



PRESS RELEASE
For immediate release

**BACK TO THE ROOTS:
image+nation marks its anticipated return
to the fall film calendar with a robust 22nd edition
from October 22 to November 1!**

Montreal, Thursday, October 1, 2009 – **image+nation**, Canada’s oldest and largest LGBT film festival will mark 22 years of cultural [r_évolution] and vibrant queer cinema when its 22nd edition unspools in Montreal from **October 22 to November 1**. After spending the past few years locked into its chilly November calendar slot, image+nation felt a strong desire to screen its edgy fiction, edifying docs and remarkable shorts with autumn leaves, mild weather and a spooky holiday as backdrop! Over the course of 11 days in October, cinephiles of all stripes will have the chance to explore the vitality of independent cinema at image+nation, with a multiplicity of perspectives and realities on full display in arresting local and international works, by both emerging talents and established artists. What a core group of relentlessly devoted LGBT community organizers, artists and academics established a generation ago has grown from a modest if valiant annual happening into an internationally renowned film festival with a strong loyal following and an always impressive lineup. What’s more, the festival has always doubled as a stimulating forum for reflection, expression and celebration, and this year promises more of the same with a special **panel discussion on Quebec’s new wave of potent young LGBT voices**, as well as countless Q&A discussions moderated by directors and actors in attendance, namely **Nancy Kissam** (Drool), **Alexandre-Pascal Vincent** (Donne-moi la main), **Jamie Travis** (The Armoire) and **Bob Christie** (Beyond Gay: The Politics of Pride).

OPENING AND CLOSING FILMS

On Thursday, October 22, American director Jason Bushman officially gets festivities underway at Cinéma Impérial with his weird, wild and ultimately beautiful meditation on love and narcissism across oceans, **Hollywood je t’aime**. After being dumped just before the holidays, lovelorn Parisian Jérôme (Eric Debets) himself dumps the chilly City of Lights in favour of the sunny City of Angels. There, Jérôme’s resemblance to Adrian Brody and his friendly insouciance garner new admirers, among them a bevy of tranny belles and a sultry stoner (**a scene-stealing Chad Allen**). The confused Frenchman splits his time between pizza commercial casting calls, steamy bathhouse jaunts and eye-opening city strolls. But despite the attention of beautiful strangers, Jérôme continues to be haunted by his unworthy ex. Jason Bushman’s feature deftly reveals the seamy underside of Tinseltown with a sun-bleached palette in this hilarious, low-key illumination of issues that usually get lost in translation.

Hollywood je t'aime will be preceded by Jamie Travis's outstanding **The Armoire (TIFF 09 Honorable Mention – Best Canadian Short Film)**. 11 year-old Aaron plays a game of hide and seek in which his friend Tony is never found. The mystery of their relationship – and of their queer attachment to the armoire in Aaron's bedroom – can only be revealed, it turns out, through hypnosis. A resounding finale to Travis's *Saddest Children in the World* trilogy, from a director who is without question one of the most original voices in Canadian cinema.

On Saturday, October 31, Nancy Kissam's **Drool (USA)** – winner of Slamdance's 2007 Screenplay Competition Award – will cap off image+nation's 22nd edition on a decidedly outrageous note! The trailer park love child of *Thelma and Louise* and *The Opposite of Sex*, *Drool* is an outrageously dark comedy about the eccentricities of a particularly miserable small-town family. Dad abuses mom, Anora (**Laura Harring, *Mulholland Drive***), daughter Tabby storms around in a teenaged snit and son Little Pete is bullied at school. Enter Imogene (Jill Marie Jones, *The Longshots*), the Kathy K. Cosmetics saleswoman who moves in next door and proceeds to give the family a radical makeover, starting with hand lotion and escalating into a full-blown road trip with a dead body in her purple trunk. Under its outrageous plot, which includes racism, domestic violence, high school blowjobs, homicide and lots of masturbation, *Drool* is a sweet-natured Southern gothic tale of familial love with a generous helping of strange John Waters-esque humour.

HORRIFICALLY STELLAR INTERNATIONAL CROP

As is customary with image+nation, the fest's 22nd edition delivers a slew of award-winning works hailing from the four corners of the globe. And with the queerest holiday of them all just around the corner, image+nation has assembled a lineup of spooky and dangerously compelling flicks as part of its **HomoHorreur** theme! (**Zombies of Mass Destruction** – Kevin Hamedani, USA; **Ghosted** – Monika Treut, Germany & Taiwan; **Dream Boy** – James Bolton, USA; **Weak Species** – Dan Faltz, USA; **Cowboy** – Til Kleinert, Germany, and more) And image+nation 22 also sees the inauguration of **Homoparentalité: Kids on Film**, the fest's first ever programme designed to please all the LGBT families out there with a collection of groundbreaking television and short films. (**Dottie's Magic Pockets** – Andrea Maxwell, USA; **Les lapines hockey** – Françoise Doherty, Canada; **Tomboy** – Barb Taylor, Canada)

Among the feature film highlights are a number of powerful international works: **Ander** (Roberto Castón, Spain), the first Basque-language gay film ever made, explores themes of queer redemption and revelation in a rural setting. As does **Donne-moi la main** (Pascal-Alex Vincent, France), an arresting exposé of the simmering tensions brewing between two handsome twins as they journey towards maturity. **Shank**, the explosive and raw debut from 21-year-old British filmmaker Simon Pearce is a gritty urban drama for the YouTube generation that does away with dreary coming-out conventions. Julián Hernández's Teddy award-winning **Rabioso Sol, Rabioso Cielo** (Mexico) sets its quest for enduring love halfway between the modern and the mythological. Film circuit runaway hit **Patrik, Age 1.5** (Ella Lemhagen, Sweden) is a witty and wry look at gay adoption (or "gaydoption") that adroitly exposes festering class differences and lingering homophobia. **Boy** (Aureus Solito, Philippines) treads a fine line between nuanced socio-political commentary and languid youthful lusting.

It wouldn't be an LGBT film fest without a triumvirate of musical magic: **The Big Gay Musical** (Caspar Andreas & Fred M. Caruso, USA) is an outrageous story of art imitating life for a group of off-Broadway actors. **Fruit Fly** (H. P. Mendoza, USA) is a perky, polished and

post-cool operetta about a San Francisco performance artist and the kooky characters that populate her world. Canuck helmer **John Greyson** (*Lillies, Zero Patience*) returns with his docu-opera **Fig Trees**, a remarkably complex and moving rumination on AIDS activism.

Gal flicks are all the rage at this year's festival with the excellent **Hanna Free** (Wendy-Jo Carlton, USA), a poignant and thoughtful celebration of aging lesbian love with a Midwestern twist starring Sharon Gless (*Cagney & Lacey, Queer as Folk*) in the titular role. Oscar Wilde's *An Ideal Husband* gets an L-Word makeover in **I Can't Think Straight** (Shamim Sarif, U.K.), a tale of the unlikely romance that blossoms between pampered Palestinian businesswoman Tala (Lisa Ray) and aspiring author Leyla (Sheetal Seth). Epic German flick *Run Lola Run* gets a dyke makeover courtesy of **And Then Came Lola** (Megan Siler & Ellen Seidler, USA), a time-bending tale that chronicles the tempestuous journey of a commitment phobic photographer, Lola. Finally, image+nation indulges in a myriad of unabashed guilty pleasures via **Eating Out 3: All You Can Eat** (Glenn Gaylord, USA), the first queer three-quel whose motto should be "outbitch, outsnitch, outwitch" and **Oy Vey! My Son is Gay!** (Evgeny Afineevsky, USA), a hilarious **Mambo Italiano**-style family affair for all Jewish queers and those who love them.

LIVED LIVES DOC SERIES

Many of the offerings in the *Lived Lives* doc series corroborate the necessity to shed light on the drastically dissimilar global LGBT realities to affect change in certain parts of the world. Our flagship doc this year, the world premiere of **Beyond Gay: The Politics of Pride** (Bob Christie, Canada) is a moving portrait of international LGBT struggles for human rights. A refreshing and clearly Canadian perspective on LGBT rights at home and abroad, *Beyond Gay* examines the role of pride events around the world and the inherent need to bring these celebrations back to what matters most – human and social rights – all the while expressing solidarity with oppressed LGBT people everywhere.

- In **Against a Trans Narrative**, Jules Roskam, USA), documentary veteran Roskam tackles gender and identity politics, depicting a vast range of trans experiences. With Bertold Brecht and Marlon Riggs' *Tongues Untied* as seminal inspirations, the film skillfully melds together dramatic re-enactments and spoken word performances by Willy Wilkinson.

- Canuck filmmaker Gerry Rogers (*My Left Breast*) delivers an unplugged portrait of the Canadian folk icon and "lesbian Bob Dylan" in **Ferron: Girl on the Road**. Using a visual approach that echoes Ferron's own pared-down arrangements, Rogers crafts a poignant portrait of a maturing LGBT revolutionary.

- Prolific documentary filmmaker Jochen Hick (*Life/Sex in L.A., Cycles of Porn*) continues his exploration of LGBT subcultures with **The Good American** (Germany), an unconventional rags-to-reinvention tale that profiles the fast-talking and feisty Tom Weise, a German expatriate in New York who co-founded rentboy.com, currently the reigning escort/hustler web site. It also features cameos and interviews with Cece Peniston, Chi Chi La Rue, Victor Steel and Bruce Vilanch.

PANEL – QUEBEC’S NEW WAVE OF POTENT YOUNG LGBT VOICES

With its wide array of successful queer films – from *Being at Home with Claude, J’en suis, C.R.A.Z.Y.* to *Mambo Italiano* and most recently *I Killed My Mother*, Quebec has a longstanding tradition for embracing sexual minorities. But how do Quebec’s extremely talented young cinematic voices perceive their role as the emerging generation of LGBT storytellers? Which of their cultural identities (French Canadian, queer, etc.) takes precedence in their filmmaking craft? Have the storytelling approaches changed in addressing themes of LGBT identity on film?

The past few years have seen the birth of a whole new generation of Québécois LGBT filmmakers whose voices not only reflect the particularities of LGBT life in Quebec but also present a contemporary take on being queer in the 21st century. For this panel, image+nation has invited five young short filmmakers whose works have screened locally and internationally: **Dominic Goyer** (*La Monstre, Une Robe Blanche*), **Anne De Léan** (*Rewind, Un mariage pas comme les autres*), **Jasmine Gervais** (*Son of the Preacher*), **Olivier Lessard** (*Marcia, Ceci n’est pas une dragqueen*) et **Étienne Desrosiers** (*Miroirs d’été, Portrait de l’artiste en muse*). The panel is organized in conjunction with the annual shorts program **Queerement Québec**, highlighting the finest crop of homegrown shorts produced over the past year.

BOX OFFICE AND GENERAL INFORMATION

TICKET PRESALES: **Bar La Pot’Anse** (1441 Amherst)
Friday, October 16 – 5 to 8 p.m.
Saturday October 17 and Sunday October 18 – 3 to 8 p.m.

During the festival, the main box office for image+nation tickets is the Cinéma Impérial (1432 De Bleury), open at 4:30pm weekdays and 30 minutes before the first screening on weekends. Tickets for a show can be purchased at the screening’s venue starting 30 minutes before showtime, or online at: www.image-nation.org

Prices: Single ticket \$11; movie buff pass 10@\$90, student and senior (65+) ticket \$7.50.

The 22st edition of image+nation will take place at the following venues: Cinema Impérial (1432 De Bleury), the JA de Sève Theatre (Concordia University, 1400 De Maisonneuve West) and the Goethe-Institut (418 Sherbrooke East).

For further information about the festival, complete schedule and to purchase tickets, please visit www.image-nation.org

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