The Maine Lesbian & Gay Film Festival is a success even before the lights go down for the first show. The organizers have made their point: films about lesbians and gay men are for everyone.

The three-day festival grew out of an "if only..." idea less than a year ago. On Friday, May 11, more than two dozen independent films and videos from around the world will open in Portland.

"Whereas some gay events put pressure on people to come out, the festival hasn't hit on people's fears," says festival producer Polly Pollard. "The festival feels like a reinforcement of a lifestyle, a positive event."

Such fearless enthusiasm hasn't always characterized gay film. Hollywood censored homosexuality out of movies for more than 30 years. And while lesbian and gay film roles have resurfaced during the last 20 years - they almost always reinforce false, offensive stereotypes. These mindless mainstream movies promote the us vs. them view of homosexuality. And the few good movies about homosexuals that have been made are branded the same way - for them.

Nothing could be more wrong. Festivals in New York, Chicago, San Francisco, L.A. - and now Portland - have demonstrated the straight truth about gay film: it's for everyone.

Continued on page 6
More responses to Djaylan...

"A heartwarming show of real family love." - The Simmons

I think Djaylan is off base in blaming women for all the negativity around. Personally, I get tired of strangers commenting on my anatomy. Frankly, hearing "Why not be happy?" is something... - Michelle Skene-Church

Ultimately, I find it pretty offensive that anyone even being discussed at all, in her last letter, Djaylan writes, "I don't know that society has programmed women to be vulnerable." I would ask Djaylan to take a moment to reflect on her own programming. It's not a political letter -- it's not a demand for change. It's a political letter -- it's not a demand for change. It's a political letter -- it's not a demand for change. It's a political letter -- it's not a demand for change.

I'm not sure how we can change the negativity of society's sexism? Or that the problem with women is... - Hilary McComb

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has gotten even better! We've added more sensuous styles to choose from... - Melissa J. Rosenberg, Dan Cutlip, Inc.

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Production

Melissa Nangle

Circulation Manager

Maureen Magre

Office Manager

Kerry Nelsen

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Mother's Day

May 13

Casco Bay Weekly

Mother's Day Brunch Buffet

Sunday, May 13

Serving at 10:30 AM. Sunday Brunch Buffet: $15.95

Casco Bay Weekly is pleased to announce its second Annual Mother's Day Brunch Buffet. Join us for a special celebration of the women in your life. Enjoy a delicious brunch buffet featuring omelettes, salads, carved meats, smoked salmon, fruits, and more. Admission is $15.95 per person. Reservations are required. Call for reservations: 773-6030.

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In the Old Port

10 Milk Street, Portland

VIEWS

What do the Holiday Inn and the Maine Mall Cinema have in common?

They're not afraid to use natural gas.

A heartwarming show of real family love.

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In the Old Port

10 Milk Street, Portland
GOPS decline gay/lesbian invite

When the Maine Legislative Gay Rights Alliance (MLGRA) decided to move forward with a 2008 election for the House Central District and senator, they invited both Democrats and Republicans. But according to MLGRA president Diane Dukin, all five Democrats agreed to come to the forum while three Republicans, David signa and new House speaker John McCormick, declined the invitation.

"We're not sure why he declined," said McCormick. "We probably cannot attend. It's a matter of politics. Everyone wants to win. And a Democrat and Republican is likely to get in the way of him." Tony Pakt, spokesman for Mcginn, said that the group is enthusiastic to find the time to attend. "The public is enthusiastic about getting the discussion in. We want the time to attend."

Meanwhile, a group of local leaders led by local real estate developer Robert C. Mora continue to buy the bank. "It's a testament to the local real estate developer," Mora said. "We will do this as far as the city will allow it."

Maine Nat's gets cease-and-desist

Maine National Bank, subsidiary of the financially struggling Banks of Maine, announced Sunday that it has come to an agreement with the state attorney's office to resolve a lawsuit filed against the bank.

"We are pleased to announce that we have reached a settlement with the state attorney's office," said John T. Davis, president of Maine National Bank. "This will allow us to focus on our core business and continue to serve our customers."
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The straight truth about gay film

Continued from page 1... Homophobia thrives in Hollywood. Almost 20 years after Stonewall, the New York riot that marked the beginning of the gay liberation movement, the American film industry is still clashing with the reality of gay existence.

Take, for example, Steven Spielberg's blockbuster film "The Color Purple," a film that many consider offensive to LGBT communities. The film, based on the novel by Alice Walker, is a powerful drama about the lives of African American women in the South. However, the film's depiction of LGBT characters has been met with controversy. Some critics have argued that the film's handling of LGBT themes is insensitive and offensive.

Another example is the 1978 French film "Cage aux Folles," which has been credited with being one of the first films to introduce LGBT themes to a wide audience. Although the film received critical acclaim, it was eventually cut for its American release, a decision that sparked controversy among the LGBT community.

In 1915, the Supreme Court ruled that motion pictures were subject to the same restrictions as other forms of entertainment, such as books and plays. This decision marked the beginning of the motion picture code, which was in effect from 1934-1961. The code was intended to ensure that films were suitable for all audiences.

However, the code was often used as a tool to suppress films that depicted LGBT themes. For example, the 1922 film "The Loves of Carmen" was banned in the United States because it was considered too sexy. The code was later modified to allow for more freedom, but it wasn't until the 1970s that LGBT themes began to be more widely accepted in Hollywood.

Today, films about LGBT themes are more common, and the industry is seen as a platform for raising awareness and promoting acceptance. However, the journey towards equality and understanding is not easy.

On June 28, CBW will publish our summer 1990 Southern Maine Dining Guide. 40,000 guides will hit the streets between June and August. Don't Miss Out!

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The straight truth about gay film

In a film as tough as films go, the two husband-and-wife actors play a couple who are losing their marriage to AIDS. In the midst of their pain, they try to find love and joy in their life together.

**Friday, May 11**

- *7:30 p.m.* **The Last Tango* (PG-13) at Jan's Drive-In (Metropolitan).
- *10:45 p.m.* **Taxi zum Klo** (MPAA Not Rated) at the Portland Museum of Art. Films and movies will be shown at 6:15 and 9:45.

**Saturday, May 12**

- *7:30 p.m.* **La Joven Alps** (Spanish-Mexican with English subtitles; not rated) at Ava's (NW 23rd andDepoe).
- *9:45 p.m.* **Parting Glances* (MPAA Not Rated) at Stark's (412 SW Main St.).

**Sunday, May 13**

- *11 a.m.* **Death in the Family (MPAA Not Rated)** at the Portland Museum of Art. Films and movies will be shown at 6:15 and 9:45.

**Monday, May 14**


**Tuesday, May 15**


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tramps, the ladies, and the
heroes of "Don Quixote,"
which make a mockery of everything. The ballet
is danced this weekend and at the Portland Performing Arts
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By Fred Gerson

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I hope you enjoyed this short article on natural gas. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at FredGerson@NorthernUtilities.com.
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