



INSIDE OUT ROLLS OUT THE PINK CARPET FOR GALAS, PREMIERES AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

(TORONTO - April 30, 2015) The **Inside Out Toronto LGBT Film Festival** has announced a compelling lineup of **Galas, Premieres** and **Special Presentations** that will complete the programming for the 25th anniversary. Continuing the tradition of breaking barriers and brilliant cinema, the Festival will treat audiences to highly anticipated titles such as **TAB HUNTER CONFIDENTIAL, FRESNO, BESSIE** and **FOURTH MAN OUT**. Taking place May 21 to May 31, this year's Festival will showcase close to 150 films from 35 countries. For a 2015 Inside Out fact sheet, please [click here](#).

Hollywood royalty Tab Hunter will be in attendance for a Special Presentation of Jeffrey Schwartz's **TAB HUNTER CONFIDENTIAL**. The film chronicles the life of Hunter who, while playing the role of the all-American, Hollywood stud, struggled with the secret of his homosexual identity. Jeffrey Schwartz, whose previous film **I AM DIVINE** screened at Inside Out in 2013, will also be in attendance.

The International Premiere of **FRESNO** as this year's **Women's Gala** sees director Jamie Babbit and her **BUT I'M A CHEERLEADER** star Natasha Lyonne reunite in a dark comedy about two sisters, played by Lyonne and Judy Greer, who cover up an accidental murder. The return of the **Centrepiece Gala** will mark the World Premiere of Andrew Nackman's **FOURTH MAN OUT** a feel-good "bromance" about a mechanic living in small-town America who's taken by surprise when he comes out to his blue-collar buddies. These titles round out the previously announced **GRANDMA** and **PORTRAIT OF A SERIAL MONOGAMIST** as opening and closing night galas respectively.

Festivalgoers will have the chance to see the latest in queer cinema from both award-winning filmmakers and the contenders of tomorrow in the Premieres program. Highlights include the Canadian premiere of the 2015 Golden Bear nominee **EISENSTEIN IN GUANAJUATO** by iconic British filmmaker Peter Greenaway; Jay Dockendorf's debut feature **NAZ & MAALIK**, a coming of age story with a twist about two Muslim teens who must decide between coming out or being viewed as potential terrorists by the American government; and the World Premiere of **SUPER AWESOME!**, the heartfelt comedy about two straight,

Australian playwrights who have only six weeks to debut their new musical about marriage equality they hope will change how the world views the subject.

In partnership with HBO Canada, Inside Out is also pleased to announce the addition of HBO's film **BESSIE** to the **International Showcase** lineup. Festivalgoers will have the opportunity to see the film on the big screen after its premiere on HBO Canada on May 16. The biopic follows the tumultuous life of jazz legend Bessie Smith, who overcame the obstacles of being black, a woman, poor and openly bisexual to become one of the most influential figures of the roaring 20s. Singing and acting powerhouse Queen Latifah portrays the "Empress of the Blues" alongside an impressive supporting cast including Michael Kenneth Williams (*The Wire, Boardwalk Empire*), Khandi Alexander (*Treme, Scandal*), Mike Epps (THE HANGOVER) and Mo'Nique (PRECIOUS). Bessie is directed by Dee Rees whose Festival favourite PARIAN is being shown in this year's Retrospective Series. Dee also wrote the screenplay with Christopher Cleveland and Bettina Gilois.

Inside Out is proud to welcome Presenting Sponsor RBC Royal Bank and CTV this year as the new Premier Sponsor of the Festival. The 25th Anniversary Festival runs from Thursday, May 21st to Sunday, May 31st with tickets on sale starting May 5th for members and May 7th for general public at www.insideout.ca.

Galas and Special Presentations

FRESNO

Jamie Babbit (USA) *International Premiere*

Director Jamie Babbit (*But I'm A Cheerleader, Itty Bitty Titty Committee*) returns to Inside Out with her latest film, which is destined to become a lesbian comedy classic. Shannon and Martha live in Fresno, the armpit of California. After Shannon completes a stint in sex rehab, her younger sister Martha finds her a job cleaning rooms at Fresno Suites, the local hotel. Written by Karey Dornetto (*Portlandia, Community*), and featuring an all-star cast that includes Natasha Lyonne, Judy Greer, Aubrey Plaza, Fred Armisen, Molly Shannon and Clea Duvall, FRESNO is a hilarious and much-appreciated gift to the world of queer cinema. *Official Selection, 2015 SXSW Film Festival*

FOURTH MAN OUT

Andrew Nackman (USA) *World Premiere*

Adam is your average working-class guy living in small-town America. But there is something about Adam that even his friends don't know. He is not that interested in women. When he comes out, sort of by accident but not really, his best friend Chris promises him that nothing will change but, of course, some things do. With a strong ensemble cast that includes *Glee*'s Chord Overstreet, *Fourth Man Out* is a feel-good comedy with plenty of heart that focuses on the growing pains of friendship.

TAB HUNTER CONFIDENTIAL

Jeffrey Schwarz (USA) *Toronto Premiere*

This highly entertaining documentary, based on Hunter's 2006 memoir of the same name, treats us to dreamy photos and clips from the actor's days as America's heartthrob; chronicles his affair with Anthony Perkins, and follows Hunter's efforts to reinvent himself after the 1960s killed America's appetite for fabricated wholesomeness. Director Jeffrey Schwarz (*Vito, I am Divine*) inspires Hunter, a still-handsome 83-year-old, to guide us through his own story with humour and a rare and remarkable modesty. *Official Selection, 2015 SXSW Film Festival*

Premieres

BUTTERFLY

Marco Berger (Argentina) *Canadian Premiere*

The latest from Marco Berger (*Plan B, Absent*) takes place in parallel realities where one small decision dramatically changes the course of future events. Alternating masterfully between two realities, *Butterfly* is a complex, compelling story of youthful desire that subtly explores how choices can open the door to exciting new possibilities. *Official Selection, 2015 Berlin International Film Festival*

EISENSTEIN IN GUANAJUATO

Peter Greenaway (Netherlands/Mexico/Finland/Belgium) *Canadian Premiere*
Fresh off the success of his historic masterpiece, *Battleship Potemkin*, Soviet director Sergei Eisenstein travelled to Guanajuato to direct his film *Que viva México* in 1931. While encountering a new culture, Eisenstein also discovered another revolution—his physical arousal to handsome tour guide Palomino, a married man who has no qualms introducing Eisenstein to the pleasures of the siesta hour and anal sex. This revelation causes the director to undergo a transition from conceptual filmmaker into an artist who is fascinated by the human condition. *Nominated for the Golden Bear, 2015 Berlin International Film Festival*

HOW TO WIN AT CHECKERS (EVERY TIME)

Josh Kim (Thailand) *Canadian Premiere*

Eleven-year-old Oat is a scrappy orphan living with his strict but loving aunt on the poverty-stricken outskirts of Bangkok. The most influential figure in Oat's life, however, is his openly gay older brother, Ek. Told in a series of flashbacks from older Oat's perspective, *How to Win at Checkers (Every Time)* is a refreshingly nuanced celebration of family, friendship and love in which a simple draw of a card will dictate the course of their lives. *Official Selection, 2015 Berlin*

International Film Festival

IN THE GRAYSCALE

Claudio Marcone (Chile) *Canadian Premiere*

Handsome thirty-five-year-old Bruno appears to have the perfect life. A successful freelance architect, he is married to college girlfriend, Soledad, and is a dedicated father to their inquisitive son, Daniel. It quickly becomes apparent, however, that their domestic life is anything but blissful and that Bruno has separated from his family to 'find himself.' When Bruno is commissioned to design a new monument for Chile's capital, he meets Fer, a gay and gregarious history teacher who is hired to show Bruno the sights of Santiago. *Official Selection, 2015 Miami International Film Festival*

LIZ IN SEPTEMBER

Fina Torres (Venezuela) *Canadian Premiere*

Strong and fiercely independent, Liz has always been a love 'em and leave 'em type of woman who doesn't need anyone. So when she gets sick she refuses to tell her friends, fearing they will pity her. Instead, she pretends things are business as usual at the idyllic beachfront hostel where she and her friends stay. When a beautiful married woman, Eva, arrives on the scene, Liz sees her as a challenge and bets with a friend that she can seduce her. As the two women come to know one another and understand each other's pain, it becomes harder for Liz to see Eva as a mere conquest.

NAZ & MAALIK

Jay Dockendorf (USA) *Canadian Premiere*

Two Muslim teens spend their days making money for college hawking goods on the streets of Brooklyn. Young and carefree, and ten years into the War on Terror, they give little thought to how their small-time scheming could get them into trouble. When they catch the eye of an FBI agent and lie about the nature of their relationship, the teens set off a series of events that neither is prepared to face. Jay Dockendorf's provocative debut feature provides an eye-opening and unique twist on the classic coming out story. *Official Selection, 2015 SXSW Film Festival*

SEASHORE

Filipe Matzembacher and Marcio Reolon (Brazil) *North American Premiere*

In this unconventional drama, two childhood friends take a road trip to the coast and find themselves opening up to one another in unexpected ways. The weekend trip proves to be an opportunity for both young men to look inward and to connect to one another in ways that will change their relationship forever. With distinctive camerawork, stunning visuals and an oceanic soundtrack, *Seashore* explores love, friendship and the disclosure of identity. *Official Selection, 2015 Berlin International Film Festival*

SUMMER

Colette Bothof (Netherlands) *Canadian Premiere*

Anne and her friends spend their days biking along the winding roads that lead nowhere and everywhere, and while everyone around her seems to be exploring what it means to be young and awakened, Anne feels like an outsider. That is, until she meets the new girl in town. Lena rides a motorbike, wears leather, and is clearly different from the girls around her. As Anne struggles to find a place for her burgeoning feelings, she must decide between the life she is expected to live and the life she wants.

SUPER AWESOME!

Guy Edmonds and Matt Zeremes (Australia) *World Premiere*

Down and out since the success of their play about young gay love, Mark and Gary—who are straight and rather politically incorrect—have been struggling to write something meaningful. One night, stoned with their gay chums Shae and Carl, Mark and Gary come up with an idea for a musical about gay marriage. Before they can snap their fingers, \$250,000 has been raised through crowdfunding, and the prestigious New York Festival wants the play for opening night. Laugh along as this super awesome duo find themselves in over their heads and racing against the clock to create a crowd-pleasing play that, they hope, will also change the world.

THAT'S NOT US

William Sullivan (USA) *World Premiere*

That's Not Us is an improvised romantic comedy that follows three couples—one lesbian, one gay, one straight—as they travel to Fire Island to enjoy the last days of summer. As the weekend sees the couples sharing close quarters and drinking freely, what should be a fun beach holiday shines a light on what it takes to make love last. Relatable in ways that may be uncomfortable, the characters in *That's Not Us* are probably you and me, and everyone we know.

THOSE PEOPLE

Joey Kuhn (USA) *International Premiere*

Charlie and Sebastian have been best friends since childhood, despite Charlie's not-so-secret obsession with his rich and charismatic pal. Following the arrest of Sebastian's father on fraud-related charges, Charlie moves in with his friend to serve as support and confidant. At the same time, Charlie meets Tim, a pianist, whose willingness to talk about his feelings is both intriguing and intimidating to the perpetually single Charlie. After a series of escalating events, Charlie finds himself facing a choice between what he has always wanted and what might be, though neither option proves easy.

International Showcase
(previously announced without this title)

BESSIE

Dee Rees (USA)

Queen Latifah gives the performance of her career and is destined to garner acclaim and awards with her portrayal of legendary singer Bessie Smith in the HBO biopic of the Jazz Age legend. Latifah, who was nominated for an Academy Award for her role as Big Mama Morton in *Chicago*, is joined by a stellar supporting cast that includes Khandi Alexander, Mike Epps, Michael Kenneth Williams, and Oscar winner Mo’Nique as Smith’s mentor and rumoured love interest, the legendary Ma Rainey.

About Inside Out

Inside Out presents the annual Toronto LGBT Film Festival, with financial support from Presenting Sponsor, RBC Royal Bank and Premier Sponsor, CTV. It is the largest event of its kind in Canada, 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 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 that include the Ottawa LGBT Film Festival, development programs featuring the newly launched New Visions Project (formerly Queer Video Mentorship Project) and the Harold Greenberg Fund Short to Feature Award, as well as the Four-Play Screening Series.

Inside Out celebrates a quarter century of showcasing the best in Canadian and international cinema with the 25th Anniversary Toronto LGBT Film Festival that runs from May 21 to 31, 2015.

About HBO Canada

HBO Canada brings Canadians HBO’s current slate of signature dramatic and comedic programs, together with new and never-before-seen programming including comedy series, live specials, sporting events, behind-the-scenes content and titles from HBO’s extensive library – all in an uncut and commercial-free environment. HBO Canada is offered in high definition on HBO Canada HD and programming is accessible on TMN GO, on demand and online where available by service provider. For more information, please visit www.hbocanada.com. In Eastern Canada, HBO Canada is a division of Bell

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About RBC and the Arts

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