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BALTIMORE QFEST ANNOUNCED! LGBT FILM FESTIVAL TO UNREEL IN JUNE, 2012

*International LGBT Film Festival will feature over 60 films in several venues throughout the city.
Also featured will be Artistic Achievement Award winner, panel discussions, receptions and parties.
TLA Releasing to be Presenting Sponsor*

Baltimore, MD (January 10, 2012) - After more than a decade without one to call its own, Baltimore will once again host a major international LGBT film Festival. **Baltimore QFest Presented by TLA Releasing** will run four days, from Thursday, June 21 through Sunday, June 24, 2012 in several venues throughout the city. In addition to the film premieres, there will be panel discussions, Q&As with filmmakers and actors, receptions, Opening and Closing Night parties and an Artistic Achievement Award event honoring an individual who has made their mark in LGBT films.

The new festival's signature sponsor is TLA Releasing (www.tlareleasing.com), one of the country's best known distributors of LGBT film. The festival's operations will be run by the Philadelphia Cinema Alliance, a nonprofit 501 (c)(3) and presenter of **Philadelphia QFest** (July 12-23, 2012), the largest LGBT film festival on the East Coast.

Projected venues include the Charles Theater, the Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA), Creative Alliance at the Patterson and the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Community Center of Baltimore and Central Maryland (GLCCB).

Baltimore QFest's Operations Manager will be **Chris Lines** who founded Baltimore's Queer Film and Video Festival (1998-99); **Raymond Murray** (ray@qfest.com) of Philadelphia QFest and TLA Entertainment will be the Artistic Director; **KJ Mohr** of Creative Alliance will assist in programming and special events; **Mario Duhon** will be Chair of the Host Committee; and the GLCCB will play a key player in volunteer outreach, PR and advertising.

A printed program guide will be available June 1st and online at www.qfest.com. Further information on major films and guests will be announced throughout the spring.

"The GLCCB is excited to help bring this much-desired LGBT Film Festival to Baltimore," said GLCCB Board President **Trevor Ankeny** and continued, "With so many great venues, welcoming nightclubs and restaurants, and a thriving LGBT community (plus that quirkiness that makes our city so special) the time is right for Baltimore QFest. And what better time then on the heels of Baltimore Pride (June 15-17)?"

Recent Baltimore transplant KJ Mohr, who programs films at the Patterson said, "Considering all of the fantastic queer films out there and the community importance of film festivals, I was shocked to find that Baltimore did not have a LGBT Film Festival. This launch will be an important and invaluable addition to both the queer and film landscapes of the city, bringing the vibrant and stable LGBT festival that this major city needs."

Mr. Murray, Artistic Director of Philadelphia QFest since 1995 observes, "Baltimore and Philadelphia are not only close in proximity, but also quite similar in feeling. Both are vibrant working class cities with strong local flavors and identities, and both are often over-shadowed by their larger neighbors: DC and New York. Murray professes he's no film-peddling carpetbagger. "I've been going to Baltimore since my teens," he enthused. "It is one of my favorite places to visit – and it's only a quirk of birth that I am not a Baltimorean."

"TLA unearths and spotlights some of the most amazing, extreme and crazy gay films in the world. Gay or straight, buy tickets to this festival immediately." – **John Waters**