

## THE FILMS

A program of films dealing with alternative family structures is highlighted by **CHICKS IN WHITE SATIN** (28 minutes), Elaine Holliman's brilliant short about an extravagant lesbian wedding, nominated for an Oscar this past year. The award-winning **CHOOSING CHILDREN** (45 minutes), by Debra Chasnoff and Kim Klausner, focuses on six families who are raising their children in several ways: lesbian and gay male co-parenting, group parenting, single parenting, and as gay couples. **IF SHE GROWS UP GAY** (23 minutes), by Karen Goodman, is a funny, moody, and down-to-earth interview with a young black mother, who talks about her pregnancy and raising her daughter with her lesbian lover in New York City.

**COMING OUT UNDER FIRE** informs the current debate over gays and lesbians in the military by viewing the issue from a historical perspective. Based on Allan Berube's award-winning book, Arthur Dong and Allan Berube's film focuses on the personal testimonies of nine courageous gay and lesbian veterans who served during World War II. Their warm and entertaining stories of the subtle ways they found to communicate with each other and their tales of first love are contrasted with the bitter memories of humiliation and persecution. **ALLAN BERUBE will appear to discuss the film at the Saturday and Sunday shows.**

**DESPERATE REMEDIES** is a 1993 film from New Zealand with something for everyone, a campy bodice-ripper about a turn-of-the-century lipstick lesbian and the handsome men who seek to defame her. The closing night feature at this year's San Francisco Lesbian and Gay Festival, it was described in their catalog as "A tale of lesbian triumph driven by a rampantly operatic score, eye-popping color, and a generous, demented gay sensibility." Directed by New Zealand's most prominent gay filmmakers, Stewart Main and Peter Wells.

**FOR A LOST SOLDIER** is an off-beat and deftly-executed romantic film from Holland (based on Rudi Van Dantzig's autobiography) that takes place during the winter of 1944-45, when fearful Amsterdam families sent their children to the care of rural families. One such child is the 12-year-old Joeren, who is sent to live with a fishing family. When Allied liberation forces filter into the area, a young Canadian soldier, feeling as lonely and isolated as Joeren, takes up temporary barracks in the village, and the two are drawn to each other. "Beautifully acted and gorgeously filmed" (San Francisco Chronicle)

**LIVING PROOF: HIV and the Pursuit of Happiness** is an eye-opening documentary by Kermit Cole that will change the way HIV-positive people are seen. The dignity and character of the men, women and children portrayed here, from all walks of life, is amazing; far from giving up, these strong souls have resolved to live life to the fullest, to pursue their dreams, and to combat the image that the media has given us of AIDS. "It's a simple study of hope in the face of adversity...Viewers will find it a comfort, if not a revelation." (The New York Times) **Local AIDS activists will lead a discussion after the Sunday showing.**

**OUT: STORIES OF LESBIAN AND GAY YOUTH**, is a strong and spirited overview of the lives and struggles of lesbian and gay teenagers in Canada. It covers a broad range of concerns and features a rich cross-section of interviews with a new generation of articulate and proud teenagers. Frank interviews with parents, along with discussions of homophobia, coming out, and finding community make the film a great primer for young people, gay and straight. **There will be discussion sponsored by OUTRIGHT VERMONT after the Tuesday show.**

**SAVAGE NIGHTS** is the final testament of Cyril Collard, the writer, director, and star of this intense and often shocking film, who died of AIDS three days before it swept the French "Cesar" awards in 1993. Jean, played by Collard, is an openly bisexual filmmaker living in Paris, who continues to live with reckless abandon even after being diagnosed as HIV-positive. He has a torrid affair with a young actress (Romane Bohringer), but chooses not to tell her of his condition. "The film explodes pieties and certainties about sex, which makes the film angry, insolent, and exciting to watch." (Rolling Stone)

**THE WEDDING BANQUET** enjoyed great critical acclaim at its release last year, and was nominated for a Best Foreign Language Film Oscar (Although it is officially a Taiwanese film, it takes place in New York City and is in both English and Chinese). Its hero, Wai-Tung Guo, seems to have it all: financial security, a brownstone, and an American male lover who cooks great Chinese food. Under pressure from his traditional family to continue the family name, he agrees to marry a young woman in need of a green card. "The banquet that gives this funny and poignant comedy of manners its name is an opulent nuptial celebration that refuses to end...It is the unusual comedy in which the humor springs as much from character as from situation." (The New York Times)

**WILDFLOWERS** is a touching and unsentimental Scottish film set in the seemingly passionless confines of a rustic village. Annie is a middle-aged wife and mother of two who once had an adolescent affair with another woman, an affair discovered by her stern mother. Annie has accepted her lot, with the affair a bittersweet memory, until her son Angus brings his girl friend home on their college vacation. "The film is gentle in tone but with strong currents bubbling under the carefully nurtured bourgeois normality...The principal actresses are excellent, breathing even more life into the already lively, and often funny, script." (London Observer)

### TICKET PRICES

Entire Series ticket \$35

Five-film ticket \$20

Single admission \$5; each additional same-day show \$4

*Please note:*

*Series tickets non-transferable.*

*Savoy membership is not valid for the festival.*

*No advance single admission sales.*

*Make checks payable to FOCUS ON FILM*

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