

I'm 22 years old and I'm an exchange student from Spain. Going to college here means a fun time, lots of hard work and getting to see new things. It also means a chance to really be myself. My parents are supportive of my sexuality, and my host family here is a couple with two teenage boys. Nobody cares if they're gay or straight. I'm excited to be part of a world where that can be true.

I am the future of the LGBT community. And I read about that future every day on my Android tablet. Because that's where I want it to be.















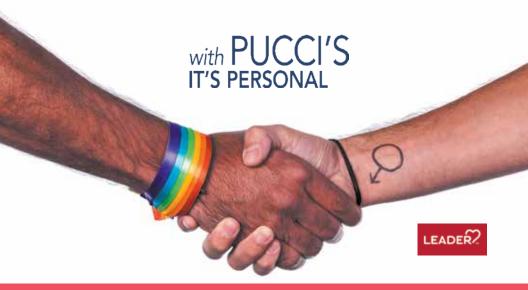
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#### **Table of Contents**





Standing together with the LGBTQ community. It's a commitment we made 30 years ago. Since then, we've contributed over \$50 million and countless team member volunteer hours to organizations that are making a difference. We're proud to stand together with the LGBTQ community now, and we promise to be there always.

Visit wellsfargo.com/standingtogether to watch our video series about inspiring organizations that are having a positive impact in the LGBTQ community, and learn how you can help.



#### **Festival Pricing and Packages**

#### **Individual Ticket Pricing**

\$15 General \$10 Matinee

#### \$70 VIP Festival Pass

- -Includes all films
- -Reception with complimentary pre-screening hors d'oeuvres, beer, wine, and bubbly
- -Early entry (5:30pm on Friday & Saturday; 5:00pm on Sunday)

#### \$50 Film Only Festival Pass

- -Includes all films, (no pre-screening receptions)
- -Must bring photo ID with same name as on the pass, to each screening



#### \$35 One-Day Film+Reception Pass

-Attend all films and evening reception for one single day

#### \$15 Student Film Only Festival Pass

- -Includes all films (no pre-screening receptions)
- -Must bring current/active student ID with photo, with the same name as the pass, to each screening

#### Tickets & Passes available:

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#### **President's Message**



Celebrating our 27th anniversary, BENT-Sacramento International LGBTQ Film Festival is a spectacular community and cultural event consisting of three days of LGBTQ film, local food, beer, wine, and live entertainment!

Sacramento is growing and evolving; so are we. We have updated our Festival name from SIGLFF, the acronym was a little hard to pronounce. Gay and Lesbian (the GL part) no longer encompassed who we are as a community. LGBTQ does. "SILGBTQFF" is even harder to pronounce. Clearly, a change was needed. Why BENT? BENT is not straight. BENT is queer. BENT is an inclination or natural talent. BENT is determined to do something. BENT is who we are.

What we have not changed is our mission to bring you the best LGBTQ films. We do indeed hope that the name update and beautiful new visuals attract new audience members and engage with our longtime supporters! We have expanded our program again this year to bring you even more great LGBTQ films. Join us at the historic Crest Theatre in downtown Sacramento, CA, Friday, Saturday, Sunday, October 12, 13, 14, 2018 for some of the best queer cinema of 2018. Six feature-length films and 18 short films will be showcased.

BENT opens this year with two features: Freelancers Anonymous, a madcap romp which blends romantic comedy and workplace politics; and 1985, Yen Tan's (Pit Stop) nostalgic and gorgeously realized new ensemble drama with standout performances. Molly Shannon slyly shines as Emily Dickinson in the humorous drama Wild Nights with Emily, our Centerpiece narrative film.

We are presenting three unique documentaries: one of extra special interest to dog lovers, *Life in the Doghouse*; and two to celebrate October as LGBTQ History Month: *Dykes, Camera, Action!* which investigates the history of queer women filmmakers; and *50 Years of Fabulous*, which looks at the life of Jose Sarria and the half-century of activism of the Imperial Court.

BENT has 18 short films this year, ranging from expectation-shattering, heart-wrenching, sexually fluid, to just plain steamy! Numerous filmmakers and special guests are expected to attend, and we are looking forward to some vibrant post-show Q&As with them (please check Facebook and our website for updates at www.bentfilmfest.org).

For the second year, our Audience Awards carry cash prizes for the winning filmmakers (\$750 for best feature-length film, \$500 for best short film). Your attendance and your votes support LGBTQ films and filmmakers—please join us for as many films as you can and help us spread the word to your friends—none of this can happen without you in the audience amongst our community and our allies.

See you at The Crest Theater!

Michael Dennis
BENT Board President



#### **Board and Volunteers**



#### **BOARD MEMBERS**

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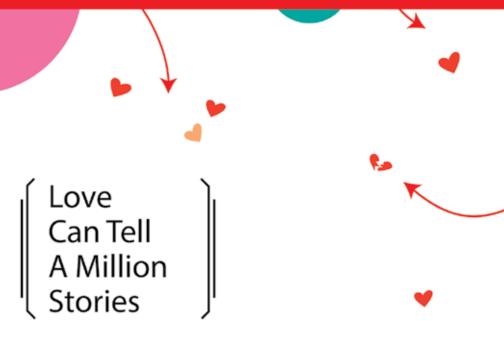








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Enjoy the film festival!

#### **Opening Night**



#### FREELANCERS ANONYMOUS

Director: Sonia Sebastián 2018 | USA | 81 min

Friday, October 12; 7:00pm

Expected Guests: Writer/Actor, Lisa Cordileone; Actor, Jennifer Bartels

Rushing to get to her pointless job every morning sucks, and Billie's (Lisa Cordileone, Easy Abby) not putting up with it anymore. After telling everyone to f\*ck off, she unfortunately has to break the news to her fiancée (Natasha Negovanlis). When she meets a ragtag group of women who are also looking for employment, Billie is struck with the idea of cultivating their skills to create an app, by designing a prototype for an investor launch party. Billie takes the risk of her life, lying to her fiancée in order to buy time until her plan for *Freelancers Anonymous* can come to fruition. When the wedding and the launch party are booked for the same day, it all comes to a head.

This screwball romp blends romantic comedy and workplace politics from director Sonia Sebastián (*Girl Gets Girl*). *Freelancers Anonymous* features winning performances from Amy Shiels (*Twin Peaks: The Return*), Megan Cavanagh (*A League of Their Own*), and trans actress Alexandra Billings (*Transparent*) as Billie's hysterical robot-ball-obsessed boss.



#### **Opening Night**



#### 1985

Director: Yen Tan 2018 | USA | 85 min

Friday, October 12; 9:15pm

Coming home for Christmas after living in NYC for three years, Adrian (Cory Michael Smith, *Gotham, Carol*) struggles to reconcile his current life in with that of his religious, conservative family back in small town Texas. His father (Michael Chiklis, Emmy/Golden Globe winner, *The Shield*) is cold and distant, while his mother (Virginia Madsen, Academy Award Nominee, *Sideways*) presses him about meeting up with his childhood girlfriend. Adrian begins to feel the full weight of the choice before him: to be honest with his family about who he is and face the consequences, or to return to New York without revealing his truth.

Yen Tan's (*Pit Stop*) nostalgic and gorgeously realized new film features standout performances from the ensemble and is shot on exquisitely-rendered black-and-white 16mm film captures the period brilliantly.





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#### **Enjoy the Festival!**

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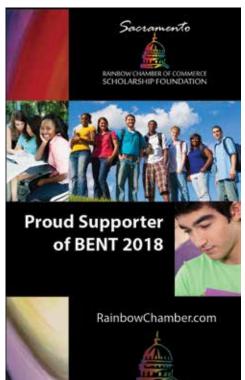


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#### **Saturday Matinee**



#### LIFE IN THE DOGHOUSE

Director: Ron Davis 2018 | USA | 80 min

Saturday, October 13; 12:30pm

Life in the Doghouse tells the inspiring and uplifting life stories of Danny Robertshaw and Ron Danta and the remarkable work they do at Danny & Ron's Rescue, based out of their home in South Carolina. What began as a side project to their horse training work, grew rapidly after Hurricane Katrina hit the South, which dramatically impacted the number of shelter dogs in desperate need for homes. Ten years and 10,000 dogs later, their unique community-based approach to life and dog rescue will capture hearts and inspire millions to make the right choices and adopt from shelters when adding a new canine to their families. The film gives a dog's-eye view of Danny and Ron's Rescue as the couple welcomes up to 75 abused and abandoned dogs to live with them in their home, ensuring they are in a comfortable living environment until they can find their forever home.

Co-presented with The Front Street Animal Shelter.
Please see bentfilmfest.org for details on the pet adoption event to happen in front of The Crest Theatre on Saturday, October 13.



#### **Centerpiece Narrative Film**



#### WILD NIGHTS WITH EMILY

Director: Madeleine Olnek 2018 | USA | 84 min

Saturday, October 13; 3:45pm

Molly Shannon slyly shines as Emily Dickinson in the humorous drama *Wild Nights with Emily*. The poet's persona, popularized since her death, became that of a reclusive spinster – a delicate wallflower, too sensitive for this world. This film explores her vivacious, irreverent side that was covered up for years — most notably Emily's lifelong romantic relationship with another woman (Susan Ziegler). After Emily died, a rivalry emerged when her brother's mistress (Amy Seimetz) along with editor T.W. Higginson (Brett Gelman) published a book of Emily's poems. Ingeniously subversive and a bit surreal, this seriously Independent film is a crowd-pleasing treat from acclaimed director Madeleine Olnek (*The Foxy Merkins; Codependent Lesbian Space Alien Seeks Same*).

#### **Centerpiece Documentary**



#### DYKES, CAMERA, ACTION!

Director: Caroline Berler 2018 | USA | 58 min

Saturday, October 13; 7:00pm

Lesbians didn't always get to see themselves on screen. But between Stonewall, the feminist movement, and the experimental cinema of the 1970s, they built visibility, and transformed the social imagination about queerness. Filmmakers Barbara Hammer, Su Friedrich, Rose Troche, Cheryl Dunye, Yoruba Richen, Desiree Akhavan, Vicky Du, film critic B. Ruby Rich, Jenni Olson, and others share moving and often hilarious stories from their lives and discuss how they've expressed queer identity through film. *Dykes, Camera, Action!* is a history of queer cinema from the women who made it happen.

(Preceded by)

#### A GREAT RIDE

Directors: Deborah Craig & Veronica Deliz 2018 | USA | 33 min



A Great Ride looks at older lesbians—Sally Gearhart, Brenda Crawford, and several women who live in an LGBTQ-friendly retirement community in Santa Rosa—aging with dynamism and zest for life, determination, and humor.



#### SATURDAY NIGHT SHORTS PROGRAM

Saturday, October 13; 9:15pm

\*some content is for mature audiences

Please see website for list of expected guests



#### Coming of Age Director: Doug Tompos 2018 | USA | 8 min

The loss of innocence can come at any age. In the afterglow of sex, a generation gap opens between two men as they struggle to define trust in the age of open marriage and NSA hookups.



#### No More We/ Vi Finns Inte Längre

Director: David Färdmar 2018 | Sweden | 15 min

One morning it's all over "There's No More We", says Hampus ice cold to his fiancé Adrian. For Hampus it's a total relief to break up from their destructive relationship, for Adrian it's devastating. Adrian and Hampus now have to live through their last week together, before the final day arrives.



#### Top 10 Places to Visit in Sao Paulo/ Top 10 Lugares em São Paulo

Director: Akira Kamiki 2018 | Brazil | 14 min

On a Sunday, two photographers walk around São Paulo trying to connect with the city, and slowly fall in love with each other.



#### Monogamish

Director: Nardeep Khurmi 2017 | USA | 14 min

Monogamish follows Sagar and Nishi and explores the dynamics and strength of two non-traditional couples, in which agreements are made and boundaries are challenged.



#### SATURDAY NIGHT SHORTS PROGRAM (Con't.)

Saturday, October 13; 9:15pm

\*some content is for mature audiences

Please see website for list of expected guests



#### Pre-Drink

Director: Marc-Antoine Lemire 2017 | Canada | 23 min

Two twentysomethings—newly transitioned Alexe and her gay best friend Carl—pregame at their apartment before meeting a group of old friends out on the town, not realizing the overflowing glasses of wine will lead them to a new stage in their relationship, in this Toronto International Film Festival award winner.



#### **Dropping Penny**

Director: Jed Bell 2018 | USA | 8 min

This comedy is about a day in the life of two trans dogwalkers in San Francisco.



#### Noodle/Nouille

Director: Benoît Masocco 2017 | France | 6 min

Hard to get hard when you're straight and you cheat on your girlfriend for the first time—with a lesbian who wants revenge...



#### Morning After Director: Patricia Chica

Director: Patricia Chica 2017 | Canada | 15 min

This poignant and moving coming-of-age tale perfectly captures the challenges and nuances of five friends who decide to explore their sexual identities and realize that they may not fall within society's clean-cut lines.







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#### **Closing Film**



#### *50 YEARS OF FABULOUS*

Director: Jethro Patalinghug 2018 | USA | 82 min

Sunday, October 14; 3:00pm

Expected Guests: Director, Jethro Patalinghug, Producer, Marc Smolowitz,

David Lassman, Executive Producer

50 Years of Fabulous recounts the rich history of the Imperial Council, the oldest LGBTQ charity organization in the world. Founded in San Francisco by renown activist, drag queen and performer Jose Sarria, the Council has helped shaped LGBTQ life and social history in San Francisco and beyond throughout the last five decades. Sarria was also the first openly gay man to run for political office in the United States in 1961.

From its genesis as a critical public space for the community and capacity building of LGBTQ San Franciscans, to its vital role in the advocacy for LGBTQ human rights, 50 Years of Fabulous documents the full scope of the organization's historical evolution up to its contemporary struggle in finding relevance -- both in the wake of social progress it has helped foster, and in light of a newly empowered political coalition committed to rolling back a half-century of civil rights achievements.



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#### **SUNDAY NIGHT SHORTS PROGRAM**

Saturday, October 14; 6:30pm

Please see website for list of expected guests



#### Angela Wilson, A Butcher's Story Director: Gaby Scott

2018 | USA | 7 min

Meet Angela Wilson, a female butcher and the owner of Avedano's, an independent butcher shop in the rapidly shifting landscape that is San Francisco.



#### Fig Tree

Director: Ana Quintanilla 2018 | USA | 5 min

A woman confronted with the absence of her lover is haunted by memories of passion, tenderness, and pain that pierce the margins of her reality.



#### What Do You See

Director: Michael Bonner 2017 | Australia | 6 min

Born in Malaysia and now living in Australia, Sereena, a transfeminine dancer, performer, and photographer, poetically discusses her upbringing and trans (in)visibility—questioning the viewer, "What do you see?"



#### Masks

Director: Mahaliyah Ayla O 2018 | USA | 22 min

A closeted medical student risks being outed to her family on the same evening a masked gunman opens fire at a gay nightclub.



#### SUNDAY NIGHT SHORTS PROGRAM (Con't.)

Saturday, October 14; 6:30pm

Please see website for list of expected guests



#### Marguerite

Director: Marianne Farley 2017 | Canada | 20 min

An aging woman and her nurse develop a friendship that inspires her to unearth unacknowledged longing and thus help her make peace with her past.



#### Happy Birthday, Marsha!

Directors: Tourmaline Gossett & Sasha Wortzel 2017 | USA | 14 min

This hybrid short doc imagines iconic transgender performer and activist Marsha "Pay It No Mind" Johnson in the hours before the 1969 Stonewall riots; it stars Independent Spirit Award winner Mya Taylor (*Tangerine*).



#### Grace and Betty

Director: Zoe Lubeck 2016 | USA | 12 min

When 23-year-old Grace decides to come out of the closet to her grandmother Betty, she discovers something she wasn't expecting.



#### Pop Rox

Director: Nate Trinrud 2017 | USA | 12 min

Jesse, an Iranian American teenage girl, decides to tell her best friend, Roxanne, that she's in love with her



#### Don't Judge Me, It's Rude.

Director: Taylor Whitehouse

2018 | USA | 5 min

Don't Judge Me, It's Rude is about an emotionally nuanced reconnection at a tree stump.









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