

HerlandVoice

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amnesty international okc film fest



If you are already a human rights activist, or just interested in the state of our world, you won't want to miss the Amnesty International Film Festival on Saturday January 14 and Sunday January 15. The festival features 7 compelling and powerful films that examine some of the most important issues in the world today. Challenging and inspiring, these real life stories bring us together with concerns we face as citizens of the world.

On Saturday January 14 the films will *focus on international topics*, starting at 11 am with information and coffee followed by "Dreaming of Tibet," an intimate documentary that follows Tibetan exiles on their arduous journey. The story of Tibetan exiles turns around one very dramatic scene: the flight from Tibet over the Himalayas. A group of exiles describe how this pivotal moment has defined their lives, and how, despite apparently living ordinary lives, they are deeply involved in working for the survival of their culture outside of their homeland. Three equally powerful human rights films follow and the day ends with a discussion and closing at 4:45 p.m.

Sunday January 15 the films shown will be in support of Amnesty's global *campaign to stop violence against women*. The festival starts at 1 pm with information and coffee, followed by a feature length documentary that tells the story of Nepalese girls trapped in the international child sex trade. "The Day my God Died" is followed by two additional thought provoking films. Following the final discussion the festival closes at 5 pm.

Amnesty International is the world's largest grassroots human rights organization with over 1.8 million members worldwide. Amnesty International researches and takes action to prevent and end human rights abuses, promotes the freedom of conscience and expression, and works to end discrimination, all within the context of their work to promote all human rights.

The film festival is free and will be shown at the Ronald J. Norick Library, located in downtown Oklahoma City at 300 Park Avenue. For more information contact Katy Berrecloth at (405) 608 0383.



film festival schedule

saturday, january 14

12 pm: *dreaming of Tibet*

1:30 pm: *arms for the poor*

2:00 pm: *on the front line, congo*

2:45 pm: *slavery: a global investigation*

sunday, january 15

1:30 pm: *the day my god died*

3:15 pm: *fields of mudam*

3:45 pm: *dual injustice*

all films will be shown at the new okc downtown (norick) library, 300 park avenue. admission is free.

january 2006 events

Herland *New Year's Day Potluck & Games* Sunday Jan 1
3 pm

OGLPC Monthly Meeting Monday Jan 2 Neighborhood Alliance 1236 NW 36th 7 pm

PFLAG Tuesday Jan 3 Church of the Open Arms 7 pm

PFLAG Norman with guest speaker Keith Smith, lobbyist, civil rights activist Thursday Jan 12 St Stephens Church McGee & W. Brooks 7 pm

Herland *Supper Club* Saturday Jan 14 OCU v. SNU basketball at Freede Center 6 pm followed by dinner at Café de Brazil 8 pm

Family Pride Sunday Jan 15 Church of the Open Arms 4 pm

Herland *Board Meeting* Sunday Jan 15 4 pm

MLK Jr Day Parade Monday Jan 16 noon Bricktown

Herland *Scrabble Night* Saturday Jan 21 6 pm

Herland *Video Night* Saturday Jan 28 7 pm

State of Our Community 2006 Monday Jan 30 Epworth Church 7 pm

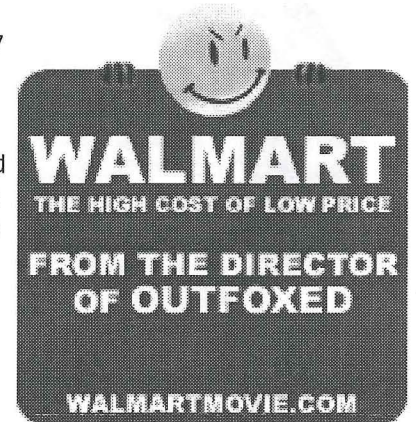
supper club

The owners of More Than Muffins, on Classen, closed that popular restaurant this year and have recently opened a new one, *Café de Brazil*, on NW 11th and Walker. It opened to rave reviews in November and we will sample their fine South American cuisine on Saturday, January 14, at 8 pm. Our activity for the evening will be before Supper Club. We will also go to the 6 pm *OCU v. SNU basketball game* at OCU's Freede Center, NW 27th between Kentucky and Blackwelder. These are two of the top ranked women's teams in the NAIA and it will be an exciting game. If you would like to carpool to the game and then to dinner, show up at Herland at 5:30 pm.

video night

Join us on Saturday, January 28th at 7 pm as we view *Wal-Mart: The High Cost of Low Price*, a brilliant new film by Robert Greenwald that tells the real story of the corrosive effects that Wal-Mart wreaks upon the communities in which it operates and the men and women it employs.

This is an engrossing, muckraking documentary ... but if you're expecting an angry diatribe, you're going to be disappointed. WAL-MART: The High Cost of Low Price takes the viewer on a deeply personal journey into the everyday lives of families struggling to fight goliath. From a small business owner in the Midwest to a preacher in California, from workers in Florida to a poet in Mexico, dozens of film crews on three continents bring the intensely personal stories of an assault on families and American values.



scrabble night

Did you know a Canadian mathematician won the 2005 World Scrabble Championship by scoring 140 points for the word *twistier*? We might not have any plays that score quite that high, but you never know. Join us on *Saturday, January 21*, at 6 pm as we hit the boards for an evening of fun and mental challenge. Remember, pizza is ordered as soon as most of the players have arrived.

website of the month

www.amnesty.org

ocu reading and discussion series on women's autobiographies

"The Journey Inward: Women's Autobiography" is the theme for the Let's Talk About it Oklahoma reading and discussion series hosted by Oklahoma City University with support from the Oklahoma Humanities Council. A dancer, a scientist, and a pioneer are a few of the fascinating women participants will encounter, joining them on their journeys (both literally and figuratively) into the heart of personhood. These five provocative and entertaining writers are some of our country's finest and most entertaining modern autobiographers, and their works will challenge us to explore the relationships among their lives and ours.

Oklahoma City University invites the community to come enjoy this *five-part series of lively book discussions*. Although participants may attend several sessions, all are encouraged to participate in the whole series to grasp the richness in this series theme. At each session, a humanities scholar will make a 30-40 minute presentation on the book in the context of the theme. Small group discussion will follow with experienced discussion leaders. At the end, everyone will come together for a brief wrap-up. Anyone interested in participating is encouraged to pre-register and borrow the reading selections. To reserve your books, contact Harbour Winn at (405) 208-5472, or via e-mail at hwinn@okcu.edu. Information can also be found on the web site of the Center for Interpersonal Studies through Film & Literature: www.okcu.edu/film-lit/.

The series will be held in room 151 in Walker Center on the Oklahoma City University campus from 7 to 9 PM on Tuesdays, beginning January 10 and continuing on alternate Tuesdays through February 21. The final session will then be one week later on February 28. Books, theme materials, and services for this series are provided by "Let's Talk About It, Oklahoma," a cooperative project of the Oklahoma Library Association and the Oklahoma Humanities Council. Funding for this series is provided by a grant from the Oklahoma Humanities Council and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Readings and dates:

January 10

Eudora Welty's *One Writer's Beginning*

Pulitzer Prize-winning Welty, one of our country's most distinguished writers, reflects upon memory as "that most wonderful interior vision," the very stuff of autobiography. She also describes memory as "terribly important, a source and a force, too." Her richly detailed glimpse into her Southern childhood yields a book that recounts inward and outward journeys, a short gem that can catalyze the process of reflection for each of us as well as launch our series theme. The scholar offering background and perspectives will be Dr. Elaine Smokewood.

January 24

Letters of a Woman Homesteader by Elinore Priutt Stewart

The frontier journal of Stewart, full of the tang of the prairies, tells the story of a pioneer woman who helped settle the American West. First published in 1914, these letters of an "ordinary"

woman raised in Oklahoma reveal a born writer who taught herself to read and write. The weaving together in her reflections of ebullience and reticence, joy and sorrow, optimism and perseverance, makes modern life seem bland indeed. The scholar offering background and perspectives will be Dr. Harbour Winn.

February 7

Zora Neal Hurston's *Dust Tracks on a Road*
Author of *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, one of the most acclaimed novels in American literature, Hurston writes an exuberant account of her journey from childhood poverty in the rural south to prominence in the Harlem Renaissance, and then on to a pauper's death. Collector of southern folklore and traditions, she explores issues of identity, education, family, love, motherhood, work, voice, slavery, activism, and the double jeopardy of being black and female. The scholar offering background and perspectives will be Dr. Regina Bennett.

February 21

My Life, by Isadora Duncan

Expressing herself in dance all her life, Duncan lived on the edge of convention, of financial security, and of intellectual currents. Her audacity, intensity, and extravagance always amaze us. And yet, she writes of her impoverished childhood, her longing for education, her struggles to balance career and personal relationships, her lifelong quest for artistic fulfillment and recognition, and her hope for security and understanding. Candid and brave, a book not to miss! The scholar offering background and perspectives will be Dr. Jennifer Kidney.

February 28

Margaret Mead's *Blackberry Winter*

In *The Feminine Mystique*, Betty Friedan called Mead the "most powerful influence on modern women." Although we now have others who symbolize woman as thinkers, Mead and her autobiography remain among the most famous. Interestingly, she focuses on family, not career in *Blackberry Winter*. Rather than the exotic South Seas people she studied, she instead reflects on her personal life as granddaughter, daughter, student, wife, mother, and finally, grandmother. The scholar offering background and perspectives will be Dr. Lloyd Musselman.

learn spanish in mexico

CETLALIC is an alternative Spanish language school in Cuernavaca, Mexico dedicated to social justice. CETLALIC offers small classes as well as homestays with gays and lesbians in the community. (Hotels or apartments are also available if you prefer.) We provide a place for cultural exchange with a focus on mutual understanding and social justice. Classes at all levels are offered year-round, as well as several special programs throughout the year, each focused on a particular social issue or area of interest.

Upcoming special programs include Winter Queer Program in Mexico (for all gay and lesbian folks interested in learning about the real situation of the gay and lesbian community in Mexico through the study of the language and cultural exchange) and Women and Social Change in Mexico (learn about Mexican culture, politics, and economics through the lens of women's experiences and struggles for social justice).

Classes are intensive Spanish language instruction integrating texts and discussions to supplement program focus. Students are evaluated and placed at the appropriate level with a maximum of five students in each class.

Cultural activities include guest speakers, roundtable discussions, field trips, and encounters with local community groups affording participants an understanding of the cultural context of gay and lesbian identity in Mexico.

For more information email infor@cetlalic.org.mx or visit <http://www.cetlalic.org.mx/>

two gay cowboys hit a home run

by frank rich, new york times

WHAT if they held a culture war and no one fired a shot? That's the compelling tale of "Brokeback Mountain." Here is a heavily promoted American movie depicting two men having sex - the precise sex act that was still a crime in some states until the Supreme Court struck down sodomy laws just two and a half years ago - but there is no controversy, no Fox News tar and feathering, no roar from the religious right. "Brokeback Mountain" has instead become the unlikely Oscar favorite, propelled by its bicoastal sweep of critics' awards, by its unexpected dominance of the far less highfalutin Golden Globes and, perhaps most of all, by the lure of a gold rush. Last weekend it opened to the highest per-screen average of any movie this year.

Those screens were in New York, Los Angeles and San Francisco - hardly national bellwethers. But I'll rashly predict that the big Hollywood question posed on the front page of The Los Angeles Times after those stunning weekend grosses - "Can 'Brokeback Mountain' Move the Heartland?" - will be answered with a resounding yes. All the signs of a runaway phenomenon are present, from an instant parody on "Saturday Night Live" to the report that a multiplex in Plano, Tex., sold more advance tickets for the so-called "gay cowboy picture" than for "King Kong." "The culture is finding us," James Schamus, the "Brokeback Mountain" producer, told USA Today. "Grown-up movies have never had that kind of per-screen average. You only get those numbers when you're vacuuming up enormous interest from all walks of life."

In the packed theater where I caught "Brokeback Mountain," the trailers included a National Guard recruitment spiel, and the audience was demographically all over the map. The culture is seeking out this movie not just because it is a powerful, four-hankie account of a doomed love affair and is beautifully acted by everyone, starting with the riveting Heath Ledger. The X factor is that the film delivers a story previously untold by A-list Hollywood. It's a story America may be more than ready to hear a year after its president cynically flogged a legally superfluous (and unpassable) constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage for the sole purpose of whipping up the basest hostilities of his electoral base.

By coincidence, "Brokeback Mountain," a movie that is all the more subversive for having no overt politics, is a rebuke and antidote to that sordid episode. Whether it proves a movie for the ages or as transient as "Love Story," it is a landmark in the troubled history of America's relationship to homosexuality. It brings something different to the pop culture marketplace at just the pivotal moment to catch a wave.

Heaven knows there has been no shortage of gay-themed entertainment in recent years. To the tedious point of ubiquity, gay characters, many of them updated reincarnations of the stereotypical fops and fussy budgets of 1930's studio comedies, are at least as well represented as other minorities in prime-time television. Entertainment Weekly has tallied nine movies, including "Capote" and "Rent," with major gay characters this year. But "Brokeback Mountain," besides being more sexually candid than the norm, is not set in urban America, is not comic or camp, and, unlike the breakout dramas "Philadelphia" and "Angels in America," is pre-AIDS.

As far as I can tell, the only blowhard in the country to turn up on television to declare culture war on "Brokeback Mountain" also has an affiliation with the American Family Association. By contrast, as Salon reported last week, other family-values ayatollahs have made a conscious decision to ignore the movie, lest they drum up ticket sales by turning it into a SpongeBob SquarePants cause célèbre. Robert Knight of Concerned Women for America imagined that the film might just go away if he and his peers stayed mum. Audiences "don't want to see two guys going at it," he told Salon. "It's that simple."

So he might wish. The truth is that the millions of moviegoers soon to swoon over the star-crossed gay cowboys of "Brokeback Mountain" can probably put up with the sight of "two guys going at it."

I HAVE TWO MOMS... ONE TO GET ME DRESSED AND THE OTHER TO ASK WHAT AM I WEARING THAT FOR!



gayokc.com
presents the
state of our
community
2006

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered Persons - and their families, friends, supporters and allies - in the Oklahoma City area will convene as GayOKC.com presents "The State of Our Community 2006", Monday, January 30th, 2006 at Epworth United Methodist Church, 1901 N Douglas Avenue in Oklahoma City. The program, organized by Rob Abiera - owner and editor of GayOKC.com - will feature a look back at newsworthy events in OKC's GLBT Community in 2005 from the perspective of the people who actually made those events happen and presentations on the state of OKC's GLBT Community from representatives of the community's organizations and businesses. The program will be preceded by a reception.

culture skirmishes

The American Family Association of Tupelo, Miss., a leader in the 1997 anti-"Ellen" crusade, claimed this month that its threat of a boycott had led Ford to stop advertising its Jaguar and Land Rover lines in glossy gay magazines. Last week *Ford*, under fire from gay civil-rights organizations and no doubt many other mainstream customers, essentially ***told the would-be boycotters to get lost*** by publicly announcing that it would not only resume its Jaguar and Land Rover ads in gay publications, but advertise other brands in them as well.

thank you for your generous gift!

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Your contribution is important! Just \$15 a year will help us pay for the \$300+ it costs every month to print and mail the newsletter. Herland is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization. Your contribution is deductible to the extent allowed by law.

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Herland Sister Resources

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Jan 16 MLK Ceremony
noon at St Paul's -
NW 7th Robinson -
parade starts at 2 pm

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