



## **Complete Program – Reeling: The 38<sup>th</sup> Chicago LGBTQ+ International Film Festival**

**Thursday, September 24 – Sunday, September 27**

**BREAKING FAST - Opening Night Film**

**Directed by Mike Mosallam**

**UNITED STATES | 2020 | 92 minutes**

Director Mike Mosallam expands his 2015 short film into a compelling romantic comedy, exploring with touching nuance subjects of life, loss, family, and faith. Successful West Hollywood doctor Mo observes the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, breaking fast every night with the traditional Iftar meal. Stewing in leftover heartbreak from his last relationship, Mo encounters non-Muslim Kal at a party, setting off an unlikely spark across cultures. Together, Kal and Mo break fast every night, falling in love over their similarities and differences. As the two men grow closer, traditionalist Mo finds himself withdrawing into his own stubborn worldview. Can Mo embrace a life with Kal, and find happiness in himself as a gay Muslim in America? Director Mosallam delves into the divide between American and Muslim cultures with tenderness and wit, giving audiences a modern screen couple to fall in love with.

**Thursday, September 24 – Sunday, September 27**

**THESE THEMES**

**Directed by Jett Garrison**

**UNITED STATES | 2020 | 82 minutes**

THESE THEMES is a queer comedy that centres the experiences of trans and nonbinary people of color. The series opens with Vero (Victoria “Vico” Ortiz), a Latinx nonbinary dog walker turned educator of cis-heterosexuals, asking Asher (Shaan Dasani), a South Asian trans man for help – telling you what about would be giving away too much. These two friends eventually end up becoming close with the central character, Gretchen (Gretchen Wylder) and her gay best friend, Kevin (Nick Park), through a series of hilarious events. Gretchen, a newly realized lesbian, turns to Vero for guidance as she finds herself attracted to folx across the gender spectrum, while Nick and Asher slowly develop feelings for each other. In delving into the lives of these four characters, THESE THEMES shows how ideas of gender permeate every facet of our lives – from dating to gender reveal parties to job promotions. The means of the series is laughter, wit and genuineness and the aim is to educate.

**Thursday, September 24 – Sunday, September 27**

**T11 INCOMPLETE**

**Directed by Suzanne Guacci**

**UNITED STATES | 2020 | 105 minutes**

An injury to the 11th spinal vertebrae, or T11 incomplete, connects Kate and Laura. Kate, a home health aide and recovering alcoholic and Laura, a young paraplegic patient who was injured in a car accident, build a close relationship through the injury. When Kate falls in love with Laura and then betrays her trust, both are showing their T11 incomplete – Kate metaphorically and Laura literally. Both are damaged and severed but not numb. The complicated relationship between Kate and Laura reveals the damage all humans experience and the work that has to be done to feel again.

**Friday, September 25 – Monday, September 28**

**CICADA**

**Directed by Matthew Fifer and Kieran Mulcare**

**UNITED STATES | 2020 | 96 minutes**

After a string of unsuccessful and awkward encounters with women, Ben returns to the world of dating men. He starts the summer of 2013 off with a string of booze fueled hookups all around the city of New York. He wasn't expecting his world to change, but then suddenly, there was Sam. This deliciously adorable, tremendously romantic dramedy is generously sprinkled with wickedly clever humor and guarantees butterflies in your stomach with every kiss they share. As we watch Ben and Sam's relationship develop, we find that both men struggle with swirling

memories of trauma that haunt them: Sam, a man of color struggling with extremely deep wounds and Ben, who's reminded of his childhood trauma during the height of the Sandusky trial. Together Sam and Ben continue to dig deeper into each other's souls and as their intimacy grows, their pasts crawl to the surface against the backdrop of a cicada summer.

**Friday, September 25 – Monday, September 28**

**THE STRONG ONES (LOS FUERTES)**

**Directed by Omar Zúñiga Hidalgo**

**UNITED STATES | 2020 | 98 minutes**

An imposing landscape of vast forests, rivers, and fog frames director Omar Zuniga Hidalgo's intimate Chilean romance. Fleeing a hostile home life, gay architecture student Lucas visits his sister in remote South Chile. Amidst the endless fog of the small fishing town, Lucas meets Antonio, a boatswain on a local fishing boat. Despite their vastly different backgrounds, the two young men find themselves drawn into an intense and beautiful romance. However, Lucas and Antonio's passion may be snuffed out by the hostilities of the conservative town and its inhabitants. A rarity in Chilean and Latin American cinema, this film is an unflinchingly gay celebration of bodies in the heat of forbidden love.

**Friday, September 25 – Monday, September 28**

**COCOON (KOKON)**

**Directed by Leonie Krippendorff**

**GERMANY | 2020 | 95 minutes**

Exploring fraught social dynamics between teenage girls, director Leonie Krippendorff delivers a sharp-eyed and authentic adolescent romance. In culturally mixed Berlin, shy fourteen-year-old Nora lives with her alcoholic mother but dotes on her older and cooler sister, Jule. When Nora very publicly gets her first period in front of Jule and her friends, only Romy offers sympathy and kindness. This film follows the blissful romance Romy and Nora plunge into, capturing the out-of-depth feelings churning within Nora as she experiences her first love. Set in the sweltering heat of the Berlin summertime, this film is portrait of a transformative summer in one girl's life

**Friday, September 25 – Monday, September 28**

## **END OF THE WORLD – Shorts Program**

From diagnoses to disasters to the apocalypse, these shorts take us on an emotional journey through life's most uncertain and unexpected times. Capturing anxieties that we can relate to in this global pandemic, the protagonists in these moving stories, confronted with the frailties of their existence, find the only way to cope with or transcend the hand life deals them is through human connection.

In **BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE** two young singers panic as the streets outside their hotel room fill with revelers on the eve of homophobe Bolsonaro's election in Brazil. In **EXCHANGE**, an agoraphobe fears the human contact for which he yearns, while an HIV diagnosis forces the coming out of a bisexual young man in **IF THEN ELSE**. In the aftermath of Hurricane Maria, two neighbors find they need each other in **THE GUST**; and in **ESCAPING THE FRAGILE PLANET**, a romantic affair starts just as the world is about to end.

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

**Directed by Leandro Goddinho**

**BRAZIL | 2019 | 15 MINS**

Brazil, the first week of 2019. 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.

### **EXCHANGE**

**Directed by Conlan Carter**

**UNITED STATES | 2019 | 11 MINS**

Javier has become an agoraphobe following his recent HIV diagnosis. His friend and caretaker, Ashley, begs for him to reenter the outside world, but, strangely, Javier has already arranged for the outside world to come to him via a Grindr hookup. However backwards it may seem, Javier is determined to make contact with another person in whatever small and strange way he can.

### **IF THEN ELSE (DESPUES TAMBIEN)**

**Directed by Carla Simón**

**SPAIN | 2018 | 26 MINS**

Alex comes to a village bar looking for someone. Edu is dancing like a madman, unaware of the fact that a special someone has come to look for him.

### **THE GUST (LA RÁFAGA)**

**Directed by Edgar Garcia**

**PUERTO RICO | 2020 | 30 MINS**

Weeks after Hurricane María devastated Puerto Rico, a lonely middle-aged man finds himself obsessing over his neighbor, a young closeted athlete who insistently pursues his attention. The movie deals with fragility issues of living in a forgotten paradise now half-torn, half-supported, with half-citizens, half-gods, and half-demons.

### **ESCAPING THE FRAGILE PLANET**

**Directed by Thanasis Tsimpinis**

**GREECE | 2020 | 17 MINS**

A few hours before the world ends, two men have an unexpected encounter, while a strange pink fog is spreading throughout the city. Their romantic affair will only last for a day. But in a broken world filled with fear, sharing a few intimate moments seems to be enough for them to feel safe, against the impending end.

**Saturday, September 26 – Tuesday, September 29**

### **TAHARA**

**Directed by Olivia Peace**

**UNITED STATES | 2020 | 77 minutes**

Carrie and Hannah have been best friends for their whole lives. But when a former Hebrew school classmate of Carrie and Hannah's commits suicide and the girls attend the funeral and talk-back session together, Carrie finds her life turned upside through a kissing exercise with Hannah. Confused, anxious and manipulated, the two best friends must find a way to navigate through the complications of lust, faith and social pressure.

**Saturday, September 26 – Tuesday, September 29**

### **GIVE OR TAKE**

**Directed by Paul Riccio**

**UNITED STATES | 2020 | 103 minutes**

When Kenneth, a man with complex layers of personality and paths in life, suddenly dies, his son and boyfriend, who are practically strangers, are left living in the same house. Martin, the son, and Ted, the boyfriend, have to navigate their way around one another while they both get a grip on the truths and memories of their passed loved one. With comedy and realness at the forefront of the film, the story of Martin and Ted explores love, loss, connection and acceptance. In the end, we learn that there's a comfort to the complexities we allow each other, that love can always surprise us, and that a person is far more than the stories we tell about them.

**Saturday, September 26 – Tuesday, September 29**

**GOODBYE MOTHER (THƯA MẸ CON ĐI)**

**Directed by Trinh Dinh Le Minh**

**VIETNAM | 2019 | 107 minutes**

Get the tissues ready for tears of laughter and heartache as you travel into the world of Trinh Dinh Le Minh's heart-melting romantic dramedy, GOODBYE MOTHER. After living in the United States for several years, Nâu returns to his childhood home in the picturesque countryside of Vietnam. With him is Ian, Nâu's handsome "friend" that his traditional family instantly warms to. Nâu's family badgers him with questions of marriage and children, oblivious to the true purpose of his return to Vietnam: to come out as gay. Acutely aware of his family's expectations, Nâu feels the weight of his entire family's future on his shoulders and procrastinates revealing the truth. At the crack of dawn, Nâu's alarm goes off, a poignant reminder that he must now slip away and leave the warmth of his boyfriend Ian's side for his own cold empty bed. Showering together offers the only safe haven for the two to unleash their desires after an endless day of repressing their queerness. Luckily, Nâu's lovable grandma becomes a surprising ally and shines a light of hope on the idea that traditional patriarchal values can never compete with the strength of a loving bond.

**Saturday, September 26 – Tuesday, September 29**

**KEYBOARD FANTASIES – THE BEVERLY GLEN-COPELAND STORY**

**Directed by Posy Dixon**

**UNITED KINGDOM | 2020 | 62 minutes**

The Beverly Glenn-Copeland Story envelops you in a hug from the first shot; a hug filled with music, stories of the past and present, and experiences of loneliness, perseverance, radical love and importantly, rhythm. As a sci-fi obsessed woman living in near isolation, Beverly Glenn-Copeland wrote and self-released Keyboard Fantasies in Huntsville, Ontario back in 1986. Recorded in an Atari-powered home-studio, the cassette featured seven tracks of a curious folk-electronica hybrid, a sound realized far before its time. Three decades on, the musician – now Glenn Copeland – began to receive emails from people across the world, thanking him for the music they'd recently discovered. Courtesy of a rare-record collector in Japan, a reissue of Keyboard Fantasies and subsequent plays by Four Tet, Caribou and more, the music had finally found its audience two generations down the line. Keyboard Fantasies: The Beverly Glenn-Copeland Story tells the time-travelling tale of this mystical musician and vocalist, as the

present finally catches up with him and he embarks on his first international tour at the age of 74. Capturing five decades of relentless musical output and shifting manifestations of gender and sexual identity, set against a backdrop of profound social change, the film celebrates the unpredictable rhythms of life. A lullaby to soothe those souls struggling to find their place in the world.

**Preceded by:**

**NAOMI REPLANSKY AT 100**

**Directed by Megan Rossman**

**UNITED STATES | 2020 | 6 MINS**

In this intimate short documentary, renowned poet Naomi Replansky reflects on her life and career as she celebrates her 100th year.

**Sunday, September 27 – Wednesday, September 30**

**THE WHISTLE**

**Directed by Strom Miguel Florez**

**UNITED STATES | 2019 | 57 minutes**

Scattered across the city, the lesbian youth of Albuquerque in the '70s and '80s were an integral part of its landscape. Even while they resided far away from each other, these queers were able to identify one another through secretly shared glances and of course, the whistle. If a whistle was understood and exchanged then that meant you had found someone like you and maybe even a potential friend and/or partner. The whistle was also used as a sign of acknowledgement, as a way to make a fellow queer feel seen. As the whistle spread throughout the city – one could hear it at carnivals, malls and the high school cafeteria – more and more queers were introduced to the community. So where did the whistle come from? Who came up with the idea? You will have to watch the film to find out

**CARO COMES OUT**

**Directed by Brit Fryer and Caro Hernandez**

**UNITED STATES | 2020 | 12 minutes**

Cuban American writer Caro Hernandez is on a mission: to come out as gay to her entire Cuban family, the majority of whom reside in her native Miami.

**Sunday, September 27 – Wednesday, September 30**

**ARE WE LOST FOREVER**

**Directed by David Färdmar**  
**SWEDEN | 2020 | 104 minutes**

Hampus and Adrian's on-again off-again relationship gets the final nail in the coffin one morning when Hampus finally works up the courage to reveal his love has fizzled out for good. Since they were in a long-term relationship thought to last forever, so becomes the long process of their breakup. The walls where pictures of them together once hung become increasingly bare, the pillow that once steadily carried the scent of Hampus begins to weaken, and old videos of a romantic holiday now seem a fleeting dream. As the story unfolds the two are both pushed further apart but fate seems to continue to find ways of bringing the men together. Although they are broken up, lingering are the feelings of longing and loss. Are we lost forever?

**Sunday, September 27 – Wednesday, September 30**

#### **PIER KIDS**

**Directed by Elegance Bratton**  
**UNITED STATES | 2019 | 84 minutes**

Returning to the pier he first encountered as a homeless youth, Director Elegance Bratton (MY HOUSE on Viceland) presents an unfiltered documentary mosaic of young queer people of color struggling with homelessness on New York City's historic Christopher Street Pier. Immersed in New York's drag scene, Krystal is a black transgender woman making a meager living through sex work. When Krystal is drawn back home to her birth mother, she discovers a hostile home unwilling to accept her identity. Back on the Pier, Caspar is a young black man struggling with his sexuality, living a life of homelessness and vulnerability. Caspar's friend, Desean, is caught between two risky solutions to his own homelessness: commit a crime and face jail time, or intentionally become HIV+. Exploring the complicated legacy of the Stonewall Riots, this is a raw panoramic portrait of a New York City queer landmark and its at-risk denizens, living in the shadow of injustices left unchallenged by historic revolution.

**Sunday, September 27 – Wednesday, September 30**

#### **TAIWAN EQUALS LOVE**

**Directed by Sophia Yen**  
**TAIWAN | 2020 | 90 minutes**



In TAIWAN EQUALS LOVE, public debate surrounding the legality of same-sex marriage plays out in the personal lives of three couples: Jovi and Mindy, who are raising Jovi's child from a previous relationship; Tien-Ming and Hsiang, an elderly gay couple who have been living with together for over 30 years; Gu, who moved to Taiwan to live with their partner Shinchi, and then began to face increasing financial and societal pressure. These three sets of partners show how a lack of legal recognition of their relationships puts a strain on the possibilities of a secured future. Who will take care of Hsiang, afflicted with Parkinson's, if something happens to Tien-Ming? Will Mindy ever be able to adopt Jovi's daughter? How will Gu and Shinchi work toward financial security? These are some of the questions the documentary poses as a challenge to those fighting against marriage equality. And of course the overarching question the film asks is even after the battle for marriage equality is won, will prejudices within society at large ever change?

**Monday, September 28 – Thursday, October 1**

**FAMILY MEMBERS (Los miembros de la familia)**

**Directed by Mateo Bendesky**

**ARGENTINA | 2019 | 86 minutes**

In this elusive and offbeat exploration of familial relationships, director Mateo Bendesky explores grief as it festers in a kind of purgatory. When their mother mysteriously dies, siblings Lucas and Gilda travel to their hometown on the Argentinian coast in order to dispose of her remains: a single prosthetic hand. Lucas is a slim and pale seventeen-year-old with an emerging fascination with bodybuilding, leading him to local Guido. The two pursue a relationship as Lucas's sister Gilda struggles with her own issues. She is twenty-years-old, and newly discharged from rehab with an intense interest in spirituality. The two siblings, stranded on the coast following a bus strike, must come to terms with their grief as they explore their own complicated relationship.

**Monday, September 28 – Thursday, October 1**

**RECUÉRDAME (REMEMBER ME) – Shorts Program**

This program of shorts offers an intimate glimpse into the hearts and homes of Latinxs reconnecting with friends, rekindling old flames, and trying to mend fractured families. Two best friends reunite after eleven years apart in MORA & CHENCHI. In TO BE WITH YOU, Alex finds a connection to the past when they visit L.A. to claim their father's ashes. Two siblings butt heads as they are forced out of their family home when their father gets deported in THE

HOUSE OF MARIANA Y GABRIEL. An unexpected visit from a former lover at her husband's funeral re-awakens Maritere's feelings in THE MISTRESS. Two strangers unknowingly connected through the same family meet and form a bond in ENCOUNTER.

### **MORA & CHENCHI**

**Directed by Diego Toussaint**

**UNITED STATES | 2020 | 20 MINS**

A Los Angeles based tween magazine writer returns to her hometown in Mexico where she re-encounters her high school best friend for the first time in eleven years. In the course of the day, they become their high school selves as old feelings come back.

### **TO BE WITH YOU**

**Directed by Elliott Feliciano**

**UNITED STATES | 2019 | 20 MINS**

Alex is in Los Angeles for 24 hours to claim their father's ashes. Along the way, Alex finds an old love, a beauty in the city, and a final connection to the past.

### **THE HOUSE OF MARIANA Y GABRIEL**

**Directed by Hena Ashraf**

**UNITED STATES | 2019 | 16 MINS**

Two siblings from L.A.'s Boyle Heights can't stand each other as they move out of their family home during the absence of their father.

### **THE MISTRESS (LA AMANTE)**

**Directed by Pati Cruz**

**PUERTO RICO | 2019 | 11 MINS**

During her husband's funeral, 70-year-old Maritere receives an unexpected visit from Angela, whose presence re-awakens feelings from the past.

### **ENCOUNTER (ENCUENTRO)**

**Directed by Ivan Löwenberg**

**MEXICO | 2019 | 18 MINS**

Arcelia takes care of her lifetime partner Lulu. In another part of the city, Julian struggles to explore his identity while living under the watch of his conservative mother. A sudden event will draw an unexpected path between Arcelia and the young Julian.

**Monday, September 28 – Thursday, October 1**

**GRACEFULLY**

**Directed by Arash Es'haghi**

**IRAN | 2019 | 60 minutes**

By day, a gentle farmer cares for cows and chicks, picks rice in a field, and is a loving father of six sons. By night, the farmer transforms into a magnificent dancer, donning spectacular homemade dresses. The only stage available for this exclusive performance is a dark alley behind the family's home. The notes of music flowing from the small jukebox and the lively energy of dance serve as a secret protest in the name of love and art after the 1979 Iranian revolution that banned dancing. Although their audience is gone now, memories of a past life performing all across the country as a drag star continue to live on in the now 80-year-old dancer's heart. While the name of our graceful subject is never revealed in this film (which is currently banned in Iran), we can imagine they are one of many unknown dancers who refused to live a life without their passion and are nostalgic for a once joyous time. "I've been wishing to dance on the stage for 30-40 years. But everywhere is the stage for the one who wants to dance."

**Preceded by:**

**10/01 QUEER NIGHTS**

Directed by Michalina Mrozek

GERMANY | 2020 | 30 MINS

Six queer fugitives take the stage in this beautiful theater-dance-project, using movement to connect their different migration paths and share each of their stories.

**Tuesday, September 29 – Friday, October 2**

**COME AS YOU ARE – Shorts Program**

This sometimes hilarious and sometimes poignant program of comedy and dramedy shorts is filled with embarrassing encounters, wacky holidays, first dates, and awkward moments.

A handyman gets hand(s)ier than expected in HONEY DO LIST. Becca, a Jewish girl on the verge of womanhood, must take the rite of passage and buy a “real bra” in THE BRA MITZVAH. Max is nervous to tell their date about their pronoun preference in THEY. Friends and family try to survive a tumultuous Thanksgiving in FIRST HOLIDAY. A teenage social media influencer struggles to keep a secret in PRIVACY PLEASE. In LAST SUPPER ZOOM, Jesus gathers his friends on Zoom for an important meal during quarantine. EGGHEAD & TWINKIE follows two best friends as one makes a painfully awkward journey out of the closet. A boy comes home to discover who his mother has become in HOME. A first time drag queen’s wardrobe malfunction goes viral in CINDY.

## **HONEY DO LIST**

**Directed by Nicholas Downs**

**UNITED STATES | 2020 | 8 MINS**

Walter's "honey do" list piles up and partner Frank is too busy to do the fixes, so a sexy handyman arrives with an agenda that isn't exactly on the fix-it list. Can Walter resist this new temptation?

## **THE BRA MITZVAH**

**Directed by Stacy Jill Calvert**

**UNITED STATES | 2020 | 10 MINS**

Becca is about to have her Bat Mitzvah, but her Nana insists she does one thing first: get a "real bra."

## **FIRST HOLIDAY**

**Directed by Matt Gold**

**UNITED STATES | 2020 | 12 MINS**

A recent widow tries to find some normalcy at her "first holiday" despite her not-so-normal guests.

## **PRIVACY PLEASE**

**Directed by Anjali Nath**

**UNITED STATES | 2020 | 13 MINS**

After a night of questionable public decisions, an influencer tries to keep her relationship with her ex private the only way she knows how: by releasing a music video.

## **THEY**

**Directed by Joe Garstki**

**UNITED STATES | 2020 | 11 MINS**

It's date night, but words, grammar, and dictionary definitions get in the way of Max telling Michael the truth about their gender-identity.

## **LAST SUPPER ZOOM**

**Directed by Madigan Burke**

**UNITED STATES | 2020 | 6 MINS**

In the time of Corona, Jesus meets virtually with his twelve closest buddies to share an important meal, but one of them messes it all up.

## **EGGHEAD & TWINKIE**

**Directed by Sarah Holland**

**UNITED STATES | 2019 | 8 MINS**

Egghead is in love with his best friend, Twinkie. Twinkie is a closeted lesbian. And tonight, she is coming out to her parents in the most casual way possible.

**HOME**

**Directed by Tyler Aaron**

**UNITED STATES | 2019 | 8 MINS**

A boy goes home to discover who his mother has become.

**CINDY**

**Directed by Rosanagh Griffiths**

**UNITED KINGDOM | 2020 | 13 MINS**

Cindy's first time performing in drag might be camp and outrageous, but it isn't exactly a success; her stage mishap goes viral.

**Tuesday, September 29 – Friday, October 2**

**LULU EN EL JARDÍN**

**Directed by Jose Luis Benavides**

**UNITED STATES/MEXICO | 2018 | 56 minutes**

Imagine having a conversation with your parent/parents about a source of great trauma. It would necessarily and radically change your understanding of the self, particularly if that trauma stems from a shared way of being. This kaleidoscopic ethnography unfolds a hidden family history told through poetry, music, reenactments, psychoanalytic texts, nightmares and dreams. Lulu en el Jardín recounts the saga of Lourdes Benavides and her family's many attempts to cure her of her lesbian desires as a teenager. Queering the archive through found footage, first person accounts and extensive research into Chicago-Read Mental Health Center, this intimate and experimental documentary uncovers the deeply personal story of Lulu's struggles with her identity after migrating from Mexico City to Chicago's westside during the 1970s. From intersecting histories of institutional racism, homophobia and sexism comes the voice of a tenacious Latina and her queer son's journey to retrace his mother's steps and treatment across a city.

Preceded by:

**THE CRUISING MONOLOGUES**

**Directed by Jose Batista-Ayala**

**UNITED STATES | 2020 | 24 MINS**

Four individuals share their deeper than just sex connection to “cruising,” the act of walking, driving around town, or browsing “hook up” apps in search of a little romance, usually of the gay, anonymous, casual, one-time variety.

## **HORSEY**

**Directed by Frédéric Moffet**

**UNITED STATES | 2018 | 9 MINS**

“Horses are lucky, they’re stuck with the war same as us, but nobody expects them to be in favor of it, to pretend to believe in it.” An allegory recycling images from the past, still relevant to the present moment.

**Tuesday, September 29 – Friday, October 2**

## **STONE | FRUIT**

**Directed by Brandon Krajewski**

**UNITED STATES | 2020 | 95 minutes**

When couple Manny and Russ call their marriage quits and get a divorce, what better way to celebrate than heading to Central Coast California together for wine, sun, a threesome, and more wine? Manny and Russ are two complex, confident gay men who are struggling to end their marriage while remaining friends. Enter Byron, their close friend, and it’s a post-divorce party! This witty, sharply-written anti-romantic comedy gives freshness to the classic break-up movie by bringing in a queer perspective and explores the complicated similarities that many couples, both queer and straight, face throughout their love story. STONE | FRUIT also explores the recent advent of same-sex divorce and provides a quiet and nuanced exploration of the dynamics of interracial relationships and the distinct issues facing a generation of gay men post-AIDS, post-marriage equality and post-recession.

**Wednesday, September 30 – Saturday, October 3**

## **I MISS YOU (TU ME MANQUES)**

**Directed by Rodrigo Bellott**

**BOLIVIA | 2019 | 105 minutes**

Heartbreak and loss drive I MISS YOU. Gabriel, a young Bolivian, falls in love with Sebastian, another young Bolivian he meets in New York. However, unable to bear the weight of the

homophobic culture of his native Bolivia and feeling censored, rejected and unloved by his family, Gabriel finds the way to escape his situation – suicide. After the unexpected tragedy, Sebastian and Jorge, Gabriel's father, are thrown on a cultural and self-knowledge journey, where each confronts their new reality in a radically different way. Jorge, unable to understand his son's secret gay lifestyle, travels from Santa Cruz to New York in search of answers and to confront Sebastian, whom he blames for the loss suffered by his family. Sebastian transforms his pain into a play touching the lives of all involved, and giving life to the memories of his beloved Gabriel.

**Wednesday, September 30 – Saturday, October 3**

**GALORE**

**Directed by Lazlo and Dylan Tonk**

**THE NETHERLANDS | 2019 | 74 minutes**

Drag sensation Lady Galore is about to undergo her biggest transformation yet. Fighting for visibility and solidarity, she has become vital to the European drag community. For Sander den Baas, the man behind Lady Galore, this devotion is starting to take its toll. Although his size is what makes Lady Galore stand out and brought her fame, Sander is struggling with more and more health problems. Gastric bypass surgery will help him regain a healthy weight. But what will remain of Lady Galore?

**Wednesday, September 30 – Saturday, October 3**

**WHO DO YOU TRUST – Shorts Program**

This smorgasbord of women's shorts takes us on a wild ride from the innocence of two teenage girls eyeing each other in a glistening pool in Switzerland to a post-apocalyptic zombie battleground in Germany. Who they can trust, whether with their hearts, their secrets, or their flesh, will determine the fates of these young protagonists as they navigate their way through the lands of love and survival.

A young Afghani refugee feels an instant attraction to a Swiss girl but tensions arise when her religious family finds out in AYANEH. An Icelandic teen with a medical secret reconnects with her childhood friend in XY. CC DANCES THE GO-GO features a little love story about go-go dancing. In FOREVER, two women realize that nothing lasts forever, not even love. Sam finds the courage to speak up to her girlfriend Dana about their relationship troubles in GIRLSAM. ECHO follows Falter and Mila as they try to survive a zombie apocalypse in Germany.

## **AYANEH**

**Directed by Nicolas Greinacher**

**SWITZERLAND | 2019 | 14 MINS**

Ayaneh is a young refugee from Afghanistan living with her family in Switzerland. One day at a public swimming pool she meets Anna and instantly feels attracted to her. As the relationship between the two women develops, Ayaneh is confronted with growing resistance from her religious family.

## **XY**

**Directed by Anna Karín Lárusdóttir**

**ICELAND | 2019 | 15 MINS**

Fifteen-year-old Lísá isolates herself from other girls her age and carries around a secret that she herself doesn't completely understand. When her childhood friend Bryndís reunites with her and starts asking questions, Lísá starts to discover the mystery of her own medical history.

## **CC DANCES THE GO-GO**

**Directed by Erin C. Buckley**

**UNITED STATES | 2019 | 11 MINS**

CC dances the go-go every Saturday night at Wanda's, the local lesbian bar. Nicky is an aspiring actor and professional freelancer who believes she's possibly made CC up.

## **FOREVER**

**Directed by Lydia Smyth**

**UNITED STATES | 2020 | 8 MINS**

Kacey tries to rekindle her first love with Sam, but comes to an inevitable realization.

## **GIRLSAM**

**Directed by John E. Kilberg**

**UNITED STATES | 2019 | 12 MINS**

During Hanukkah, Sam is left to watch her girlfriend's cat who goes missing. Sam loves her bike. Dana loves Sam. Sam loses Miiko.

## **ECHO**

**Directed by Shamila Lengsfeld**

**GERMANY | 2019 | 30 MINS**

Set in post-apocalyptic Germany, ECHO tells the story of the survivors Falter and Mila.



**Thursday, October 1 – Sunday, October 4**

**LONELY BEAUTIFUL BOYS – Shorts Program**

Whether it's mustering up the courage to approach a stranger, stepping on stage in drag for the first time, taking off your clothes for a photographer, or even fleeing your royal palace to be with the man of your dreams, these beautiful young men won't be alone for long.

Two strangers lock eyes in a cafe in GLANCES. In 1-1, Ayman's friends crash his first date with a new guy. Set in the 1970s, glam rocker Billy inspires his admirer to rebel against their conservative high school in ALL THE YOUNG DUDES. In PLANTONIC, a relationship blooms between a musician and a plant man he unearthed in his garden. A makeup crazed teenager ignores his brother's warnings and prepares for his first drag performance in BEAUTY BOYS. Bobby dances in his room and fantasizes being centerstage in GO, GO BOY! When Kevin models for a professional photographer, he gets more than he bargained for in CONTENT. An Indian prince hires a sculptor to keep him company in THE LONELY PRINCE. A young man gets drunk in a bar alone on Valentine's Day in ONE MORE PLEASE.

**GLANCES**

**Directed by Aleksei Borovikov**

**UNITED STATES | 2020 | 7 MINS**

Two strangers lock eyes in a cafe and have to deal with unexpected feelings.

**1-1**

**Directed by Naures Sager**

**SWEDEN | 2020 | 7 MINS**

Ayman's sex date with Jonas gets crashed by his friends, but the more the merrier!

**ALL THE YOUNG DUDES**

**Directed by William Stead**

**UNITED STATES | 2020 | 9 MINS**

Georgia, USA, 1973. Through his love of British glam rock, Billy rebels against his conservative high school, unleashing havoc upon the student body; inadvertently inspiring admiration from Jacob, a closeted glam child with a desire to walk on the wild side.

**PLANTONIC**

**Directed by Krit Komkrichwarakool**

**CANADA | 2020 | 15 MINS**

A unique relationship flourishes between an aspiring artist and a plant man growing in his garden.

### **BEAUTY BOYS**

**Directed by Florent Gouelou**

**FRANCE | 2019 | 18 MINS**

In their small village in the French countryside, 17-year-old Léo and his friends have been preparing their drag routine for months. Léo's older brother Jules doesn't share his sibling's passion, fearing he'll be the laughing stock among his pals. The night of the village's "open theater" event, against Jules' advice, Léo walks on the stage dressed in drag.

### **GO GO, BOY!**

**Directed by Oriana Oppice**

**UNITED STATES | 2019 | 6 MINS**

Young Bobby discovers his place in the world through his private world of dance.

### **CONTENT**

**Directed by Chris Coats**

**UNITED STATES | 2019 | 12 MINS**

When asked to model for a professional photographer, Kevin seems to be willing to do whatever it takes to get the perfect shot. As the shoot commences he proves to be a little out of his depth. When the line of professionalism quickly blurs, Kevin is left to wonder if it was all worth it.

### **THE LONELY PRINCE**

**Directed by Sunny Shivin**

**INDIA | 2020 | 15 MINS**

A lonely prince, drowning in melancholy, invites a sculptor to his court to create a piece of art just for him. As the sculptor spends his days chiseling away on a block of marble, the prince too discovers a new side of himself, for a brief moment forgetting the world of solitude that surrounds him.

### **ONE MORE PLEASE**

**Directed by Aleksei Borovikov**

**UNITED STATES | 2019 | 5 MINS**

A bittersweet story of a young man, Daniel, who goes to a bar to get drunk, feeling alone on Valentine's Day.

**Thursday, October 1 – Sunday, October 4**

## **A SKELETON IN THE CLOSET (TODOS TENEMOS UN MUERTO EN EL PLACARD O UN HIJO EN EL CLOSET)**

**Directed by Nicolás Teté**

**ARGENTINA | 2020 | 103 minutes**

An architecture student living in Buenos Aires, Manuel (Facundo Gambandé) returns to his hometown to celebrate his parent's wedding anniversary, but his ulterior motive is to ask his family for money to move to Denmark to be with his boyfriend. The last time Miguel saw his family, he came out of the closet, so things are tense as his parents find ways to avoid the conversation he needs to have with them. Matters only get worse when Manuel gets dumped long-distance by his boyfriend and his plans are scrapped. Left trying to figure out what to do with his life, Manuel finds solace in a sexual encounter with his former high school teacher, but moving back to his small hometown isn't an option for him as an out gay man. Feeling like the black sheep in his close-knit boisterous family, who all happily work together in their family-owned pasta factory, Manuel's trip home becomes an opportunity to reconnect with the family he thought he'd left behind.

**Thursday, October 1 – Sunday, October 4**

## **SOMETHING WICKED THIS WAY COMES – Shorts Program**

Something's "off" with some of the characters in these creepy and dark tales of temptation, obsession, and madness.

Strange things start to happen in an old movie theatre when a lonely projectionist gets caught in a mysterious woman's spell in LIMERENCE. Two men witness the horrors of a man and his doll in BLAME IT ON TOBY. In IMMORTAL, a scientist may have found the key to immortality, but at what cost?

### **LIMERENCE**

**Directed by Dan Pedersen**

**UNITED STATES | 2019 | 33 MINS**

An anxious, isolated film projectionist becomes obsessed with a stranger and falls headfirst into a terrifying fantasy.

### **BLAME IT ON TOBY**

**Directed by Richard Knight, Jr.**

**UNITED STATES | 2019 | 48 MINS**

A young gay couple faces horrifying consequences when they become ensnared with the eccentric Arthur Prentiss-Wilcox, one of the world's wealthiest men, and his doll Toby.

## **IMMORTAL**

**Directed by Natalie Metzger, Robert Allaire**

**UNITED STATES | 2020 | 11 MINS**

A brilliant geneticist is on the verge of a breakthrough that could change humanity, but when her experiment is discovered, she will have to make an impossible choice.

### **Thursday, October 1 – Sunday, October 4**

## **LUZ**

**Directed by Jon Garcia**

**UNITED STATES | 2020 | 119 minutes**

“Don’t associate with any homosexuals” were the words of warning Carlos offered his cellmate, Ruben. For Ruben, what began as a peculiar mentorship turns into a fierce romance with Carlos, the very cellmate he once feared. Like a sour candy, tough-guy Carlos slowly reveals the tender sweetness inside him. This heart-wrenching drama is a story of survival, not only for the lives of both men, but for their relationship as it transitions to the world outside their cell. Were they just filling the void of loneliness during lock up or truly locked in love?

### **Friday, October 2 – Monday, October 5**

## **SINGLE STREET (SINGEL 39)**

**Directed by Frank Krom**

**THE NETHERLANDS | 2019 | 90 minutes**

Monique (or Mo) has always been in control of her life – the oldest of three children, with a mother who died young, she had to take on a maternal role. While she may have a loving relationship with her family, her romantic life is lacking. As a cardiac surgeon married to her work, Mo is unable and unwilling to be tied down to one person. Her complete distaste for commitment is reflected in her choice of bed warmer, a married Canadian surgeon. Max, a gay man and artist cum social worker, bursts into her life one day asking to rent the first floor of her home. She agrees and their friendship grows from there. Max and Mo see each other through both the light and heavier moments of life, stumbling together as they figure themselves out. Max and Mo teach other important lessons. Though sex may not be in their future together, something else is, in this delightful story about accepting love and joy wherever you can find it!

**Friday, October 2 – Monday, October 5**

**EMA**

**Directed by Pablo Larraín**

**ARGENTINA | 2019 | 102 minutes**

Warning: Ema's torched heart will be sure to set audiences on fire in this incendiary drama about art, desire, and the modern family from director Pablo Larraín (JACKIE, NERUDA). After a shocking incident upends her family life and marriage to a tempestuous choreographer, Ema sets out on an odyssey of personal liberation. Larraín's masterpiece is a cinematic orgasm exploding with neon lights, reggaeton street dancers, dynamite sex parties, and bleach blonde hair. Everyone will want to get fired up with Ema so don't even consider giving this film the cold shoulder.

**Friday, October 2 – Monday, October 5**

**DRAMARAMA**

**Directed by Jonathan Wysocki**

**UNITED STATES | 2020 | 91 minutes**

In Jonathan Wysocki's feature directorial debut, a group of high school drama fanatics explore the ties of their friendship and their fears for the future. The year is 1994, and the setting is the conservative community of Escondido, California. Gene loves the theatre and the tight-knit community around it, but is terrified to come out to his friends. This all changes as Gene and his friends throw a final murder mystery slumber party on the last day of summer, giving him one last chance to be honest with the people he loves before they leave for college. However, the group receives an unexpected visitor, calling into question Gene and his friends' readiness for the future ahead of them. Wysocki's film is a love letter to late-bloomers, drama fanatics, and the intense friendships that only youth can bring.

**Friday, October 2 – Monday, October 5**

**ENDURING LOVE – Shorts Program**

Finding enduring love or even just fleeting moments of joy are the past, present, and future pursuits of these men who have lived through times when it was particularly difficult to be gay.

Weekly visits to his local barber shop are the highlight of Kamble's existence in a homophobic society in SUNDAY. A young man ventures out into England's underground queer night scene in 1965 when homosexuality was still illegal in THE ACT. After a near death experience, Henry reflects on his life by reliving memories of his past loves in HENRY'S HEART. In THE SUIT, a young man who steals a suit from a sick groom must atone for his sins. Family secrets and hidden identities are revealed in ACUITZERAMO. The life of Frank Vilardi, a retired accountant from Long Island, is chronicled in the documentary, PERFECTLY FRANK

## **SUNDAY**

**Directed by Arun Fulara**

**INDIA | 2020 | 10 MINS**

When the middle-aged Kamble makes his weekly visit to the neighborhood barber shop, it's not just for a shave. He can't wait to be touched by Jaan, the new barber. It's the highlight of his otherwise dull existence as a married man leading a dual life in a society that abhors homosexuality.

## **THE ACT**

**Directed by Thomas Hescott**

**UNITED KINGDOM | 2020 | 18 MINS**

It's 1965, the eve of decriminalization for acts of male homosexuality. Matthews, a young gay man at odds with the world, discovers love, sex and a family in the backstreets and underground bars of London's Soho.

## **HENRY'S HEART**

**Directed by Florian Halbedl, Luna M. Ferguson**

**CANADA | 2019 | 15 MINS**

Henry awakens in an overgrown field and travels through a nostalgic reflection of his life by reliving moments of his past loves.

## **THE SUIT (IL VESTITIO)**

**Directed by Maurizio Ravallese**

**ITALY | 2020 | 15 MINS**

Amed steals a suit from a dying man and is forced to go on a mission for him in order to avoid punishment.

## **ACUITZERAMO**

**Directed by Miguel Angel Caballero**

**UNITED STATES | 2019 | 16 MINS**

Salvador, a gay Mexican elder who has lost his partner of 15 years, calls his partner's estranged son, Anthony, to tell him of his father's passing. Unaware of their relationship, Anthony travels from Chicago to a small rural town in Mexico to attend his father's funeral. As family secrets are exposed, identities and perceptions are challenged.

### **PERFECTLY FRANK**

**Directed by Dan Hunt**

**UNITED STATES | 2020 | 11 MINS**

This short documentary chronicles the life of Frank Vilardi, a retired accountant from Long Island, who after being married for nearly 50 years, came out in his late 60s.

**Saturday, October 3 – Tuesday, October 6**

### **IN YOUR OWN TIME – Shorts Program**

Love transcends age and time in these heartwarming and sometimes poignant stories of unlikely bonds, surprising friendships, and missed opportunities.

A queer teenager discovers she and her grandfather have the same secret in ELIJAH. A friendship forms between a young home health care worker and her client, a dying trans man, in THE FAMILY ALBUM. In BIRD OF PARADISE, a nurse breaks the rules by falling in love with his elderly patient. In LAST SUMMER WITH UNCLE IRA, young Daniel isn't ready to acknowledge what he may have in common with his uncle dying of AIDS. War came between two young men when one was killed in Vietnam in SUNDOWN, but brought two women together when the men went off to fight in WWII in WINGS.

### **ELIJAH**

**Directed by Patrick Fritz**

**UNITED STATES | 2019 | 15 MINS**

A queer teenager struggles to come out when she makes a miraculous discovery: her grandfather was once in love with another man. Armed with the newfound knowledge, she convinces him to take on the challenge of telling their family together.

### **THE FAMILY ALBUM**

**Directed by Anthony Chapman**

**UNITED STATES | 2019 | 20 MINS**

A teenage home health care worker in the deep south forms a special bond with her first client, a trans man in the final months of his life.

**BIRD OF PARADISE****Directed by Alexander Zorn****UNITED STATES | 2020 | 13 MINS**

A queer geriatric nurse learns one of life's hardest lessons when he falls in love with one of his elderly patients.

**LAST SUMMER WITH UNCLE IRA****Directed by Gary Jaffe, Katie Ennis****UNITED STATES | 2020 | 13 MINS**

Summer, 1991. Before he leaves for his last year at summer camp, closeted teenager Daniel is nudged by his mother Rachel to share a moment and a glass of lemonade with his Uncle Ira, who is dying of complications from HIV/AIDS. Ira wants to talk about their shared identity together before time runs out, but Daniel may not be ready to take that step. Starring Emmy-nominee Wayne Wilcox (GILMORE GIRLS, ONLY CHILDREN), Igby Rigney (BLUE BLOODS) and Tony Award-winner Stephanie J. Block (RISE, MADAME SECRETARY).

**SUNDOWN****Directed by Erik Gernand****UNITED STATES | 2019 | 11 MINS**

An elderly man gets a visit from his childhood best friend, who appears to him as a teenager.

**WINGS****Directed by Jamie Weston****UNITED KINGDOM | 2019 | 18 MINS**

A heartwarming lesbian love story that spans over six decades, between two Land Army girls during World War II. Starring BAFTA award-winning actress Miriam Margolyes, and fifties film legend, Virginia McKenna.

**Saturday, October 3 – Tuesday, October 6**

**DRAWN BACK HOME****Directed by Thomas Awrey****UNITED STATES | 2020 | 107 minutes**

DRAWN BACK HOME reminds us that home is where the heart is, in this deeply emotional story of two men separated by different life choices who try to find their way back home. Eric has become a fixture in Caleb Hills, the Midwestern hometown he never left. Always the go-to



guy to help everyone around town and taking care of an ailing father for many years, Eric built his life around family and close friends. But after the death of his father and the end of his marriage, he becomes restless and rudderless. Struggling to make a decent living in a small town with few opportunities, Eric decides to take a shot at attracting tourists by posting videos of the quaint town online. That's when Drew, who left Caleb Hills for Chicago over ten years ago, restless himself and looking for a pretext to reconnect with Eric, decides to check the town out as an event location for his employer. The awkward reacquaintance of these former best friends gives way to a depth of feeling they both must navigate to resolve issues of the past while dealing with uncertainties of the future.

**Saturday, October 3 – Tuesday, October 6**

**NO HARD FEELINGS (FUTUR DREI)**

**Directed by Faraz Shariat**

**GERMANY | 2020 | 92 minutes**

Parvis' personal experience as a young gay man would have been very different had he been raised in Iran, the home country of his parents. In Germany, he copes with life in his small hometown by indulging himself with trendy pop culture, steamy Grindr dates, and dancing the night away at vivacious raves. After getting a bit carried away, he is sentenced to community service at a refugee detention center where he meets siblings Banafshe and Amon. The brother-sister duo have fled Iran to seek asylum in Germany, much like Parvis' family had once upon a time, a time very much forgotten to Parvis. As a secret attraction between Parvis and Amon grows into a forbidden romance, the fragile relationship between the three is put to a test. They find and lose each other throughout a summer of fleeting youth, an intense first love, an attempt at a joint future, as well as the stark realization that, even in Germany, they are not equal. This unforgettable film telling a "super-specific story about the intersections of migration, queerness and being young", as director Faraz Shariat describes, won the Teddy Award for Best Queer Feature Film; Teddy Readers Award - Berlin IFF 2020.

**Saturday, October 3 – Tuesday, October 6**

**THE CAPOTE TAPES**

**Directed by Ebs Burnough**

**UNITED KINGDOM | 2019 | 91 minutes**

In this tantalizing character study, director Ebs Burnough crafts a documentary collage of Truman Capote, famed writer of classic novels "In Cold Blood" and "Breakfast at Tiffany's." Burnough's film is built around never-before-seen interviews, photographs, and home movies, creating an immersive portrait of the larger-than-life gay writer. Truman Capote rides the wave of enormous literary success, transported into a world he could never dream of finding himself: New York's jet-set society. Through the broken saga of Capote's unrealized potential-masterpiece "Answered Prayers," this film explores the writer's downfall as he succumbs to the promise of high-society and the ravages of addiction. Through this lovingly-crafted documentary, Burnough immortalizes the difficult, strange, and exuberant life of one of literature's most iconic writers.

**Saturday, October 3 – Tuesday, October 6**

**THE MANY LIVES OF KOJIN (Toutes les vies de Kojin)**

**Directed by Diako Yazdani**

**FRANCE | 2019 | 88 minutes**

The Many Lives of Kojin is an experiment, the director, Diako Yazdani implies so himself. The film follows Yazdani, accompanied by Kojin, his 23-year-old gay friend, around the Iraqi countryside as they confront the director's devout family, friends and other members of the Kurdish community about the prejudices they hold against the LGBTQ+ community. The goal of the journey and of the film is to respectfully challenge and ultimately change their beliefs. The film is insightful and illuminating, providing intimate access to the subjects, shedding light on various aspects of Kurdish people and culture, while also showing what unites as all as fellow humans. The film is also auto-ethnographic in that Yazdani traces his own changing relationships with religion, family and society. His own transformation from hating homosexuality, to a grudging acceptance of homosexuals and then finally defending the rights of homosexuals in Kurdish society is an example of the best possible outcome of this filmic experiment.

**Sunday, October 4 – Wednesday, October 7**

**AHEAD OF THE CURVE - Closing Night Film**

**Directed by Jen Rainin**

**UNITED STATES | 2020 | 95 minutes**

In 1990, with a fist full of credit cards, a lucky run at the horse track and chutzpah for days, Franco Stevens launched *Curve*, the best-selling lesbian lifestyle magazine ever published. *AHEAD OF THE CURVE* traces the power of lesbian visibility and community from the early '90s to present day through the story of Franco's founding of *Curve* magazine. Decades later, as her legacy faces extinction and she reassesses her life after a disabling injury, she sets out to understand visibility work being led by an intersection of queer women today. Featuring Andrea Pino-Silva, Kim Katrin, Denice Frohman, Amber Hikes, Jewelle Gomez, Melissa Etheridge, and Lea DeLaria, and a score composed by the legendary Meshell Ndegeocello, *AHEAD OF THE CURVE* celebrates the legacy of a movement while considering the agenda of its future.