





Briefly Entertaining

InsightOutBooks.com Announces the Finalists for the Violet Quill Award

NEW YORK - InsightOut Books, the book club for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) readers, family and friends has announced the finalists for their annual Violet Quill Award for emerging GLBT authors.

Finalists include Donna Allegra for her novel Witness to the League of Blonde Hip Hop Dancers; Thomas Glave for his book Whose Song? And Other Stories; Ken Harvey's collection of short stories If You Were With Me Everything Would Be All Right; Amy Shutzer's lyrical novel Undertow; and K.M. Soehnlein's The World of Normal Boys.

InsightOut Books established the Violet Quill Award to raise awareness of talented, new and emerging writers within the LGBT community. Choosing from five finalists annually, InsightOut staffers and its members select the best new author of GLBT fiction offered in the InsightOut book club.

The Violet Quill Award is named after the historical circle of writers, including Edmund White and Felice Picano, who contributed greatly to the rise of gay literature in the late 20th century. Their first meeting took place in March of 1980 in New York City. At a time when GLBT literature was still often harshly criticized and condemned, the Violet Quill allowed influential gay and lesbian writers to offer each other stylistic and technical writing advice, along with support for their tremendous efforts.

The InsightOut Books' Violet Quill Award recognizes the achievements of the authors who formed this circle, and the many new and emerging writers and readers who have been influenced by their works.

The Violet Quill Award will be announced at the Lambda Literary Festival to be held in San Francisco, Oct. 19-21.

Fellowship Offered for Women Writers/Activists of Color

WASHINGTON - Each year The Union Institute Center for Women, in collaboration with Norcroft Writing Retreat, awards a month long residency retreat and \$1,000 stipend to a woman of color writer/activist. The retreat, lodging, and food are free to the recipient.

The award is named in memory of Audre Lorde, the poet and essayist whose life exemplified the meshing of world-changing thought and action. The application deadline is Dec. 21. To receive an application send a standard size S.A.S.E. (self-addressed stamped envelope) to The Union Institute Center for Women, Audre Lorde Fellowship, 1710 Rhode Island Ave., NW, #1100, Washington, DC 20036; e-mail dcampbell@tui.edu; or access <http://www.tui.edu/OSR/fellowship.htm>.

SHOE Comfortable with 10,000th Member

Vive la Games:
 What I Did on My
 Summer Vacation

Triangle Role Model
 Hall of Fame

Briefly Entertaining

Halloween Magic
 Adjusts Show
 Content

Spanking the
 Monkey's Mask

Falling for Timberfell
 Lodge

Between the Covers
 with Jone Devlin

Cultural Overload:
 Museums Offer
 Diverse, Rich
 Schedule

CYBERSPACE - Chosen by Yahoo! as "One of the most popular sites" the lesbian community SHOE watched today as their 10,000th member registered.

According to founders, SHOE has become the fresh and cool way to cruise through lesbian life. Now working in a worldwide capacity,

SHOE provides a safe facility for women to meet each other in an easy, un-complicated manner.

SHOE INTERNATIONAL was founded in 1997 ago by two Swiss women, Sunci Nikolic and Fab Syz, who met on the internet. Realizing they were struggling themselves to find lesbian friends in their locality, they came upon the idea of a mailing list, a list that would counteract the problems they had faced. Using the fact that the internet had helped them overcome their inhibitions in meeting others, they decided to use this platform to found SHOE. They could not have guessed at the time that four years down the line they

would have acted as matchmakers for thousands of women from all over the world not just searching for love, but for information on gay culture and support for their sexuality.

Within its first year, as word spread to over 120 countries, the number of hits rose from 600 each month to an amazing 90,000.

SHOE INTERNATIONAL provided an unprecedented facility to lesbian women of any age who were in need of an easily accessible platform. Once logged on, women found they could chat to new friends, find information about their local scene and get addresses of useful organizations.

Serious information was also being widely distributed. News of lesbians who were being discriminated against, arrested or mistreated was posted onto the site, enabling SHOE members worldwide to get the news within seconds and react to it.

For more information, access <http://www.shoe.org>.

Is That a Jaguar Chasing Aimee?

The Sundance gay dance continues. Aimee and Jaguar, Max Farberbock's subtle and poignant feature debut is the tale of two German women - a Jewish lesbian (Maria Schrader) and a Nazi soldier's wife (Juliane Kohler), no less - who fall in love during World War II. Best of all, it's based on a true story.

Aimee and Jaguar debuts on U. S. television on Friday, Oct. 19, 8 p.m.

Same-Sex Couple Profiled on The Learning Channel

LOS ANGELES - The Learning Channel has embraced the notion that not every baby is born into a traditional one mother-one father family with the airing of a very special October episode of A Baby Story.

The moment Ali and Kim met on a dance floor they knew they'd be together for life. Five years into their relationship, and after much consideration, the two women decided the time was right to have children. Through the help of a fertility specialist and an anonymous donor, they had a healthy daughter named Jordan, now three.

Shortly after Jordan turned two, the couple decided to have a second child. They returned to the fertility clinic and requested the same sperm donor so their daughters would be biological siblings, and because the donor would be willing to have the girls contact him once they turned 21.

Their new daughter Kelly was born April 26 at Encino Tarzana Medical center. Her birth will be featured on A Baby's Story, Oct. 29, at 8 a.m., 1 p.m. and 1:30 p.m.

TLC filmmakers present A baby Story in cinema verite style, letting the proud parents and family members speak for themselves. In each episode, viewers meet a different couple and follow them through the cravings, mood swings, ultrasounds, and baby showers that are as much a part of the birth as the delivery itself. The couples come from a diverse set of lifestyles, beliefs, and family structures, making each story as unique as each baby, but all the families share the great love that comes with a new life.

While Kim and Ali understand that they don't fit everyone's image of a traditional family, they know that their daughters will grow up in a safe and secure family surrounded by love and support.

Film Catalog Introduced for GLBTQ Youth

SAN FRANCISCO - Desi del Valle, director of Frameline Distribution has announced it has introduced a new catalog of 17 films aimed at educating youth on queer issues. The selection includes Todd Nelson's Surviving Friendly Fire, Karen Goodman's If She Grows Up Gay, and one of Frameline's newest acquisitions, Sam Zolten's Just Call Me Kade.

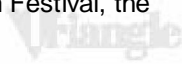
"The motivation to produce this catalog comes from an acknowledgement that homophobia still exists, even in the most liberal cities of the world, including San Francisco, the self-proclaimed gay Mecca," said del Valle. "Our hope is that these videos will help create an environment of understanding, and one in which young people will thrive."

Del Valle further hopes that the new catalog will be used extensively by schools and educational institutions. "We've suggested grade levels for the viewing of each film which we think may be appropriate. Of course, these are only suggestions, and educators are invited to preview any work to determine its appropriateness," he said. The grade levels that the catalog covers are Grades 7-12.

In the 20 years since its inception, Frameline Distribution has developed a collection of more than 170 titles available to educational centers and communities nationwide. "The New York and San Francisco Public Libraries bought our entire collection in 1999," said del Valle. "LGBTQ films need to be distributed - even those that don't generate high box-office revenues. Our purpose is simply to provide an opportunity for

lesbian and gay independents to have their work distributed."

Frameline's mission is to support, develop, and promote lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer visibility through media arts. Each year Frameline presents the San Francisco International Lesbian & Gay Film Festival, the world's oldest and largest event of its kind.



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