

# Frameline44

September 17–27, 2020  
[www.frameline.org](http://www.frameline.org)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## FRAMELINE44, THE WORLD'S LARGEST LGBTQ+ FILM FESTIVAL, WRAPS 11-DAY FESTIVAL WITH RECORD-BREAKING ATTENDANCE AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF AWARD WINNERS

Held September 17–27, 2020, the groundbreaking festival included a series of thought-provoking panels and a first-ever virtual gala fundraiser

SAN FRANCISCO (September 30, 2020)—Following over 75 film screenings, which included 10 world premieres, four international premieres, three North American premieres, and one US premiere, **Frameline44**—the world's largest LGBTQ+ film festival—wrapped its 11-day festival with record-breaking attendance, a series of thought-provoking panels, a first-ever virtual gala fundraiser, and a slate of award winners.

“Despite the obstacles in place, this year’s festival exceeded all expectations,” said Frameline Executive Director **James Woolley**. “We are immensely grateful to the thousands of longtime supporters and new film lovers around California for their generosity and support of queer cinema during this uncertain time. It is a true testament of our community’s spirit. We are already hard at work planning Frameline45, and look forward to sharing the exciting lineup in the near future.”

“I couldn’t be more proud of what we were able to accomplish at this year’s festival, my last one with Frameline” adds Frameline Director of Exhibition & Programming **Paul Struthers**. “I will forever be grateful for having the opportunity to work with such talented and inspiring colleagues and artists, and can’t wait to be cheering them on for Frameline45.”

### **RECORD-BREAKING ATTENDANCE**

Frameline drew record-breaking attendance at its Frameline44 Pride Showcase, held June 25–28, 2020, and Frameline44 Film Festival. Both events combined brought in over 89,000 patrons.

## **FRAMELINE44 AWARDS**

At this year's festival, Frameline handed out two sets of awards—the **AT&T Audience Awards** and the **Frameline / San Francisco Bay Area Film Critics Circle First Feature Award**.

### **AT&T AUDIENCE AWARDS**

Frameline44 gave audiences the opportunity to weigh in on their personal favorites, issuing the annual AT&T Audience Awards in three categories: Narrative Feature, Documentary Feature, and Short Film. Choosing from the Festival's eligible films, every ticket holder was able to cast a vote using a star-based rating system in Frameline's Digital Screening Room.

The AT&T Audience Award for Narrative Feature went to **Max Currie's *Rūrangi***. In the Documentary Feature category, the AT&T Audience Award went to **Patrick Sammon & Bennett Singer's *Cured***. Competing with a wide array of exceptional shorts, **Jett Garrison's *These Them: Episode 1***, took home the AT&T Audience Award for Short Film.

### **THE FRAMELINE / SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA FILM CRITICS CIRCLE FIRST FEATURE AWARD**

This year, for the first time, Frameline partnered with the San Francisco Bay Area Film Critics Circle to celebrate the achievement and artistry of a first-time feature filmmaker at Frameline44. The award winner was selected from among 11 eligible first-time features by members of the San Francisco Bay Area Film Critics Circle. This year's award winner was **Filippo Meneghetti's *Two of Us (Deux)***. The jury, comprising working film critics and journalists, stated that they were "impressed by the high quality of films in contention," and hailed the winning film as "precisely composed and framed—a masterstroke so assured it seems like the work of a veteran filmmaker."

## **FIRST-EVER VIRTUAL GALA**

On **Saturday, September 26**, hundreds of guests tuned in for Frameline's first-ever virtual gala fundraiser. Hosted by **Michelle Meow**, the gala featured remarks from **San Francisco Mayor London Breed**, **San Francisco Board of Supervisor Rafael Mandelman**, former **California State Senator Mark Leno**, screenwriter/director **Alice Wu**, and activist and performer **Honey Mahogany** who all highlighted the important work that Frameline is doing in bringing groundbreaking LGBTQ+ stories to the forefront. The gala included a silent auction and featured items from Tony Award winner **Alan Cumming**, filmmakers **John Waters**, **Gus Van Sant**, and **Isabel Sandoval**, and more. By the night's end, thousands of dollars were raised to help Frameline's mission of changing the world through queer cinema.

## **SHIT & CHAMPAGNE WORLD PREMIERE**

Kicking off Frameline44 on Thursday, September 17, over 2,000 masked guests in nearly 900 cars attended the world premiere of **D'Arcy Drollinger's *Shit & Champagne*** at the West Wind Solano Drive-in Theater in Concord, CA. This world premiere marked the largest gathering of attendees for an in-person event in Frameline's 44-year history.

## **PANELS**

Throughout the 11-day festival, Q&As and panels with film creative teams were scheduled for nearly every program throughout the festival. All conversations are archived and available to watch on Frameline's YouTube and Facebook channels. Notable inclusions were the world's first conversation with director **Joe Mantello** and actors **Matt Bomer** and **Tuc Watkins** from Netflix's new adaptation of *The Boys in the Band*, a panel with the creative team of Pixar Animation Studios' groundbreaking short film, *OUT*, as well as Q&A's featuring actors **Henry Golding**, **Robyn Lively**, **Dianna Agron**, **Barbara Sukowa**, and **Jai Rodriguez**.

## **FRAMELINE VOICES**

Frameline44 short film favorites—**Niki Ang's *Were You Gay in High School***, **Joseph Amenta's *Flood***, and **Robin Cloud's *2 Dollars***—have been selected to be a part of **Frameline Voices**, Frameline's signature short film distribution program, which will be released later this year in partnership with Here Media.

## **LOOKING AHEAD**

Stay tuned for Frameline's year-round programming, as well as information on Frameline45.

## **FRAMELINE44 FESTIVAL SPONSORS**

Frameline44 is made possible with generous support from returning Premier Partners **GILEAD SCIENCES, INC.**, **BANK OF AMERICA**, **SHOWTIME®**, **MONIKER**, **ALASKA AIRLINES**, and **HILTON SAN FRANCISCO UNION SQUARE**. Additional funding is provided by **WELLS FARGO FOUNDATION**, **AT&T**, **WARNERMEDIA**, **BANK OF THE WEST**, **ARNOLD & PORTER**, **BLOOMBERG PHILANTHROPIES**, and **SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY**.

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Frameline's mission is to change the world through the power of queer cinema. As a media arts nonprofit, Frameline's integrated programs connect filmmakers and audiences in San Francisco and around the globe. Frameline provides critical funding for emerging LGBTQ+ filmmakers, reaches hundreds of thousands with a collection of over 250 films distributed worldwide, inspires thousands of students in schools across the nation with free films and curricula through Youth in Motion, and creates an international stage for the world's best LGBTQ+ film through the San Francisco International LGBTQ+ Film Festival and additional year-round screenings and cinematic events. For more information on Frameline, visit [www.frameline.org](http://www.frameline.org).