

CINEMA  
ST. LOUIS  
PRESENTS

THE 16TH ANNUAL

QFEST  
ST. LOUIS

MAY  
4-10  
2023

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HI-POINTE

T H E A T R E

*Since • 1922*

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT [CINEMASTLOUIS.ORG/QFEST](https://cinemastlouis.org/qfest)

IN LOVING MEMORY  
OF MY FRIEND  
ROBERT J. POHRER



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**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 16th anniversary of QFest. The fest, which largely 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 (SLIFF). This year's QFest features 26 films from 9 countries (Brazil, Canada, Hungary, Iran, Italy, Morocco, Spain, U.K., and U.S.), including 8 narrative features, 2 documentary features, 15 narrative shorts, and 1 documentary short.**

### VENUE



1005 McCausland Ave  
St. Louis, MO, 63117

### TICKETS

Individual tickets are \$15 for general admission, \$12 for Cinema St. Louis members and students with valid and current photo IDs. To obtain a student discount code, contact Brian Spath ([brian@cinemastlouis.org](mailto:brian@cinemastlouis.org)) and provide an image of a currently valid student ID.

### PASSES

- [Five-Film Passes](#) are available for \$65, \$50 for CSL members.
- [All-Access Passes](#) are available for \$200, \$150 for CSL members.

Passes offer great value: A Five-Film Pass represents a savings of \$10, and an All-Access Pass provides a \$40 discount on the 12 film programs.

### FREE PROGRAMS

Queer Shorts 1 at 1:00 pm on Saturday, May 6 and Queer Shorts 2 at 1:00 pm on Sunday, May 7th are free and open to the public. Tickets are still required and are available online.

Sponsored by OPERA THEATRE **OTSL** of SAINT LOUIS

### CONTRIBUTIONS

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, or by scanning the QR code. For more ways to support QFest and Cinema St. Louis, go to [cinemastlouis.org/ways-to-contribute](http://cinemastlouis.org/ways-to-contribute).



SCAN ME

### MORE INFO

314-200-5623, [cinemastlouis.org](http://cinemastlouis.org)

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ONE PICTURE IS WORTH A THOUSAND OUTS.

We salute Cinema Saint Louis for shining a light on films that entertain and enlighten audiences of all identities.



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# FILMS



The Blue Caftan

Films in other languages will feature English subtitles.

THURSDAY, MAY 4, 7:00 PM

## THE BLUE CAFTAN

Maryam Touzani, Morocco, 2022, 122 min., Arabic with English subtitles, narrative

Halim and Mina run a traditional caftan store in one of Morocco's oldest medinas. In order to keep up with the commands of the demanding customers, they hire hand-some young Youssef. The talented apprentice shows an utmost dedication in learning the art of embroidery and tailoring from Halim. Slowly, Mina realizes how much her husband is moved by the presence of the younger man. This intimate, delicate story is filled with nuance and beauty amidst the noisy chaos that permeates humanity and the world we live in.



L'Immenista

FRIDAY, MAY 5, 7:00 PM

## L'IMMENISTA

Emanuele Crialesi, Italy, 2022, 97 min., Italian with English subtitles, narrative

Rome, 1970s: a world which straddles new neighborhoods being created, TV variety shows still in black & white, societal advances and family models that now seem outdated. Clara and Felice have just moved into a new apartment. Their marriage has reached a point of no return: they no longer love each other, but they can't seem to leave each other either. Their children are the only thing that keeps them together, the same children that are the emotional albatross for all of Clara's dreams of freedom. Adriana, the eldest, has just turned twelve; Clara's mood swings and the growing tensions between her parents play out before her watchful gaze. Adriana is in a state of refusal of her name and her identity, and her dogged pursuit of trying to convince everyone that she is a boy brings the already fragile stability of her family to breaking point. As the children search around them for guidance - be it a voice from above or a song on the TV - everything changes, both inside and outside of themselves.



Wendy

SATURDAY, MAY 6, 1:00 PM

## QUEER SHORTS 1

105 min. | FREE

**"Adjustment"** (Mehrdad Hasani, Iran, 2022, 17 min., Persian with English subtitles) An effeminate nine year-old boy, humiliated and pushed away by his family and friends, makes up his mind to adjust himself to his new identity and comes out to the people of his village.

**"And What if I Am?"** (Bryan Powers, U.S., 2023, 16 min.) Bullied by classmates and lacking support from his parents, Tim is suspended from school and left at home alone but chooses to spend the day with Josh, a mysterious new student in his class.

**"Empress ClawScream"** (Stephen T. Lally, U.K., 2022, 25 min.) When gawky Irish teenager Róisín discovers she'll soon be parted from her best friend and the object of her affections - Riot Grrrl punk-pixie Jess - she summons up help from an unusual source - 1980s cartoon villainess 'Empress ClawScream'!

**"Eternal Happiness"** (Isa Luengo & Sofia Esteve, Spain, 2022, 22 min., Spanish with English subtitles) Teenage Alma sings in the village choir and is beginning to connect with her sexuality, but as the big summer concert nears, tensions arise with her father, who is also the choir director.

**"Waiting for Beckett"** (David Kloepper, U.S., 2023, 15 min.) Teenage Danny sits in the waiting room of a hospital with his homophobic and desperate father and his older brother Beckett's outspoken, secret boyfriend after Beckett has been diagnosed with HIV/AIDS.

**"Wendy"** (Maren Lavelle, U.S., 2022, 10 min.) A quiet but imaginative eighth grader attempts to find the courage to approach her secret crush while working on a middle-school production of Romeo & Juliet.

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The Sixth Reel

SATURDAY, MAY 6, 4:00 PM

## THE SIXTH REEL

Carl Andress & Charles Busch, U.S., 2021, 94 min., narrative

Drag legend Charles Busch ("Die Mommie Die", "Psycho Beach Party") stars in this outrageous adventure as Jimmy, a down-on-his-luck movie collector. When the death of a close friend unearths the legendary, long-thought lost final reel of a classic Tod Browning horror film, he and his cohorts each concoct underhanded schemes involving false romances, over-the-top drag personas, and maybe some vampires, to cash in on a big sale of the film. But can the urge to bring the moviegoing community together with this lost classic prevail over the desire to get rich quick? The zany cast includes hilarious turns by Margaret Cho and Tim Daly.

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Kokomo City

SATURDAY, MAY 6, 6:15 PM

## KOKOMO CITY

D. Smith, U.S., 2023, 73 min., documentary

A raw depiction of the lives of four black trans sex workers in New York and Georgia as they confront the dichotomy between the black community and themselves. Shot in striking black and white, the boldness of the facts of these women's lives and the earthshaking frankness they share complicate this enterprise, colliding the every day with cutting social commentary, and the excavation of long-dormant truths. Sharing reflections on knotty desire, far-reaching taboo, identification in labor, and gender's many meanings, these women offer an unapologetic and cutting analysis of Black culture and society at large from a vantage point that is vibrating with energy, sex, challenge, and hard-earned wisdom. This film is the directorial debut of D. Smith, who is a two-time Grammy-nominated songwriter-producer and fierce trans woman.

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The Doom Generation

SATURDAY, MAY 6, 8:30 PM

## THE DOOM GENERATION

Gregg Araki, U.S., 1995, 83 min., narrative, 4K restoration

QFest St. Louis is proud to present this eye-popping 4K restoration of this early masterpiece by legendary queer director Gregg Araki. The film follows two troubled teenage lovers, Amy Blue (Rose McGowan) and Jordan White (James Duval), who pick up a young handsome drifter named Xavier Red (Johnathon Schaech). After Xavier accidentally kills a store clerk, the trio embarks on a journey full of sex, violence, and people from Amy's past. A road, murder, sex comedy like no other then and since.

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Forever

**"Forever"** (Marc Deluca, U.K., 2022, 12 min.) Two half-dead girls are being sex-trafficked with a high price tag, but when the thugs transporting them head to get food, the pair escapes into the shadows and turns the tables on their captors.



Stay

SUNDAY, MAY 7, 1:00 PM

## QUEER SHORTS 2

116 min. | FREE

**"The Aquarium"** (Fatemeh Askarpour & Elyas Askarpour, Iran, 2022, 10 min., No dialogue) Two trans people fall in love with each other and because of the taboo of this love, they hide it in their workplace, and make a date in a hotel.

**"Benched"** (Nicholas Barton-Wines, U.K., 2022, 9 min.)

Two male lovers sit on a bench by the sea prior to one's wedding to a woman.

**"The Fishing Net"** (Anna Palinkas, Hungary, 2022, 15 min., in Hungarian and English) In Budapest, 1953, when being gay was a punishable offense, a prestigious doctor and family man is being interrogated by the Secret Police about a man who was killed.

**"Rebound"** (Moon Abbott, U.S., 2023, 15 min.) Through a series of homoerotic hallucinations brought on by a book, Gwen finds herself in a troublesome love triangle.

**"Say It - An Autofiction"** (Evandro Manchini, Brazil, 2022, 15 min., Portuguese with English subtitles) This personal story shares the trajectory of a young filmmaker as he deals with the complexity of receiving an HIV-positive diagnosis on his birthday.

**"Stay"** (King Louie Palomo, Canada, 2022, 22 min.)

Kaleb- known more commonly by the stage name Ivy Diamonds (Kendall Gender) - meets Ryan, an artist from Vancouver, and the few hours they spend together brings them both an unexpected sense of clarity.

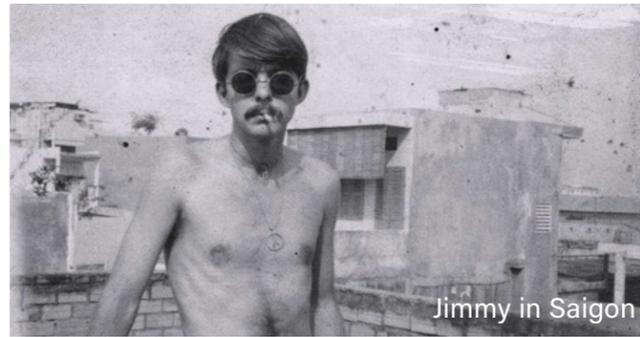
**"The Treadmill Switcher"** (LeeAnne Lowry, U.S., 2023, 7 min.) A woman walks on the same treadmill every day becomes fascinated by a person with a unique workout routine, until the person switches treadmills and runs directly next to her.

**"Trip Upstate!"** (Justin Garascia, U.S., 2023, 12 min.)

A group of millennials venture upstate for a psychedelic weekend getaway, when they meet an unwelcome guest.

**"What Comes Up"** (Justine LaViolette & Alessandra Lacorazza, U.S., 2022, 11 min.) What is intended as a nice sailing day trip with two sisters, slowly unravels along with our protagonist Ryan's emotional state.

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Jimmy in Saigon

SUNDAY, MAY 7, 4:15 PM

## JIMMY IN SAIGON

Peter McDowell, U.S., 2022, 90 min., documentary

This poignant documentary begins as a personal exploration into the mysterious death and radical life of Jimmy McDowell, an American 24-year-old Vietnam veteran who died as a civilian in Saigon in 1972, when filmmaker and the subject's brother Peter McDowell was only five. While investigating Jimmy's drug use and sexuality, Peter takes us from the US Midwest to Vietnam, France and back home again. In his quest to get to know his brother, he uncovers a hidden romance, new family ties, and a remarkable global love story. **Director McDowell, a native of Champaign, Illinois, will attend the screening and conduct a post-film Q&A.**

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Monica

SUNDAY, MAY 7, 7:00 PM

## MONICA

Andrea Pallaoro, U.S., 2022, 106 min., narrative

Terrific performances elevate this emotionally charged portrait of Monica (Trace Lysette, "Transparent"), a trans woman who returns home after a long absence to help care for her dying mother, Eugenia (Patricia Clarkson, "High Art"). Reconnecting with her mother and the rest of her family for the first time since leaving as a teenager, Monica embarks on a path of healing and acceptance. She is full of complexities: enigmatic in public yet vulnerable in private; modest yet flamboyant; distant then caring, always with a whiff of pain surrounding her. Her mother pretends not to recognize her and has her own contradictions and worries about being a burden on others. A quiet, layered, and ultimately powerful story of a fractured family that explores universal themes of abandonment, aging, acceptance, and redemption.



In from the Side

MONDAY, MAY 8, 7:00 PM

## IN FROM THE SIDE

Matt Carter, U.K., 2022, 132 min., narrative

Minute for minute, you won't find a more handsome-packed film this year than British rugby drama *In from the Side*, a surprisingly moving sports-team story slathered in sweat, streaked with mud, and dripping with sexuality. As a "B Squad" of gay athletes tries to overcome inexperience and push past rivalries to score an elusive win, a secret affair simmers among them. Romantic Mark (puppy-eyed Alexander Lincoln) finds himself unable to avoid the blazing appeal of teammate Warren (Alexander King), who sets off every red (or in rugby, yellow) flag: the cocky attitude, the emotional unavailability, the long-term boyfriend.

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Blue Jean

TUESDAY, MAY 9, 7:00 PM

## BLUE JEAN

Georgia Oakley, U.K., 2022, 97 min., narrative

Conservative government is about to pass a law stigmatizing gays and lesbians, forcing Jean, a closeted gym teacher, to live a double life. She is a respected member of staff during the week, and on the weekend she slips into Newcastle's gay scene. As pressure mounts from all sides, the arrival of a new girl at school catalyzes a crisis that will challenge Jean to her core. Bridging times past with issues that are still current, the film resonates intellectually and emotionally thanks to thoughtful direction and authentic performances. A powerful, necessary film that is both deeply humane and sympathetic. Due in no small part to the engrossing cast performances the viewer feels every iota of Jean's anxiety.

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Please Baby Please

WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 7:00 PM

## PLEASE BABY PLEASE

Amanda Kramer, U.S., 2022, 95 min., narrative

Suze (Andrea Riseborough) and Arthur (Harry Melling) live an outwardly traditional lifestyle as the Lower East Side's most bohemian Eisenhower-era couple. The pair's cage is rattled when they encounter a gang of sadistic, leather-clad greasers known as The Young Gents. Suze and Arthur's initial thrust of fear evolves into confusion of thrill and lust. This sudden exposure to flamboyant masculinity unlocks the realization that Suze is an aspiring leather daddy who mistook herself for a housewife. Meanwhile, the perpetually sensitive Arthur's obsessive gender trouble goes sideways when Young Gent Teddy (Karl Glusman) sparks a queer desire. This wild ride presents a full spectrum of underground fetishism and seductive musical asides featuring alluring cameos by Demi Moore and Cole Escola. Visionary filmmaker Amanda Kramer pegs the hetero hellscape of the 1950s in a witty, syncopated riff that plays like a high camp emission from your wildest dreams - bathed in silk, sweat, and bisexual lighting.

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**Membership Form on Following Page**

**CINEMA ST. LOUIS**



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**Classic French Film Festival** | April 14-30  
**QFest St. Louis Film Festival** | May 4-10  
**St. Louis Filmmakers Showcase Film Festival** | July 21-30  
**St. Louis International Film Festival** | Nov. 9-19

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SCAN ME

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Cinema St. Louis' mission is to engage the St. Louis region through educational programs, cultural connectivity, and curated film exhibitions.

Join today online at [cinemastlouis.org/membership](http://cinemastlouis.org/membership) or fill out the form below



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