

PRESS RELEASE :: 01-10-2017 (for immediate release)

Durban Gay & Lesbian Film Festival resumes 3 October after forced month's "pause"

Having now met the regulatory requirements of the Film & Publications Board (FPB) raised just prior to its initial opening 25 August, the **Durban Gay & Lesbian Film Festival** (DGLFF), now in its 7th year, will resume with screenings from Tuesday 3 October and run for 9 consecutive days to Wednesday 11 October 2017.

This annual cinematic celebration of independent queer cinema is expanding its reach within the Ethekeini region with screening venues that will include Durban's Outer West LGBTIQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender & intersex) communities. From both a practical and demand-driven perspective, #DGLFF2017 has recognised that for many, the journey to "town" is both expensive and often far. Therefore festival director Jason Fiddler has successfully re-negotiated with **Tina's Hotel** in **Kloof**, home to Roland Stansell's branch of Rhumbelow Theatre, to host three evening screenings of films this week from Tuesday 3rd to Thursday October 5th.

The Festival had opened 25 August at the aha Waterfront Hotel & Spa in Point with a screening of the already FPB classified film 'INXEBA' ('The Wound'), yet had to wait more than 30 days for an exemption from classification process to unfold. Having now satisfied the FPB, the festival will continue to screen at Alliance Francaise and the Durban Lesbian & Gay Centre in Morningside, in support of main venues Tina's Hotel and the KZNSA Gallery in Glenwood, where screenings take place from Friday 6 to Wednesday 11 October.

The DGLFF line up this year also includes as Closing Night Film (Wednesday 11 October) young filmmaker Thishiwe Ziqubu's '**SINA NOMAKOTSHANA**' ('**Dance with the Maiden**'), a 24 minute short film about a girl falling in love with her contemporary dance partner and coming out of the closet during her traditional Zulu initiation. Other South African content includes Allan McDonald's moving documentary '**LOCKED IN**' about transgender people within the Xhosa and Muslim communities, including their very real struggles for acceptance. DGLFF will also host the world premiere of Durban filmmaker Dayakar Padayachee's 40 minute gay short '**SHADOW**' on Saturday 7 October at the KZNSA at 6pm. This is a psychological horror following a gay Indian teen's decent into darkness during his parent's growingly ugly divorce, as a malevolent force takes hold.

The Festival resumes with an evening of **Danish LGBTIQ films and documentaries on Tuesday 3 October**, with guest **Saadat Munir** from AKS Minorities Festival in Copenhagen in attendance as a guest courtesy of the Royal Danish Embassy in Pretoria. Included in the three-night Tina's Hotel line up are the Argentinean drama '**BROMANCE**' (a feature film about three friends who realise they've grown as young men and their relationship is devolving on a weekend getaway at the beach), '**BOYS FOR SALE**' (an adults-only feature documentary that takes a candid journey with *Urisen*, mainly straight gay-for-pay escorts, in Japan's oldest red light district) and '**SOMETHING LIKE SUMMER**' (a surprisingly complex comedy-musical-romance that follows two high school guys who's whirlwind romance goes awry, and who find one another very different people years later; expect some really original vocal performances by some known TV talent).

Further, Fiddler has curated two sets of short films for outer west audiences. Running at 67 minutes, **Lesbian Shorts** includes three beautiful short films ('**LILY**' from Ireland; '**THE MASTERFUL HERMIT**' from Wales; and '**THE PRETTY THINGS ARE GOING TO HELL**' from Denmark) that explore tender relationships, old flames that turn up unexpectedly and the pain of parting. Spanish Gay Shorts (running 54 minutes) includes a trio of Spanish-language short films that explore the bisexual feelings of a man between his girlfriend and his best friend ('**GOLDFISH**' from Mexico), the very real matter of a couple who need to frankly discuss their sex life having been involved for some time ('**VERSATILE**' from Spain) and how little white lies can make for hilarious complications with grandma on your wedding day ('**THE MARRIAGE**' from Spain)!

With 7 feature films, 11 documentaries and almost 30 short films from 14 countries globally, including South Africa, the DGLFF expects to speak to the interests of many different audiences. Fiddler encourages mainstream audiences who love good cinema to participate: "Ours is an inclusive Festival. You don't have to be gay, or lesbian, or otherwise to appreciate these well made films. You just need to be open minded, and make the effort to discover new stories."

A special encore screening of now foreign language Oscar-nominated 'INXEBA' ('The Wound') takes place Saturday 7 October at 7pm at the KZNSA Gallery, after 'SHADOW's world premiere. Further information is available on the Festival Website: www.dglff.org.za



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The DGLFF is a sole proprietorship company (Jason Fiddler: Festival Director/Proprietor)
Annual proceeds from the main Durban Gay & Lesbian Film Festival for benefit of the
KwaZulu-Natal Society of Arts (KZNSA) and KZN Gay & Lesbian Tourism Association
(Both are registered non-profit organizations)

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