

10 Best

Lesbian Places to Live

word on lesbian lifestyle

# girlfriends

Annual  
**TRAVEL**  
issue

05

**STRAYING  
TOGETHER**

Pass the **Test**  
Of **Travel**

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TRANSIT**

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All-Girl-Style

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**RUNWAY,  
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Go Somewhere,  
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**Unveiled and Out of Iran**



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# GIRL GUIDE

FILM AND DVD

## FILM PROFILE

### Out of Iran

*Unveiled's* star revealed

*Unveiled's* Jasmin Tabatabai talks about her role as an Iranian lesbian seeking asylum in Germany.

#### What did you do to prepare?

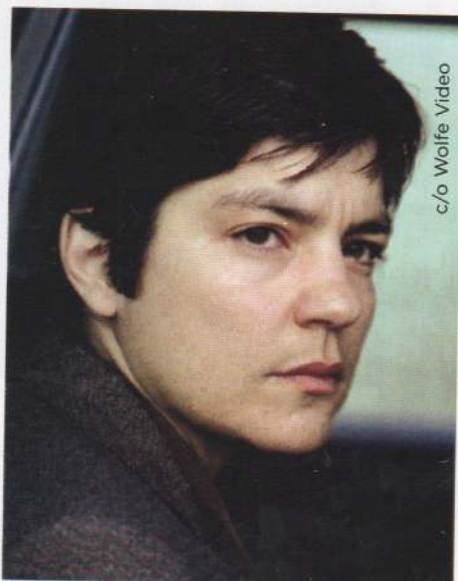
I have a brother who is one year older and to be honest I think I just copied him. There were some ways of looking and standing that I also copied from my father.

#### People were recently hung in Iran for being homosexual.

*Unveiled* is also about women in general [in Iran]. I'm the mother of a little girl—so of course I cannot like the fact that in the country where I was born, ten-year-old girls can be married and a female witness in court is worth half of a male witness.

#### What was it like to do the love scenes?

I had played lesbian women before, and it's nothing like, "Oh my god, I have to



Jasmine Tabatabai crosses over as Fariba in Angelina Maccarone's intense *Unveiled*.

c/o Wolfe Video

kiss a woman!" [But] in rehearsals, [Kim Sarnau, who plays her lover] and I couldn't stand each other. Then, during shooting, the chemistry was completely there, from the first day. There is this image of a rubberband between us. They are so attracted to each other that they are always shaking. —Candace Moore

## FILM

### Eyes on the Prize Winner

A dyke director takes a lesbian writer's memoir to the screen.

by Candace Moore



Real life novelist Terry Ryan (right) remembers her mother, Evelyn, played by Julianne Moore in *The Prize Winner of Defiance, Ohio*.

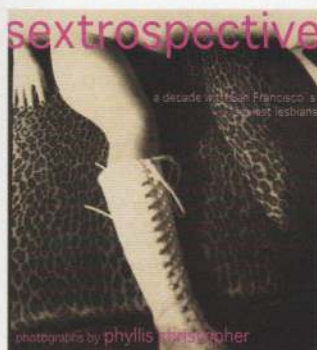
Always-radiant Julianne Moore stars as Evelyn, the wise-cracking matriarchal center of the large Ryan litter. She oversees ten kids, one 150-proof husband, and a freezer that could store meat for a large island, all the while creating wordplay with her sharp-tipped number-two. If Dorothy Parker were transported to fifties-era, small-town Ohio and transmogrified into a cheery

housewife married to a booze hound (rather than practicing as one), well, there you'd have Evelyn. Based on Terry Ryan's 2001 memoir *The Prize Winner of Defiance, Ohio: How My Mother Raised 10 Kids on 25 Words or Less*, the film details how Evelyn dedicated herself to "contesting"—writing poppy advertising jingles for product-sponsored contests—to keep her family "in the milk" during trying financial times.

In *The Hours* and *Far From Heaven*, Moore proved she could act as a kind of see-through Pandora's box. She's perfected the ability to portray the barely submerged loneliness, pathos, and (understandable) control issues of the isolated, homebound domestic who's edging up toward her well-groomed surface. Some of this bottled-up angst seems to have been sainted away in the character of Evelyn, and no one quite understands why. Surely not her "feisty" tomboy daughter, Tuff, who can't fathom why her mom puts up with her dad's beery tantrums. Husband Kelly (Woody Harrelson) is the most confused: he keeps pushing, like a toddler learning boundaries, through venomous swear-fests, loser behavior, even a second mortgage he drinks through bottle by bottle.

Harrelson and Moore both hit it out of the park, performance-wise. Moore is, perhaps, at her best yet. But their synthesis makes this character-driven period piece fly. Director-writer Jane Anderson (*Normal, If These Walls Could Talk 2*) gets to the bone of her characters, without losing a sense of humor. Terry Ryan discusses her homosexuality in her memoir; although Anderson doesn't explicate the fact that Tuff's character is a young dyke, it's in the film if you know how to read it. Evelyn's story is the one both Ryan and Anderson focus on, and for good reason. This film fills the heart, in the best, non-Oprah kind of way. A

DVD

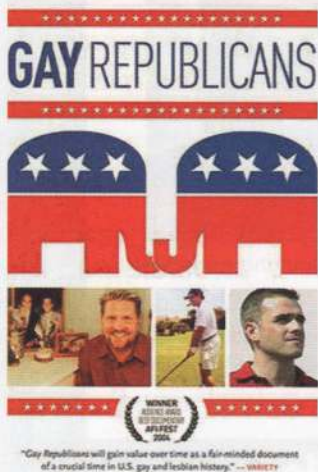


**SEXTROSPECTIVE**  
Phyllis Christopher  
(Sexy Stuff, \$31.95)

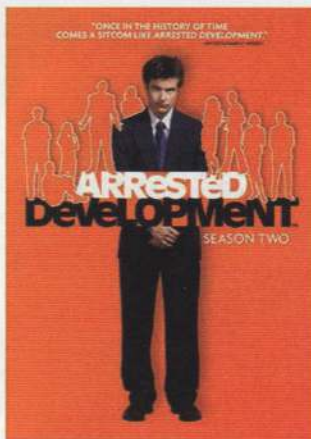
On this photo DVD by the veteran left-coast lens-woman, lesbian bodies are captured in pleasure. They're pulled off-road for strap-on sex in a pickup bed, soaked in bath bubbles, tied up like a buck, or simply pressed together with a lover, kissing. These are not models, as Christopher mentions in her artist's statement: they're dykes of all stripes owning their eros, San Francisco-style. Her black and whites shimmer, slightly iridescent, from angles. Or she gets right in there like the pleased-punch voyeur she represents. But the queerest eye is lodged in the tough or awe-struck looks on her subjects' faces. **A-** —Candace Moore

**GAY REPUBLICANS**  
Wash Westmoreland  
(The Disinformation Company, \$19.95)  
This TRIO documentary focuses on a gay minority: Republicans. Trailing mem-

bers of the infamous Log Cabin Club during the 2004 elections, director Wash Westmoreland (*Totally Gay*) explores how the conundrum of whether to support President Bush's re-election campaign or speak out against his call for an amendment banning gay marriage rifts the proudly homo, but staunchly Republican group. **Gay**



*Republicans* succeeds by creating character studies of four wildly different Log Cabin leaders as they eccentrically catfight it out, considering "What would Lincoln do?" Poster boy Steve May acts as the voice of reason, while Palm Beach chapter head Maurice Bonamigo is a swishy conservative nazi—a strange animal indeed. DVD extras include Q&As with filmmakers and stars. **B+** —Candace Moore



**Arrested Development**  
Season Two  
(Fox Home Entertainment, \$31.98)

A modern miracle in prime-time network television: While TV critics bemoaned the death of the sitcom, Fox pulled a maneuver reminiscent of early *Seinfeld*. They renewed this ribald, absurd, pee-in-your-pants-funny ratings dudlet. So, throw your reserve to the wind and binge on the monetarily coddled Bluth family as they burn down the concession stand—there are more bananas-on-a-stick to come. Jason Bateman finally lives down *Teen Wolf Two*, and now that Ellen's sweetie Portia De Rossi's on the cover of *The Advocate*, we can proudly revel in the laugh-factor of Lindsay Bluth-Fünke's hysterics—further proof that lesbians make damn fine comedians. Includes a blooper reel. **A+** —Candace Moore

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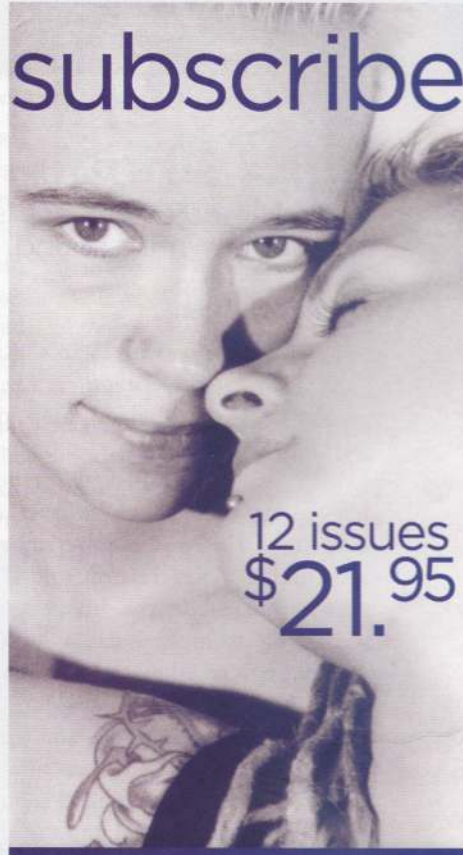
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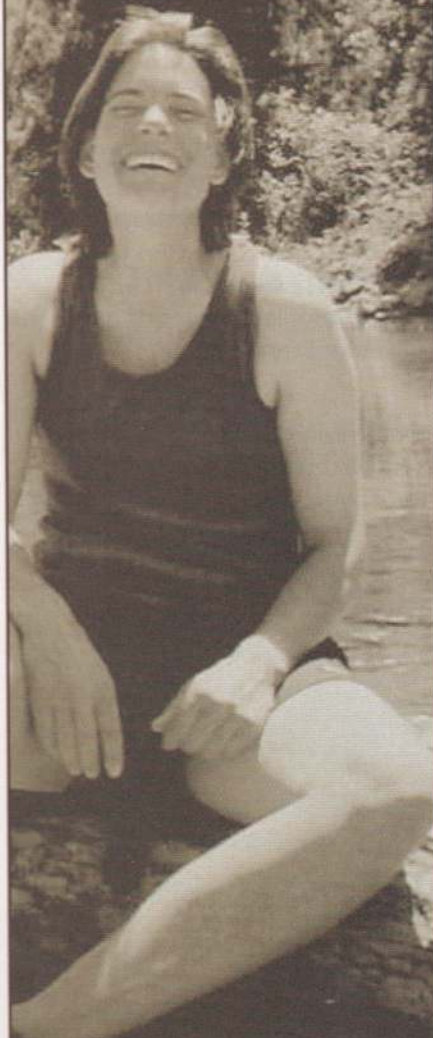
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### INSIDE GIRLFRIENDS



Janet Tinkler

My queer wanderlust drove me (above, parsing Spanish over the intercom) and my friends to this winery in Galicia.

**T**raveling is one of my favorite things to do, and apparently as a lesbian I am not alone. We travel a lot; many studies say more than straight people. Not even 9/11 put a dent in our wanderlust. (*I was handicapped, however, by my high-school Castellano as I tried, in the photo above, to get my posse into a winery in northern Spain without a reservation.*)

Copy chief Laurie Koh's "Venus in Transit" looks at another unique aspect of our traveler's profile: our increasing interest in women-only vacations, whether it's an afternoon in diving gear on a Venus Charters yacht in Key West or a four-day weekend in a bikini at "The Dinah" in Palm Springs.

When we venture out, we often experience the fact that not all places are as homophobic as home. (What a trip it was, so to speak, to leave the land of "defense of marriage" acts and arrive in Madrid on the occasion of my expatriate sister's wedding. Marriage, gay and straight, was thriving in Spain.) Also, when we travel in the good company of other gay women, we get to escape into a world where we're the norm, rather than the exception.

Following on the theme of place, this issue is also the occasion of our annual "Ten Best Lesbian Places to Live," and this year the story contains a surprise. Usually Provincetown, Massachusetts does not score well in our annual ranking, mainly because of its icy cold winters and fickle, tourism-dependent economy. But the strength of the tiny seaport's lesbian community catapulted it to number one this year. Ahoy! **gf**

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the word on lesbian lifestyle

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