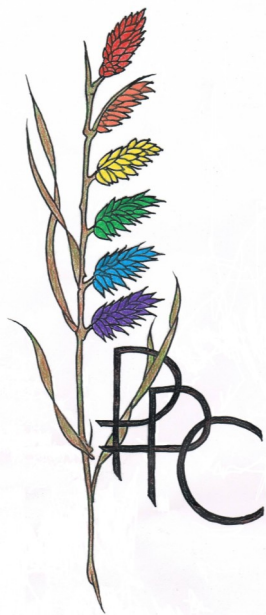


Rainbow Connection

OCTOBER, 2012



The Rainbow Connection is published by the Prairie Pride Coalition (PPC).

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Your Normal LGBT Film Fest!

The Prairie Pride Collation's committee for Your Normal LGBT Film Festival and the Normal Theater are pleased to announce the 2012 festival schedule. The titles for this year's Your Normal LGBT Film Festival include:

Taking a Chance on God (Wednesday, Oct. 17): records the remarkable journey of 85 year old John McNeill, a gay Catholic priest and the founder of the LGBT spiritual movement. He was a pioneering voice of gay liberation who stood up to the Vatican and future Pope Benedict XVI. This charming film illustrates McNeill's voyage from a youth in Buffalo, New York, his escape from the POW camps of Nazi Germany, falling in love with his husband, coming out on national television, and his quest for justice and compassion during the AIDS crisis. McNeil was a groundbreaking author and advocate for the unique spiritual gifts of LGBT people.

Kawa (Thursday, Oct. 18): tells the compelling story of an apparently happy family man who must reveal a lifelong secret...that he is gay. In this touching drama set in New Zealand, actor Calvin Tuteao has the title role of a father, a son, an executive, a husband, and a tribal leader who has to navigate the aspirations and long-standing traditions of his family and his people, while finding a way to be true to himself. Beautiful cinematography and strong performances

accompany this crowd pleaser.

Oscar winners Olympia Dukakis and Brenda Fricker, star in **Cloudburst**, (Friday, Oct. 19): which brings the venerable John Dunsworth, along with Genie Award-winner Kristin Booth, and newcomer Ryan Doucette as the free-spirited Prentice, to the screen. Stella (Dukakis) and Dot (Fricker) have been together for 31 years and have faithfully accompanied one another through life's ups and downs. Now in their seventies, Stella is hard of hearing and Dot is legal-

ly blind. The two escape from a nursing home in Maine and drive to Nova Scotia on a quest to be legally married. En route to Canada, they pick up a young hitchhiker, Prentice, a small-town boy turned modern dancer, who's returning to Nova Scotia to visit his dying mother. With equal parts of humor and grace, **Cloudburst** explores the important themes of life, death, and love through the eyes of this oddball trio.

Set in the town of Martin, Tennessee, **In the Family** (Saturday, Oct. 20): introduc-

es us to Chip Hines, a precocious six year old, who's only known life with his two dads, Cody (Trevor St. John) and Joey (actor and the film's director, Patrick Wang). Cody's wife died while giving birth to their son, Chip. Soon thereafter, Cody fell in love with Joey. For the next five years or so, they raised Chip (Sebastian Banes) together.

See Film Fest, con't on pg. 4



Ordinance Anniversary



Prairie Pride Coalition will participate in a discussion about the tenth anniversary of the Bloomington Human Rights Ordinance.

"Bloomington Human Rights Ordinance 10 Years Later" is the topic of the panel discussion which will take place at 12:10 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 11 in the Gov. Fifer Courtroom at the McLean County Museum of History, located at 200 N. Main St. in downtown Bloomington.

Prairie Pride Coalition board members Peggy Burton and Dave Bentlin will participate in the panel. The panel will be moderated by Bloomington City Council Alderwoman Karen Schmidt, who was on the council in October of 2002 and voted with the majority to add sexual orien-

tation to the ordinance.

The updated ordinance banned discrimination against gay and lesbian people in the areas of employment, public accommodations, housing, and financial transactions.

The brown-bag session is part of a lunch and learn series made possible through the museum's partnership with Illinois Wesleyan University and Collaborative Solutions Inc.



Members of the PFLAG of Bloomington-Normal were proud and excited to take part in the annual Bloomington Labor Day parade in September. This is the first time the group has participated in the parade.



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“8” Plays to a Packed House



“8” cast member Tom Chiola (second from right) joined fellow ISU alums Donna O’Crowly and Peggy Burton, (PPC), and Midwest Lambda Legal Defense Director Jim Bennett in a post-production discussion of the actual Proposition 8 and where gay marriage is going both in the state of Illinois and nationally.

A crowd of almost 450 people attended the Sept. 8 staged reading of “8,” an account of the Federal District Court trial in *Perry v. Schwarzenegger* (now *Perry v. Brown*), the case filed to overturn Proposition 8, which had stripped gay and lesbian Californians of the fundamental freedom to marry.

The Center for Performing Arts Theatre on the campus of ISU served as the perfect venue for this intimate, powerful, and passionate play. The cast - comprised of ISU alums, faculty members, students, and community members - was flawless in its execution of the script written by playwright Dustin Lance Black.

The crew also donated their time and expertise to assure an evening full of drama, passion, and great theater. They and several others contributed to a successful event that raised awareness and inspired people to act.

Afterwards, several of the actors and participants in the play stayed for a question-answer session, including Tom Chiola, an ISU alum and retired circuit court judge from Chicago. Chiola played the role of Judge Vaughn Walker in the production, and he is also the first openly-gay candidate elected to public office in Illinois when he won his judge’s seat.

The Prairie Pride Coalition would especially like to thank the co-sponsors - ISU’s College of Fine Arts, School of Theatre and Dance, University Housing Services, Diversity Advocacy, and the LGBT Queer Studies Institute - for collaborating with the coalition on this project. Special thanks also goes to Janet Wilson, Brian Gawor, and Mboka Mwilambwe for nurturing the staged reading and being there when the idea was first hatched.

For the latest updates on the court case, visit the American Foundation for Equal Rights at www.afer.org.

Local Middle School Starts GSA

Bloomington Junior High School is the first middle school in the immediate area to offer a Gay-Straight Alliance organization (GSA) to their students. The group, which will hold its first informational meeting on Oct. 18, is being sponsored by all eight members of the BJHS Respect Committee, including PPC member Suzie Hutton.

The group is meeting with the full support of District 87 administration, and they have registered with the Illinois Safe School Alliance on their GSA Network page.

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Film Fest

Con't from pg. 1

From all accounts, they are a very happy family, until tragedy strikes when Cody dies in a car accident. Joey continues to live in Cody's home and raise Chip, until Cody's Last Will and Testament is found in a safe deposit box. Cody's will predates when he met Joey and names his sister Eileen (Kelly McAndrew) as the executor of his estate and parental guardian for Chip. **In the Family** is a rich, humanist story about the importance of making judgments with one's heart and soul rather than merely abiding by outdated legal documents. It's a character study of a man who truly misses his son and reminds us all about the meaning of family.

Rounding out the festival is **Gayby**, (Sunday, Oct. 21): the hilarious tale of best friends from college Jenn (Jenn Harris) and Matt (Mathew Wilkes) who are now in their thirties. Jenn, a yoga teacher, is single by choice and spends her days running errands for her boss. Matt can't get over his ex-boyfriend and suffers from comic-book writer's block. The two decide to fulfill a youthful promise to have a child together... the old fashioned way. **Gayby** is a comedy about friendship, growing older, sex, loneliness, and the family you choose. Join us to

see how Jenn and Matt navigate the serious and unexpected snags they hit as they attempt to get their careers and dating lives back on track, all while making the preparations for parenthood.

A panel discussion about marriage equality, a personal visit from *In the Family* director Patrick Wang, and a collection of witty short films each night will fill this year's festival with inspired storytelling, laughter, and thoughtful dialogue. We hope to see you there!

Your Normal GLBT Film Festival

Handy clip-and-save schedule

Wednesday, Oct. 17—**Taking a Chance on God**, 7 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 18—**Kawa**, 7 p.m.

Friday, Oct. 19—**Cloudburst**, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 20—**In the Family**, 7 p.m.

Sunday, Oct. 21—**Gayby**, 7 p.m.

Calendar

- **Friday, October 5, First Fridays at the Bistro.**
- **Monday, October 8 – PFLAG, the Parents, Friends and Family of Lesbians and Gays, meets on the second Monday of each month at the Unitarian Church – 1613 E. Emerson, from 5:30 – 7:30.**
- **Friday, October 12 —Hotspot, hosted by Sharon Share-a-Like at the Bistro**
- **Saturday, October 13 – Transgender support group meets on the second Saturday of each month. Contact tginbnil@hotmail.com for more information.**
- **Halloween Fun at the Bistro! Pumpkin carving October 24, Plain Jane on October 27, fun times through the 31st!**

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