

INTERNATIONAL LGBT RIGHTS TAKE CENTRE STAGE AT INSIDE OUT 2013

Bruno Barreto's **REACHING FOR THE MOON** to screen as Women's Spotlight Gala on May 25

Festival runs May 23 - June 2, 2013

Public tickets on sale May 9th at www.insideout.ca

(April 17, 2013 – Toronto) Inside Out is pleased to announce the addition of the **International Spotlight** and the **Women's Spotlight Gala** to its 2013 festival lineup.

This year's **International Spotlight** program will focus on LGBT rights with six powerful films from around the world: **GOD LOVES UGANDA** is a searing examination of the fine line that separates faith from fanaticism; **SOONGAVA: DANCE OF THE ORCHIDS** is the first film from Nepal to grapple with same-sex love; **TABOO YARDIES** is a riveting exploration that gives voice to the LGBT community in Jamaica who speak out against the oppression and violence it faces on the island; ... **AND THE UNCLAIMED** takes place in a small village in India where two young women fall in love; **VALENTINE ROAD** tells the story of the 2008 killing of Lawrence "Larry" King, a diminutive grade eight student who wore makeup and heels to his southern California middle school; and **BORN THIS WAY** focuses on the struggle for gay rights in Cameroon.

"This year's line-up underlines the diversity and urgency of LGBT issues around the world," said Director of Programming Andrew Murphy. "These films contribute to the ongoing international dialogue about same sex rights and their crucial importance."

The **Women's Spotlight Gala** returns with Bruno Barreto's compelling and affecting biopic **REACHING FOR THE MOON**, based on the tumultuous affair between Pulitzer prize-winning American poet, Elizabeth Bishop and Brazilian architect, Lota de Macedo Soares. The Women's Spotlight Gala celebrates lesbian-themed films with the generous support of RBC Royal Bank.

Women's Spotlight Gala

REACHING FOR THE MOON - Bruno Barreto (Brazil) *Canadian Premiere*

Rio de Janeiro in the 1950s provides the stunning backdrop for **REACHING FOR THE MOON**, which chronicles the passionate yet tempestuous love affair between Pulitzer prize-winning American poet, Elizabeth Bishop and Brazilian architect, Lota de Macedo Soares. Based on the bestselling Brazilian novel *Rare and Commonplace Flowers*, the film follows Bishop (Miranda Otto), whose writer's block prompts her to accept the invitation of Mary, a college friend, to visit Rio and stay at the sprawling country estate Mary shares with her partner, Lota (Glória Pires). The shy, repressed Elizabeth is initially put off by the forthright and dashing architect. But opposites attract, and before long their chemistry explodes and the pair engage in a passionate affair. Director Bruno Barreto has crafted an engaging, classic love story of two larger-than-life artists that offers an intimate snapshot of their search for inspiration.

International Spotlight in LGBT Rights

... **AND THE UNCLAIMED** - Debalina Majumder (India) *International Premiere*

In a small village in India, two young women, Swapna and Sucheta, fall in love. When faced with the prospect of Sucheta's marriage to a man who forbids her to see Swapna, the women decide to die in each other's arms. Director Debalina Majumder makes this heartbreaking event a starting point for her portrait of a diverse group of queer women in India who come from various backgrounds, define their sexuality in distinct ways and have diverse stories, but who share pressures and often outright rejection by their families amid the isolation of being different.

BORN THIS WAY - Shaun Kadlec and Deb Tullmann (Cameroon/USA)

Canadian Premiere

Meet Gertrude and Cédric, two young people fighting for gay rights in Cameroon where those convicted of same-sex relations face up to five years imprisonment. Fearing rejection from their families and dealing with threats of violence, Cédric and Gertrude nevertheless remain optimistic, believing that through their work they can help build a more accepting and safer Cameroon for LGBT people.

GOD LOVES UGANDA - Roger Ross Williams (USA/Uganda)

This documentary uncovers the role of the American evangelical movement in Uganda, where American missionaries have been credited with both creating schools and hospitals and promoting dangerous religious bigotry. The film follows evangelical leaders in America and Uganda along with politicians and missionaries as they attempt to eliminate the "sin of homosexuality" through the introduction of the infamous "Kill the Gays" bill and to convert Ugandans to fundamentalist Christianity.

SOONGAVA: DANCE OF THE ORCHIDS - Subarna Thapa (Nepal/France)

Katmandu-born, France-based writer/director, Subarna Thapa, has made waves with his inaugural feature-length film, **SOONGAVA**, a tenderly told girl-meets-girl story. Diya (Deeya Maskey) is a teacher and dancer who falls for Kiran (Nisha Adhikari) just when Diya's family have found her a suitable boy to marry. But when the women's relationship comes to light, we see how unwilling their tightly knit families—and Nepalese society—are to accept their choice.

TABOO YARDIES - Selena Blake (USA) *Canadian Premiere*

Selena Blake's **TABOO YARDIES** is a riveting documentary that smashes the façade of Jamaica's tourist-attracting *One Love* sentiment by giving voice to the LGBT community who dare to speak up and speak out against the oppression and violence they face on the island. Profoundly candid, heart-wrenching interviews featuring the legendary poet/activist Stacey Ann Chin, author Thomas Glave, former Jamaican Prime Minister Bruce Golding, and other members of the Jamaican community offer a deeper analysis of how the country's general ideology against homosexuality developed and is perpetuated.

VALENTINE ROAD – Marta Cunningham (USA)

This powerful, thoughtful and tragic documentary tells the story of the 2008 killing of Lawrence "Larry" King, a diminutive grade eight student who wore makeup and heels to his southern California middle school. After Larry publicly declared a Valentine's crush on 14-year-old classmate Brandon McInerney, Brandon shot Larry point-blank in the back of the head in the school's computer lab.

About Inside Out

Inside Out presents the annual Toronto LGBT Film Festival, with financial support from Presenting Sponsor, RBC Royal Bank. It is the largest event of its kind in Canada and entertains cinema buffs of all stripes, showcasing the best and most diverse films by, for and of interest to LGBT communities. For 11 days, the Festival draws crowds of more than 32,500 to screenings, artist talks, panel discussions, installations and parties that showcase more than 175 films and videos from Canada and around the world. In addition, Inside Out is committed to challenging attitudes and changing lives year-round through the exhibition, production and promotion of LGBT film with initiatives including annual festivals in Toronto and Ottawa, educational programs including the Queer Video Mentorship Project and the Mark S. Bonham Scholarship, and fall/winter screening series. This year's Festival runs May 23 – June 2, 2013.

About RBC and the Arts

RBC sponsors a wide-range of grassroots and local initiatives that contribute to the cultural fabric of our communities. Proud to support events and passions that resonate with our clients, RBC provides opportunities for up-and-coming artists through programs such as the RBC Canadian Painting Competition; the RBC Emerging Visions Program; and the RBC Emerging Filmmakers Competition, part of our commitment to the world's top public film festival – the Toronto International Film Festival®. As one of North America's leading diversified financial services companies and among the largest banks in the world, as measured by market capitalization, RBC employs approximately 80,000 full- and part-time employees who serve more than 15 million personal, business, public sector and institutional clients through offices in Canada, the U.S. and 49 other countries. For more information, please visit rbc.com.

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