

11th Annual QFEST ST. LOUIS



April 4-8, 2018 @ .ZACK
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11th Annual QFest St. Louis April 4-8, 2018

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.

QFEST ST. LOUIS

Queercore: How to Punk a Revolution

VENUE

.ZACK

3224 Locust St., St. Louis, MO 63103

TICKETS

General: \$13

Cinema St. Louis Members: \$10

Students with valid photo ID: \$10

Purchase through MetroTix, on the QFest website or at the door. **The Lavender Scare, Queer Shorts 1: Eve and Queer Shorts 2: Adam** are FREE, courtesy of our many generous sponsors.

Special thanks to our sponsors for the "Tom of Finland" kickoff screening on March 7: Cheap TRX, HiBearNation 24, Show Me Bears, and Michael Reiser

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Cover Image: Alaska Is a Drag
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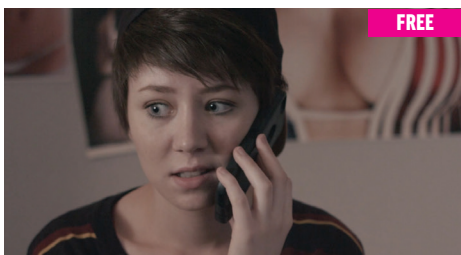


WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4, 7 PM

Becks

Elizabeth Rohrbach & Dan Powell, U.S., 2017, 89 min.

Singer/songwriter Becks (Tony-winning and Grammy-nominated Lena Hall) gives up her Brooklyn apartment and heads across the country to join her long-distance girlfriend (Hayley Kiyoko) in LA. But a surprise early arrival has disastrous consequences, and Becks abruptly heads back across the country to St. Louis, where she moves in with her disapproving mother (Christine Lahti). As Becks navigates her hometown, playing for tip money in an old friend's bar, an unexpected relationship with Elyse (Mena Suvari), the wife of an old nemesis, begins to take shape. Co-directors Elizabeth Rohrbach and Daniel Powell — both former St. Louisans — make their narrative-feature debut with "Becks," which won the New Filmmakers Forum competition at last year's SLIFF and the U.S. Fiction Award at the LA Film Festival. A quasi-musical, "Becks" features original songs by singer/songwriter Alyssa Robbins and instrumental-score composer Steve Salett.



FREE

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4, 9 PM

Queer Shorts 1: Eve

100 min., Free

Enfin Seule (Joselyn Smith, U.S., 2018, 11 min.): Arriving in the afterlife, Mel wants to get down to the business of eternal solitude, but her case worker at "Le Bureau" has a slightly different plan in mind.

EVOKE (Asia LeMasters, U.S., 2017, 16 min.): Retracing their times together,

Hailey and Emma explore their relationship through shared memories.

Hot & Bothered (Leah Byrd, U.S., 2018, 55 min.): This satirical comedy follows the lives of two sarcastic stoner 20-year-olds who get in over their heads when they create a Grindr for lesbians.

The Lady That Dances (Joppe Rogg, U.K., 2018, 4 min.): A portrait that combines Ash Palmisciano's poetry and transgender ballet dancer Sophie Rebecca's elegant moves.

Swipe Right (Des Matelske, U.S., 2017, 25 min.): Liv's mother, who won't accept her daughter's sexual identity, strives to find her the perfect man, and Liv's male best friend is similarly set on finding her the perfect woman. But an unexpected blind date provides the real solution to Liv's romantic problems.



THURSDAY, APRIL 5, 7 PM

Beautiful Thing

Hettie MacDonald, U.K., 1996, 90 min.

QFest offers a queer classic in "Beautiful Thing," a widely praised adaptation of screenwriter Jonathan Harvey's 1993 play. Shy Jamie (Glen Berry) and athletic Ste (Scott Neal) are teen boys who live near each other in the London projects. Both boys think they could be gay, and they finally explore their feelings when Ste is allowed to stay over at Jamie's place after an incident with his abusive father. There, the boys grow close and open themselves up to the idea of homosexuality, while Jamie's caring mother (Linda Henry) and quirky teen neighbor (Tameka Empson) offer much needed emotional support. Noting that "Beautiful Thing" was released "while the world was still grappling with the AIDS crisis," The Atlantic writes: "The film was genuinely subversive for its time and place: Depicting gay kids who don't succumb to the 'plague' or ultimately bow to pressure from their bigoted peers was no small thing at a moment stricken by

an especially virulent, anti-LGBT mood. Yet beyond the film's historical significance, Harvey's story feels especially relevant today because of the diversity, even intersectionality, of its characters — a quality often still missing from newer portrayals of LGBT life."

Sponsored by James Agnew & Brad Morris



FREE

THURSDAY, APRIL 5, 9 PM

Queer Shorts 2: Adam

100 min., Free

Bob (John Gross, U.S., 2017, 25 min.):

A gay couple moves into their first apartment together and experience paranormal activity.

davy & GOLIATH (Charles Lum & Todd Verow, U.S., 2018, 7 min.): An afternoon visit to a small-city sex shop yields excitement, surprise, and comic relief.

Expiration Date (Shwenn Shunya Chang, U.S., 2017, 5 min.): A poetic animated story about searching for an unexpired romance.

The Quit (Todd Lillethun, U.S., 2018, 28 min.):

Determined to help Roger quit smoking, Sam embraces a dangerous new idea that may save his partner's life but cost them their relationship.

Saltwater Baptism (Jared Callahan & Russell Sheaffer, U.S., 2017, 17 min.):

Santiago Gonzalez IV — who is one week away from graduation — has hidden his sexuality while at his religiously conservative university, but he's now struggling to reconcile his traditional upbringing with his new life as an openly gay man.

Teddy (Christopher Sweeney, U.K.,

2018, 11 min.): When Paul's best friends are suddenly killed in a car crash, he must decide if he can raise their child, with or without his boyfriend, before the child wakes up.

Welcome to the World (Albert Chan, U.S.,

2017, 7 min.): A troubled man journeys from isolation back to humanity by recording a video message for his pregnant sister.

Sponsored by Just John Nightclub



FRIDAY, APRIL 6, 7 PM

Alaska Is a Drag

Shaz Bennett, U.S., 2017, 88 min.

Both a literal and figurative fish-out-of-water story, "Alaska Is a Drag" — which debuted at Frameline — focuses on aspiring drag superstar Leo (Martin L. Washington Jr.), tough but diva fabulous, who is stuck working in a fish cannery in Alaska. Along with his twin sister (Maya Washington), Leo is trapped in a monotonous life of fish guts and fist fights. Out of necessity, Leo has learned to fight back, and his pugilistic skills eventually catch the attention of the local boxing coach. But when a new boy moves to town and wants to be his sparring partner, Leo must face the real reason he's still in Alaska. The supporting cast includes Margaret Cho and Jason Scott Lee.

Shown with:

Dragtivists (Savannah Rodgers, U.S., 2017, 7 min.): A documentary about the intersection of activism and drag performance.



FRIDAY, APRIL 6, 9 PM

Queercore: How to Punk a Revolution

Yony Leyser, U.S., 2017, 83 min.

This lively music documentary explores the various manifestations of Queercore, a cultural and social movement that began as an offshoot of punk and that consistently challenged society's disapproval of the gay, bisexual, lesbian, and transgender communities. The extensive participant list includes Bruce LaBruce, G.B. Jones, Genesis Breyer P-Orridge, John Waters, Justin

Vivian Bond, Lynn Breedlove, Silas Howard, Pansy Division, Penny Arcade, Kathleen Hanna, Deke Elash, Tom Jennings, and Team Dresch. Those interviewees discuss such topics as homophobia, gender, feminism, AIDS, assimilation, sex, and, of course, art.



SATURDAY, APRIL 7, 3:30 PM

Between the Shades

Jill Salvino, U.S., 2017, 82 min.

No film can ever capture the immense diversity of the LGBTQI community, but "Between the Shades" puts faces to the letters, discussing how those letters have evolved and expanded since the Stonewall riots and examining the immense power of labels and the transcendence of love. The filmmakers invited 50 people, each with a connection to the LGBTQI community, to begin a conversation by sharing their stories. The participants represent a large range of age groups, ethnicities, and professions. Among the film's many interviewees are Beth Malone (of Broadway's "Fun Home") and actress Kathy Najimy.



SATURDAY, APRIL 7, 5:30 PM

Saturday Church

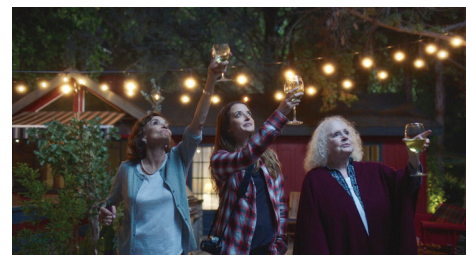
Damon Cardasis, U.S., 2017, 82 min.

Shy and effeminate 14-year-old Ulysses (Luka Kain) finds himself coping with new responsibilities as the man of the house after the death of his father. Living alongside his mother (Margot Bingham), younger brother (Jaylin Fletcher), and conservative religious aunt (Regina Taylor), Ulysses is also struggling with questions about his gender identity and sexuality in an

unaccepting environment. Ulysses finds an escape by creating a world of fantasy filled with dance and music, and his journey takes a turn for the better when he finds a vibrant transgender community inner-city church group. Ulysses manages to keep his two worlds apart — both appeasing his aunt and discovering his passion for the NYC ball scene and voguing — until his double life is revealed.

Shown with:

Uniform (Ellie Foubmi & Michael Niederman, U.S., 2017, 11 min.): Parents are at odds over what to do when their 6-year-old son is sent home from school for wearing a dress.



SATURDAY, APRIL 7, 7:15 PM

Snapshots

Melanie Mayron, U.S., 2017, 91 min.

When a grandmother's hidden past collides with her granddaughter's secret future and her daughter's angry present, can the love of three generations be enough to surmount decades of deceit? The story "Snapshots" tells is set in motion when a single roll of undeveloped film is found in an old camera. Using extended flashbacks to the early 1960s, the film explores the interconnected lives of matriarch Rose (three-time Oscar nominee Piper Laurie in the present, Shannon Collis in the past), daughter Patty (Brooke Adams), and granddaughter Allison (Emily Baldoni). Based on co-screenwriter Jan Miller Corran's own family's story, "Snapshots" is directed by Melanie Mayron. First known as an actor — in projects ranging from the pioneering indie film "Girlfriends" to TV's iconic "thirtysomething" — Mayron has since established a parallel career as a talented and prolific director of film and television (recent work includes "Jane the Virgin," and "GLOW"). **With director Melanie Mayron, screenwriter/producer Jan Miller Corran, and co-producer LeeAnne Matusek.** Sponsored by Cindy Walker



FREE

SUNDAY, APRIL 8, 1:30 PM

The Lavender Scare

Josh Howard, U.S., 2017, 76 min.

With the United States gripped in the panic of the Cold War, President Dwight D. Eisenhower deemed homosexuals to be "security risks" and ordered the immediate firing of any government employee discovered to be gay or lesbian. That decision triggered a vicious witch hunt that ruined tens of thousands of lives and thrust an unlikely hero into the forefront of what would become the modern LGBTQ rights movement. Featuring the voices of Glenn Close, David Hyde Pierce, Zachary Quinto, T.R. Knight, and Cynthia Nixon, the documentary "The Lavender Scare" shines a light on a forgotten episode in American history but also carries a message that seems more relevant with each passing day.

Sponsored by AARP in St. Louis



SUNDAY, APRIL 8, 3:30 PM

The Revival: Women and the Word

Sekiya Dorsett, U.S., 2016, 82 min.

This inspiring documentary chronicles the U.S. tour of a group of black lesbian poets and musicians, who become present-day stewards of a historical movement to build community among queer women of color. Their journey to strengthen their community is enriched by insightful interviews with leading black feminist thinkers and historians, including Dr. Alexis Pauline Gumbs, Nikki Finney, and Alexis Deveau. As the group tours the country, the film reveals their aspirations and triumphs, and explores the unique identity challenges they face at the intersection of gender, race, and sexuality. The film provides a rare look into a special sisterhood — one where marginalized voices are both heard and respected.

Sponsored by Pam Merritt



SUNDAY, APRIL 8, 5:30 PM

After Louie

Vincent Gagliostro, U.S., 2017, 100 min.

An artist and activist from ACT UP who lived through the early years of HIV/AIDS, Sam (Alan Cumming of "The Good Wife") is a man scarred by and still struggling with survivor's guilt. Cemented into an oppressive past, he is bewildered by a younger generation of carefree gay men, with their uninhibited use of social media, their sexting, and their seeming political indifference. But when he meets the seductive young Braeden (Zachary Booth) at a bar late one night, their pants quickly come down and, eventually, so does Sam's guard. As the pair becomes increasingly intimate, an intergenerational relationship blossoms between them — one capable of reawakening Sam's artistic soul and reviving his wilted heart.

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