

## Film Review: Boys to Men

# A Vivid Portrait of Life, Love, Sex and Commitment

By Mary Damiano

Boys to Men, which made its South Florida premier at the Miami Gay & Lesbian Film Festival last month, is a wonderful collection of four shorts examining rites of passage in men's lives.

This collection works much better than the recent Boys Life 3, because in Boys to Men, the shorts are weaved together thematically, painting a vivid portrait of life, love, sex and commitment.

The first and last, Crush and The Confession, are the best of the four. Crush is the delightful tale of 16 year old Robbie, played by Brett Chukerman, and 12 year old Tina, played by Ema A. Tuennerman, who meet one summer and bond over their mutual attraction for a teen idol. Robbie hides the fact that he's gay, and adorable Tina, being only 12, misses all the signs. She soon develops a crush on him. The big turning point is when Tina discovers that Robbie is gay, and whips up an inventive and hysterical scheme.

The Confession concerns a couple who have been together for decades. Joseph, played by Bert Kraemer, is dying, and feels a sudden need for his abandoned Catholicism. He tells his partner Caesar, played by Tom Fitzpatrick, that he wants a priest. Caesar refuses to help him get one, because of the church's stance on homosexuality. Joseph insists, and takes matters into his own hands. There's a great scene when young Father

Marcus arrives. Joseph tries to make him welcome, while Caesar does his best to drive him away.

There are few depictions of the elderly in general and of aging gay men in particular in cinema, and the relationship in The Confession is one to treasure. Joseph and Caesar are lovers, friends, and soul mates, two men who made lots of sacrifices to be together. The tenderness in their scenes is heartbreaking.

The two shorts sandwiched in between, The Mountain King, and ...lost, are more impressionistic than Crush and The Confession. They make up for their abstractness with lots of sex and some clever commentary. In The Mountain King, two strangers, one gay, one straight, meet on a beach and go off together to a beach house with interesting results. ...lost is the most abstract of the four, as well as the shortest. The sex is almost nonstop and imagery plays a very important part.

The performances are uniformly great, especially little Ema A. Tuennerman as Tina in Crush. She is bubbly, angelic and neurotic, often all at the same time. Kraemer and Fitzpatrick in The Confession give subtle, nuanced performances as an aging couple struggling with faith.

Don't miss Boys to Men, now playing at the Gateway. The films are a real treat, exuberant, touching, and wonderfully original.

## Republicans to Remain Neutral in County Rights Battle

(Continued from frontpage)

Said community activist Dean Trantalis: "Many of us have been working behind the scenes to try to diffuse the petition initiative. We are trying to meet with Boy Scout leaders and lobbying local elected officials to refuse to support their drive."

He added that while it "dismays me that our gay organizations are disorganized, there has been no sense of urgency felt by the community yet. The people that called the PAC into action have yet to impress the sense of urgency on the community. Perhaps we need to do that now, in light of recent mobilization efforts against us. We need to make a proactive effort."

"The Republican Party is not eager to take a position that would alienate a large part of the voters in Broward, not just those who are gay and lesbian but those who oppose discrimination," said Robin Bodiford, the new leader of Empower Broward

"I'm happy because the vote did not come to the floor, so consequently nobody's toes got stepped on," said Jack Majeske, president of the Log Cabin Republicans, a group of gay GOP members. "Next month's meeting is the picnic so no business will be conducted and by the month after that I think it will be too late."

The conservative advocates simply ran out of time Monday night as they first challenged party leaders on new rules designed to make it more difficult to force the GOP to take stands on controversial issues. Too many members had left for the group to discuss a stand on the petition drive.

"We should be about electing candidates," LeMieux told the Sun-Sentinel. "We should not be a mini-County Commission making policy statements all the time that divide us."

A group called Equal Rights Not Special Rights launched the petition drive this spring and must collect 62,143 signatures of registered voters by mid-September to force a referendum on the anti-discrimination law. They have promised to do so.

Organizers of the group were angered when the county's decision cut off funding for the Boy Scouts because the Scouts refuse to admit gays as troop leaders or members. The county maintained the Scouts cannot receive aid because the anti-discrimination law blocks taxpayer money from going to groups that discriminate based on sexual orientation.

"And these people are intentionally misleading others to acquire signatures under the premise this issue has to do with Boy Scouts," De Carlo noted.

## Copa Defies the Law and Serves After Hours

(Continued from frontpage)

But last week, without an extended hours license, Copa patrons were being served mixed drinks and liquor as late as 5:30 in the morning, and the club continued to remain open despite its agreement with the City of Dania Beach. Stated one reporter sent to the bar by the Express: "the doors were open, the bar was open, and patrons were being served well after 4 a.m. No one was told that citations were issued or that we could not drink anymore. No one told us we were in danger of getting arrested."

Meanwhile, club owner Gregg Bernard celebrates his seventh anniversary as the proprietor this weekend. He will be featuring a buffet and entertainment by Electra, Nikki Adams and Latrice Royale. It is not known yet whether Sheriff Ken Jenne's deputies will be uninvited guests.

Stated City Manager Nunemaker: "We don't want to penalize the customers for violations. We are looking at the operators, not the patrons. But the club's attorneys have now assured us they will comply with the law."



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