Proud Sponsor of Reeling 2019
Welcome to the 37th Edition of Reeling: The Chicago LGBTQ+ International Film Festival!

For close to four decades, Reeling: The Chicago LGBTQ+ International Film Festival has been one of the Windy City’s prized cultural events – the place to see the best in LGBTQ cinema. Increasingly, Reeling is the only time and place the majority of these films and shorts will be seen in Chicago in the theatrical settings for which they were created. This is the 37th time fans of queer cinema are coming together to revel in these diverse stories drawn from our lives; stories that inspire, educate, enthral, thrill, delight, and, above all, entertain.

As always, our hats are off to those talented visionaries who have made their dreams a reality – the filmmakers without whom Reeling would not exist. As the Reeling 37 line-up, which encompasses literally every film genre, attests, there are no limits to the imaginations of these gifted creators. We want to extend a special welcome to our visiting filmmakers who have traveled from around the globe to be with us.

From our delightful Opening Night selection, The Shiny Shrimps, a warm and sexy French comedy, to Making Sweet Tea, our inspirational Documentary Centerpiece, to The Garden Left Behind, our deeply moving Narrative Centerpiece, to our eye-opening Closing Night selection, Scream, Queen! My Nightmare on Elm Street, and to the scores of features and shorts in-between, there is much to discover at Reeling 37. We encourage you to dive in and experience the best queer fare that Chicago can offer.

Finally, we would like to acknowledge the tireless efforts of our Reeling staff and volunteers and add an extra special thank you to our Reeling sponsors as well as our Reeling Festival members who have generously supported us year in and year out and who would, no doubt, urge everyone attending the festival to follow their example and experience the joy (and perks) of a Reeling membership!

Have a great Reeling!

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Brenda Webb – Executive Director, Chicago Filmmakers

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TICKETS

Individual General Admission Tickets:
Landmark Theaters Century Centre Cinema: $13 ($10 members)
Chicago Filmmakers: $11 ($8 members)

Special Admission Programs:
Opening Night: THE SHINY SHRIMPS
Film Only: $15 ($12 members)
Film + Pre-Party: $40 ($35 members)
Closing Night: SCREAM, QUEEN! MY NIGHTMARE ON ELM STREET
Film & After-Party: $30 ($25 members)

To Purchase Advance Tickets:
Advance tickets may be purchased online at www.reelingfilmfestival.org
or in person Sept. 9-18 at Chicago Filmmakers, 5720 N. Ridge Ave. (Mon.-Fri.
11 am-6 pm & Sat. 11 am-4 pm). Processing fees apply for online purchases.
Advance tickets are available only up until the day of the show.

Day of Show Tickets:
On the day of the show, tickets may only be purchased at the theater box
office where the film is being show. The theater box office opens 30 min-
utes before the first show of the day.

Rush Policy:
Even if you have a ticket, you must be in the theater 15 minutes before
show time or risk not being seated at a sold-out show.

Refund Policy:
No refunds, exchanges, nor changes once orders are placed or tickets are
purchased. If a program is cancelled by the festival, exchange passes will
be issued to ticket holders at the theater.

PASSES

Pick Five Pass: $55 ($45 members)
Admits one person to any 5 regular screenings at the festival. Not good for
special admissions programs.

Pick Ten Pass: $100 ($90 members)
Good for 10 admissions to regular screenings. Not good for special admis-
sions programs.

Festival Pass: $130 ($110 members)
Good for admission for one person to all regular screenings. Not good for
special admission screenings.

Pass Policies: Passes must be presented to the theater box office on the day
of the show for a ticket. Passes cannot be redeemed in advance of the day
of the show. Admission is not guaranteed in the event of a sell-out. Pass
holders with a ticket must be in the theater 15 minutes before the film’s
published start time or you risk not being seated at a sold-out show.

VENUES

Music Box Theatre (opening night only): 3733 N. Southport Avenue.
Landmark Theaters Century Centre Cinema: 2828 N. Clark St.
Chicago Filmmakers: 5720 N. Ridge Ave. (entrance on Hollywood)

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Thursday | September 19 | 7:00 PM | Music Box Theatre
6:00 PM Opening Night Pre-Party in Music Box Lounge

THE SHINY SHRIMPS

Cedric Le Gallo & Maxine Govare (France, 2018, 103 minutes)
When Matthias, a hunky Olympic champion at the end of his career, makes a homophobic statement on TV his punishment is to coach the Shiny Shrimps, a flamboyant, amateur gay water polo team. The surly Matthias, hoping to qualify for a coveted spot at a meet that will ensure his return to glory, agrees to take on the assignment. But the team – filled with an assorted group of gay men and a sassy trans woman – are as hopeless in the water as they are assured, funny and sharply opinioned out of it. Last in the league, they dream of winning at least one match in order to qualify for the Gay Games in Croatia where the hottest international LGBTQ athletes compete. Will their impatient, homophobic coach rise to the occasion and help his cockeyed optimists realize their dream? And perhaps find his mind (and heart) expanded in the process? You’ll want to dive right into this hilarious, warm hearted comedy that fans of THE ADVENTURES OF PRISCILLA: QUEEN OF THE DESERT and THE BIRDCAGE will adore. As the Hollywood Reporter noted, THE SHINY SHRIMPS is perfect for audiences “hungry for something fizzy and light.” Everyone in the pool!

Supported by the Cultural Services at the Consulate General of France.

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OPENING NIGHT!

CLOSING NIGHT!

Sunday | September 29 | 6:00 PM | Chicago Filmmakers
Closing Night Party Follows Screening

SCREAM, QUEEN! MY NIGHTMARE ON ELM STREET

Roman Chimienti & Tyler Jensen (USA, 2019, 100 minutes)
At the time of its release, The Advocate dubbed 1985’s A NIGHTMARE ON ELM STREET 2: FREDDY’S REVENGE the gayest horror film ever made. It also killed the career of the film’s closeted young star, Mark Patton, thanks to the homophobia rampant in Hollywood at the time. In this thought-provoking, entertaining documentary, cameras follow Patton from horror conventions to reunions with his co-stars (including Robert Englund, Freddy Krueger himself), to a long overdue confrontation with the film’s screenwriter – whose homophobic comments at the time helped slam the door on Patton’s promising film career – as Patton attempts to make peace with his past and embrace his legacy as cinema’s first male “scream queen.” Freddy’s Revenge’s status as an LGBTQ cult classic is also examined in this lively, clip-stuffed, probing film.

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I, m 22 years old and I, m an exchange student from Spain. Going to college here means a fun time, lots of hard work and getting to see new things. It also means a chance to really be myself. My parents are supportive of my sexuality, and my host family here is a couple with two teenage boys. Nobody cares if they’re gay or straight. I, m excited to be part of a world where that can be true.

I am the future of the LGBT community. And I read about that future every day on my iPad. Because that’s where I want it to be.
THE GARDEN LEFT BEHIND
Flavio Alves (USA/Brazil, 2019, 88 minutes)

Tina (Carlie Guevara), a young Mexican trans woman, and Eliana (Miriam Cruz), her grandmother, navigate Tina’s transition and struggle to build a life for themselves as undocumented immigrants in New York City in this hard-hitting drama that fans of Ryan Murphy’s POSE will take to their hearts. As Tina begins the process of transitioning, Eliana struggles to understand and fears that their life together in America will be threatened. For a while Tina finds camaraderie in a small but mighty transgender advocate group, but soon, Tina finds herself having to fight for the life that she’s dreamed of – facing violence, insurmountable medical costs, questions about her legal status, and increasing skepticism from the man she loves. Will Tina be the one to beat the odds? Carlie Guevara is stunning in her debut role, ably supported by veteran actors Ed Asner, Michael Madsen and Miriam Cruz as the sweet but spirited grandmother.

MAKING SWEET TEA  World Premiere!
John L. Jackson Jr. & Nora Gross (USA, 2019, 90 minutes)

The story of Sweet Tea spans more than a decade. Starting off as a scholarly book by Northwestern University Professor E. Patrick Johnson, it has since been adapted into a critically acclaimed one-man show and now this powerful new documentary. Each iteration highlights different characters and topics in the lives of black gay men of the south it chronicles. In the film, Johnson travels home to North Carolina to come to terms with his past, as well as visits Georgia, New Orleans, and Washington, D.C. as he reconnects with six of the men he interviewed for the book. The men update Johnson on their lives and recount memories of their personal struggles – as well as their fleeting blissful moments – growing up black and gay in the conservative south. Throughout, Johnson also recreates highlights from the stage show. The film, like the previous iterations, gives voice to a rarely heard and seen culture. Touching, uplifting and spiced with moments of delicious humor, this is MAKING SWEET TEA.
connect. discover. celebrate.

ChicagoPride.com salutes Reeling for their smart, heartfelt & courageous dedication and for their longstanding advancement of LGBT film in Chicago.

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15 YEARS
Yuval Hadadi (Israel, 2019, 90 minutes)
After 15 years together, Yoav, a successful architect, has everything he’s ever wanted and he and his younger lover Dan, a lawyer who idolizes him, seem to have a charmed relationship. Their sex life is still off the charts, their emotional bond is strong and they enjoy an intimate circle of friends. When Yoav’s best friend Alma, an esteemed artist who’s like a mother and sister to him, announces she’s pregnant, it ignites Dan’s desire to become a father himself. But Dan’s parental urges have the opposite effect on Yoav who is haunted by long buried demons, leading him to self-destructive behavior that threatens to destroy his life with Dan, unravel his friendship with Alma, and cost him everything. Yuval Hadadi has written and directed a searing, insightful drama that offers a telling portrait of the emotional darkness lurking beneath the deceptively placid surface.

AN ALMOST ORDINARY SUMMER
Simone Godano (Italy, 2019, 100 minutes)
Two very different families unexpectedly spend their holidays in the same house at the seaside: the aristocratic Castelvecchios, open-minded, cultured, eccentric but quite self-absorbed, and their cultural antithesis, the tight-knit, working-class Petagnas, a family bound by their extreme conservatism. What brought these distant worlds together? Tony and Carlo, the two elderly patriarchs of these contrasting clans, soon reveal the reason for the gathering: the unexpected announcement of their engagement (and simultaneous coming out). The stage is set for a farcical exploration of family dynamics and finding – and fighting for – love in the twilight years in this effervescent rom-com. The chemistry between silver fox Tony (one time Italian matinee idol Fabrizio Bentivoglio) and his soulful soulmate Carlo (Alessandro Gassman of STEAM: THE TURKISH BATH) drives this charming Italian-style LA CAGE AUX FOLLES.

BIT
Brad Michael Elmore (USA, 2019, 90 minutes)
Laurel, a teenage transgender girl, escapes her small town upbringing, heading to LA in search of her own kind. At a warehouse party on her first night in town, Laurel is delighted to discover a group of punk feminists led by the super butch Duke. But Laurel finds a Hell of a lot more than she bargained for when she hooks up with a gorgeous woman. Intersectional – check, feminist – check, vampire…uh, hold it. Too late, the woman feasts on Laurel’s blood, leaving her for dead. Terrified that she too might become a vampire, Laurel confronts the woman who bit her and is given a choice: join the pack of the coolest undead ever assembled or return to her dull as dishwater existence. One thing’s for sure: Laurel certainly got the adventure of a lifetime she was looking for. Trans actress Nicole Maines stars as Laurel in this supernatural, super queer black comedy; a delightful kick ass good time of a film.

BITTERSWEET WATERS
Jesús Canchola Sánchez (Mexico, 2019, 99 minutes)
Chicago-based actor, writer and director Jesús Canchola Sánchez makes his assured feature debut with this emotionally complex tale of Atl (played by Sánchez), a quiet man living in rural Mexico, taking care of his devoted grandmother Citalli and verbally abusive mother Soledad. Atl’s grandmother is unaware of his undercover affair with his longtime best friend, the handsome movie star Diego. But the two-faced, alcoholic Soledad knows and wastes no time in blackmailing her son in order to keep quiet. Diego’s pregnant fiancée soon discovers the affair too, but in spite of her threats, Diego keeps seeing Atl on the side. In order to live truthfully, Atl must overcome his mother, Diego’s fiancée and the traditional community that surrounds him.
**THE BLONDE ONE**  
*Marco Berger (Argentina, 2019, 108 minutes)*

Reeling favorite, director Marco Berger (TAEKWONDO, HAWAII), king of the gay slow burn, returns with this sensual study of a tentative friendship that escalates from a beautiful bromance into a steamy affair. Blonde Gabriel is attracted to his co-worker Juan; his attraction intensifying after he becomes Juan’s new roommate. But the sultry, dark-haired Juan doesn’t take notice, what with bedding a different woman every night. Then the shy Gabriel takes a risk and comes on to Juan. To his surprise and delight, Juan enthusiastically responds, leading to a series of hot physical encounters on the down low. When emotion begins to enter the picture, however, the suddenly emboldened Gabriel signals that he is ready to bring their relationship out into the open – a move that will completely alter their lives given their homophobic surroundings. Will Juan be strong enough to do the same?

**BRIEF STORY FROM THE GREEN PLANET**  
*Santiago Loza (Argentina, 2018, 75 minutes)*

Tania, a trans woman who performs at discos in Buenos Aires and her two best friends – Pedro, who is gay and obsessed with voguing and Daniela, a waitress deeply depressed by her latest breakup – find themselves on a strange odyssey in this year’s Teddy Award winner at the Berlinale. When Tania receives word that her grandmother has passed away, she returns to her hometown with her two friends to find that she’s been left something much more unusual than settling an estate. Tania’s grandmother has charged her with the responsibility of returning her closest companion – a comatose alien they find in the refrigerator – safely to its origins. On their journey, each of the trio confronts their fears and demons while Tania finds herself supernaturally linked with the extraterrestrial. Loza’s unusual, metaphorical premise is surprisingly heartwarming and speaks to the power of chosen family as the trio sticks together through thick and thin.

**COPA 181**  
*Dannon Lacerda (Brazil 2018, 82 minutes)*

A gay sauna is the meeting place for a ragtag group of strangers looking for anonymous sex and perhaps a friendly smile in this supremely human dramedy. On any given day at Copa 181, tucked in a corner of the Copacabana neighborhood in Rio, expect to find Tana, a hardware shopkeeper and occasionally his wife Eros, an opera singer who finds acceptance for her incredible gift at the bathhouse. Joining them are a host of men ready to pay for the muscle bound escorts. These include Leo who is happy with his trans girlfriend Kika only within the confines of the sauna. Kika, a housecleaner by day, entertains nightly from the tiny stage and dreams of an elusive stardom that is just out of reach. Everyone at Copa 181 falls under the joint spell of the sex and escape from mundane reality the bathhouse offers and audiences, too, will fall under the seductive spell of this insightful film that underscores the message that family is where you find it.

**COUSINS**  
*Mauro Carvalho & Thiago Cazado (Brazil, 2019, 83 minutes)*

Lucas (Paulo Sousa) is a young man who lives with his devout aunt Lourdes (Juliana Zancanaro) in a quiet country town. He helps her by tending the garden and playing biblical songs on his keyboard during her aunt’s prayer meetings with a gaggle of local ladies. One of Lourdes’ friends has a daughter who she pushes on the polite but standoffish Lucas. Then the charitable Lourdes announces that while she is on a religious retreat, a distant cousin, Mario (Thiago Cazado), who is just out of jail, will be coming to stay. It’s not long before the hard living Mario has corrupted the sheltered Lucas with cards and liquor. And it hasn’t escaped Mario’s attention that Lucas has been salivating over his hot body and is ripe for some physical corruption as well. Things kick up a notch with unexpected results when Aunt Lourdes returns early from her retreat in this captivating and very sexy romantic comedy.
Saturday, September 21 | 1:00 PM | Landmark 7

**CUBBY**
Mark Blane & Ben Mankoff (USA, 2019, 83 minutes)

Scruffy 26-year-old man baby Mark (played by writer-director Blane) arrives in Brooklyn from the Midwest ostensibly to start the art gallery job of his dreams—but that’s just a ruse to escape his stifling Midwest upbringing and his overbearing mother (Patricia Richardson in a hilarious cameo). The gallery job doesn’t exist but pushy, money demanding roommates do and so Mark hits the pavement in search of employment. Improbably, this antisocial man-child ends up becoming the nanny for a precocious six-year-old boy named Milo. At the same time, he conjures up (from a psychedelic cupcake) an imaginary playmate of his own: a buff superhero named Leather-Man (Christian Patrick of INTERIOR. LEATHER BAR and Kink.com fame). Blane artfully strikes a balance between Mark’s innocence and sexy, darker compulsions. A black comedy with surprising heart, Blane’s debut heralds the arrival of a fresh talent.

Friday, September 27 | 9:00 PM | Chicago Filmmakers

**THE DAUGHTERS OF FIRE**
Albertina Carri (Argentina, 2018, 115 minutes)

Three women meet by chance at the end of the world, in Argentinian Patagonia, and set out on a polyamorous journey, caught up in the search for new kinds of relationships, far from possession and emotional pain, and steeped in ultimate sexual pleasure. They become the Daughters of Fire, a band dedicated to helping those women who look for their own path to erotica. Women of all shapes and color are invited to join in their erotic adventures resulting in a non-stop lesbian orgy. Not surprisingly, this steamy tale of lesbian eroticism has taken the queer festival circuit by storm. **Contains graphic sexual content.**

Friday, September 20 | 9:00 PM | Landmark 7

**END OF THE CENTURY**
Lucio Castro (Argentina, 2019, 84 minutes)

When Ocho (Juan Barberini), a bearded, handsome, Argentine poet on vacation in Barcelona, spots the hunky, scruffy-faced Javi (Ramón Pujol), a Spaniard from Berlin, from the balcony of his BnB, the attraction is subtle but persistent. After a missed connection on the beach, a third chance encounter escalates to a super-hot one night stand; a seemingly random hookup. But are these two merely beautiful strangers in a foreign city or are they part of each other’s histories—and maybe even their destinies? Castro deliberately parses out mystery after mystery, leading the audience on a journey of discovery as the two men discover themselves and each other. The result is a sensual romance that artfully spans time and space while pointing to a promising future where sex transforms into love which the San Francisco Chronicle dubbed, “An absolutely hypnotic romance.”

Sunday, September 22 | 9:30 PM | Landmark 6

**DARKROOM – DROPS OF DEATH**
Rosa von Praunheim (Germany, 2019, 89 minutes)

In his new film, controversial legendary cult director Rosa von Praunheim focuses his lens on a recent, true criminal case involving a German serial killer. Lars, a male nurse from Saarbrucken, moves to Berlin with his lover Roland, a sweet spirited musician. Renovating an apartment with the intention of finally living together, their happiness seems almost complete. What Roland doesn’t know, however, is that while secretly checking out Berlin’s nightlife, Lars is experimenting with a deadly poison—an obsession that will lead to a horrific outcome for the couple. Using a psychiatric tribunal as a framing device, Von Praunheim expertly balances Lars’ twisted fantasies with Roland’s dreams of a blissful romance. **Contains images that may be disturbing to some viewers.**

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Saturday, September 21 | 7:15 PM | Landmark 7
FROM ZERO TO I LOVE YOU
Doug Spearman (USA, 2019, 106 minutes)
In this audience pleasing romantic drama, Darryl Stephens (NOAH’S ARC, BOY CULTURE) stars as Pete, a gay man who has played the field for years, avoiding commitment by hooking up with married men. Enter handsome model Jack (Scott Bailey, GUIDING LIGHT, PRAYERS FOR BOBBY) who is 15 years into a seemingly perfect marriage with an enviable wife and two kids. When Jack and Pete hook up both assume it’s a one-time thing. But an overwhelming desire for a return tryst leads to more down-low action. Suddenly Pete begins to realize that in addition to the incredible sex, he is developing very strong feelings for his married man. Is it possible that the commitment-phobic Pete and Jack, his supposedly straight lover who has a lot of baggage, will find a future together? The off the charts chemistry between the leads adds authenticity to this deeply satisfying romance. Doug Spearman of Reeling guilty pleasure HOT GUYS WITH GUNS directs.

Thursday, September 26 | 7:15 PM | Landmark 6
GOOD KISSEr
Wendy Jo Carlton (USA, 2019, 80 minutes)
Jenna (Kari Alison Hodges) agrees to a sexy weekend fling with materialistic girlfriend Kate (Rachel Paulson) and the worldly Mia (Julie Eringo). But as the night unfolds, Jenna hesitantly begins to realize she’s bitten off more than she can chew and cracks begin to form in this potential love triangle. Kate’s wish might be coming true – but not exactly the way either she or Mia imagined it. Former Chicagoan Wendy Jo Carlton (HANNAH FREE, JAMIE AND JESSIE ARE NOT TOGETHER, EASY ABBY: HOW TO MAKE LOVE MORE DIFFICULT) returns to Reeling with this romantic drama that questions the boundaries of love and is sexy as all get out. “You’ll never look at a popsicle the same way again,” the Advocate said about a particularly memorable love scene. Screening co-presented by Women2Women.

Sunday, September 22 | 7:15 PM | Landmark 7
LAST FERRY
Jaki Bradley (USA, 2019, 86 minutes)
Joseph (Ramon O. Torres, who also scripted), a young lawyer living in Harlem, makes a pilgrimage to the fabled Fire Island, desperately seeking romance and community. Only trouble is, it’s April, the thick of the off-season, and the island is dead. Just when he’s about to give up Joseph meets Shawn (Henry Ayres-Brown), a cute guy with a dark undertone who draws Joseph into what he believes will be a sex game – only to find himself drugged and his belongings stolen. During his impaired state, Joseph witnesses what looks to be a murder and narrowly escapes. His spiral downward continues until he awakens under the care of Cameron (Sheldon Best) and his friends. As Joseph integrates into the group and begins to fall for Cameron (and vice versa), memories of what he may or may not have witnessed begin to fade – until the killer reappears. Jaki Bradley’s creepy, sexy thriller will have you guessing at its outcome until the last moment.

Friday, September 20 | 7:15 PM | Landmark 6
MOM + MOM
Karole Di Tommaso (Italy, 2018, 81 minutes)
The story of two women who love each other and of their desire to have a child together. Karole and Ali still don’t know that the enthusiasm of this first attempt will be followed by many challenges, but when the desire becomes stronger than the pain and fatigue, miracles can happen. We’ve seen many stories of couples trying to become parents but director Di Tommaso’s (who also co-scripted) nuanced approach discovers touching and beautiful new insights – obviously because the film is based on her actual story.
Saturday, September 21 | 5:00 PM | Landmark 7
MORE BEAUTIFUL FOR HAVING BEEN BROKEN
Nicole Conn (USA, 2019, 111 minutes)
Nicole Conn, director and writer of classic lesbian romances including A PERFECT ENDING and ELENA UNDONE, returns with her latest, another deeply romantic film. FBI agent McKenzie (Zoe Ventoura) escapes to the picturesque ranch town of Mervielle in the aftermath of losing her mother and spiraling down a path of erratic behavior. Upon settling in, McKenzie meets the spirited Freddie (Cale Ferrin), a young wheelchair-bound boy with special needs and his mother, Samantha (Kayla Radomki), a former dancer. As McKenzie makes an impression on the residents of Meriville, she develops an unexpected relationship with Samantha that turns fiercely passionate and emotionally intimate. Will McKenzie be able to shake off her demons in time to realize that the love she needs is right in front of her? Character actors Bruce Davison (X-MEN, SHORT CUTS), Brooke Elliott (DROP DEAD DIVA), and Kay Lenz (HOUSE, BREEZY) round out the cast.

Tuesday, September 24 | 9:15 PM | Landmark 6
PAGEANT MATERIAL
Jonothon Mitchell (USA, 2019, 74 minutes)
Still recovering from the death of his mother, seventeen-year-old Rodney (cutie pie twink Hart Morse) dreams of escaping his small southern hometown in pursuit of following in his late mother’s footsteps as an award-winning pageant queen. Despite an onslaught of bullying and abuse from his step-father, step-brothers, and classmates, Rodney calls upon his sassy best friend Monique (Marianne Johnson) and a unique cast of southern characters to help him take the crown in an upcoming teen drag pageant in Atlanta. This coming-of-age southern dramedy is about following your dreams, overcoming adversity, and forging down your own road no matter how treacherous the path. Imagine John Waters crossed with a little bit of TO WONG FOO and RUPAUL’S DRAG RACE, a dash of STEEL MAGNOLIAS, and the heart of LITTLE MISS SUNSHINE all bundled as a loose adaptation of CINDERELLA. The result is the effervescent PAGEANT MATERIAL.

Tuesday, September 24 | 9:00 PM | Landmark 7
ORPHEUS’ SONG
Tor Iben (Germany, 2019, 72 minutes)
Two men from Berlin, one straight (Enis), one gay (Philipp), become workout buddies at their local gym, each spotting the other. The two hunks quickly fall into an intense friendship which Enis’ girlfriend Katrina finds fascinating but non-threatening. When Philipp wins a trip to Greece, he invites Enis and the two have a great time. But during a hike in the forest, they become lost and tempers flare, escalating to a violent scuffle. A mysterious young man, Hercules, happens upon them and leads them to a magical underground cave. During the night, fueled by forbidden fruit Hercules has warned them from eating, passion ignites between Enis and Philipp. On the next day – and every day thereafter – nothing between the two will be like it was before. Tor Iben’s erotic film is a modern day variation on the Greek myth that will quickly have viewers falling under its sensual spell.

Friday, September 20 | 7:00 PM | Landmark 7
SELL BY
Mike Doyle (USA, 2019, 90 minutes)
Does every relationship have an expiration date? Adam (Scott Evans, GRACE AND FRANKIE) and Marklin (Augustus Prew, PRISON BREAK, KICK-ASS) are about to find out. Their five year relationship has gone from a passionate flame to a medium burn, forcing them to reconcile with each other’s shortcomings, all while watching their support network crumble around them. Best friend Cammy (Michelle Buteau, ISN’T IT ROMANTIC? THE TICK) has found a beau at last who checks all of her boxes—if you don’t count that he actually lives in a box; Haley (Zoe Chao) is tutoring a student who’s more interested in studying her than studying for the SATs; and Elizabeth (Kate Walsh, PRIVATE PRACTICE) and Damon (Chaz Lamar Shepherd)—the “stable” ones—are on the brink of divorce after 15 years of so-called bliss. But, in this mess, hope springs eternal. Renowned actor Patricia Clarkson plays Marklin’s wise art dealer.
Thursday, September 26 | 7:00 PM | Landmark 7

SEQUIN IN A BLUE ROOM
Samuel Van Grinsven (Australia, 2019, 80 minutes)

After a chance encounter at an anonymous sex party, a teenage boy hunts through the world of a hook-up app to track down the mystery man who haunts him. Favoring the instant gratification of nameless, no-strings sexual encounters over meaningful relationships, high schooler Sequin is part of the always logged-on, but never engaged, hook-up generation. He ghosts ex-partners and remains emotionally unavailable. But there was something...unnamable...about this brief encounter that has sent him in a tailspin. Yet Sequin's search for the identity of this elusive sex partner leads him down a path that is much more dangerous than he could have imagined. This alluring and perilous mission to find The One might cost him much more than his precious anonymity. This queer coming of age story ventures into little explored cinematic territory in a bold, unapologetic way that heralds the arrival of a refreshing new directorial talent.

Thursday, September 26 | 9:00 PM | Landmark 7

STEAM ROOM STORIES: THE MOVIE
JC Calciano (USA, 2018, 95 minutes)

The most popular LGBT web series in history – with over 52 million YouTube views – is now a feature film. Traci Lords (CRY BABY, SERIAL MOM, Stephen King’s THE TOMMYKNOCKERS) stars as an evil cosmetics mogul bent on acquiring an Encino gym which she believes sits atop the magical fountain of youth. But the handsome hunks in towels (well...when they can keep them on) will do anything to save their beloved steam room from her evil clutches. They try everything from a bake sale to a car wash to a stripper contest that will have gay audiences salivating and laughing at the same time. This dizzy, camp comedy, filled with an over the top, “evil queen” performance by Lords and a host of muscle eye candy needs to be seen on the big screen to be fully appreciated! Available in “CinemaScent” (with scratch & sniff cards).

Sunday, September 22 | 7:30 PM | Landmark 6

THE SYMPATHY CARD
Brendan Boogie (USA, 2019, 93 minutes)

When butch dyke Emma’s cancer takes a turn for the worse, she presents her new wife, pretty femme Josie a deathbed order: find someone new while Emma is still around to approve of her choice. Reluctantly, Josie embarks on a painfully awkward pursuit to honor Emma’s wishes and play the field. After many hilarious failures, Josie finds herself developing feelings for Siobhan, her free-spirited Florist. As her surprising bond with Siobhan deepens, Josie faces the dilemma of a time-limited present with Emma versus a possible future with Siobhan. THE SYMPATHY CARD is an unconventional comic love triangle about three women wrestling with the present, mortality, and bad first dates.

Sunday, September 22 | 5:15 PM | Landmark 7

STRAIGHT UP
James Sweeney (USA, 2019, 95 minutes)

Can a most likely gay man and a straight woman fall in love and live happily ever after without that pesky sex thing entering into the equation? That’s the question posed by this super whip-smart comedy from writer-director James Sweeney. Sweeney plays Todd, the aforementioned possibly, maybe gay man searching for his soulmate...someone who knows THE GILMORE GIRLS and LEGALLY BLONDE as well as he does. Someone who hates cats; has his same biting wit and loquacious vocabulary. Tired of the gay dating scene, Todd dives into the heterosexual pool and meets Rory (Katie Findlay, HOW TO GET AWAY WITH MURDER), an aspiring actress who meets Todd’s biting quip with equally biting quip. It’s a match sorta made in heaven. Sweeney and Findlay are supported by an equally strong supporting cast that includes Trace Thomas (RENT), Randall Park (AQUAMAN), Betsey Brandt (BREAKING BAD), and Brendan Scannell (BONDING).
Tuesday, September 24 | 7:15 PM | Landmark 6

TWO IN THE BUSH: A LOVE STORY
Laura Madalinski (USA, 2018, 97 minutes)

Emily (Sarah Mitchell) has just been dumped by her girlfriend, kicked out of her apartment, and fired from her job. Her best friend hooks her up with a new gig: personal assistant to a dominatrix. But when Emily falls for her new boss Nikki (Caitlin Aase) – and her new boss’ boyfriend Ben (Travis Delgado) – she must decide what risks are worth taking for love. Chica-go-based co-writer and director Laura Madalinski brings home her sensitive and restrained portrait of a polyamorous relationship in this special screening for the Reeling audience. As Lesflicks critic Victoria B noted, “This may be the first bi-poly sex dungeon rom-com.” Sign us up!

Wednesday, September 25 | 9:15 PM | Landmark 7

WHERE WE GO FROM HERE
Anthony Meindl (USA, 2018, 90 minutes)

Three acts of terror disrupt the lives of ordinary people. In Orlando, two lovers, hot muscle daddy Ricky (Anthony Meindl) and his feisty boy toy lover Raul (Matt Pascua), may be separated by the hate of another when Ricky heads out to meet friends at the local gay bar. In Binghamton, Elena (Olivia Taylor Dudley) an ESL teacher dealing with domestic abuse finds the abuse escalating when she begins tutoring Khalid (Siva Kaneswaran) and finds even greater violence at her school. In Paris, two women involved in a physical affair, complicated by the husband of one of the women, attend a concert in an attempt to forget their circumstances. Instead, they find themselves caught up in an act of brutal terrorism. Set against three real life tragedies ripped from the headlines, director-screenwriter-star Anthony Meindl has created a tremendously moving drama that serves as both a cautionary tale about violence and an homage to its victims.
THE ARCHIVETTES
Megan Rossman (USA/Australia, 2018, 61 minutes)
“Our history was disappearing as quickly as we were making it.” With that realization, Deborah Edel and Joan Nestle co-founded the Lesbian Herstory Archives, the world’s largest collection of materials by and about lesbians. For more than 40 years, through many of the major milestones in LGBTQ+ history, the all-volunteer organization has literally rescued history from the trash. Now the co-founders are in their mid-70s and the group faces a number of challenges: a transfer of leadership, the rise of digital technology, a renewed call to activism in a politically charged moment. THE ARCHIVETTES explores these trials as well as the genesis of this small but mighty group of women whose joint mission to combat invisibility and create “a place that says yes” will continue to resonate for decades to come. Screening co-presented by Howard Brown Center.

LEONARD SOLOWAY’S BROADWAY
Jeff Wolk (USA, 2019, 84 minutes)
In a career that has spanned more than 70 years, Broadway legend Leonard Soloway has helped bring to the stage nearly 150 productions that have collected more than 40 Tony Awards, 21 Drama Desk Awards and two Pulitzer Prizes. At age 90, Leonard is not done. Coaxing creativity out of chaos, the movie reveals Leonard’s extraordinary story as he and his team energetically work to get his latest production ready for its New York premiere. Interspersed with scenes of preparing the show are interviews with Broadway luminaries who have worked with Leonard, including John Slattery, Olympia Dukakis, Elizabeth Ashley, and others. Narrated by Campbell Scott, the film is a delightful ride through Broadway’s golden age, illuminated by Leonard’s dry wit and never-before-heard stories of everyone from Marlene Dietrich to Elaine Stritch. Leonard also relates candid moments from his journey as a proudly out gay man in an era when a “don’t ask, don’t tell” mentality was the rule, even in theatrical circles.

SID & JUDY
Stephen Kijak (USA, 2019, 100 minutes)
Narrated by Emmy winner Jon Hamm (MAD MEN) and Academy Award nominee Jennifer Jason Leigh (ANNIHILATION, THE HATEFUL EIGHT), Kijak’s film explores the dramatic career and personal struggles of the legendary performer and gay icon Judy Garland through rare concert footage, never-heard-before voice recordings and personal photos. In this revelatory new documentary, being released 50 years after Garland’s untimely death, we learn the details of the entertainer’s troubles through the memories of the one man who, for a tumultuous decade, was her confidant, manager, producer of A STAR IS BORN, and third husband: Sid Luft. Through Luft’s observations, only recently made public, and Garland’s own words emerges a poignant portrait of a woman whose vulnerabilities were exploited by an industry she helped build, but whose resilience, entrepreneurship and unfailing commitment to her creative gifts kept her fighting. SID & JUDY reminds us why Garland has remained a beacon of perseverance and joy.
Sunday, September 22 | 1:15 PM | Landmark 6

UNSETTLED: SEEKING REFUGE IN AMERICA
Tom Shepard (USA, 2019, 84 minutes)

Four LGBT refugees and asylum seekers from Africa and the Middle East flee persecution in their countries of origin to seek better and safer lives in the U.S in Tom Shepard’s powerful and timely documentary. We meet Subhi (from Syria), Junior (from Congo) and Mari and Cheyenne (from Angola) who each experience different roadblocks on the way to their journey to what each hopes will at last be freedom and ultimate acceptance. The shy and adorable Subhi finds himself touted by the queer community, accepting a GLAAD Media Award and sent out on speaking tours around the country, finding love in the process, while Mari and Cheyenne develop their musical abilities by recording an album. After initial signs of optimism, Junior finds himself beset by an array of challenges that include homelessness and gender non-conformity. And then Trump is elected and suddenly the asylum status for all four is in jeopardy.

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**BEHIND CLOSED DOORS**

Running time: 78 minutes

In MOVING DAY, a dad helps his son move into his boyfriend’s apartment and when a plumbing emergency leads him into the basement, he notices some strange things going on. Weird things are also happening in a family’s summer vacation home that seems to be haunted by the ghost of a dead homophobic father in THE SUMMER HOUSE. And even odder things are going on in a house where four best friends, living in fake heterosexual marriages, secretly meet to see their true spouses and play a game where they reminisce about their lives before the gay purge in the dystopian sci-fi film HIDING IN DAYLIGHT. A small town gay man whose experience of being gay is secretly hooking up with strangers visits his first drag bar in HOOSIER. In DOMINANT CHORD a country music star has to choose between losing his partner or coming out at the expense of his career. And in HANK, an aging couple struggling to save their marriage complicate matters by bringing a new lover into their relationship.

**DRAG, GEEKS AND SCHEMERS**

Running Time: 82 minutes

In the Chicago-made KINGS AND QUEENS, drag performers and best friends Polly Glamory and Stevie Stars vie to become the best performers in the most competitive drag market in the country. In the new web series SASS, gay geek Kevin and his divorcée neighbor and friend from Jersey, Jan, navigate “only-in-New York” encounters while living Uptown. In Episode 1, Kev and Jan unknowingly arrive at the posh event of Kev’s ex-partner while gigging for a catering company. In Episode 2, when a mega heatwave hits NYC, Jan and roomie Andre sneak into the swank air conditioned penthouse of Kev’s PhD advisor. In Season 3, Episode 3 of I’M FINE, Zachary learns something unexpected about Jeff when he takes him home to meet his mother. In LESSON #8, a short film from the series “The Lessons of Alberto Ferreras,” a gay man having sex with a stranger he met via a gay hookup app finds that his attempts to fulfill the fantasies in the stranger’s profile keep meeting resistance.

**DREAMS OF ANOTHER BODY**

Running Time: 90 minutes

The riveting multi-award-winning documentary PRISONER OF SOCIETY enters the world and mind of a young transgender woman whose parents have kept her a prisoner in her own home for over a decade in Georgia. In the beautifully moody Iranian film BODIES, a transgender actor in love with her straight director begs her father for a sex change operation to become a biological woman. SWITCH is the fantastical tale of a teenager who finds that she has the magical ability to switch back and forth between genders. In I’M MACKENZIE a skateboarding teen growing up in rural Texas has their first sexual encounter in the back of a truck, leaving them more confused than ever. In OUR TRANSITION, a filmmaker explores his transitioning at 13 years old through the perspective of his parents; and A NORMAL GIRL brings the widely unknown struggles of intersex people to light through the story of Chicago intersex activist Pidgeon Pagonis.

**EASTSIDERS 4**

Kit Williamson (USA, 2019, 60 minutes)

Cal and Thom are back! Kit Williamson’s sexy and quintessential gay relationship dramedy is almost here and Reeling audiences will be the first to see the initial two episodes of the forthcoming – and final – season, which promises to be the most epic yet. Look for more laughs and more insight into the rocky relationship of Cal (Williamson, EASTSIDERS, MAD MEN, THE GOOD WIFE) and Thom (Van Hansis, AS THE WORLD TURNS, KISS ME, KILL ME), as well as a lot more sexual encounters.

Preceded by:

**THIS ISN’T ME**

Adrian Rojas Elliot (USA, 2019, 20 minutes)

On his first day as a tutor, Fred has to manage the demanding parents of a cross-dressing eighth grader, while trying to fit into his busy schedule a rendezvous with an impatient fetishist.
**Monday, September 23 | 9:15 PM | Landmark 6**

**IT'S JUST COMPLICATED**  
Running Time: 90 minutes

Mixed signals abound as the young women in these shorts try to navigate the land of love without getting their hearts broken. In TREACLE, a bisexual woman joins her straight female friend on a road trip she had been planning to take with her boyfriend before they broke up and finds herself dazed and confused by her friend’s sexual behavior. In the episodic comedy TOUGH LOVE, Nikki is on a quest to find someone to date who will understand and accept her bisexuality, while in BIFL: THE SERIES, Jill is secretly in love with her roommate Chloe and she doesn’t know how to tell her.

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**Sunday, September 22 | 1:00 PM | Landmark 7**

**KNOCKED OUT**  
Running Time: 77 minutes

These three top-shelf shorts pack a powerful punch in their portrayal of the fortitude of love and self-respect in transcending the hard knocks of life. In CHAMP, an MMA fighter is kicked out of his trainer’s gym when he’s caught getting it on in the shower with another boxer, but rather than being down and out, he’s more intent than ever to win the title and, with it, assert his dignity. In LAND’S END, when a charismatic ex-con gets released from prison, a young man fixated on him picks him up, determined to be part of his life. And in DANTE VS. MOHAMMED ALI, young Wolf prefers poetry to boxing, but when the townspeople in the small Dutch village where he lives force him to fight in a match against his best friend, they get something they didn’t bargain for.

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**Saturday, September 28 | 5:00 PM | Chicago Filmmakers**

**THE KIDS ARE ALRIGHT**  
Running Time: 75 minutes

In THE ONE YOU NEVER FORGET, a teen getting ready for his first dance tries to elude his dad’s attempts to take photos of him and his date. A gay 11-year-old boy tries to convince Max, his first love, to go public with their relationship at the school party in LOLO. In COGNITIVE, a young gay father planning to take his infant to church for the first time is reminded of the trauma from his own religious upbringing. In VICTORY BOULEVARD, a teen crushes on his buff neighbor; a young middle-schooler wakes up one morning to find a unicorn horn growing out of his forehead in MONOCEROS LEX; in HENRY, a 14 year-old boy longs for the best Christmas present ever - to be accepted by his father; a girl bullied in school finds the best way to deal with the “mean girl” is to out sing her in SING OUT; and in BIRTHDAY GIRL, a cloud hangs over a girl’s birthday party as her mom wonders if her father will show up or miss out on seeing his daughter grow up.

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**Saturday, September 28 | 7:00 PM | Chicago Filmmakers**

**LOVE ACROSS MANY LANDS**  
Running Time: 84 minutes

A young lesbian risks her own safety when she steps in to protect her wayward teenage sister in CHERRY SEASON; a young Soviet telegraphist makes a desperate attempt to save her American lover from being stranded on the Russian side of the Bering Strait during the dawn of the Cold War in TOMORROW ISLAND; and an Israeli military officer has to decide whether or not the love letter left in her locker is sincere or mocking her in THE LOVE LETTER. A mother feels isolated in her home with her three-year old while her partner enjoys her freedom in TWO MUMS AND A GIRAFFE; a young Muslim woman returns to her deceased mother’s home to find evidence that her mother knew her secret in HOME GIRL; and a young woman returns to her former home to pick up her last few items after a break up in AFTER YOU LEFT.
LOVE FROM BRAZIL
Running Time: 85 minutes
An eclectic program of stunning short films from Brazil. In AFTER THAT PARTY, young Leo runs into his father unexpectedly on a night out - and is shocked to learn he’s been keeping a secret. Danny and Seiji meet at a different party in INFINITE WHILE IT LASTS, and their attraction is immediate, but is attraction enough? Laura unplugs from parties and social media in TAMAGOTCHI, and finds a connection with stargazer Agatha that seems almost too good to be true. In THE ORPHAN, an affecting drama that won the Queer Palm Award at the Cannes Film Festival, an adopted boy is returned because he doesn’t fit his new family’s expectations. Lastly, an episode of the documentary series INSPIRE THE NIGHT follows the festivities of BATEKOO, an Afro-Brazilian collective whose legendary parties became a political touchstone for the black LGBTQ+ movement in Brazil.

MAGIC AND MAYHEM
Running Time: 71 minutes
A stand-up comic’s rigidly routined lifestyle is turned upside down after a spontaneous hookup in FOREIGN. Two young women fall in love at first sight in SOMETHING DIFFERENT, a musical 48hr film project made in Chicago. Obsessive-compulsive Camila has a big, gay crush on her straight college roommate, but a chance encounter helps her to stop obsessing and look for the magic elsewhere in MISDIRECTION. In DINNER FOR FOUR a polyamorous female couple with an open relationship host a dinner party and find their guests, a straight couple, might be interested in more than just dessert after dinner. Another comedienne closes the show in SCARY LUCY, the hilarious story of her mission to destroy a hideous statue dedicated to her comic idol, Lucille Ball.

THE THINGS WE DO FOR LOVE
Running Time: 82 minutes
This program of hilarious comedic shorts illustrates how navigating human relationships is inherently funny. In FERTILIZER, Michael finds a new calling as a writer when he uses his misadventures in gay dating to start a blog. In NEXT LEVEL SHIT, Taylor’s nervousness about being perfect for his date with his dreamboat Chris backfires in more ways than one. In SHOPPING FOR LOVE, a clerk works up the nerve to ask a customer out for coffee, while in THE HANDYMAN it’s the customer looking for a date when he breaks stuff in order to get the hunky handyman back in his apartment to fix things. In DISTINGUISHED FEELINGS a woman inadvertently orchestrates her lover’s gay marriage when she tries to entrap him by sending an ostensibly straight man to seduce and then reject him. And in THE OFFICE IS MINE, the only gay man in an office of straight women freaks out when his status as everyone’s BFF is threatened by a newcomer in the office.
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SHORTS & EPISODIC PROGRAMS

Saturday, September 28 | 9:00 PM | Chicago Filmmakers

TRUTH OR DARE
Running Time: 81 minutes

Vulnerability is the theme in these deeply emotional shorts that explore the beauty, fear, and power of physical intimacy. In TOUCHSCREEN, a man whose sex life is mediated by a computer is challenged to step out from behind the screen. In the intimate sanctuary of the bathroom, a lonely young queer yearns for love, and learns how to survive heartbreak in THINGS THAT HAPPEN IN THE BATHROOM. The program continues with a magical twist in THE CURSE, when an eager young man has an encounter with a sorceress whose spell compels him to reveal his true desires. In MISSING, a bartender doesn’t realize he’s fallen in love with a customer until he ghosts him. In BOLDLY GO, a young man makes a revealing sacrifice for a chance at true love, while in RUBBER DOLPHIN, love blossoms and blooms all in one night, but can it really last?

Saturday, September 28 | 1:00 PM | Chicago Filmmakers

TIME CAPSULE
Running Time: 77 minutes

These compelling short documentaries paint a picture of the ongoing challenges facing LGBTQ+ communities and society as a whole. In THE MOST HATEFUL SMALL TOWN, a gay filmmaker interviews officials, townspeople, and even hate groups as he explores why Harrison, Arkansas is labeled as the most hateful town in America. RESHAPING BEAUTY: ROUND IN ALL THE RIGHT PLACES celebrates bodies that do not conform to the classic ideal of beauty, while CHAKALMEX reveals the race/class power dynamics behind the idealization of the male form in young indigenous proletarian communities in Mexico. In MY MATTACHINE, a man searches for a connection in the images of Chicago’s south side in the 1970s/80s, and in THE GAY RUB: A DOCUMENTARY, a man collects and preserves images through rubbings from LGBTQ historical markers, tombstones, plaques, and monuments.
EMERGING EPISODIC: QUEER WEB SERIES COMING OUT OF CHICAGO
Running time: 90 minutes
Chicago has become an exciting hotbed for the creation of queer web series. With funders, such as the Chicago Digital Media Production Fund, producers like Full Spectrum Features, and platforms such as OTV, there has never been a more fertile time for the creation of episodic programs in Chicago. As mainstream TV looks to diversify its programming, the time has finally come for creators of LGBTQ content to step forward and find a broader audience for their stories. Sample episodes from Chicago-based web series will be screened, followed by a panel discussion. Panelists TBA

WORK IN PROGRESS Screening & Panel Discussion
Running time: 60 mins.
The pilot of WORK IN PROGRESS, a new half-hour comedy series created by Chicago improv mainstays Abby McEnany and Tim Mason, and co-written by Lilly Wachowski (THE MATRIX, SENSE8) will screen followed by a panel discussion with special guests from the series. A funny and uniquely human comedy, WORK IN PROGRESS features McEnany as a 45-year-old self-identified fat, queer dyke from Chicago whose misfortune and despair unexpectedly lead her to a vibrantly transformative relationship. Chicago-based performer Karin Anglin co-stars alongside Celeste Pechous, with Julia Sweeney (SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE, SHRILL) appearing in a crucial role as herself and serving as executive producer. Theo Germaine (THE POLITICIAN) will also appear as a guest star. WORK IN PROGRESS is executive produced by McEnany, Mason and Wachowski, who also serve as co-showrunners. Mason also serves as director this season. Lawrence Mattis, Ashley Berns and Josh Adler or Circle of Confusion also serve as executive producers, along with Tony Hernandez of JAX Media (DESUS & MERO).

Panelists include series co-creator Abby McEnany, co-creator/director Tim Mason and guest star Theo Germaine.

WORK IN PROGRESS will premiere Sunday, December 8 at 11 p.m. ET/PT on SHOWTIME.

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