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From Gay Romance in Texas to Lesbian Aliens on Earth, the 17th QFest Highlights the Best in LGBT Cinema!

The 12-day Festival Announces Opening/Closing Night Films, Centerpiece Screenings, and Guests

-Thursday, July 7, 2011 – Monday, July 18, 2011-

Philadelphia, PA – June 17, 2011 – Take a group of ABBA-singing drag queens, add a set of gay twins obsessed with Dolly Parton, mix in a man who fakes cancer to get a little sympathy love from his ex, sprinkle with two Iranian women who break taboos – stir it all up and what do you get? QFest 2011!

Running from July 7, 2011 to July 18, 2011, the 17th edition of Philadelphia QFest launches with two Opening Night Features: The Philadelphia Premiere of ***Judas Kiss*** and the Sundance hit ***Codependent Lesbian Space Alien Seeks Same***. Twelve days later it closes with the screening of Casper Andreas' ***Going Down in La-La Land***.

With 107 films that include 43 feature films, 9 documentaries, and 55 short films QFest will screen 7 World Premieres, 1 North American Premiere, 2 U.S. Premieres, 16 East Coast Premieres, and 26 Philadelphia Premieres, QFest is bringing the very best in LGBT comedy, drama, documentaries, shorts, horror and thrillers. From Luxemburg to Lebanon, QFest boasts films from over 28 countries - reflective of an International independent queer filmmaking movement that continues to thrive.

"2011 is proving to be a banner year for international GLBT filmmaking. Not only is there a strong American independent presence in the programming, but films from countries like Iran, Iceland, Algeria and Latvia demonstrate the surge in international queer filmmaking," Founder and Artistic Director Ray Murray commented.

The co-Opening Night selection, ***Judas Kiss*** tells the story of a washed-up filmmaker who travels back in time and meets his college-aged self. It features 2006 QFest Rising Star Charlie David and the 2011 QFest Rising Star Award recipient Sean Paul Lockhart. ***Judas Kiss*** screens at 7:15pm at the Ritz East Theatre 1. Immediately following the film, Director **J.T. Tepnapa, Charlie David and Sean Paul Lockhart**

If a time-travelling gay man isn't your thing, maybe space-travelling lesbians are, as the co-Opening Night feature is ***Codependent Lesbian Space Alien Seeks Same*** screening – a hilarious first date film that takes three tall, bald, lesbian space aliens and drops them on planet Earth (New York) with the critical mission to break a few hearts and overcome 'big feelings' -

screening at 7:30pm at the Ritz East Theatre 2. With the film comes the opportunity to dress space-tastic and to meet actress **Lisa Haas** and producer **Laura Terruso** immediately following the film. You won't want to miss it!

What's an Opening Night without a party? Festival goers will head over to the Loews Philadelphia Hotel 33rd floor for a night among the stars and with the best views of the city, from 9:30pm-12:30am. Combination Ticket: for Film & Party: \$40 for Public; \$35 for PCA Members; 21+ ID Required; Film Only: \$15, sold day of at the Ritz East, based on availability; Party Only: \$35 Public; \$30 PCA Members; at the door; 21+; ID Required; Film and Party are FREE with Festival Badge.

QFest will close on Monday, July 18 at 7:00pm with ***Going Down in La-La Land*** at the Ritz East Theatre 1. Based on the novel by actor Andy Zeffler (*The Fluffer*) and directed with startling intensity by Casper Andreas, *Going Down in La-La Land* is a probing, sexy, uncensored, scandalous, outrageously funny exposé about the lengths to which an actor will go to not only survive, but to get ahead in Hollywood. Andreas will be on hand after the film for a Q&A.

Festival attendees will then say farewell to another year of incredible LGBT cinema with a Glitz & Glam Party and Awards Ceremony – complete with a men's bathing suit fashion show by Metro Men, models by House of Talent PA, and 'Boys of Summer' from PhillyGayCalendar.com - at TRUST, 249 Arch St · 9:30pm – 12:30am. Combination Ticket: for Film & Party: \$35 for Public; \$30 for PCA Members; 21+ ID Required; Film Only: \$15, sold day of at the Ritz East, based on availability; Party Only: \$25 Public; \$30 PCA Members; at the door; 21+; ID Required; Film and Party are FREE with Festival Badge.

This year's Centerpiece Screenings include:

- **eCupid:** This witty romance from J.C. Calciano (*Is It Just Me?*) is a quirky unpredictable tale of gay love in the digital era.
- **Longhorns:** A raucous sex comedy which tells the story of a "straight" Texas fratboy who realizes he may be queer. Directed by David (*Redwoods*) Lewis.
- **Jitters:** The U.S. Premiere of this energetic coming-of-age drama of a closeted teen boy and his group of trouble-prone friends.
- **Circumstance:** This year's Sundance Audience Award: Dramatic winner is a suspenseful, political love story starkly juxtaposes public lives and lives lived away from the omnipresent surveillance by the state.
- **Jaime and Jesse Are Not Together:** From the director of last year's festival hit *Hannah Free* comes this romantic musical comedy that tells the story of two queer girls whose codependent friendship is fraught with erotic tension.
- **Mangus!:** This richly dark comedy chronicles a teenage boy's pursuit (in a wheelchair) of his dream: to be a star.

And what's a festival without a few stars? QFest is bringing over 60 filmmakers and actors to Philadelphia for this year's festival including:

- **Judas Kiss:** Director JT Tepnapa and actors Charlie David, Sean Lockhart

- **Co-Dependent Lesbian Alien Seeks Same:** Actress Lisa Haas and producer Laura Terruso
- **Going Down in La-La Land:** Director Casper Andreas
- **eCupid:** Director J.C. Calciano and Noah Schuffman
- **Longhorns:** Director David Lewis and executive producer Lewis Tice

Musicals and documentaries – relationships and religion – QFest is bringing 12 days of cinematic magic from directors and producers fueled by a passion for outstanding LGBT filmmaking. This is a year not to be missed!

Screening locations for QFest 2011 are the Ritz East Theatre 1 and 2 and the Ritz at the Bourse. For more information on QFest, visit www.qfest.com or call 267.765.9800; and follow the festival on Twitter: [@QFEST](https://twitter.com/QFEST) and Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/qfestphilly>.

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