

For Immediate Release
April 5, 2002

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**THREE-DAY FESTIVAL OF FILMS WITH GAY, LESBIAN AND
TRANSGENDERED THEMES AT WEXNER CENTER IN APRIL**

Now in its fifth year, the Wexner Center's film festival of acclaimed international films featuring gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered themes will be held **April 25–27, 2002**. The films in the **GLBT F/V 5** festival are listed below. Unless otherwise noted, admission per film is \$5 for the general public; \$4 for members, OSU students, and senior citizens; and \$2 for children under 12.

Thursday, April 25

7 pm: *The Iron Ladies* (Yongyoot Thongkongtoon, 2000)

Winner of the Audience Award for Best Feature at the recent San Francisco and New York Lesbian & Gay Film Festivals, *The Iron Ladies* (104 mins.) tells the true story of a Thai male volleyball team consisting mostly of gays, transvestites, and transsexuals excluded from playing for more established teams. Although they face problems at home and in competition, they demonstrate what true sportsmanship and self-respect is all about at the national finals.

9:15 pm: *Bombay Eunuch* (Alexandra Shiva, Sean MacDonald, Michelle Gucavsky, 2001)

Bombay Eunuch (71 mins.) is an intimate, moving documentary of one family's struggle to survive in today's changing India. Through the voice of Meena, a 37-year-old and one of the county's estimated 1.3 million *hijras*, or eunuchs, the film shows how far the once-esteemed group has fallen. The world of the hijras has traditionally been closed to outsiders, so as the *New York Times* notes that this "film exists at all is something of a coup."

Friday, April 26

7 pm: *Chop Suey* (Bruce Weber, 2001)

A dynamic force in portrait and fashion photography for over two decades, Bruce Weber is also a remarkably accomplished documentary filmmaker. With *Chop Suey* (98 mins.), he invites viewers into his life. The film is centered around Peter Johnson, a hunky young wrestler transformed by Weber's photos into a homoerotic icon,

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interwoven with tales of other characters Weber admires. As the title suggests, it's a free-form collage of images and obsessions.

9 pm: *Eban and Charley* (James Bolton, 2000)

Named Best Narrative at Chicago's Lesbian and Gay Film Festival, *Eban and Charley* (86 mins.) touches on the sensitive issue of intergenerational relationships—in this case, between Eban, a 29-year-old ex-soccer coach who returns to his parents' home on the Oregon coast, and Charley, the lonely 15-year-old boy he meets there. First-time director Bolton tells their story in all its emotional complexity. The evocative score is by Stephin Merritt of Magnetic Fields.

Saturday, April 27

2 pm: *Escape to Life: The Erika and Klaus Mann Story* (Wieland Speck and Andrea Weiss, 2001)

The newest film from the creators of *Paris Was a Woman* and *Before Stonewall*, *Escape to Life: The Erika and Klaus Mann Story* (83 mins.) is a vivid portrait of the openly gay children of esteemed German writer Thomas Mann. Authors, cabaret performers, and courageous anti-Fascists, Erika and Klaus enjoyed an intense sibling relationship that became strained by life in exile, drug addiction, and conflicting family loyalties. It includes rare interview and archival footage; Vanessa and Corin Redgrave provide the voiceover narration.

4 pm: *Desi's Looking for a New Girl* (Mary Guzmàn, 2000)

Told through the eyes of Desi's skateboarding best friend, *Desi's Looking for a New Girl* (72 mins.) portrays the heartfelt, often comical struggle of a woman trying to put her life back together after her girlfriend leaves her for a younger woman. One by one, Desi's friends attempt to resurrect her fallen hopes by setting her up on a series of comical blind dates. Desi's journey to find a new girl is a humorous and compelling tale of love and friendship with a stylish Latina flair.

7 pm: *Stranger Inside* (Cheryl Dunye, 2001)

Free (ticket required)

Her first feature since *The Watermelon Woman*, *Stranger Inside* (96 mins.) is Cheryl Dunye's astonishing look at life inside a women's prison. Lesbian protagonist Treasure Lee was separated at birth from her mother and has been incarcerated for most of her young life. A rumor from one of her Gang Girls convinces her that "Brownie," one of the hardened lifers in the same prison, might be the mother she's never known. *Stranger Inside* was produced for HBO, where it originally appeared. Special thanks to producer Jim McKay for this special screening.

Saturday, April 27 (continued)

8:50 pm: *The Girl* (Sande Zeig, 2000)

The Girl (86 mins.) is a glamorous Parisian chanteuse whose life off-stage includes steamy encounters with an androgynous-looking painter with whom she soon falls in love. Based on a story by feminist theorist Monique Wittig, it's a stylish and sexy fantasy. As *Time Out* noted, if there were "something called the Lesbian Romance Channel, that's...a proper home for *The Girl*." With Agatha de la Boulaye, Claire Keim, and Cyril Lecomte as the menacing man trying to sabotage the red-hot affair.

EVENT SUPPORT

Presented in association with **Ohio State's Office of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered Student Services**. Thanks to Brett Beemyn, Coordinator, for his help with this series. Presented with support from the **Ohio Arts Council**. Support for the 2001–02 film/video season is provided by the **Rohauer Collection Foundation** and the **Corporate Annual Fund of the Wexner Center Foundation**.

CALENDAR INFORMATION: GLBT F/V 5

Description: Three-day festival of films with gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered themes, organized by the Wexner Center.

Dates: April 25–27, 2002

Location: Wexner Center Film/Video Theater, 1871 N. High St. at 15th Ave.

Tickets per film: Most films \$5 general public; \$4 members, OSU students, senior citizens; \$2 children.

Ticket outlets: Wexner Center Ticket Office, 614/292-3535

Public information: www.wexarts.org or 614/292-3535.

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Images of several of the films available upon request.

The Wexner Center for the Arts is The Ohio State University's multidisciplinary, international laboratory for the exploration and advancement of contemporary art. Through exhibitions, screenings, performances, artist residencies, and educational programs, the Wexner Center acts as a forum where established and emerging artists can test ideas and where diverse audiences can participate in cultural experiences that enhance understanding of the art of our time. In its programs, the Wexner Center balances a commitment to experimentation with a commitment to traditions of innovation and affirms the university's mission of education, research, and community service.