

10TH ANNIVERSARY

THE YEAR IN LESBIAN SEX

The #1 Lesbian Monthly

June 2004

Girlfriends

www.girlfriendsmag.com

13

WOMEN
LEADING YOUR SEXUAL
REVOLUTION

STARRING

THE L WORD AND
JENNIFER BEALS
AS "BETTE"

ALSO FEATURING...

KARINA LOMBARD AND MIA KIRSHNER
MELISSA AND TAMMY LYNN
WILLOW AND KENNEDY
SOULFOOD'S EVA AND BIRD
AND MORE!

**WHAT YOU
DO IN BED**

Readers' Sex
Survey Revealed

**OUR PLAYBOY
BUNNY**

In Teeny-Weeny Bikinis

OUR
BIGGEST
SEX
ISSUE
EVER!

PLUS:

STONEWALL
35 YEARS
LATER

COURTNEY
LOVE

SAVED!

BEYOND
SERIAL
MONOGAMY

VIVA
LEZ VEGAS

\$4.95 US \$7.95 Canada



FILMS
LIKE YOU'VE
NEVER SEEN...
IN A TOWN
LIKE NO OTHER



THE SIXTH ANNUAL PROVINCETOWN INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL, JUNE 16-20 IN PROVINCETOWN, MA, WILL SCREEN MORE THAN 50 ADVENTUROUS, ORIGINAL, INDEPENDENT FILMS. ALSO AT THE FESTIVAL: INTIMATE GATHERINGS WITH INDUSTRY LUMINARIES, GLAMOROUS RECEPTIONS, PARTIES, PARTIES, PARTIES, SYMPOSIA, FILM WORKSHOPS AND SPECIAL FEATURES.

www.ptownfilmfest.org
508.487.film

American Airlines®

PROVINCETOWN
BANNER

Advocate

PREMIERE

New Art
Cinemas
www.newartcinemas.com

HBO

THE
Phoenix



BACARDI
LIMÓN



This project is supported in part by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts

video & dvd

Rebel Girls

Outsiderhood becomes erotic in these releases.

by Candace Moore

Gershon brings the same rough-n-tumble

sexiness she butched up in *Bound* to her role as a continually leather-clad Patti Smith-type in this overly dramatic rock musical, based on the play by real-life grrrl-rocker Cheri Lovedog. Gina Gershon has rebel written all over her—literally. She plays tattooed Jacki, the middle-aged singer of Clam Dandy, a L.A.-based girl band that just can't seem to

Prey for Rock and Roll

Dir. Alex Steyermark
Lions Gate Film, 2003, 104 min.

get signed. Bi, but preoccupied, Jacki offers both guys and gals foreplay, but saves the grind for the stage. Drummer Sally (Shelly Cole) and lead guitarist Faith (Lori Petty) are cute-as-pie as the

band's lesbian lovers. The special DVD version includes commentary by director Alex Steyermark. Grade: **B**



Gershon (right) works her rebel appeal in *Prey*.

Show Me Love (Strand Releasing, 1999)

This Swedish teen romance has the character depth that its American counterparts often lack—the story of two high schoolgirls finding love against the odds is shown as a complicated, but inevitable, process. Stuck in small town Åmål, Agnes (Rebecka Liljeberg) eats lunch in the cafeteria alone—rumors have it she's a lesbian. The small-framed tomboy, wearing her vulnerability (and acute perceptiveness) on the sleeves of her plaid button-ups, wouldn't argue. Agnes is plainly smitten with Elin (Alexandra Dahlström), the resident "cool girl," who drinks like a fish and has a reputation as a "slut" with boys. When Elin plants a joke kiss on Agnes's lips as a form of ridicule, she finds it surprisingly loaded. Grade: **A**

Thirteen (Fox Searchlight Pictures, 2003)

Holly Hunter deserved her Oscar nomination for her portrayal of a mother pushed beyond exasperation in this unflinching drama about a Los Angeles teen's experimentation in self-destruction. But young actress Evan Rachel Wood outdid herself as possessed seventh-grader Tracy, sent spinning out of control as she goes from Barbies to barbiturates. Similarly, young Nikki Reed (who co-wrote the script based on her own experiences) and director Catherine Hardwicke should've gotten shout-outs for their incisive original script. While Hardwicke's exoticization of ethnicities is a concern on screen, *Thirteen* remains one of the more compelling films of 2003. Grade: **A-**

Girls on Film 2 (Power UP, 2003)

Power UP, a networking organization for lesbians in the entertainment industry, has released their second compilation of members' shorts. Angela Robinson's funny spoof *D.E.B.S.* (winner of Best Short Film at numerous 2003 LGBT contests around the world, including *Girlfriends'* own 2003 Sappho Awards) features Charlie's Angels-esque super spies in pleated school uniform skirts. Their socks are pulled knee high and their guns are drawn! The DVD also includes Lee Freidlander's *Give or Take an Inch*, a touching story about an FTM's first family get-together after transition; *Fly Cherry*, Jessica Sharzer's cute piece on girlhood; and a collaborative project called *Gay Propaganda*, which offers scenes from classic movies recast with queer characters and content. The DVD is available at www.power-up.net. Grade: **A-**

Angels in America

A new teenybopper outcast film brings back the eighties.

by Candace Moore

Remember *The Breakfast Club*?

It premiered in 1985 in the middle of the Reagan administration. Now George W.—who has a similar problem with gays, teenage sex, and world peace—is in the White House and here we have *Saved!*, where once again one high school represents society at large and the outcasts star as microcosmic freedom fighters.

With Macaulay Culkin and Mandy Moore in the place of Judd Nelson and Molly Ringwald, the first-time feature film director Brian Dannelly takes the teenybopper genre's metaphor and mines it for more. Set at American Eagle, a fundamentalist Christian high school

Saved!

Dir. Brian Dannelly
United Artists, 92 min.

that tries to make Jesus cool with hip-hop hymns, this off-beat comedy makes light of, and sheds light on, the current disconnect between real Christian values (i.e., "love thy neighbor") and Bible-beater dogma.

In *Saved!*, Mary (Jena Malone) is a zealous member of the Christian Jewels, a girl gang for the Lord. When she finds out her hunky ice skater beau, Dean, is "a gay," she has an underwater vision of J.C. himself who tells her to do "everything she can" to "help" her boyfriend. The aptly named Mary figures out how while firing off rounds at the Eye for an Eye shooting range. But after a *Honcho* magazine page-turning session, the gay boy unexpectedly gets the good girl pregnant. Dean is shipped off to a cure-the-homo camp, Mercy House, and Mary must face the halls of American Eagle High alone while hiding her growing baby bulge under oversized Santa sweatshirts.

Singer Mandy Moore is a tongue-in-cheek casting choice for the part of Hilary Faye, the Jewels' devout ringleader. With a vindictive snarl ready under her prayer circle-pushing smile, Hilary Faye sniffs out Mary's transgression. Subsequently ostracized by the in-group, Mary finds acceptance among her fellow exiles. There's the charmingly sarcastic Roland (Macaulay Culkin), Hilary Faye's wheelchair-bound brother; and Roland's hot, riot-girl lover Cassandra (Eva Amurri), the school's lone Jew, who speaks in potty-mouthed tongues at school rallies. Mary ultimately finds love with Pastor Skip's skater boy son Patrick.

The film, of course, includes a *Pretty in Pink*-style prom, which the "freaks," including Dean, his new boyfriend, and a posse of Mercy House jailbreakers invade. Pastor Skip (Martin Donovan) desperately tries to evict the gay kids, declaring that the Bible is "black and white" on the issue of homosexuality, but is confronted by his own son who retorts that it's "all a gray area."

At the film's bow tie finale, everyone gathers around in-labor Mary and gay dad Dean offering tolerance, acceptance, support, and love as the clear answer to this cute parody's sincere question: "What would Jesus do?"

When *The Breakfast Club* was released, the eternally sunshine-minded fortieth president had not yet uttered the word "AIDS" in public, although thousands of people, mostly gay men, had already died of it. Reagan's public health policy worsened the plight of the gay population, some would say intentionally. Our current president's proposed constitutional amendment attempts to bar American gays and lesbians from the legal and social benefits of marriage forever.

Like eras beget like art.



Jena Malone and Mandy Moore (right) are angelic in *Saved!*

But we're still left to wonder—as with the John Hughes-styled movies of the eighties—does a film like this help teach young underdogs lost in an increasingly yuppified, Republicanite society to subvert the dominant paradigm? Or do these fight-the-power narratives geared toward a mostly white, middle-class youth audience have an inoculating effect? After all, who needs to be a real rebel when you can just dress like Ally Sheedy? Grade: **B+**

Candace Moore edited the book
Revolutions of the Mind.

Love and Marriage

The randy girls of *The L Word* notwithstanding,

lesbian sex hasn't been on the community's lips for the past twelve months. Sex talk has been usurped by the debate over gay marriage, the very institution that—if we can believe what we hear about lesbian bed death—for all too many of us has been the very *antidote* to sex.

Not that I'm complaining. I've been willingly seduced by the whirlwind of girl-on-girl vows. Even if the religious right (and its stooge in the White House) wins this round, there will have been a

time when we were married, and it's my bet that straight America will be forever changed for the better by the front-page reality of two happy people, of the same sex, enjoying the advantages of making it official.

But in the meantime, what happened to the sex part? It was just last summer that we were celebrating the groundbreaking Supreme Court decision of *Lawrence v. Texas*,


wherein the high court recognized our right not to say in public, "we love!" but to enact in private, *we lust*.

Let's not forget in our dialogue about

marriage that lesbians first organized—even at Stonewall thirty-five years ago this month—for the freedom to desire other women.

On the occasion of our fourth Sex Issue, then, I'm happy to introduce our coverage of everyone's favorite topic: What lesbians do in bed. I say "everyone" because even CNN talking head and notorious conservative Tucker Carlson told *Elle*: "I support...female bisexuality, this apparent increased willingness of girls to bring along a friend." Carlson also hoped to be reincarnated as the head of an LGBT lobbying group so he could "preside over hundreds of lesbians, some of them quite good-looking." It just goes to show that, even in the twenty-first century, straight men still get to dominate (and distort) the discussion of our love lives.

Not here! In this issue of *Girlfriends* you'll find the fascinating results of our latest sex survey (hundreds of you eagerly participated); an openly gay Playboy bunny posing this time for her own peeps; two lesbian sex toy entrepreneurs on how they, *Queer Eye*-style, made over scores of their hetero customer's love lives; and lots more. Oh, and lest I forget: Happy tenth birthday, *Girlfriends*. Enjoy!



Heather Findlay, Editor in Chief



Girlfriends editorial staff (me, Laurie, and Mignon) provide a peek into your bedrooms.

Girlfriends

Heather Findlay
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Mignon Freeman
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Laurie Koh
EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

Rachel Llewellyn
EDITORIAL INTERN

Clair Whitmer
COPY EDITOR

Kylie Johnston, Erin O'Brian,
Laura Woodard
PROOFREADERS

Beth Brown, Patrick Califia,
Jessica Lanyadoo, Candace Moore,
Ann Rostow, Lori Selke,
Michelle Tea
CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

Kathie Bergquist, Claire Cavanah,
Linnea Due, Kim Ficera,
Naomi Graychase, Jen Phillips,
Rachel Venning, Crystal Weston
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Girlfriends Magazine
Volume 10, Issue 12

H.A.F. PUBLISHING
publisher of *Girlfriends*,
On Our Backs, and
Inside Pride guides
3415 César Chávez, Ste. 101
San Francisco, CA 94110
415-648-9464 (phone)
415-648-4705 (fax)
staff@girlfriendsmag.com

Reproduction in whole or in part
without permission is prohibited.
Publication of the name or
photograph of any persons or
organizations appearing,
advertising, or listing in
Girlfriends may not be taken
as an indication of the sexual
orientation of that individual or
group unless specifically stated.

Send letters to the editor to the
above address, or e-mail to
editorial@girlfriendsmag.com.
Obtain writer's guidelines from
www.girlfriendsmag.com.

Girlfriends (ISSN 1078-8875)
is published monthly by
H.A.F. Publishing,
3415 César Chávez, Ste. 101,
San Francisco, CA 94110.
One-year subscriptions are \$21.95.
(Canadian subscribers add \$10;
other foreign subscribers add \$15.)
Periodicals Postage Paid at
San Francisco, CA and at additional
mailing offices. POSTMASTER:
Send address changes to:
Girlfriends, P.O. Box 500
Missouri City, TX 77459-9904.

SUBSCRIPTION
QUESTIONS?
Call 800-GRL-FRND

www.girlfriendsmag.com

For advertising rates
call 415-648-9464
sales@girlfriendsmag.com

PRINTED IN CANADA

J. Ethan Duran
CREATIVE DIRECTOR

Rani Goel
GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Tamara Costa
ART INTERN

Phyllis Christopher, Su Evers,
Horace Long, Rebecca McBride
CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS

Kirsten D. Hammer, Robyn Head,
Jennifer Kalis, Barbara Pollak,
Brie Spangler
CONTRIBUTING ARTISTS

Erin Findlay
PUBLISHER

Scott Wazlowski
ADVERTISING SALES MANAGER

Sid Mahnke
ACCOUNT MANAGER

Heather Petrocelli
CIRCULATION DIRECTOR

Rebeka Rodriguez
CIRCULATION ASSISTANT

VERIFIED
AUDIT CIRCULATION
AUDIT PENDING

Sign up for our online newsletter at www.girlfriendsmag.com