

TLVFest #10

Press Release: The Tel Aviv International LGBT Film Festival 2015

Celebrate TLVFest's 10th anniversary at the Tel Aviv Cinematheque during Pride week from June 6 to June 15.

This year's festival features new movies starring James Franco, Robin Williams and Natasha Lyonne. Special guests include: Queer icon Sherry Vine; Alanté Kavaïté, 2015 winner of Sundance's Best Director; Luiz Vega, the "lost son" of Madonna; Angela Robinson, producer of True Blood; Jonathan King, producer of Lincoln and Dreamgirls; and Mark Christopher, director of 54 Director's Cut...

TLVFest opens the night of June 6 with **Fresno**, a film directed by **Jamie Babbit**, last year's TLVFest Honorary Award winner. This surprising black comedy stars **Natasha Lyonne, Judy Greer** and **Aubrey Plaza**, and was produced by Andrea Sperling (*Transparent*) and written by Karey Dornetto (*The New Normal, Portlandia*).

TLVFest is also very proud to present **54: Director's Cut** with Ryan Philippe and Selma Hayek which just premiered at Berlinale 2015. Its director **Mark Christopher** and producer Jonathan King will attend the showing. Likewise, **Alanté Kavaïté**, the director of **The Summer of Sangailé**, winner of the Best Director at Sundance 2015 will attend the Israeli premiere of her movie. **Luizo Vega** will present his unique documentary, **The Material Boy** (2015), about creating art that breaks boundaries in a fascist country and his longing for his "mother", the Queen of Pop, Madonna.

This year TLVFest's Honorary Award will be presented to **Angela Robinson** who will show her cult lesbian spy comedy **D.E.B.S.** which is celebrated its 10th anniversary last year. Robinson joined the hit HBO series *True Blood* in 2012 as writer, producer and director. She was the first out lesbian and African American director of a Disney film, *Herbie Fully Loaded*, and produced and directed a number of episodes of the renowned lesbian TV series *The L Word*. Today, Robinson continues to break stereotypes as consulting producer of *How to Get Away with Murder*.

The Award Ceremony will feature **Robin Williams'** last movie, **Boulevard** (2014), in which he portrays a 60-year-old man coming out of the closet. **The Fourth Man Out** (2015) directed by **Andrew Nackman** will celebrate its international premiere at TLVFest's Closing Night on June 15. **Evan Todd**, the star of the movie will be in attendance.

TLVFest INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM

TLVFest will feature a number of Israeli premieres this year: The first feature by **Justin Kelly**, **I am Michael** (2015), starring **James Franco** as "saved" gay activist Michael Glatze and **The Amina Profile** (2014), by **Sophie Deraspe**, which tells the story of a lesbian activist in Damascus who vanished in the early days of the Arab Spring. Both movies had their world premieres at Sundance 2015.

From Berlinale 2015, TLVFest will present Israeli premieres of:

Stories of Our Lives (2014), a touching collection of the stories of LGBT-people in Kenya which won the Teddy Jury Award at this year's Berlinale.

From the Berlinale Official Competition, ***Big Father, Small Father and Other Stories*** (2015) takes viewers on a journey through Saigon in the early nineties.

From Thailand, ***How to Win at Checkers (Every Time)*** tells the story of young people living in a country ruled by greed, corruption and false ideals.

More films from Berlinale 2015:

- Swedish trashy campy comedy ***Dyke Hard*** (2015);
- ***Bizarre*** (2015) from France featuring an underground burlesque club in Brooklyn;
- German documentary ***Prison System 4614*** (2015) depicting a weekend in a vacation resort behind bars. **Jan Soldat** the director of the movie will attend;

More Israeli premieres at TLVFest 2015:

- ***The Smell of Us***, the latest movie by **Larry Clarke** (*Kids, Ken Park*) follows Paris teenagers skateboarding and prostituting themselves. It premiered at the 2014 Venice Film Festival;
- ***Predestination*** (2014), a science fiction film starring **Ethan Hawke** as a time-traveling special agent, investigates gender in a very intriguing way;
- ***The Duke of Burgundy*** (2014), directed by **Peter Strickland**, explores sadomasochistic relationships and was selected by critics all over the world as one of the best features of 2014;
- ***All Yours*** (2014) from Belgium won the Best Actor at Karlovy Vary 2014. It tells the story of a young Argentinean boy invited to Belgium to live with an older gay man;
- ***Appropriate Behavior*** (2014) is a fresh American bisexual comedy directed, written and starring **Desiree Akhavan** from the HBO series *Girls*;
- ***Bonobo*** (2014) is the story of a woman in her 60s who, while trying to save her daughter from a bohemian community, eventually discovers herself; With assistance from the British Council, director **Matthew Hammet Knott** will be present after the screening for a Q&A; and
- **Dr. Ronni Sanlo** will present the documentary, ***Letter to Anita***, about her fight against Anita Bryant's anti-gay campaign.

TLVFest ISRAELI FEATURES

As usual, TLVFest will present a very diverse Israeli program featuring more than 30 new Israeli short movies in their world or Israeli premieres. Notably, the new documentary ***Karam: A Matter Of Karma*** (2014) tells the story of a Palestinian-Israeli drag queen who speaks about his tormented past, his tragic coming out in front of his Muslim family, finding shelter in an LGBT-youth house in Tel Aviv and his ambition to change the image of the LGBT-people in the Arab community, will premiere in the Israeli Features section. ***Third Person*** (2015), directed by **Sharon Luzon**,

creatively documents the life of two intersex people: one Muslim and one religious Jew. Finally, the American-Israeli co-production ***Lost in the White City*** (2015) will have its Israeli premiere at TLVFest. The film tells the story of a group of American students who arrive to Tel Aviv to find themselves in a romantic triangle with Israeli soldiers. It features international stars **Thomas Dekker** (*Kaboom*), **Haley Bennett** (*The Equalizer*) and **Bob Morley** (*The 100*).

TLVFest PARTIES & SPECIAL EVENTS

June 5th 2015	Opening Party
June 6th 2015	Opening Night
June 12th 2015	TLVFest Queer Pride Party
June 13th 2015	TLVFest Ceremony Award
June 15th 2015	Closing Night

TLVFest is excited to announce that internationally renowned drag queens **Sherry Vine** from New York and **Gloria Viagra** from Berlin will perform at TLVFest's Opening Party on June 5.

On June 12, **Maya Jafer**, co-actor on the Golden Globe winning series *Transparent*, will perform at TLVFest's Queer Pride Party and festival guests **Luizo Vega** from Paris and **Missy Lopes** from Hamburg will DJ during the evening.

For more information, please visit our website at www.tlvfest.com

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