



# *news release*



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**ANNOUNCING THE RAINBOW REELS QUEER FILMS FESTIVAL**  
MARCH 13-16 2003.  
WATERLOO ONTARIO

The Rainbow Reels Queer film festival would like to announce the 2003 festival to be held March 13-16 in Waterloo, Ontario. The 2003 festival is the third annual queer film festival dedicated to exploring queer issues and experiences on film by reflecting on a diverse selection of films and videos that will challenge the audiences perception of queer people while providing an entertaining view into queer communities.

This year's festival will be showcasing 10 films by Canadian and International filmmakers exploring a diverse set of topics from sex-trade to the story of a transgendered Thai volleyball team. This year's festival includes 6 Canadian films including those produced by filmmakers with ties to the local area. The filmmakers of three of the films are expected to be in attendance.

Festival organizer Steven Singer says, "I am very excited about the number of filmmakers who are planning on attending the screening of these films. This year's festival will have more people involved in the production of the films available to talk about their film or answer questions than any previous year."

The first Rainbow Reels festival was started two years ago to bring a wider selection of queer themed films to the area. The festival is sponsored by WPIRG - The Waterloo Public Interest Research Group, a student-funded organization at the University of Waterloo working on social and environmental issues. This year's festival is being co-sponsored by The UW Federation of Students. The opening screening is being held at the Princess Cinema in Waterloo with the other screenings taking place at the University of Waterloo.

The festival opens at 9:20PM Thursday at the Princess Cinema with Sandi Simcha DuBowski's silence shattering film Trembling *Before G-D*, a documentary on the stories of gay and lesbian Hasidic and Orthodox Jews. The film, which won the best documentary prize at the Berlin film festival, will be followed by a discussion on Judaism and homosexuality. Steve Singer says, "We are very happy that we were able to bring this film to the KW area and am looking forward to the lively discussion that I am sure will follow."

Friday night at the University of Waterloo will feature a video starting at 6:00PM by transsexual sex-worker Mirha-Soleil Ross entitled *Yapping Out Loud: Contagious Thoughts from an Unrepentant Whore* followed by a question and answer session hosted by Mirha- Soleil. The transgendered theme will continue with Cuba-Canadian Edimburgo Cabrera's documentary *DIVAS: LOVE ME FOREVER*, a look at the lives of six black female impersonators screening at 8:00PM.

Friday night will finish off with a 9:30 showing of Erin Greenwell's film *21* exploring issues of family, school and lesbian love that 15 year old Leigh must navigate on the road to adulthood.

The youth theme continues on Saturday at 6:00PM with *Rewriting the Script: A Love Letter to our Families* a film about the lives of queer South Asian youth in Toronto. Members of the cast will be in attendance and will be discussing the film following its showing.

Following the discussion Denis Langlois' French Canadian film (with English subtitles) *Danny In The Sky* will be shown. *Danny In the Sky* tells the story of Danny, a model and stripper who is the son of a gay father. Danny struggles to discover his own sexuality in a world expecting him to be gay.

Saturday night will close off at 9:15PM with Canadian Phillip Pike's groundbreaking film *Songs of Freedom* exploring the lives of gay and lesbians in Jamaica. The film tells the story of courageous individuals who struggle to live in a notoriously violent, homophobic society that regards homosexuality as taboo.

Sunday, the final night of the festival, will feature three Canadian films: Ruthann Lee's *Ohm-Ma*, a loving video letter from a young, queer Korean-Canadian woman to her mother, and Graham Hollings' short film *Canada: Sperm Bank of Satan* explores Canada's relationship with the U.S, will be shown at 7:00pm followed at 7:30, the sneak preview of an independently produced Canadian Queer Comedy. Filmmakers of both the latter films are expected to be in attendance and will be available to answer questions following the screening.

The festival will close off with an 8:45 screening of *Iron Ladies*, a film based on the real life story of a Thai championship winning volleyball team made up of transsexuals, transgenders and drag queens.

The Friday night screenings will take place in POETS at the University of Waterloo and the Saturday and Sunday films will be shown in the Davis Centre room 1302 at the University of Waterloo. For more information, see the festival website at <http://www.rainbowreels.org>

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