

**For Immediate Release**  
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**N.C. GAY & LESBIAN FILM FESTIVAL<sup>[SM]</sup>  
LENGTHENS TO ACCOMMODATE INFLUX OF GREAT FILMS**



**Durham, N.C-** The **NORTH CAROLINA GAY & LESBIAN FILM FESTIVAL (NCGLFF)** expands by a day for this year as film screenings begin on Wednesday. The NCGLFF runs **AUGUST 6-10** and is one of the premiere cinematic events in the state. Produced by the historic Carolina Theatre of Durham and now celebrating its eighth year, the NCGLFF is a highly-anticipated and nationally-recognized five-day celebration of award-winning domestic and international short and feature films. Tickets to the August 6-10 Festival (and the Après-Fest August 11-14) are on sale now and can be purchased at the box office located at 309 West Morgan Street or by calling (919) 560-3030. Five-packs are \$32.00 and single tickets are \$7.50.

The NCGLFF has increased its presence in the film industry and among international film festivals by featuring world premieres (most recently *Issues 101* featuring the American Idol-ized Kelly Clarkson), North Carolina exclusives, guest filmmakers, community and educational outreach programs and social interaction. Film programming for this year consists of 98 movies, shorts, videos and experimental films providing 68 screening opportunities throughout the five-day event. The schedule includes 96 North Carolina premieres, the east coast premiere of *Found*, the US premiere of *Orchid Games* and the world premiere of the documentary *Tarheels and Short Skirts*—from North Carolina filmmaker Chad Phillips.

New to the festival on Monday, August 4 and Tuesday August 5, is **SNEAK PEEKS**. Sneak Peeks is comprised of NCGLFF films that were unable to be screened more than once during the festival due to scheduling constraints. Some titles included are *G.A.D.A.R.*, *Superfag*

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and *Eli Parker's Getting Married*. The schedule and film descriptions are available online at [www.carolinatheatre.org](http://www.carolinatheatre.org). Tickets can be purchased through the box office at regular ticket prices.

The 2003 NCGLFF Programming Committee is pleased to announce this year's winners for the Emerging Film Award Winners. The winner for Best Feature is *Eden's Curve*, a powerful account of life in rural America; the Best Documentary winner is *No Secret Anymore: The Times of Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon*, a fascinating look at their struggle, unity and everlasting love; Men's Best Short winner is *The Visitor*—a moving film about the fragility of life, love and beauty; and the winner for Best Women's Short is *D.E.B.S.*, a fun romp about four gorgeous secret agents fighting a notorious villain.

Kicking off the festival at 7:30pm on Wednesday is the British Broadcasting Company's production of Sarah Water's award-winning novel *Tipping The Velvet*. Stylish, saucy and provocative—this lesbian coming of age story is told with soap-operatic slickness and fancy camerawork. Festival-goers can receive two tickets to this film free of charge.

Stars of television and film make appearances in several of the features and shorts at the festival including Wil Wheaton (*Star Trek*) in *Neverland*, Cady McClain (*All My Children*) in *Alma Mater*, Tammy Lynn Michaels (*Popular*) in *D.E.B.S.*, Mesach Taylor (*Designing Woman*), Brian Lane Green (*Day of Our Lives*) and Tony®-nominated actress Tovah Feldshuh in *Friends and Family*, Amanda Bears (*Married with Children*) in *Give or Take an Inch*, Steve Guttenberg in *PS. Your Cat Is Dead* and performances from Alexis Arquette (*Threesome, Pulp Fiction*), Jill St. John, Larry Sullivan (*Will & Grace, Six Feet Under*), Ray Baker (*Sweet November, The West Wing*) and Julie Brown (*Earth Girls are Easy*) in *The Trip*.

The last day of the festival includes the Israeli film *Yossi and Jagger*, an emotional love story about gay life in the Israeli army. This film sparked quite a controversy at the San Francisco International Lesbian and Gay Festival this year. According to the San Francisco Chronicle As credits rolled, a group known as QUIT! (Queers Undermining Israeli Terrorism) held banners that read: 17,000 Palestinian and Lebanese civilians killed by Israeli forces in Lebanon and No animals [were] harmed by the making of this film. People in the theatre both booed and cheered. Yossi Amrani, the San Francisco-based Israeli consul general, explained that the film is “not about politics, it is about love.” This film will screen at 5 p.m. on Sunday, August 10, 2003.

The international flavor is seen throughout the festival with films from Canada, the UK,

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Australia, Spain, Mexico, Argentina, Japan and Israel. Jim Carl, director of programming for The Carolina Theatre adds, "This year's festival line-up is our strongest, most diverse and boldest yet. We received almost 300 submissions and selected 137 finalists. Even after expanding to a five-day festival and adding Sneak Peeks, we still were forced to cut 39 films because of limited screening availability. In any previous year those 39 films could have, in themselves, produced a terrific NCGLFF."

Impressed by the quality of films submitted this year, Carl said: "Today's queer cinema is no longer limited to the grainy, low-budget productions of the 80's and early 90's. As the popularity and mainstreaming of queer culture continues to rise, so does the demand by audiences on the quality of the films produced."

"It's amazing to consider that many of this year's films weren't submitted by U.S. filmmakers or distributors, but came from around the world. Ten years ago, some of these same films would have been impossible to finance and, in some countries, even illegal to produce," he added. Among the 96 North Carolina premieres are such renowned films as *The Visitor* (2003 NCGLFF Emerging Film Award Best Men's Short), *KM.0*, *9 Dead Gay Guys*, *Suddenly* and *Sugar Sweet*.

The North Carolina Gay and Lesbian Film Festival began at the Carolina Theatre in 1995 in association with NC Pride '95 held at the Durham Civic Center when members from NC Pride asked The Carolina Theatre to show a series of movies in conjunction with the NC Pride '95 weekend. In the summer of 1996, the series expanded into a festival and included eight feature films. It became clear that the NCGLFF had become a significant cultural event within the Triangle's gay and lesbian community, attracting more than 1,000 attendees. Since then, the number of full-length features has tripled and only one-third of the entries are selected for public viewing.

A gala reception is planned for Friday, August 8, as well as community outreach programs and social activities. The Community Resource Room will once again feature displays by more than 50 organizations that serve or represent the LGBT community from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Friday, August 8, 11 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. on Saturday, August 9 and 11 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Sunday, August 10. The NC Pride marching band will again host the Pride Café in the upper ballroom on Saturday and Sunday.

The APRÉS-FEST film series will once again be a part of the 2003 NCGLFF. From August 11-14, the festival films *The Embalmer* and *The Trip* will be presented as part of the Carolina's weekly film schedule.

Patrons can buy a "Five-Pack" of films tickets for \$32 or single tickets for \$7.50. The "Five-Pack" discount is available for purchase through 6 p.m., Tuesday, August 5. To purchase tickets please

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contact the Carolina Theatre Box Office located at 309 West Morgan Street or by calling (919) 560-3030. Box Office hours are 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday – Friday.

[photos and artwork available upon request; director interviews possible]

**CAROLINA THEATRE. NEVER ORDINARY. 2003/2004 Season of Events**

*8<sup>th</sup> Annual North Carolina Gay and Lesbian Film Festival, August 6-10, 2003, 5-pack \$32, tickets: \$7.50*  
*Little Theatre of the Deaf presents The Giving Tree, Sept. 13, 2003, 11am, A: Adults \$21.00, Children: \$12.00*  
*B: Adults \$18.00, Children \$10*  
*National Theatre of the Deaf presents Oh Figaro! (The Barber of Seville & The Marriage of Figaro), September 13, 2003, 8pm, A: \$24.00 B: \$20.00*  
*Outback Concerts presents George Jones, September 19, 2003, 7:30pm, All Seats: \$56.00*  
*Break! The Urban Funk Spectacular, September 26, 2003, 8pm, A: \$22.50 With Student ID \$18.50 B: \$20.00 With Student ID \$16*  
*Total Vocal Jam featuring Rockapella and a local collegiate a cappella group!, October 9, 2003, 8pm, All Seats: \$25.00*  
*Susan Tedeschi, October 11, 2003, 8pm, All Seats: \$28.50*  
*WUNC FM Presents Wait Wait...Don't Tell Me!, October 16 & 17, 2003, 7:30pm, : \$40.00 B: \$30.00*  
*Ballet Gran Folklorico De Mexico, November 13, 2003, 7:30pm, A: Adults \$21.00 Children \$12.00 B: Adults \$18.00 Children \$10.00*  
*Rubbing Elbows with Ian Anderson, November 18, 2003, 8pm, A:\$39.00 B: \$35.00*  
*John Berry, An American Christmas 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Toys for Tots Holiday Country Concert, November 30, 2003, 7pm, All seats: \$27.00*  
*The David Sanborn Band, January 18, 2004, 7pm, All Seats: \$32.00*  
*5<sup>th</sup> Annual Nevermore Film Festival, January 23-25, 2004*  
*"MY WAY" A Tribute to Frank Sinatra, February 6, 2004, 7pm, A: \$26.00 B: \$22.00*  
*George Winston, February 13, 2004, 8pm, A: \$28.00 B: \$25.00*  
*6<sup>th</sup> Annual Jewish Film Festival, February 28 & 29, 2004*  
*Ladysmith Black Mambazo, March 2 & 3, 2004, 8pm, All Seats: \$25.00*  
*Chinese Golden Dragon Acrobats, April 16, 2004, 4:30 & 7:30pm, A: \$20.00 B: \$16.00*  
*"Caillou's Big Party", May 1, 2004, 3 & 6:30pm, A: Adults \$21.00, Children \$12 B: Adults \$18.00, Children \$10*

**GlaxoSmithKline Arts Discovery Program - School Day Performances**

*Charlotte's Web, October 10, 2003, 9:45 & 11:45 a.m. PRE-K-3*  
*Ballet Gran Folklorico De Mexico, November 13, 2003, 11:45am. ALL AGES*  
*Amelia Bedelia Runs 4 Mayor & Other Stories, January 7, 2004, 9:45 & 11:45am PRE-K-3*  
*Chuck Davis & The African American Dance Ensemble, February 16, 2004, 9:45 & 11:45am ALL AGES*  
*First in Flight, March 4, 2004, 9:45 & 11:45am 4<sup>TH</sup> GRADE & UP*  
*Walltown Children's Theatre presents Romeo & Juliet, March 12, 2004, 9:45 & 11:45am 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE AND UP*

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*The Carolina Theatre of Durham is a non-profit arts center dedicated to bringing quality film and live performances to the Triangle community. Live performances at the Carolina Theatre are supported in part by the North Carolina Arts Council, an agency funded by the state of North Carolina and the National Endowment for the Arts, and the A. J. Fletcher Performing Arts Fund of the Triangle Community Foundation.*