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MEDIA ADVISORY

MiFo Welcomes Directors, Actors and Producers As Film Festival Kicks Off “Centerpiece” Halfway Mark

NOTE TO MEDIA: Please be advised that the *Taste of Film* event on Thursday, April 28 is for ticket-holders only. Due to the limited space, there will be no media access to this event.

Talent will be available for interviews.

Wednesday, April 27 7 PM, Regal South Beach: CENTERPIECE FILM

UNCLE GLORIA

In attendance: Robyn Symon, Director and Gloria Stein, the subject of the documentary

A perfect example of a "that only happens in Florida" story, *Uncle Gloria: One Helluva Ride* tells the tale of Butch, a macho senior owner of an auto wrecking company, who goes on the lam from the law during a nasty divorce and discovers her new self. Undergoing a risky sex-change operation due to her age, Gloria becomes a dominatrix, transgender activist, and finds love - all while trying to reconcile with her dysfunctional family. *Uncle Gloria: One Helluva Ride* is a darkly funny film full of family drama and fireworks.

Thursday, April 28 7 PM, Regal South Beach

VIVA

In attendance: Actors Hector Medina and Luis Alberto Garcia

Jesus, a young hairdresser working at a Havana nightclub that showcases drag performers, dreams of being a performer himself. Encouraged by Mama, his mentor, Jesus finally gets his chance to take the stage. But when his estranged father Angel abruptly re-enters his life, his world is quickly turned upside down. As father and son clash over their opposing expectations of each other, *Viva* becomes a love story as the men struggle to understand one another and reconcile as a family.

Thursday, April 28 9:15 PM, Regal South Beach

M.O.B. WIVES OF RICHMOND

In Attendance: Dmitry Zhitov, Director; Jose Canto, Producer; and Anelica O. Mark-Harris & Bessie Mark, drag queens who appear in the film

The M.O.B. (Magnificent, Outspoken, Beautiful) Wives of Richmond are a diverse group of female drag queens. These non-judgmental straight women aren't afraid to drape themselves in the most elaborate and over-the-top outfits showing others that it is OK to be fabulous around the clock, to live outside the box and to dare to be different. Lovingly crafted by local filmmaker, Dmitry Zhitov.

Friday, April 29 9:15 PM, Regal South Beach

DOWNRIVER

In Attendance: Grant Scicluna, Director; Reef Ireland, Actor

James has served time for his involvement in the suspected drowning of a young boy in a river years earlier, although the body was never found. Ravaged with uncertainty, dealing with an estranged family and forced to face the dead boy's mother, James sets out on a journey of self-discovery, shocking revelations and danger as questions surrounding the boy's death brim to the surface. *Downriver* asks an audience to come to unsettling places. Can we begin to desire something good for someone who has done something so wrong?

Saturday, April 30 2:45, Regal South Beach

CLAMBAKE

In Attendance: Andrea Meyerson, Director

The year is 1984, and a group of women innkeepers in Provincetown gathered together to figure out how to entice summer guests back during the off season. Women's Week was born. *Clambake* charts the 30-year growth of Women's Week in Provincetown, through archival footage, interviews with celebrities and founders, and current events and performances, offering a historical—and hysterical—look at what a handful of innovative women can accomplish.

Saturday, April 30 5 PM, Miami Beach Cinematheque

FAIR HAVEN

In Attendance: Kerstin Karlhuber, Director; Jack Bryant, Writer; Thomas Molloy, Producer/Actor

Fair Haven follows a young man, James, who returns to his family's farm after a long stint in gay-to-straight conversion therapy. He comes home believing that he has been "cured" of his same-sex desire. However, once home he is torn between the expectations of his emotionally distant father, and the memories of Charlie, a past, loving relationship he has tried to bury.

Saturday, April 30 7:30 PM, Miami Beach Cinematheque

LOVE IS ALL YOU NEED?

In Attendance: Kim Rocco Shields, Director; Blake Cooper Griffin, Actor; Briana Evijan

Inspired by true events of bullying. A town is rocked when their local university's picture-perfect star quarterback is outed for being a heterosexual after her peers discover her secret love affair with a male journalist. Their community is part of a world much like our own, but with a twist: Same sex couples are the majority and mixed gender couples are the minority.

ABOUT MiFo LGBT FILM FESTIVAL

Now in its 18th year, MiFo's expanded lineup includes with more than 80 films from 28 countries, an unprecedented number of premieres and a spectacular lineup of special events.

Rebranded in 2015 as "MiFo," the festival's motto "**UNITED WE FILM**," not only signifies the melding of Miami and Fort Lauderdale under one brand, but is also reflective of the diversity of the films, the market and the MiFo audience. MiFo Miami has grown from a three-day festival in which 25 films were presented, to the current .10-day event with 80+ films. The 8th Annual Fort Lauderdale Edition - October 7 through October 16 - has evolved from a three-day event to a two-weekend event, showcasing 50+ films.

For further information, including a complete schedule of screenings, special events, tickets, membership and sponsorship opportunities, go www.MiFofilm.com or call (305) 751-6305.

The MiFo LGBT Film Festival is committed to its mission: To inspire, entertain and educate the public, encourage a sense of community through international and culturally diverse film, video, and other media that offer historical and contemporary perspectives on the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender experience.

#UNITEDWEFILM

#MIFO

#MiFoFilm