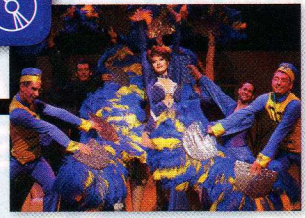




show MIX

reviews • OBIE ESPINOSA, LAWRENCE FERBER & GARY M. KRAMER



HANNAH FREE

Ripe Fruit Films



A lesbian icon for decades thanks to TV's *Cagney & Lacey*, Sharon Gless finally goes all-out Sapphic in this moving, accessible indie. Elderly Hannah (Gless) and lifelong lover Rachel (Maureen Gallagher) occupy the same nursing home, but are prevented from being together by the latter's bitter, religious daughter. Their relationship and characters' complexity unspools in flashbacks, from childhood kisses to adulthood clashes over Hannah's wanderlust. Gless, glammed-down and butched-up, delivers a dignified yet vulnerable, heart-tugging performance—and it's a reminder why we're demanding full federal marriage rights *now*. —LF

PAGEANT

Wolfe



Even gay guys who have no interest in donning drag, or have never attended a drag show, need to see *Pageant*. This superfabulous documentary about fifty incredible female impersonators vying for the title Miss Gay America is an absolutely remarkable, rousing experience. The contestants' transformations are stunning, and many of their stories are quite touching. Best of all is performer Pork Chop's showstopping musical number. Yet what comes across best is the guys' camaraderie, not their competitiveness—but couldn't they all be just a bit bitchier? —GK

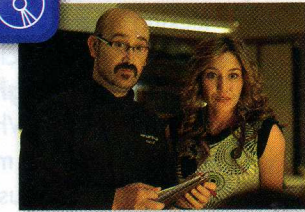


LORD, SAVE US FROM YOUR FOLLOWERS

Zacchaeus Film Group



Thought: Most people don't have a problem with Jesus. It's some of his followers that scare us. Interspersed with talking heads, this doc does a pretty fair job of highlighting the hypocrisies slung from both sides of the religious/non-religious table. Major points for the great liberal/conservative *Family Feud* experiment. Most notably, to hear a church-going Christian acknowledge that no group has been more disrespected than the GLBT community, and then to seek absolution from us—at Pride!—is a bit startling, but what an ending! —OE

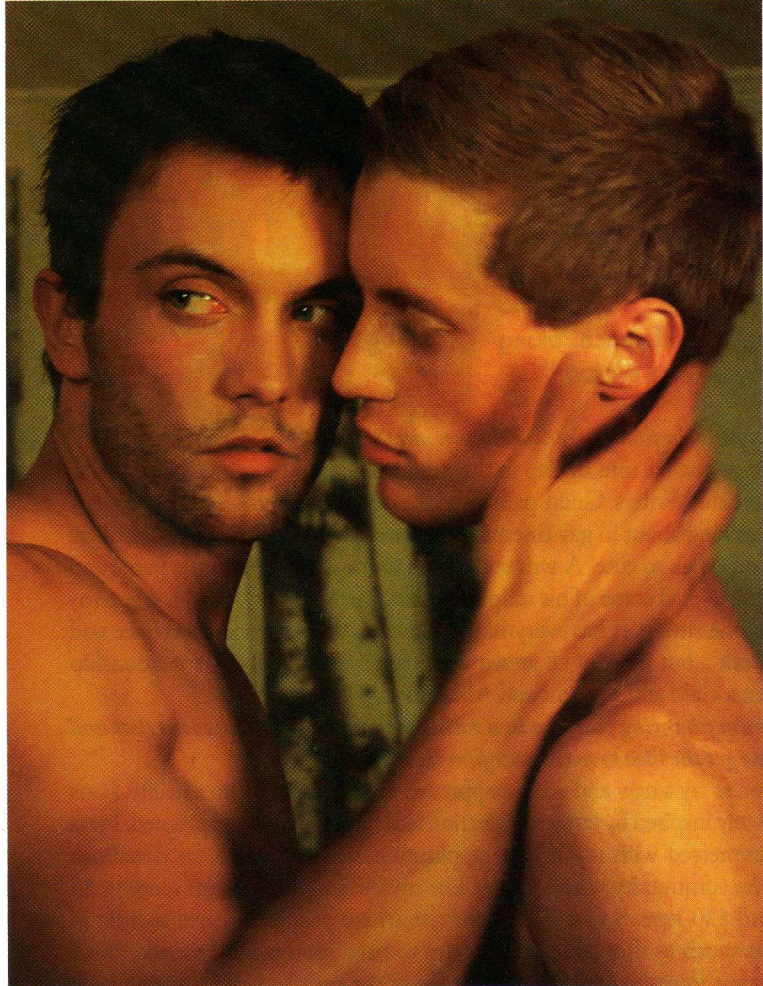


CHEF'S SPECIAL

TJA Releasing



Chef Maxi is testy as they come (think Gordon Ramsey meets Tim Gunn in a bear's body) and determined to win a Michelin star. But when faced with raising his two estranged kids after their mother dies and romantic interest from a hot Argentinean neighbor, he discovers that love and patience are invaluable ingredients in life. Frothy, rife with sitcom tropes—especially walking-in-at-an-inopportune-moment—and a dash of Almodovar, *Chef's* tastiest dishes entail the hissy-fitting Maxi, and eye-pleasing Junio Valverde, as his homophobic son. —LF



EATING OUT 3: ALL YOU CAN EAT

Ariztical



The *Eating Out* formula—lying to get laid—gets stretched even thinner in this latest, perhaps unnecessary entry. But viewers don't watch these films for the plot, do they? It's all about nudity and belly laughs, both of which are plentiful here. The script by Phillip J. Bartell (who also edited) contains some hilarious one-liners and many opportunities for the attractive cast to strip down. The dumb plot has slutty fag hag Tiffany (outrageously entertaining Rebekah Kochan, veteran of all three films) getting new arrival Casey (Daniel Skelton) to pose as her ex-boyfriend Ryan on the Internet. Casey wants to woo Zack (Chris Salvatore), and the plan kinda works until Ryan (Michael Walker) turns up and, well, an "orgiastic kerfuffle" ensues. There is a sweet message about getting to know and love someone before having sex, but again, viewers don't look to *Eating Out* films for life lessons, do they? —GK