

THE 24TH EDITION OF INSIDE OUT WRAPS AND ANNOUNCES CANADIAN AND INTERNATIONAL AWARDS

(June 2, 2014 – Toronto) The Inside Out LGBT Film Festival finished another successful event and announced this year's award recipients at the Closing Night party last night. Award highlights include **TRU LOVE** (Canada) voted by Festival audiences as the winner of the **Best Feature Film**, **MATT SHEPARD IS A FRIEND OF MINE** (USA) winner of the **Best Documentary Film**, and **52 TUESDAYS** (Australia) selected by the international jury as the winner of the **Bill Sherwood Award for Best First Feature**.

Inside Out offers three categories of awards: audience awards, Canadian juried awards, and an international award. RBC is the Festival's returning Presenting Sponsor. Screenings for the 2014 Inside Out Toronto LGBT Film Festival took place at TIFF Bell Lightbox (350 King St. W). Visit www.insideout.ca for more information.

Audience Awards:

Best Feature Film Award: **TRU LOVE**, directed by Kate Johnston and Shauna MacDonald. Inside Out presents a \$1,000 cash award to the audience's favourite feature-length film.

Best Documentary Film Award: **MATT SHEPARD IS A FRIEND OF MINE**, directed by Michele Josue.

Sponsored by Elle Flanders, this \$500 prize is named in recognition of the contribution of Elle Flanders, Inside Out's Executive Director from 1996 to 1999.

Best Short Film Award: **LIVING IN THE OVERLAP**, directed by Cindy Hill and Mary Dalton.

Sponsored by Michael Leshner and Michael Stark (in honour of Mikey/Schmikey), this \$1,000 cash award is presented to a short film under 50 minutes in length.

Canadian Juried Awards: This year's jury members are Kim Crosby (artist and coordinator at T Dot Renaissance Toronto), Gein Wong (interdisciplinary director, playwright, spoken word poet, composer and video artist) and Michael Souther (co-founder of Amaze Film + Television, which produces *Call Me Fitz*).

Best Canadian Film Award: **TOM AT THE FARM**, directed by Xavier Dolan.

Sponsored by EP Canada/Canada Film Capital, the \$2,000 cash award for Best Canadian Film is presented to an established Canadian artist for a short or feature-length narrative or documentary film.

Emerging Canadian Artist Award: **TRU LOVE**, directed by Kate Johnston and Shauna MacDonald and **100 CRUSHES CHAPTER 6: THEY**, directed by Elisha Lim.

Sponsored by Inside Out's presenting sponsor RBC, the \$2,500 cash award for Emerging Canadian Artist is given to an emerging Canadian filmmaker who is in the early stages of his or her career. The recipient must have directed no more than two fiction narrative short films, or no more than one fiction narrative feature-length film.

Hot Shorts Award: **WAACK REVOLT – A DANCE FILM**, directed by Sonia Hong.

Sponsored by HardTV, the Hot Shorts Award is given to a Canadian film or video that addresses, in a unique fashion, LGBT sexuality and/or erotica.

International Awards: Gosia Kamela (producer Bell Media, Drama), Laurie Colbert (director MARGARITA) and Bill Guentzler (Artistic Director, Cleveland International Film Festival) are this year's jury members.

Bill Sherwood Award for Best First Feature: 52 TUESDAYS, directed by Sophie Hyde. Named in honour of the gay American film director, who stepped boldly onto the international film stage in 1986 with his first feature, PARTING GLANCES, the \$1,750 cash prize for the Bill Sherwood Award for Best First Feature is an international prize presented to a first time feature director.

About Inside Out

Inside Out presents the annual Toronto LGBT Film Festival, with financial support from Presenting Sponsor, RBC Royal Bank. It is the largest event of its kind in Canada and entertains cinema buffs of all stripes, showcasing the best and most diverse films by, for and of interest to LGBT communities. For 11 days, the Festival draws crowds of more than 32,500 to screenings, artist talks, panel discussions, installations and parties that showcase more than 175 films and videos from Canada and around the world. In addition, Inside Out is committed to challenging attitudes and changing lives year-round through the exhibition, production and promotion of LGBT film with initiatives including annual festivals in Toronto and Ottawa, educational programs including the Queer Video Mentorship Project and the Mark S. Bonham Scholarship, and fall/winter screening series. This year's Festival runs May 22 to June 1, 2014.

About RBC and the Arts

RBC sponsors a wide-range of grassroots and local initiatives that contribute to the cultural fabric of our communities. Proud to support events and passions that resonate with our clients, RBC provides opportunities for up-and-coming artists through programs such as the RBC Canadian Painting Competition; the RBC Emerging Visions Program; and the RBC Emerging Filmmakers Competition, part of our commitment to the world's top public film festival – the Toronto International Film Festival®. As one of North America's leading diversified financial services companies and among the largest banks in the world, as measured by market capitalization, RBC employs approximately 80,000 full- and part-time employees who serve more than 15 million personal, business, public sector and institutional clients through offices in Canada, the U.S. and 49 other countries. For more information, please visit rbc.com.

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