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7th ANNUAL MiFo LGBT FILM FESTIVAL FEATURES FILMS, EVENTS AND PARTIES APPEALING TO WOMEN

Following a hugely successful Festival that saw record attendance last year, the MiFo LGBT Film Festival in Fort Lauderdale has a fun and inspiring lineup of films and special events that appeal to South Florida's diverse audience.

Presented by **Merrill Lynch, Showtime** and the **Greater Fort Lauderdale Office of Film, Music & Entertainment**, the MiFo Festival features 53 films and takes place on Friday, October 9 through Sunday, October 11; and on Thursday, October 15 through Sunday, October 18. Screenings will be held at the Classic Gateway Theatre, 1820 East Sunrise Boulevard; Cinema Paradiso, 503 SE 6th Street; and Opening Night at the NSU Art Museum Fort Lauderdale.

"With a new moniker reflecting the melding of Miami and Fort Lauderdale under one brand, this year also signals an added emphasis to reach out to the women in our community," said Victor Gimenez, Executive Director of MiFo. "This means an expansion of films and events that reflect the true diversity of South Florida, as well as the addition of several women to our Board of Directors."

One of the must-see films this year is ***Liz en Septiembre*** (*Liz in September*), not only for the quality of film, but also for its leading actress, **Patricia Velasquez**, who will be attending the screening and after-party. *Liz en Septiembre* was recognized at the Miami MiFo Festival earlier this year as the audience favorite for Best Feature.

While many may recognize Patricia from *The L Word* or her appearance on *Celebrity Apprentice*, her international success runs the gamut. A social activist, she founded the Wayúu Taya Foundation to help Latin American indigenous groups, and as an Artist for Peace she is a celebrity advocate for UNESCO and received the "Women Together" award at the United Nations in 2009 and the Solidarity Award in November 2010.

As a sought-after supermodel, her exotic features have adorned the covers of *Vogue*, *Bazaar*, *Marie Claire* and other international fashion magazines. Most recently, Patricia released her autobiography, "Straight Walk: A Supermodel's Journey to Finding her Truth," in which she recounts her triumphant journey from poverty to international acclaim. Patricia will be signing copies of her book at the after-party.

Following are a few of the film and party highlights:

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9 OPENING NIGHT! NSU Art Museum Fort Lauderdale

OPENING Night Film: *Fourth Man Out* 8 PM
Director: Andrew Nackman
Runtime: 95 minutes / USA, 2015

Twenty-something auto mechanic Adam enjoys beer, hockey and inappropriate bodily functions. But Adam also likes guys. A hilarious mash-up of man-child and coming-out comedies, *Fourth Man Out* examines a small-town, blue-collar guy who lets his friends know he's gay - and what happens when they try to help him find a boyfriend.

OPENING NIGHT CELEBRATION 10 PM

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10: 5:15 PM at The Classic Gateway Theatre

WOMENS' SHORTS

Total Runtime: 92 minutes

Victor XX Director: Ian Garrido
Spain, RT: 21 mins; *In Spanish with English subtitles*

9.55 - 11.05, Ingrid Ekman, Bergsgatan 4B Directors: Cristine Berglund and Sophie Vukovic
Sweden, RT: 15 mins; *In Swedish with English subtitles*

In The Hollow Director: Austin Bunn
USA, RT: 17 mins

Adrift in Sunset Director: Narissa Lee
USA, RT: 24 mins *In English and Thai with English subtitles*

Disaster Preparedness Director: Melissa Finell
USA, RT: 15 mins

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10 7:30 PM at C&I Studios

Liz in September (Liz en Septiembre) Director: Fina Torres

Runtime: 92 minutes / Venezuela, 2014 / *In Spanish with English subtitles*

Special appearance by Actress Patricia Velasquez

Every year, womanizing party girl Liz and her friends celebrate her birthday at a Caribbean beach retreat. This year might be the final celebration because she is terminally ill, a fact she hides. When Eva, a young outsider arrives, Liz seduces her. But the ingénue is deeply wounded by the recent death of her young son, and nothing turns out as expected. The encounter between these two opposite women changes their lives, setting new perspectives where love, life, and Death, away from any morals, play as simple steps of nature.

AFTER-PARTY AT 9:30 PM WITH DJ CITIZEN JANE AT C & I STUDIOS, FOLLOWING THE FILM

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11 7:30 PM at The Classic Gateway Theatre

While You Weren't Looking Director: Catherine Stewart
Runtime: 104 minutes / South Africa, 2015 / *In English, Xhosa and Afrikaans with English subtitles*

The changing landscape of post-Apartheid South African politics and lifestyles is portrayed through three queer relationships: a successful, black real estate woman who is cheating on her white wife, their gorgeous bohemian daughter dating a gender non-confirming woman in the Soweto ghettos, and a white, male, queer studies professor pining for his black male lover from the revolutionary days.

Preceded by:

Night Life Director: Sarah Scarlett Downing

USA, 12 mins

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15

8 PM at Cinema Paradiso

CENTERPIECE FILM

54: *The Director's Cut* Director: Mark Christopher

Runtime: 106 minutes / USA, 2015

Studio 54! In 1998, director Mark Christopher created a cinematic monument to this ostentatious mixture of Art Deco, plush, frivolous 1970s hedonism, and drug-induced 24-hour party people. Prior to its release, the studio made this film more "mainstream" by eliminating all the things that would have made it great. *54: The Director's Cut* is a reintegrated version that is weightier, darker, more drug-addled and, above all, queerer than the version that received the nod at the time.

CENTERPIECE PARTY FOLLOWING THE FILM

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16

7 PM at The Classic Gateway Theatre

Margarita, With a Straw Director: Shonali Bose

Runtime: 100 minutes / India, 2014 / *In Hindi and English with English subtitles*

In this inspirational love story, Laila is a student, aspiring writer, and a member of a band, who just happens to have cerebral palsy. Always seeking more freedom and new experiences, Laila wins a place at New York University and leaves for Manhattan. There she meets a fiery activist, Khanum, who challenges her beliefs, sparks her creativity, and eventually takes her to bed.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16

9:15 PM at The Classic Gateway Theatre

That's Not Us Director: William Sullivan

Runtime: 97 minutes / USA, 2015

That's Not Us is an intimate portrait of three 20-something couples - one gay, one lesbian, and one straight - as they travel to a beach house to enjoy the last days of summer. But amidst the fun, sun, sand and carefree attitudes also comes an exploration of what it takes to sustain a healthy relationship and make love last.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18

12:45 PM at The Classic Gateway Theatre

Deep Run Director: Hillevi Loven

Runtime: 75 minutes / USA, 2015

Director Hillevi Loven and LGBTQ supporter Susan Sarandon are the talents behind *Deep Run*, a powerful verité portrait of trans life in rural North Carolina. Exiled by her family and rejected by an ex, 17-year-old Spazz has no one to lean on for support. But when Spazz falls in love again and summons up the courage to become Cole, a strong-willed trans man, his candid humor and steadfast, all-inclusive Christian beliefs counter the bigotry he experiences daily.

**Preceded by
*Pink Boy***

Director: Eric Rockey

USA, 25 mins

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17:

7:30 PM at The Classic Gateway Theatre

The Girl King

Director: Mika Kaurismäki

Runtime: 102 minutes / Finland, 2015 / *In English and Swedish, French and German with English subtitles*

Crowned Queen at the age of six, Kristina of Sweden was thrust into a labyrinth where a court of austere, Lutheran men pressures her to marry and produce an heir. She finds sanctuary and love with her lady-in-waiting, the countess Ebba Sparre. Soon, the forces around the Queen realize that Ebba is the key to controlling her, but underestimate Kristina's brilliant mind and her drive to be free. Torn between the conflict of political and personal aspirations, Kristina chooses to make one of the most controversial decisions in history.

AFTER-PARTY AT MOD WINE BAR, NEXT TO THE THEATRE

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18

7:30 PM at The Classic Gateway Theatre

Portrait of a Serial Monogamist

Directors: John Mitchell and Christina Zeidler

Special Appearance: Director John S. Mitchell And Actress Diane Flanks

Runtime: 84 minutes / Canada, 2015

Elsie, a 40-something television producer and serial monogamist, is beginning to feel restless in yet another long-term relationship. She decides it is time to break up with her girlfriend and pursue the young DJ/barista she has had her eye on. After successfully landing who she thought was the girl of her dreams, Elsie is faced with the growing realization that she may have broken up with her soulmate. *Portrait of a Serial Monogamist* is a hilarious, honest and oh-so-romantic comedy about the coming of middle age.

CLOSING NIGHT PARTY & AWARDS CEREMONY AT 10 PM

Bahia Mar Fort Lauderdale Beach, 801 Seabreeze Boulevard, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33316

For further information or to purchase tickets, go to www.MiFoFilm.com, or call (305) 751-6305. Follow MiFo on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/MiFoFilmFest>.