

PRESS RELEASE

Amsterdam, April 7, 2003

Nederlands Transgender Filmfestival (NTGF) Dutch Transgender Film Festival May 21 – 25, 2003 Cultuureel Centrum De Balie, Amsterdam

The T-Image Foundation, in collaboration with Cinema de Balie, presents the second Dutch Transgender Film Festival (NTGF), to be held during May 21 - 25 at De Balie in Amsterdam. The festival aims to challenge the classic binary gender system by showing the richness of gender expressions and gender pleasures from all over the world. This five-day festival, which will be attended by national and international guests, offers film screenings, lecture, panel discussions, Q&A's and a performance. This year's special focuses are TransMasculinities, Gender Youth, and a spotlight on the Andy Warhol diva Holly Woodlawn in the drag programme On Stage/ Off Stage.

Opening and Closing film of the festival: Georgie Girl and Alt Om Min Far

The festival will open with the Dutch premiere of the powerful documentary *Georgie Girl*, the life story of the New Zealander Georgina Beyer, a Maori transsexual woman and former sex worker who elected as mayor by a largely white rural electorate Carterton in 1995 and is now serving as Member of Parlement the New Zealand Parlement. In the main programme, the festival is proud to present European productions like *La Chatte a deux Têtes*, *Gaudi Afternoon* and the Norwegian documentary on Esben Esther Benestad Pirelli, *Alt Om Min Far*, which is the FIPRESCI winner of 2002 and the closing film of the festival.

TransMasculinities: films and panel discussion

Masculinity is often still related to power and status. This programme challenges the notion that masculinity is only related and relevant to men. It shows wide-ranging practices and expressions of masculinity from transgender and women's communities, while exploring traditions from different cultures that challenge the dominant position of masculinity in films ranging from Albania to India.

The panel discussion *TransMasculinities* will be held on May 24 with guest speakers Judith Halberstam (UC San Diego, author of *Female Masculinity* and co-author of *The Drag King Book*), Geertje Mak (Free University, Amsterdam, author of *Masculine Women: crossing sex boundaries in the 19th century*) and Henry Rubin (Tufts University, Boston, author of the upcoming *Self-Made Men: Identity and Embodiment of Transsexual Men*). The panel of speakers will discuss sensibilities and practices of masculinities that transcend many classical models of masculinity and manhood from historical, sociological, cultural and popular media perspectives. They will also explore the possibilities and questions of embodiment and gender crossing within women's, drag king and transgender communities. The panel will be moderated by Helen Hok-Sze Leung (Women's Studies, Simon Fraser University, Canada).

In addition to this programme, Judith Halberstam will give a lecture on "Identifying Transgender Gaze" which will explore how transgender subjectivity can be formed from imagery from Hollywood films like *Boys Don't Cry* and *The Crying Game*, but also independent productions like *By Hook or By Crook*.

On Stage/ Off Stage: drag programme with spotlight on Holly Woodlawn

This programme shows a variety of drag practices that go further than the stage. With many Dutch premières like the fabulous trash comedy of *Mutti, der Film*, or the important historical documentary of the biggest drag festival of New York, *Wigstock, the Movie*, and

the drag king practices in *Ines und Paul*. Moreover, a special programme is dedicated to the Andy Warhol diva, the most famous drag queen from the seventies, Holly Woodlawn. The festival will show a sneak preview of the documentary on Holly Woodlawn by *Wigstock* director Barry Shils. Both Barry Shils and Holly Woodlawn will be present at the screening.

Special focus on Gender Youth: films and panel discussion

The film programme on Gender Youth will screen award-winning shorts like *Just Call Me Kade* and *The Day I Decided to Become... Nina*, giving us a glimpse into the varied expressions of youth who are exploring and questioning their gender identity. *Berdache*, a group of Dutch parents of young gender defying and exploring children, organised themselves years ago with the aim to support each other and to educate the media on issues dealing with gender crossing behaviour of young kids. The term "Gender Youth" is used by them to define a sensibility of openness for the child's future choices in terms of dealing with their gender. These parents and a young panelist will talk about their efforts to provide safe conditions and to make sure that kids can explore different options of gender identities and gender expressions. The moderator is Ines Orobio de Castro (member of the Amsterdam council for the Green Left party). The discussion will be conducted in Dutch.

The festival also presents **Dutch TV Docs**, which showcases the best examples from the Dutch television documentary tradition, including the award-winning fake documentary *30 Minutes In the wrong body*. **Global Gender Expressions** highlights the Hawai'ian Mahu tradition in *Ke Kuluna He Mahu* and the Albanian sworn virgins in *Pashke and Sofia*. As a follow-up to our 2001 audience favourite, **T-Shorts #2** features a splendid collection of experimental shorts such as *Phineas Slipped*, *Unhung Heroes*, *Allo Performance!*, *The Stroke*, and many more.

Performanc: Street Royalty

Street Royalty is a live performance and monumental artwork by Doran George (London, UK) specially commissioned by The Netherlands Transgender Film Festival. The name *Street Royalty* refers to the slang "Street Queen" which queer historian Susan Stryker cited as an important historical root of contemporary transgender culture. In this work George will collaborate with San Francisco based dancer/performer Bret Parker to create a temporary sculptural form using Parker's body. The sculpture will offer a point of contemplation for the experiences of vulnerability and acts of strength that are integral to the lives of transgender people. For the latest updates on this performance, please check the festival website.

Location: Cultureel Centrum de Balie, Kleine Gartmansplantsoen 10, Amsterdam.
Reservation from May 1st: tel. +31 (0)20 – 5535100.

The programme of 2003 will be online from April 18 at www.transgenderfilmfestival.com

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The T-Image Foundation is a non-profit organisation that aims to encourage visibility of transgender culture by organising cultural events.