country and moves to Greece, seeking safety from a family who wants him dead and hoping to find a home that will grant him a life in peace and tranquility. THE RED TREE tells the little known history of Italian gay men being arrested and exiled to a remote island during Mussolini's Fascist regime. TAIWAN! LET'S GET MARRIED! is a look at Taiwan's successful quest to become Asia's first country to legalize same-sex marriage; and in DECOLONIZING SEXUALITY: SAN FRANCISCO'S TWO SPIRIT POWWOW, we circle back home to the USA to catch up with Matika Wilbur, a visual storyteller from the Swinomish and Tulalip peoples of coastal Washington. Running Time: 88 mins

7:15 PM | Chicago Filmmakers

DATE NIGHT | Shorts Program

This program starts off innocently enough, but there is a reason some steamy scenes are being programmed on DATE NIGHT. A little girl surprises her mother with a special Valentine in HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY; a young woman locates the dear friend of her grandmother to deliver

a letter written long ago in POOL; a sexy and very active lesbian makes the dating rounds in GIRL TALK; opposites don't attract for very long in JEWELS; and in hopes of being crowned prom queen, Callie keeps her girlfriend on the downlow in PROM NIGHT. A Dyke Delicious Program. Running Time: 72 mins

9:15 PM | Chicago Filmmakers

LOVE, LAUGHS, AND HOOKUP APPS | Shorts Program

Love and laughter take center stage in this heartwarming (and rib tickling!) program of shorts. Two young men share an unexpected encounter in SHOEBOX; a twenty-something looks for love on all the wrong apps in FEMME; and in BETWEEN HERE & NOW, two men form a fragile friendship after a one-night stand in Copenhagen brings them together. SISAK details a romance that develops slowly and intoxicatingly, but which cannot be fully realized; A heartbroken pushover turns to a mysterious magic orb for all the answers in MAGIC H8 BALL; and platonic soulmates Braden and Sam tackle boy problems, crazy bosses, Grindr, drugs and many, many accidents in the first episode of the web series BESTIES. Running Time: 90 mins

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

1:00 PM | Chicago Filmmakers

THE BLOOM OF YOUTH | Shorts Program

Folks of all ages can relate to this program of shorts that speaks to the confusion we often face as we first explore who we really are, and how we are shaped by the experiences we have as adolescents. In DEVIANT, a sexually conflicted teenager finds faith and acceptance after escaping the tortures of electrotherapeutic conversion therapy in the 1960s. In VILLDYR (WILD BEASTS), a young Norwegian boy's impulses are affected by his attraction to his best friend. SHALA is the story of a young boy living in an orphanage who has a hard time being adopted because of prejudice. A 15-year-old boy notices that he feels different than other boys his age in SIRENE; and in SOMETHING ABOUT ALEX, a 14-year-old boy navigates a close friendship with his older sister's boyfriend, and must confront the depth of his feelings when the couple announces that they will be moving away. Running Time: 74 mins

3:00 PM | Chicago Filmmakers

TV CRUSHES | Shorts Program

Pre and post VCR/DVR obsessions wrap up our programs of women's shorts. If you remember rushing home to watch HONEY WEST on television, HONEY WEST—THE GLORIA FICKLING STORY is a fun behind-the-scenes look at the creator and "character" behind the sexy female detective. REAL tells the story of a young girl who fixates on an LGBT character in her favorite TV show; EVOKE shows us just how far some people are willing to go; and AU tackles the ties that bind sisters. A Dyke Delicious Program. Running Time: 74 mins

CLOSING NIGHT!

5:00 PM | Chicago Filmmakers

STUDIO 54

Matt Tyrnauer (USA, 2018, 98 mins)

Studio 54 was the epicenter of '70s hedonism – a pulsating pleasure palace that not only redefined the nightclub but also came to symbolize an entire era. Its co-owners, Ian Schrager and Steve Rubell, one introverted and straight, the other flamboyantly gay, seemed to come out of nowhere. The extraordinary success of the first of the mega clubs with its restrictive door policy and mix of sex, drugs and glamorous celebrities is detailed, as are the factors that brought the phenomenon crashing down. Underneath all the glittery excess is the story of the two owners. Schrager finally opens up to filmmaker Matt Tyrnauer (VALENTINO; SCOTTY AND THE SECRET HISTORY OF HOLLYWOOD) about his improbable friendship with the late Rubell, a victim of AIDS. Thirty-nine years after the velvet rope was first slung across the Studio 54's hallowed threshold, here is the film that finally tells the real story behind the greatest club of all time.

7:30 PM | Chicago Filmmakers

STUDIO 54 + Closing Night Party