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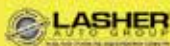
SACRAMENTO
LGBTQ FILM FESTIVAL



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“

My girlfriend and I want to get married next year. We met in school, and we're determined to be together.

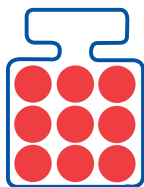
The problem is that I live here and she doesn't. She can't visit me for long periods of time because of harsh immigration laws. And our future together in this country depends on how our leaders rewrite those laws. So it's important to us that we understand how future elections could impact LGBT citizenship.

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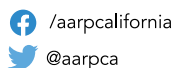
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For more information about AARP's work locally, contact Kris Ritualo at KRitualo@aarp.org.



BENT

SACRAMENTO

LGBTQ FILM FESTIVAL

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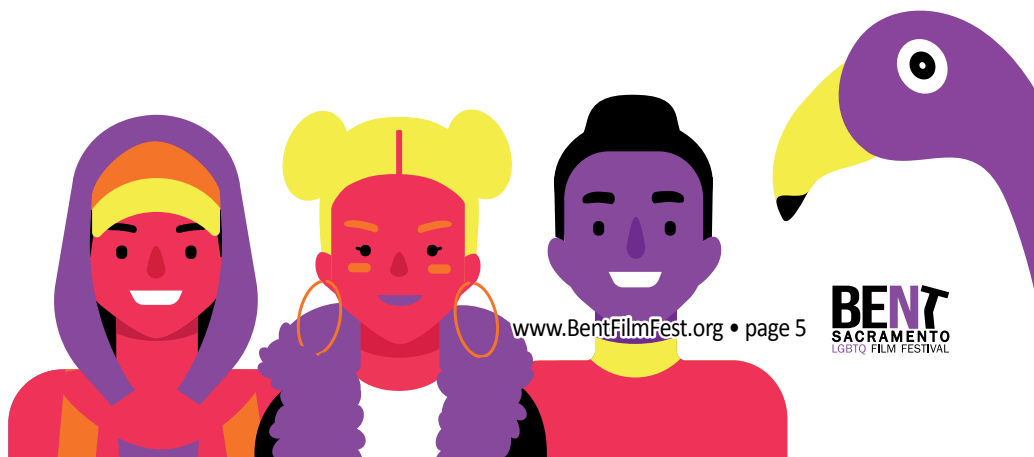
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Festival Pricing and Packages



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:

BentFilmFest.org

Ticketfly.com

Ticketleap.com

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President's Message

Welcome to BENT LGBTQ Film Festival. Thanks to you, our audience, volunteers, board, sponsors, and artists, for helping us get to where we are today and contributing to our rich history. For 28 years, we have been screening at the beautiful Crest Theatre, and will continue to do so; but we are trying something new and will be closing the festival at the Esquire IMAX Theatre. Also new, our VIP pre-show parties will be offsite at La Cosecha (Friday, Saturday) and at Mayahuel (Sunday). Each only a block away, we look forward to some great food.

BENT
SACRAMENTO
LGBTQ FILM FESTIVAL

Festivals are for fun and entertainment; they make us feel good and bring us together. But they also make us think, challenge our perspective, and create discussion about our lives, in North America and also around the world.

Our opening night film *GOOD KISSER* should make some of you feel good as Director Wendy Jo Carlton (*JAMIE AND JESSIE ARE NOT TOGETHER*) returns to our festival with this provocative film. The untold stories of LGBT refugees and asylum seekers who have fled intense persecution from their home countries and who are resettling in the United States are told in *UNSETTLED: SEEKING REFUGE IN AMERICA*. Never underestimate the power of music to bring people together, as the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus embarks on a tour of the American Deep South to bring a message of music, love and acceptance, to communities and individuals confronting intolerance in *GAY CHORUS DEEP SOUTH*. Another hurdle for trans rights could quite literally be the track and field hurdle. Transgender student athletes are put in the spotlight in the documentary *CHANGING THE GAME*. Our closing night film *LES CREVETTES PAILLETEES (THE SHINY SHRIMPS)* is a colorful sports comedy about a homophobic swim champion forced to train a gay waterpolo team, a fun film with heart.

And of course we have short films, sexy, disturbing, funny; you won't be bored. The sweet film *HERE WITH YOU*, was produced with an entirely trans cast and crew.

Director Candy Guinea screened her first film (*LIFE Y POZOLE*) with us in 2013. She returns with the delightful *MARIPOSA*. We love this trans man's work, Jake Graf continues to tell trans stories with *LISTEN*. We have previously shown some of his other films *DUSK*, 2017; *CHANCE*, 2015; *BRACE*, 2014.

As always, we will have some of the talented filmmakers and actors here to tell their stories. Let's come together to contemplate, talk about, and celebrate our lives, loves, and community!

Now for the hard part.....This is my last year with the film festival. I have loved my time with the festival, but it is time for a change. I will mentor, assist, and do what I can for whoever takes over. The nominees for President are.....you?

The festival will continue to evolve and grow, but our goal to bring smart, challenging, and thought-provoking programs to our community will always stay the same.

Michael Dennis
BENT Board President



Board and Volunteers



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Outword Magazine – Fred Palmer and Ron Tackitt for all their work and love & support.



www.BentFilmFest.org • page 10



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WEDNESDAY

POWER HOUR 11-12

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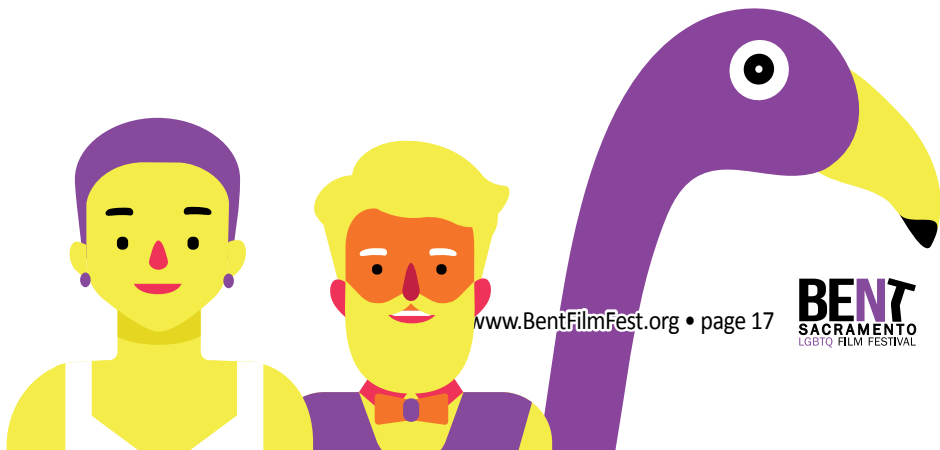
FRIDAY OCTOBER 11 • 7:00 pm



GOOD KISSER

Director: Wendy Jo Carlton
2019

Director Wendy Jo Carlton (*JAMIE AND JESSIE ARE NOT TOGETHER*) returns to our festival with this provocative film. Jenna (Kari Alison Hodge) agrees to a sexy weekend fling with materialistic girlfriend Kate (Rachel Paulson) and the worldly Mia (Julie Eringer). But as the night unfolds, Jenna realizes she's bitten off more than she can chew, and the love triangle begins to crack. Careful what you wish for.



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BENT
SACRAMENTO
LGBTQ FILM FESTIVAL

FRIDAY OCTOBER 11 • 9:15 pm

SHORTS PROGRAM



DESPERATELY SEEKING SHAVERS

Director: Christina Radburn

2018 | Australia | 6 min 4 sec

A look at the role hair plays in expressing and actualizing identity for trans and gender diverse people.



WORD IS BOND

Director: Alexandra Mastoon

2018 | USA | 12 min 47 sec

A day in the life of a closeted rapper in 90s LA unravels Hip-Hop's best kept secret as the consequences of identity threaten his place in his own community and family.



GIRLS WEEKEND

Director: Kyra Sedgwick

2019 | USA | 12 min 11 sec

A queer daughter (writer Ali Liebegott) returns home to Las Vegas for a "girls weekend" with her estranged, homophobic sister (Amy Landecker) and people-pleasing mother (Linda Lavin), her gun-toting dad (Ken Jenkins) lets it slip that her mother's cancer is back with a vengeance, forcing her to decide whether or not she can rejoin her family.



THE HANDYMAN

Director: JC Calciano

2019 | USA | 8 min 41 sec

A single, gay man schemes creative ways to have a hunky repairman continue to have to come back to his house to fix things, but suddenly the fantasies become more than either of them expected.

FRIDAY OCTOBER 11 • 9:15 pm

SHORTS PROGRAM



MISDIRECTION

Director: Carly Usdin

2018 | USA | 13 min 58 sec

A queer comedy about a college freshman who falls in love with close-up magic as an escape from her unrequited crush on her roommate and her recently-diagnosed OCD.



SiCKO!

Director: Bader Al Shuaib

2019 | USA | 10 min 50 sec

A conservative Muslim man living in America finds his daughter fooling around with a friend of hers in the bedroom resulting in a fight of ethics between the father and mother, threatening dangerous consequences.



LOLO

Directors: Leandro Goddinho & Paulo Menezes

2019 | Germany | 13 min 40 sec

Lolo is an openly gay 11-year-old boy trying to finally convince Max, his first love, to go public with their relationship at the school party. Max also wants a relationship but Lolo might not be the one. Lolo's best friends Elena and Toby help him to overcome this situation and give him the support that he needs.



SWITCH

Director: Marion Renard

2018 | Belgium | 17 min 43 sec

During her first sexual experience (full frontal nudity), a teenage girl discovers she has a disturbing skill, a skill which will lead her to reconsider notions of sexual orientation and gender... A queer, pop and fantastic tale about emergence of sexuality and self-acceptance.

FRIDAY OCTOBER 11 • 9:15 pm

SHORTS PROGRAM



THE ONE YOU NEVER FORGET

Director: Morgan Fox
2018 | USA | 8 min 25 sec

Carey, a 14 year old African American boy nervously prepares for his first dance as his parents reminisce about their own. When Carey's mother (Tasha Smith, *THE TEMPTATIONS*) tasks Carey's father (Malik Whitfield, *THE EMPIRE*) with getting a picture of Carey and his date (Owen D Stone, *COBRA KAI*), a moment of tension arises as Carey becomes elusive and tries to thwart his father's objective. When his father finally sees Carey's date, he has to process everything quickly, and still act in time to get the picture he promised to Carey's mother.



HERE WITH YOU

Director: Nona Schamus
2018 | USA | 6 min 28 sec

Here With You follows a new trans romance that quickly blossoms into a deeper connection. This film was produced with an entirely trans cast and crew, and offers a look at a healthy romantic relationship between two trans people.



RUBY

Director: Phoebe Wilson-Lee & Cyril Meyer
2019 | Australia | 7 min

Ruby executes an audacious plan to finally be alone with her crush, leaving a trail of destruction in her wake.



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SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12 • 3:45 pm



UNSETTLED SEEKING REFUGE IN AMERICA

Director: Tom Shepard
2019 | USA | 84 min

UNSETTLED is a feature-length documentary revealing the untold stories of LGBT refugees and asylum seekers who have fled intense persecution from their home countries and who are resettling in the United States. As new leadership in America continues to demonize immigrants and drastically restrict the flow of refugees and asylum seekers into the U.S., UNSETTLED humanizes a group few people know who are desperately trying to create new and safer homes. Subhi, a gay Syrian refugee, who, having survived multiple death threats from Islamic terrorists, beatings by a homophobic father, and a nation devastated by war, finds his voice as a leader for refugee rights in the U.S. Cheyenne and Mari, a lesbian couple from Angola, who, having faced brutal harassment from family and neighbors, seek uncertain asylum through the American immigration courts while pursuing their dreams of becoming musicians. Junior, a gender non-conforming gay man from the Congo, struggles to find even basic housing and livelihood while exploring a more fluid gender identity.

UNSETTLED takes place largely in the San Francisco Bay Area, historically a beacon for dislocated LGBT people in the U.S. While cultural narratives of a “queer promised land” still persist, the film asks whether Northern California is even practical as a place to resettle LGBT refugees, especially given the enormous gentrification, increased costs of living, and scarcity of housing in recent years—a set of problems present in many American cities. What are the costs persecuted immigrants pay for seeking refuge in America? And how are everyday Americans stepping forward to help those most in need?

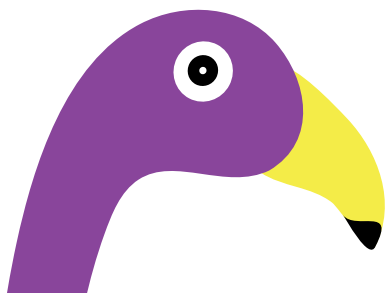
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12 • 7:00 pm



GAY CHORUS DEEP SOUTH

Director: David Charles Rodrigues
2019 | USA | 100 min

In response to a wave of discriminatory anti-LGBTQ laws in Southern states and the divisive 2016 election, the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus embarks on a tour of the American Deep South. Led by Gay Chorus Conductor Dr. Tim Seelig and joined by The Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir, the tour brings a message of music, love and acceptance, to communities and individuals confronting intolerance. Over 300 singers traveled from Mississippi to Tennessee through the Carolinas and over the bridge in Selma, performing in churches, community centers and concert halls in hopes of uniting us in a time of difference. The journey also challenges Tim and other Chorus members who fled the South to confront their own fears, pain and prejudices, on a journey towards reconciliation. What emerges is a less divided America, where the lines that divide us—faith, politics, sexual identity—are erased through the soaring power of music, humanity and a little drag.



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12 • 9:15 pm

SHORTS PROGRAM



LISTEN

Director: Jake Graf

2018 | United Kingdom | 4 min 20 sec

Featuring young trans actors in trans roles, 'Listen' honestly and frankly depicts some of the myriad struggles experienced daily by trans children and teenagers.



MARIPOSA

Director: Candy Guinea

2017 | USA | 17 min 20 sec

Director Candy Guinea screened her first film (LIFE Y POZOLE) with us in 2013. She returns with this little gem. A couple confronts the physical and emotional challenges of trying to get pregnant all while being queer.



ANTES QUE SEJA TARDE (BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE)

Director: Leandro Goddinho

2019 | Germany | 15 min

Brazil, the first week of 2019. Lawless land. A new president takes office in a scenario of fanaticism, prejudice, and violence. Locked in a hotel room, two teenagers decide to change the course of their lives. Before it's too late.



CAROLUS MAGNUS

Director: Paul Gleason

2018 | USA | 8 min

Boys will be boys. An altercation develops between a teen boy and his mother.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12 • 9:15 pm

SHORTS PROGRAM



LIKED

Director: Pedro Bitar

2019 | USA | 15 min 53 sec

Felipe Guzman, an insecure gay teen, invites the “cool kids” for a sleepover hoping to finally be accepted into the coveted boys’ club. To his dismay, he finds himself on the peripherals of their inside jokes and homophobic jabs. As the kids grow more intoxicated, Guzman realizes he’s not the only one with secrets and being accepted into the group might cost him more than a few drinks.



BABY

Director: Jessie Levandov

2019 | USA | 7 min 57 sec

Baby is a coming-of-age queer love story following a young man in the Bronx on a Saturday.



BOBBIE AND SHEELAGH

Director: Barb Taylor

2018 | Canada | 12 min

Bobbi overcomes her own fears when she meets a mythological creature. This animated short has been created with thousands of hand painted cells and pencil crayon backgrounds.



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12 • 9:15 pm

SHORTS PROGRAM



WILDFIRE

Director: Bretten Hannam
2018 | Canada | 12 min

Stalked by his abusive white father, a rebellious Mi'kmaw runaway meets a two-spirit teenager drawn to his journey. As he learns Mi'kmaw language and culture from his new companion a deeper bond begins to grow between them.



WELCOME TO THE BALL

Director: Adam Vincent Wright
2018 | USA | 4 min 53 sec

A child learns sign language in hopes of making a new friend.



HOME GIRL

Director: Poonam Brah
2018 | United Kingdom | 11 min 57 sec

Plunged into despair after her mother's death and burdened by things left unsaid, Roya is forced to face up to her true desires.



SEXTPERT ADVICE

Director: Tobit Raphael
2019 | USA | 8 min 16 sec

Albert is a sweet, young man who must traverse today's new rules of obtaining sex through a phone. Revealing photos. Flirty snapchats. Emojis. Enter Sydney. A gay millennial gets an extra boost from a handsome and seasoned professional to get the "D."



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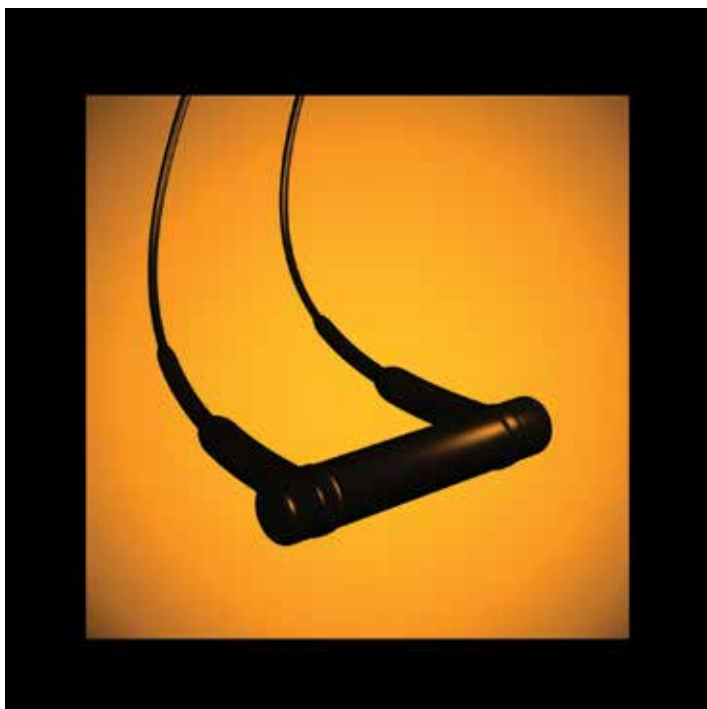
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The inspiring true story of Carole King's amazing rise to stardom as one of the most successful solo acts in popular music. Songs include "I Feel The Earth Move," "One Fine Day," "(You Make Me Feel Like) A Natural Woman," and more.

FRI-SUN **JAN 24-26**



A waitress dreams of finding a way out of her small town— by pouring her heart into the pies she creates. Originally directed by Tony Award winner Diane Paulus (*Hair*, *Pippin*, *Finding Neverland*).

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Progress Through Partnership

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13 • 3:00 pm



CHANGING THE GAME

Director: Michael Barnett
2019 | USA | 95 min

This dynamic documentary takes us into the lives of three high school athletes—all at different stages of their athletic seasons, personal lives, and unique paths as transgender teens. Their stories span across the U.S.—from Sarah, a skier and teen policymaker in New Hampshire, to Andraya, a track star in Connecticut openly transitioning into her authentic self. The film centers on Mack Beggs, who made headlines last year when he became the Texas State Champion in wrestling and was heralded as a hero by some while receiving hate and threats from others. Trans athletes have to work harder than their cisgender peers in order to thrive in their field while also having the courage and resilience to face daily harassment and discrimination. The kids in this film have found sports as a way to channel the negativity around them into a positive, to gain a sense of self-worth and validation. This film is their urgent, articulate plea for acceptance.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13 • 6:30 pm



LES CREVETTES PAILLETEES (THE SHINY SHRIMPS)

Directors: Cédric Le Gallo & Maxime Govare
2019 | France | 103 min

Matthias, an Olympic champion at the end of his career, makes a homophobic statement on TV. His punishment: coach the Shiny Shrimps, a flamboyant and amateur gay water polo team. They have only one thing in mind: to qualify for the Gay Games in Croatia where the hottest international LGBT athletes compete. It's the start of a bumpy and joyful ride... Faster, Higher, Stronger.



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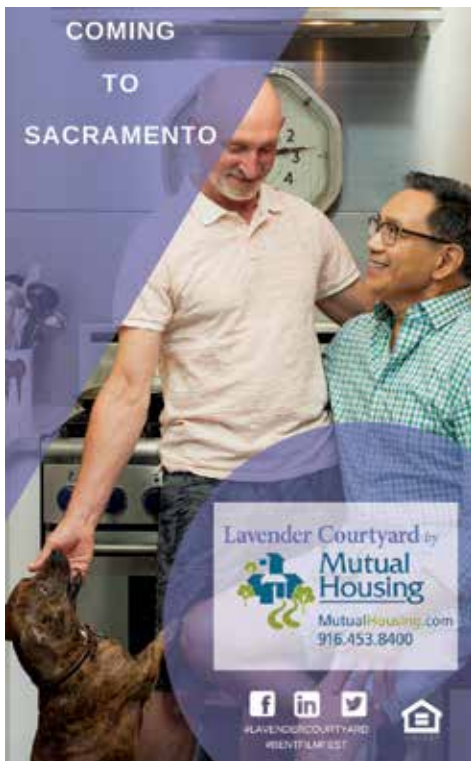
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