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**PARTNERSHIP AROUND PRIDE
Green Mountain Crossroads, CineSLAM, Rockingham Arts and Museum Project
and Vermont Performance Lab join forces to produce
a celebration of queerness, diversity, creativity and social justice**

June 15-17, 2017 in Putney, Brattleboro and Bellows Falls

Putney, Brattleboro & Bellows Falls, VT – Four local arts and LGBTQ organizations -- Vermont Performance Lab (VPL), Green Mountain Crossroads (GMC), the Rockingham Arts and Museum Project (RAMP) and CineSLAM -- are joining forces to produce a full weekend of activities and events as part of the annual Southern Vermont Pride Weekend in various locations in Southern Vermont June 15-17, 2017.

The Southern Vermont Pride Weekend formally kicks off on Thursday, June 15 and 16 at Next Stage Arts in Putney with the presentation of Green Mountain Crossroads' *Andrew's Inn Oral History Project* and VPL's presentation of *Radicals in Miniature* -- two projects that were incubated through a creative residency that was organized by VPL and supported by Marlboro College and the National Endowment for the Arts. **To kick off the weekend and celebrate the opening of the *Andrew's Inn Oral History Project* and *Radicals in Miniature*, VPL and GMC will be co-hosting a reception from 6-7pm on Thursday June 15 at Next Stage Arts.** The reception is open to the public and all are welcome.

Radicals in Miniature pairs a gay and straight man of different generations to conjure many of the forgotten players who shaped urban creativity in the 70s and 80s but were lost to AIDS or faded from the cultural record. The idea emerged in the fall of 2015 while Gordon was in residency at Marlboro College. Gordon co-taught a class, *Politics of Change*, with American Studies and Theatre faculty Kate Ratcliff and Brenda Foley and Green Mountain Crossroads' Director, HB Lozito. The class focused on radical movements of late 20th century America. As part of the course both Ain Gordon, HB Lozito and a Marlboro student Rainbow Stakiwicz starting interviewing people about Andrew's Inn, the gay bar and club that was located in downtown Bellows Falls in the 1970s and 80s. Stakiwicz recorded interviews and created a short performance, Gordon used the stories to inform the development of *Radicals in Miniature* and Lozito continued researching Andrew's Inn, collecting over 30 hours of interviews for the *Andrew's Inn Oral History Project*.

Lozito's documentation for the ***Andrew's Inn Oral History Project*** tells the story of the 70s and 80s when gay people traveled from as far away as New York and Boston to find safety and acceptance at Andrew's Inn, located in downtown Bellows Falls and now the home of Popolo Restaurant. This first presentation of *Andrew's Inn Oral History Project* brings together stories of six people who experienced the Inn. Through printed materials, audio selections from 30+ hours of interviews conducted in 2015 and 2016 and as present-day portraits by photographer Evie Lovett the exhibit aims to shed light on the rich history of LGBTQ people in rural Vermont.

The celebration continues on Saturday, June 17 in downtown Brattleboro at the Latchis Theater with the annual ***CineSLAM Festival***, Vermont's only LGBT Film Festival. Starting at 5pm CineSLAM will screen four short films. In REINVENTING THE REEL, according to the Contact Hypothesis Theory, the more times a viewer sees/interacts with a minority in film (preferably in varied depictions), the less prejudice they will have towards that group. The underlying message of director Michael Gorlick's film is that it may no longer be necessary to wait for that: like-minded individuals are now able to take the creative power into their own hands and bring their ideas to life with the support of a waiting and eager audience. ONE WAY STREET from Andrea Meyerson explores what happens when your desire drives you in the wrong direction. Revved up by passion and ignoring all the signs, three people set out to fulfill their fantasies. Other shorts include QUEER GHOST HUNTERS, from Stu Maddux, which is a docu-series about real people making contact with LGBT ghosts and SOUND/VISION from Ari Rossen about people struggling with identity and overcoming adversity through the power of music.

Later that night, revisit Andrew's Inn at a dance party from 9pm-Midnight at Popolo Restaurant located in downtown Bellows Falls co-sponsored by Green Mountain Crossroads, RAMP and VPL. With music by DJ Jim Andrews, epic party lighting by Jonathan W. Jensen and The Latchis Hotel, the ***Andrew's Inn Dance Party*** promises to be one for the ages. \$15 ticket price includes hors' d'oeuvres, cash bar. This is a 21+ event; only 125 tickets available! Tickets online at www.rampartstickets.com . Arrange for dinner prior to the event at Popolo in the reserved event space by calling 802-460-7676. Only 32 dining seats available!

In making this announcement, HB Lozito of Green Mountain Crossroads commented, "We are thrilled to once again be collaborating with VPL, CineSLAM, and RAMP on Southern Vermont Pride Weekend. We are lucky to be building on a powerful history of LGBTQ community organizing here in Windham County. It is especially exciting this year, for us, to be sharing the story of Bellows Falls own gay disco, Andrew's Inn, and to be able to dance it out with this fabulous community in the very same space where it all took place 40+ years ago. At GMC we appreciate how VPL and their artists bring visibility to critical issues in our community, as well as the connections and support RAMP has built around this project among folks in Bellows Falls. We're looking forward to a truly fabulous 2017 Pride Weekend!"

Sara Coffey of Vermont Performance Lab remarked, "Our partners help ground VPL artists and projects in our community. The partnership with CineSLAM and Green Mountain Crossroads is very special as it is a wonderful example of how organizations can come together to create a series of events that celebrate diversity and foster dialogue and tolerance in our community around LGBTQ and social justice issues."

Robert McBride, Director of RAMP is "overjoyed to creatively collaborate with VPL and Green Mountain Crossroads to acknowledge the important role that the Andrew's Inn played in the cultural history of the Vermont LGBTQ movement. In fact, RAMP recently hosted a meeting in Bellows Falls with Laura Trieschmann, Vermont State Historic Preservation Officer, where she shared a National Park Service initiative to recognize LGBTQ sites of national significance. Her office is currently reviewing Vermont sites that would be appropriate to recommend to the Parks Service and we toured the Andrew's Inn building with her."

EVENT AND TICKET DETAILS

SOUTHERN VERMONT PRIDE WEEKEND

June 15-17 in various Southern Vermont locations

Co-organized by Green Mountain Crossroads, CineSLAM, Rockingham Arts & Museum Project and Vermont Performance Lab as part of Southern Vermont's Pride Celebration

Purchase tickets for ALL events on-line through either greenmountaincrossroads.org or vermontperformancelab.org

ON STAGE: Radicals in Miniature

Written and directed by Ain Gordon, dramaturge by Talvin Wilks and

Performed by Ain Gordon with Josh Quillen

Thursday and Friday, June 15 + 16 at 7pm – Next Stage Arts, Putney VT

TICKETS: \$15 / \$12 students

available at www.vermontperformancelab.org/events and at the door

This new theater piece, incubated at Vermont Performance Lab, pairs a gay and straight man of different generations to conjure many of the forgotten players who shaped urban creativity in the 70s and 80s but were lost to AIDS or faded from the cultural record.

IN THE GALLERY: Andrew's Inn Oral History Project

Opening reception Thursday, June 15th from 6-7pm

On display June 15 and 16 – Next Stage Arts, Putney VT

FREE and open to the public from 6-7pm

Learn about and celebrate the history of Andrew's Inn, an LGBT disco and community space that was in Bellows Falls, VT during the 1970s and 80s. Experience stories of those who were there in their own words via printed and audio selections from 30+ hours of interviews conducted in 2015 and 2016 as well as present-day portraits by photographer Evie Lovett.

ON SCREEN: CineSLAM - Vermont's only LGBT Film Festival

Saturday, June 17 at 5pm - The Latchis Theater, Brattleboro, VT

TICKETS: \$10 available at www.cineslam.com

CineSLAM will screen four short films REINVENTING THE REEL by Michael Gorlick, ONE WAY STREET by Andrea Meyerson, QUEER GHOST HUNTERS by Stu Maddux, and SOUND/VISION by Ari Rossen. Intermission will feature a Pride cake and sparkling cider. The event is underwritten by a grant from the Chessie Foundation.

CELEBRATE: ANDREW'S INN DANCE PARTY!

Saturday, June 17 from 9pm-Midnight – Popolo Restaurant, Bellows Falls VT

For ages 21+, capacity limited to 125 – first come, first grooved!

TICKETS: \$15 in advance/\$17 at the door, online www.rampartstickets.com

ABOUT THE ORGANIZERS:

CineSLAM Vermont's Festival of Shorts, began in response to a call from a community group of LGBT people (and some allies) meeting in Brattleboro Vermont in 2008 about creating a number of events for the first Pride Month in Southern Vermont. The Kopkind Colony, which runs workshops for journalists and filmmakers in Guilford, Vermont, was asked to participate. The administrator of Kopkind, John Scagliotti, himself a filmmaker and festival programmer, offered to create a shorts LGBT film festival under the auspices of the Kopkind Colony which was named CineSLAM.

CineSLAM has continued programming shorts from around the world in its festival in southern Vermont for Pride Month based around a theme from Andrew Kopkind's *A Queer Nation* (Nation

Magazine, 1993): CineSLAM “reaches back to the radical roots of liberation, to the joyously skewed visions of love, culture and camp that lie outside the conventions of the straight world.”

www.cineslam.com

GREEN MOUNTAIN CROSSROADS (GMC) connects rural LGBTQ people to build community, visibility, knowledge, and power. GMC lifts up and centers the voices and experiences of rural LGBTQ people at popular events like Played Out! LGBTQ Game Night, Trans Day of Remembrance & Resistance, Friday Night Group for LGBTQ youth, and our annual Out in the Open Summit for rural & small town LGBTQ folks. We believe that collective liberation for all people is possible and that rural LGBTQ people play a critical role in the collective movement toward justice.

www.greenmountaincrossroads.org

VERMONT PERFORMANCE LAB (VPL) is a Guilford-based non-profit arts organization dedicated to supporting artists in the creation and development of new work and bringing artistic experiences to rural Vermont communities. Since 2006 VPL has brought artists of regional, national and international stature to elementary classrooms in Marlboro and Guilford, to youth in Brattleboro and Bellows Falls through partnerships with Youth Services and the Windham County Regional Career Center Program and various community halls and theaters including the Broad Brook Grange, the Marlboro Town House, the Bellows Falls Opera House, Marlboro College and New England Youth Theater. Last year VPL’s community and education programs served more than 1,500 students, families, young professionals and seniors in Windham County through workshops, informal performances and art-making experiences. www.vermontperformancelab.org

ROCKINGHAM ARTS AND MUSEUM PROJECT (RAMP) is committed to integrating the arts in the long-term sustainability of the community by creating effective partnerships that initiate and support accessibility, affordable housing, artist town meetings, public art initiatives and policy-making.

www.ramp-vt.org

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