

IMAGEOUTTAKES

IMAGEOUT'S QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 2021 / ISSUE 3

OPENING NIGHT FILMS, Friday October 8
SCREENING AT THE LITTLE THEATRE AND
VIRTUALLY



Read more about the Opening Night films on page 2.

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**ImageOut's 29th Annual Film Festival
October 7-17, 2021**



A Note From Our Board Chair

BY STEPHEN WEISENREDER // Chair, ImageOut Board Of Directors

We're back! ImageOut is heading back to the movie theater this fall! With the annual film festival right around the corner, we're excited to announce that we'll be back at The Little Theater & The Dryden Theater this October. Rest assured that we are putting procedures in place to safeguard everyone's health throughout the festival. We know that some people won't be ready to venture back into movie theaters yet, so we will make many of our film programs available to stream at home as well. We'll keep you posted as details about films, events, and procedures are finalized.

Finally, while the last year and a half have been tough, I'm very proud of how well ImageOut has weathered the storm. Thanks to the hard work of our volunteers, the generosity of our donors, and the loyalty of our audience,

ImageOut entered 2020 in a strong position, capable of withstanding a difficult year. The pandemic threw logistical, programmatic, and financial challenges in our path, but each time, we found a way to out maneuver the situation and continue telling the stories of LGBTQ people. I'm proud to say that we are still standing strong as we emerge from the pandemic. Thank you for sticking with us and bringing your time and talent to ImageOut. I can't wait to see you at the movies!

Mark Your Calendar!

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7TH

Opening Night & Cocktail Reception

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16TH

Closing Night & Dessert Reception

Opening Night Films

Continued from page 1.



Sweetheart

Directed by: Todd Stephens
USA / 2021 / 105min.

AJ (Nell Barlow) is seventeen years old. She's also environmentally conscious, super socially awkward, and crazy angry at everybody. You know, like most teenagers. The last thing in the world she wants to do is be dragged to a holiday park for a week with her family. Her mom, Tina, is in the midst of a divorce and has no idea how to connect with AJ anymore. Her older sister Lucy is heavily pregnant and perfect and that makes AJ even angrier. Her little sister Dayna is about to have a birthday and is the only member of the family — along with Lucy's boyfriend Steve — who seems happy to have AJ around.

Writer-director Marley Morrison takes a well-trodden trope — the coming-of-age story — and adds her own unique touches, and the family dynamics are where the film really shines. From the endless tension between Tina and AJ to the surprisingly tender relationship between AJ and Steve, the family unit is the heart of the film, and offers us a disarming freshness that's more than welcome right now, given the current state of the world. ~ Georgia Beers



Firebird

Directed by: Todd Stephens
USA / 2021 / 105min.

A good old-fashioned romantic melodrama set against the backdrop of the Cold War, Firebird centers around young Air Force private Sergey (Tom Prior, *The Theory of Everything; Kingsman: The Secret Service*), serving out the final days of his term in the Soviet Air Force during the late 1970s.

Star Tom Prior co-produced and co-wrote the film with director

Peeter Rebane, and you can feel his connection to the material in every frame. Inspired by a true story written about in Sergey Fetisov's memoir "The Story of Roman," Firebird is an emotional tale of the true cost when men are forced to make the choice between duty and desire. ~ Adam Lubitow

ImageOut Celebrates Pride 2021!

BY MICHELE THORNTON // ImageOut Board Member

Happy Pride! ImageOut was thrilled to be able to celebrate Pride in a variety of ways with all of you here in Rochester this summer! Whether it was co-sponsoring LGBTQ films with the Little Theatre or the Jewish Film festival, or hanging out with you at one of the Pride Pop Up events held by Rochester LGBTQ+ Together - we were happy to see folks out in public connecting with our community. One of our most exciting endeavors was to be a community sponsor of the Rochester Red Wings Pride Night. We were thrilled to see our very own programming director Michael Gamilla honored that evening as a "Pride MVP." Michael's work is a dedicated and passionate member of the ImageOut family and we couldn't agree more with his MVP status!



ROC Pride MVP

Presented By
Rochester LGBTQ+ Together



Michael Gamilla

Player Stats:

- Programming Director, ImageOut: Rochester LGBTQ+ Film Festival for last 18 years
- Outstanding Community Champion awardee, Empire State Pride Agenda (2015)
- Friend of Film Awardee, The Little Theatre (2011)
- Sat in international LGBTQ+ film juries in Berlin, Tel Aviv, Toronto, Cardiff, & more
- World traveler, fashion aficionado, and lover of crazy pants!

Important Changes at ImageOut

Farewell to Pamela!

It is extremely bittersweet as we say farewell to our longtime office coordinator Pamela Dayton. Pamela has served this role with high energy, creativity and dedication to Rochester's LGBTQ community. We will certainly miss her, but are also so excited for her next new adventure that takes off this Fall as she moves in an exciting new fellowship this Fall at the University of Rochester.

Welcome To Braden!

ImageOut would like to proudly welcome our newest employee... Braden Reese will be taking over as our Fundraising and Office Coordinator. "Braden C. Reese (he/him) is a proud Rochester transplant - who was born in Syracuse, NY and grew up in Oneida, Ny - but considers the Flower City his "chosen home." Braden graduated from SUNY College at Oswego with a B.A. in Political Science. His passions include activism, community service, and politics. His hobbies and interests



Braden C. Reese
ImageOut Fundraising & Office Coordinator

include board and card games, photography, walks, music, and - of course - movies. Braden previously served as LGBTQ+ Center Manager and Program Manager at Out Alliance and Campaign Manager for Victor Sanchez for City Council. He currently runs the Rochester LGBTQ+ Together and Rochester LGBTQ+ Mutual Aid groups."

Vaccination Required for In-Person Fall Festival Events

BY BRADEN C. REESE // Fundraising & Office Coordinator

As we continue to navigate the rapidly changing conditions of the coronavirus pandemic, we thought we'd give you an update on our 2021 Fall Festival plans. We're thrilled to inform you that our 29th annual ImageOut LGBT Film Festival will still take place October 7 - 17, 2021.

We were pleased to present both 2020 Fall and 2021 Spring Festivals to you in a hybrid format, after the pandemic forced us to cancel most in-person events. Almost 100 films in total were available in virtual format to watch safely from home. Whether you joined us virtually, in-person, or both: thank you.

This year, we're still navigating ever-changing pandemic developments, but here's what we know for sure:

- Nothing is more important to us than you, our audience. Your safety is our top priority.
- We are currently planning to present a hybrid festival of safe, in-person and virtual film screenings and events. Most of the films

ImageOutWrite Read Out Recap

BY BECKY WIGGINS //
Editor, ImageOutWrite

The ImageOutWrite authors showed up again, and with their full Pride colors flying!!! Our Pride Edition of ReadOut on July 13th was a successful night filled with laughs, literary gut-punches, and inspiring prose and poetry. Thank you to our writers for sharing their work and their hearts with us! Keep a lookout for some fall ReadOut action and a new submission platform for OutWrite; we're also shifting the publication date for ImageOutWrite to the spring so we can keep LGBTQ+ energy flowing all year round in Rochester. Thank you to Chris Fanning at Writers & Books and Michele Thornton for supporting this event!



Purchase the ImageOutWrite 2020 print version or download either a Mobi or EPUB file, depending on your preferred reading device at:
<https://imageout-lgbt-film-festival.myshopify.com/>

will be presented in-person and virtually, giving you the freedom and flexibility to choose the most comfortable option for you.

- Proof of vaccination will be required for all staff, volunteers, and film attendees. You must be fully vaccinated to attend any in-person film screenings or events. Unvaccinated attendees may still screen films virtually.

Stay tuned! Information regarding our Festival Fair and films will be announced soon. Tickets will go on sale near the end of September. We can't wait to celebrate LGBTQ+ film with you again this year!

Top Ten Reasons to Become a Member in 2021

BY PAMELA DAYTON //
Former ImageOut Office Coordinator

1. You love movies.
2. The membership card – it's a wallet-sized love note from us to you.
3. You get to see your name on the big screen.
4. Early access to ticket sales and priority admission to in-person Festival films.
5. Free Tickets starting at the Gaffer Level – \$75/year or \$6.25/month.
6. Exclusive Marquee Society Event Invitations starting at the Celebrity Level – \$250/year or \$21/month.
7. ImageOutWrite – we publish a world class literary journal featuring LGBTQ authors from around the world.
8. Representation Matters – our Festival focuses on our stories.
9. You believe in our mission: to present LGBT arts and cultural experiences showcasing films, other creative works and artists to promote awareness, foster dialogue and build community.
10. You value investing in a local LGBT organization that is fiscally responsible, has transparent operations, and prioritizes antiracism in the office, the boardroom, and on the screen.

To renew or begin your membership, contact the ImageOut Office today. We are able to set up installment plans that work for you. Please reach out with questions or special requests at office@imageout.org or 585-271-2640. Our heartfelt gratitude to you as you invest and support ImageOut and strengthen our LGBTQ community.

MEMBERSHIP BY MAIL

NAME(S)

ADDRESS

CITY/STATE/ZIP

PHONE

EMAIL

MEMBERSHIP LEVEL

AMOUNT ENCLOSED

My check, payable to ImageOut, is enclosed.

or

Please charge my membership to my credit card:

VISA MASTERCARD AMERICAN EXPRESS DISCOVER

NAME ON CARD

CARD NUMBER

CSC CODE

EXP DATE

SIGNATURE

You have my/our permission to publish my name as an ImageOut member in all ImageOut media.

I prefer my/our membership to remain anonymous.

Please contact me, I would like to pay for my membership in installments.

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