

New slate of landmark films to be restored

Outfest Legacy Project determined to preserve LGBT history on celluloid
by David Stout . Q-Notes staff

LOS ANGELES, Calif. — Following the successful restoration of the 1986 AIDS drama “Parting Glances,” celebrated last fall with premiere screenings in New York and Los Angeles, the Outfest Legacy Project, a collaboration between Outfest and the UCLA Film & Television Archive, wasted no time before returning to work to preserve more seminal films depicting LGBT people and issues.

Due to its diligence, restoration of the Project’s next feature film, “Word Is Out: Stories of Some of Our Lives” (1977), is well underway. “Word Is Out” was created by the Mariposa Film Group and is the first documentary feature by gays and lesbians about their own lives. The restored film will have its world premiere in the summer of 2008.

Plans have recently been unveiled for the Project to save two more landmark films: “Queens at Heart” (mid-1960s) and “Choosing Children” (1984).

“There is an urgency to our work with these films, as the original materials are lost or have been destroyed,” said Stephen Gutwillig, executive director of Outfest.

“Only a few prints of ‘Queens at Heart’ and ‘Choosing Children’ exist. Our role is simple and important: We will create new elements and pristine prints from the little material that exists, ensuring that these significant independent films are saved from extinction.”

Robert Rosen, dean of the UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television, said, “These groundbreaking restorations are a milestone for the Outfest Legacy Project. We continue working on the monumental task of rescuing endangered LGBT works and making them available to audiences and scholars worldwide.”

The Southeastern Pictures Corporation originally released “Queens at Heart” in

1967 with “She-Man” (1967). The date of production is unknown. The film is a rare and surprisingly poignant glimpse into pre-Stonewall transsexual life, as four NYC pre-ops are interviewed for a six-month psychological project. The film includes rare footage of the pre-Stonewall club scene.

“Choosing Children” was produced, directed and edited by Debra Chasnoff and Kim Klausner. The 1984 release features six sets of lesbian mothers speaking about life in lesbian households, about the decision to have children and about the various means

by which their children were conceived.

Chasnoff, an Academy-Award winning director (“Deadly Deception”) is now executive director at GroundSpark, where she has created numerous other renowned LGBT documentaries, including “That’s a Family!” and “It’s Elementary.”

“It may be hard to remember the time when it was nearly unheard of for lesbians to have children by choice,” said Chasnoff and Klausner in a joint statement. “But before 1980, if you came out, you assumed that the possibility of becoming a parent was nearly non-existent. We made

‘Choosing Children’ to challenge that prevailing societal assumption, and look what happened in the past 25 years!

“We are extremely honored that the Legacy Project has selected ‘Choosing Children’ for restoration. The film lab where the negative was housed went out of business and the negative was destroyed. Without this support from Legacy, the film, and a crucial part of LGBT history, would be lost completely to future generations.”

Gutwillig said, “Our task — to raise funds for [restoring] these two films — is an important one that we hope to complete by the close of 2008.”

info: www.outfest.org/legacy.html



‘Word Is Out’ (1977) was the first documentary feature by gays and lesbians talking about their own lives.

Free cover
6-10 nightly
with membership

Specials:

- Tuesday: \$2 vodka
- Wednesday: \$3 imports
- Thursday: \$5 bucket of beer
- Sunday: \$1 domestic
\$1 house liquor

Events:

- Friday: \$1 dances @ 12
- Saturday: Buy 1/Get 1 Free
all night
- Sunday: Amateurs



The only gay strip club
in NC to offer VIP couch dances

6711 Freedom Drive
704.392.8272
pulsecharlotte.com

Announcement

Q-Notes has unveiled a revamped website. As a part of our new online presence, Q-Notes is searching for up to three online staff bloggers. These volunteer writers would work with the editor to determine their specific coverage area and topic.

Writers would be responsible for at least two submissions per week. Persons of color, women, gender-variant people, seniors and students are encouraged to apply.

For more information, email editor@q-notes.com.