

SPOTLIGHT ON CANADA

AND STILL WE RISE

Richard Lusimbo and Nancy Nicol
Canada | 2015 | 68:00

World Premiere

This moving documentary, co-directed by activist Richard Lusimbo, provides an insider's view of Uganda's LGBTI communities' fight against the Anti-Homosexual Act (AHA).

The film begins by recounting the struggle to stop the AHA from being passed in Uganda's parliament, and further examines how this struggle forced LGBTI organizations to put aside most other work to focus their energies on stopping the legislation. The filmmakers also explore how this resistance led to a coalition of over 50 groups that linked this issue to broader human rights and civil liberties work, subsequently weaving together personal stories of the widespread repression experienced by LGBTI Ugandans who wished to remain visible.

And Still We Rise is a stirring story of resistance and resilience in the face of hate and lies.

The screening will be followed by a discussion with director Nancy Nicol and guests

CLOSET MONSTER

Stephen Dunn
Canada | 2015 | 90:00

Closet Monster is a distinctively offbeat and emotionally striking coming-of-age story about a creative teenager who is desperate to escape his hometown and the haunting memories of his turbulent childhood.

When Oscar Madly (Falling Skies' Connor Jessup) was a child, he witnessed a brutal gay bashing, and the subsequent trauma, coupled with his parent's divorce soon after, left him deeply emotionally scarred.

Fast forward ten years and Oscar is a sexually confused high school student living with his bitter, alcoholic father. He relies on his best friend Gemma for support and receives sage advice from his pet hamster, Buffy (voiced by the wonderfully eccentric Isabella Rossellini). His world is thrown into further disarray when he becomes obsessed with Wilder, a charismatic and sexually ambiguous coworker at the hardware store.

Balancing elements of fantasy and drama with well-placed humour, Stephen Dunn's first feature marks the arrival of a bold new directorial talent on the Canadian film scene.

NORTH MOUNTAIN

Bretten Hannam
Canada | 2015 | 78:00

Toronto Premiere

A young Métis hunter falls for a thief on the run in this Nova Scotia thriller.

Wolf (Justin Rain) is a young loner who lives just outside of town in a wooden shack with his ailing grandmother. While out trapping, he comes across Crane (Glen Gould), a wounded man with a mysterious past who has ed New York City with a briefcase full of stolen cash. Wolf spirits Crane to the cabin to nurse him back to health and, as their mutual attraction grows, a vicious gang trace Crane's location, determined to retrieve the money, no matter the cost.

Can Wolf and Crane hold off a small army that is out for blood? Bretten Hannam's feature debut elicits strong performances from its leads in this story of action and romance, proving North Mountain a solid addition to the growing number of Canadian aboriginal LGBT films.

Director in attendance

RE:ORIENTATIONS

Richard Fung

Canada | 2016 | 66:00

World Premiere

Toronto video artist, writer, and associate professor Richard Fung made his first video in 1984 called *Orientations: Lesbian and Gay Asians*, featuring 14 people of South, Southeast and East Asian backgrounds. It was the first documentary on queer Asians and racialized queers in Canada.

Re:Orientations reconnects with seven of the original participants three decades later, as they become reacquainted with the footage of their younger selves. The documentary retraces their lives, taking stock of how the lived experience of sexuality, race, gender, class and nation has both shifted and remained constant over the years. The Im also features dialogues with younger queer and trans artists, academics and activists that deepen and contextualize these conversations and the larger project of exploring this history.

Discussion to follow with the director and subjects

TWO SOFT THINGS, TWO HARD THINGS

Mark Kenneth Woods and Michael Yerxa

Canada | 2016 | 71:00

World Premiere

Against the backdrop of the preparations for a seminal LGBTQ Pride celebration in Nunavut, this thoughtful documentary looks at the challenges faced by LGBTQ Inuit and how a new generation is forging a more inclusive society.

Colonialism and Christianity dismantled Inuit family structures and taught Inuit to feel shame for their traditional beliefs, erasing their acceptance of diverse sexuality. This loss of cultural identity has created barriers for LGBTQ Inuit. But change is underfoot—activists, artists, politicians and youth are working to 'unshame' their past.

This warm Im shows how the growing embrace of LGBTQ Inuit is helping the whole community on its journey to heal the past.

Directors in attendance

