

GALAS & SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

ALMOST ADULTS - Women's Gala

Sarah Rotella
Canada | 2016 | 90:00

World Premiere

Mackenzie (Elise Bauman) and Cassie (Natasha Negovanlis) have been best friends since childhood. But as the end of university nears and the friends face adulthood, despite their best efforts they seem to be growing apart.

Mackenzie has known she is gay for some time but has only recently become okay with the idea of coming out. As she begins to tell people in her life, she becomes more comfortable with her sexuality, opening up about it on her blog and beginning a tentative relationship with a charming soccer player from school.

Everything seems to be working out for her, except for the fact that she still hasn't found the right way to tell Cassie. And to complicate things even further, Cassie has recently broken up with her boyfriend, has been red from an internship, and has no idea where she is going. The once-perfect friendship is starting to show cracks as secrets are revealed and lives drift in radically different directions. Can the two friends remain close when so much has changed, or is this a friendship that has run its course?

Toronto filmmaker Sarah Rotella's debut feature is an often hilarious, unremittingly poignant examination of growing up and growing apart. The leads—stars of the web series Carmilla—sport great friendship chemistry and spot-on comic timing. *Almost Adults*, a bittersweet story of evolving friendship, will leave you laughing out loud.

THE INTERVENTION - Centrepiece Gala

Clea Duvall
USA | 2016 | 91:00

International Premiere

Uptight Annie (expertly played by Melanie Lynskey) has gathered her friends together at her family's pristine Savannah estate in order to stage a "marriage intervention" and convince her sister Ruby (*How I Met Your Mother's* Cobie Smulders) and Ruby's husband (Vincent Piazza) to divorce. Annie, along with her other sister Jessie (Clea Duvall), has decided that Ruby's relationship has become so irreparably toxic that it's infecting their entire circle of friends.

Joined by Annie's easygoing fiancé; Jessie's partner Sarah (Natasha Lyonne), as well as the reluctant Jack and his sprightly 22-year-old girlfriend, the participants make fumbling attempts to jump-start the intervention throughout a booze-fuelled weekend, initially neglecting to deal with their own vices and

regrets. Eventually, however, this group of acutely sympathetic characters abandon the facade of being fine and embrace the reality of fine-adjacent.

Tipping her hat to *The Big Chill* as inspiration for her directorial debut, Clea Duvall (*But I'm a Cheerleader*, *Argo*) brilliantly balances the performances of her ensemble cast in this dramatic comedy and addresses how the more we focus on other people's lives and judge them, the further away from ourselves we become.

Official Selection, 2016 Sundance Film Festival
U.S. Dramatic Special Jury Award for Individual Performance – Melanie Lynskey

PARIS 05:59: THEO & HUGO - Special Presentation

Jacques Martineau and Olivier Ducastel
France | 2016 | 97:00

Canadian Premiere

Already generating plenty of press coverage for its explicit 18-minute opening scene set in a Paris sex club, *Paris 05:59: Theo & Hugo* is much more than a voyeuristic turn-on. It is one of the sweetest, most honest portrayals of first love, the film following the titular men over the course of one night as they explore the city, each other and the euphoria and insecurity that ll hearts and minds with the possibility of true love.

When frizzy-haired city dweller Theo (Francois Nambot) spots the provincial but more experienced Hugo (Geoffrey Couet) across a room crowded with charged, sweaty bodies, he is determined to have him. Theo manages to manoeuvre his way into Hugo's eld of vision and, ultimately, within reach. The pair quickly lose themselves in their lust and desire, oblivious to those around them. They soon leave and drift down the deserted streets of nocturnal Paris. An offhand comment, however, jolts the pair into reality and forces each man to question his ideas about love, personal responsibility and desire.

Longtime *Inside Out* favourites, Olivier Ducastel and Jacques Martineau (*The Adventures of Felix*, *My Life on Ice*, *Cote d'Azur* and *Born in '68*) have crafted a sensitive, emotional look at intimacy and relationships that will resonate with audiences and leave us waiting for 06:00.

French with English subtitles

HURRICANE BIANCA

Matt Kugelman
USA | 2016 | 82:00

World Premiere

Hold on to your wigs, *Hurricane Bianca* has arrived.
Richard, a New York teacher who is desperate for work, is delighted

to nally be offered a job. The only catch? The position is in a less- than-welcoming region of Texas and he is really, really gay. Undeterred by this minor setback, he packs his bags and hits the road.

Upon arrival in the small town, Richard is greeted by an evil vice-principal (SNL's Rachel Dratch) and an army of mean girls, who are determined to bring him down. When they find out he is gay, the law is not on his side. Fired and alone in Texas, Richard is desperate to get his job back, and in the grand tradition of films such as *Tootsie* and *Mrs. Doubtfire*, he knows exactly how to do it.

Enter Bianca Del Rio, who is equipped with fabulous teacherly skills and a never-ending supply of digs so harsh you will feel them stinging for days. The new teacher in town is here to whip everyone into shape.

Featuring a fabulous supporting cast that includes Alan Cumming, Margaret Cho, Bianca Leigh, and Drag Race favorites Willam, Shangela, Joslyn Fox and Alyssa Edwards—not to mention the queen herself, RuPaul—Hurricane Bianca follows one man's quest to find himself while pretending to be somebody else.

Director and Bianca Del Rio in attendance